

Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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27 March, 2007

Att: Mr Lieuwe Boonstra
EnviroAfrica
P. O. Box 5367
Helderberg
7135

Dear Mr Boonstra

PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF CHICKEN HOUSES ON PORTION 3 OF THE FARM WITTE ELSEBOOM NO. 214 WORCESTER WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

1. Introduction and brief

EnviroAfrica¹, on behalf of Mr J.A. Botha requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed construction of 12 chicken houses on the farm Soverby (Portion 3 of the Farm Witte Elseboom No. 214) near Worcester, in the Western Cape Province.

The affected property is currently zoned Agriculture. An application for consent use is required from Witzenberg Municipality for the proposed activity to proceed.

The extent of the proposed development (about 4.5 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).

2. Terms of reference

The Terms of Reference for the archaeological assessment are to:

- Identify and map heritage resources on the proposed site;
- Determine the importance of heritage resources on the proposed site;
- Determine and assess the potential impacts of the proposed development on the heritage resources, and
- Recommend mitigation measures to minimise impacts associated with the proposed development.

¹ EnviroAfrica is represented by Mr Lieuwe Boonstra. Fax (021) 8555333

3. The site

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

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

The Farm Soverby (S° 33 33 322 E 19° 14 366 on map datum wgs 84) is located about 20 km north of Worcester, and is adjacent to the R43 between Worcester and Wolseley. The subject property has been under vineyard production for about 20 years (Figures 3-6). Prior to that, it was farmed for peaches and apricots. Underground drainage was put in place about 20 years ago. The receiving environment is completely transformed. There are no significant landscape features occurring on the property. There are no buildings or structures on the property, either. The surrounding land-use is mainly rural farmland (vineyards, fruit orchards and vacant agricultural land).

4. Approach to the study

The proposed site was subjected to a foot survey.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 5th March, 2007.

5. Results of the study

A few Early Stone Age (ESA) tools were found on a large pile of rounded river stones and cobbles alongside a gravel road on the southern boundary of the proposed site. The stones were removed from the site when preparing the fields for planting more than 40 years ago. The tools include several quartzite flakes, chunks and flaked chunks. No formal tools were found. No tools were found in the affected fields.

The archaeological heritage remains have been rated as having low local significance.

ESA tools have been documented at several locations close to the subject property. ESA flakes were documented on the Farm Romansrivier² situated alongside the R43 between Wolseley and Worcester. ESA tools, including a handaxe, were documented on the Farm de Liefde³ also situated alongside the R43. ESA and Middle Stone Age (MSA) tools were recorded during a study on Portion 25 of the Farm Palmiet Valley No. 318⁴ alongside the R43. ESA tools have been found on several other farms in the Breede River Valley alongside the R43⁵. The above archaeological remains were all documented in a modified and transformed context.

² Kaplan, J. 2005. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed construction of the 132/66 Kv substation and tie-in powerlines Romansrivier. Report prepared for Eskom. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

³ Kaplan, J. 2007. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed construction of chicken houses on Portion 4 of Portion 2 of the farm de Liefde No 323, Tulbagh. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

⁴ Kaplan, J. 2002. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Portion 25 of the Farm Palmiet Valley No. 318 Tulbagh. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. Agency for Cultural Resource Management

⁵ Kaplan, J. 2001. Archaeological study Portion 12 of the Farm de Breede Rivier No. 298, Worcester. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

6. Impact statement

The impact of the proposed development on archaeological heritage remains is likely to be low.

The probability of locating significant archaeological heritage remains during implementation of the project is likely to be improbable.

7. Conclusion

The study has shown that there are no important archaeological heritage remains occur within the proposed site.

The proposed construction of chicken houses on Portion 3 of the Farm Witte Elseboom No. 214 in Worcester should be allowed to proceed.

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.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Kaplan

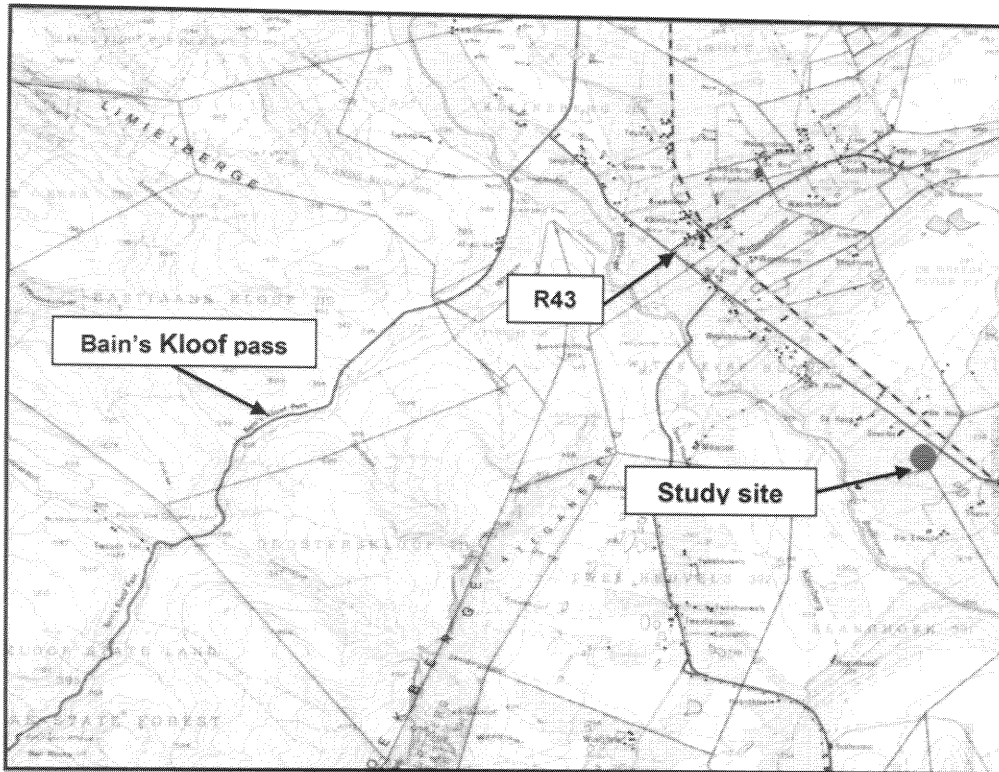


Figure 1. Locality map (3319CA Bains' Kloof)

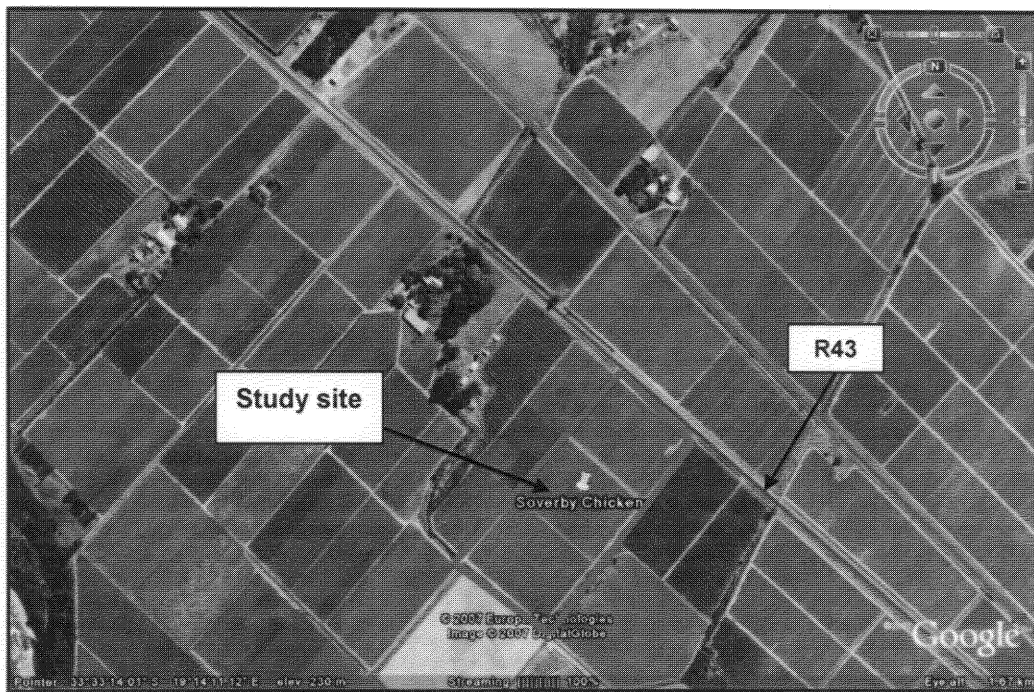


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site



Figure 3. View of the site facing west taken from the R43



Figure 5. View of the site facing south west

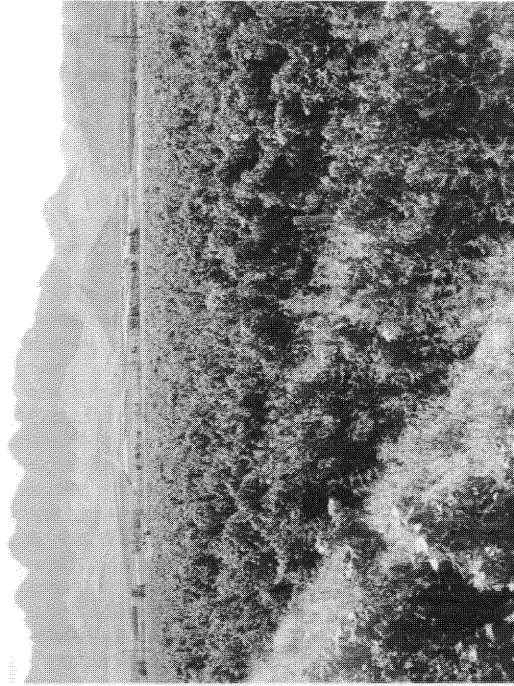


Figure 4. View of the site facing west

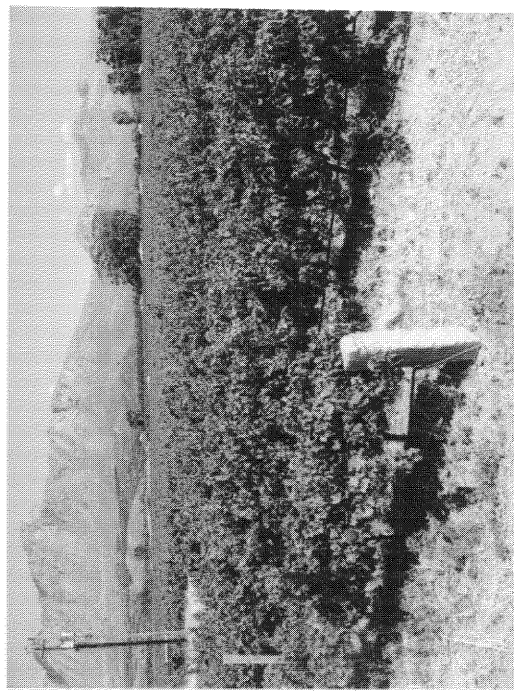


Figure 6. View of the site facing south west