

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

DESTINY AFRICA

PORTION 12 KRAAIBOSCH 195

REMAINDER PORTION 23 KRAAIBOSCH 195

REMAINDER PORTION 7 KRAAIBOSCH 195

REMAINDER PORTION 8 KRAAIBOSCH 195

PORTION 48 SANDKRAAL (A PORTION OF PORTION 13

**KRAAIBOSCH 195)
GEORGE**

Prepared for

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**NOVEMBER
2006**

Executive summary

Hilland Associates requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for a large, mixed-use, multi purpose development in George in the Southern Cape

The development site (currently zoned Agriculture) consists of five neighbouring properties and is about 437 ha in extent. The majority of the property lies vacant, with a small stone quarry being operated. Previously commercial timber farming took place on the site. The subject property is covered in Fynbos, kikuyu and buffalo grass, resulting in low archaeological visibility. Invasive vegetation is currently being cleared from the site. Recent flooding in the area has also caused scarring and mud slides on the steeper slopes.

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.

Heritage Consultant **Mr Ron Martin** has been appointed to undertake a **Heritage Impact Assessment** of the proposed project. The archaeological assessment forms part of the wider heritage study.

Mostly Early Stone Age tools and a few Middle Stone Age tools were located during the study, but these are spread very thinly and unevenly over the surrounding landscape. All the tools were found in highly disturbed and degraded areas such as gravel roads and cuttings, collapsed sections, scarred areas, erosion dongas, flood washes and exposed slopes.

The archaeological heritage remains have been graded low local significance.

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.

Potentially important Stone Age tools may, however, be exposed or uncovered during earthmoving operations.

With regard to the proposed Destiny Africa development in George, the following recommendations are made

- Bulk earthworks must be monitored by a professional archaeologist.
- 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). Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Hilland Associates, on behalf of Montevira Investments 17 (Pty) Ltd, requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for a large, mixed-use, multi purpose development in George in the Southern Cape

The development site consists of five neighbouring properties; namely Portion 12 Kraabosch 195, Remainder Portion 23 Kraabosch 195, Remainder Portion 7 Kraabosch 195, Remainder Portion 8 Kraabosch 195, and Portion 48 Sandkraal (a Portion of Portion 13 Kraabosch 195).

The proposed Destiny Africa project provides for the development of a Conference and Expo Centre, a Waterfront Village with residential/townhouse component, a tourist centre offering numerous recreational activities including a botanical garden, a Sports Centre, Research and Development, Business Incubation and Corporate Park, Hotel and Resort, Light Industrial Component, and Staff and Social Housing.

The property is currently zoned Agriculture, and will be rezoned and subdivided for Residential, Resort, Light Industry and Open Space, to accommodate the proposed development activities.

The extent of the proposed development (437 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 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.

Heritage Consultant Mr Ron Martin has been appointed to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed project. The archaeological assessment forms part of the wider heritage study.

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 within the proposed site;
- to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed site;
- to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites within 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 within the proposed site

3. THE STUDY SITE

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

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

The subject property (S° 34 00 195 E° 22 31 005 on map datum wgs 84) is located directly south of the George Regional Mall and behind the Rademachers/Engen commercial node alongside the N2. The property abuts Thembelethu in the west.

The majority of the property lies vacant, but some sections are used for grazing purposes. Previously commercial timber farming used to take place on the site. However most of the pine plantation has been felled. There is an existing operational stone quarry on the site. The property is covered in Fynbos vegetation, including thick Kikuyu and Buffalo grass. Some invasive plant species and trees are still present on the property, but these are currently being removed. An extensive network of gravel roads and tracks intersect the site, which appears from the aerial photographs to be carved into blocks.

The western portion of the site is quite flat with fairly gentle slopes, except in the south west (Figures 3-10), while the eastern portion is fairly flat but very steep sided (Figures 11-13). Several river course valleys along the southern, eastern and north eastern boundaries are well forested and of high conservation value. A 40 m buffer along these areas will ensure protection of these habitats. Recent flooding in the area has caused much scarring and mud slides on the steep slopes.

There are no other significant landscape features on the property.

The property is surrounded by land uses comprising a combination of residential, commercial activities, resort activities and nature areas.

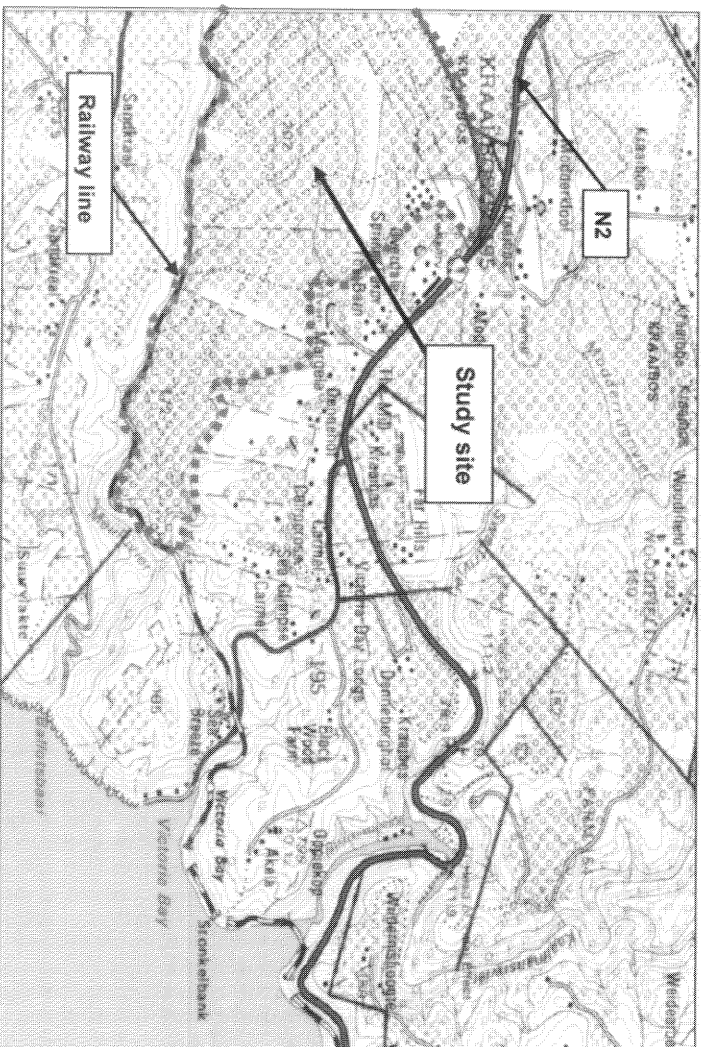


Figure 1. Site locality (DC & 3422BA Wilderness)

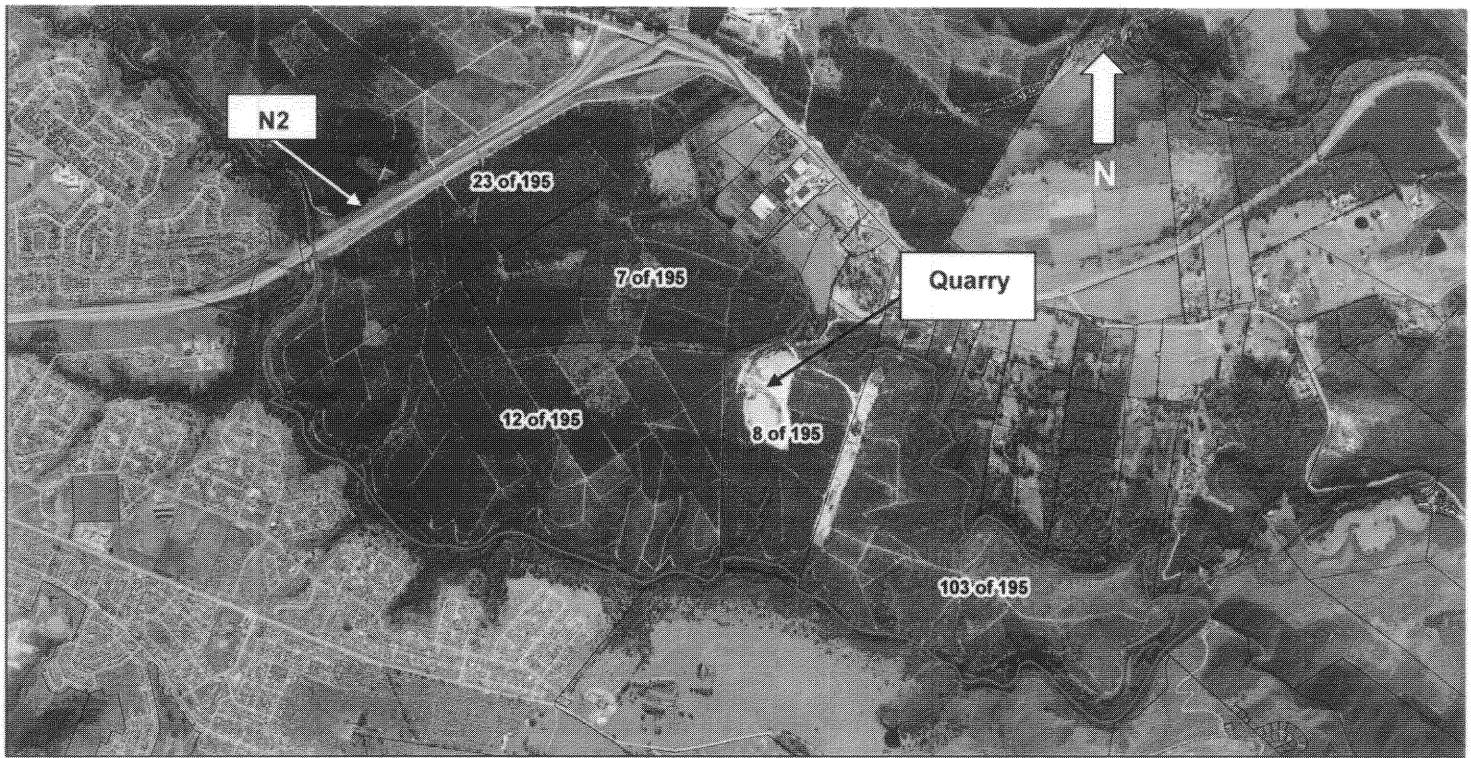


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site



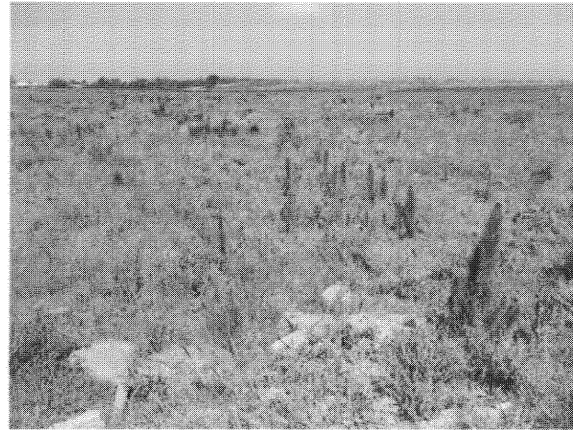
Figure 3. View of the quarry



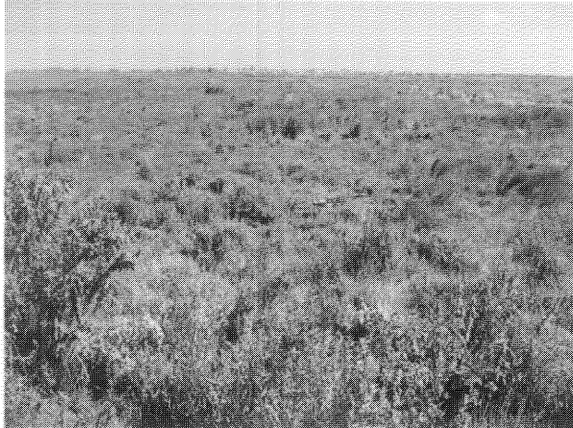
**Figure 4. Western portion of the study site
View facing west**



**Figure 5. Western portion of the study site
View facing west. Arrow indicates N2**



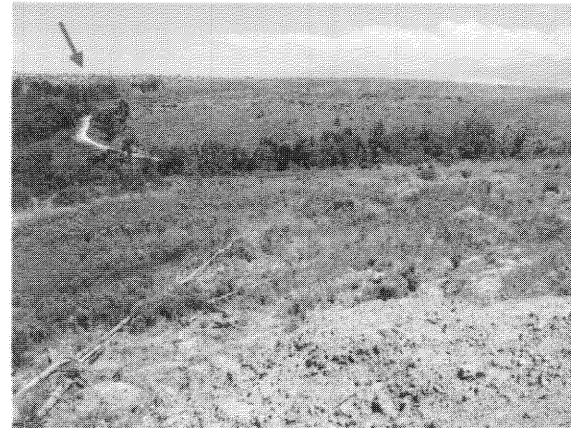
**Figure 6. Western portion of the study site.
View facing east**



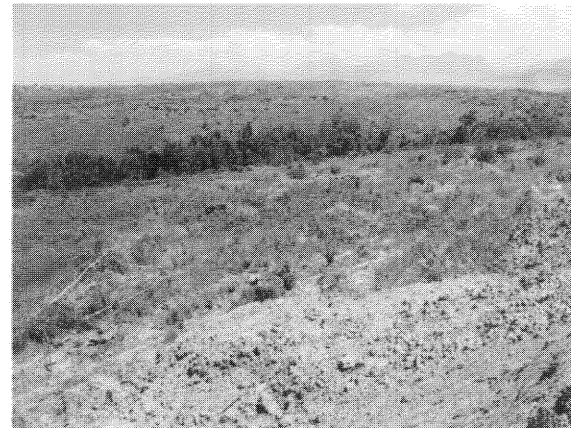
**Figure 7. Western portion of the study site.
View facing south east**



**Figure 8. Western portion of the study site.
View facing south west. Arrow indicates N2**



**Figure 9. Western portion of the study site.
View facing west. Arrow indicates Thembaletu**



**Figure 10. Western portion of the study site.
View facing west**



Figure 11. The eastern portion of the site. View facing east



Figure 12. The eastern portion of the site. View facing west

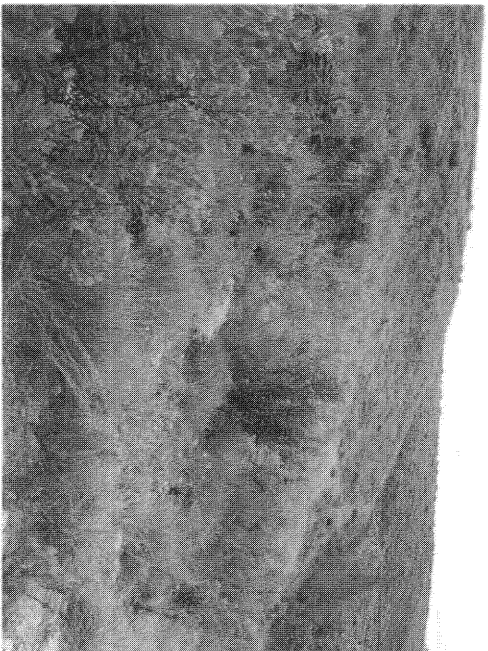


Figure 13. The eastern portion of the site. View of the steep north facing slopes

4. STUDY APPROACH

4.1 Method of survey

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

The site visit and assessment took place over 3 days on the 13th, 14th and 15th November, 2006.

A desktop study was also undertaken.

It is important to note that the study area is very well vegetated, and the river course valleys thickly forested. This resulted in more obvious areas being targeted for the presence of archaeological heritage remains. These include gravel roads and tracks, road cuttings and excavations, exposed and collapsed slopes, washes, scarred areas, erosion dongas and the quarry area, including the surrounding spoil dumps.

4.2 Constraints and limitations

The study site is very well vegetated, resulting in low archaeological visibility.

4.3 Identification of potential risks

Stone Age tools in-situ may be exposed below the top soil, during bulk earthworks and earthmoving operations.

It is unlikely, but unmarked human burials may be also exposed or uncovered during earthmoving operations.

4.4 Results of the desk top study

A few Early Stone Age (ESA) tools were located during a study of the proposed Kraaibosch residential housing estate directly to the north of the N2 and the study site (Kaplan 2003).

Further afield, relatively large numbers of ESA and Middle Stone Age (MSA) tools have been documented at Oubaai (Kaplan 2002) and The Brink (Kaplan 2004) near Herolds Bay. Shell middens have also been recorded on the high coastal cliffs at Oubaai (Kaplan 2002).

It is important to note that up to 70 000 ESA tools have been documented and collected during monitoring of earthmoving operations at Pinnacle Point near Mossel Bay (Dr Peter Nilssen pers. comm.). According to Dr Nilssen, the majority of tools are located in sandy deposits underlying the top soil about 1 m below the surface. Fewer artefacts appear in the underlying clay deposits, but several Pleistocene hyena lairs with well-preserved bone were documented in limestone deposits nearly 3 m below the surface. The key point is that the archaeology below the surface is undisturbed (as opposed to the surface disturbance of the site) and it is precisely the context of the finds that is so important for conservation purposes.

5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The following section provides a brief overview of the relevant legislation with regard to the archaeology of the study area.

5.1 The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999)

The National Heritage Resources (NHR) Act requires that "...any development or other activity which will change the character of a site exceeding 5 000m², or the rezoning or change of land use of a site exceeding 10 000 m², requires an archaeological impact assessment"

The relevant sections of the Act are briefly outlined below.

5.2 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))

Section 35 (4) of the NHR stipulates that 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))

Section 36 (3) of the HHR stipulates that 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. IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND DESCRIPTION

Low density scatters of mostly Early Stone Age (ESA) tools were located during the study, but these are spread very thinly and unevenly over the surrounding landscape. All the tools were found in highly disturbed and degraded areas such as gravel roads and tracks, road cuttings, collapsed sections, scarred areas, erosion dongas, flood washes and slopes.

Stone tools were located in both the western and eastern portions of the study site, while tools were also found in a severely flood damaged and silted-up area in a river course alongside the railway line in the south eastern portion of the property. No tools were found in the quarry area, and only two ESA flakes were found close to the large quarry spoil dumps.

It is interesting to note that eight tools (including a broken hand axe) documented in the network of gravel roads were found embedded in compacted sands. The bulk of the tools were, however, found near collapsed slopes, in sandy deposits, between 1.0 and 2.0 m below the overburden alongside the railway line.

Apart from one large bifacial handaxe in rough-grained quartzite and one vehicle damaged handaxe in finer grained quartzite (Figure 14), the remainder of the tools comprise large ESA flakes, chunks and several smaller MSA flakes and blade tools (Figures 15 & 16).

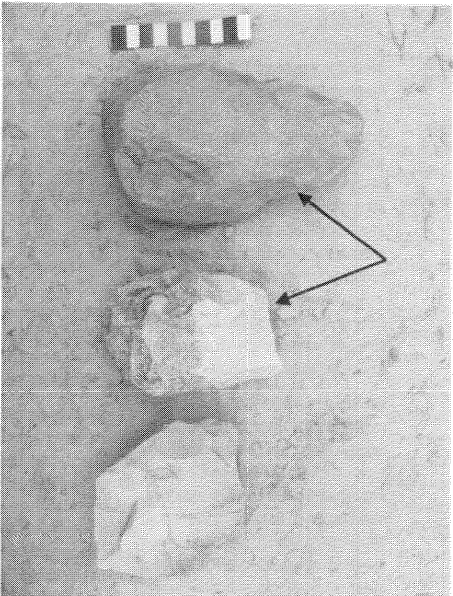


Figure 14. ESA tools. Scale is in cm. Arrow indicates handaxes.



Figure 15. ESA and MSA tools. Scale is in cm.

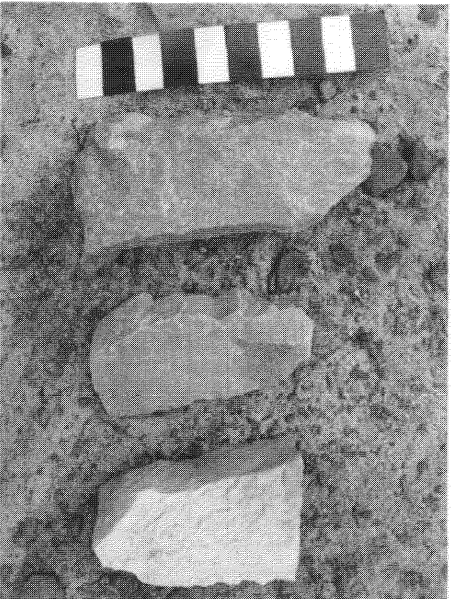


Figure 16. MSA blade tools. Scale is in cm

7. IMPACT STATEMENT

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.

Early Stone Age tools may, however, be exposed or uncovered in underlying Aeolian sands and sediments once earthmoving operations penetrate and remove the top soils

It is unlikely, but unmarked human burials may also be exposed or uncovered during earthworks and excavations.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed Destiny Africa – Garden Route Conference, Expo and Leisure Tourist Centre development in George, the following recommendations are made

- Bulk earthworks and excavations must be monitored by a professional archaeologist.
- 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 462 4502), or Heritage Western Cape (Dr A. Jerardino 483 9692). Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

[Handwritten signature and stamp area]
 IN FURTHER WITNESS WHEREOF
 I have hereunto set my hand and seal
 on this 15th day of October 2014
 [Signature]
 [Stamp: SA Heritage Western Cape]
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9. REFERENCES

- Kaplan, J. 2004. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed development The Brink George Southern Cape. Report prepared for Torbell Holdings. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- Kaplan, J. 2003. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed development Kraibosch Estate (Phase 1) George. Report prepared for Hilland Associates. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- Kaplan, J. 2002. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed development Oubaai Golf Estate George Southern Cape. Report prepared for Hilland Associates. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.