

## Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment

**Project Title: Graafwater Low Cost Housing Development.**

Proposal to develop 269 formal low cost housing erven, 40 GAP house erven, crèche, church, open spaces and roads on 9 ha of Erf 37 of the town Graafwater, Western Cape.

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**Land Owner:**

Cederberg Municipality. Contact Person: Mr Gerrit Matthuyse, PB X2, Clanwilliam 8135. Tel: 027 482 8000. Fax: 027 482 1933. email: [gerritm@cederbergraad.co.za](mailto:gerritm@cederbergraad.co.za)

**Municipal Jurisdiction:**

Cederberg Municipality. Contact Person: Mr Matthuyse as above.

**Date: 15 September 2008**



**Figure 1. Location of the Erf 37 on the northern side of the town of Graafwater (S 32°09'05.37": E 18°36'00.90". 1:50 000 sheet 3218 BA Graafwater).**

**Executive Summary**

A survey of the heritage resources on some 9 ha of vacant municipal land, Erf 37 Graafwater, to be used for low cost housing was undertaken. Sand mining has extensively disturbed the property. There are no significant archaeological, palaeontological or other heritage resources that will be impacted by the development. However, on the adjoining farm against the northwest corner of Erf 37 is a farm cemetery with some 30 graves. The proximity to the proposed development puts the cemetery at risk of vandalism and the report recommends the Cederberg Municipality as developer initiate measures for its protection. The report is part of a Basic Assessment EIA process.

### Background Information

The development will involve the construction of 269 low cost housing erven, 40 GAP house erven, 1 creche erven, 1 church erven, 7 public space erven and roads (Figs. 2-3). The physical footprint of the development including access roads and infrastructure will be 9.07 ha.

This report is part of a Basic Assessment EIA process.



**Figure 2. Satellite view of Erf 37 Graafwater showing sand mining activity in the central portion.**

### Archaeological Background

There are no major archaeological or palaeontological sites in proximity to the property. However, the possibility of the occurrences of such heritage resources at this location has been considered.

## **Description of the property**

The proposed development will be on vacant land that has been disturbed by sand mining (Figs. 2 & 4).

On the south side of the Erf there is middle-income residential development, on the east side there is mixed light engineering and residential development and on the northwest farmland.

## **Methodology**

The property was traversed and exposures and surface disturbances were examined for archaeological, palaeontological and other heritage materials.

## **Observations and Results**

No heritage resources were observed on the property but associated with it and lying against the northwest corner is a cemetery (32° 09' 08.21" S; 18° 35' 53.37" E). The cemetery is on the adjacent property but the proximity to the area to be developed means it will be impacted (Figs. 5-7).

A low wall on which a wire netting fence has been erected outlines the cemetery. The fence has been cut so access is open. It is estimated there are some 30 graves. The graves are in various styles, formal and informal, elaborate and simple (Fig. 7). They would represent both farm owners and employees. Names on the gravestones include Van Zyl 1875-1925, Geusty 1886-1969 and Basson 1861-1925. Van Zyl appears on several of the graves and the southern boundary of Erf 37 is the Erasmus van Zyl road suggesting this is a known local family with links to the people buried in the cemetery. The cemetery is unkempt and overgrown. It needs rehabilitation.

## **Sources of Risk and Statement of Significance**

It is unlikely that development will impact on any heritage resources on Erf 37 itself and there the risks are considered low and the significance is rated as low.

The main risk is to the cemetery on the adjoining property on the northwest corner which if not adequately protected will suffer negative impacts through vandalism as a result of this development. As a graveyard it is significant and protected in the legislation.

## **Recommended Mitigations**

It is recommended that the Cederberg Municipality, as land owner and developer, in consultation with any identifiable descendents of families buried in the farm cemetery take the initiative and if necessary bear the cost of erecting an enclosing metal security fence at the cemetery and initiate its rehabilitation.

A general recommendation is that should any excavations by chance uncover buried palaeontological or archaeological materials including human remains that Heritage Western Cape is notified (Ms Celeste Booth, Heritage Resource Management Services, HWC, Private Bag X9067, Cape Town 8000, Tel:021 483 9743, Fax:021 483 9842,

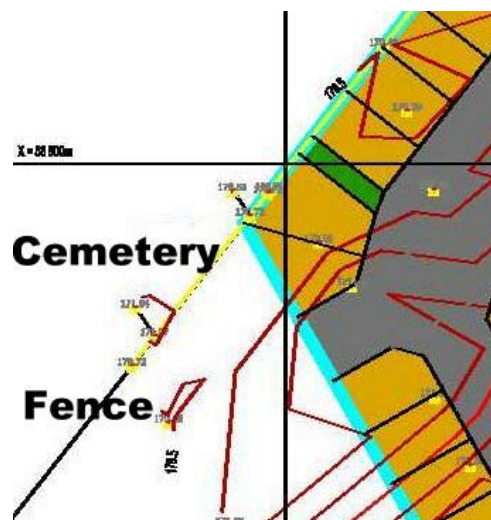




**Figure 4. Ground surface disturbed by sand mining**



**Figure 5. Cemetery dimensions and relationship to fence line**



**Figure 6. Position of cemetery in relation to the proposed development**



**Figure 7. Cemetery showing three different styles of graves**