

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: DALSIG
DEVELOPMENT ON PORTION 2 OF THE FARM 600 (CALAIS & ST
OMER), PAARL DISTRICT, WESTERN CAPE**

Prepared for:

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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 of the farm 600 (Calais & St Omer) 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. No plans or designs are available for Farm 600 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, Franschoek 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. Dense grass cover under the olive orchards, meant that the soil surface could only be examined closely in the vineyards.

Two isolated and abraded stone tools were recovered in the vineyard. The built environment consists of a dwelling in the western end of the property which is currently occupied by farm workers. This building will be examined as part of the HIA. 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 the property, 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 of the farm 600 (Calais & St Omer) (Figure 1) in the Dal Josafat Valley, located between Paarl and Wellington. The northern border of the property is Swawelstraat.

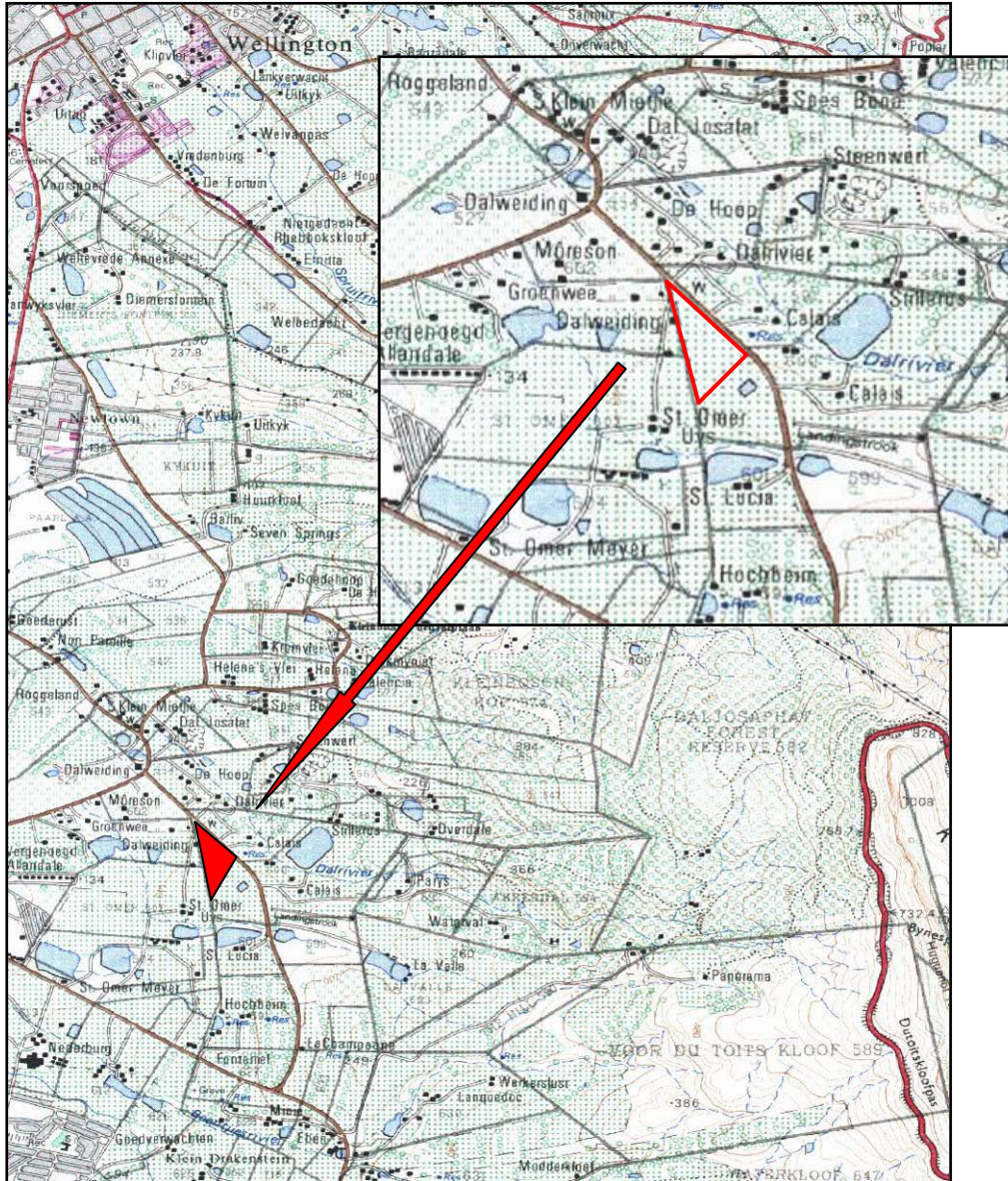


Figure 1: 1:50 000 map sheet 3319 CA Bainskloof. Inset map showing the location of the property. (Mapping information supplied by: Chief Directorate: Surveys and Mapping (web: w3sli.wcape.gov.za)

2. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The owner of the property is Mr Pieter de Bod. Mr C de Plessis of SANDS Property Development (Pty) Ltd proposes to rezone the property from agricultural to residential (in terms of the Drakenstein Spatial Development Framework) and sub-

divide the land for residential units. No designs for the development are available at this stage.

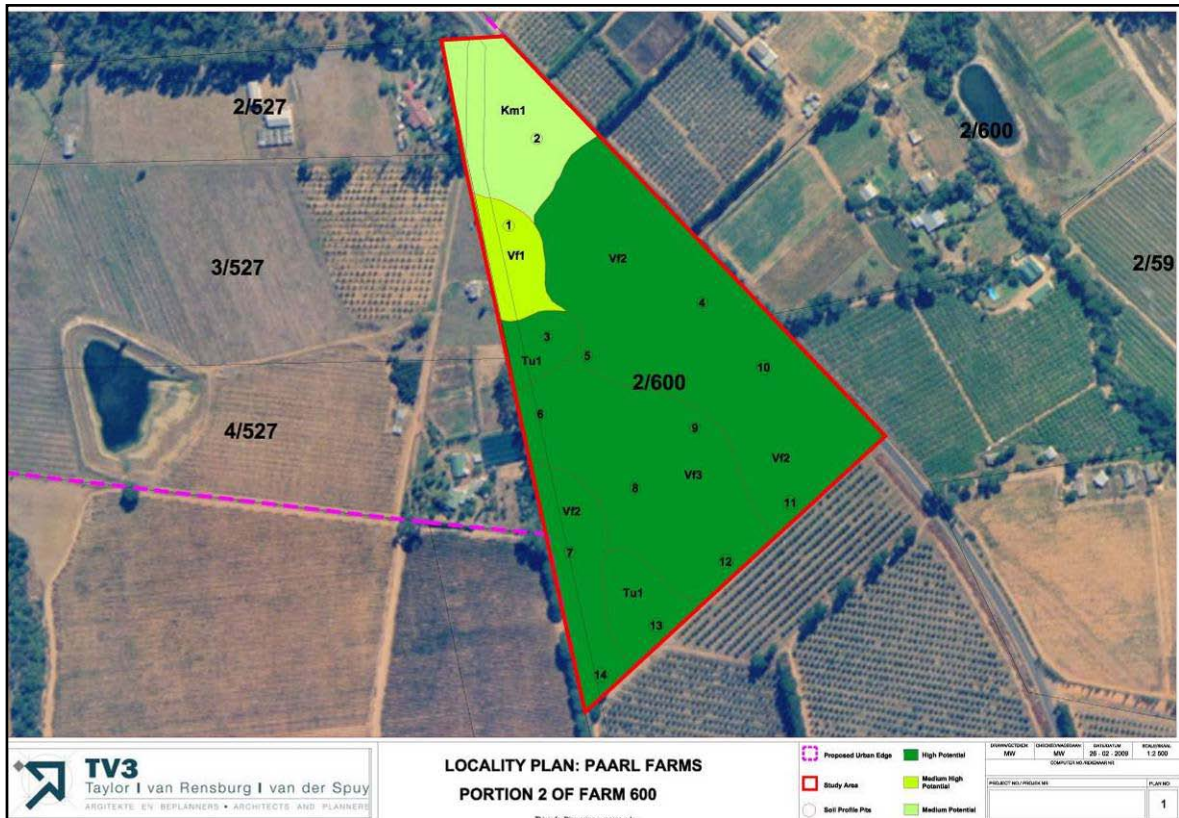


Figure 2: The location of the property along Swavelstert Road.

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 m² 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 20th 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.

Portion 2 of the Farm 600 have been significantly transformed by farming activities. The land is covered in vineyards and olive orchards. There is a dwelling in western corner, which is currently occupied by farm workers. Adjoining this house is a small earthen dam, which is not visible on Figure 2, but is visible on the Google image (Figure 3). Discussions were held with Mr Pieter de Bod and he explained that he had owned the property since around the 1980s. At this stage it was under pasture and used for grazing cattle. It was discovered to be unsuitable for livestock and he told me that he “ripped” up the land to a depth of 1m to remove the pasture. He then planted olive orchards and vineyards. The area surrounding the earthen dam had been covered in olive trees, but he had discovered that they were not doing well, and so he had removed them.

The ground between the vineyards was covered in debris, including fragments of asbestos, concrete chips, plastic and an enormous amount of bone fragments. The bone fragments all had signs of cut marks. Mr de Bod explained that the dwelling currently occupied by the farm workers was located on the site of an old butchery, and this explained the presence of the bone fragments.



Plate1: Vineyards in the western portion of the property; Plate 2: Olive orchards in the eastern portion.

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 vineyards.

7.1 Limitations

There were no serious impediments to the archaeological survey. However, after heavy winter rains, the ground under the olive trees was covered in short grass which made examining the soil surface difficult.



Figure 3: Google image showing the borders of Farm 2/600, the position of the olive orchards and vineyards and the location of the earthen dam (inside the blue circle). The worker's dwelling is located next to the dam.



Plate 3: The earthen dam and farm worker's house in the background.

8. RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

Two abraded, flaked quartzite stone cobbles were found in the vineyards. They appear to be of Early Stone Age origins although it is difficult to be definitive.



Plates 4 & 5: Two flaked quartzite cobbles.

GPS co-ordinates:

S 33 42 21.5
E 19 01 00.1

S 33 42 17.3
E 19 00 58.4

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 some ephemeral scatters of flaked quartzite cobbles, possibly of Early Stone Age origin. It is possible that during earth moving activities more sub-surface archaeological remains may be uncovered. 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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