

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
ERF 4016
KNYSNA
SOUTHERN CAPE**

Prepared for

WITHERS ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

By

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

**MARCH
2004**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of Erf 4016 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

Withers Environmental Consultants requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of Erf 4016 Knysna in the Southern Cape.

The proposed rezoning and subdivision of Erf 4016 (Eastford), currently zoned Agriculture, provides for the development of 61 single residential units, Resort Zone 2, and a Small Business node.

Provision is also made for large Natural Open Space.

The extent of the property is about 34 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 4016 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.

A proposed site development plan is illustrated in Figure 3.

Erf 4016 (Eastford) Knysna is located alongside the National Road 2 (N2) in the Southern Cape. The site overlooks the Knysna River and the Knysna Lagoon (Figures 4-7). The lower, north-facing slopes of the property are covered with a mix of indigenous and alien vegetation, while the upper slopes are infested with alien vegetation, resulting in low archaeological visibility. Large-scale quarrying activities on the exposed, steep southern and northwest-facing slopes has taken place in the past, evidence of which is still visible today (Figures 8 & 9).

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.

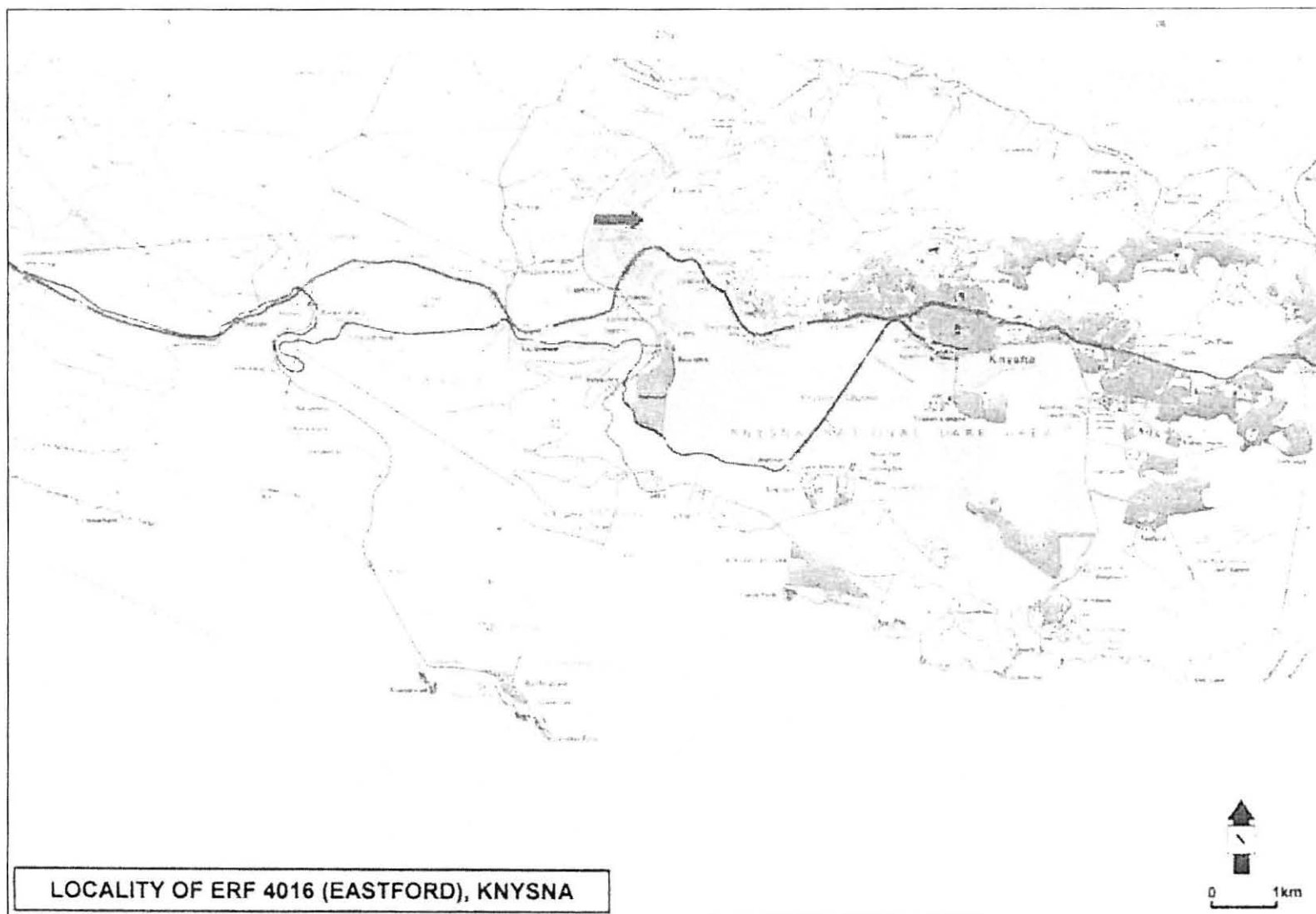
5.2 Application requirements and procedure

Permit applications must be made on the official form:

- *Application for permit to destroy: Archaeological and palaeontological sites and meteorites;*
- *Application for permit: Burial Grounds and Graves.*

Permit application forms are available from SAHRA, and Heritage Western Cape, the provincial heritage authority.

Figure 1. Archaeological study Erf 4016, Knysna. Site location.



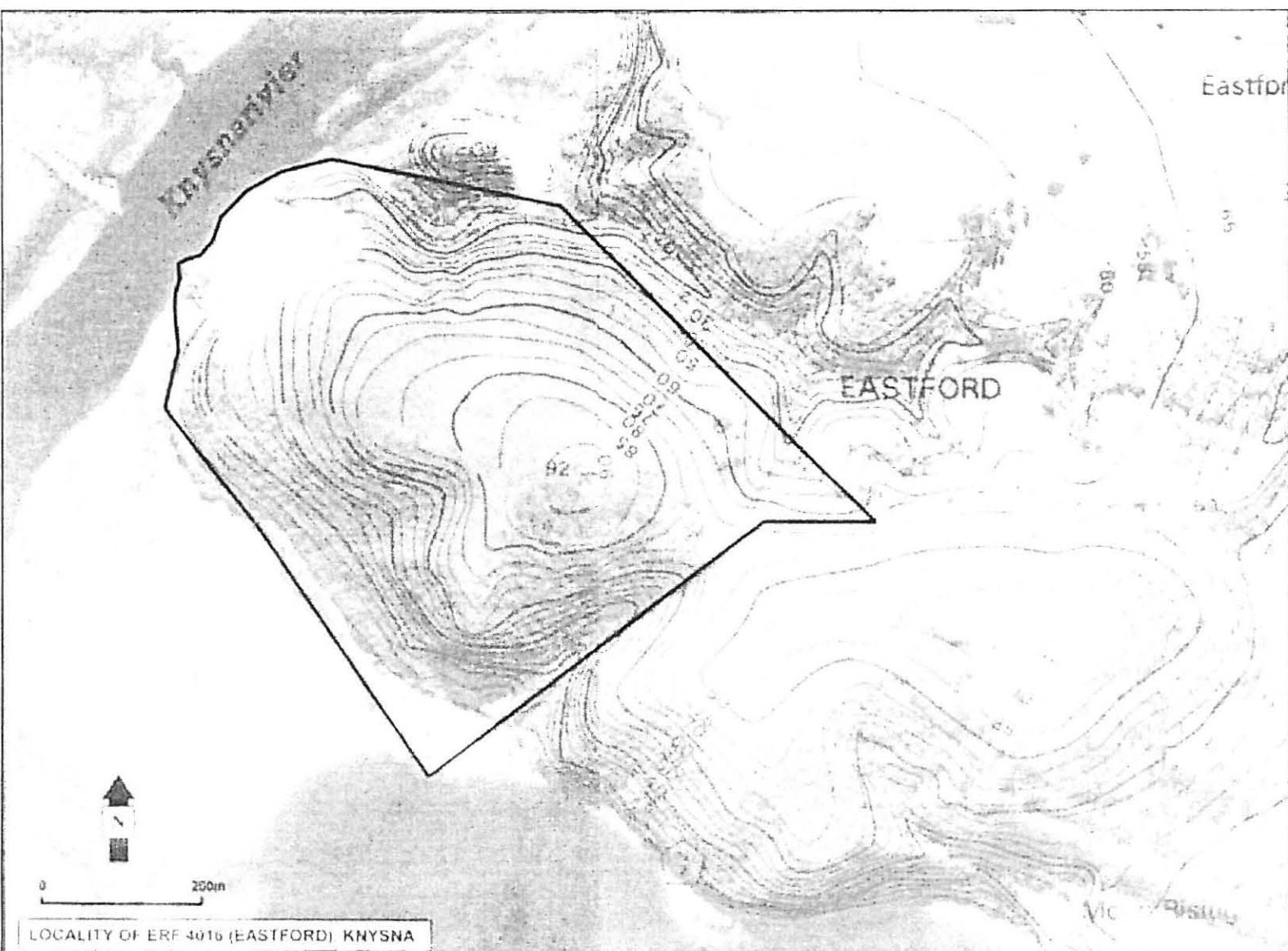


Figure 2. Archaeological study Erf 4016, Knysna. Aerial photograph of the site.

Figure 3. Archaeological study Erf 4016, Knysna. Proposed site development plan

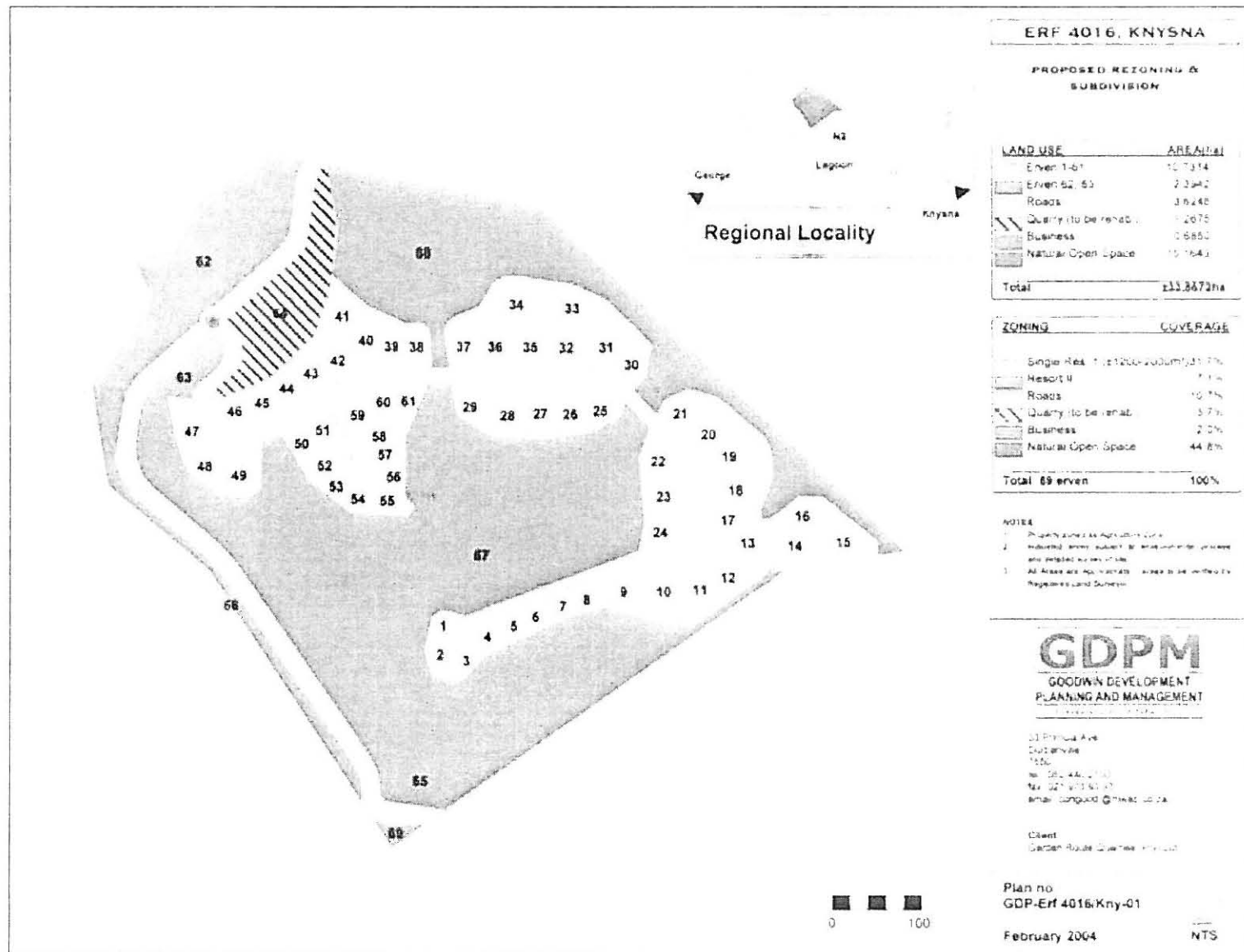




Figure 4. Archaeological study Erf 4016, Knysna. The site facing north.



Figure 5. Archaeological study Erf 4016, Knysna. The site facing west.



Figure 6. Archaeological study Erf 4016, Knysna. The site facing north-east.



Figure 7. Archaeological study Erf 4016, Knysna. The site facing north.



Figure 8. Archaeological study Erf 4016, Knysna. View of old quarry from the N2.

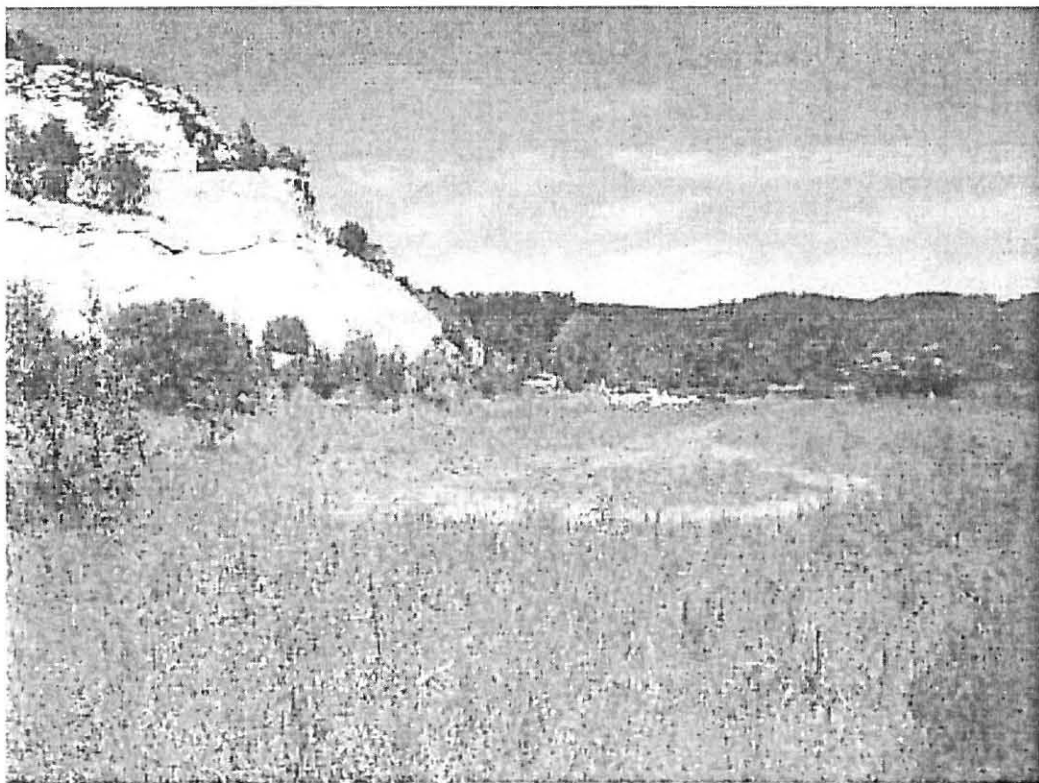


Figure 9. Archaeological study Erf 4016, Knysna. View of old quarry from Knysna River.

6. CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS

The upper slopes of the property are infested with alien vegetation resulting in extremely low archaeological visibility. Archaeological visibility is, however, reasonably good on the lower north facing slopes, where the property is covered with low growth indigenous vegetation.

7. IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL RISKS

There are no potential archaeological risks associated with the project.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND DESCRIPTION

One incomplete Early Stone Age¹ (ESA) quartzite handaxe was located in a wooded, but severely disturbed area at the base of the old quarry alongside the N2 (Figure 10).

An ESA river rolled and heavily patinated quartzite chopper was located at the base of the old quarry alongside the Knysna River (Figure 11).

Two ESA quartzite cobble flakes were located on a gravel slope-wash below the steep terraced cutting of the old quarry overlooking the Knysna River.

Two ESA flakes, including a large pointed flake, was also found in a small track leading above the large quarry overlooking the Knysna River.

Three ESA unmodified flake tools were noted in a wide gravel road on the uppermost slopes in the alien vegetation-infested south-eastern portion of the site.

A thin scatter of ESA and Middle Stone Age² (MSA) tools, including whole unmodified and modified flakes, blades, broken flakes, chunks and a two medium-sized cores, in coarse-grained white and grey coloured quartzite, were found among several small outcroppings and linear-shaped beds of exposed quartzite, on the north-facing slopes overlooking the Knysna River.

A few isolated finds of ESA and MSA tools were also noted on the vegetated north-facing slopes overlooking the Knysna River, among them an MSA quartzite point (Figures 12 & 13).

No Stone Age quarrying or stone flaking activity areas were noted among the exposed rock outcroppings.

Importance of finds: **medium to low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

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

² A term referring to the period between 200 000 and 20 000 years ago.



Figure 10. Archaeological study Erf 4016, Knysna. Incomplete hand-axe. Scale in cm.

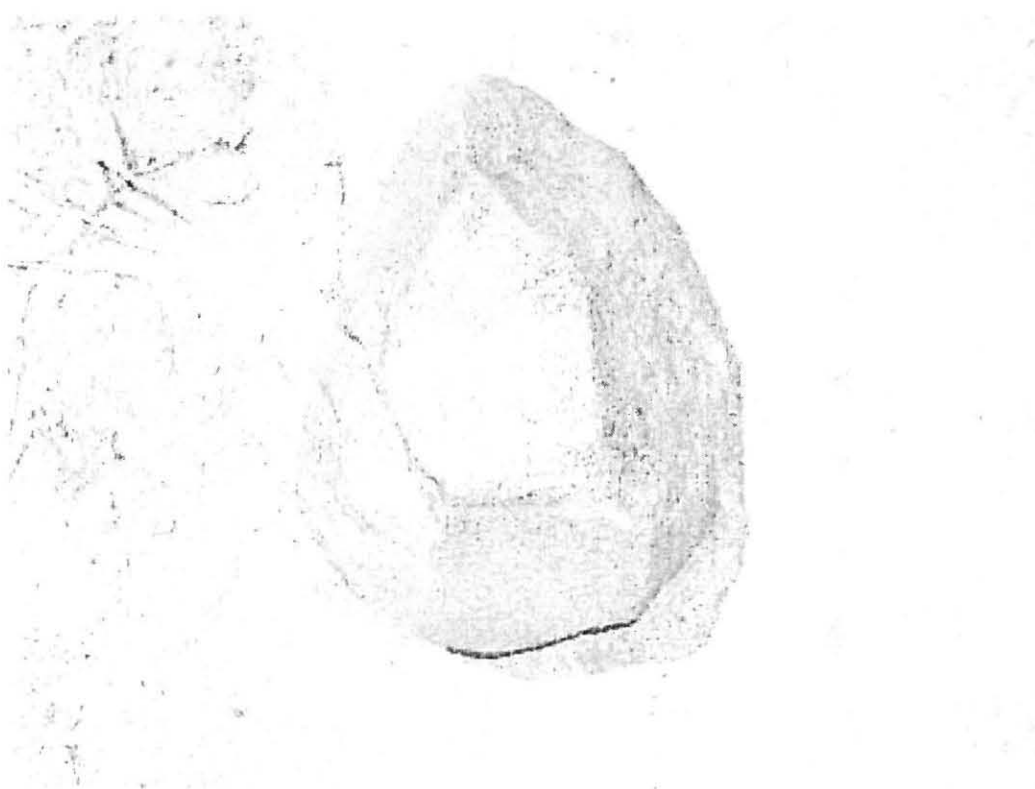


Figure 11. Archaeological study Erf 4016, Knysna. ESA chopper. Scale in cm.

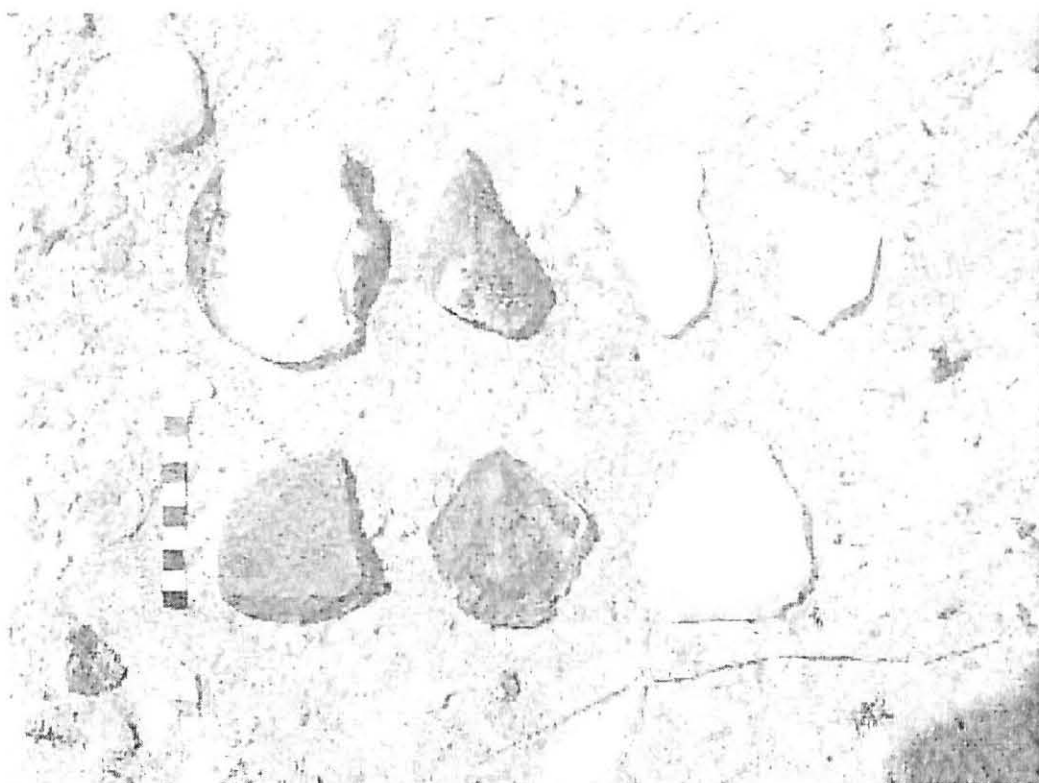


Figure 12. Archaeological study Erf 4016, Knysna. Collection of stone tools. Scale in cm.

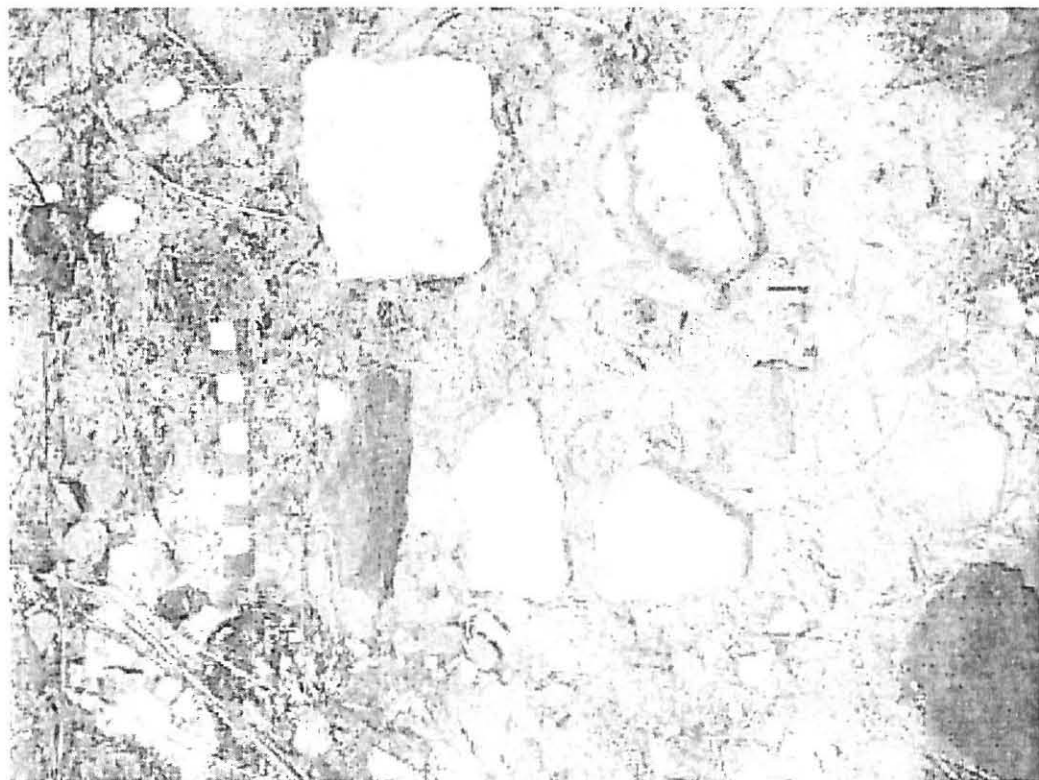


Figure 13. Archaeological study Erf 4016, Knysna. Collection of stone tools. Scale in cm.

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

Sites have been recorded at Diakenhoutblok, Tornybank, Starbuck's Bank, Vaalkom, the Head, Duikerrots, Isak se Kloof, Pezula and Fernwood.

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

9. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed development of Erf 4016 (Eastford) Knysna on significant archaeological remains is considered to be low.

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

10. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

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

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed development of Erf 4016 Knysna, the following recommendations are made.

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

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.

Kaplan, J. 2001. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, proposed development, Pezula Private Estate, Knysna. Report prepared for Hilland Associates. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2002. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, Fernwood Estate, Knysna. Report prepared for Hilland Associates. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.