

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
WORCESTER HILLS
(PORTION OF REMAINDER OF ERF 18798)
WORCESTER
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

Prepared for:

SRK Consulting Engineers and Scientists

The Administrative Building
Albion Spring, 183 Main Road
Rondebosch, 7700
Ph: 659 3060
Fax: 685 7105

By

Agency for Cultural Resource Management

P.O. Box 159
Riebeek West
7306
Ph/Fax: 022 461 2755
Cellular: 082 321 0172
E-mail: acrm@wcaccess.co.za

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Executive summary

SRK Consulting Engineers and Scientists, on behalf of Leisure Retail Property Solutions (Pty) Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed development on Portion of Remainder of Erf 18798, situated in Worcester, in the Western Cape Province.

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological heritage sites and remains that may be impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed project, to assess the significance of the potential impacts and to propose measures to mitigate against the impacts.

Heritage consultant Ms Erin Finnegan has been appointed to undertake a separate Heritage Sensitivity Assessment of the proposed project and to complete the required Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist.

Several, low-density scatters of Stone Age tools, were located on the proposed site, but these are spread very thinly and unevenly over the surrounding landscape.

The archaeological heritage remains have been rated as having low local significance.

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed Worcester Hills development has rated the potential impacts to archaeological heritage material as being low provided that.

- Vegetation clearing operations are monitored by a professional archaeologist.
- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations and earthworks for the proposed project, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie 021 462 4502), or Heritage Western Cape (Dr A. Jerardino 021 483 9692). Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

SRK Consulting Engineers and Scientists, on behalf of Leisure Retail Property Solutions (Pty) Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed development on Portion of Remainder of Erf 18798, situated in Worcester, in the Western Cape Province.

It is proposed that the subject property will be subdivided into several erven and sold to prospective developers for development for commercial use. The site is currently zoned Business I. The development concept makes provision for approximately 9.6 ha (or 30%) of open space

The extent of the proposed development (27.7 ha) falls within the requirements for an archaeological impact assessment as required by Section 38 of the South African Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological heritage sites and remains that may be impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed project, to assess the significance of the potential impacts and to propose measures to mitigate against the impacts.

Heritage consultant Ms Erin Finnegan has been appointed to undertake a Heritage Sensitivity Assessment of the proposed project and to complete the required Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

1. to undertake a site visit and desk top survey;
2. to describe the archaeological baseline of the area;
3. to identify and map archaeological resources on the site;
4. to determine the importance of any archaeological resources;
5. to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist within the proposed site; and
6. to complete and submit the necessary documentation for a Phase 1 archaeological study to Heritage Western Cape – together with the NID form being completed by Ms Finnegan.

3. THE STUDY SITE

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

An aerial photograph of the proposed site is illustrated in Figure 2.

The subject property (S° 33 37 789 E° 19 26 328 on map datum wgs 84) is situated on the southern side of the N1 highway, and to the west of the Worcester Mountain Mill Mall (Figures 3 & 4). To the south east lies the Worcester Dam. The undulating site has not previously been developed, but is already partially disturbed. Several gravel tracks and paths intersect the site. Some dumping also occurs. The site is covered in fairly pristine vegetation. The surrounding land-use comprises rapidly increasing residential and commercial development. It is important to note that a portion of the site was subjected to an archaeological assessment during scoping for the proposed Worcester Waterfront Development (Kaplan 2004), and so the site has already been partially scanned.

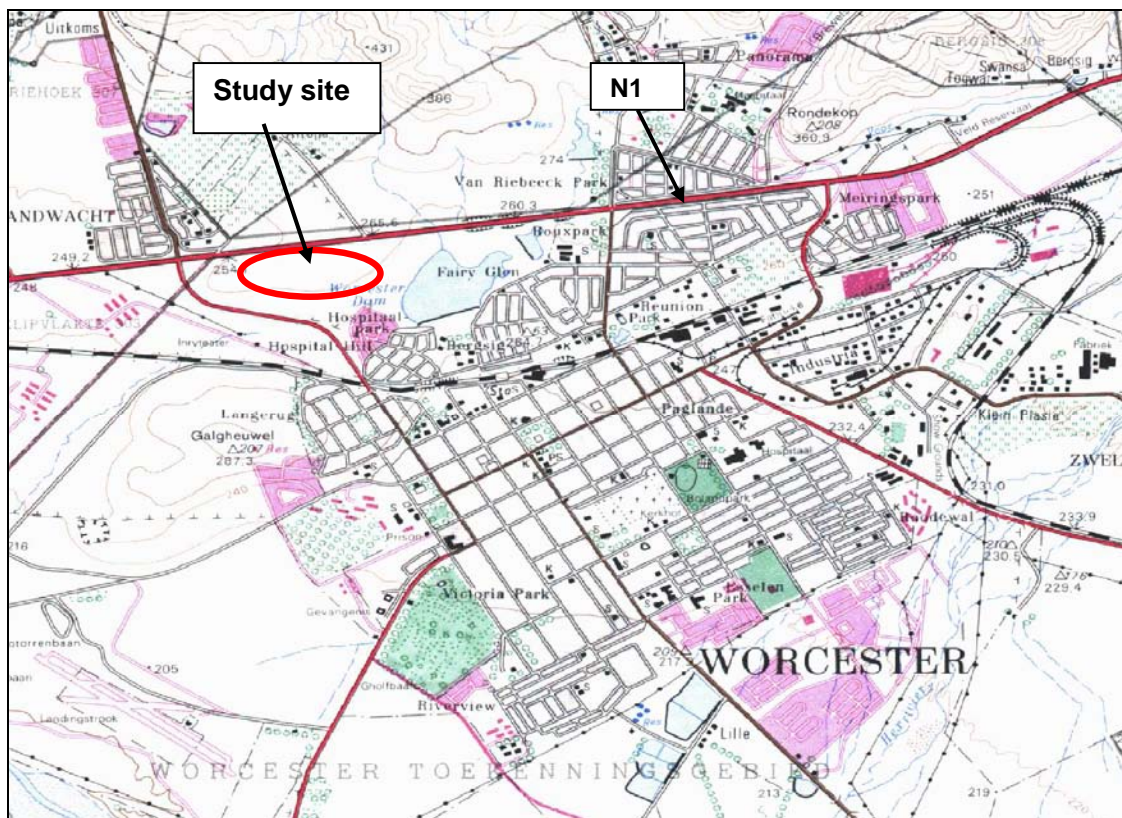


Figure 1. Locality Map (3319 CB Worcester)¹

¹ Note: the boundaries of the site are only an approximate.

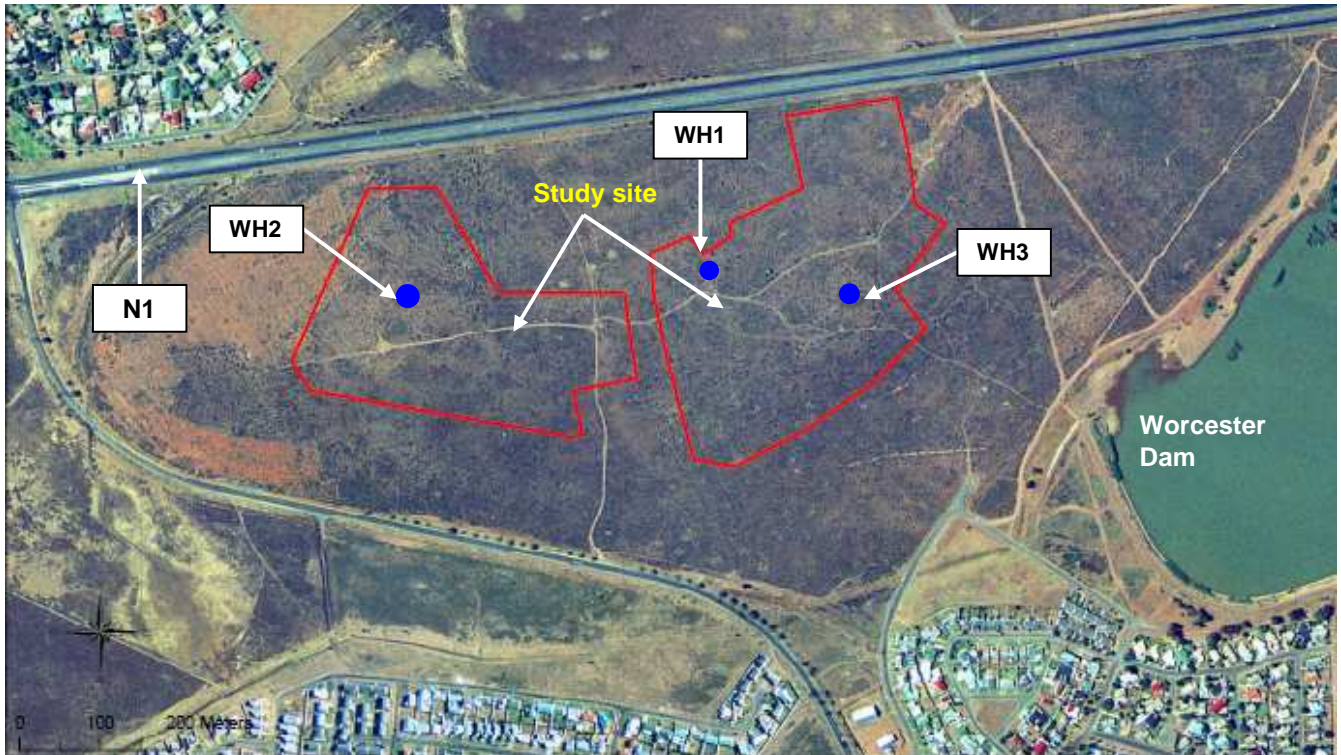


Figure 2. Worcester Hills. Aerial photograph of the study site



Figure 3. View of the site facing east



Figure 4. View of the site facing west

4. STUDY APPROACH

4.1 Method

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a foot survey of the study area (Refer to Figure 2).

The site visit and assessment took place on the 14th October, 2006.

4.2 Constraints and limitations

A large portion of the study site is covered in fairly pristine natural vegetation, resulting in low archaeological visibility. However, open patches of gravel do occur over the site.

4.3 Identification of potential risks

Scatters of Stone Age tools may be uncovered or exposed during vegetation-clearing operations.

4.4 Results of the desk top study

Several archaeological studies have been conducted in the Worcester area.

Early Stone Age (ESA) and Middle Stone Age (MSA) tools have been documented on Portion of the Remainder of Erf 18798, a proposed new development situated to the west of the Mountain Mill Mall (Kaplan 2006a). A thin scatter of ESA and MSA tools were also located during scoping for the proposed Worcester Waterfront development (Kaplan 2004), that includes Portion of the Remainder of Erf 18798. ESA tools, including a handaxe, have been documented on the farm Altona, immediately to the north west of the N1 (Kaplan 2006b). Most of the above finds occur in a severely degraded and disturbed context.

Further afield, ESA tools have been documented on the Farm Glen Heatlie in Worcester (Kaplan 2006c), while ESA tools were also found in the alignment of the proposed Worcester Eastern Bypass (Kaplan 2002a). ESA tools have been located in agricultural lands in the vicinity of the Molenaars River alongside the N1 near Worcester, as well as near the De Wet Wine Cellar (Kaplan 2002b). ESA tools have been found on the Farms Die Mond van Hartebeesrivier and De Breede Rivier, on the outskirts of Worcester (Kaplan 2002c, 2001). And in Goudini and Rawsonville, Later Stone Age (LSA) tools have also been documented (Kaplan 2006d, e). LSA rock paintings have been recorded in Goudini (Kaplan 2003). Tim Hart (pers. comm.) of the Archaeology Contracts Office also reports on the occurrence of low density scatters of ESA tools in the Worcester area.

According to Martin (2006), Hassequa (Khoekhoe) herders are reported to have seasonally occupied the Worcester area during the late 17th Century.

5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The following section provides a brief overview of the relevant legislation with regard to the archaeology of Portion of Remainder Erf 18798.

5.1 The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999)

The National Heritage Resources (NHR) Act requires that "...any development or other activity which will change the character of a site exceeding 5 000m², or the rezoning or change of land use of a site exceeding 10 000 m², requires an archaeological impact assessment"

The relevant sections of the Act are briefly outlined below.

5.2 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))

Section 35 (4) of the NHR stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by HWC, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object.

5.3 Burial grounds and graves (Section 36 (3))

Section 36 (3) of the HHR stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years, which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority.

6. FINDINGS

The archaeological heritage remains described below are illustrated in Figure 2.

WH 1 (GPS reading S°33 37 955 E°19 25 728)

Three Middle Stone Age (MSA) quartzite flakes, including one weathered, retouched flake was found on a patch of gravel and quartz alongside a gravel road in the central portion of the study site (Figure 5). The remains appear to occur in a primary context.

The archaeological heritage remains have been rated as having low local significance and no mitigation is required

WH 2 (GPS reading S°33 37 932 E°19 25 728)

One partially retouched MSA quartzite flake and two chunks were found on a gravel patch in the far western portion of the proposed site (Figure 6). The remains appear to occur in a primary context.

The archaeological heritage remains have been rated as having low local significance and no mitigation is required

WH 3 (GPS reading S°33 37 965 E°19 25 768)

One Later Stone Age quartzite end-scraper, one MSA quartzite flake, one MSA faceted quartzite blade, one quartzite core and one quartzite chunk were found on a large patch of gravel close to a survey beacon on a rise in the eastern portion of the site (Figure 7). The remains appear to occur in a primary context.

The archaeological heritage remains have been rated as having low local significance and no mitigation is required



Figure 5. WH1. View of the site facing north



Figure 6. WH2. View of the site facing east



Figure 7. WH3. View of the site facing west

6.1 Other finds

Two large ESA flakes and one ESA chunk in fine-grained orange-coloured quartzite were found on a pile of river gravel and stone alongside building rubble that has been dumped on the site.

The occasional MSA and LSA flake and chunk was also documented over the remainder of the site.

The archaeological heritage remains have been rated as having low local significance and no mitigation is required

The above finds are consistent with similar low density scatters of tools that have been encountered and documented in the Worcester region to date.

7. IMPACT STATEMENT

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to the proposed development activities.

Potentially important scatters of tools may, however, be uncovered or exposed during vegetation clearing operations.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of Portion of the Remainder of Erf 18798 (the proposed Worcester Hills development) in Worcester, has rated the potential impacts to archaeological heritage material as being low provided that.

- Vegetation clearing operations are monitored by a professional archaeologist
- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations and earthworks for the proposed project, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie 021 462 4502), or Heritage Western Cape (Dr A. Jerardino 021 483 9692). Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

9. REFERENCES

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