

Archaeological Impact Assessment

Title: Municipal Housing Project, Heidelberg.

Proposal to develop housing erven on six sites within the urban area of Heidelberg.

Author of this report:

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Commissioned by

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Landowner

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Jurisdiction

Hessequa Municipality

26 May 2009

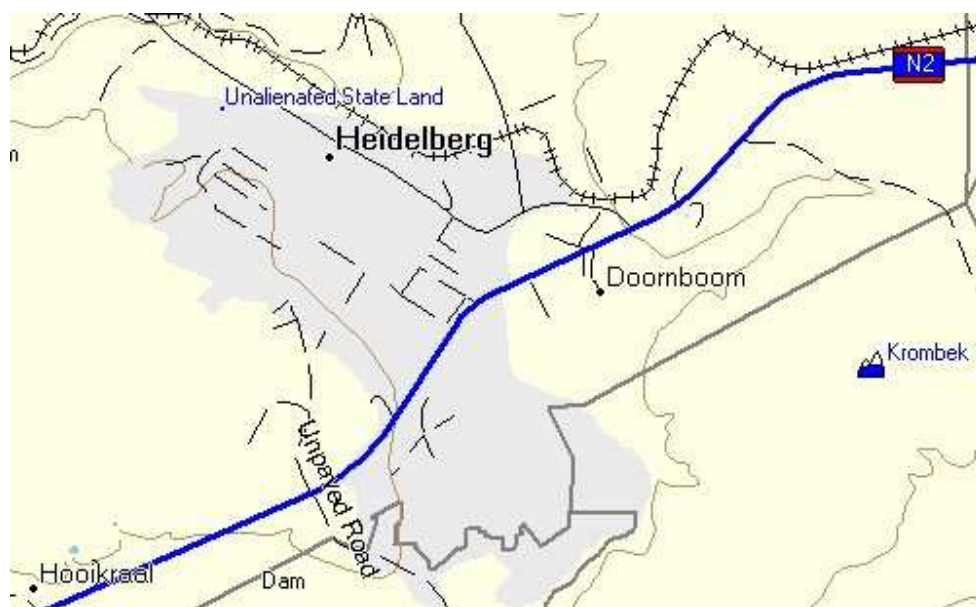


Figure 1. Heidelberg straddles the N2 (S 34 05 56.4; E 20 57 43.7: 1:50 000 sheet 3420BB). The grey coloured area marks the urban development and the proposed housing developments six in total (Fig. 2) and with the exception of area 5 lie south of the N2. They are the infilling of vacant spaces in the urban area.

Executive Summary

A survey of the six sites destined for housing development within the town of Heidelberg was carried out. A single Acheulian artefact in a disturbed context was recorded on the western margin of Site 3 and the occurrence is rated as low in significance. Two stone structures, a small house in traditional style and an adjacent horse stable (perdestal) at the southern end of Site 5 are older than 60 years and are conservation worthy. It is recommended that in the planning of the housing on Site 5 provision is made for a buffer zone, essentially the farmyard, around these structures and that they be retained and rehabilitated. In particular the perdestal needs attention to the structure.

Background Information

The Hessequa Municipality is developing six sites for housing on properties it owns within the town of Heidelberg. These are shown on Fig. 2.

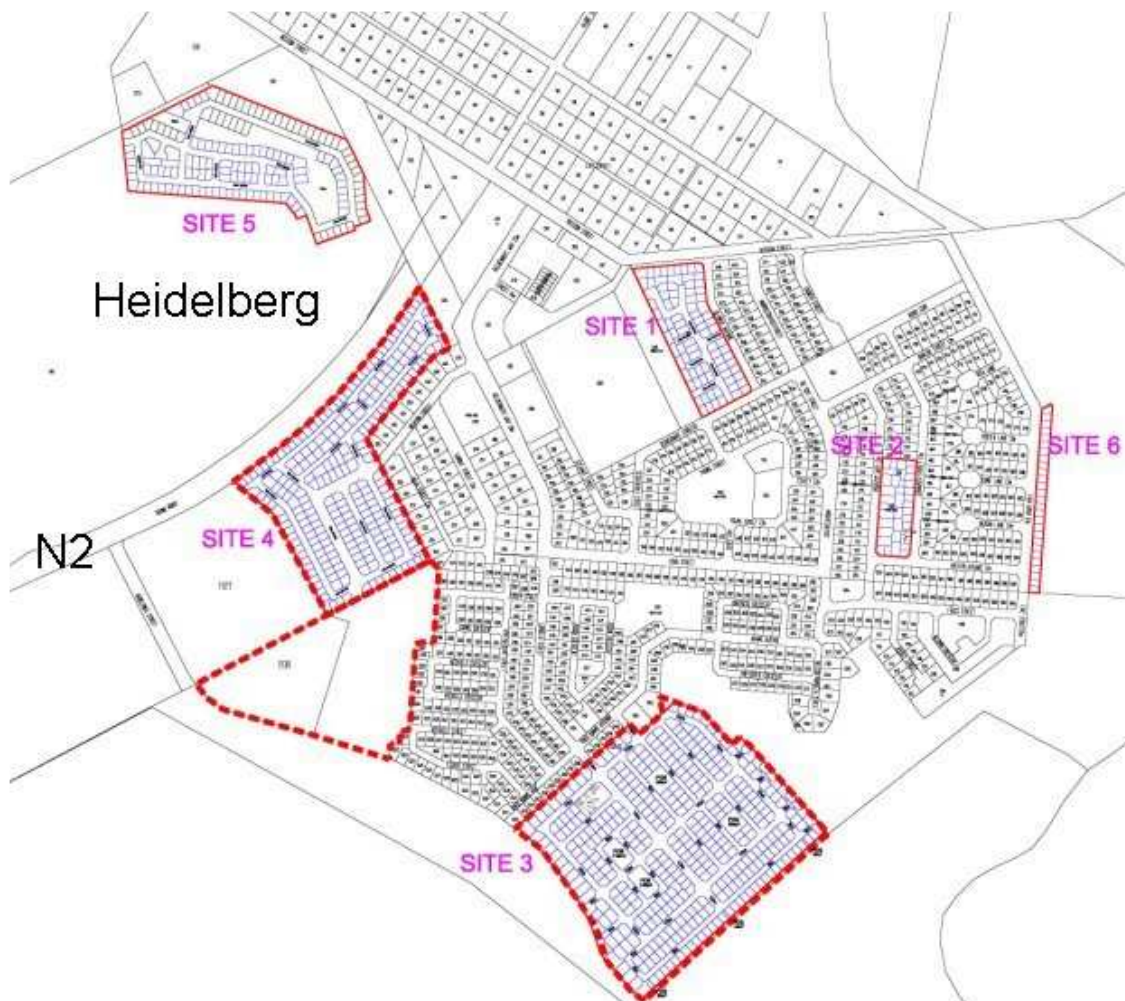


Fig. 2 Erven for housing development situated at six sites in Heidelberg.

All the sites are south of the N2 except Site 5 and all are within the urban edge of the town. These are the infilling of areas available for housing development.



Fig. 3. Aerial view of the sites in relation to the urban development of Heidelberg

Archaeological and Palaeontological Background

There are no known sites in proximity to the developments

Description of the property

The properties are on a river terrace cobble-rich fan deposits of the Duiwenhoksrivier. They are mainly unoccupied and therefore available for development. The only exception is in area 5 where there are two conservation-worthy structures that are detailed below. .

Methodology

All the developments were assessed in the field and the potential impacts evaluated.

Observations and Results

The only archaeological remains observed were a large Acheulian biface in a wash of gravels on the margin of Site 3. In exposures of terrace cobble gravels bifaces and other Acheulian artefacts may occur but in the case of an isolated find the significance is rated as low.

There are no structures on the properties except on the southern end of Site 5. This is significant because the two structures, a small house and a horse stable (perdestal), are older than 70 years, the age of one of the occupants who has lived there all his life. The style of vernacular architecture and stone construction is further indication of their age. The house, which is occupied but was locked at the time of the visit, appears to be in reasonable condition. The perdestal with various lean-to additions is also occupied but is in poorer structural condition and needs attention. These buildings and a buffer zone around them should be excluded from the rest of the development with provisions made in planning for their restoration and conservation.

Sources of Risk and Statement of Significance

The risks of the development impacting negatively on cultural resources are considered low and the significance is rated as low. The exception is the two structures on Site 5, which are worthy of conservation and should not be impacted.

Recommended Mitigations

The main recommendation is that the two structures on Site 5 be conserved as outlined above.

Features like human burials can occur in unpredictable locations. It is recommended that should any excavations by chance uncover buried palaeontological or archaeological materials including human remains that Heritage Western Cape is notified (Mr N Wiltshire, Heritage Resource Management Services, HWC, Private Bag X9067, Cape Town 8000, Tel:021 483 9743, Fax:021 483 9842, nwiltshire@pgwc.gov.za).



Fig. 4. Acheulian artefact on Site 3



Fig. 5. Aerial view of the two structures forming a small farmyard (werf) on Site 5.



Fig. 6. Site 5, stone house in traditional style that is part of the farmyard



Fig. 7. Site 5, stone horse stable (perdestal) needs some attention to the structure.

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