

# Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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30 April, 2010

**Att:** Mr Nik Wullschleger  
Boland Environmental Consultants  
PO Box 250  
Worcester  
6849

Dear Mr Wullschleger,

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT DEVELOPMENT OF THE HEXPAK PACKING SHED (PORTION 8 OF FARM 119 ORCHARD) DE DOORNS WESTERN CAPE**

### **1. Introduction**

Boland Enviro requested, on behalf of the applicant Hexpak (Pty) Ltd that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment of the development of a fruit packing shed on Portion 8 of Farm 119 Orchard in De Doorns in the Hex River Valley, near Worcester in the Western Cape.

The subject property has been divided into three portions (A, B and C) with a combined size of about 3 ha. The packing shed will be built on Portion A (1.6296 ha) and will have a footprint of about 4000m<sup>2</sup>. The packing shed will be used for the dry packing of table grapes for local and overseas markets. The height of the building will be 13 m. A second phase is envisaged that will see the construction of a similar sized building adjacent the packing shed. The total footprint of both phases including associated infrastructure will be less than 1.0 ha.

The development of the packing shed has already proceeded, but has since stopped. The site has been cleared and levelled and the foundations and some concrete work have been completed. Piles of rubble and top soil are present on the site which is severely transformed.

A Notice of Intent to Develop (NID) has been completed by Boland Enviro, but an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) was not undertaken at the time. Heritage Western Cape (HWC) subsequently requested that an AIA of the site be done. In addition, HWC also requested that a series of panoramic photographs be taken that would illustrate the visual context of the site<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Email from Mr Nick Wiltshire, to Mr Nic Wullschleger dated 26 January, 2010.

## **2. The site**

The site is located alongside Divisional Road 1435 about 4 kms west of De Doorns (Figures 1 and 2). The site has been transformed as a result of some initial construction work having already been done. The surrounding land-use is agri-industrial, comprising commercial farming enterprises such as cold storage facilities, packing sheds and agricultural services (including irrigation suppliers) alongside DR1435 and agricultural (vineyards) production to the south of DR1435. A small school is situated directly alongside the property to the west. A small stream runs alongside the southern and western boundary of the property. A railway siding and associated buildings are also located to the north of DR1435. A social housing project comprising about 323 units is also envisaged in close proximity to the proposed project, in the near future<sup>2</sup>.

## **3. Study approach**

The archaeological study took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2010.

The study comprised an archaeological assessment of the development site, including the immediate surrounding area. The large piles of top soil and rubble were also searched for archaeological remains.

As requested by Heritage Western Cape, a series of digital photographs indicating the visual context of the site were taken. A selection of photographs is illustrated in Figures 3-10. The remainder of the photographs have been saved to DVD and included with a digital copy of the report, as well as a GPS track path.

## **4. Results of the study**

No obvious archaeological remains such as stone flakes, or modified tools were found during the study of the site and the immediate surrounding area. No implements were found on the spoil dumps, either. It should be pointed out, however, that limited numbers of Early and Middle Stone Age tools have been documented in De Doorns and the Hex River Valley<sup>3</sup>.

## **5. Recommendations**

The proposed development should be allowed to proceed as planned.

It is highly unlikely that any important archaeological remains will be uncovered during construction activities.

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<sup>2</sup> Basic Assessment Report compiled by Boland Enviro 2009

<sup>3</sup> Kaplan, J. 2009. Archaeological Scoping Assessment the proposed expansion of new agricultural lands on Naudesia Farm (Portion 6 of Farm Naudesia A No. 90) De Doorns Valley. Report prepared for Cederberg Environmental Assessment Practice. ACRM  
Kaplan, J. 2007. Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed development of Erf 660 De Doorns Western Cape. Report prepared for Boland Enviro. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JK' with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jonathan Kaplan

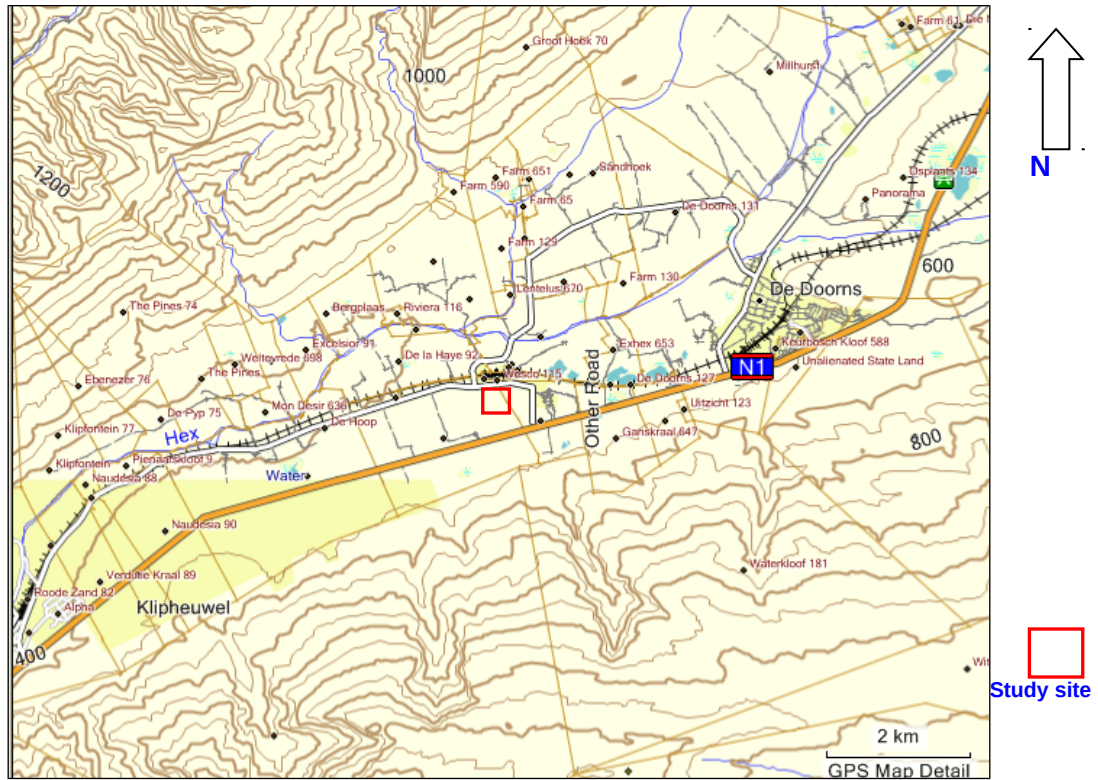


Figure 1. Locality Map



Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site and it rural agricultural context



Figure 3. View of the site facing north west



Figure 6. View of the site facing north east



Figure 4. View of the site facing north



Figure 7. View of the site facing east



Figure 5. View from the site facing north east



Figure 8. View from the site facing south west



Figure 9. View of the site facing west



Figure 10. View of the site alongside DR1435