

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: DALSIG  
DEVELOPMENT ON PORTIONS 2, 3 & 4 OF FARM 527  
(DALWEIDING), PAARL DISTRICT, WESTERN CAPE**

Prepared for:

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August 2009



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Archaeology Contracts Office at the University of Cape Town was appointed by Pieter Badenhorst Professional Services, on behalf of the client, SANDS Property Development (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Archaeological Impact Assessment of Portion 2, 3 and 4 of the farm 527 (Dalweiding) in the Dal Josafat Valley, located between Paarl and Wellington.

SANDS Property Development (Pty) Ltd proposes to rezone the properties from agricultural to residential (in terms of the Drakenstein Spatial Development Framework) and sub-divide the land for residential units. At this stage it is proposed to construct about 100 residential units with streets and associated infrastructure on Portions 2, 3 & 4 of Farm 527 which measures approximately 16 ha. It is anticipated that some 80% of the property will be taken up with the development. No designs for the development are available at this stage.

A number of archaeological surveys have been conducted in the area as part of impact assessments and some general comments may be made. Early, Middle and Later Stone Age stone tool scatters have been reported from the Paarl, Franschhoek and Stellenbosch area. They are often recovered from river banks, mountain slopes and transformed areas such as ploughed fields and vineyards. In many cases, the tools occur in a severely disturbed and degraded context.

The property was visited by Dave Halkett and Lita Webley on the 21 August and 25 August and a survey conducted on foot. Limitations to the survey included large areas around the dam which were covered in pools of standing water after recent heavy rains. Dense grass cover, including pastures and paddocks, meant that the soil surface could only be examined closely in the vineyards and recently ploughed fields.

No Stone Age archaeological remains of any description were found on the property. The built environment consists of a number of dwellings and sheds related to agricultural practices and these will be examined as part of the HIA. The structures all appear to be very recent, dating to within the last 60 years. There are no ruins or any evidence of earlier buildings. There are no graves or cemeteries on the property, and this was confirmed by a farm worker.

*From an archaeological perspective, there is no reason why the development should not be allowed to proceed. It is possible that during earth moving activities, sub-surface archaeological remains may be uncovered. Based on the types of ephemeral stone tool scatters found on adjoining properties, it is anticipated that isolated Early, Middle or Later Stone Age implements may be uncovered. These are not considered to be significant. It is possible that human remains may be uncovered in unmarked graves. If human remains are uncovered during development, earth moving activities in the vicinity should be stopped immediately and Heritage Western Cape should be notified.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Archaeology Contracts Office at the University of Cape Town was appointed by Pieter Badenhorst Professional Services, on behalf of the client, SANDS Property Development (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Archaeological Impact Assessment of Portion 2, 3 and 4 of the farm 527 (Dalweiding) (Figure 1) in the Dal Josafat Valley, located between Paarl and Wellington.

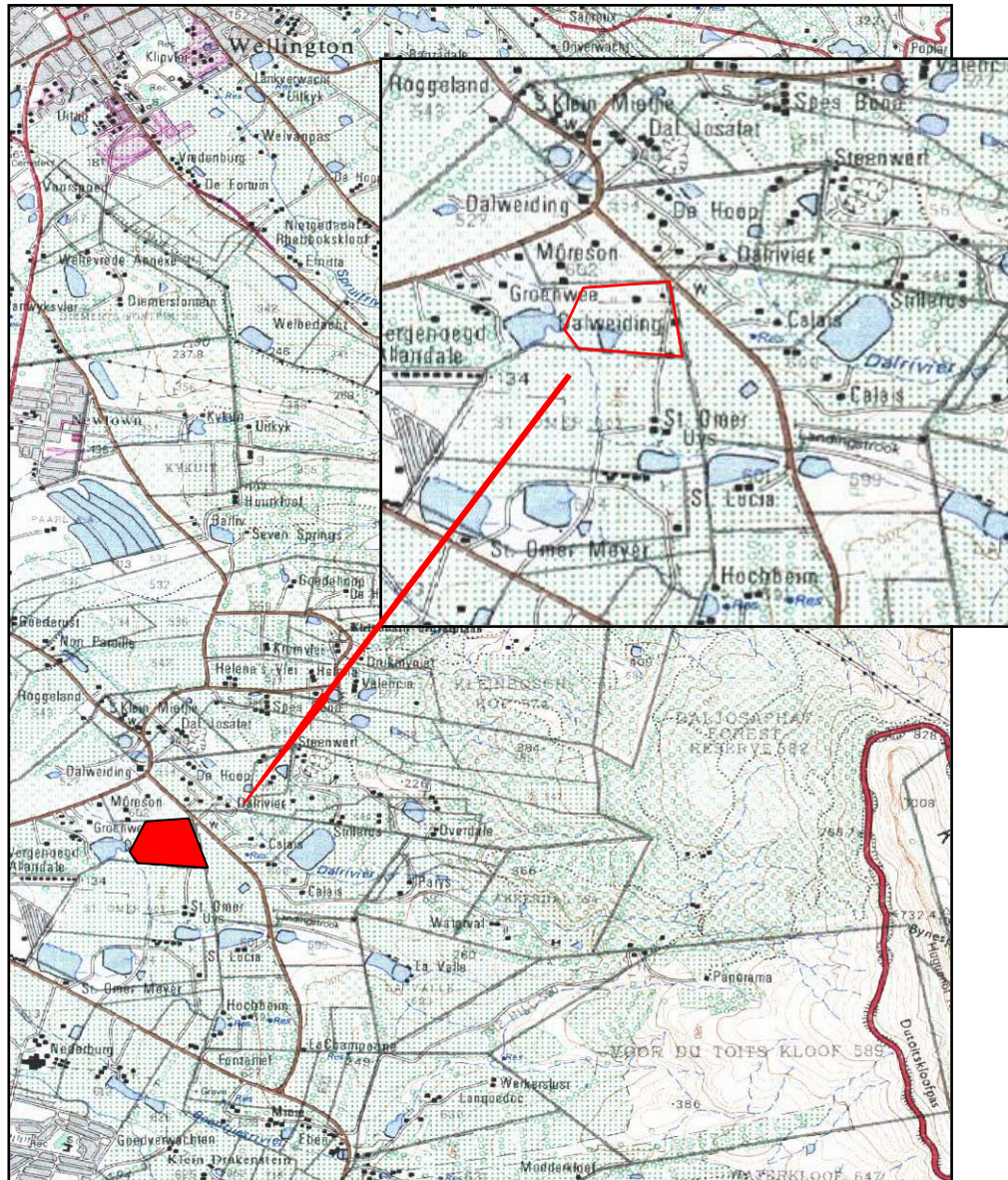


Figure 1: 1:50 000 map sheet 3319 CA Bainskloof. Inset map showing the location of the property.  
(Mapping information supplied by: Chief Directorate: Surveys and Mapping (web: [w3sl.m.gov.za](http://w3sl.m.gov.za))

## 2. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The owners of the properties are Portion 2 of 527: Mr Udo Shopgens; Portions 3 and 4 of 527: Wilhelm & Annelie Arnold Trust. Mr C de Plessis of SANDS Property Development (Pty) Ltd proposes to rezone the properties from agricultural to residential (in terms of the Drakenstein Spatial Development Framework) and sub-



divide the land for residential units. At this stage it is proposed to construct about 100 residential units with streets and associated infrastructure on Portions 2, 3 & 4 of Farm 527 which measures approximately 16 ha. It is anticipated that some 80% of the property will be taken up with the development. No designs for the development are available at this stage.

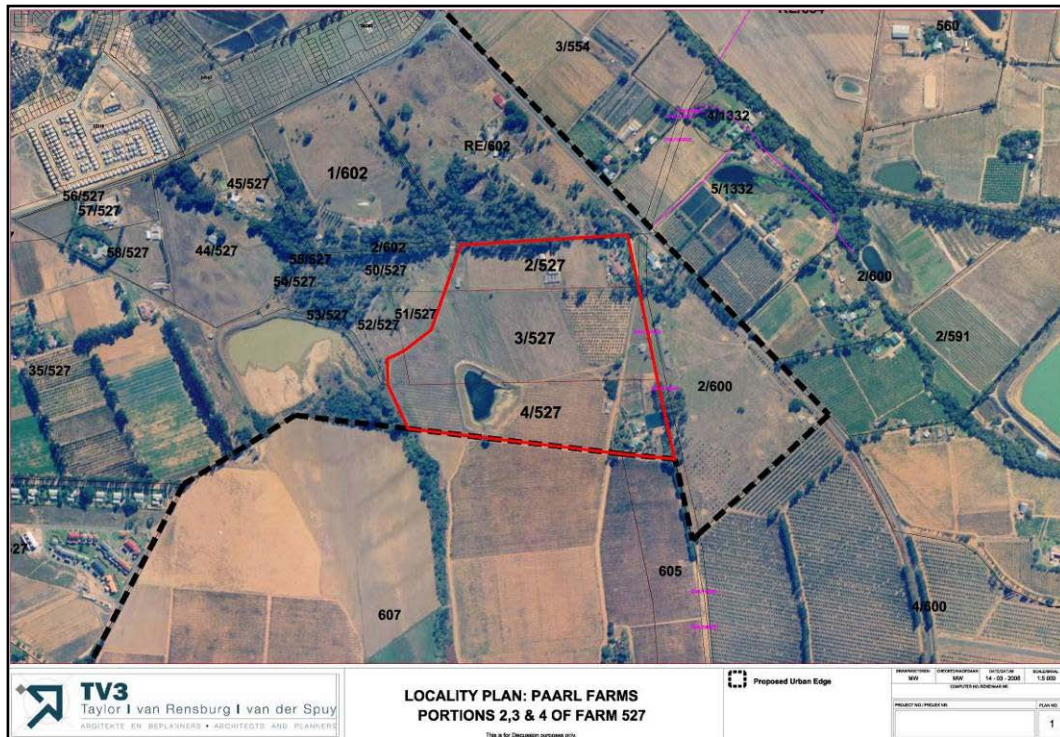


Figure 2: The location of the property along Swavelstert Road. The black dotted line indicates the interim urban edge.

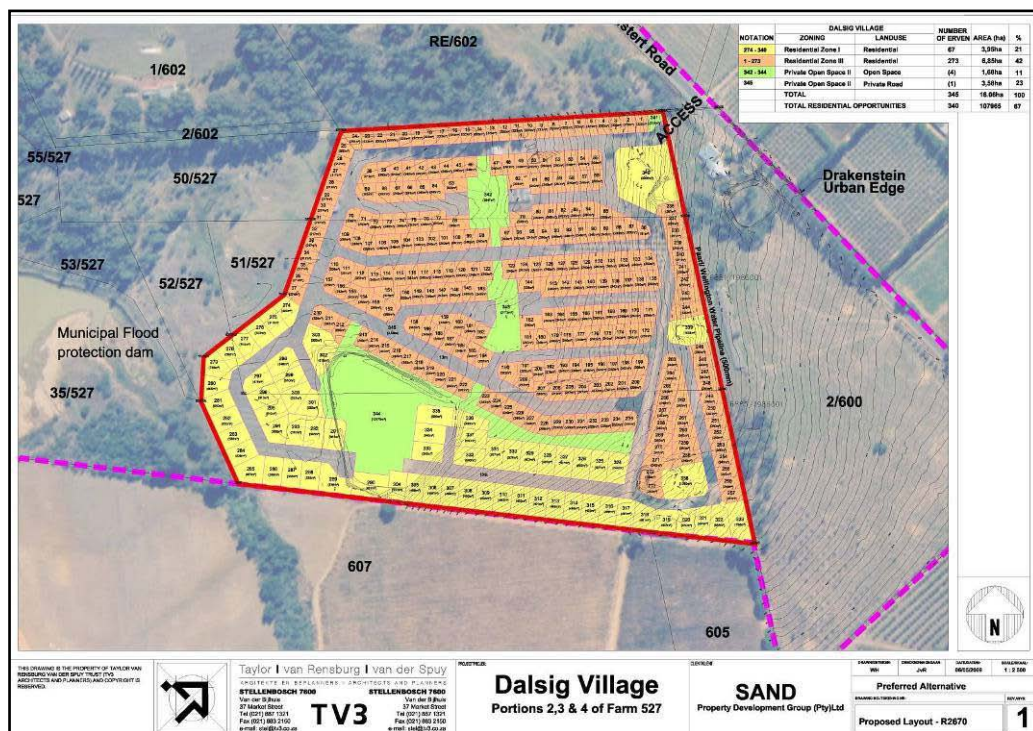


Figure 3: The layout of the residential units on Portions 2, 3 & 4 of Farm 527.

### 3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

An Archaeological Impact Assessment was requested as part of a Heritage Impact Assessment to investigate the possibility that sites might be negatively impacted by the residential development. The assessment includes:

- Identification of archaeological (prehistoric and colonial) sites through a desk top survey and site visit;
- Rating of significance of archaeological sites on the property;
- Assessment of the impact of development on the archaeology of the property;
- Recommendations for mitigation.

### 4. LEGISLATION

The National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999 (Section 38 (1)) makes provision for a compulsory notification of the intent to development when any development exceeding 5000 m<sup>2</sup> in extent, or any road or linear development exceeding 300m in length is proposed.

The NHRA provides protection for the following categories of heritage resources:

- Landscapes, cultural or natural (Section 3 (3))
- Buildings or structures older than 60 years (Section 34);
- Archaeological Sites, palaeontological material and meteorites (Section 35);
- Burial grounds and graves (Section 36);
- Public monuments and memorials (Section 37);
- Living heritage (defined in the Act as including cultural tradition, oral history, performance, ritual, popular memory, skills and techniques, indigenous knowledge systems and the holistic approach to nature, society and social relationships) (Section 2 (d) (xxi)).

### 5. BACKGROUND TO THE FARM

According to Clift (in Bauman and Winter 2004), the Berg River formed the eastern frontier of the newly established Colony up until 1690, when the early Huguenots were granted land on the east bank on condition that the VOC would not be responsible for their personal safety. Apparently, Francois du Toit, the owner of Schoongezicht in 1723, “successfully drove off belligerent Khoikhoi hordes determined to defend their time-honoured grazing lands in the Dal Josafat area from encroaching white civilisation” (Simons & Proust 2000).

The first farms in the Paarl valley were awarded by Governor Simon van der Stel in 1687. The first farms in the Dal Josafat valley were awarded in 1692, and the area was settled mainly by Huguenots. The Dal Josafat area is closely associated with the development of the Afrikaans language, as the Society of True Afrikaners had its origins in the area. *The history of the farms Dalweiding and St Omer will be addressed in the Heritage Assessment.*



### 5.1 Archaeological Background

A number of archaeological surveys have been conducted in the area as part of impact assessments and some general comments may be made.

There are many reports, some dating back to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, of scattered Early Stone Age implements in the Cape Winelands Area. These are made on quartzite river cobbles and may include handaxes and cleavers which were initially first recognised on river terraces above the Eerste River in Stellenbosch. These ESA sites are often found near pans and rivers. According to Kaplan (2006) "Acheulian tools are also commonly found on mountain slopes, in degraded areas such as slope washes, cuttings, river gravels, vineyards, and in ploughed fields". Kaplan (2006) reports on Later Stone Age tools in the Spes Bona/Durbanville area, while a few ESA and MSA tools were also recorded in the floodplain of the Mosselbank River. ESA tools and a LSA silcrete quarry have been found on the farm Groot Fisantekraal, alongside the R43. In most cases, the tools occur in a severely disturbed and degraded context.

Halkett & Webley (2009) have reported on ephemeral scatters of Early, Middle and Later Stone Age material on the farm Roggeland, which is located near to Farm 527. These were all recovered from ploughed lands and were patently not *in situ*.

## 6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The property was visited by Dave Halkett and Lita Webley on the 21 August and by Lita Webley on the 25 August. The survey was conducted by vehicle and on foot, and a Garmin GPS unit was used to record sites and track ways.

Portions 2, 3 and 4 of the Farm 527 have been significantly transformed by farming activities over the period of 300 years. There are at least three building complexes with associated sheds and transformed backyards/gardens (Plates 2 & 7). The landscape includes areas under pasture (kikuyu grass) which have been used for grazing cattle, a paddock under kikuyu used for horses (Plate 6), a recently ploughed field, vineyards, olive orchards, fallow land with evidence of recent dumping of material (Plate 3) and areas under dense Port Jackson. The central section of the farm contained until recently, a large shed (Figure 4). This was presumably for extracting the grape seed oil which the family was involved in. The shed has been removed but there are dumps of detritus in its place (Plate 4).



Plate 1: General view of the property looking north-west.

## 7. SURVEY METHODS

The AIA is concerned with archaeological remains relating to both the pre-colonial and colonial past. It was relatively easy to undertake the survey in the ploughed lands and vineyards. However, there were a number of limitations to a thorough investigation.

### 7.1 Limitations

Heavy rains were experienced in the area during the previous week and the soil surface, particularly around the dam, was extremely marshy and covered by at least 5cm of standing water. It was not possible to determine whether this was due to poor drainage or to a leaking dam. The southern and south-western sections of the property are also under dense stands of Port Jackson. Also, Portion 2 of the farm 527 (Figure 2) could not be surveyed as contact details for the owner could not be contacted in time to obtain permission for the survey. However, this property is entirely covered in dense kikuyu grass used for a horse paddock and it is not anticipated that any archaeological remains will be identified from this area (Plates 6 & 7).



Plate 2: Vegetation cover around the one dwelling on the property. Plate 3: Large dumps of river soils with cobbles; Port Jackson stands in the background.



Plate 4: Dumps from recent grape seed extract activities. Plate 5: The marshy area around the dam.





Plates 6 & 7: The paddocks and house on Portion 2 of the farm 527.



Figure 4: The area encircled in blue contained a shed on this Google image. However, the shed has since been demolished and heaps of organic material remains. The area hatched in green represents very marshy soil.

## 8. RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

No Stone Age archaeological remains of any description were found on the property (Portions 2, 3 or 4 of Farm 527). Only two much abraded flaked stone cobbles were found on the adjoining property of Farm 2/600.



The built environment consists of a number of dwellings and sheds related to agricultural practices and these will be examined as part of the HIA. The structures all appear to be very recent, dating to within the last 60 years. There are no ruins or any evidence of earlier buildings.

There are no graves or cemeteries on the property. I was able to talk to one of the farm workers living on the property, and he confirmed that there are no graves on the property.

## **9. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

A survey of the property confirms that there are no visible archaeological remains. It is possible that during earth moving activities, sub-surface archaeological remains may be uncovered. Based on the types of ephemeral stone tool scatters found on adjoining properties, it is anticipated that isolated Early, Middle or Later Stone Age implements may be uncovered. These are not considered to be significant.

It is also possible that human remains may be uncovered in unmarked graves although this seems unlikely in view of the history of the property; i.e. its primary use for agricultural purposes. If human remains are uncovered during development, earth moving activities in the vicinity should be stopped immediately and Heritage Western Cape should be notified.

## **10. REFERENCES**

Clift, H. 2004. Historical Overview for Bauman & Winter: Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for Paarl Mountain Waste Water Treatment Works.

Finnegan, E. & Halkett, D. 2007. Heritage Impact Assessment of proposed development of Klapmuts Hills, Klapmuts.

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Simons, PB & Proust A. 2000. Cape Dutch Houses and other old favourites. Fernwood Press: Vlaeberg.