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ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY BROOKLANDS WATER TREATMENT PLANT ACCESS ROAD

Prepared for

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By

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Executive summary

Stone artefacts were found during an archaeological study of the Brooklands Water Treatment Plant Access Road in Simonstown.

The planned development involves upgrading the existing road to the water treatment plant.

The archaeological remains, comprising Middle Stone Age and some Later Stone Age flakes, were found scattered on the north-facing slopes in and beyond the proposed 50-m service corridor. The remains were found in a fairly severely disturbed context and have been given a low significance rating.

The ruined remains of houses and domestic refuse relating to the Brooklands Village community were also located alongside the road, in the proposed service corridor.

The original 'Brooklands' farm building occurs alongside the road, close to the water treatment plant. Despite modifications to the building, the homestead still retains some architectural integrity and a 'sense of place' in the surrounding landscape.

The overall impact of the planned upgrading of the Brooklands access road on archaeological sites/remains is considered to be low to negligible.

The probability of locating significant archaeological remains during implementation of the project is also considered to be low.

In general, the receiving environment is not archaeologically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.

With regard to the planned upgrading of the Brooklands Water Treatment Plant Access Road, the following archaeological recommendations are made.

1. No mitigation is required.
2. No further detailed studies are required.
3. With regard to the original 'Brooklands' farm building, any plans by South African National Parks to develop or alter the site must be approved by the South African Heritage Resources Agency.
4. Should large numbers of stone artefacts be exposed or uncovered during earthworks, these should immediately be reported to a professional archaeologist, or the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Crowther Campbell & Associates (CC&A) have requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake an archaeological study of the Brooklands Water Treatment Plant Access Road, in Simonstown.

The planned development involves upgrading the existing road to the water treatment plant, by constructing a 50m wide service corridor.

The aim of the study is to locate, identify and map archaeological remains that may be negatively impacted by the project, and to propose measures to mitigate against the impact.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

1. to provide a brief overview of the archaeology of the study area;
2. to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance;
3. to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance;
4. to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites;
5. to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
6. to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist.

3. THE STUDY SITE

The study site for the proposed development is illustrated in Figure 1. The site is located about midway up Red Hill Road (M66) above Simonstown.

4. STUDY APPROACH AND DOCUMENTATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

The approach used in the archaeological study entailed a detailed foot survey of the site.

A desktop study was also undertaken.

5. LEGISLATION

Archaeological sites, and historical buildings, structures and features over 60 years old are protected under the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999). The Act came into effect on 01 April 2000, and replaces the National Monuments Act (No. 28 of 1969).

It is an offence to destroy, damage, excavate, alter, or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or historical object or feature, without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

6. OVERVIEW OF THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE STUDY AREA

No archaeological sites have been recorded in the immediate study area of the proposed project (Kaplan 1993), but large numbers of sites have been recorded, and many archaeological observations have been made, in the region since the 1920s.

In the Cape Point Nature Reserve alone, more than 114 sites have been recorded (Poggenpoel & Halkett 1990), while sites have also been recorded in Simonstown, and in the mountains surrounding Clovelly, Fish Hoek, Kalk Bay and the Noordhoek Valley (Kaplan 1990; Oliver 1978; Poggenpoel & Halkett 1990). The sites include shell middens, open sites, caves, and even tidal fishtraps. Two nearby sites, namely Smitswinkelbaai Cave and Bonteberg Shelter (Poggenpoel & Robertshaw 1982; Maggs & Speed 1967) have also been excavated.

The sites that have been recorded in the region reflect human use of the area, particularly of the coastal zone, for many thousands of years and range in age from more than 600 000 years to the very recent buildings which marked the use of the area for farming during the last 200 years.

7. RESULTS OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A handful of Middle Stone Age¹ (MSA) and some Later Stone² (LSA) flakes were found scattered on the north-facing slopes in and beyond the proposed service corridor. The remains were found in a fairly severely disturbed context.

Significance of finds: **low**

Conservation rating: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

¹ A term referring to the period between 200 000 and 20 000 years ago.

² A term referring to the last 20 000 years of precolonial history in southern Africa.

7.1 OTHER FINDS

Commencing the study at km 0.0 from the Brooklands Water Treatment Plant, the original 'Brooklands' farm building (GPS reading S 34°10.225 E 18°24.063) occurs alongside the access road at km 0.4 (Figure 2). The homestead (previously an old langhuis) is almost certainly older than 100 years, but has been fairly extensively modified.

A metal roof has replaced the original thatch roof; at least two rooms have been added on and some doors have been removed and sash windows replaced with metal windows. The stoep was probably added later.

Despite the modifications to the building, the homestead still retains some architectural integrity and a 'sense of place' in the surrounding landscape.

According to CC&A, the building and site is soon to be incorporated in the greater Cape Peninsula National Park.

Significance of finds: **medium to high**

Conservation rating: **medium to high**

Suggested mitigation: proposed plans by the South African National Parks to develop or alter the site must be approved by the South African Heritage Resources Agency

The ruined remains of houses relating to the Brooklands Village community were also located just a few metres from the access road, in the proposed service corridor, between km 0.8 and 1.3 (Figure 3). These remains were located between GPS readings S 34°10.305 E 18° 24.129 and S 34°10.365 E 18°24.202. Domestic refuse, including glass, broken ceramics, rusted metal and broken implements, plastic, bone, and even some shellfish remains, were found associated with the ruined houses and foundations.

8. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the planned upgrading of the Brooklands Access Road on archaeological sites is considered to be low to negligible.

The probability of locating significant archaeological remains during implementation of the project is also considered to be low.

9. IMPACT DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT

A summary of the significance of the archaeological impacts is presented in Table 1. The archaeological assessment has shown that the construction of the access road will have no significantly high negative impacts.

CRITERIA	IMPACT	
	WITHOUT MITIGATION	WITH MITIGATION
Extent	On site	On site
Duration	Short-term	Short-term
Intensity	Low	Low
Probability	Improbable	Improbable
Significance	Low	Low
Status	Negative	Negative
Confidence	High	High

Table 1: Assessment of archaeological impacts of the proposed Brooklands Water Treatment Plant Access Road

10. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

In general, the receiving environment is not considered to be archaeologically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed Brooklands Water Treatment Plant Access Road in Simonstown, the following archaeological recommendations are made.

1. No mitigation is required.
2. No further detailed studies are required.
3. With regard to the original 'Brooklands' farm building, any plans by the South African National Parks to develop or alter the site must be approved by the South African Heritage Resources Agency
4. Should large numbers of stone artefacts be exposed or uncovered during earthworks, these should immediately be reported to a professional archaeologist, or the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

12. REFERENCES

- Maggs, T. & Speed, E. 1967. Bonteberg Shelter. South African Archaeological Bulletin 22:80-93.
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- Poggenpoel, C. A. & Robertshaw, P.T. 1981. The excavation of Smitswinkelbaai Cave, Cape Peninsula. South African Archaeological Bulletin 36:29-35.
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