

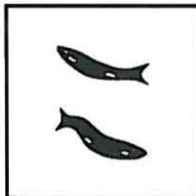
**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT  
HERITAGE CREEK ESTATE (ERF 3933)  
GREAT BRAK RIVER  
SOUTHERN CAPE**

Prepared for

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### **Executive summary**

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed Heritage Creek Estate development (Erf 3933) in Great Brak River in the southern Cape has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed development activities.

A historic water furrow (circa 1940) on Erf 3933 has been identified, that used to provide irrigation water to cottages in Long Street in Great Brak River, via a siphon system. A report on the historical significance of the water furrow has been produced by the Great Brak River Museum (affiliated to Heritage Western Cape). Recommendations include proclaiming a servitude and right of way to members of the museum and visitors. The irrigation furrow must also be cleaned and maintained with a view to enhancing and conserving its historical value.

## Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Executive summary	1
1. INTRODUCTION	3
1.1 Background and brief	3
2. TERMS OF REFERENCE	3
3. THE STUDY SITE	4
4. STUDY APPROACH	7
4.1 Method of survey	7
4.2 Constraints and limitations	7
4.3 Identification of potential risks	7
4.4 Results of the desk-top study	8
5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	8
5.1 The National Heritage Resources Act	8
5.2 Archaeology (Section 25 (4))	8
5.3 Structures (Section 34 (1))	8
5.4 Burials ground & graves (Section 36 (3))	8
6. FINDINGS	8
7. IMPACT STATEMENT	9
8. CONCLUSION	9
9. REFERENCES	10

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background and brief**

Crimson King Properties 88 (Pty) Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for the proposed development of Erf 3933 Great Brak River in the Southern Cape, in the Western Cape Province.

The proposed Heritage Creek Estate entails a residential development comprising 44 units, including internal streets and engineering services.

Erf 3933 is currently zone Undetermined and will be rezoned and sub-divided to accommodate the proposed development activities.

The extent of the proposed development (9.5 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 extent of the land coverage of the proposed development is about 4.0 ha

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological 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 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 study site is illustrated in Figure 2.

The subject property (S° 34 02 39.1 E° 22 12 50.0 on map datum wgs 84) is located in Great Brak River about midway between George and Mossel Bay in the southern Cape. Access to the property is via Kerk Straat off Long Street. The site overlooks the Great Brak River estuary. The proposed site slopes quite steeply from north to south and is very steep (slope = 1:6) alongside Long Street. Most of the site is covered in natural vegetation, although there are sections in the north that are infested with alien vegetation (Figures 3-8). There are no significant landscape features on the site.

A historic water furrow – The Western Irrigation Furrow (circa 1940) – occurs on the site (refer to Figure 2 and Figures 9-12). The furrow was used to provide irrigation water to cottages in Long Street (below Erf 3933), via a siphon system. The irrigation furrow was part of a network of irrigation channels that is of historical significance to Great Brak River. A small reservoir and off-take, built to dam the water, where the water was led down the hill has also been documented. The reservoir has a depth of about 1.5 m and the water furrow, running for a length of about 400m, has a depth of about half a meter. A report on the historical significance of the water furrow has been produced by the Great Brak River Museum (2008), which is affiliated to Heritage Western Cape.

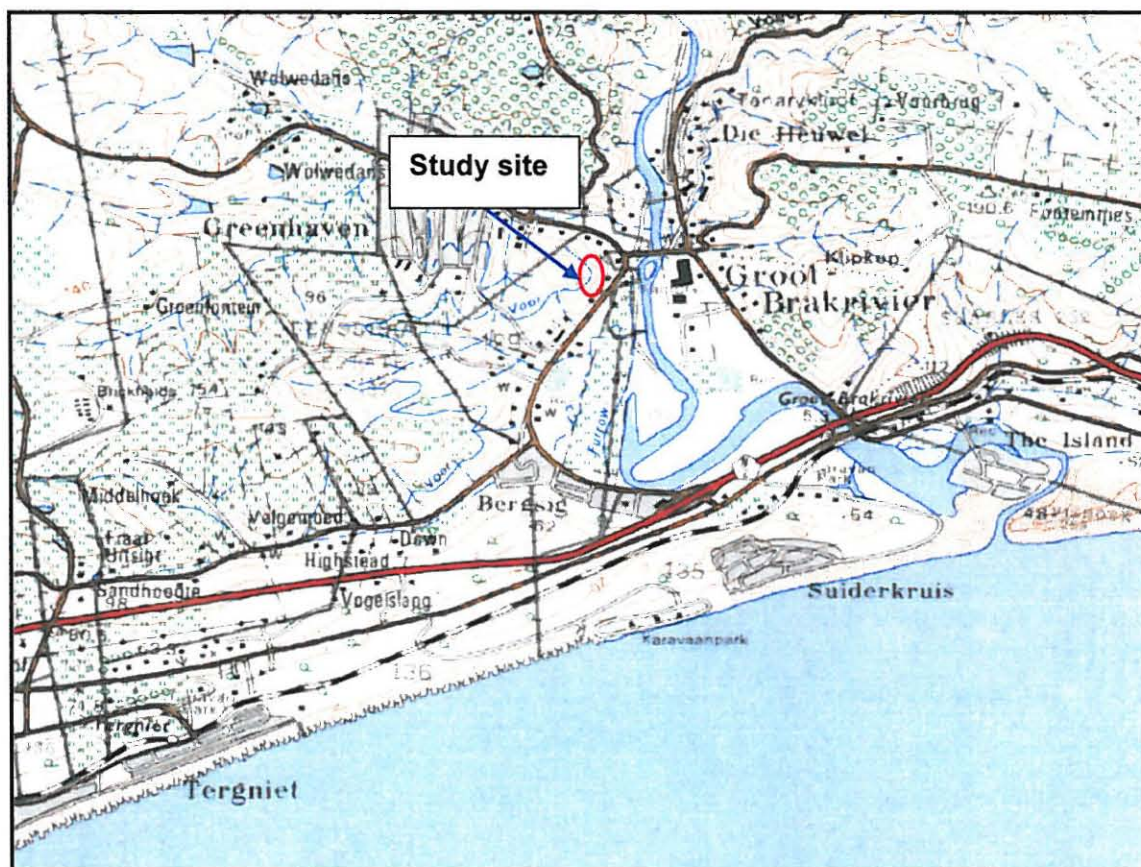


Figure 1. Locality map (3422AA Mossel Bay)





**Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site**



**Figure 3. View of the site facing south east**



**Figure 4. View of the site facing south east**





**Figure 5. View of the site facing south east**



**Figure 8. View of the site facing north**



**Figure 6. View of the site facing south east**



**Figure 9. Erf 3933. Irrigation furrow**



**Figure 7. View of the site facing north east**



**Figure 10. Erf 3933. Irrigation furrow & reservoir**





**Figure 11. Erf 3933. Irrigation furrow & reservoir**



**Figure 12. Erf 3933. Irrigation furrow & reservoir**

## **4. STUDY APPROACH**

### **4.1 Method of survey**

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

The site visit and assessment took place on the 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2008.

A desktop study was also undertaken.

### **4.2 Constraints and limitations**

Erf 3933 is very well vegetated, resulting in poor archaeological visibility on the ground. The lower slopes of the property are also extremely steep.

### **4.3 Identification of potential risks**

A historic water irrigation furrow and reservoir has been identified on the proposed site. Care must be taken that the proposed development does not impact in any way on this important cultural resource<sup>1</sup>

Pre-colonial Stone Age tools may be exposed during bulk earthworks and excavations, but these impacts are not likely to be significant.

It is highly unlikely given the nature (hard gravels) of the ground deposits, but unmarked human burials may be exposed or uncovered during earthmoving operations.

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to 2008 Heritage Impact Assessment of the Western Irrigation Furrow. Great Brak River Museum



#### **4.4 Results of the desk top study**

A few archaeological studies have been conducted in the Great Brak River area, where mostly low density scatters of Stone Age tools have been documented (Kaplan 2003, 2004). Closer to the coast, however, shell middens and scatters of stone tools, ostrich eggshell and pottery have been documented near the mouth of Great Brak River and along the beach (Kaplan 1993). At Hersham Beach, a small test excavation was undertaken (Kaplan, 2000).

### **5 LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **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 000m<sup>2</sup>, or the rezoning or change of land use of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup>, 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 Structures (Section 34 (1))**

No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) or Heritage Western Cape.

#### **5.4 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**

A very low density scatter of stone tools was documented during the study.

Early Stone Age (ESA) flake tools were documented in the gravel road (n = 2) and on the uppermost slopes of the proposed site (n = 1). A few Middle Stone Age (MSA) flakes (n = 3) were also counted in the road and on the upper slopes of the property. All the tools are in quartzite.

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

## 9. REFERENCES

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