

INITIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AT PRINCESS VLEI, CAPE TOWN

Prepared for

Jake de Villiers Architect

August 2002



Prepared by

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INTRODUCTION

The Archaeology Contracts Office (ACO) of the University of Cape Town was commissioned by Jake de Villiers Architects to conduct a preliminary archaeological assessment of public open space (Princess Vlei Park) at Princess Vlei, Retreat, Cape Town (Figure 1). Members of the ACO visited the site to assess it for historical/archaeological features that may be protected by the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999. Previous assessments of land on the Cape Flats have indicated that open land in this environment is not rich in archaeological material, apart from the near coastal areas.

METHOD

The area was visited but not subject to an intensive search. Efforts were concentrated on the areas between Princess Vlei and Little Princess Vlei where relict Cape Flats Dune systems were relatively undisturbed. Thick grass cover impeded visibility so the search has to concentrate on patches of land where ground surface was visible.

FINDINGS

Two hours of searching produced no surface evidence of archaeological material. Initial indications are that development impacts to heritage sites/material are unlikely.

RECOMMENDATION

This assessment must be considered to be preliminary. Any intensive development planned for the area that involves large scale trenching or earthmoving should be preceded by a focused archaeological impact assessment.

Fieldwork and report by Tim Hart and Dave Halkett

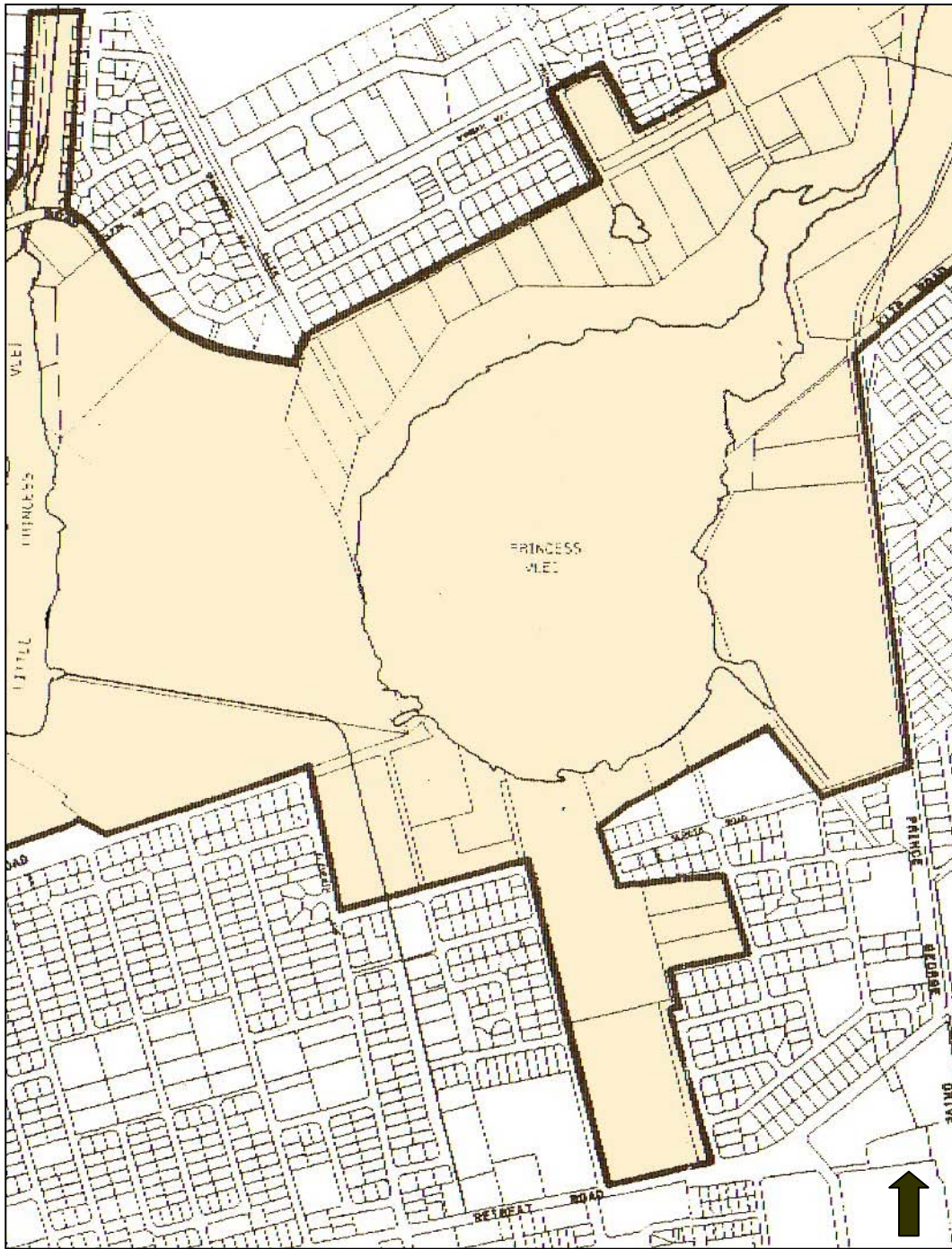


Figure 1. The study area (after drawing supplied by the client)