

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
HARBOUR VIEW INDUSTRIAL PARK
SALDANHA BAY**

Portion 9 of Farm No. 957, Malmesbury

Prepared for:

ENVIRO LOGIC

Att: Mr Gert Pretorius
P.O. Box 3731
Tyger Valley
7536

On behalf of

FAST PULSE TRADING 63 (PTY) LTD

By

Jonathan Kaplan
Agency for Cultural Resource Management
P.O. Box 159
Riebeeck West
7306
Ph/Fax: 022 461 2755
Cellular: 082 321 0172
E-mail: acrm@waccess.co.za

**AUGUST
2007**

Executive summary

Enviro Logic requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed industrial, office park and business development on Portion 9 of Farm No. 957, in Saldanha Bay.

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological sites that may be impacted by the planning and construction of the proposed project, to assess the significance of the potential impacts and to propose measures to mitigate against the impacts.

A Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist has been completed by the archaeologist and submitted to HWC Belcom for comment.

The following findings were made:

- Apart from a few fragments of 'fresh' Black Mussel shell, no pre-colonial archaeological heritage remains were documented on the proposed site.
- Possible, last interglacial late Pleistocene fossil beach deposits were documented in heavily disturbed agricultural lands on the subject property.

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to the proposed development activities.

Unmarked pre-colonial human burials may be uncovered during earthmoving operations.

Last interglacial late Pleistocene beach deposits may be exposed during trenching for services.

Vertebrate fossils may also be exposed or uncovered should excavations penetrate underlying limestone or associated sediments.

With regard to the proposed development on Portion 9 of the Farm No. 957 Malmesbury (Saldanha Municipality) the following recommendations are made.

- A specialist palaeontologist must be appointed to inspect and examine excavations and exposures for ancient raised beach deposits, and possible vertebrate fossils (bones) during the construction phase of the project. It may also be necessary to sample and date some of the fossil beach deposits.
- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations and earthworks for the proposed project, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie @ 021 462 4502), or Heritage Western Cape (Mr N. Ndlovu 021 483 9692).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Enviro Logic, on behalf of Fast Pulse Trading 63 (Pty) Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed development on Portion 9 of Farm No. 957 Malmesbury (Saldanha Bay Municipality), on the Cape West Coast.

The proposed rezoning of the property from Agriculture to Sub Divisional area provides for the establishment of Industrial erven, Business erven, Office Park erven, Public Open Space erven and associated infrastructure such as internal streets and services.

The extent of the proposed development (nearly 30 ha) falls within the requirements for an archaeological impact assessment as required by Section 38 of the South African Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological heritage sites and remains that may be negatively impacted by the planning and construction of the proposed project, to assess the significance of the potential impacts and to propose measures to mitigate against the impacts.

A 'Notification of Intent to Develop' (NID) checklist has been completed by the archaeologist and submitted to Heritage Western Cape, Built Environment and Landscape Committee (BELCOM) for comment.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

1. to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites within the proposed site;
2. to identify any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed site;
3. to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites;
4. to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development; and
5. to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist within the proposed site.

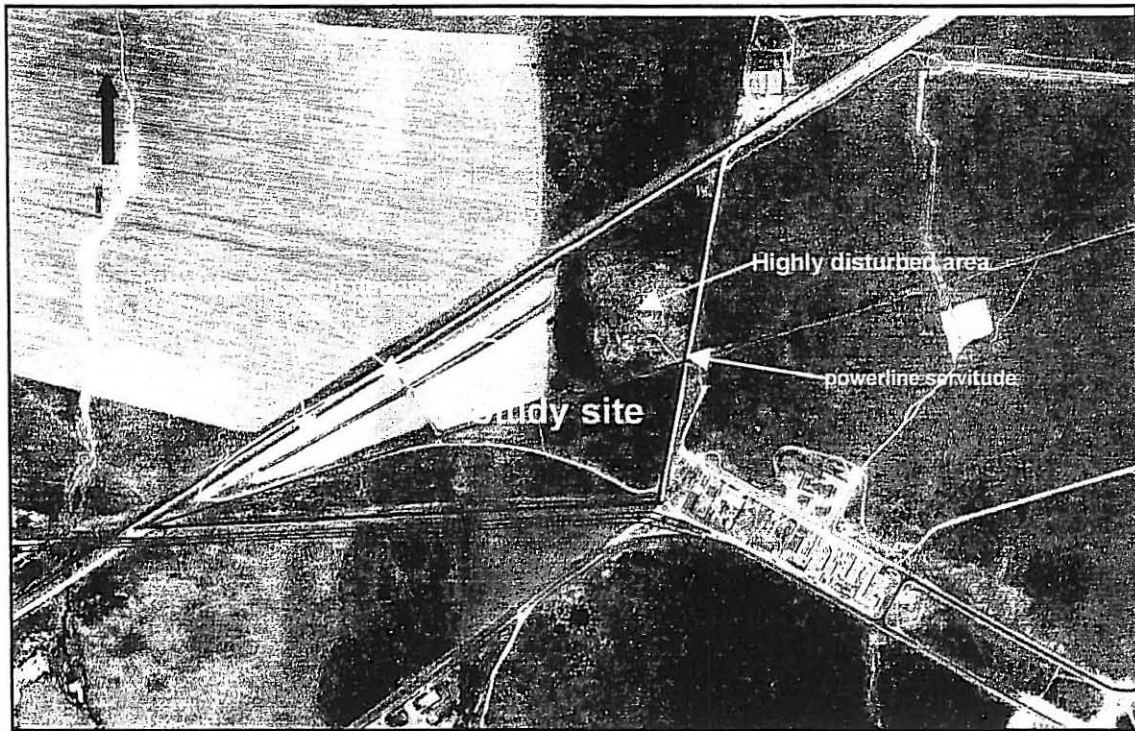


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site



Figure 3. View of the site facing north east

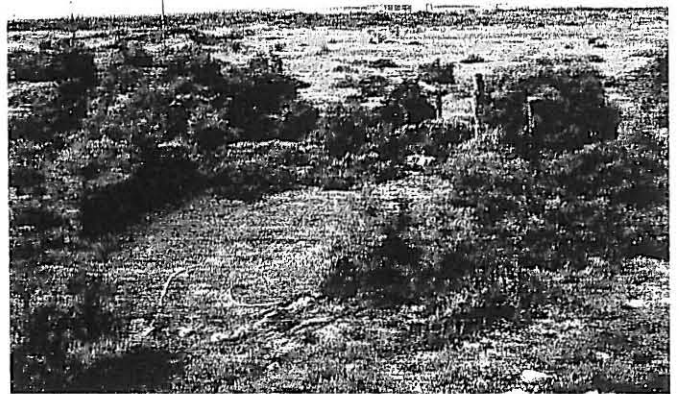


Figure 4. View of the site facing south east

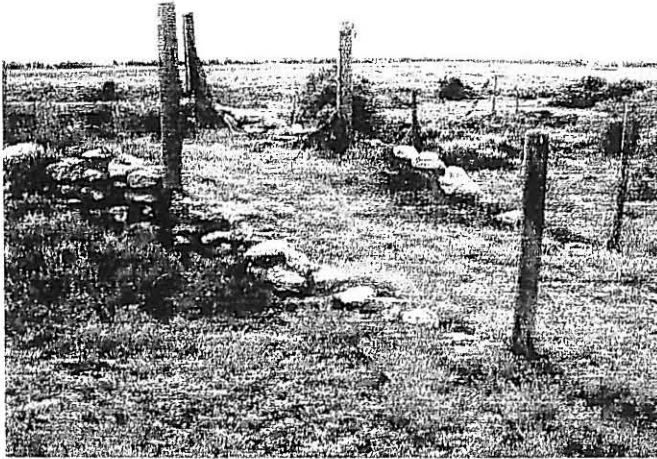


Figure 11. Packed stone feature. View of the site facing north east

4. STUDY APPROACH

4.1 Method

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a foot survey of the proposed site.

Consulting palaeontologist Dr John Pether was consulted.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 24th July, 2007

A desktop study was also undertaken.

4.2 Constraints and limitations

There were no major constraints or limitations associated with the study. However, the south eastern portion of the property and portions along the southern boundary are covered in thick bush and ground cover, resulting in very low archaeological visibility.

4.3 Identification of potential risks

- Unmarked human burials may be exposed or uncovered during earthmoving operations.
- Last interglacial Pleistocene fossil beach deposits may be exposed or intersected during trenching for services.
- Important vertebrate fossils (bones) may be exposed and uncovered should bulk excavations penetrate underlying limestone deposits and associated sediments.

4.4 Results of the desk top study

Several archaeological studies have been undertaken in the surrounding area. A thin scatter of shellfish and a few Later Stone Age (LSA) stone flakes were documented on the Farm Pienaars Poort about 1.5 kms south of the proposed site (Kaplan 2006a). LSA flakes, ostrich eggshell and pottery were located in the Spreeuwal Dunes about 2.5 km south east of Blue Water Bay (Kaplan 1994). A few LSA artefacts, glass, ceramics and other domestic items were documented at Salamander Cove, a residential development about 1.5 kms south west of the proposed site (Kaplan 1997a). Middle Stone Age (MSA) and LSA flakes were documented on the Duferco Steel Mill site, less than 1 km north east of the subject property (Kaplan 1997b). MSA, and LSA tools and pottery were documented during an archaeological study and monitoring of construction activities at the nearby Saldanha Steel Plant (Kaplan 1996a). A surface collection of glass, ceramics, bone, buttons and other artefacts from a late 19th century shepherds hut (veewagterhuis) was also carried out on the Saldanha Steel site (Kaplan 1996b).

The relevant sections of the Act are briefly outlined below.

5.2 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))

No person may, without a permit issued by HWC, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object.

5.3 Burial grounds and graves (Section 36 (3))

No person may, without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years, which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority.

6. FINDINGS

An extensive but thin, scatter of fragile marine shellfish was documented in open patches of ground in the heavily worked agricultural lands in the central portion of the proposed site (refer to Figure 2). The shellfish is characterised by crushed, highly weathered and chalky shell, dominated by mainly small *Venerupis* bivalves, occasional Black Mussel (*Choromytilus meridionalis*), Ribbed Mussel (*Aulacomya ater*) White Mussel (*Donax serra*), small limpets (*Cymbula miniata*) and keyhole limpets. Most of the shellfish, however, is too fragmented and crushed to positively identify.

A few fragments of 'fresh' Black Mussel (*Choromytilus meridionalis*) was also noted in the agricultural lands, but this may possibly be related to modern seagull predation. No archaeological remains such as stone flakes, pottery, or ostrich eggshell were identified, despite a careful search of the surrounding fields.

According to consulting palaeontologist, Dr John Pether (pers. comm.), the distance of the property from the modern shoreline (about 2 kms to the south), suggests that the shellfish may be remnants of last Interglacial late Pleistocene raised beach deposits. All of the small fragments of shell on the site are water worn and edge rounded therefore suggesting an ancient raised beach scenario. According to Dr Pether (pers. comm.), these (disturbed) deposits are not in themselves considered to be significant. However, it would be important to document, map and sample the stratigraphic context of the material during the construction phase of the project, as not much is known about the composition, depth, extent and chronology of raised beach deposits from the eastern shore of Saldanha Bay.

It is also interesting to note that Holocene or possibly Last Interglacial late Pleistocene fossil beach deposits were also documented near the eastern shore of Saldanha Bay on a property less than 2 km south of the proposed site (Kaplan 2007).

9. REFERENCES

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