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**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

**ERF 4015  
KNYSNA  
SOUTHERN CAPE**

Prepared for

**HILLAND ASSOCIATES**

By

Jonathan Kaplan  
Agency for Cultural Resource Management  
PO Box 159  
Riebeek West  
7306  
Ph/Fax: 022 461 2755  
Mobile: 082 321 0172  
Email: [acrm@wcaccess.co.za](mailto:acrm@wcaccess.co.za)

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of Erf 4015 Knysna has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to development activities.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background and brief

Hilland Associates requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of Erf 4015 Knysna in the Southern Cape.

The proposed rezoning and subdivision of Erf 4015 (Eastford), currently zoned Agriculture, envisages the development of single residential and group housing units.

Provision is also made for a Nature Reserve, with hiking trails.

The extent of the property is nearly 35 ha.

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

## 2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the study were:

1. to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance within the proposed site;
2. to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed site;
3. to indicate the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites potentially affected by the proposed development;
4. to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development;
5. to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist within the site, and
6. to propose actions for inclusion in the Construction Environmental Management Plan for the proposed project.

### **3. APPROACH TO THE STUDY**

#### **3.1 Method of survey**

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a baseline survey of Erf 4015 Knysna.

A desktop study was also undertaken.

### **4. THE STUDY AREA**

A locality map of the study area is illustrated in Figure 1.

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

Erf 4015 (Eastford) is located on the northern shore of the Knysna Lagoon and is about 3 km from the Southern Cape town of Knysna. The property is situated directly on the N2 National Road. Along the Knysna Lagoon section of the property, vertical cliffs rise from the high water mark. The property consists of a flattish, central ridge lying eastwest with well vegetated slopes of the ridge to the north, east and west. Indigenous coastal thicket occurs on the steep south and south-west facing slopes, while the moderately steep southern and eastern slopes are infested with alien vegetation. Natural Fynbos vegetation covers the plateau areas and upper slopes (Figures 3-7). A gravel access road cuts across the property, and smaller footpaths also occur. Overall, archaeological visibility is severely limited on the site.

### **5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

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

##### **5.1.1 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.

### **6. CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS**

The property is entirely covered with a mix of thick alien and natural vegetation resulting in extremely low archaeological visibility.

### **7. IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL RISKS**

There are no potential archaeological risks associated with the project.

## 8. IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND DESCRIPTION

Other than two Early Stone Age<sup>1</sup> (ESA) quartzite flakes noted embedded in the main gravel access road that cuts across the site, and in an erosion rut (Figure 8), no other archaeological remains were located during the baseline survey.

It is, however, interesting to note, that relatively large numbers of ESA and Middle Stone Age<sup>2</sup> (MSA) tools were located on the immediate adjacent property (Erf 4016 Eastford) during a baseline study undertaken in March 2004 (Kaplan 2004). The tools were mostly associated with outcroppings of quartzite and sandstone on the Fynbos covered north-facing slopes overlooking the Knysna River. Some tools were also found in disturbed areas near the old quarry.

Archaeological remains have previously been described from the Knysna area (Kaplan 1993, 2001, 2002) but none of the sites are located in the vicinity of Eastford.

Bain (1880) also described the well-known cave at the Eastern Heads.

## 9. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed development of Erf 4015 (Eastford) Knysna on archaeological remains is therefore considered to be low to negligible.

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

## 10. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

The receiving environment is not considered to be archaeologically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.

## 11. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed development of Erf 4015 (Eastford) in Knysna, the following recommendations are made.

- No archaeological mitigation is required.
- No further detailed studies are required.

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<sup>1</sup> A term referring to the period between 2 million and 200 000 years ago.

<sup>2</sup> A term referring to the period between 200 000 and 20 000 years ago.

## 12. REFERENCES

- Bain, T. 1880. Bone caves at Knysna. Cape Monthly Magazine 2:255-256.
- Kaplan, J. 1993. The state of archaeological information in the coastal zone from the Orange River to Ponta do Oura. Report prepared for the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
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- Kaplan, J. 2002. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, Fernwood Estate, Knysna. Report prepared for Hilland Associates. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- Kaplan, J. 2004. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, proposed development, Erf 4016 (Eastford), Knysna, Southern Cape. Report prepared for Withers Environmental Services. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

# LOCALITY PLAN ERF 4015 KNYSNA

