

INITIAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF ERF 644, WELTEVREDEN VALLEY, MITCHELLS PLAIN, CAPE TOWN

Prepared for

Kayad Consulting Engineers

September 2002



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1. INTRODUCTION

The Archaeology Contracts Office (ACO) of the University of Cape Town was commissioned by Kayad Consulting Engineers to conduct a preliminary heritage impact assessment of erf 644, Weltevreden Valley, Mitchells Plain. 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 or historical material, apart from the near coastal areas.

1.1 Description of the study area

The study area (indicated on Figure 1) consists of open land bordered on the east by a very large aeolian dune. Vegetation consists of grasses, alien bushes and patches of dune *fynbos* species. Surface geology consists of windblown sands. Several dirt tracks traverse the site. These have been used as access roads for illegal dumping of vehicle tyres and building rubble. The site is earmarked for development of low cost housing.

2. METHOD

The site was searched on foot by two archaeologists. Any material found was to be plotted using a Garmin GPS 3Plus (map datum WGS84), recorded and evaluated.

2.1 Restrictions

Moderate restrictions were encountered in some areas where vegetation was too thick to see the ground surface.

3. FINDINGS

No material, historical, pre-colonial or structural was found in the study area. There are no surface indications of calcretes or fossil bone. The area has not been subject to cultivation or agriculture and has little historic landscape significance.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Initial indications are that the study area is not historically or archaeologically significant. A full heritage impact assessment of the site is not considered necessary.

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