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**INITIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL STATEMENT:
PORTION 5 OF GLENDIRK FARM ERF 10373
CONSTANTIA**

Prepared for

HOLTMANN OLDEN & ASSOCIATES TOWN & REGIONAL PLANNERS

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Prepared by

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Executive summary

The Archaeology Contracts Office of the University of Cape Town was appointed by Holtmann Olden & Associates Town and Regional Planners to conduct an archaeological assessment of a proposed subdivision (portion 5) of Glendirk Farm (*Erf 10373*) Constantia.

The land in question situated at the south west corner of the farm was identified during a Heritage Impact of the property as having possible archaeological significance as well as a possible association with slavery.

The site inspection has concluded that material observed on the site is likely to be associated with early 20th century farm labour. There is no evidence of any association with slavery in terms of artefactual material identified so far. The findings do not warrant revision of the development plan.

It is recommended that a second site visit is made once vegetation is cleared and that further site inspections be carried out during excavation for construction purposes.

CONTENTS

1	Introduction.....	4
1.1	The need for the project.....	4
1.2	The receiving environment.....	4
1.3	Archaeological background.....	4
2	Method.....	5
3	Findings.....	5
3.1.1	Structures and fabric.....	5
3.1.2	Archaeology and artefacts.....	6
4	Sources of risk.....	6
5	Future requirements.....	6
6	References.....	7

1 Introduction

The Archaeology Contracts Office of the University of Cape Town was appointed by HOLTSMANN OLDEN & ASSOCIATES TOWN & REGIONAL PLANNERS, to conduct a preliminary archaeological assessment of the proposed portion 5 of Glendirk Estate 10373.

The owners of the property, faced with increasing running costs which threaten the viability of the farming operation, wish to rezone up to 10 portions of land for residential purposes with a view to raising capital to conserve and maintain the bulk of the 54 hectare farm, and the historic buildings contained thereon

1.1 The need for the project

ARCON Architects & Heritage Consultants (CS Design CC) were appointed to conduct a heritage impact assessment to establish the potential impacts of the proposed activity. The preliminary findings of the study conducted by Graham Jacobs (2008) raised the possibility that a dwelling/building may have existed on what is proposed to be portion 5 of the estate (Figure 1). It was recommended that this be subject to field verification and monitoring during construction. Subsequent to this SAHRA (South African Heritage Resources Agency) required that an opinion from an archaeologist be obtained to establish if the site had any connections with the history of slavery.

1.2 The receiving environment

Jacobs (2008) reports that *“Glendirk Farm comprises 54,9 ha of strategic farmland surrounded by residential suburbs (Bishops Court, Klaassensbosch, Hohenhort and Alphen) on the edge of the Constantia Valley. It is situated between Klaassens Road to the north/northeast, the M3 (Simon Van der Stel) freeway to the east, as well as Spilhaus Avenue and Leith Road (off Alphen Drive) to the southwest. This property, together with a few other land parcels forms a more or less unbroken strip of rural green space surrounded by suburbia, extending to the southeast over the M3. It comprises the last remaining agricultural land in the area. Approximately two thirds of the site is under vines, some of which are still comparatively young. This is because the owners have only recently begun using the site for wine grape production as a means of augmenting income for maintaining the estate.”* The remaining third of the Farm is uncultivated. Hence the site is set in the heartland of a landscape of early colonial occupation of the Cape.

Portion 5 comprises of less than 1 hectare of land at the south western corner of the Farm. The land which is un-cultivated, is densely vegetated with grasses, shrubs, weeds and a number of large mature Bluegum trees. The only intact structure on the site is a cement block ramp of the kind normally used for loading trucks and trailers. Chunks of building rubble among the thicket testify to either dumping of old building material, or the demolition of a structure.

1.3 Archaeological background

Archaeological studies in the Wynberg-Constantia area are mainly limited to the archaeology of 18th and 19th century occupation, the sites of Klaassenbosch, Groot Constantia, Alphen, Bergvliet and Steenberg have all been subject to archaeological investigation, however little of this has been published in formal journals. Due to the intense use of this area during colonial times, very little by way of pre-colonial archaeology has survived or been identified. There are anecdotal accounts of Early Stone Age hand axes being observed in the

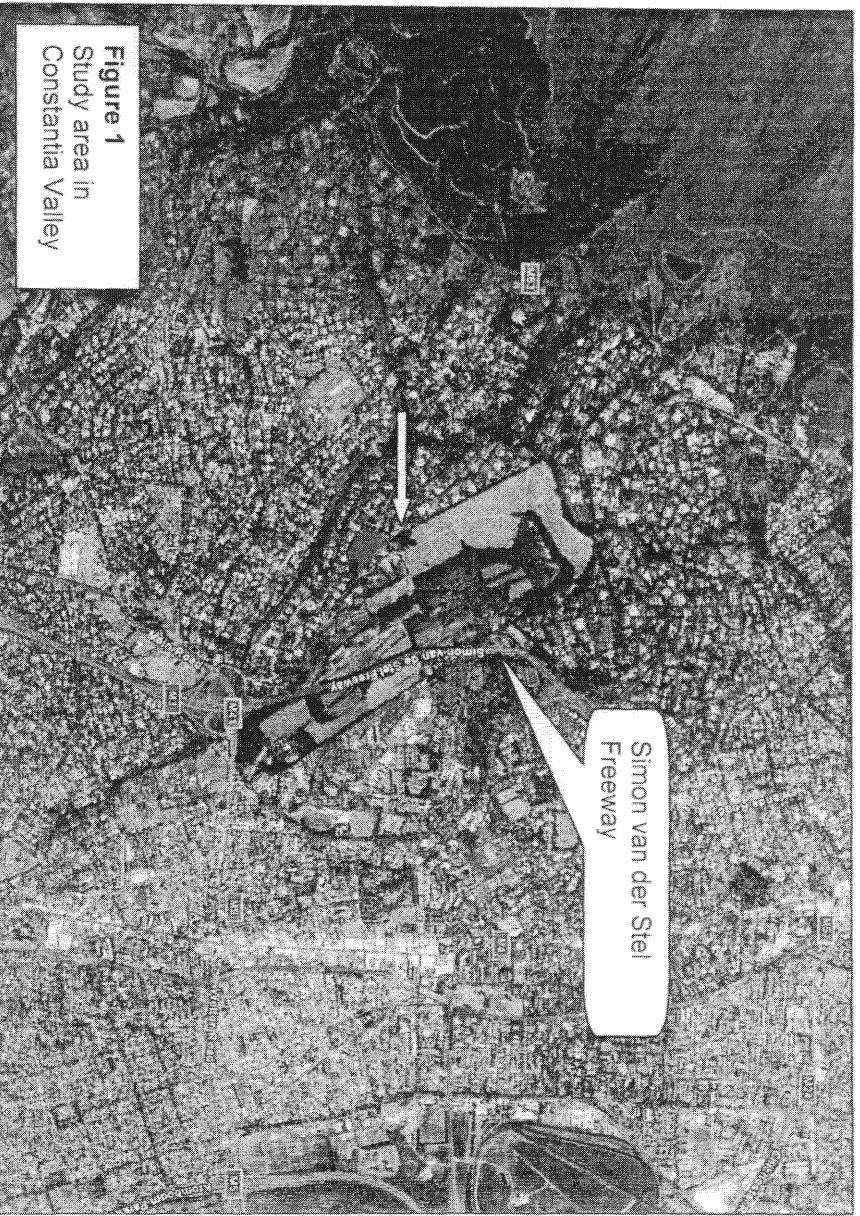


Figure 1
Study area in
Constantia Valley

Constantia Valley, however this has never been confirmed by the author.

Glendirk Estate has never been subject to prior archaeological assessment.

2 Method

Portion 5 was inspected by Archaeologists Tim Hart and Jayson Orton. No trial excavations were undertaken. Visible land surface was searched for any signs of archaeological material. Restrictions posed by dense vegetation inhibited our ability to establish whether ruins or foundations are present – this would require a major site clearing operation. Ground surface was visible in places which allowed examination of the material lying on parts of the site.

3 Findings

3.1.1 Structures and fabric

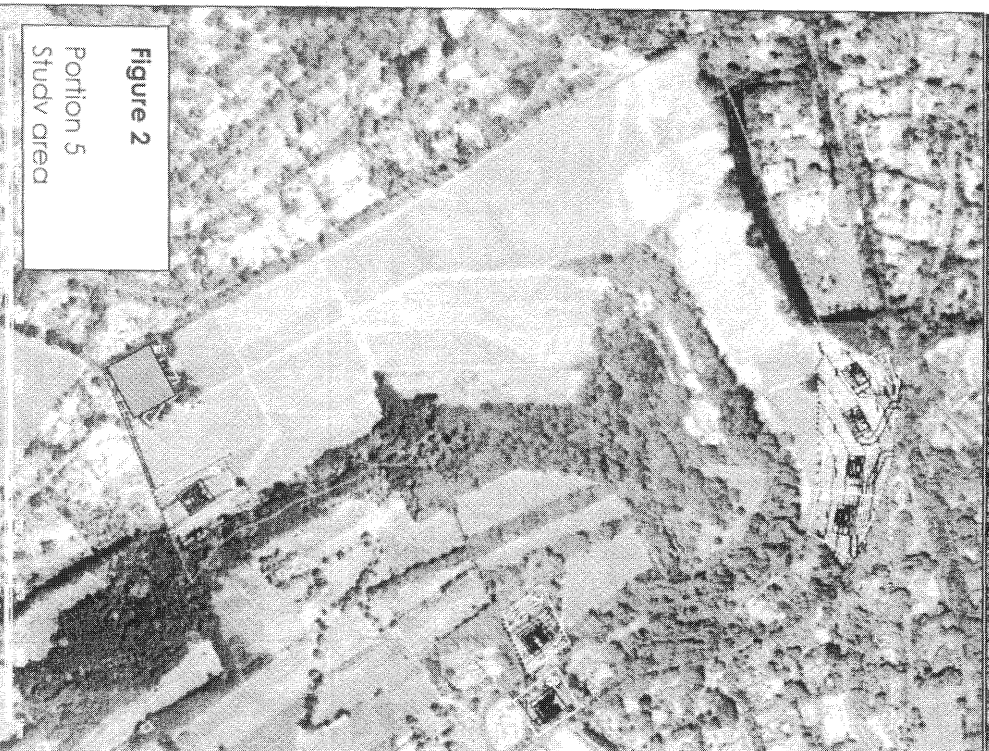


Figure 2
Portion 5
Study area

The only standing structure observed on the property was a cargo ramp of 20th century construction (Plate 1). Cement blocks and bricks were abundant throughout the study area,

however all of this material is of 20th century origin. Within the confines of the limited visibility on site, no building fabric that could be attributed to the early 18th or early 19th century was observed.

3.1.2 Archaeology and artefacts

A great many artefacts were observed on the study area – this consisted of mainly fragments of clear glass, bottle glass and ceramics (Plate 3). The relative paucity of plastic material indicates the material accumulated at the latest in the earlier half of the 20th century. The ceramics are dominated by European industrial wares typical of the early 20th century, or at the very earliest, late 19th century. The abundance of material is indicative of the fact that structures occupied by farm workers/staff/byworkers existed in or close to the study area. The material visible on the site is the litter and domestic garbage resulting from the period of occupation.

No material attributable to the 18th or early 19th century was observed given the restrictions of limited ground surface visibility. Indications to date are that while the site may be associated with 20th century farm labour, there is no evidence to suggest that it played a role in the history of slavery in the Constantia Valley.

4 Sources of risk

- The presence of early 20th century domestic waste on the site indicates the likelihood that people were living on the site, or very close to it. It therefore stands to reason that foundations and building fabric may be exposed during future construction activities. It is not expected that this material will be as unique or significant as to warrant an obstacle to the proposal. It is doubtful as to whether much of the material is greater than 100 years of age and therefore may not be considered to be protected archaeology.
- It is nevertheless important that when site clearing commences, an archaeologist makes a second site visit to determine if any structures exist, and what their ages are.
- A further source of risk is the possible presence of human remains. The regulation of human burial places was only enforced in the latter half of the 20th century in South Africa. Before this, rural communities established their own places of burial – simple clusters of pauper's graves that were so ephemeral that almost all traces of their presence disappears after a few decades. All human graves and remains are protected by various sets of legislation. While exhumation is possible, the permitting procedures are lengthy and will result in delays to construction programs.

5 Future requirements

- It is recommended that site preparation is done in a systematic way in that unwanted vegetation is cleared, preferably by hand before construction commences.
- Once vegetation is cleared and before construction commences, the site is inspected by an archaeologist.
- The site should be inspected during construction, especially during earthworks and laying of services.

- In the event of human remains being found, the following procedure applies:
 - 1) leave the remains in place, nothing should be moved
 - 2) Cordon off the area
 - 3) Call Ms Mary Leslie at SAHRA (021 4624509)
 - 4) Contact an archaeologist
 - 5) Once an archaeologist has examined the find, the archaeologist/SAHRA should contact SA Police services and the state pathologist to report human remains
 - 6) If the human remains are found to be a legitimate burial or a pre-colonial burial, an emergency exhumation permit will be issued by SAHRA or HWC
 - 7) If a crime is suspected, a police docket will need to be opened.

6 References

Jacobs, G 2008 Draft 3: HIA Report: Proposed Subdivision and Rezoning at Glen Dirk Farm, Erf 10373 Constantia.

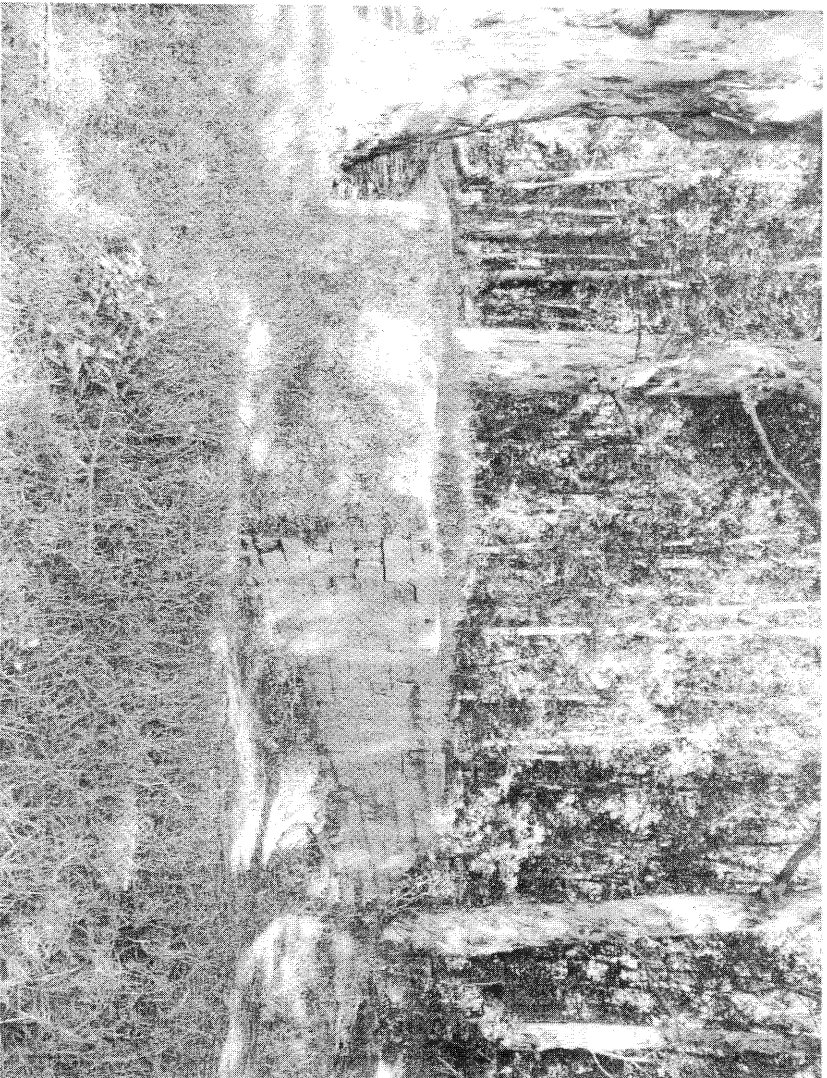


Plate 1: View of the loading ramp -- the only standing structure in the study area..

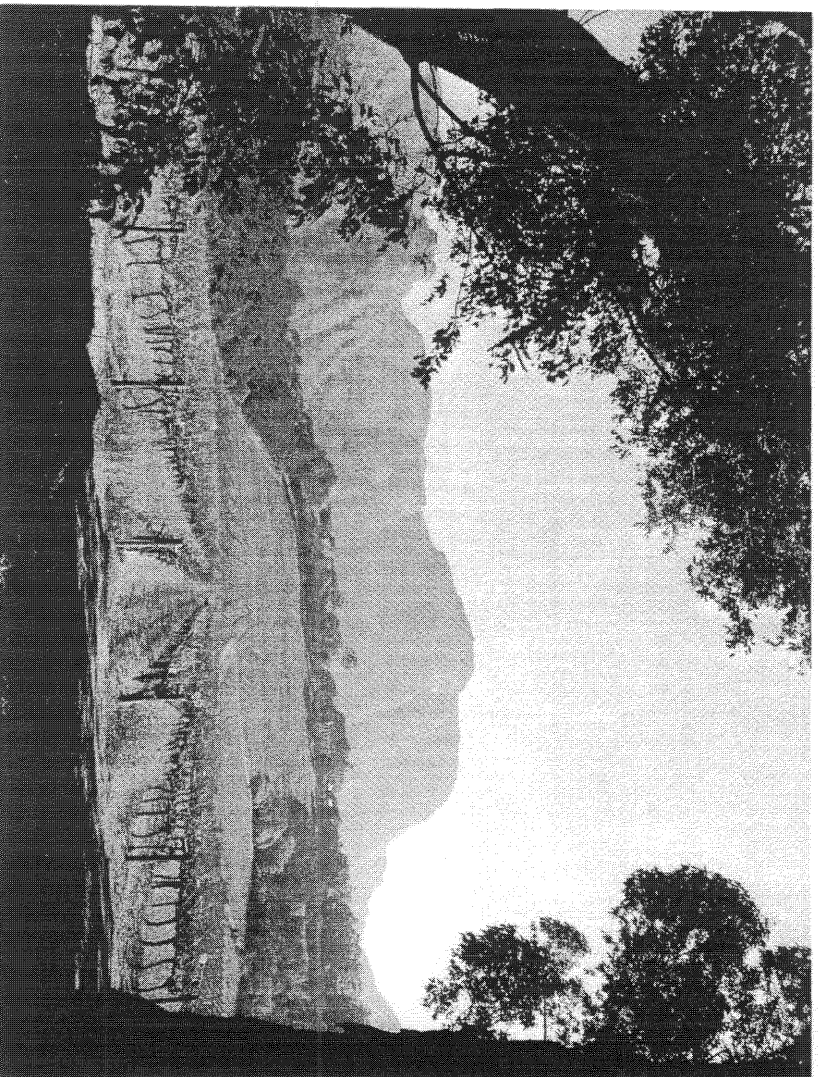


Plate 2: View from the study area to the north.



Plate 3: Clear glass, bottle glass and ceramics litter the study area (typical).

