

Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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Mr. Doug Jeffery
Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants
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Dear Mr. Jeffery

PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ERVEN 17975 & 17974 BLUE DOWNS

1. Introduction and brief

Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake a specialist Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of a proposed housing project situated on Erven 17975 and 17974 Blue Downs, in the Western Cape Province.

An application has been made for the subdivision of the above property in order to develop about 400 erven for residential purposes, business, community facilities, public open spaces and associated infrastructure.

The extent of the proposed development (about 20 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).

2. The study site

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

Erven 17975 and 17974 (GPS reading S° 33 58 66.3 E° 8 41 21.9 and S° 33 58 99.5 E° 18 41 44.3 respectively), set on map datum WGS 84, are located alongside Eersterivier Road and north of Hindle Road, in Blue Downs. The two vacant erven are separated by Albert Philander Road and by an existing housing development known as The Conifers. Both sites are severely disturbed having been leveled about 10 years ago and the topography is now largely flat (Figures 2-7). Both sites have also recently been bush cut, apparently to control alien invasive vegetation. The remnants of some high transverse dunes and a dune wetland occur in the south eastern portion of Erf 17975.

3. Terms of reference

The Terms of Reference for the specialist Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment are to:

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

4. Approach to the study

The proposed sites were subjected to a detailed foot survey.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 11th of August 2005.

5. Findings

Erf 17975

No archaeological heritage remains were located during the study.

No old buildings or structures occur on the site.

Erf 17974

No archaeological heritage remains were located during the study.

No old buildings or structures occur on the property.

6. Impact statement

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

The probability of locating any significant archaeological heritage remains during implementation of the project is likely to be highly improbable.

Pre-colonial human burial remains, may however, be uncovered or exposed during construction work and excavation for bulk services.

7. Conclusion

The study has shown that Erven 17975 and 17974 are suitable for development.

8. Recommendations

The assessment of the proposed project has rated the potential impacts to archaeological heritage material as being low provided that:

- Human burials uncovered during bulk earthworks not be disturbed or removed until inspected by an archaeologist.

If a human burial is encountered by accident during construction, the remains must be left as undisturbed as possible. The local police must be informed as well as the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) (Mrs. Mary Leslie 021 4624502).

If the burial is deemed to be over 60 years old and no foul play is suspected, an emergency exhumation permit may be issued by SAHRA for an archaeologist to exhume the remains under such provisions as SAHRA deems appropriate.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jonathan Kaplan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jonathan Kaplan

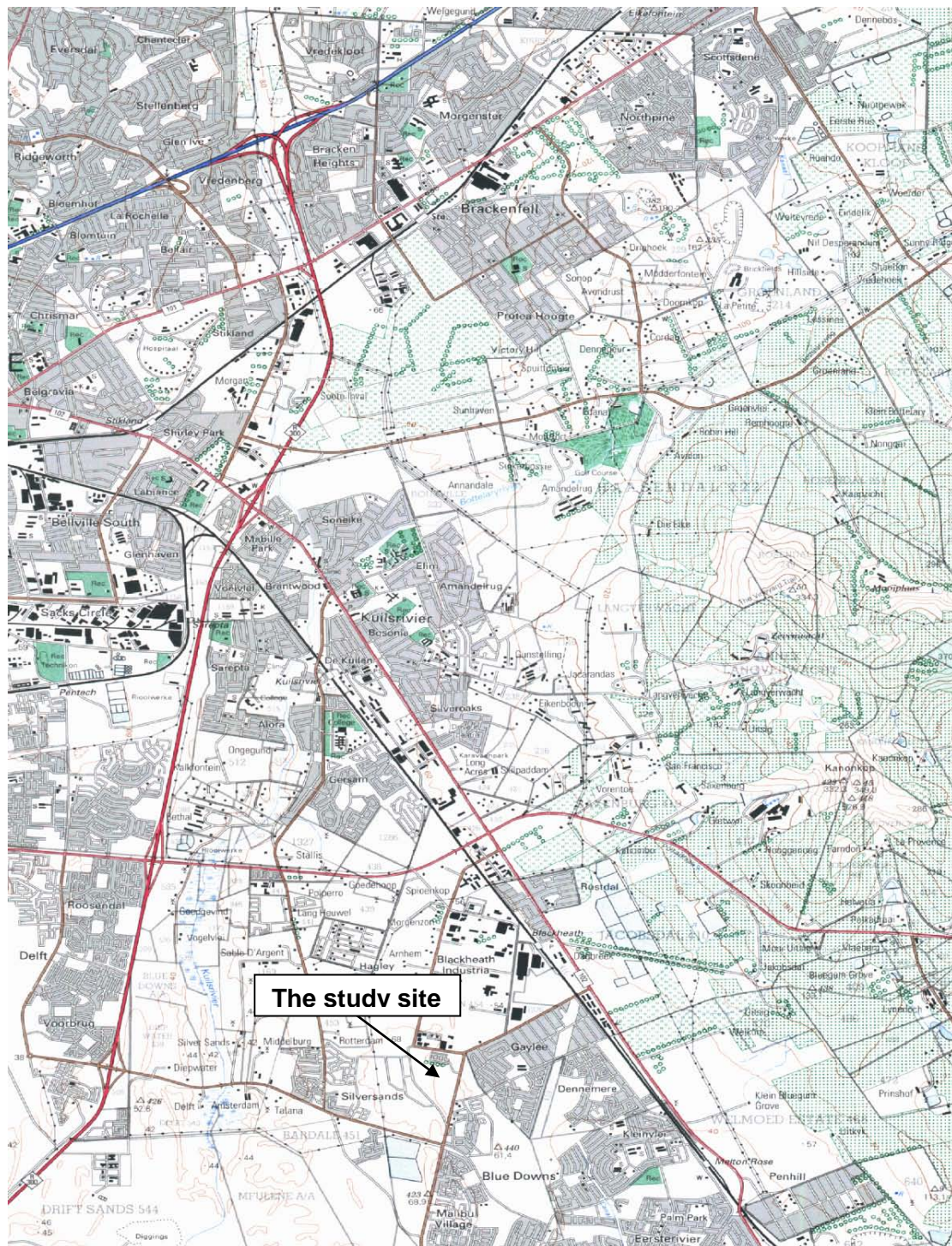


Figure 1. Locality map (3318 DC Bellville)



Figure 2. Erf 17975. The site facing south east



Figure 3. Erf 17975. The site facing south. Eersterivier Road is to the right of the plate.



Figure 4. Erf 17975. The site facing north west. Note the remnant dunes to the right of the plate.



Figure 5. Erf 17975. View of the site facing east. Albert Philander Road is to the right of the plate.



Figure 6. View of Erf 17974 taken from Erf 17975. The Conifers housing development is in foreground of the plate.



Figure 7. Erf 17974. View of the site facing south. Eersterivier Road is to the right of the plate.



Figure 8. Erf 17974. View of the site facing east. The Conifers housing estate is in the background.



Figure 9. Erf 17974. View of the site facing north.