

ADU Deo - Palaeontological Desktop Study
Required

Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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28 May, 2008

Att: Mr Mark Berry
Mark Berry Environmental Consultants
PO Box 1456
Gordons Bay
7150

Dear Mr Berry

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROPOSED AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON ERVEN 968 – 994, MCGREGOR WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

1. Introduction and brief

Mark Berry Environmental Consultants, on behalf of Breede River Winelands Municipality requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for a proposed affordable housing development on Erven 968 - 994 McGregor near Robertson, in the Western Cape Province (Figure 1).

The proposed subdivision of the subject properties will allow for the development of about 72 residential erven and associated infrastructure, including an internal road network, street lighting and engineering services.

The erven are currently zoned for single residential use.

The extent of the proposed development (2.95 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 occur on the site and 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.

A Notification of Intent (NID) to develop checklist has been completed by the archaeologist and submitted to Heritage Western Cape (Belcom) for comment.

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Write LETTER



2. Terms of reference

The Terms of Reference for the archaeological assessment were to:

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

3. Approach to the study

The proposed site was searched for archaeological heritage remains.

The site visit and assessment took place on 20th May, 2008.

4. The study site

The subject property (S 33° 57 15.5 E 19° 49 28.5 on map datum WGS 84) is located in Langstraat, between Smith - and Pleinstraat in McGregor, on the northern edge of the town and about 15 km south west of Robertson. Access to the site is via Voortrekker Street. The property is surrounded by disturbed veld, residential erven, a large dam and vineyards. It is mainly covered by disturbed Robertson Karoo veld, with several dirt tracks, footpaths and cleared areas (Figures 3-7). Some informal dumping occurs on the site. A public water reservoir occurs on the site. Sheet wash and erosion is also evident. A powerline servitude crosses the site.

A small stream and lei water system occurs along the southern boundary of the proposed site (Figures 8 and refer to Figure 2). The stream appears to be partially canalised and packed with flat slabs of shale. The system also appears to be still in use, as the vegetation (mainly grasses) either side of the stream has been recently been cut back and cleaned up.

5. Results of the study

No pre-colonial archaeological heritage remains were documented during the study.

A few fragments, including a broken neck, of thin blue glass and some undecorated white ceramics were found spread thinly and unevenly near the Municipal reservoir.

6. Impact statement

The impact of the proposed development of Erven 968 - 994 McGregor on important pre-colonial archaeological remains is likely to be **low**.

7. Conclusion

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of Erven 968 - 994 McGregor has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that would need to be mitigated prior to proposed construction activities.

The lei water system must be investigated in more detail. A building set back line, between the canal and the proposed development area, may need to be considered in the final site development plan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jonathan Kaplan', written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Kaplan

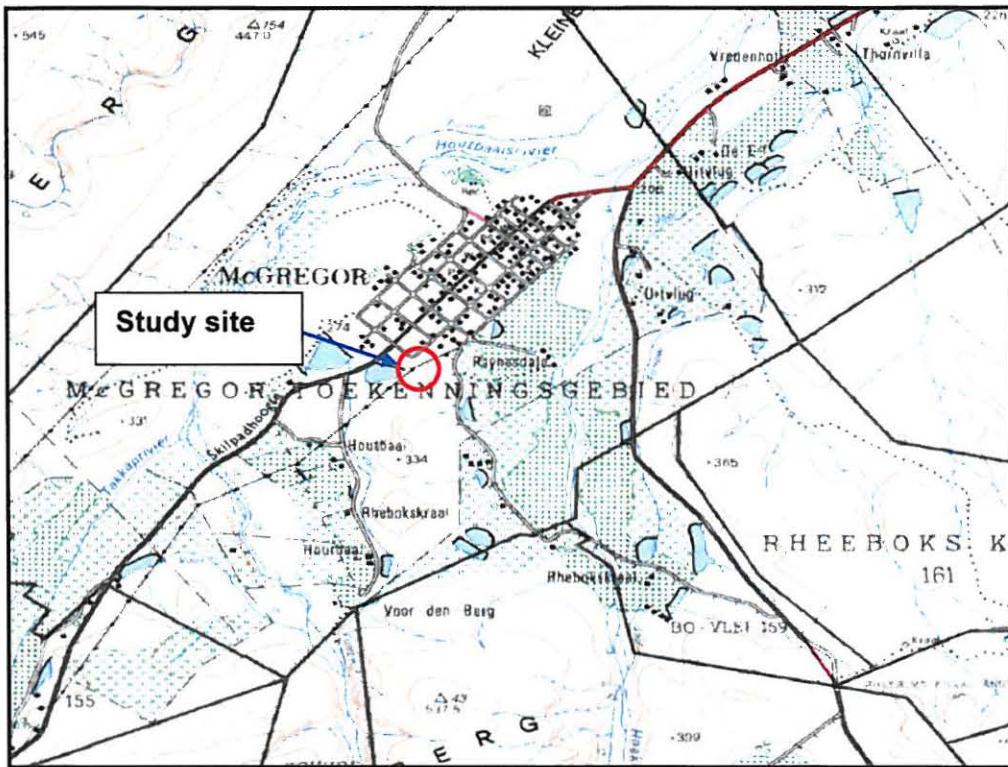


Figure 1. Locality Map (3319 DD McGregor)



Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site



Figure 3. View of the site facing north



Figure 6. View of the site facing east



Figure 4. View of the site facing south east



Figure 7. View of the site facing north east



Figure 5. View of the site facing south east



Figure 8. Lei water system and stream