

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
PORTION 15 OF FARM 653 VERGENOEGD
HELDERBERG
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

Prepared for

URBAN DYNAMICS WESTERN CAPE

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Executive summary

Urban Dynamics Western Cape requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed housing development on Portion 15 of the Farm Vergenoegd No. 653 in Helderberg, in the Western Cape Province.

The proposed development site is located alongside the R310 and adjacent to the N2 and is about 95 ha in extent. The affected site forms part of the historic Vergenoegd Farm, which will be subdivided and rezoned for residential development.

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological heritage sites and remains that may be impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed project, to assess the significance of the potential impacts and to propose measures to mitigate against the impacts.

Heritage consultant Mr Graham Jacobs has been appointed to complete the required Heritage Western Cape Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist.

The following findings were made:

No archaeological heritage remains were located on the proposed site.

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to the proposed development activities.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Urban Dynamics Western Cape on behalf of Mr J. Cullem requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed housing development on Portion 15 of the Farm Vergenoegd No. 653 Helderberg, in the Western Cape Province.

The property is currently zoned Agriculture, and will be rezoned and subdivided to accommodate the proposed development activities

The extent of the proposed development (about 95 ha) falls within the requirements for an archaeological impact assessment as required by Section 38 of the South African Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological heritage sites and remains that may be impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed project, to assess the significance of the potential impacts and to propose measures to mitigate against the impacts.

Heritage consultant Mr Graham Jacobs has been appointed to complete the required Heritage Western Cape Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

- to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance within the proposed site;
- to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed site;
- to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites within the proposed site;
- to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
- to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist within the proposed site.

3. THE STUDY SITE

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

An aerial photograph of the study site is illustrated in Figure 2.

The subject property (S° 34 01 930 E° 18 43 700 on map datum wgs 84) is situated alongside the R310 and adjacent to the N2 in Cape Town. The property is accessed from the R310, which is the entrance to the historic Vergenoegd Farm. The affected property comprises vacant land, with several gravel roads bisecting the property. No buildings or structures occur on the proposed site. A large portion of the subject property in the north and south is infested with alien vegetation, while the remainder of the property is dominated by thick grasses. There are no significant landscape features on the property. Some civil works occurs in the south western portion of the property, alongside the R310 and adjacent to the N2. The works adjacent to the N2 comprise deep excavations and trenching for the nearby Macassar pump station.

The surrounding land use involves agricultural related activities that include mainly vineyards, small holdings and vacant land. Macassar and Khayelitsha are located to the south of the N2.

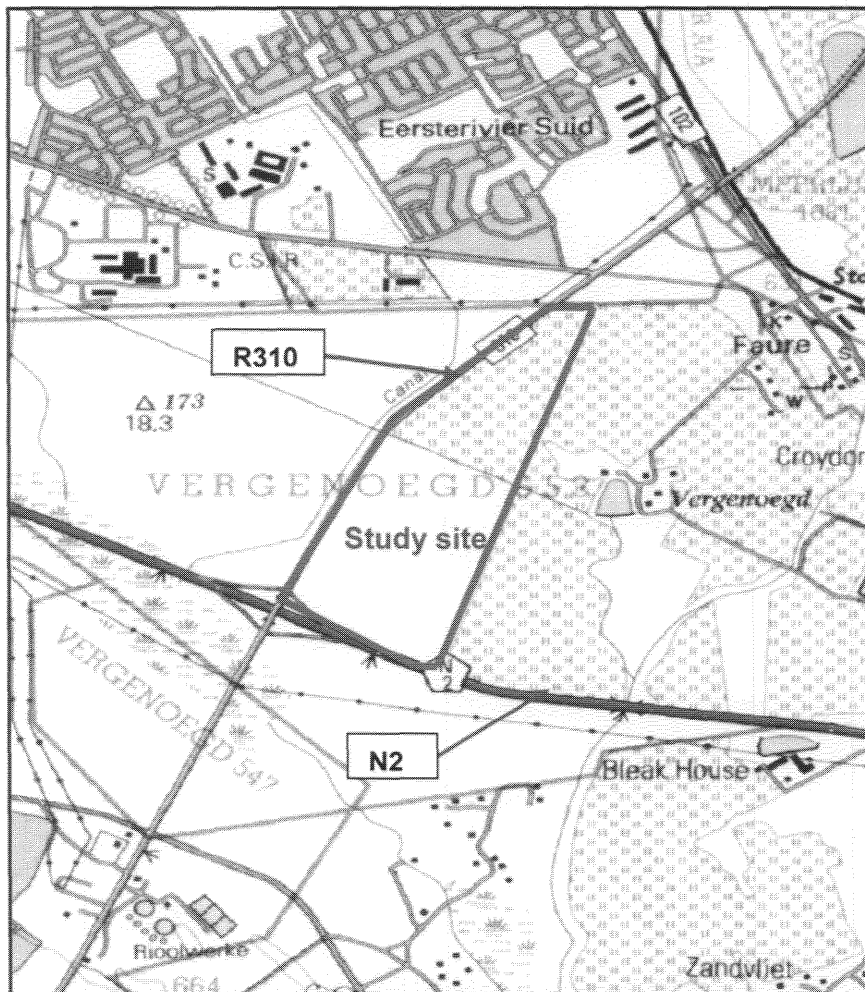


Figure 1. Locality Map 3418 BA Mitchells Plain)

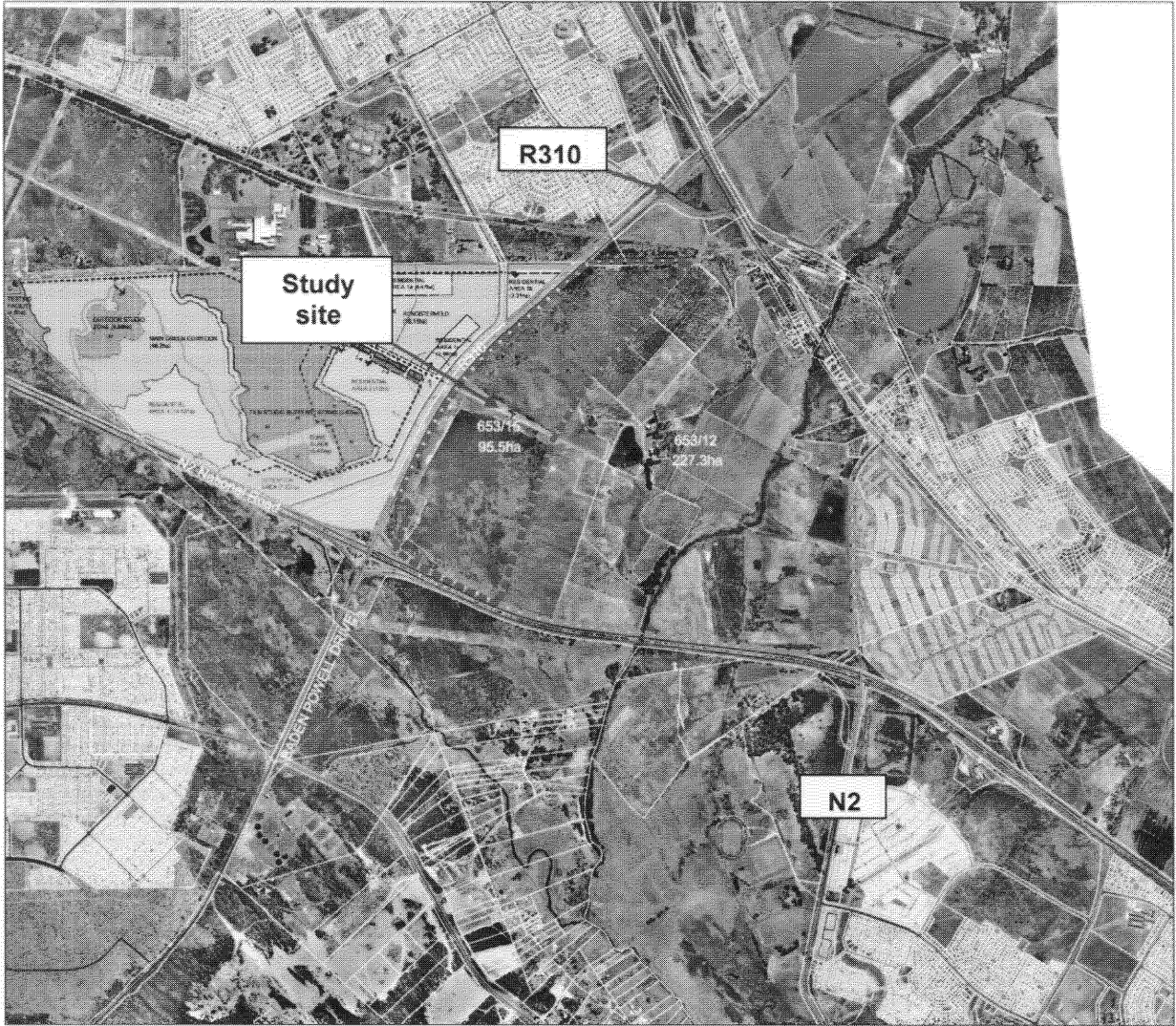


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of Farm 653/15 Vergenoegd



**Figure 3. View of the site facing north.
The R310 is to the left of the plate**



**Figure 5. View of the site facing north
taken from the N2**



Figure 4. View of the site facing north



Figure 6. View of the site facing north.

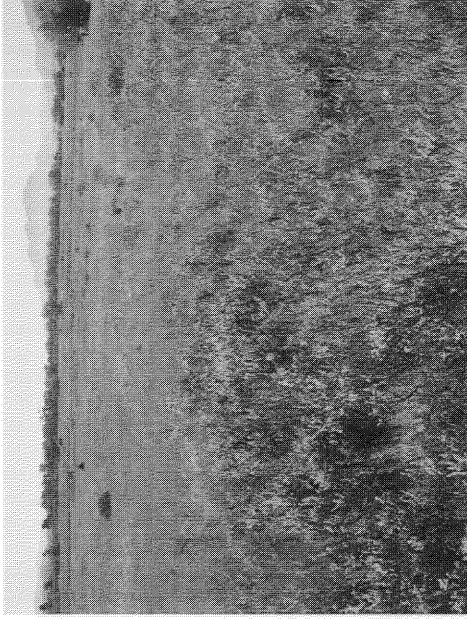


Figure 7. View of the site facing north

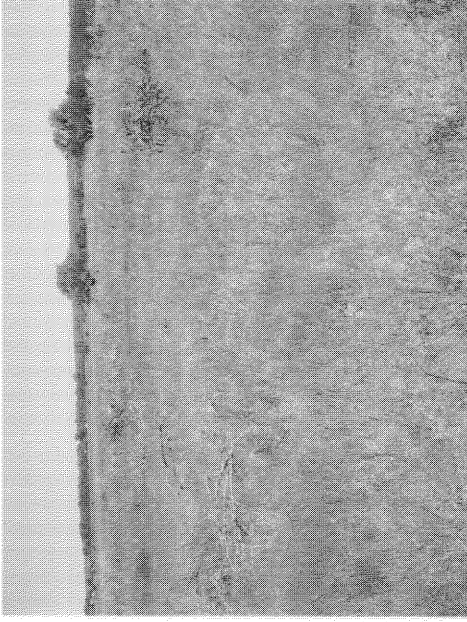


Figure 9. View of the site facing south.



Figure 8. View of the site facing south toward Macassar



Figure 10. Earthworks alongside the R310

4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY

4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological heritage study entailed a foot survey of the proposed site.

A number of test pits have been excavated over the property and these were also inspected for archaeological heritage remains.

The site visit and assessment took place on the **28th and 29th September, 2006**.

A desk-top study was also undertaken.

4.2 Constraints and limitations

With regard to access to the proposed site, there were no major constraints or limitations associated with the study. However a large portion of the property is infested with alien vegetation, while the remainder is dominated by thick grasses, resulting in low archaeological visibility.

4.3 Identification of potential risks

There are no potential archaeological risks associated with the project.

4.4 Results of the desk-top study

Early Stone Age (or ESA) tools were first discovered on terraces above the Eerste River in Stellenbosch (Peringuey 1902, 1911). Among these was an artefact type of great antiquity recognized as an early handaxe. For many years after this, the ESA of South Africa was referred to as the 'Stellenbosch Culture' until the term was re-defined in the 1960s (Goodwin & Van Riet Lowe 1929).

Today the ESA is divided into the 'Olduvan' period, which is up to 1.7 million years old. This industry is associated with the oldest and most simple human-made artefacts. This was followed by the 'Acheulean' Tradition, a more developed stone artefact industry, characterised by the presence of specific types of stone tools such as handaxes, choppers and cleavers.

Acheulean sites have been recorded throughout South Africa and are especially associated with pans, river terraces, streams, and certain types of rock outcrops. Acheulean tools are also commonly found on mountain slopes, and in degraded areas such as slope washes, cuttings, excavations, and in vineyards and ploughed fields. These ancient tools are widespread in South Africa.

Acheulean sites have been located in the area surrounding Vergenoegd. For example ESA tools have been documented alongside the R310, on the farms Spier, Meerust, Lynedoch, Hartlands and De Wijnlanden (Kaplan 2002 and personnel observation). ESA tools have also been found on farms to the east of the R310, at Croyden (Kaplan 2005, 2004) and Faure (Kaplan 2006).

Mostly, these tools occur as low density scatters in a severely disturbed and degraded context.

5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The following section provides a brief overview of the relevant legislation with regard to the archaeology of the subject property.

5.1 The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999)

The National Heritage Resources (NHR) Act requires that "...any development or other activity which will change the character of a site exceeding 5 000m², or the rezoning or change of land use of a site exceeding 10 000 m², requires an archaeological impact assessment"

The relevant sections of the Act are briefly outlined below.

5.2 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))

Section 35 (4) of the NHR stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by HWC, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object.

5.3 Burial grounds and graves (Section 36 (3))

Section 36 (3) of the HHR stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years, which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority.

6. FINDINGS

No archaeological heritage remains were located during the baseline study.

Surface stone is almost non-existent over the whole of the subject property.

No archaeological remains were found in any of the test pits that have been excavated over the property, nor on the associated spoil dumps. The pits comprise homogenous yellow/orange clay deposits, and there is no sandy overburden.

No archaeological heritage remains were located in the disturbed areas alongside the R310 and adjacent to the N2.

7. IMPACT STATEMENT

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to the proposed development activities.

The probability of locating important pre-colonial archaeological heritage remains during implementation of the project is likely to be improbable.

It is unlikely, but unmarked human burials may be uncovered or exposed during earthmoving operations.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of Portion 15 of the Farm Vergenoegd No. 653 (Helderberg) has rated the potential impacts to archaeological heritage material as being low provided that.

- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations and earthworks for the proposed project, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie 021 462 4502), or Heritage Western Cape (Mr N. Ndlovu 021 483 9692). Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

9. REFERENCES

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