

# HERITAGE SCOPING ASSESSMENT OF LINDEN FARM, (ERVEN 1630 AND 1592) HOUT BAY

Prepared for

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October 2003



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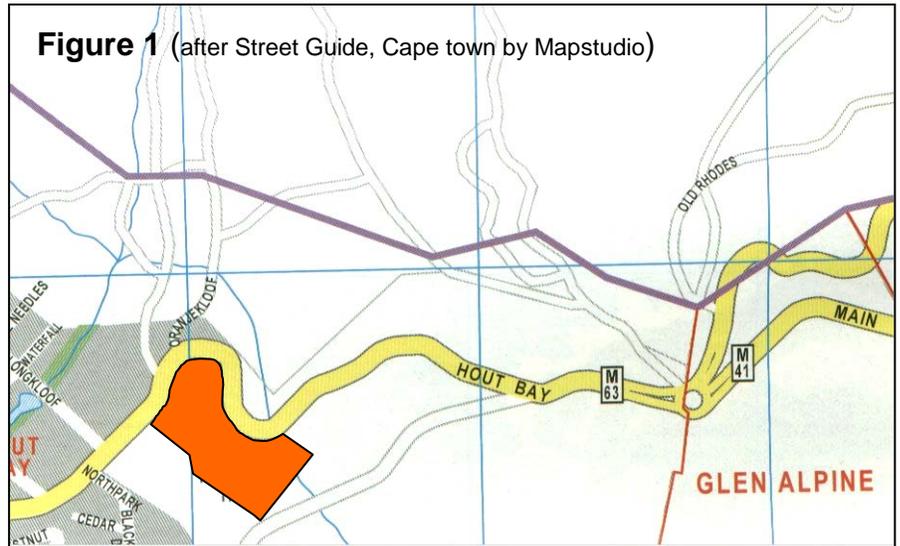
## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Archaeology Contracts Office of the University of Cape Town was appointed by ~~SRK Consulting to conduct a phase 1 archaeological and heritage assessment of a proposed effluent pipeline and waste disposal area located near Worcester, South Western Cape Province. The site is required for the disposal of concentrated effluent that is produced as a by-product of KWV and Distell's brandy and alcohol distilling operations and Brenn-O-Kem's processing operations. Liquid waste is to be piped from the operations to a 40-hectare irrigation site situated adjacent to the municipal rubbish dump. The irrigation site is essentially an evaporation facility where the water will be evaporated off the liquid waste and the resulting organic component recycled through composting. The extent of the proposed development falls within the requirements for a heritage impact assessment as required by section 38 of the South African Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999. Figure 1 (supplied by SRK) indicates the irrigation area and the route of the pipeline.~~ Andre van der Spuy, Environmental Consultant to conduct an initial heritage assessment of erven 1630 and 1592 known as Linden Farm situated at Hout Bay, Western Cape Province.

- The results of the study show that no pre-colonial or historical archaeological sites will be impacted.
- There are elements of the landscape, particularly significant trees and disused tree avenues that are central to the character of the area and need to be conserved.
- Heritage Western Cape may require a full Heritage Impact Assessment at their discretion,

# 1 Introduction

The Archaeology Contracts Office of the University of Cape Town was appointed by SRK Consulting to conduct a phase 1 archaeological and heritage assessment of a proposed effluent pipeline and waste disposal area located near Worcester, South Western Cape Province. The site is required for the disposal of concentrated effluent that is produced as a by-product of KWV and Distell's brandy and alcohol distilling operations and Brenn-O-Kem's processing operations. Liquid waste is to be piped from the operations to a 40-hectare irrigation site situated adjacent to the municipal rubbish dump. The irrigation site is essentially an evaporation facility where the water will be evaporated off the liquid waste and the resulting organic component recycled through composting. The extent of the proposed development falls within the requirements for a heritage impact assessment as required by section 38 of the South African Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999. Figure 1 (supplied by SRK) indicates the irrigation area and the route of the pipeline.



Andre van der Spuy, Environmental Consultant to conduct an initial assessment of erven 1630 and 1592 known as Linden Farm situated at Hout Bay, Western Cape Province. Originally part of the farm "Groot Moddergat," the land which comprises 11 hectares is being investigated with a view to developing it for residential purposes. Figure 1 shows the location of the erven.

## 1.1 Terms of reference



The ACO was requested to conduct a site inspection of the area and indicate the presence of historical or archaeological material, and identify heritage issues that may require further investigation or special conservation measures prior to development activities.

## 1.2 Description of the affected environment

The area lies just south west of Constantia Nek. It is presently largely undeveloped and contains a single contemporary residential building (Plate 1), and workshop and garages. The steeply sloping uppermost portion of the site is vegetated with pine trees and projects beyond the established urban edge. The gently sloping lower areas are vegetated with grasses and a number of significant trees (Oak, Pine and Olive), which form the vestiges of two avenues and grow along the edge of Constantia Nek – Hout Bay Road. Land immediately south of the site has been recently developed for dense up-market housing, while plans are in place by other organisations to develop erven to the northwest.

## 2 Method

The land was searched on foot by archaeologists Jayson Orton (BA hons) and Tim Hart (MA) during the course of a single afternoon. To date no archival work has been conducted to establish the specific history of the site, however it is known to have been part of the Groot Moddergat Farm.

### 2.1 Restrictions

The owner granted access to all areas. Surface visibility was impeded on the upper slopes due to pine needle cover. Grass cover was thick in places, however visibility was adequate enough to establish the presence of any archaeological material.

## 3 Findings

No surface indications of archaeological material (pre-colonial and colonial) were found. This is consistent with observations made on the adjacent erven some months ago. Although currently un-cultivated, the site has been extensively terraced in places – possibly for forestry purposes in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The buildings on the site appear to be contemporary and are not protected by the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999. The presence of a number of non-indigenous trees which form the vestiges of two avenues point to a past landscape, now interrupted by urban development on neighbouring land. These consist of an:

- *Olive Avenue*

A substantial avenue of well developed Olive trees that traverse the lower part of the site. Long since disused the avenue may well be a landscape feature that pre-dates the more recent sub-divisions of the area (Plate 2).

- *Pine Avenue*

There are the remnants of a pine avenue running up the lower portion of the site from the Main Road. Although some of the pine trees have since died or been removed, the existing ones are mature and probably quite old. They possibly mark the alignment of an old access road (Plate 3).

- *Oak Trees*

These are mostly located along the main road edge, and along with other trees mark the historical route into Hout Bay and are very much part of the character of the area. They also serve to screen the property from the Main Road (Plate 4).

### 3.1 Potential Impacts

In terms of the material remains of either colonial or pre-colonial archaeological sites, the proposed development is likely to have no impact.

What is of concern are the potential loss of landscape elements, after all it is these elements which are very characteristic of the Hout Bay – a region that is undergoing rapid suburban densification. In this respect we believe that the removal of non-invasive alien trees will have a negative impact on the identity of the area. However sensitive landscaping and careful planning should be able to incorporate these elements and reduce the possible impacts.

## 4 Recommendations

While environmental impact assessments have tended to disregard the importance alien plant species, modern heritage conservation acknowledges the human made environment and the cultural historical landscape. From this perspective we would encourage the conservation of non-invasive trees that form part of the landscape and contribute to “sense of place”. This factor is the primary heritage issue identified on the site to date.

- To this end it is suggested that major trees and avenues on the site be surveyed.
- A landscape architect needs to be involved in the planning of the development in such a way to acknowledge Oak trees, Olive and Pine avenues.
- No archival research has taken place to date so the detailed historical significance of the site is unknown. Heritage Western Cape has the right to ask that a full HIA be completed for the site – if this is required it will need to incorporate archival research, visual impacts, archaeology (this report) and built environment (this report).

Tim Hart for ACO



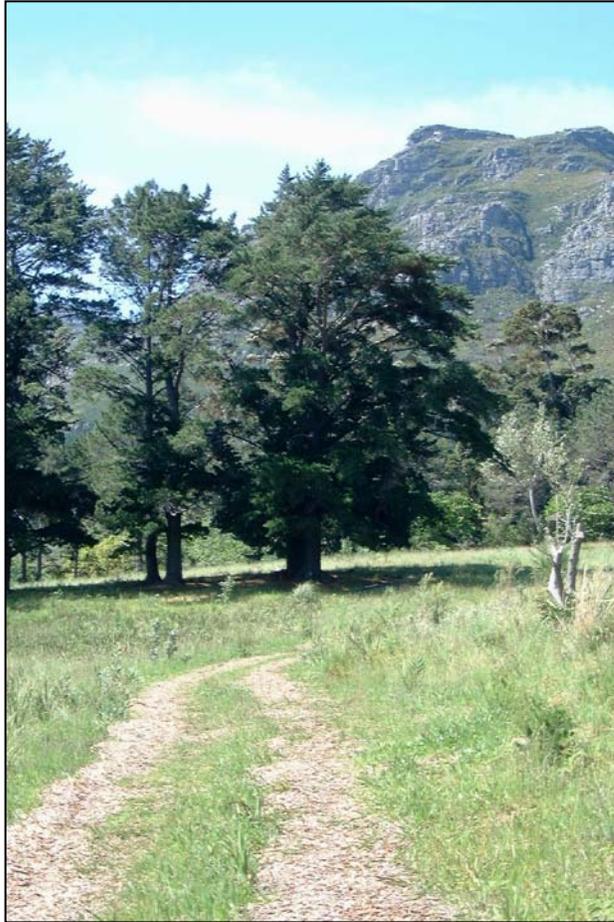
**Plate 1**

Existing homestead and overall view of the site looking towards Orange Kloof.



**Plate 2**

Avenue of Olive trees, central lane terraced into the site, but overgrown.



**Plate 3**

View of established pine trees on the lower portion of the site.

These appear to have been planted in pairs and form an avenue.



**Plate 3**

Oak trees on the lower slopes of the site.

Many fringe the Main Road, which borders the bottom of the site.