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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
PORTION 3 (A PORTION OF PORTION 2)  
KLIP VLEY KAROO KOP NO. 153  
VREDENDAL DISTRICT  
CAPE WEST COAST**

Prepared for

**NAMAQUA DIAMOND COMPANY (PTY) LTD**

By

Agency for Cultural Resource Management  
Specialists in Archaeological Studies & Heritage Management

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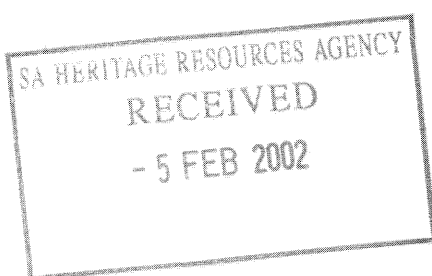
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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background and brief**

The Namaqua Diamond Company (Pty) Ltd has requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake a site visit to assess the significance of archaeological remains on portion 3 (a portion of portion 2) of the farm Klip Vley Karoo Kop No. 153, Vredendal, on the Cape West coast.

## **2.0 THE STUDY SITE**

The study site is illustrated in Figure 1.

The site is located immediately north of Liebenberg Bay and comprises a strip of land set back from the coast, incorporating the coastal escarpment between approximately 10 and 40 m above sea level.

The shoreline area – the most potentially archaeologically sensitive zone, has already been severely negatively impacted as a result of previous mining and related activities.

Apart from some prospecting by De Beers in the 1960's, the proposed mining area is relatively undisturbed.

## **3.0 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK IN THE STUDY AREA**

A Phase 1 archaeological assessment of the proposed Liebenberg Bay Mine revealed the presence of 10 pre-colonial archaeological sites in the area. Only one site, LBM 8, was considered to be of conservation merit and will require mitigation if mining in the area proceeds (Hart 1999).

LBM 8, however, is located to the north of the area searched by the consultant.

## **4.0 RESULTS OF THE SITE VISIT**

Small numbers of Later Stone Age<sup>1</sup> (LSA) and a few Middle Stone Age<sup>2</sup> (MSA) tools were located during a detailed search of the proposed mining area.

The extremely thinly scattered tools, comprising mainly LSA quartz flakes and chunks and a few larger MSA quartzite flakes, occur in some open patches on the slope above the coastal escarpment.

No pottery or shellfish remains were noted, suggesting a very ephemeral occupation of the site. Hart (1999) also noted similar thin scatters of LSA tools during his study.

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<sup>1</sup> A term referring to the last 20 000 years of precolonial history in southern Africa.

<sup>2</sup> A term referring to the period between 20 000 and 250 000 years ago.

LSA and a few MSA tools and some ostrich eggshell was also found associated with tailings from a prospecting excavation in the northern portion of the study area.

Ostrich eggshell was also found on a dump from a prospecting pit in the southern portion of the property.

Rusted and corroded metal items relating to earlier prospecting, were found on a higher terrace in the north-eastern portion of the study area.

Significance of finds: **low**

Conservation rating: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

It is important to note that LBM 8 comprises a possible buried MSA shell midden. Large quantities of stone tools, ostrich eggshell and shellfish, were found associated with a prospecting trial trench. Mineralised bone found in the tailings may indicate a buried midden (Hart 1999). Buried MSA sites are assigned a high conservation rating, as they are considered extremely rare finds.

## **5.0 CRITERIA USED IN THE EVALUATION OF THE KLIP VLEY KAROO KOP 153 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES**

The criteria used in the evaluating the importance of archaeological sites in the study area includes the following:

- the state of preservation of the site;
- the range and density of cultural material present on the site;
- the type of site; for example cave, shell midden, open air site;
- the approximate age of the site;
- rarity of occurrence; and
- regional, national and international importance

## **6.0 IMPACT STATEMENT**

The impact of proposed mining in on significant archaeological sites/remains is considered to be low.

Buried MSA shell middens may be uncovered during mining operations and related activities (see Hart 1999).

Human burial remains may also be uncovered during earthworks.

## **7.0 LEGISLATION**

Archaeological sites are protected under the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999). The Act came into effect on 01 April 2000, and replaces the National Monuments Act (No. 28 of 1969).

It is an offence to destroy, damage, excavate, alter, or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object, without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

With regard to proposed mining on portion 3 (a portion of portion 2) of the farm Klip Vley Karoo Kop No. 153, the following archaeological recommendations are made.

1. No immediate mitigation is required.
2. A training programme should be developed in order to sensitise Namaqua Diamond Company staff, contractors and sub-contractors to the importance of archaeological sites, and to the possibility of uncovering buried sites during earthworks and mining operations.
3. Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during earthworks, these should immediately be reported to a professional archaeologist, or the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

Burial remains should be treated sensitively at all times. Human remains should not be removed until inspected by a professional archaeologist.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

## **10.0 REFERENCES**

Hart, T. 1999. A Phase 1 archaeological assessment of the proposed Liebenberg Bay Mine, Vredendal. Report prepared for Rency (Pty) Ltd. Archaeology Contracts Office, University of Cape Town.

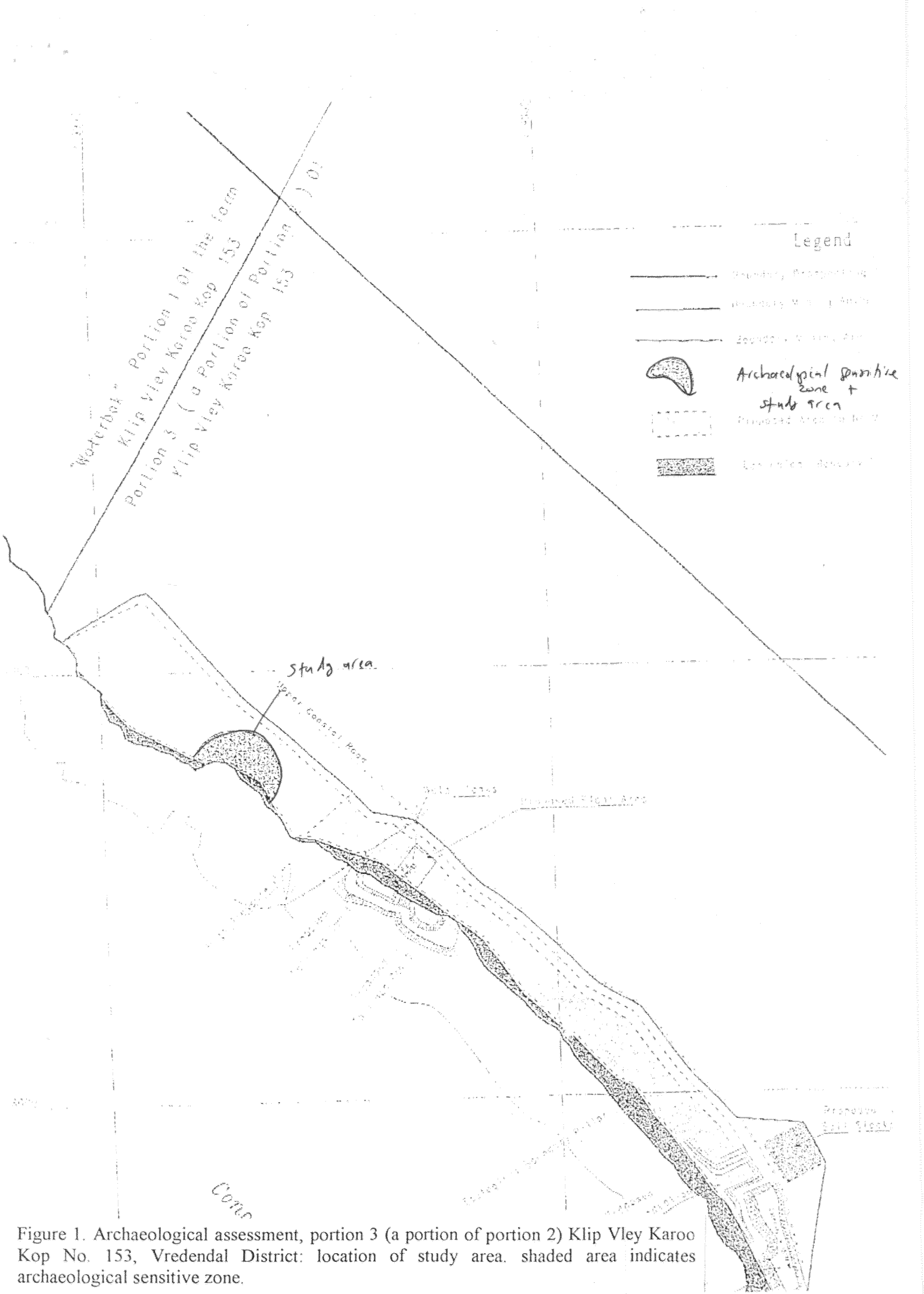


Figure 1. Archaeological assessment, portion 3 (a portion of portion 2) Klip Vley Karoo Kop No. 153, Vredendal District: location of study area. shaded area indicates archaeological sensitive zone.