

# Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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**Att:** Ms Anelia Coetzee  
CK Rumboll and Partners  
PO Box 211  
Malmesbury  
7299

Dear Ms Coetzee,

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF ERF 2569 WELLINGTON WESTERN CAPE**

### **1. Introduction and brief**

CK Rumboll and Partners, on behalf of Evergreen Estates requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed development Erf 2569 near Wellington, in the Western Cape (Figure 1).

The proposed development entails the construction of 96 Group Housing units (1.54 ha), 99 General Residential units (0.89 ha), Public Open Space (1.38 ha) and internal streets and parking (0.81ha).

The proposed development site is 4.639 ha in extent and is currently zoned 'Undetermined' and will need to be rezoned and subdivided in order for the proposed development activities to proceed.

A Notice of Intent to Develop (NID) has been completed by Mr Johan Botes (of CK Rumboll & Partners), but an AIA was not undertaken at the time.

### **2. Terms of reference**

The Terms of Reference for the archaeological assessment were to:

- Identify and map any archaeological resources on the proposed site;
- Determine the importance of archaeological resources on the proposed site;
- Determine and assess the potential impacts of the proposed development on archaeological resources, and
- Recommend measures to minimise impacts associated with the proposed development.

### **3. The study site**

Erf 2569 is located alongside the R301 (Van Riebeeck Road) between Paarl and Wellington. Access to the property is via Vallei Street. The site is flat and slopes gently from east to west. The highly degraded Mbekweni River is situated on the northern boundary of the property the old Wellington Paarl Road is on the western boundary, informal housing and vacant land on the south and the residential township of Newton on the east. A decommissioned Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) is situated in the south east (refer to Figure 2). Virtually no natural vegetation occurs on the site, which is in a severely degraded and transformed state. The property must have at some stage been used for agricultural activities as old plough lines are still visible across much of the eastern portion. The site is covered in short, but thick Kweek grass. A few sporadic trees occur over the property. A wide gravel road and numerous small pedestrian footpaths intersect the site. There is a large pit that has been excavated in the centre of the site, and large volumes of clay and gravel have been dumped alongside the river in the northern boundary, which has been brought onto the property from elsewhere. A large informal rubbish dump and recycling enterprise is located in the western portion, where several large metal containers are also situated. A metal and concrete building on the site is currently being used as storage facility and accommodation for some of the workers. Dumping of building rubble is widespread over the property, as it litter. A small (dry) pond is located in the north east, which may be the remnants of the Mbekweni wetland system. There are no significant landscape features on the property (Figures 3-12).

### **4. Approach to the study**

The proposed development site was searched for archaeological remains.

The site visit took place on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2010.

A desk top study was also undertaken.

### **5. Constraints and limitations**

There were no constraints or limitations associated with the study.

### **6. Results of the desk top study**

About 25 Early Stone Age (ESA) tools, including several large side struck flakes and at least two handaxes were documented during a survey of the property known as Vlakkeland (the decommissioned WWTW) property<sup>1</sup>. It appears that the tools were brought onto the site when the sewerage ponds were first constructed more than 25 years ago as all the implements were found packed (with large numbers of river cobbles) against the inside sloping walls of the ponds. A few Early and Middle Stone Age tools were also documented during a study of Erf 34, near the Wellington Golf Course<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Kaplan, J. 2007. Proposed establishment of a cemetery on Erven 8384-8388 and 8395-8397(Vlakkeland) Wellington. Report prepared for Braaf Environmental Consultants. Agency for Cultural Resource Management

<sup>2</sup> Kaplan, J. 2007. Proposed establishment of a cemetery on Erf 34 Wellington. Report prepared for Braaf Environmental Consultants. Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Several ESA flakes and a handaxe were also found during an inspection of earthworks at the Bloulei Reservoir near Wellington<sup>3</sup>.

All the remains occur in a disturbed context and were rated as having low significance.

#### **7. Findings**

No archaeological remains were documented during the study of Erf 2569. The site is severely degraded.

#### **8. Impact statement**

The impact of the proposed development on archaeological remains is likely to be **low**.

The probability of locating important archaeological remains during implementation of the project is likely to be highly improbable.

#### **9. Conclusion**

The Archaeological Impact Assessment of Erf 2569 Wellington has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed construction activities commencing.

The proposed development should be allowed to proceed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Kaplan', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jonathan Kaplan

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<sup>3</sup> Kaplan, J. Archaeological inspection Bloulei Reservoir Wellington. Report prepared for Ninham Shand Environmental Consultants. Agency for Cultural Resource Management







Figure 3. View of the study site facing south west



Figure 6. View of the study site facing north east



Figure 4. View of the study site facing west



Figure 7. Large pit on the study site. View facing north east



Figure 5. View of the study site facing north west



Figure 8. View of the study site facing north east



Figure 9. View of the study site facing east



Figure 11. Back of the building



Figure 10. Metal and concrete building



Figure 12. View of the study site and the Mbekweni River facing east