

**A PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE
PROPOSED PHASE 2 DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHINTSA RIVER GOLF
COURSE, CHINTSA, GREAT KEI MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE**

Prepared for: Coastal & Environmental Services

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A PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED PHASE 2 DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHINTSA RIVER GOLF COURSE, CHINTSA, GREAT KEI MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE

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Note: This report follows the minimum standard guidelines required by the South African Heritage Resources Agency for compiling Archaeological Heritage Phase 1 Impact Assessment (AHIA) reports.

SUMMARY

Purpose of the study

To conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed phase 2 development of the Chintsa River Golf Course, Chintsa, Great Kei Municipality, Eastern Cape; to evaluate the importance of the archaeological and historical heritage sites, the potential impact of the development and to make recommendations to minimize possible damage to these sites.

The investigation

Archaeological materials were found only at two localities. Pottery fragments were found in an orchard outside the property proposed for development, and next to a road where the vegetation and top soil have been disturbed. The materials found were of low cultural significance, but may indicate the presence of larger archaeological sites. The dense, grass and impenetrable vegetation made it impossible to find sites in other areas

Cultural sensitivity

The property proposed for development is covered by dense vegetation and it is therefore difficult to assess the archaeological sensitivity of the area.

Recommendations

1. All construction work must be monitored. An archaeologist must inspect the different construction phases, for example, clearing, levelling and trenching activities.
2. A person must be trained as a site monitor to report any archaeological sites found during development.

3. Construction managers/foremen should be informed before construction starts on the possible types of heritage sites and cultural material they may encounter and the procedures to follow when they find sites.
4. If archaeological sites are found, then a Phase 2 Mitigation process will be undertaken. The sites will be systematic excavated to establish the contextual status of the sites and remove the archaeological deposits before construction of the development starts.
5. Every landowner and visitors to the proposed development must be alerted to the importance, sensitivity, conservation and protection of the cultural heritage of the region to avoid possible damage to heritage features or removal of material from heritage sites anywhere in the region.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Status

The report is part of an Environmental Impact Assessment.

The type of development

The construction of an 18 hole golf course and facilities and a high density residential development of 394 residential units on approximately 240ha.

The Developer

Chintsa River Golf Course (Pty) Ltd
 P.O. Box 19403
 Tecoma
 East London 5214

Terms of reference

The original proposal was to conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed phase 2 development of the Chintsa River Golf Course, Chintsa, Great Kei Municipality, Eastern Cape; to evaluate the importance of the archaeological and historical heritage sites, the potential impact of the development and to make recommendations to minimize possible damage to these sites.

BRIEF ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Literature review

Brief archaeological background

Little is known about the archaeology of this part of the coast, because no systematic field research has been conducted there. Notwithstanding, there are a number of reports, references and accessioned material in museums of the region and nationally which provide us with a background. This information was compiled by R.M. Derricourt during the early 1970s and published in his book, *Prehistoric man in the Ciskei and Transkei* in 1977. This part of the coast between East London and the Great Kei River is rich in archaeological sites and material.

From the archival information and limited field work, it is evident that the area has a interesting and complex archaeological past. Earlier Stone Age (ESA) hand axes, cleavers and other stone tools, dating to approximately a million or more years old, were found mainly in inland areas such as in the districts of Middledrift, Kentani, Butterworth, Idutywa and Lusisiki to name a few.

Middle Stone Age (MSA) stone artefacts dating between 200 000 and 30 000 years old can be found throughout the region, but carry little information because they are not associated with any other archaeological material. Later Stone Age open sites, dating to the past 20 000 years are also widely scattered throughout the area.

The most common archaeological sites are shell middens (large piles of marine shell) found usually concentrated opposite rocky coasts (people refer to these as ‘strandloper middens’). These were campsites of San, KhoiSan and Bantu-speakers who lived along the immediate coast and collected marine foods. Mixed with the shell are other food remains, cultural material and often human remains are found in the middens. These middens date from the past 8 000 years.

Although there are no records of Early Iron Age (first farming communities) sites or material from the Chintsa area, it is possible that such settlements maybe present in the wider region (Maggs 1973, Feely 1987). Evidence in the form of thick walled well-decorated pot shards are present along other parts of the Transkei coast (Rudner 1968) as is evident from sites that were excavated at Mpame River Mouth (Cronin 1982) and just west of East London (Nongwaza 1994). Research in the Great Kei River Valley indicates that the first mixed farmers were already settled in the Eastern Cape between A.D. 600 - 700 (Binneman 1994).

References

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- Mostert, N. 1992. Frontiers: the epic of South Africa’s creation and the tragedy of the Xhosa people. London: Pimlico.
- Rudner, J. 1968. Strandloper pottery from South and South West Africa. Annals of the South African Museum 49:441-663.

Museum/University databases and collections

The Albany Museum in Grahamstown houses some collections and information from the region.

Relevant impact assessments

None in the immediate vicinity.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

Area surveyed

Location data

The proposed phase 2 development of the Chintsa River Golf Course, Chintsa, Great Kei Municipality, Eastern Cape, is situated on the southern bank of the Chintsa River, opposite the coastal town of Chintsa East and inland from Chintsa West (the approximate centre of the development has the co-ordinates 32.49.57,38S; 28.05.50,07E). Eleven farms have been consolidated into one large property, subdivided and re-zoned into Resort zone 2 for the residential erven and Open Space 2 for the golf courses (Maps 1-3).

The property for the proposed development slopes steeply from a relatively flat hilltop down to the Chintsa River. Most of the hilltop area has been exposed to farming activities (ploughed fields, etc.). The slope is covered with dense grass and thicket vegetation and the floodplain area next to the Chintsa River is relatively flat but also covered with dense grass (Figs 1-6).

Map

1:50 000 3228 CC Gunobie



Figs 1-2. Different views from the eastern side of the Chintsa River towards the proposed property for development.



Figs 3-4. Views towards Chintsa East showing the dense grass and vegetation cover.



Figs 5-6. Views of the dense vegetation which cover the property.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

Methodology

The survey was conducted by one person on foot and spots checks from a vehicle. Impenetrable coastal thicket vegetation and dense grass made it difficult to find archaeological sites/material. Archaeological materials were found only in two areas where the topsoil and vegetation have been disturbed. One area falls outside the current development and the other area was where recent road construction was conducted.

Description of the sites

GPS readings were taken with a Garmin Plus II

Site 1: First Mixed Farmer (Late Iron Age) Ceramics - 32.50.003S; 28.05.136E

Small fragments of Late Iron Age/First Farmer age pottery (probably dating within the past 1 000 years), were located in an orchard a few hundred metres west of the proposed development (Figs 7-8). There were no decorated fragments to establish a cultural phase or relative age for the collection of shards. No other cultural material or food remains were found. Nevertheless, the fragments were scattered over a large area, high on a hilltop overlooking the river, which suggests that there must be remains of a Late Iron Age settlement in the vicinity.



Figs 7-8. A view of the orchard and a few pot shards found among the trees.

Site 2.: First Mixed Farmer (Late Iron Age) Ceramics and Middle Stone Age Stone Tools - 32.50.351S; 28.05.433E

Several weathered Middle Stone Age stone tools (older than 30 000 years old) and pot shards (possibly also of Late Mixed Farmer origin) were found in an area where roads were constructed or the topsoil and vegetation were cleared (Figs 9-10).



Figs 9-10. Area where Middle Stone Age stone tools and pot shards were found.

DISCUSSION

Due to the dense vegetation cover of the proposed property for development, it was almost impossible to find archaeological sites and/or materials. However, it is clear that where the vegetation and top soil have been disturbed, archaeological materials were present. The pot shards suggest that there were Late First Mixed Farmer settlements along the hilltop and these will be exposed when large scale clearing of the property starts.

CULTURAL SENSITIVITY

Although little archaeological material was located during the investigation, a possibility exists that they may be buried under the dune sand and vegetation. The property is located close to the coast and usually there are many shell middens within 300 metres of the coast, but they may also be found up to 5 kilometres inland. Shell middens and open sites were reported from the Chintsa River Mouth area by Rudner (1968) and Derricourt (1977). Archaeological material included pottery, iron artefacts and stone tools, but historical artefacts such as copper artefacts and fine decorated European ceramics were also found on these sites. These may represent campsites and remains from European shipwreck survivors. It is possible that there are a number of sites covered by dune sand and vegetation on the property (See Appendix A for a list of possible archaeological sites that maybe found in the area).

RECOMMENDATIONS

The literature review and investigation revealed that there are archaeological sites in the close vicinity of the proposed development. Against this background that there may be possible archaeological sites, such as shell middens (similar to those found along the immediate coast) along or close to the river bank and First Mixed Farmer settlements on the hill slope, the following recommendations are suggested:

1. All construction work must be monitored. An archaeologist must inspect the different construction phases, for example, clearing, levelling and trenching activities. The developers must meet with an archaeologist and provide him/her with a schedule of when the different construction phases will take place so these could be inspected. The archaeologist may make further recommendations regarding the inspections. In addition;

- A person must be trained as an archaeological site monitor to report to the foreman when archaeological sites are found. This person must monitor all clearing, levelling and trenching activities during the construction phase.
- Construction managers/foremen should be informed before construction starts on the possible types of heritage sites and cultural material they may encounter and the procedures to follow when they find sites.
- If any concentrations of archaeological material (especially human remains) are exposed during construction, all work in that area should cease and it should be reported immediately to the nearest museum/archaeologist or to the South African Heritage Resources Agency, so that a systematic and professional investigation can be undertaken. Sufficient time should be allowed to remove/collect such material (See Appendix 4 for a list of possible archaeological sites that maybe found in the area). Recommendations will follow after the investigation and may include:
- A Phase 2 Mitigation process to systematically excavate and remove the archaeological deposits before construction of the development continues.

Note: Important site(s) may be declared national and/or provincial heritage site(s) by SAHRA and may not be disturbed or destroyed, but must be protected and preserved.

2. Each landowner and visitor to the proposed development must be made aware of the importance, sensitivity, conservation and protection of the cultural heritage of the region to avoid possible damage to heritage features or removal of material from heritage sites anywhere in the region. This should include:

- Terms of Conditions, in the form of a ‘management strategy’ should be included in the constitution of the Home Owners Association or into any other relevant legal organisation. The purpose of this ‘management strategy’ would be to inform the house owners and visitors to the development of possible heritage resources on the property and surrounds, and to prevent, or at best minimize possible damage of sites or prevent the collecting of material by residents and/or visitors. This ‘management strategy’ document (Terms of Conditions) can be compiled by the

South Africa Heritage Resources Agency in cooperation with the Home Owners Association. The information must also be displayed on information boards in public places and along paths to the coast.

Motivation for 2.

There is no doubt that the development will have an impact and ripple effect on the archaeological heritage resources of the region. The impact will be indirect, but will increase over time. Although there are few visible archaeological sites in close proximity of the property, visitors/tourists will no doubt visit or ‘discover’ these through their recreational activities. It is therefore the responsibility of the developers to inform potential homeowners and visitors to the development of the importance of the archaeological heritage of the area. In this way, the developers will make a contribution to the potential protection and preservation of these archaeological resources of the region.

GENERAL REMARKS AND CONDITION

Note: This report is a phase 1 archaeological heritage impact assessment/investigation only and does not include or exempt other required heritage impact assessments (see below).

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999, section 35) requires a full Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in order that all heritage resources, that is, all places or objects of aesthetics, architectural, historic, scientific, social, spiritual linguistic or technological value or significance are protected. Thus any assessment should make provision for the protection of all these heritage components, including archaeology, shipwrecks, battlefields, graves, and structures older than 60 years, living heritage, historical settlements, landscapes, geological sites, palaeontological sites and objects.

It must be emphasised that the conclusions and recommendations expressed in this archaeological heritage sensitivity investigation are based on the visibility of archaeological sites/features and may not therefore, reflect the true state of affairs. Many sites/features may be covered by soil and vegetation and will only be located once this has been removed. In the event of such finds being uncovered, (such as during any phase of construction work), archaeologists must be informed immediately so that they can investigate the importance of the sites and excavate or collect material before it is destroyed. The onus is on the developer to ensure that this agreement is honoured in accordance with the National Heritage Act No. 25 of 1999.

It must also be clear that Archaeological Specialist Reports (AIs) will be assessed by the relevant heritage resources authority. The final decision rests with the heritage resources authority, which should grant a permit or a formal letter of permission for the destruction of any cultural sites.

APPENDIX A: IDENTIFICATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES AND MATERIAL FROM INLAND AREAS: guidelines and procedures for developers

1. Identification of Iron Age archaeological features and material

- Upper and lower grindstones, broken or complete. Upper grindstone/rubber will be pitted.
- Circular hollows - sunken soil, would indicate storage pits and often associated with grindstones.
- Ash heaps, called middens with cultural remains and food waste such as bone.
- Khaki green soils would indicate kraal areas.
- Baked clay/soil blocks with or without pole impression marks indicate hut structures.
- Decorated and undecorated pot shards.
- Iron slag and/or blowpipes indicate iron working.
- Human remains may also be associated with khaki green soils.
- Metal objects and ornaments

2. Shell middens

Shell middens can be defined as an accumulation of marine shell deposited by human agents rather than the result of marine activity. The shells are concentrated in a specific locality above the high-water mark and frequently contain stone tools, pottery, bone and occasionally also human remains. Shell middens may be of various sizes and depths, but an accumulation which exceeds 1 m² in extent, should be reported to an archaeologist.

3. Human Skeletal material

Human remains, whether the complete remains of an individual buried during the past, or scattered human remains resulting from disturbance of the grave, should be reported. In general the remains are buried in a flexed position on their sides, but are also found buried in a sitting position with a flat stone capping or in ceramic pots. Developers are requested to be on the alert for these features and remains.

4. Fossil bone

Fossil bones may be found embedded in deposits at the sites. Any concentrations of bones, whether fossilized or not, should be reported.

5. Stone artefacts

These are difficult for the layman to identify. However, large accumulations of flaked stones which do not appear to have been distributed naturally, should be reported. If the stone tools are associated with bone remains, development should be halted immediately and archaeologists notified.

6. Stone features and platforms

These occur in different forms and sizes, but easily identifiable. The most common are an accumulation of roughly circular fire cracked stones tightly spaced and filled in with charcoal and marine shell. They are usually 1-2 metres in diameter and may represent

cooking platforms for shell fish. Others may resemble circular single row cobble stone markers. These occur in different sizes and may be the remains of wind breaks or cooking shelters.

5. Large stone cairns

The most common cairns consist of large piles of stones of different sizes and heights and are known as *isisivane*. They are usually near river and mountain crossings. Their purpose and meaning is not fully understood, however, some are thought to represent burial cairns while others may have symbolic value.

5. Historical artefacts or features

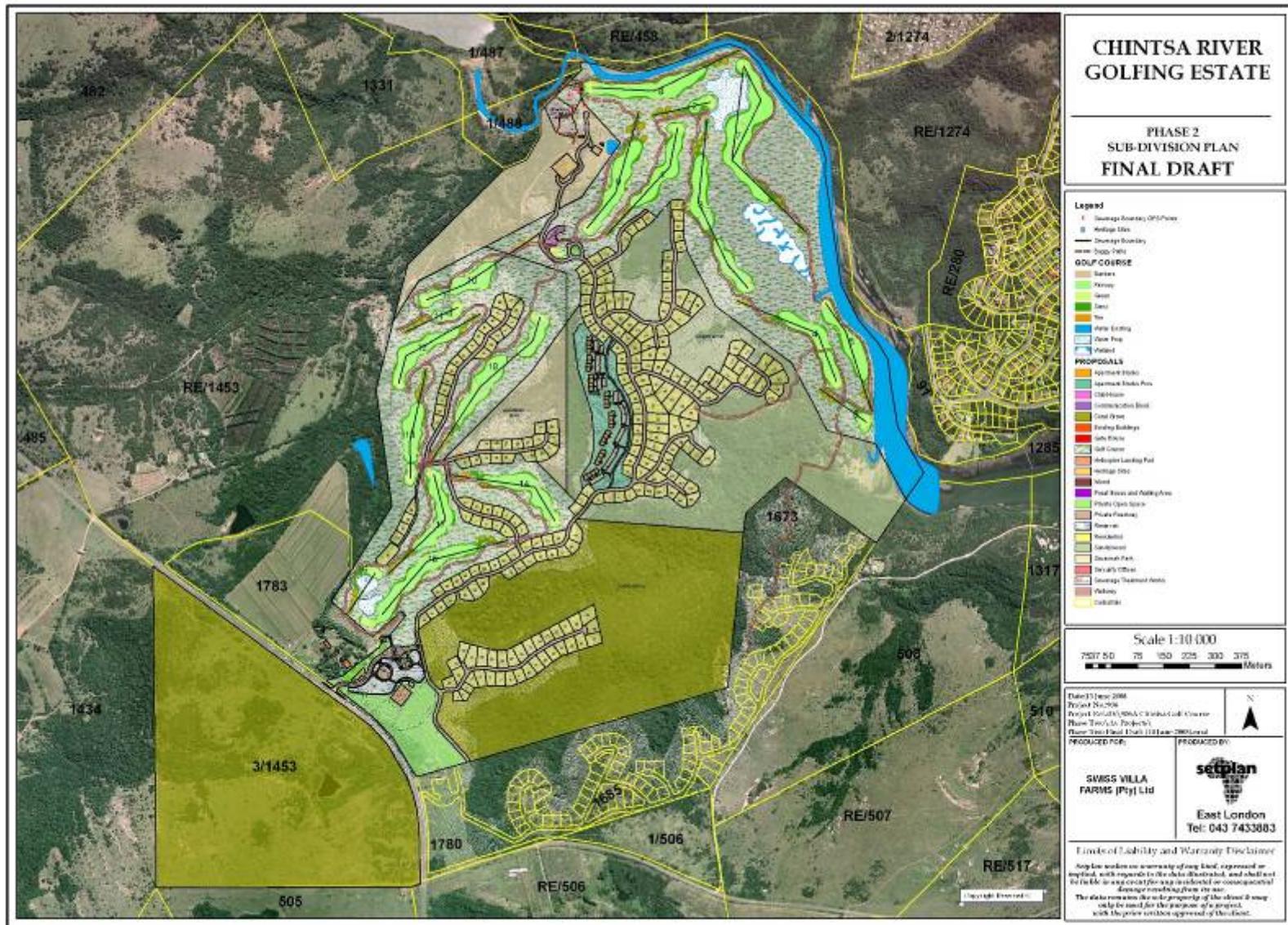
These are easy to identified and include foundations of buildings or other construction features and items from domestic and military activities.



Map 1. 1:50 000 Topographic map of the location of the proposed development.



Map 2. Aerial photograph of the location of the proposed development. The archaeological finds of Late Mixed Farmer pottery (yellow square) and Middle Stone Age stone tools and Late Mixed Farmer pottery (blue square) are also indicated.



Map 3. Layout plan of the proposed development (map courtesy of the developers).