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**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT  
REMAINDER ERF 4771 (VOËLKLIP)  
HERMANUS**

Prepared for

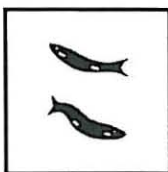
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### **Executive summary**

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of a proposed housing development on the Remainder of Erf 4771 at Voëlklip, Hermanus, has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed development activities.

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

De Villiers Brownlie Associates, on behalf of Overstrand Municipality, requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed housing development on the Remainder of Erf 4771 at Voëlkop, Hermanus, in the Western Cape Province.

The proposed development is for approximately 130 single residential erven, including associated infrastructure such as internal streets and services.

The property is currently zoned Public Open Space and will be rezoned and subdivided in order to allow for the proposed activities to proceed.

The extent of the proposed development ( $\pm 5.67$ 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.

Heritage consultants Aikman Associates have been appointed to complete and submit a 'Notification of Intent to Develop' (NID) checklist and Heritage Impact Assessment to Heritage Western Cape 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 study site is illustrated in Figure 2.

The subject property (S° 34 24 356 E° 19 16 706 on map datum wgs 84) is situated directly alongside 7<sup>th</sup> Street (Voëlklip Main Road), between 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Hermanus, in the south western Cape (Figures 3-6). The mostly flat, vacant property is covered in a mix of Buffalo, Kikuyu and Kweek grasses. A number of footpaths intersect the property. Some diggings and earthworks also occur. The portion of the property alongside the Main Road is severely degraded and disturbed. The upper slopes of the proposed site are covered in thick natural vegetation. A few small sandstone boulders outcrop on these south facing slopes. There are no old buildings or structures on the property. There are no significant landscape features occurring on the property, either. The surrounding land use comprises residential and commercial properties and Public Open Space (Fernkloof Nature Reserve).



Figure 5. View of the site facing west



Figure 6. View of the site facing west

### 4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY

#### 4.1 Method

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a foot survey of the subject property

A desktop study was also undertaken.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June, 2007.

#### 4.2 Constraints and limitations

There were no constraints or limitations associated with the proposed project. However, the upper (northern) slopes of the property are covered in thick natural vegetation, resulting in low archaeological visibility.

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

There are no potential risks associated with the proposed project.

It is very unlikely, but unmarked pre-colonial human burials may be uncovered or exposed during earthworks and excavations.

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

Most of the archaeological sites that have been documented in Hermanus are aligned along the rocky shoreline. Shell middens have been located at Harry's Bay, Nuwebaai, Mudge Point, Vermont, Onrus River Mouth, Sandbaai, Swartdam and Schulphoekpunt (Kaplan 1993, Rudner 1968). Shell middens have also been located on the rocky shoreline between Voelklip and Hermanus (personnel observation). Ancient tidal fishtraps (*visvuywers*) have been recorded at Onrus River Mouth (Kaplan 1993).

Marginal scatters of Early Stone Age and Middle Stone Age stone tools have also been documented at sites further inland, for example on the Hermanus Golf Course and in Fernkloof Nature Reserve (personnel observation).

## **5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

The following section provides a brief overview of the relevant legislation with regard to the archaeology of the Remainder of Erf 4771 Hermanus.

### **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 Burial grounds and graves (Section 36 (3))**

Section 36 (3) of the NHR 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.

#### **5.4 Heritage resources management (Section 38 (8))**



## 9. REFERENCES

Kaplan, J. 2004. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed development Schulphoek Point Hermanus. Report prepared for De Villiers Brownlie Associates. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 1993. The state of archaeological information in the coastal zone from the Orange River to Ponta do Ouro. Report prepared for the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

Rudner, J. 1968. Strandloper pottery from South and South West Africa. *Annals of the South African Museum*. 49:441-663

The provisions of Section 38 (8) of the NHR stipulates that the provisions of Section 38 do not apply to a development as described in Section 38 (1) if an evaluation of the impact of such development on heritage resources is required in terms of the Environment Conservation Act 73 of 1989, or the integrated environmental management guidelines issued by the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism, or the Minerals Act 50 of 1991, or any other legislation: provided that the consenting authority must ensure that the evaluation fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority in terms of Section 38 (3), and any comments and recommendations of the relevant heritage resources authority with regard to such development have been taken into account prior to the granting of the consent.

## **6. FINDINGS**

Two triangular-shaped MSA quartzite flakes were documented during the study. One flake was found in a small footpath leading up to Fernkloof Nature Reserve near 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, while one flake was documented in a footpath on the upper slopes of the property.

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

## **7. IMPACT STATEMENT**

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 development activities.

The probability of locating important pre-colonial archaeological heritage remains during implementation of the project is very low.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The archaeological impact assessment of Remainder Erf 4771 Hermanus has rated the potential impacts to archaeological heritage remains as being low provided that:

- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations and earthworks for the proposed project, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie 462 4502) or Heritage Western Cape (Mr Calvin van Wyk 483 9692).