

A PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED SUBDIVISION AND REZONING OF ERF 8517, GRAHAMSTOWN, MAKANA MUNICIPALITY, CACADU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, FOR THE PURPOSES OF CONSTRUCTING RESIDENTIAL AND TOWN HOUSING, AND BUSINESS CENTRE

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Date: February 2009

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**Note:** This report follows the minimum standard guidelines required by the South African Heritage Resources Agency for compiling Archaeological Heritage Phase 1 Impact Assessment (AHIA) reports.

## **SUMMARY**

### **Proposal**

The original proposal was to conduct a survey of possible archaeological heritage sites within the area proposed for the construction of residential and town housing, and a business centre on erf 8517, Grahamstown, Makana Municipality, Cacadu District Municipality, Eastern Cape Province. The survey was conducted to establish the range and importance of the exposed and *in situ* archaeological heritage features, the potential impact of the development and, to make recommendations to minimize possible damage to these sites.

### **The investigation**

The activity is located at 1 Rautenbach Road, Industrial Park, Grahamstown, and is currently zoned Industrial 1. The proposed area had in the past been the old Grahamstown brickfields and is therefore already severely disturbed owing to activities associated with the brickfields.

### **Cultural sensitivity**

The proposed property for development is of low cultural sensitivity. Development may proceed as planned.

## Recommendations

1. If any concentrations of heritage material are uncovered during development, it should be reported to the Albany Museum and/or the South African Heritage Resources Agency immediately so that systematic and professional investigation/excavations can be undertaken.

## PROJECT INFORMATION

### Status

The report is part of the Basic Assessment Process.

### The type of development

Construction of residential and town housing, and a business centre.

### The Developer:

Olympic Trust  
Registration No. IT 2765/96

### The Consultant:

Conservation Support Services  
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### Terms of reference

Conduct a survey of possible archaeological heritage sites within the proposed area for the purposes of the construction of residential and town housing, and a business centre on erf 8517, Industrial Park, Grahamstown, Makana Municipality, Cacadu District Municipality, Eastern Cape Province. The survey was conducted to establish the range and importance of the exposed and *in situ* archaeological heritage features, the potential impact of the development and, to make recommendations to minimize possible damage to these sites.

## BRIEF ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### Literature review

The pre-colonial archaeological record of the Grahamstown region and its immediate surrounds includes the Early Stone Age (ESA), the Middle Stone Age (MSA), the Later Stone Age (LSA) as well as pastoralists within the last 2000 years, Later Iron Age farming communities and colonial/historical archaeology.

Grahamstown and the wider regions are rich in archaeological remains and sites and include many caves, rock shelters and rock paintings. The oldest evidence of the early inhabitants in this area is large stone tools, called handaxes and cleavers and are from a time period called the Earlier Stone Age (ESA). According to S.L. Hall (1985), classic ESA handaxes and cleavers had been found near the Grahamstown golf course probably dating between 1 million and 200 000 years ago.

The large handaxes and cleavers were replaced by smaller stone tools called the Middle Stone Age (MSA) flake and blade industries. Evidence of MSA sites occur throughout the region and date between 200 000 and 30 000 years old. The site of Howieson's Poort is situated about ten kilometres south-west of Grahamstown and is the archetype site for a distinctive type of MSA stone tool with similar specimens having been documented at the Kasouga River-mouth and at Bell in the Peddie District (Stapleson & Hewitt 1928; Goodwin & Van Riet Lowe 1929; Deacon 1995).

There is little archaeological evidence for human occupation within the Grahamstown region between 75 000 and 15 000 years ago. However, from about 15 000 years ago populations of hunter-gatherers re-established themselves within the region as is evidenced in the preserved LSA occupational deposits of the few caves and rock shelters that have been excavated, namely Melkhoutboom in the Suurberg (Deacon 1976), Wilton near Alicedale (Deacon 1972), Uniondale about 20km north-east of Grahamstown (Leslie-Brooker 1987), Springs Rock Shelter and Glen Craig situated immediately north and north-east of Grahamstown, and Edgehill and Welgeluk located on the Koonap River some 40km to the north of Grahamstown (Hall 1985, 1990). In addition, most of these sites and many more caves and shelters in the surrounding Grahamstown area contain rock art.

### References:

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- Goodwin, A.J.H. and van Riet Lowe 1929. The Stone Age Cultures of South Africa. *Annals of the South African Museum* 27:1-289.

Hall, S.L. 1990. Hunter-gatherer-fishers of the Fish River Basin: a contribution to the Holocene prehistory of the Eastern Cape. Unpublished thesis: University of Stellenbosch.

Hall, S.L. 1985. The Prehistory of Grahamstown and its Environs. In Daniel, J.B. Mcl.; Holleman, W.; Jacot Guillardmod, A. Grahamstown and its Environs. Grahamstown: Albany Museum.

Leslie Brooker, M. 1987. An Archaeological Study of the Uniondale Rockshelter, Albany District, Eastern Cape. Unpublished M.A. thesis: University of Stellenbosch.

Stapleson, P. and Hewitt, J. 1928. Stone implements from a rock shelter at Howieson's Poort, near Grahamstown.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

### Area Surveyed

#### Location data

The proposed development is situated at 1 Rautenbach Road, Industrial Park, Grahamstown, Makana Municipality, Albany District, Eastern Cape Province.

The proposed area for development is situated on the outskirts of the town of Grahamstown within the industrial area, about 400 metres off the Grahamstown-Cradock Road (R350) (Maps 1-2). The area is already developed with the existing buildings still being utilized (Figs 1-2). The area is covered with grass and low shrubs and previous brickfields rubble (Figs. 3-4). There are quite large patches of hard white ash with embedded rock and stones between the grass and low shrubs which may have been burning areas associated with the brickfields activities (Figs. 5-6).

#### Map

1:50 000: 3225 BC Grahamstown



Fig. 1. The already developed buildings on the area proposed for development.



Fig.2. Some of the building rubble and buildings on the area proposed for development.



Fig. 3. Remnants of the original brickfields buildings.



Fig. 4. Vegetation cover of area proposed for development.



Fig. 5. Vegetation cover and hard ash and embedded stone patch.



Fig. 6. General extend of hard ash and embedded stone patch.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

### Methodology

The area was investigated on foot by two people. It was difficult to locate archaeological sites/materials because most of the area was covered by grass and low shrubs/bushes, as well as rubble from the old Grahamstown brickfields activities. No archaeological material and sites were observed or documented within the proposed area for development.

### Archaeological survey

One GPS reading was taken with a Garmin Plus II: at 33.18.394S; 26.29.900

## Description of sites

No archaeological material or sites were observed or documented of the area surveyed.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Although no archaeological material and sites were observed and documented it is therefore highly unlikely that any archaeological material or sites would be uncovered during the construction activities. However the following recommendations are suggested:

1. If any concentrations of heritage material are uncovered during development, it should be reported to the Albany Museum and/or the South African Heritage Resources Agency immediately so that systematic and professional investigation/excavations can be undertaken. Sufficient time should be allowed to remove/collect such material (See appendix A for a list of possible archaeological sites that maybe found in the area).
2. If any graves, burials or human remains are uncovered during development, all construction work must cease immediately and be reported to the Albany Museum and/or the South African Heritage Resources Agency so that systematic and professional investigation/excavations can be undertaken. Sufficient time should be allowed to remove/collect such material.



## GENERAL REMARKS AND CONDITION

**Note:** This report is a phase 1 archaeological heritage impact assessment/ investigation only and does not include or exempt other required heritage impact assessments (see below).

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999, section 35) requires a full Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in order that all heritage resources, that is, all places or objects of aesthetics, architectural, historic, scientific, social, spiritual linguistic or technological value or significance are protected. Thus any assessment should make provision for the protection of all these heritage components, including archaeology, shipwrecks, battlefields, graves, and structures older than 60 years, living heritage, historical settlements, landscapes, geological sites, palaeontological sites and objects.

It must be emphasised that the conclusions and recommendations expressed in this archaeological heritage sensitivity investigation are based on the visibility of archaeological sites/features and may not therefore, reflect the true state of affairs. Many sites/features may be covered by soil and vegetation and will only be located once this has been removed. In the event of such finds being uncovered, (during any phase of construction work), archaeologists must be informed immediately so that they can investigate the importance of the sites and excavate or collect material before it is destroyed. The *onus* is on the developer to ensure that this agreement is honoured in accordance with the National Heritage Act No. 25 of 1999.

It must also be clear that Archaeological Specialist Reports (AIAs) will be assessed by the relevant heritage resources authority. The final decision rests with the heritage resources authority, which should give a permit or a formal letter of permission for the destruction of any cultural sites.

## APPENDIX A: IDENTIFICATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES AND MATERIAL FROM INLAND AREAS: guidelines and procedures for developers

### 1. Human Skeletal material

Human remains, whether the complete remains of an individual buried during the past, or scattered human remains resulting from disturbance of the grave, should be reported. In general the remains are buried in a flexed position on their sides, but are also found buried in a sitting position with a flat stone capping and developers are requested to be on the alert for this.

### 2. Freshwater mussel middens

Freshwater mussels are found in the muddy banks of rivers and streams and were collected by people in the past as a food resource. Freshwater mussel shell middens are accumulations of mussel shell and are usually found close to rivers and streams. These shell middens frequently contain stone tools, pottery, bone, and occasionally human remains. Shell middens may be of various sizes and depths, but an accumulation which exceeds 1 m<sup>2</sup> in extent, should be reported to an archaeologist.

### 3. Stone artefacts

These are difficult for the layman to identify. However, large accumulations of flaked stones which do not appear to have been distributed naturally should be reported. If the stone tools are associated with bone remains, development should be halted immediately and archaeologists notified

### 4. Fossil bone

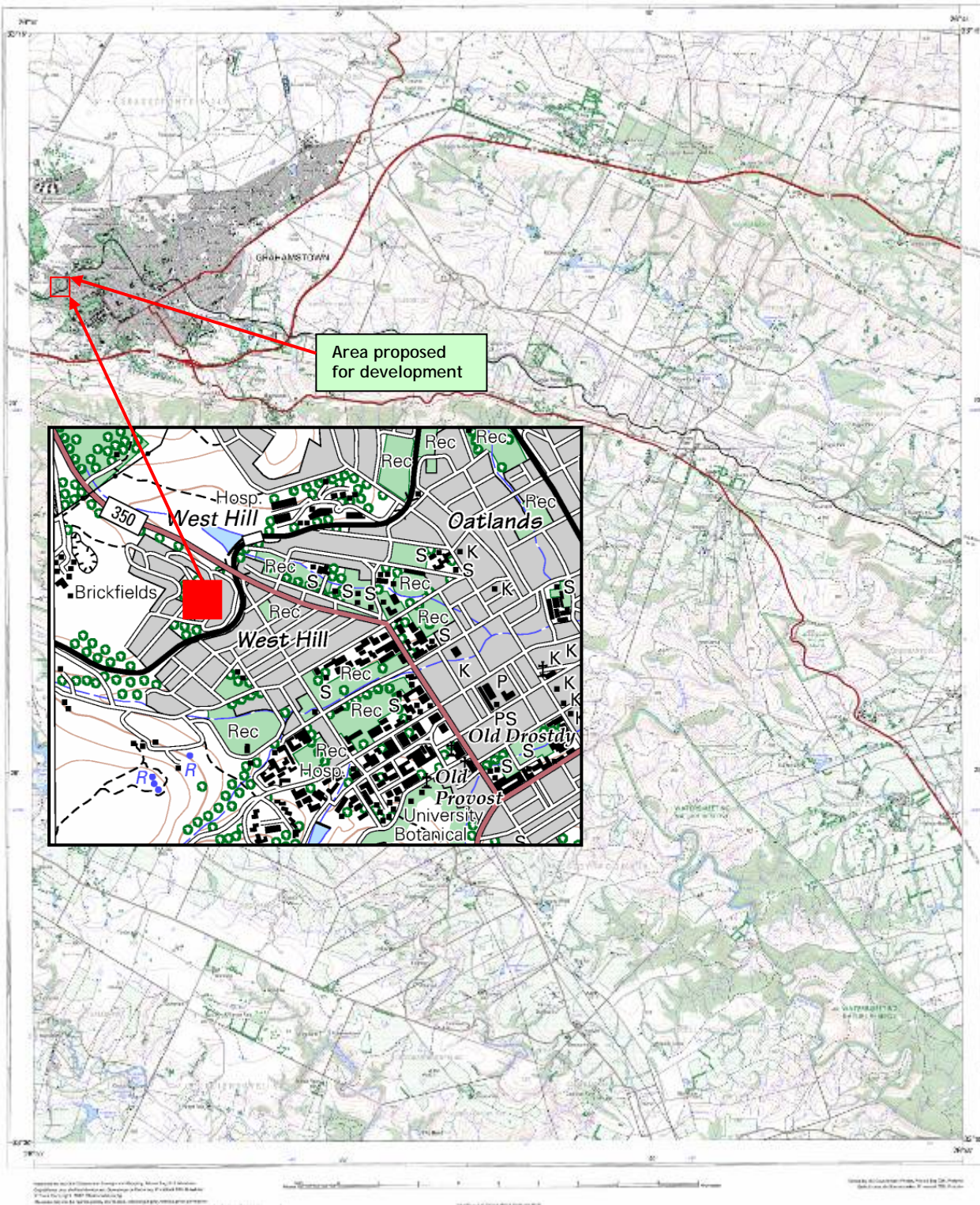
Fossil bones may be found embedded in geological deposits. Any concentrations of bones, whether fossilized or not, should be reported.

### 5. Large stone features

They come in different forms and sizes, but are easy to identify. The most common are roughly circular stone walls (mostly collapsed) and may represent stock enclosures, remains of wind breaks or cooking shelters. Others consist of large piles of stones of different sizes and heights and are known as *isisivane*. They are usually near river and mountain crossings. Their purpose and meaning is not fully understood, however, some are thought to represent burial cairns while others may have symbolic value.

### 6. Historical artefacts or features

These are easy to identified and include foundations of buildings or other construction features and items from domestic and military activities.



Map 1. 1:50 000 map indicating the location of the proposed development.



Map 2. Aerial view of area proposed for development (insert map copied from the BID as the Google view is distorted).