

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
OF THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF A BORROW PIT ON
THE REQUEST 547, CALEDON, OVERBERG DISTRICT,
WESTERN CAPE**

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

Prepared for:

Vidamemoria Heritage Consultants
Att: Ms Quahnita Samie
E-mail: quahnita@vidamemoria.co.za

On behalf of:

Nadeson Consulting Services

Prepared by:
Madelon Tusenius
Natura Viva cc
PO Box 12410
Mill Street, Cape Town
8010
Phone: (021) 462 3622
E-mail: naturaviva@universe.co.za

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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 extension of borrow pit DR01264/9.8/L/75 (Vidamemoria pit no. 54) in the Caledon area of the Overberg District Municipality, Western Cape. The site is situated along the DR01264 (Highlands Road) in the hills of the Highlands Plantation adjacent to a portion of the Kogelberg Nature Reserve. Material excavated from the proposed extension 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 site will be rehabilitated for the reintroduction of fynbos vegetation.

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 visibility of archaeological material was poor due to the ground being partially obscured by dense fynbos vegetation and the remains of stumps and branches of the previous pine plantation.

No Stone Age archaeological material was observed but two structures of possible colonial period interest were observed, namely a quite substantial, rectangular, largely sub-surface structure with thick stone walls (400-500mm in width) along the eastern side and the poorly-preserved remains of two walls at right angles to each other in the south-western corner of the affected area. The random rubble stone building method appears to have been used for both structures.

The proposed extension of pit 54 is of low Stone Age archaeological significance but I am not able to make an assessment of the significance of the historical remains. It is likely that the stone ruin and walls are older than 60 years and are thus protected by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999. Quarrying will have a direct impact on the stone ruin in particular.

It is therefore recommended that a suitably qualified specialist be appointed to assess the significance, if any, of these historical remains, their possible significance within a regional architectural context and to make recommendations regarding any mitigation required prior to the proposed extension of the borrow pit. Any structures which have not been assessed should be fenced off and protected during mining operations. A permit for the demolition of such remains will be required from Heritage Western Cape.

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 extension of borrow pit DR01264/9.8/L/75 (Vidamemoria pit no. 54) in the Caledon area of the Overberg District Municipality, Western Cape (Figure 1). The site is situated along the DR01264 (Highlands Road) in the hills of the Highlands Plantation adjacent to a portion of the Kogelberg Nature Reserve. Kleinmond lies over 8 km to the southwest and Bot River almost 14 km to the northeast of the proposed pit. Material excavated from the proposed extension 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 site will be rehabilitated for the reintroduction of fynbos vegetation.

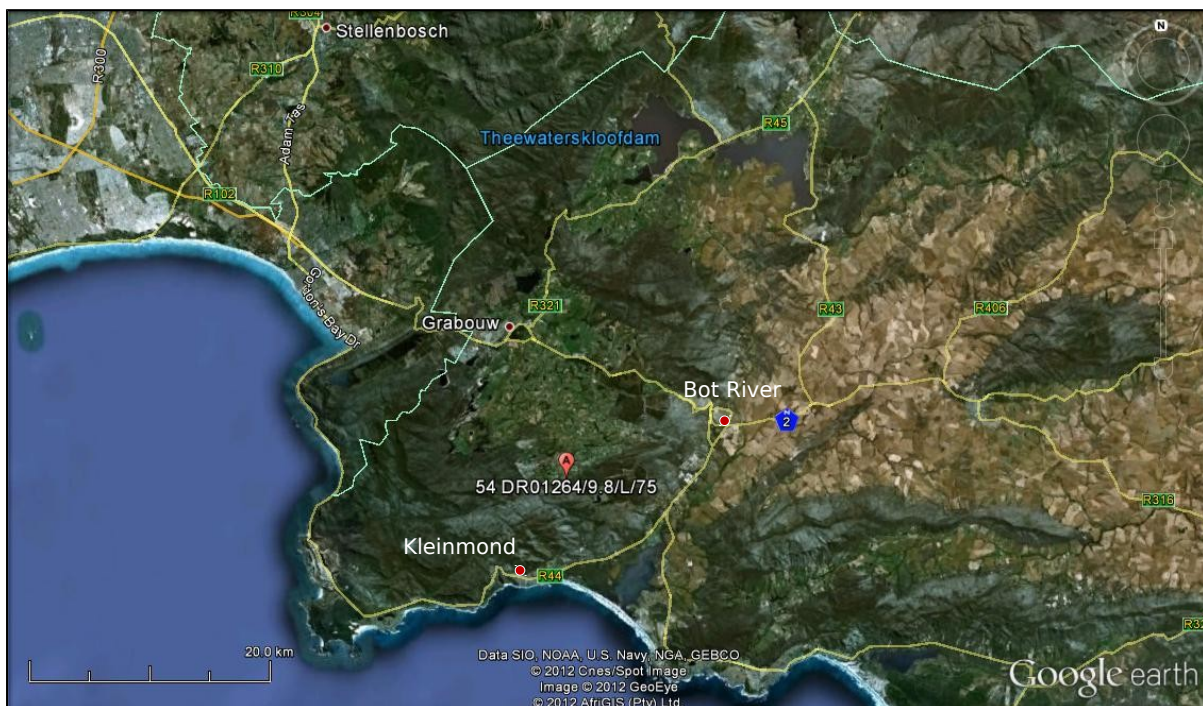


Figure 1: Google earth image showing the location of the proposed borrow pit DR01264/9.8/L/75 (Vidamemoria pit no. 54). The relevant 1:50 000 topographical map is 3419AC Hermanus.

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 1875-1967 ref. 120726JL17E) 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 archaeological occurrences and tracks were recorded by a Garmin GPSMAP 62s set on the WGS84 datum (Figure 2). The site was extensively photographed.

4.2 Limiting factors

The visibility of archaeological material was poor due to the ground being partially obscured by dense fynbos vegetation and the remains of stumps and branches of the previous pine plantation.

5. DESCRIPTION OF AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND SITE

5.1 Archaeological background:

According to the map of impact studies recorded on the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorite Unit Report Mapping Project DVD (2009), proposed borrow pit 54 lies within the area of the Palmiet River Catchment Area survey of the Kogelberg State Forest done by Kaplan (1992). The Palmiet River is situated on lower-lying ground over 2 km to the west and northwest of the proposed extension. Although Kaplan's survey was restricted to the immediate area of the river, his observations provide some indication of what archaeological remains might occur in the general area. His study revealed three archaeological and three historical sites, as well as five archaeological observations. These were not considered to be of great significance as they consisted of surface scatters of low density material, mainly quartz flakes, cores and chunks. The quartz seemed to be sourced from naturally eroding quartz associated with outcropping of Table Mountain Sandstone. Several artefacts in fine-grained quartzite and silcrete were also observed. Of the historical sites noted, one consisted of the walled remains of either a shepherd's or flower-picker's hut (possibly dating to the period between the close of the nineteenth century and the Second World War) and the other of the fairly recent standing remains of an old house lived in by vegetable growers (Kaplan 2009).

5.2 Borrow pit DR01264/9.8/L/75 (Vidamemoria pit no. 54)

Approximate area: 2ha

Location: S 34° 16' 9.69" E 19° 3' 21.35"

Farm name and number: The Request 547

Environment: The proposed borrow pit is located on the north and east-facing slope of an area which used to be occupied by a pine forest but has been lying fallow since the felling of the pine trees. It is bounded by the DR1264 to the east, a track and powerline to the north, a forestry track to the south and open veld to the west (Figures 2, 3, 4 and 5). The road reserve along part of the eastern boundary of the affected area has previously been quarried for gravel and it is proposed to extend the pit to the west from the face of the previous workings. Outcropping sandstone forms a small koppie approximately 50m in from the track in the south (Figures 5 and 6). Quartz gravel and ferricrete concretions contained in a silty sand matrix overlie sandstones of the Table Mountain Group. The affected area is now covered by the remaining tree stumps and branches, as well as a dense growth of fynbos, which limited the visibility of archaeological material on the ground (Figures 3, 4, 5 and 6). The presence of a stone ruin close to the DR01264 was noted in the geotechnical report for the proposed expansion of the pit.

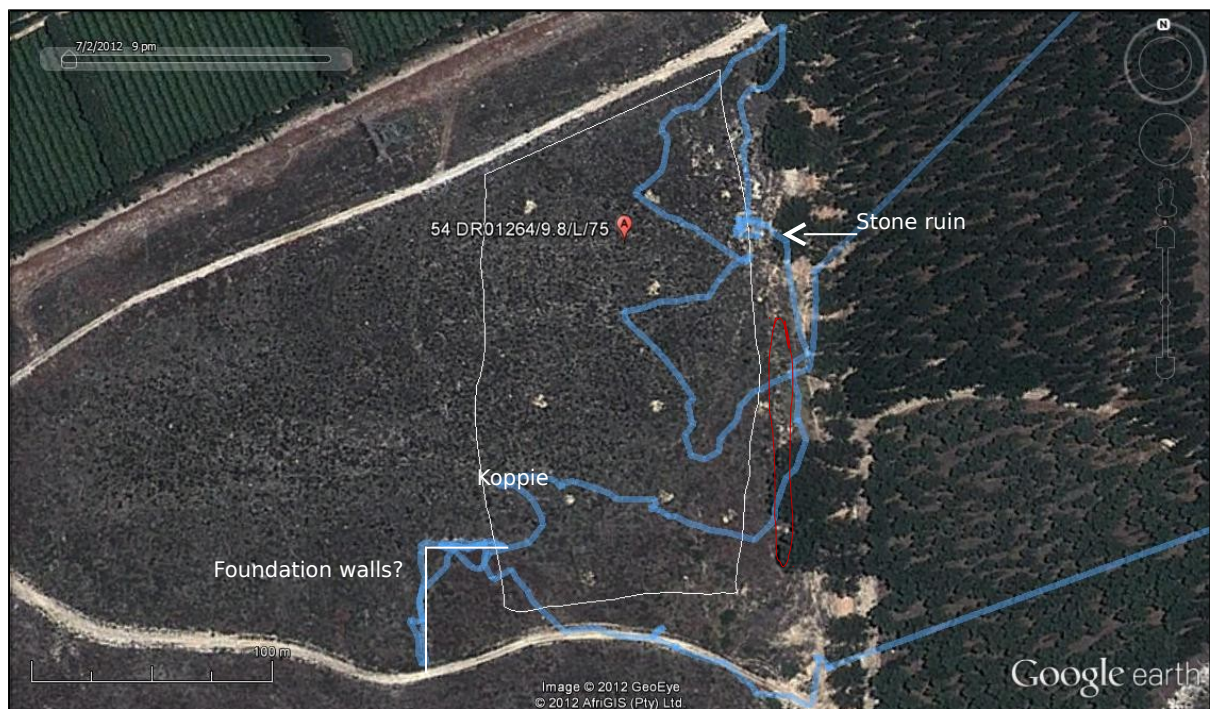
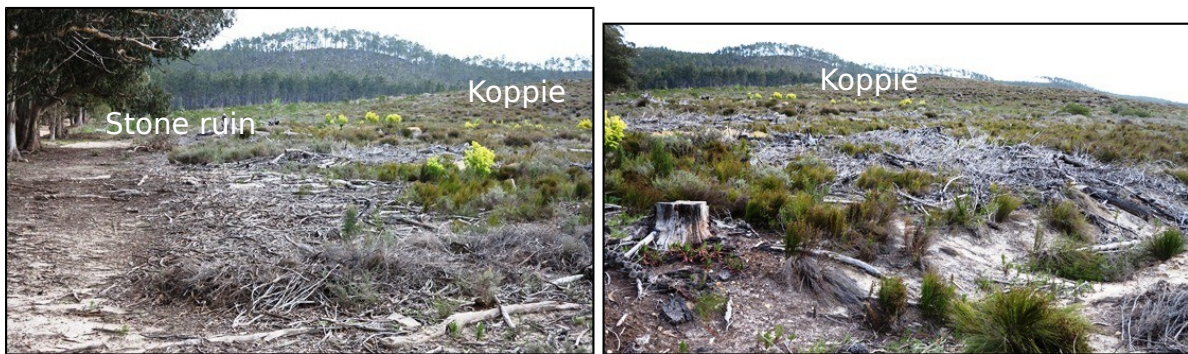


Figure 2: Google earth image showing the proposed borrow pit 54, the position of the stone ruin, possible foundation walls and the tracks of the field survey. The DR01264, the eastern boundary of the affected area, is obscured by trees in this image. The area outlined in red indicates the approximate position of the previously quarried road reserve. Please note that the straight blue lines do not indicate survey tracks.



Figures 3 and 4: View from the koppie towards the southeast; view from the koppie downslope towards the northeast.



Figures 5 and 6: View from the northeast corner towards the south showing the position of the stone ruin and koppie. The previously excavated road reserve lies beyond the ruin, further to the south; view towards the southwest.

Results of the survey:

The dense vegetation and spread of dead branches impeded visibility and movement over a large part of the affected area and therefore most attention was paid to the area around the stone ruin in the east, as well as the southern area where possible features were identified on Google Earth images during the Notification of Intent to Develop phase (D. Halkett quoted in Samie 2012).

No Stone Age archaeological material was observed although the local quartz could provide a source of raw material for the manufacture of artefacts.

The stone ruin is in fact quite a substantial, rectangular, largely sub-surface structure with thick, mainly intact walls, possibly foundations (Figures 7 to 12). The north and south walls are approximately 11m in length and the eastern and western walls are approximately 8.5m and 7.5m respectively. The wall on the eastern side is not as well preserved as the others. The walls consist of sandstone blocks on the inside and outside, with an infill of smaller stones (Figures 9 and 12). The random rubble stone building method is not readily datable

without other related evidence, but it seems that 18th century stone foundations are about 600mm wide whereas those of the 19th century are about 400-500mm (Dr Antonia Malan, pers. comm.). In this case the walls would fit in the latter category. The only cultural remains found near the structure were the remains of a zinc bath (Figure 13) and a small L-shaped piece of metal which may not be directly related to the ruin. No other remains such as porcelain or glass were observed. The rest of the affected area was also devoid of cultural material except for one small piece of blue glass found near the koppie.

The copy of a 1989 title deed for the farm The Request No 547, on which the proposed extension is located, reveals that the first survey of the farm was done in 1875 (Website of the Chief Surveyor). It is possible that the stone ruin may date to this period.



Figure 7: View towards the north showing the location of the stone ruin close to the DR01264.



Figures 8 and 9: The stone ruin – view towards the west showing the sub-surface southern wall of the structure; detail of the northwest corner showing the rubble infill between the outer and inner stones. The ruler is about 15cm in length.



Figures 10 and 11: The stone ruin – view towards the west showing the stumps of pine trees which were planted after the abandonment of the structure; detail of the north-western corner.



Figures 12 and 13: The stone ruin - view towards the east of the northern wall; the remains of an old zinc tub found within the ruin. The ruler is about 15cm in length.

The other possible features noted on the Google Earth image of the southern area (Figure 14) turned out to be the badly-preserved remains of two walls at right angles to each other (Figures 2, 15 to 18). One wall runs east to west, the other north to south. As in the case of

the stone ruin, the random rubble stone building method appears to have been used (Figures 15 and 18). These walls are not as substantial as the former so they possibly belong to a later period. In both cases the pine trees must have been planted after the structures were abandoned as the stumps lie very close to, or on top of, the remaining foundations (Figures 10, 12, 15 and 17).



Figures 14 and 15: View towards the south showing the context of the foundation walls observed at the margins of the south-western corner of the proposed pit; detail of one of the best- preserved parts of the east-west running wall.



Figures 16 and 17: View towards the east with the remains of part of the east-west running wall (barely) visible in the foreground; view towards the north of the north-south orientated wall.



Figure 18: Detail of part of the east-west orientated wall showing the rubble infill. The ruler is about 15cm in length.

6. SIGNIFICANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed extension of pit 54 is of low Stone Age archaeological significance but I am not able to make an assessment of the significance of the historical remains. It is likely that the stone ruin and walls are older than 60 years and are thus protected by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999. Quarrying will have a direct impact on the stone ruin in particular.

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7. REFERENCES

Kaplan, J. 1992. A report on the archaeological sensitivity of the Kogelberg State Forest focussing primarily on the Palmiet River Catchment Area. Unpublished report prepared for The Department of Water Affairs. Agency for Cultural Resources Management.

SAHRA. 2009. Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorite Unit Report Mapping Project DVD. Version 1.0.

Samie, Q. 2012. Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) form submitted to Heritage Western Cape. Vidamemoria Heritage Consultants reference number 98.

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. Dr Antonia Malan, Historical Archaeology Research Group, UCT, kindly made several useful observations on historical structures.