

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
OF A PROPOSED BORROW PIT ON DUNGHYE PARK 528,
CALEDON AREA, OVERBERG DISTRICT, WESTERN CAPE**

(Assessment conducted under Section 38 (8) of the National Heritage Resources Act as part
of a Heritage Impact Assessment)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Natura Viva cc was appointed by Vidamemoria Heritage Consultants on behalf of Nadeson Consulting Services to undertake an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for the proposed development of a new borrow pit DR01252/10.5/R/30 (Vidamemoria pit no. 168) in the Caledon area of the Overberg District Municipality. Material excavated from the proposed pit will be used for future resurfacing of gravel roads in the Overberg region. No new roads will have to be constructed as access to the quarry site will be via existing roads and tracks. The proposed borrow pit will be rehabilitated and converted into a small farm dam once quarrying activities have ceased.

This study forms part of the Heritage Impact Assessment triggered by the development. The brief for the study was a field visit and short report identifying and assessing archaeological resources and any impact on them, an assessment of significance and recommendations regarding any mitigation required.

The field assessment was conducted on foot on 17 September 2012. The proposed borrow pit is located in land currently used for grazing for cattle. Archaeological visibility on the ground was mostly poor due to the dense grass cover but some open patches occur.

Due to the presence of the walled cemetery to the north of the affected area, the possibility existed that there could be informal graves outside the graveyard. There was in fact no sign of any graves or gravestones in the overgrown cemetery itself and it appeared to have been abandoned. Neither were there any signs of informal graves between the cemetery and the proposed pit area. No other archaeological remains were observed.

The absence of archaeological remains in the affected area indicates that the proposed development of pit 168 is of low archaeological heritage significance. No significant impact on such resources is expected if the proposed pit is developed. No further archaeological studies or mitigation are recommended.

If any human remains are found during the development of the proposed pits, work in that area must cease and the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be notified immediately.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Natura Viva cc was appointed by Vidamemoria Heritage Consultants on behalf of Nadeson Consulting Services to undertake an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for the proposed development of a new borrow pit DR01252/10.5/R/30 (Vidamemoria pit no. 168) in the Caledon area of the Overberg District Municipality (Figure 1). Material excavated from the proposed pit will be used for future resurfacing of gravel roads in the Overberg region. No new roads will have to be constructed as access to the quarry site will be via existing roads and tracks. The proposed borrow pit will be rehabilitated and converted into a small farm dam once quarrying activities have ceased.

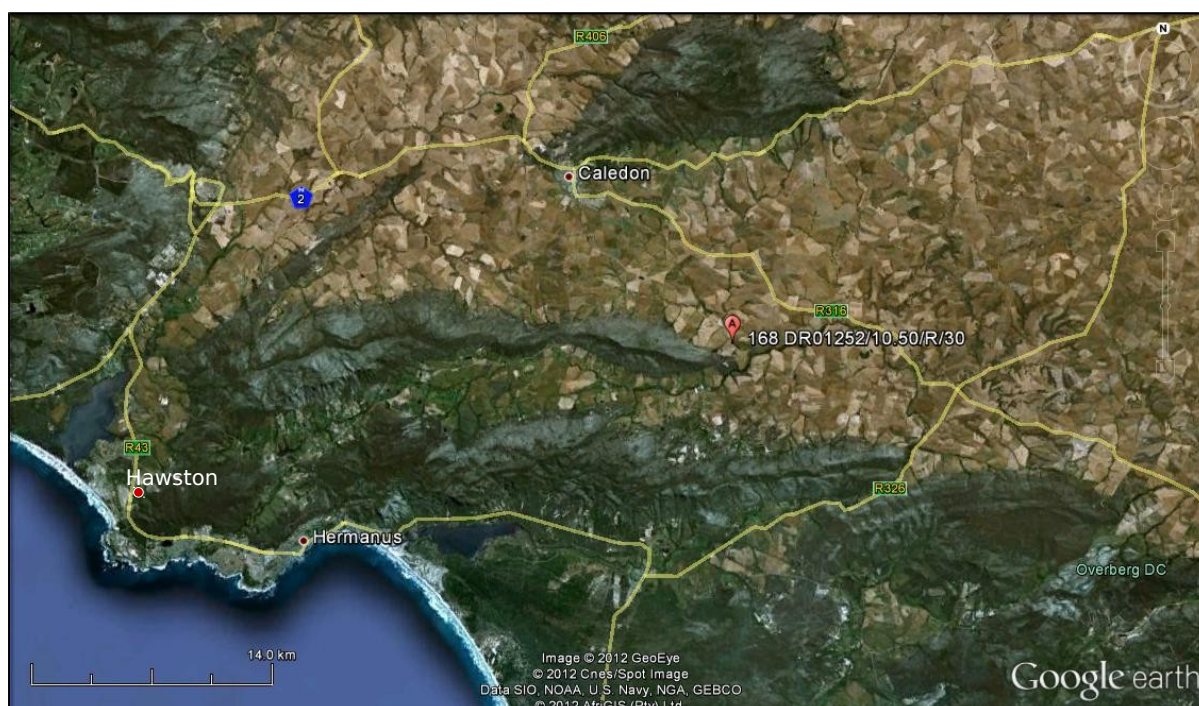


Figure 1: Google earth image showing the location of the proposed borrow pit DR01252/10.5/R/30 (Vidamemoria pit no. 168). The relevant 1:50 000 topographical map is 3419BC Jongensklip.

2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) is triggered by certain types of development, including changes of character to an area exceeding 5 000m², and makes provision for compulsory Heritage Impact Assessments to assess the potential impacts of such proposed developments on heritage resources. In terms of Section 38(1), a Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) form was submitted to Heritage Western Cape (HWC) by Vidamemoria. Following comment from HWC (case 1888-1981 ref. 120726TS15) an AIA was included amongst the requirements according to Section 38(8) of the Act.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the AIA stipulated a field visit to locate and map archaeological resources, a short report dealing with the field observations, an assessment regarding the significance of the resources (in the context of other studies in the area) and any impacts on them, as well as recommendations regarding any mitigation required.

4. STUDY APPROACH

4.1 Methods

The fieldwork was undertaken on 17 September 2012. A site plan indicating the affected area was provided by Nadeson for the Phase 1 survey. The area was covered on foot and the tracks were recorded by a Garmin GPSMAP 62s set on the WGS84 datum (Figure 2). The site was extensively photographed.

4.2 Limiting factors

Visibility of archaeological remains on the ground was fairly poor due to the dense grass cover over a large part of the affected area. However, some patches of open ground do occur where visibility is good.

5. DESCRIPTION OF AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND SITE

5.1 Archaeological background:

No studies in the immediate area of proposed pit 168 were noted on the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorite Unit Report Mapping Project DVD (2009), but impact studies done in similar, hilly agricultural land in other parts of the Overberg indicate the types of archaeological remains which may occur. During Orton's survey of the site of the proposed Caledon Flight Park, some 12 km to the northwest of the present study area, no archaeological material was observed on the site, but one quartzite, one sandstone and three silcrete Early Stone Age (ESA) artefacts were noted in a neighbouring field (2008). Several surveys have been undertaken in fairly similar terrain, approximately 33 km to the west of proposed pit 168, in the Afdaks Rivier and Karwyderskraal areas to the north of Hawston (Halkett 2012; Kaplan 2003, 2006; Tusenius 2012). No archaeological remains were observed at the sites of two proposed borrow pits (Tusenius 2012), but some artefacts were recorded by Halkett and Kaplan in their studies at Karwyderskraal and Afdaks Rivier respectively. Most of the material observed consisted of isolated ESA artefacts (Halkett 2012) or low density scatters of ESA tools and a few Middle Stone Age (MSA) artefacts (Kaplan 2003, 2006).

5.2 Borrow pit DR01252/10.5/R/30 (Vidamemoria pit no. 168)

Approximate area: 2250m²

Location: S 34°19'22.15" E19°31'19.89"

Farm name and number: Dunghye Park 528

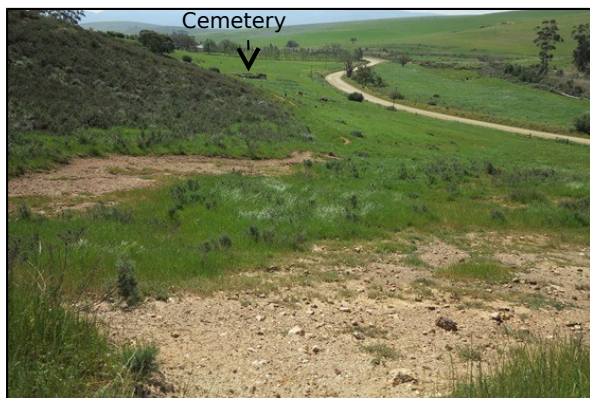
Environment: The proposed borrow pit lies in gently sloping agricultural land currently used for cattle grazing and a more steeply-sloping piece of uncultivated land to the southeast. The affected area is bounded by the DR01252 to the east, wheat-fields to the south and a steep, fynbos-vegetated slope to the west (Figures 2, 3 and 4). The northern boundary is not clear on the ground but lies approximately 50m to the south of a walled cemetery (Figures 4, 7, 8 and 9). The terrain is presently covered by dense grass but some open patches occur and it is possible to see the gravelly colluvium which overlies cleaved Bokkeveld mudrocks (Figures 4 and 5). Disturbance by digging and erosion gullies is evident throughout most of the proposed pit area.



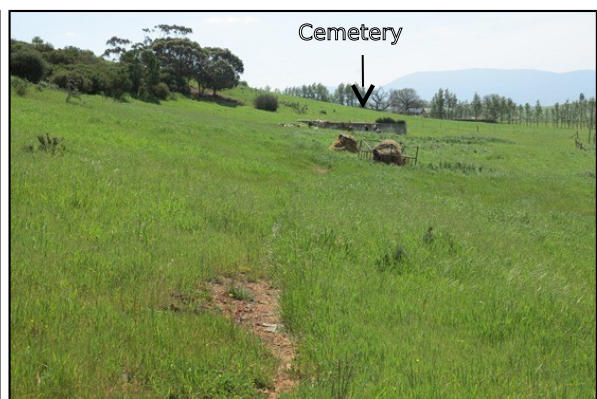
Figure 2: Google earth image showing the proposed borrow pit 168 and the tracks of the field survey. A walled cemetery is evident to the north of the affected polygon. Please note that the straight blue lines do not indicate survey tracks.



Figure 3: View towards the west of the proposed borrow pit in the area covered by grass.



Figures 4 and 5: View of the affected area towards the north with the walled cemetery visible in the background; detail of the gravelly colluvium visible in an open patch.



Figures 6 and 7: View towards the south-eastern part of the polygon; view towards the walled cemetery approximately 50m to the north of the affected area.

Results of the survey: Due to the presence of the walled cemetery to the north of the affected area, the possibility existed that there could be informal graves outside the graveyard. There was in fact no sign of any graves or gravestones in the overgrown cemetery itself and it appeared to have been abandoned. Neither were there any signs of informal graves between the cemetery and the proposed pit area. No other archaeological remains were observed.



Figures 8 and 9: The overgrown cemetery - views towards the northwest and the southeast.

6. SIGNIFICANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The absence of archaeological remains in the affected area indicates that the proposed development of pit 168 is of low archaeological heritage significance. No significant impact on such resources is expected if the proposed pit is developed. No further archaeological studies or mitigation are recommended.

If any human remains are found during the development of the proposed pits, work in that area must cease and the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be notified immediately.

7. REFERENCES

Halkett, D. 2012. Archaeological Impact Assessment of a proposed cemetery on ptn 79 of Afdakrivier 575, Karwyderskraal, Western Cape Province. Unpublished report prepared for Vidamemoria Heritage Consultants. ACO Associates.

Kaplan, J. 2003. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment. Proposed rezoning and subdivision Portion 8-10 of the Farm Afdakrivier, No. 575 Caledon. Unpublished report prepared for EnviroAfrica. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

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Tusenius, M. 2012. Archaeological Impact Assessment of two proposed borrow pits at Afdaks Rivier 575, Overberg District in the Western Cape. Unpublished report prepared for Vidamemoria Heritage Consultants. Natura Viva cc.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ms Quahnita Samie of Vidamemoria Heritage Consultants is thanked for commissioning this study and providing background information. The assistance of Hedi and Erwin Stummer in the field is gratefully acknowledged.