

M.d.

Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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18 May, 2008

Att: Mr H. van Niekerk
Elsana Quarry (Pty) Ltd
P O Box 62
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Dear Mr van Niekerk

PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROPOSED ELSANA QUARRY (FARM NO. 701 LANGE KLOOF) MALMESBURY WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

1. Introduction and brief

Elsana Quarry (Pty) Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for a proposed quarry on Farm No. 701 Lange Kloof near Malmesbury, in the Western Cape Province (Figure 1).

The proposed project is a hard rock drill and blast surface mine, producing aggregate at a rate of about 30 000 tonnes per month for the next 30 years. The surface area of the final excavation is planned to measure approximately 7¹/₂ ha and will be up to 60m deep. The associated infrastructure (plant, logistical facilities and stockpiling area), covering about 8 ha, will also be located within the 42 ha application area.

The subject property is currently zoned Agriculture and will be rezoned for mining purposes.

The extent of the proposed quarry (about 42 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 negatively 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.

A Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist has been completed by the archaeologist and submitted to Heritage Western Cape (Belcom) for comment.



2. Terms of reference

The Terms of Reference for the archaeological assessment are to:

- Identify and map heritage resources within the proposed mine application area;
- Determine the importance of heritage resources within the proposed site;
- Determine and assess the potential impacts of the proposed project on the heritage resources, and
- Recommend mitigation measures to minimise impacts associated with the proposed project.

3. Approach to the study

The proposed 42 ha site was searched for archaeological heritage remains.

The site visit and assessment took place on 16th May, 2008.

A desk top study was also undertaken.

4. The study site

The proposed site (S 33° 25' 57.9" E 18° 36' 55.2" on map datum wgs 84) is located on the Farm Elsana, about 8 kms west of Malmesbury, just north of the R315 between Malmesbury and Darling. Access to the site is via Elsana Farm. The farm homestead is situated about 1 km north east of the proposed site and is not visible from the proposed mine area (Figure 2). Lange Kloof Farm was originally registered in 1864.

The receiving environment comprises highly disturbed agricultural lands that have been deep ploughed and contoured since at least the early 1990's (Figures 3-6). For the last few years the land has been mostly used for grazing purposes and comprises Kweek. There is no natural vegetation on the site and the surrounding land use is dominated by rolling wheat lands, with some vineyards also occurring. A small granite kopje dominates the skyline. There is virtually no surface stone on the proposed site. An existing access road will be upgraded and no access new roads are planned. There are no buildings or structures in the proposed mining application area. Existing infrastructure includes an operational borehole on the northern boundary.

5. Results of the desk top study

A few ESA tools, mainly flakes, chunks and flaked cobbles have been documented on some of the farmlands that occur alongside the R315¹. This region of the Western Cape is dominated by highly modified wheat lands that have been intensively farmed for several hundred years.

¹ Kaplan, J. 2006. Archaeological impact assessment proposed construction of chicken houses on portion 4 of the Farm Nieuwe Post No. 706 Malmesbury. Report prepared for Envirodinamik.
Kaplan, J. 2007. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed development Schoonspruit Country Estate Phase 2-5 Malmesbury. Report prepared for CK Rumboll and Partners.

6. Results of the archaeological study

A few quartz flakes and chunks were documented around the small granite outcropping on the proposed site (Figure 7).

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

No archaeological remains were found in the proposed plant and stockpile area (Figure 8) which is situated alongside a row of Blue Gum trees on the northern boundary of the site (refer to Figure 5).

According to Dr John Pether (pers. comm.) it is very unlikely that the granite deposits in the Malmesbury area will contain any fossils.

7. Impact statement

The impact of the proposed Elsana Quarry on important pre-colonial archaeological remains is likely to be **low**.

8. Conclusion

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jonathan Kaplan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jonathan Kaplan

Figure 1. Locality map (3381 BC Malmesbury)

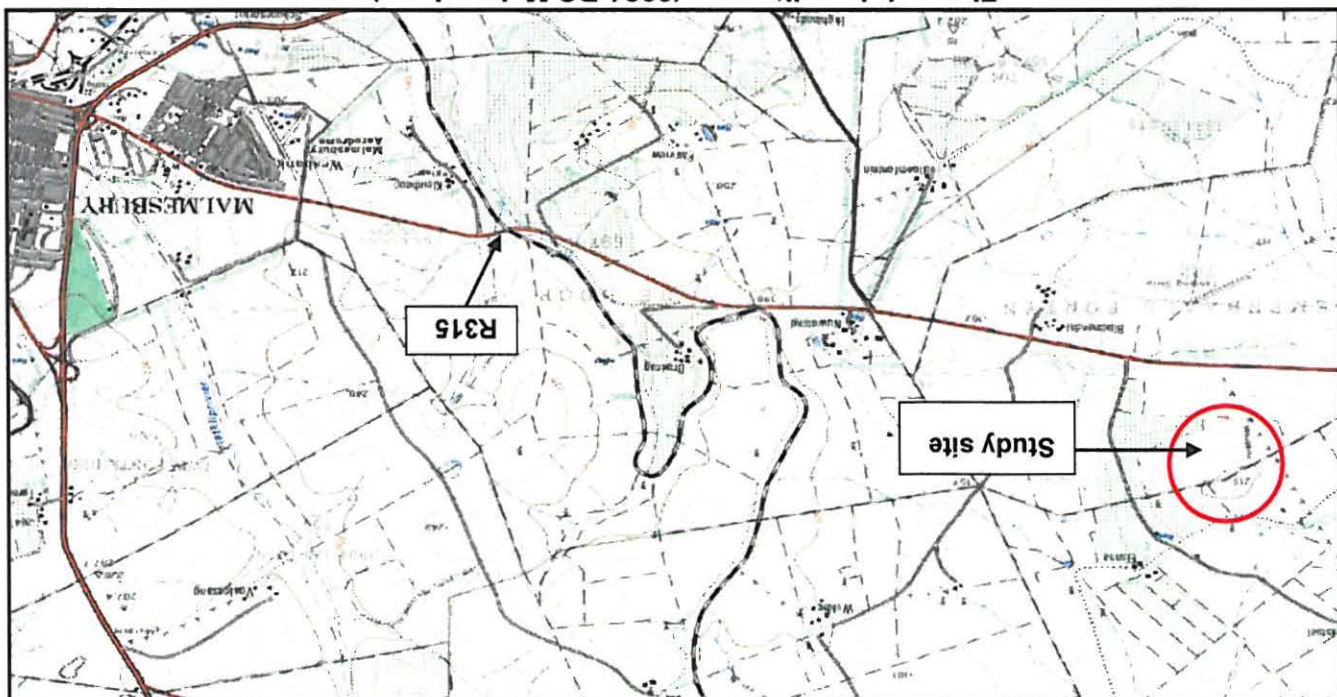


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site

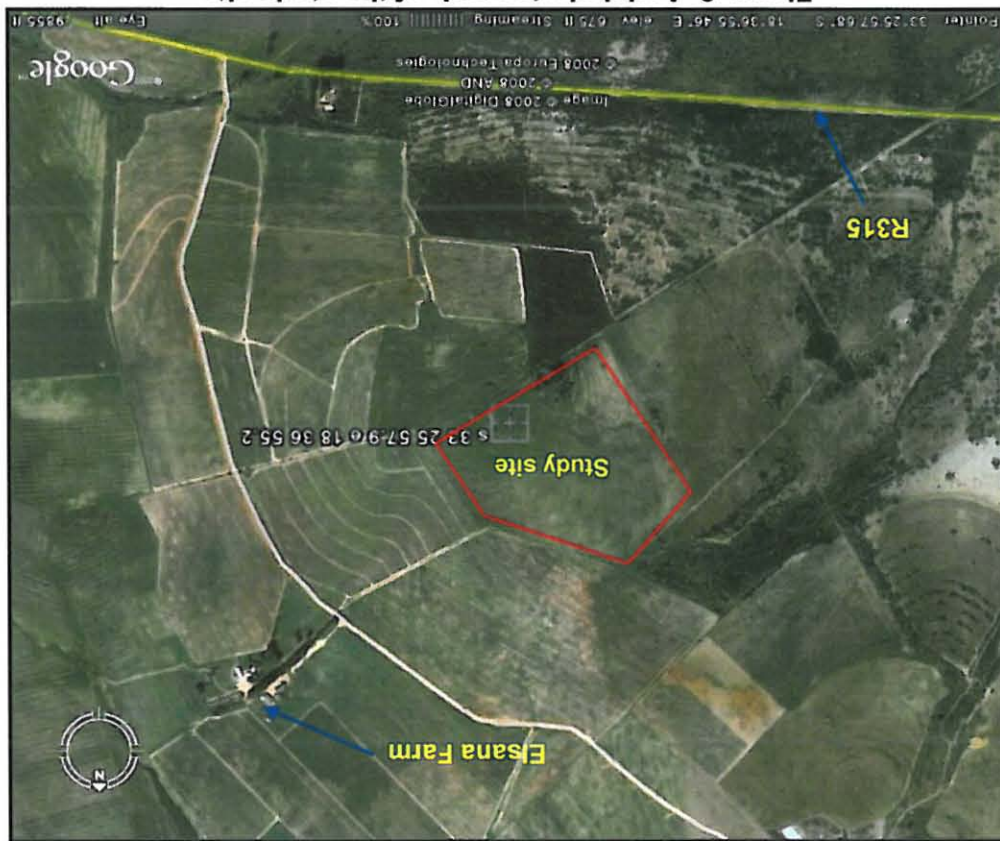




Figure 3. View of the site facing south west



Figure 6. View of the site facing west

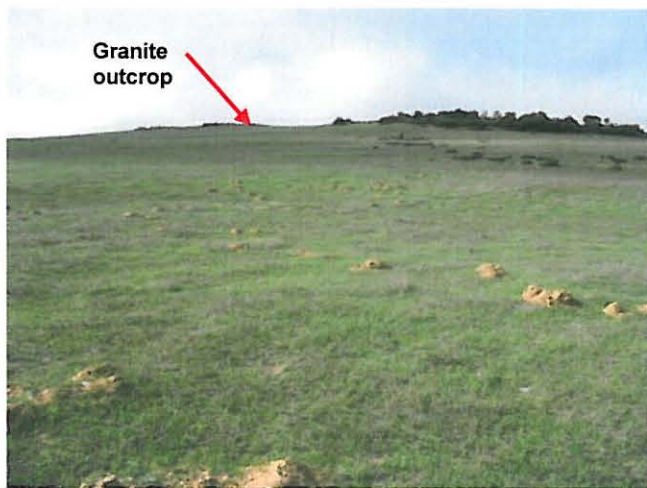


Figure 4. View of the site facing south



Figure 7. View of the site facing north east



Figure 5. View of the site and plant area facing south



Figure 8. View of the stockpile area facing east