

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
ERF 5168
KATHU
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

Prepared for:

ENVIROAFRICA

Att: Mr Bernard de Wit

PO Box 5367

Helderberg

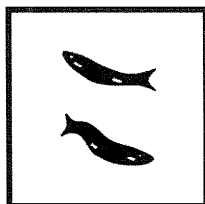
7135

Phone: (021) 851 1616

Client :

GREEN WILLOWS 221 (PTY) LTD

By



Jonathan Kaplan

Agency for Cultural Resource Management

P.O. Box 159

Riebeeck West

7306

Ph/Fax: 022 461 2755

Cellular: 082 321 0172

E-mail: acrm@wcaccess.co.za

**SEPTEMBER
2008**

Executive summary

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of a proposed housing and retail development on Erf 5168 in Kathu in the Northern Cape Province has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to the proposed development activities.

The following findings were made

- A very low density scatter, of Later Stone Age tools were documented on the subject property.

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

Table of Contents

	Page
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	7
4.2 Constraints and limitations	7
4.3 Identification of potential risks	7
4.4 Results of the desk top study	7
6. FINDINGS	8
7. IMPACT STATEMENT	8
8. RECOMMENDATIONS	9
9. REFERENCES	10

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

EnviroAfrica on behalf of Green Willows Properties 221 (Pty) Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for a proposed housing and small retail development on Erf 5168 in Kathu, Kgalagadi District, in the Northern Cape Province.

The proposed development plan comprises about 105 single residential units and a Group Housing component. Smaller retail outlets, including a car sales showroom and workshop, are also planned.

The subject property is currently zoned Agriculture, and will be rezoned and subdivided to accommodate the proposed development activities.

The extent of the proposed development falls (about 14.6 ha) 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 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.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

- Identify and map pre-colonial archaeological heritage resources on the proposed site;
- Determine the importance of pre-colonial archaeological heritage resources on the proposed site;
- Determine and assess the potential impacts of the proposed development on pre-colonial archaeological heritage resources, and
- Recommend mitigation measures to minimise impacts associated with the proposed development.

3. THE STUDY SITE

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

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

Erf 5168 is located on the western side of Kathu, which is situated about 50 kms south of Kuruman and about 320 km north of Upington. The town of Kathu is experiencing rapid growth mainly as a result of expansion of the Sishen Iron Ore Mine. The Village Walk Shopping Centre (Erf 5169) located alongside Erf 5168 is currently under construction and will open in December 2008. The proposed site is located alongside R308 and directly north of the new shopping mall. The receiving environment is flat and covered in thick bush, scrub and dry winter grass, with sporadic Camel thorn (Kameeldoring) trees occurring in places (Figures 3-10). There is an Eskom powerline and servitude running through the centre of the site (Figure 7). There are numerous small pedestrian footpaths that cut across the property. There is very little surface stone on the property, but patches of surface calcrete and larger scatters of weathered calcrete occur in places on the wind blown red sands. The remains of the Kathu caravan park (circa 1950) are situated in the northern portion of the site. Features of the caravan park comprise the remains of a number of concrete caravan platforms as well as the remains of a braai facility (Figures 11 & 12). There are no significant landscape features occurring on the property. The surrounding land use comprises vacant (agricultural) land to the south and west, new residential developments to the north, and the Village Walk Shopping Mall.

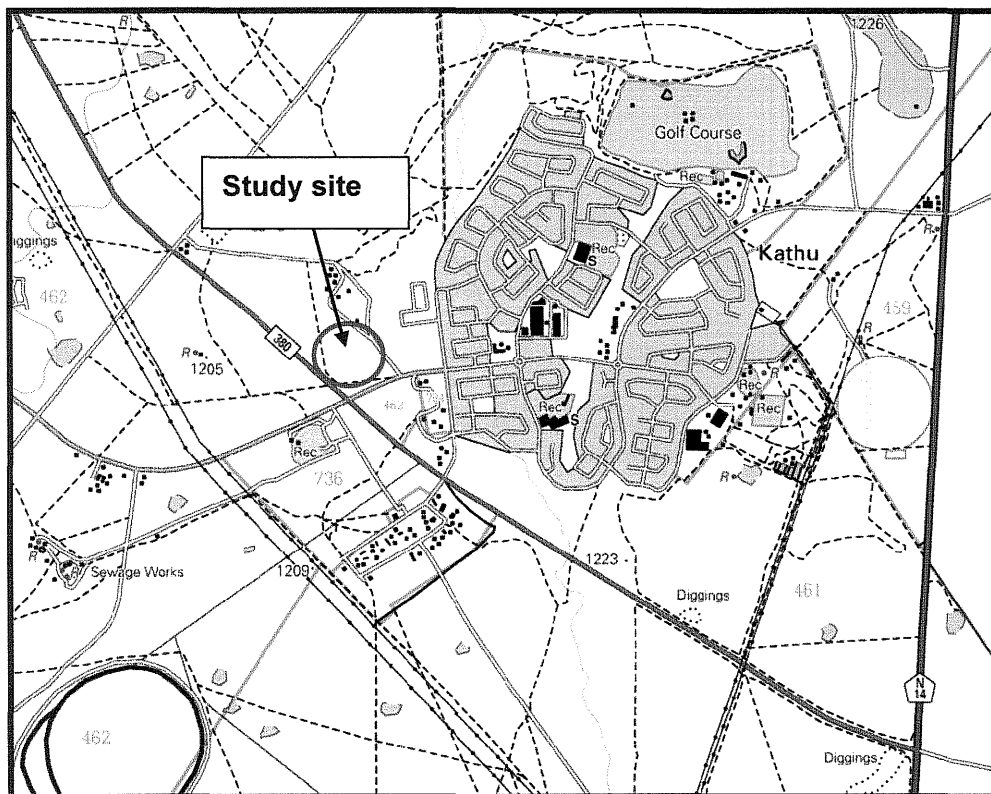


Figure 1. Locality map (2723 CA Kathu)



Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study area indicating the approximate boundary of the study site



Figure 3. View of the site facing north

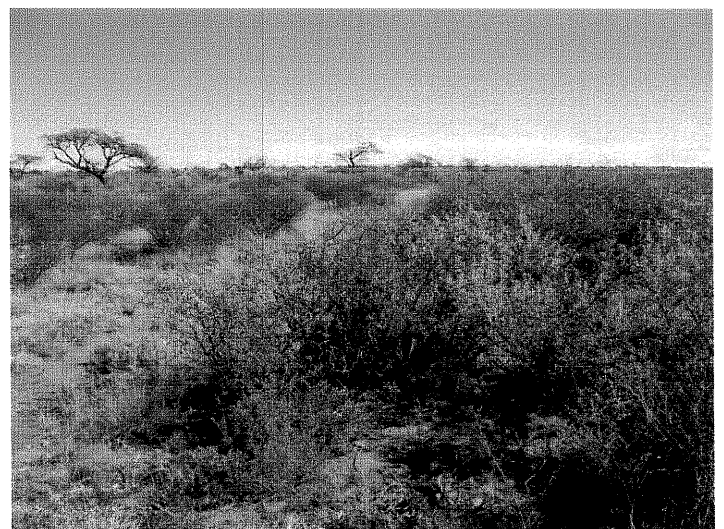


Figure 4. View of the site facing north west

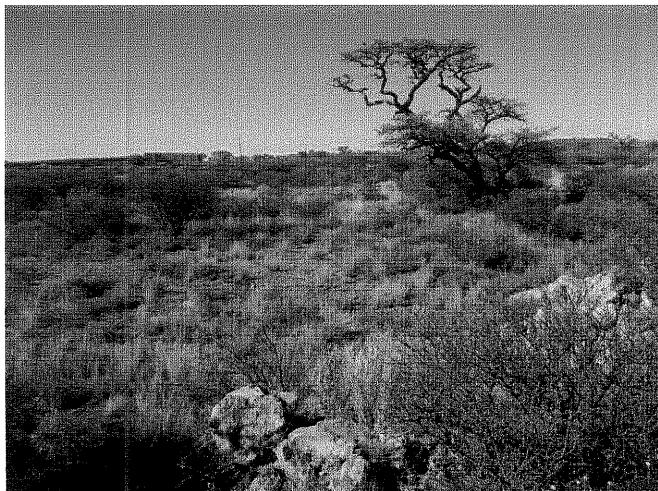


Figure 5. View of the site facing east

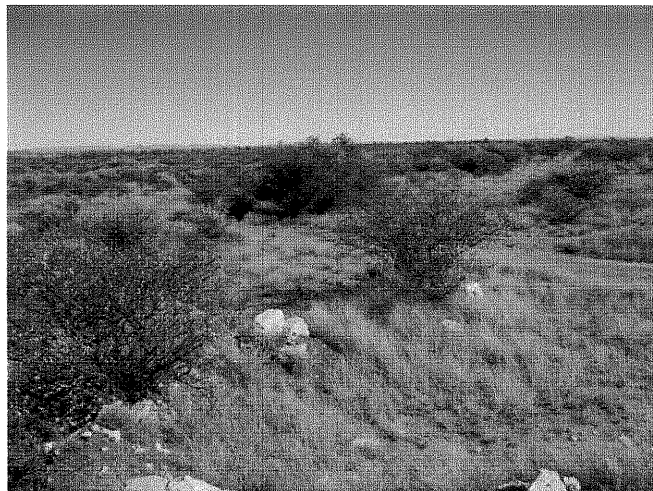


Figure 8. View of the site facing south west



Figure 6. View of the site facing south east



Figure 9. View of the site facing south



Figure 7. View of the site facing south east

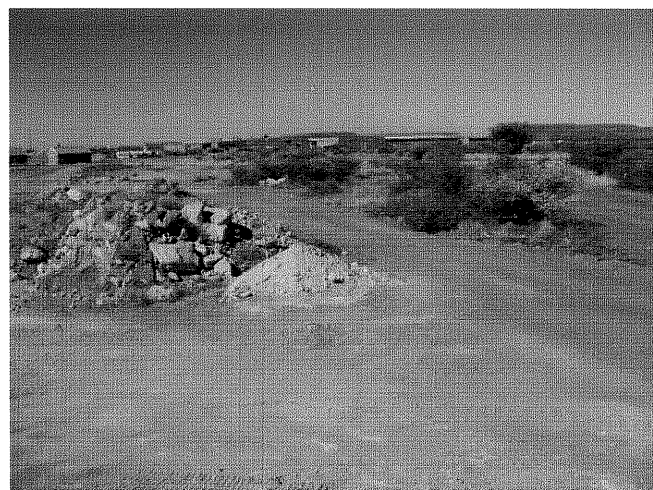


Figure 10. View of the site facing south east



Figure 11. Caravan Park. View facing south east



Figure 12. Caravan Park. View facing south east

4. STUDY APPROACH

4.1 Method

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a ground survey of Erf 5168.

Archaeological heritage remains located during the study were documented using a Geko GPS 201 unit set on map datum wgs 84.

A desk top study was also undertaken.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 28th August, 2008.

4.2 Constraints and limitations

A large portion of the study site is covered in dense vegetation, resulting in low archaeological visibility.

4.3 Identification of potential risks

There are no potential (archaeological) risks associated with the proposed development.

4.4 Results of the desk top study

It should be noted that no archaeological remains were documented during a heritage impact assessment of Erf 5169 Kathu (or Portion A and B of the Farm Sims 462), which is located directly alongside (i.e. south of) the subject property (Beaumont 2006). This is the site of the Village Walk Shopping Centre (see Figure 2).

6. FINDINGS

KT 01 (S 27° 41 52.5 S 23° 01 54.6)

A low-density scatter of Later Stone Age tools, including a small thumbnail silcrete scraper, one weathered silcrete miscellaneous retouched piece, one silcrete chunk, one quartz flake and one quartz chunk was found among a large scatter of loose calcrete stone, directly alongside a small footpath in the eastern portion of the proposed site (Figure 13). The surrounding area is covered with thick bush and scrub. Despite an intensive and fairly wide-ranging search of the surrounding area, no other archaeological heritage remains were found.

In addition, one silcrete flake was found in the road reserve alongside R380/Deben Road, while several silcrete flakes, one weathered silcrete chunk, one small round silcrete core and one larger silcrete blade tool, was documented over the remainder of the subject property.

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



Figure 13. KT 01. View facing east. Note the shopping mall in the foreground of the plate.

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 the proposed development activities.

The assessment of the proposed project has rated the potential impact to archaeological material as being **low**.

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

It is unlikely, but unmarked human burials may be uncovered or exposed during earthmoving operations.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed housing and smaller retail development on Erf 5168 Kathu, Kgalagadi District in the Northern Cape Province, the following recommendations are made:

- Should any unmarked human remains or graves be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during vegetation clearing operation, excavations and earthworks, these should immediately be reported to the archaeologist or the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Dr A. Jerardino 021 462 4502). Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

9. REFERENCES

Beaumont, P. 2006. Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment Portions A and B of the Farm Sims 462 Kgalagadi District, Northern Cape Province. Report prepared for MEG Environmental Impact Studies.