

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROPOSED MILKWOOD SHOPPING CENTRE

(Portion 1 of Farm 572 Hoek Van der Berg, Hawston)

Prepared for:

Plan Active

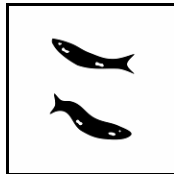
Att: Mr P.J. Lerm
PO Box 296
Hermanus
7200

Email: pj.planactive@gmail.com

On behalf of:

WEKITA ONE (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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Plan Active (Pty) Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for a proposed regional shopping centre on Portion 1 of Farm 572 in Hawston in the Western Cape.

The proposed site is situated immediately southeast of Hawston alongside the R43 and within the Municipal draft urban edge of Hawston. The extent area of the property is about 13 ha, although the total footprint of the shopping centre will be 3.81 ha. This includes parking for about 2000 cars, and associated infrastructure including access roads and engineering services. The property currently has an Undetermined Zoning.

More than 90% of the site is infested with alien vegetation, resulting in extremely poor archaeological visibility. The remainder of the site is covered in thick Kikuyu grass and ground cover. There are several clusters of protected Milkwood trees that occur sporadically over the property and these will be retained within the proposed development. The surrounding land use comprises residential and commercial properties (Hawston), informal housing, Road (R43) and vacant land.

The site has been previously used as a dairy farm with some commercial and retail activities but it has not been utilised in the last 20 years. The proposed building footprint is currently occupied by a number of ruined and partially demolished derelict buildings and structures.

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

Ron Martin Heritage Consultant has been appointed to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed project.

The following findings were made:

No pre-colonial archaeological remains were documented during the study.

A thin scatter of fragmented shellfish was recorded in a small footpath deep in the alien infested southern portion of the site, but the remains appear to be modern and are associated with pieces of timber, glass fragments and bits of metal and plastic.

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

The probability of locating important archaeological remains during implementation of the proposed project is likely to be improbable.

It is highly unlikely, but unmarked pre-colonial human burials may be exposed or uncovered during earthworks and excavations. Burials may, however, be uncovered if the large dunes in the southern portion are cleared of vegetation and landscaped.

With regard to the proposed development of a regional shopping centre on Portion 1 of Farm 572 (Hoek van der Berg) in Hawston the following recommendations are made

- As a precaution, vegetation clearing operations should be monitored and/or inspected by a professional archaeologist.
- Should any unmarked human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations and earthworks, these should immediately be reported to Heritage Western Cape (Mr N. Wiltshire 483 9692). Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Plan Active, on behalf of Wekita One (Pty) Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed regional shopping centre on Portion 1 of the Farm 572 (Hoek van der Berg) in Hawston in the Western Cape.

The proposed development falls within the draft urban edge of Hawston. The property is currently zoned Undetermined and will need to be rezoned to Business Zone I in order to allow for the development to proceed. The proposed development comprises a shopping centre and associated infrastructure including engineering services, access roads off the R43 and parking for about 2000 vehicles. The total extent of the property is about 13 ha, although the total footprint of the shopping centre will only be 3.81 ha.

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

Heritage Consultant Ron Martin has been appointed to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed project.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

- to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance on the proposed site;
- to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance on the proposed site;
- to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites on the proposed site;
- to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
- to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist on the proposed site.

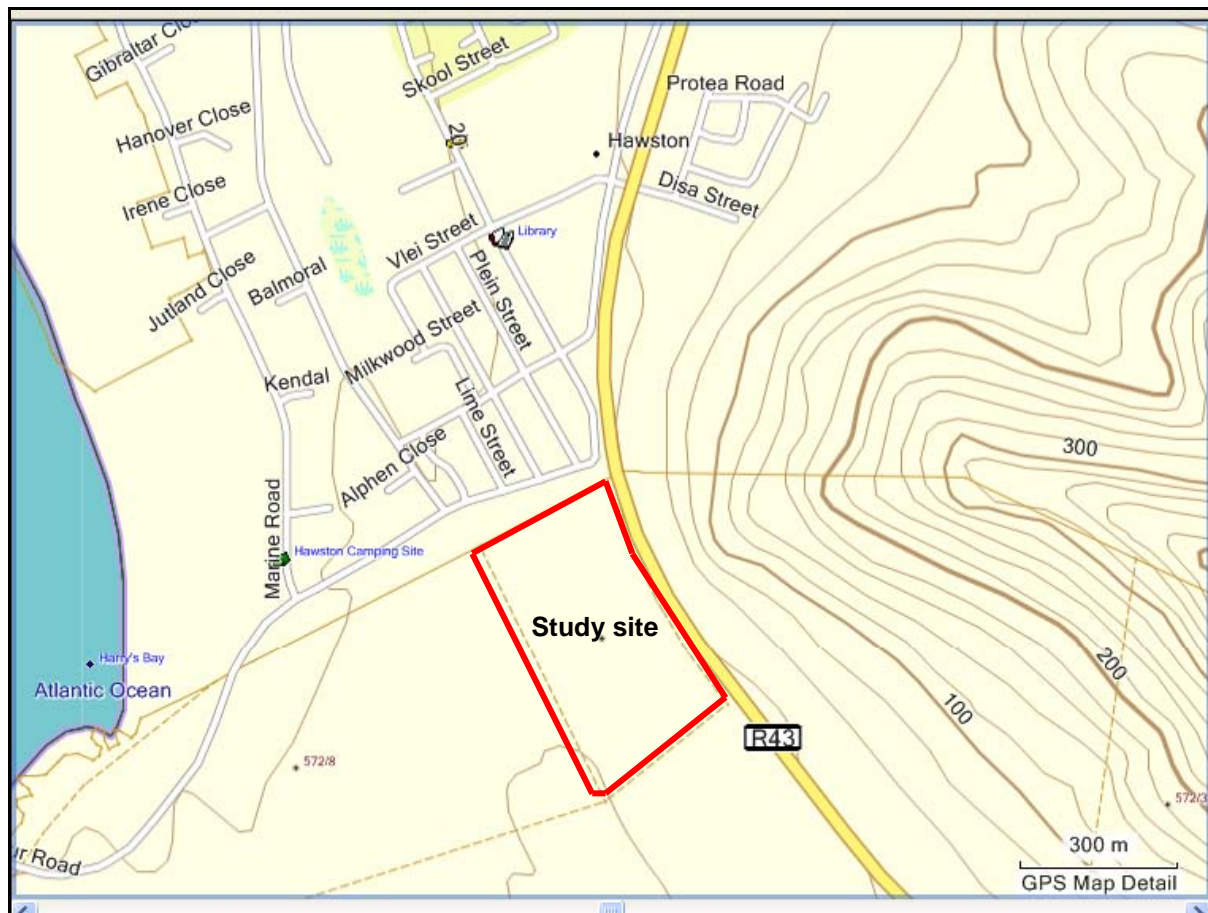
3. THE STUDY SITE

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

An aerial photograph of the proposed site is illustrated in Figure 2.

The proposed site is situated immediately southeast of Hawston alongside the R43. More than 90% of the site is infested with alien vegetation, while the remainder of the site is covered in thick Kikuyu grass and ground cover. There are several clusters of protected Milkwood trees that occur sporadically over the property and these will be retained within the proposed development. Several gravel tracks and narrow grassy paths intersect the property, while there are a few barely visible footpaths that occur among the heavily infested bush. Dune mole rat activity is also quite extensive over parts of the site.

The site has been previously used as a dairy farm with some commercial and retail activities but it has not been utilised in the last 20 years (Ron Martin pers. comm.). The proposed building footprint is currently occupied by a number of ruined and partially demolished derelict buildings and structures, surrounded by large Blue Gum trees. Dumping is quite widespread in this area. The surrounding land use comprises residential and commercial properties (Hawston), informal housing, Road (R43) and large tracts of vacant land (Figures 3-20).



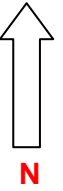


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site



Figure 3. View facing south



Figure 4. Derelict buildings



Figure 5. View facing west



Figure 9. View facing north west



Figure 6. Derelict buildings



Figure 10. View facing north west



Figure 7. View facing south west



Figure 11. View facing north west

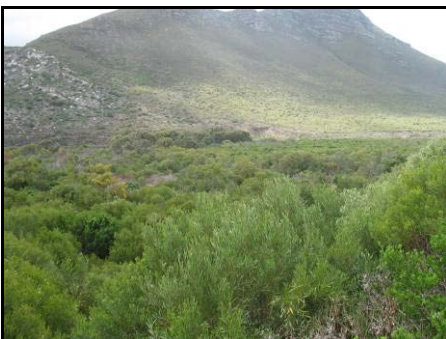


Figure 8. View facing north east



Figure 12. View facing north west



Figure 13. View facing north east



Figure 17. View facing south east



Figure 14. View facing north



Figure 18. View facing north



Figure 15. View facing north east



Figure 19. View facing south



Figure 16. View facing south



Figure 20. View facing south east

4. STUDY APPROACH

4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a foot survey of the proposed site. However, due to the extremely thick and impenetrable vegetation on the property a detailed survey of the 11.5 ha site was not possible. A more detailed assessment of the 3.8 ha development footprint was undertaken, but this area is also covered in thick Kikuyu grass and ground cover. A gravel road and sandy track was traversed alongside the northern and eastern boundary of the property respectively, and access onto the site was approached via a small, barely visible tangled footpath that runs more or less alongside the southern boundary of the property.

Where possible, the Milkwood trees were also searched as Later Stone Age (LSA) camp sites have previously been documented in Milkwood forests (Hart & Halkett 1995, Kaplan 2007, 2004).

A GPS track path of the archaeological assessment was created. The track path has been saved to CD and submitted with a digital copy of this report.

The site visit and assessment took place on 15th September, 2009.

4.2 Constraints and limitations

More than 90% of the site is infested with alien vegetation, resulting in extremely poor archaeological visibility and access too much of the site was extremely limited. The remainder of the site is covered in thick Kikuyu grass and ground cover (refer to Figures 3-20).

4.3 Identification of potential risks

There are no potential archaeological risks associated with the proposed development.

Unmarked human burials may be exposed or uncovered if the vegetated dunes in the southern portion of the site are removed, or landscaped.

4.4 Results of the desk-top study

LSA shell middens have been found along the rocky shoreline at Harry's Bay, Nuwebaai, Mudge Point (near Hawston), Vermont, Onrus River Mouth, Sandbaai, Swartdam, Schulphoekpunt, Hermanus and Voelklip (Kaplan 1993, 2004; Rudner 1968), while ancient tidal fishtraps (*visvywers*) have been recorded at Onrus River Mouth (Kaplan 1993).

Shelters provided by large Milkwood groves also provided circumstances suitable for the settlement of prehistoric people. Such sites are quite rare, but LSA camp sites, comprising shellfish, stone artefacts and pottery have been documented in a large Milkwood forest at Schulphoek Punt near Onrus (Kaplan 2004) and Hermanus (Kaplan 2007), and LSA camp sites have also been documented in Milkwood groves in Hout Bay (Tim Hart, pers. comm.). The presence of pottery on these sites indicates that people were living in the area within the last 2000 years

An AIA that was undertaken between the mouth of the Bot River and Hawston did not reveal any archaeological sites (Kaplan 2005). Research has been shown that fewer archaeological sites are aligned alongside long sandy beaches, than alongside rocky shorelines such as those that occur south of Hawston (Kaplan 1993).

Marginal scatters of ancient Early Stone Age (ESA) and Middle Stone Age stone tools have been documented on the mountain slopes immediately north of the R43 near Hawston (Kaplan 2005), while large numbers of ESA tools, including many handaxes have been documented on a large hill overlooking the Bot River estuary about 3 kilometres north west of Hawston (Kaplan 2003a). A rare LSA quarry site was also found on a farm alongside the R43 about 6 kms north of Hawston (Kaplan 2003b).

5 FINDINGS

No pre-colonial archaeological remains were documented during the study.

HWS 1: A thin scatter of fragmented shellfish was documented in a small sandy footpath deep in the vegetation infested southern portion of the site. The shellfish is dominated by fragments of limpet (some water worn), one whole *Scutellastra argenvillei* and one fragment of Operculum. The shellfish remains, however, appear to be modern as they are mixed up with pieces of timber, glass, metal items and bits of plastic (Figure 21). No stone tools or other pre-colonial cultural items were noted. The footpath soon afterward opens into a grassed area nearby a derelict building (Figure 22).

Small bits of shellfish (mainly limpets), glass, fragments of (modern) porcelain, and some domestic waste and building material was found associated with several large dune mole rat dumps closer to the derelict houses and the footprint of the proposed development.

However, no shellfish was noted among any of the dune mole rat dumps that occur over the remainder of the site, further away from the proposed development footprint.



Figure 21. HWS 1. Scale is 1.0 m



Figure 22. Derelict building

6. IMPACT STATEMENT

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

The probability of locating significant archaeological heritage remains during implementation of the proposed project is likely to be improbable.

It is highly unlikely, but unmarked human burials may be exposed or uncovered during earthworks and excavations. This may occur should the larger sand dunes in the southern portion of the property be cleared of vegetation landscaped.

7. CONCLUSION

The Archaeological Impact Assessment of a proposed regional shopping centre on Portion 1 of Farm 572 (Hoek van der Berg) in Hawston has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed development activities.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- As a precaution, vegetation clearing operations should be monitored and/or inspected by a professional archaeologist.
- Should any unmarked human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations and earthworks, these should immediately be reported to Heritage Western Cape (Mr N. Wiltshire 483 9692). Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

9. REFERENCES

Hart, T. & Halkett, D. 1995. Report on sampling of shell middens at the Fisherman's World Development, Hout Bay. Report prepared for Cape Coast Properties. Archaeology Contracts Office, Department of Archaeology, University of Cape Town.

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Appendix

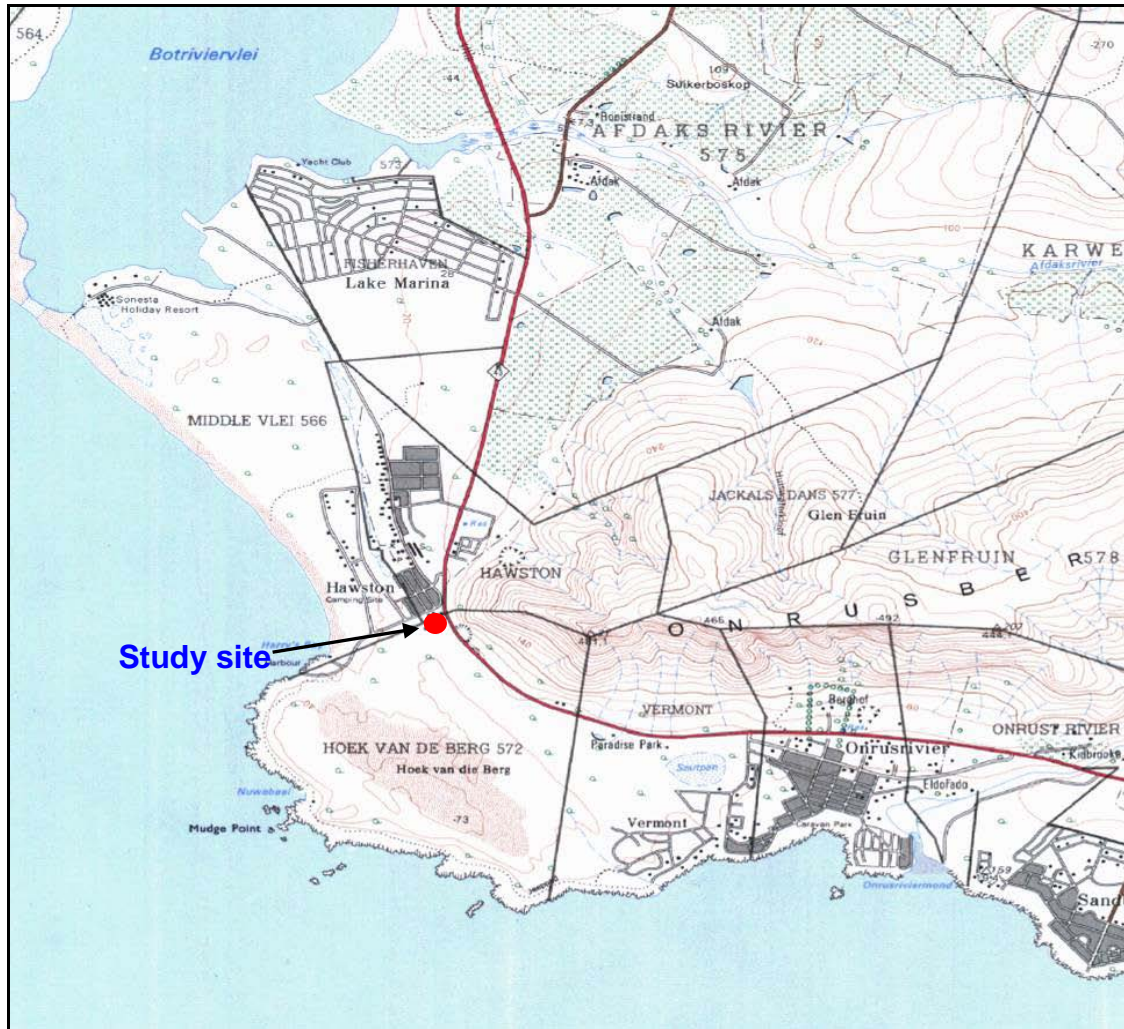


Figure 1. Locality map (3419 AC Hermanus)