

10.6 H.P.M.

# HERITAGE STATEMENT FOR PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON FARM 619, STILBAAI-WES

Assessment conducted under  
Section 38 (8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999)  
as part of an EIA

Prepared on request of HWC in response to a NID  
(HM/STILBAAI/Farm 619 dd 19 November 2007)

Prepared for

**Dr P Groenewald**  
PO Box 559, Stilbaai, 6674

October 2007



Prepared by

**D. Halkett**

**Archaeology Contracts Office**  
Department of Archaeology  
University of Cape Town  
Private Bag  
Rondebosch  
7701

Phone (021) 650 2357  
Fax (021) 650 2352  
Email david.halkett@uct.ac.za

# 1. INTRODUCTION

The Archaeology Contracts Office was requested by Dr P. Groenewald to assist with a heritage statement for the proposed development on the site as requested by HWC in a letter<sup>1</sup> following submission of the NID.

The location of the proposed site (23.5 Ha) is shown in the overall Stilbaai context in Figure 1. The proposed development layout is shown in Figure 3. The study was largely directed at gaining information to assist in the completion of relevant sections of the NID form submitted to HWC. As a result of the size and required rezonings, this project will be subject to an EIA.

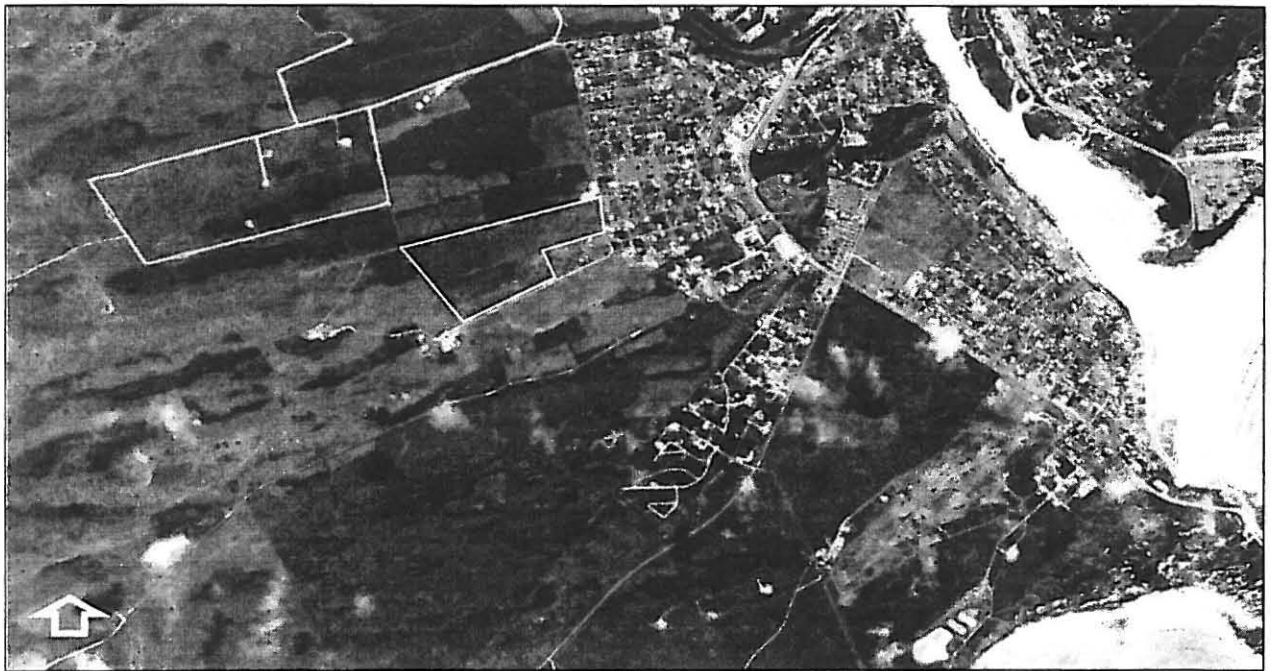


Figure 1: the location of the proposed development (yellow) in overall local context

## 2. HERITAGE LEGISLATION

The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) No. 25 of 1999 protects a variety of heritage resources including palaeontological, prehistoric and historical material (including ruins) more than 100 years old (Section 35), human remains (Section 36) and non-ruined structures older than 60 years (Section 34). Landscapes with cultural significance are also protected under the definition of the National Estate (Section 3.1d).

Since the project is subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment, Heritage Western Cape (HWC) is required to comment on the proposed project in order to facilitate final decision making by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP).

---

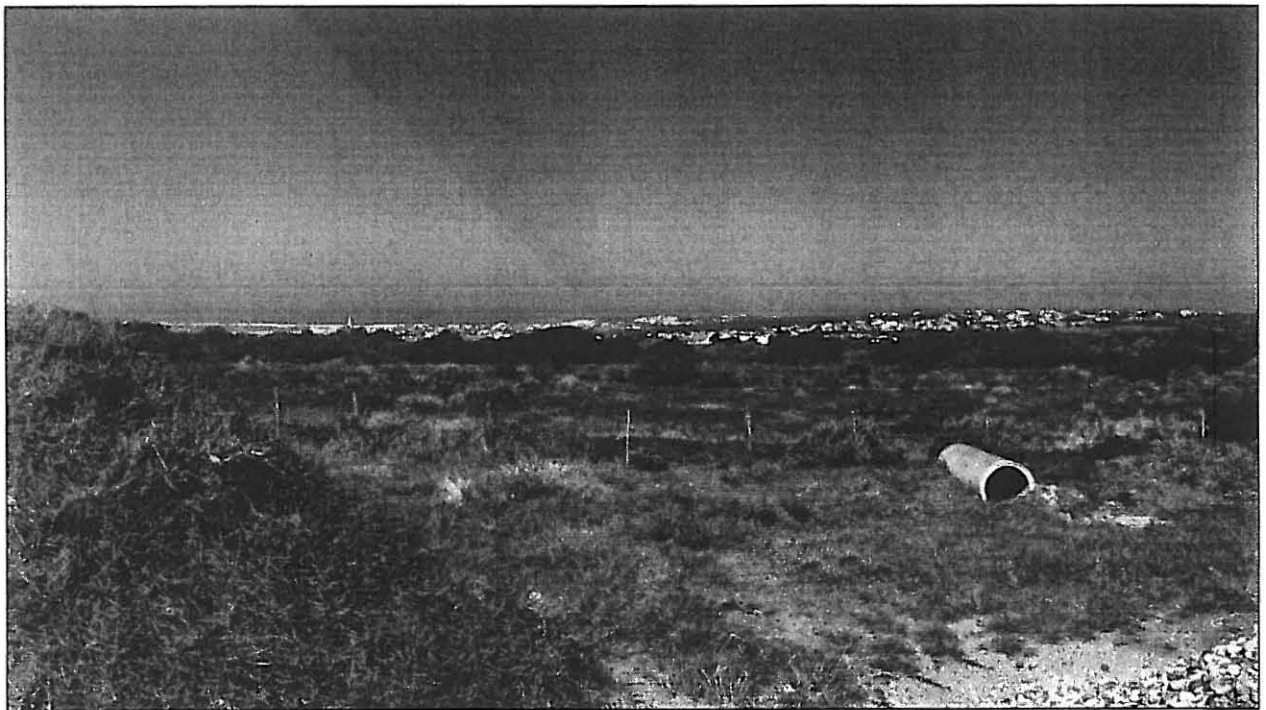
<sup>1</sup> HM/STILBAAI/Farm 619 dd 19 November 2007

### 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The receiving environment is largely old agricultural nature interspersed with patches of sparse coastal thicket vegetation best seen in Figure 2. Numerous tracks criss-cross the area. The site has been farmed and apart from changes to the vegetation and landscape as a result, the only other signs of use were assorted watering points for small stock. The site lies approximately 3 km inland of the coast.



**Figure 2:** The proposed development site in detail



**Figure 3:** The context of the proposed development site (actual site lies behind the thick bush in the middle of the image)

## **4. HERITAGE CONTEXT**

In general little archaeological work has been done in the Stilbaai area. Phase 1 impact assessments in the vicinity have identified some shell middens but none of these has been excavated to date. They tend to be located close to the shoreline. In comparison to the west coast, middens are rare. We have speculated that this may be as a result of undisturbed thick coastal vegetation in the past preventing easy movement on the landscape. Further down the coast is the archaeological site known as Blombos Cave.

## **5. METHODS**

The site was visited on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007 by Mr D. Halkett assisted by Mr Phillip Hine. Although informal tracks criss-cross the area, and has been subject to agriculture in the past, it is still largely undisturbed and covered by fairly thick bush in places. Accessible parts of the site (between bushed areas) were traversed on foot to determine if any surface archaeological material could be identified. In addition we looked for any evidence of more recent use of the site during historical times.

### **5.1 Limitations**

Some bushy patches could not be accessed but our overall visibility was good and as a result there were no limitations to the study.

## **6. FINDINGS**

### **6.1 Archaeology**

No surface pre-colonial archaeological remains were observed in any of the transects that were walked. We believe there is a very low possibility that pre-colonial burials may be encountered during construction activities given the lack of other archaeology. The positions of such burials are unpredictable.

### **6.2 Cultural landscape**

The cultural landscape is essentially agricultural, with occasional watering points for domestic stock. The site lies on the edge of the town and as such its rural and agricultural status has been somewhat diminished. Farm 619 has resulted from the amalgamation of two portions of land namely, the remainder of the farm Jagersbos 580, and Portion 4 of the farm Fisantekraal 567. Both the original pieces of land have identical transfer histories beginning in 1877<sup>2</sup>. There is no indication that the land was ever used for anything other than for grazing or agriculture.

### **6.3 Visual impacts**

The location of the site makes it difficult to photograph as vantage points are limited. Figure 3 is a photograph taken from the municipal reservoir (highest point in the north) looking across towards the existing town. The area in the foreground is not the actual site but appears very similar (the actual site lies behind the thick bush in this photo). The proposed layout of the development is shown in Figure 4 and includes Group and

---

<sup>2</sup> Certificate of Joint Title, T000081553/2005

Duet housing according to the Stilbaai Scheme Regulations. There will be a mixture of single and double storeyed units (restricted to two storeys and a height of 7,5m). No formal visual impact assessment has been undertaken as part of the EIA.

In our opinion, the proposed residential development would not be inconsistent with existing development in the area, although it appears more dense. A large area to the north west is in the process of development and the town is expanding both to the east and west meaning that further development is likely to occur in this vicinity in the future.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

We found no archaeological material and no significant structures on the site although it must be noted that unmarked prehistoric burials can be present almost anywhere in sandy substrates. There is therefore a small possibility that unmarked burials could be encountered during the trenching.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that, subject to the comments of Heritage Western Cape, that no further heritage work should be required except that the following should be noted:

- There is always the chance in sandy substrates that burials could be present, either associated with archaeological sites or elsewhere. It is important that workers on the site are aware of this possibility and that work must be stopped at such a burial immediately upon discovery. The bones should not be moved as this would further disturb the context of the burial. The find should be reported to Heritage Western Cape (021 483 9685) or the South African Heritage Resources Agency (021 462 4502) and an archaeologist should be contracted to remove the remains.

## **9. INVESTIGATION TEAM**

Fieldwork:	D. Halkett and P. Hine
Report:	D. Halkett

Figure 4: The proposed development layout

