

# Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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21 April, 2008

**Att:** Mr Craig Donald  
Site Plan Consulting  
P O Box 28  
Strand  
7139



Dear Mr Donald

## **PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROPOSED SAND MINE ON THE FARM MODDER RIVIER 499 (REMAINDER OF PORTION 8) WORCESTER**

### **1. Introduction and brief**

Site Plan Consulting<sup>1</sup>, on behalf of Prima Klipbrekers (Pty) Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for a proposed sand mining operation on Remainder Portion 8 of the Farm Modder Rivier No. 499 Worcester, in the Western Cape Province (Figure 1).

The proposed Moddergat Sand Mine will be an open cast, haul and load sand mining operation providing source material for the building industry. The surface area of the final excavation is planned to measure approximately 7.0 ha<sup>2</sup>. The average depth of sand mining operations will be about 4.5 m and will not extend into the underlying hard rock quartzites and shales. The site will be mined in designated blocks and after mining, each block will be returned to as natural a wilderness area as possible. Rehabilitation of the site is integral to the mine plan. No workshop or processing plant will be established on the site, but a container office for mine personnel will be built. Existing roads will be used to transport the material and no new roads will be built.

The extent of the mining application area (18.4 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, construction and implementation of the proposed project, to assess the significance of the potential impacts and to propose measures to mitigate against the impacts.

<sup>1</sup> Site Plan is represented by Mr Craig Donald Fax (021) 84 4321.

<sup>2</sup> Environmental Management Programme Moddergat Sand Mine situated on the Farm Modder Rivier 499 Portion 8 Remainder, Worcester Magisterial District. Prepared for Prima Klipbrekers (Pty) Ltd. Site Plan Consulting

## **6. Results of the desk top study**

Early Stone Age (ESA), Middle Stone Age (MSA) and Later Stone Age (LSA) artefacts have been documented at Quaggaskloof, adjacent to the Brandvlei Dam nearer to Worcester.<sup>3</sup> The tools were all found in a disturbed and degraded context. One rock painting site has also been documented on the property<sup>4</sup>. ESA and MSA artefacts have also been identified at several other localities in the Worcester area, but these occur some distance from the affected property.

## **7. Findings**

Three MSA quartzite flakes, one MSA quartzite disc core, and one large ESA quartzite flake were documented during the baseline study. The tools were found in the hard gravel road in the eastern portion of the study site, just outside the mine application area, and in the recently opened soft, sandy road in the south western portion of the proposed site.

**The archaeological remains have been rated as having low local significance.**

## **8. Impact statement**

The impact of the proposed Moddergat Sand Mine on important pre-colonial archaeological remains is likely to be **low**.

## **9. Conclusion**

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed Moddergat Sand mine on Remainder Portion 8 of the Farm Modder Rivier No. 499, near Worcester, has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed construction activities.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Kaplan

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<sup>3</sup> Archaeological scoping proposed development Quaggaskloof: preparation of a conceptual development framework plan. Report prepared for Urban Dynamics Western Cape. Agency for Cultural Resource Management

<sup>4</sup> Yates, R. 2004. A Heritage Management Plan for Quaggaskloof Site 1 on Portion 1 of Farm 495 Worcester. Iziko: South African Museum.



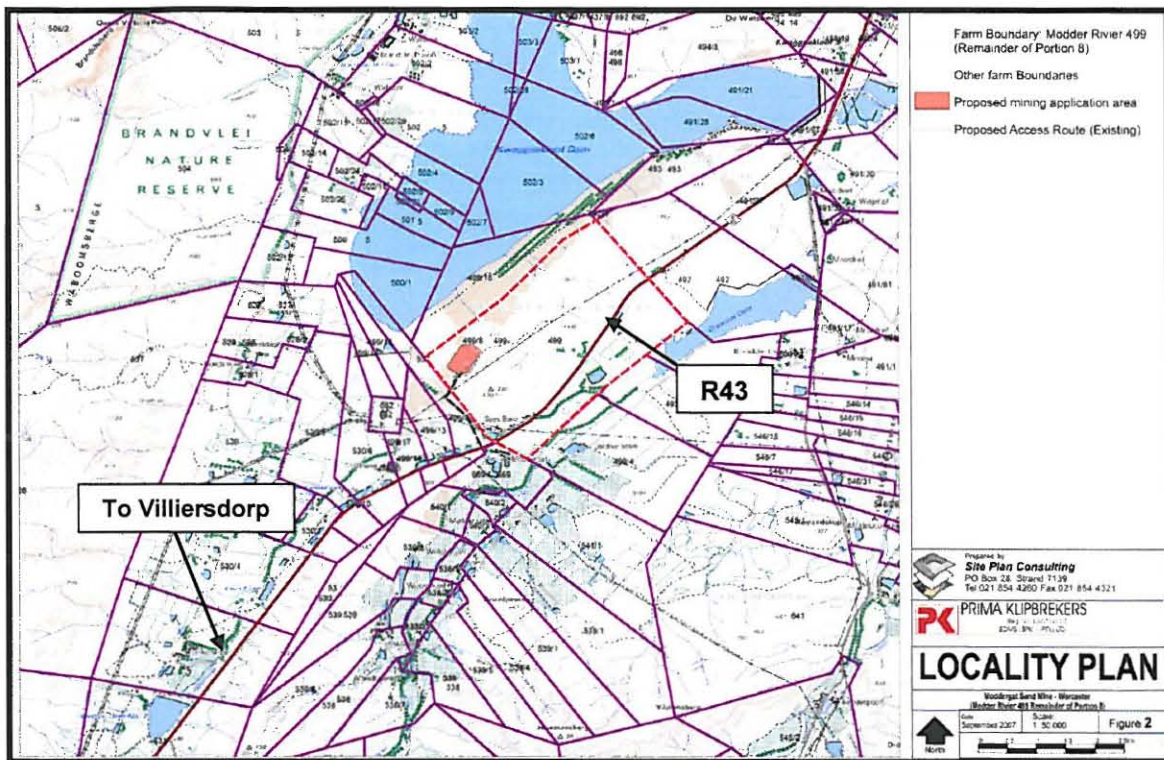


Figure 1. Locality Map (3319 CB Worcester)

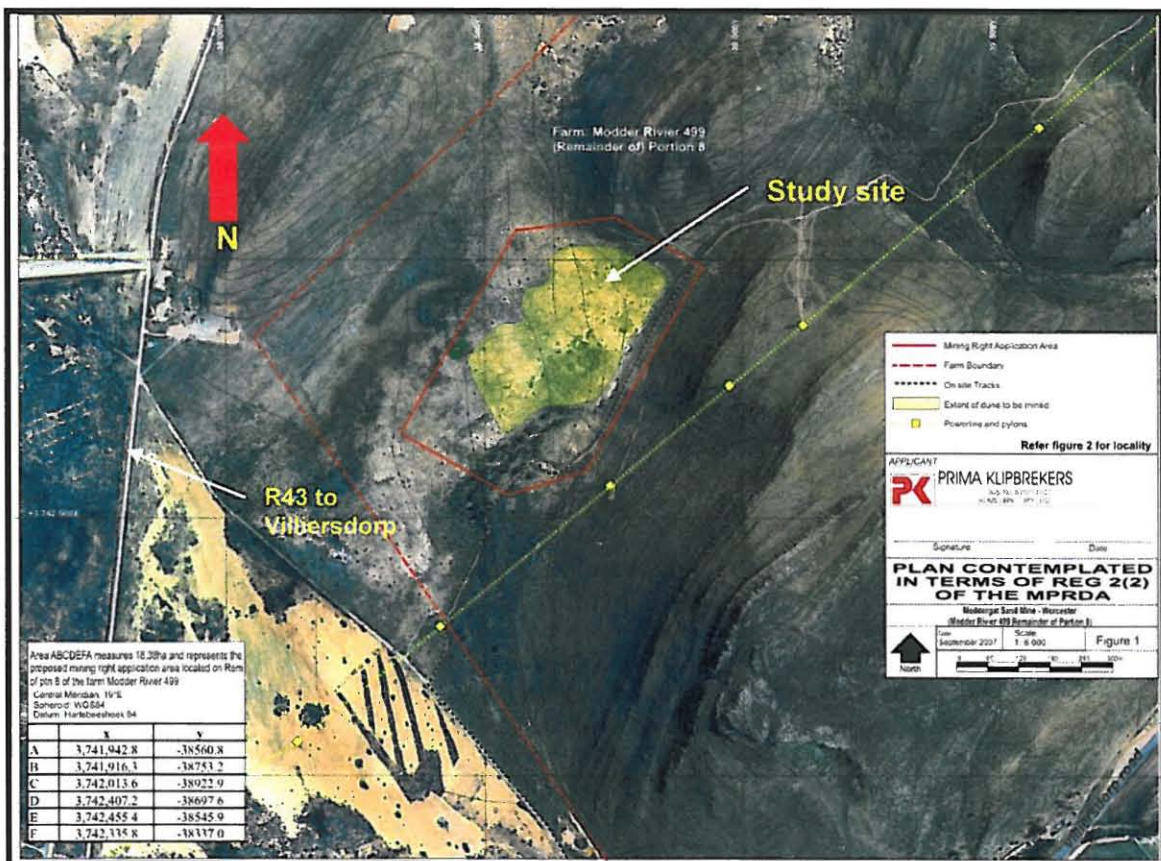


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site





**Figure 3. View of the site facing north west**



**Figure 5. View of the site facing south**



**Figure 4. View of the site facing south west**



**Figure 6. View of the site facing south east**

COPY

Our Ref: HW/WORCESTER/ FARM MODDER RIVER 499

Enquiries: Celeste Booth  
Tel: 021 483 9685  
E-mail: [Cbooth@pgwc.gov.za](mailto:Cbooth@pgwc.gov.za)



23 June 2008

Mr J. Kaplan  
PO Box 159  
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**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (AIA) PROPOSED SAND MINE  
ON THE FARM MODDER RIVER 499 (REMAINDER OF PORTION 8) WORCESTER**

The above matter was discussed at the Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Permit Committee meeting held on 3 June 2008 and in consultation with the Built Environment and Landscape Committee (BELCOM) have reached a consolidated Record of Decision (RoD):

The following was noted for the request for exemption:

1. The Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) has been completed by the archaeologist and submitted to BELCOM.
2. The proposed site is mainly a wilderness area containing a 4x4 trail.
3. The application is for sand mining in 6.5ha area.
4. Some scattered Early Stone Age (ESA) and Middle Stone Age (MSA) artefacts were documented.
5. There will be no significant impact on heritage resources.

Heritage Western Cape (HWC) as commenting authority agreed that:

1. The request for exemption for conducting an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) be granted.
2. The recommendations are approved.
3. It was not necessary for the application to have been sent to BELCOM.
4. No mitigation is required prior to the preparation and construction of the proposed sand mine.
5. Should any archaeological material be found during preparation and construction of the property, the archaeologist should be notified immediately. All work must cease until an archaeologist determined the significance of the finds.
6. The developer is responsible for costs associated with further heritage related work.

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iLifa leMveli leNtshona Koloni  
Erfenis Wes-Kaap  
Heritage Western Cape

7. Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations and earthworks for the proposed project, all work must cease, and immediately be reported to SAHRA (Ms Mary Leslie 0214624502), or HWC (Ms Celeste Booth 021 483 9685).
8. Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

Yours faithfully

Celeste Booth

Heritage Officer (Archaeology)

For: Accounting Authority: Heritage Resources Management Services.

Pp Heritage Western Cape

[www.capegateway.gov.za/culture\\_sport](http://www.capegateway.gov.za/culture_sport)

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