

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A SHOPPING CENTRE
ERF 3853
VREDENDAL
WESTERN CAPE**

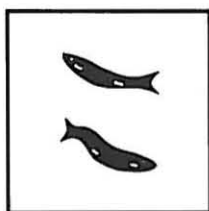
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Executive summary

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of a proposed shopping centre development on Erf 3853 in Vredendal has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed development activities.

Two Early Stone Age flakes were documented during the study.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

EnviroAfrica, on behalf of Boplaas Beleggings (Pty) Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed shopping centre development on Erf 3853 in Vredendal in the Western Cape Province. Retail and business enterprises, such as restaurants and shops, including associated infrastructure such as parking, internal roads and engineering services are also planned.

Erf 3853 is already zoned Business Zone II.

The extent of the proposed development (about 3.1 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/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 study were:

- to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance within the proposed site;
- to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed site;
- to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites within the proposed site;
- to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
- to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist within the proposed site

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 31° 40' 21.9" E 18° 30' 32.7" on map datum wgs 84) is located in Main Road Vredendal (inside the urban edge), as one enters the town from the N7, via Klawer. The proposed site comprises agricultural lands that have not been utilised for several years. For at least 15 years prior to this, however, potatoes and onions were grown on the land. Patches of dry grass and small bushes and scrub cover much of the site. There are no significant landscape features on the property, which is severely disturbed and degraded and characterised by soft, loose, red soils (Figures 3-8). Burrowing is quite extensive. A few gravel tracks and footpaths intersect the property. There are several large, patches of small pieces of limestone and some rounded river cobbles. There is one (modern) residential property on the proposed site (refer to Figure 2). The surrounding land-use comprises farmland and increasing residential development. The Olifants River is situated about 1 km to the north.

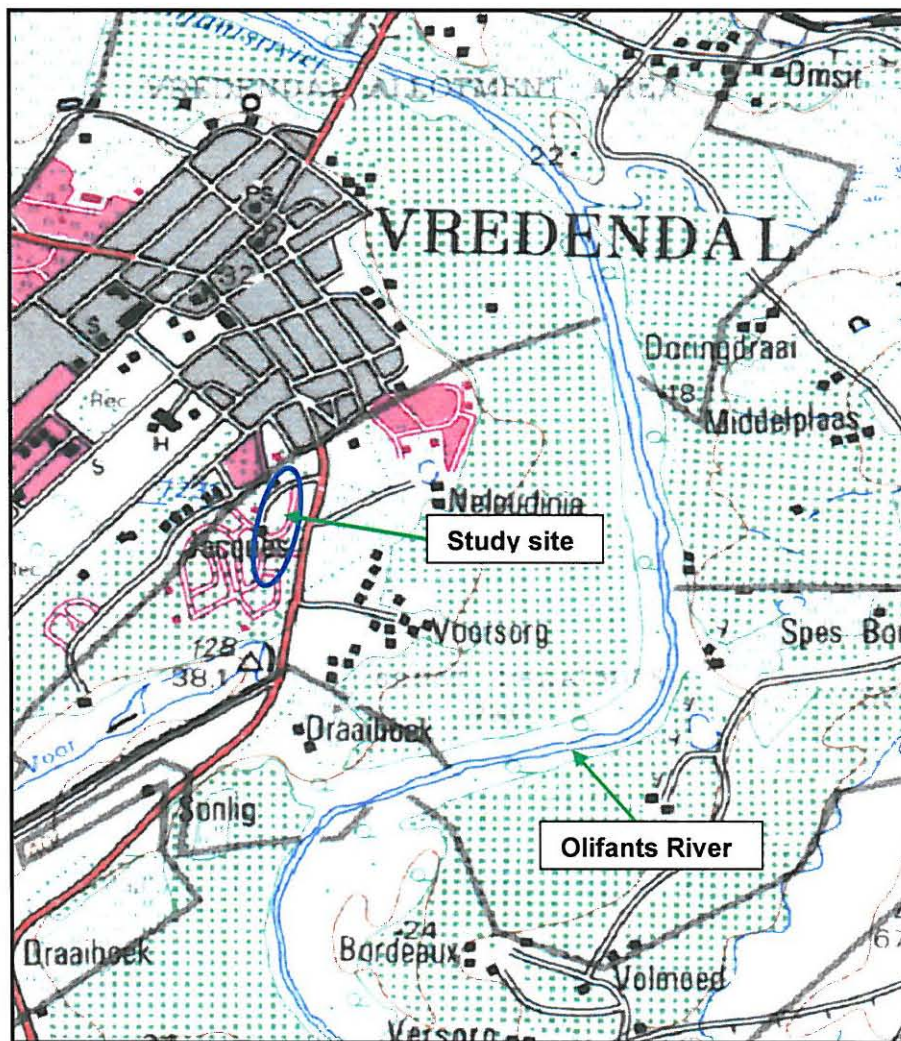


Figure 1. Locality map (3118DA Van Rhynsdorp)

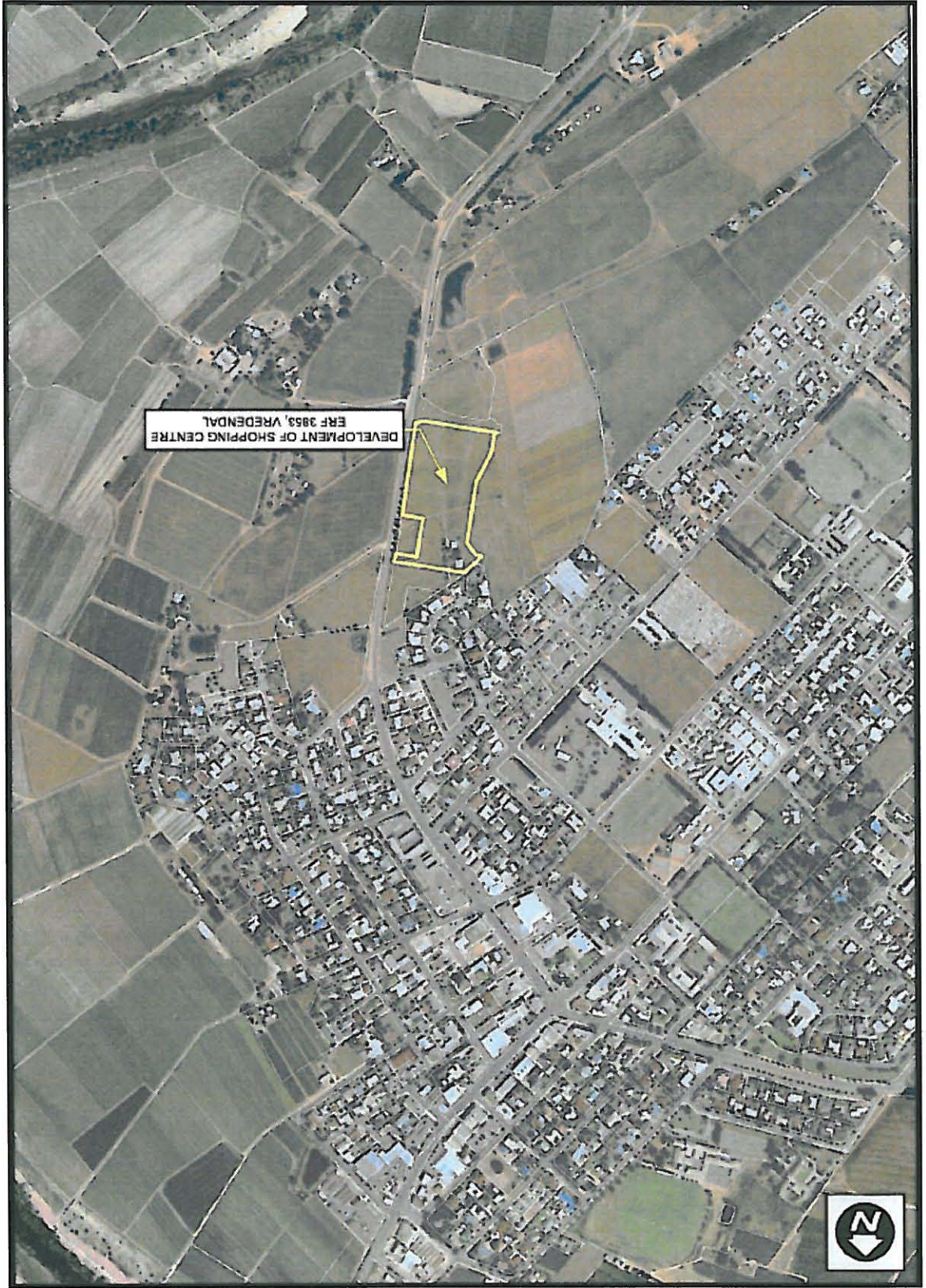


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the proposed development site

4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY

4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a detailed survey of the proposed site.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 14th April, 2008.

4.2 Constraints and limitations

There were no constraints or limitations associated with the study.

5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

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

...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 in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

The relevant sections of the act are outlined below:

5.2 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))

No person may, without a permit issued by the SAHRA or Heritage Western Cape, 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))

No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or Heritage Western Cape, 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

Two Early Stone Age quartzite cobble flakes were documented during the study. These implements were most likely exposed during ploughing of the affected Erf and occur in a highly disturbed and degraded context.

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

A study of the two erven alongside Erf 3853 failed to document any archaeological material (Kaplan 2008b, c).

7. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed Vredendal shopping centre development on archaeological heritage remains is rated as being **low**.

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

Erf 3853 is not considered to be archaeologically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.

It is highly unlikely given the already transformed nature of the site, but unmarked human burials could possibly be exposed or uncovered during earthworks and excavations.

8. CONCLUSION

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of Erf 3853 in Vredendal has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed development activities.

- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during earthworks, these should immediately be reported the archaeologist, or the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Dr A. Jerardino 021 462 4502).

9. REFERENCES

Kaplan, J. 2008a. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed development Portion of Portion 116 Farm 292 Vredendal, Western Cape Province. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2008b. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed development Remainder Portion of Erf 3853 Vredendal Western Cape. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.