

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT
THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF NEW
AGRICULTURAL LANDS ON NAUDESIA FARM
(Portion 6 of the Farm Naudesia A No. 90)
DE DOORNS VALLEY
WESTERN CAPE**

Prepared for

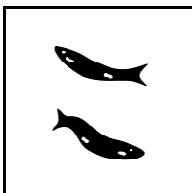
CEDERBERG ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTICE

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**MARCH
2009**

Executive summary

An Archaeological Scoping Assessment of the proposed expansion of new agricultural lands on Portion 6 of the Farm Naudesia A No. 90 near De Doorns in the Western Cape has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed development activities.

The study area alongside the N1 is the largest remaining portion of natural vegetation in the central De Doorns Valley. The existing landholdings are already zoned for Agricultural use and rezoning of the affected property is therefore not required. The extent of the landholdings is 120 ha, of which about 30 ha has been set aside for Black Economic Empowerment (BEE).

The following finds were made:

A few Early Stone Age flake tools were found among large piles of cleared stone, below the N1, but these occur in a secondary (disturbed) context and have been rated as having low local significance.

A broken Middle Stone Age flake was also found in an old quarry above (i.e. south of) the N1.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Cederberg Environmental Assessment Practice, on behalf of Naudeshoop (Pty) Ltd, requested the Agency for Cultural Resource Management to undertake an archaeological assessment of the proposed development of new agricultural lands on Portion 6 of the Farm Naudesia A No. 90, a few kilometres west of the town of De Doorns in the intensively cultivated Hex River Valley.

The existing landholdings are already zoned for Agricultural use and rezoning of the affected property is therefore not required. The extent of the landholdings is 120 ha, of which about 30 ha has been set aside for Black Economic Empowerment (BEE).

It is important to note, however, that a botanical assessment has rated the proposed site as having high conservation value in terms of its botanical richness and has recommended that only about 13 ha of land be allowed for agricultural development and the remainder proclaimed a formal Conservation Area and preserved in perpetuity (Helm 2008).

The aim of the study is to locate, identify and map archaeological heritage remains that may be negatively impacted by the implementation of the proposed project, and to propose measures to mitigate against the impact.

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

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 area indicating the proposed development area is illustrated in Figure 2.

Naudesia Farm (S 33° 30 44.5 E 19° 34 53.9 on map datum wgs 84) is located either side of the N1 in the intensively cultivated Hex River Valley, about 15 kms east of Worcester and a few kilometres west of the small town of De Doorns. The study area is the largest remaining portion of natural vegetation in the central De Doorns Valley. The Keeromsberg and Kwadousberg tower over the farm in the south. The study area consists of about 90 ha above (i.e. south of) the N1 with about a further 30 ha below the N1 (Figures 3-18). About 2 ha comprise a stand of large Blue Gums in the north east.

The study area is essentially the remains of an old alluvial fan, which drains the large kloof and the Ben Heatlie amphitheatre to the south of the site. The soils are colluvial soils derived from weathered sandstones. These are typically very rocky, with numerous river rounded cobbles, typical of an alluvial fan. Some shale is evident in the lower lying portion of the site, below the N1. There are also various seasonal drainage lines on the site, the most prominent being in the upper south western areas, but it should be noted that there are smaller drainage lines across the site. The remains of a large quarry are present in the section above the N1. Several old tracks intersect the site. There are large piles of rounded cobbles that have been placed alongside the western boundary of the property below the N1, that have been cleared from adjacent lands before planting.

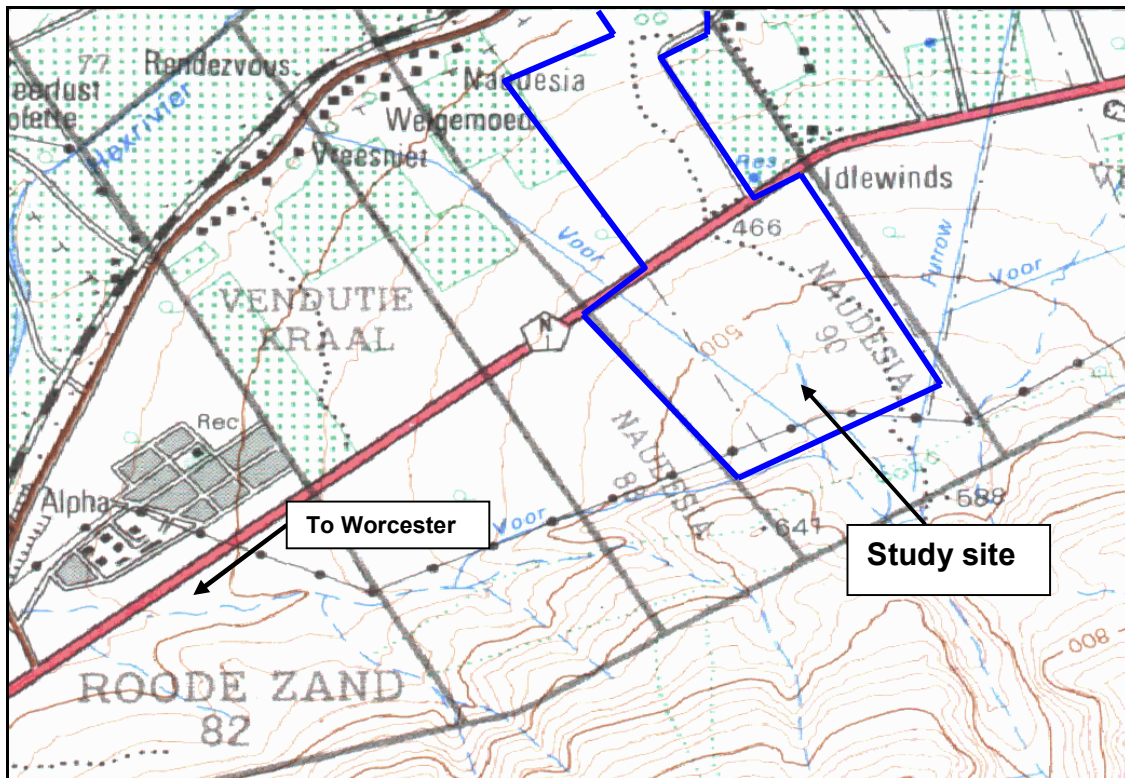


Figure 1. Locality map (3319DA Nuy)

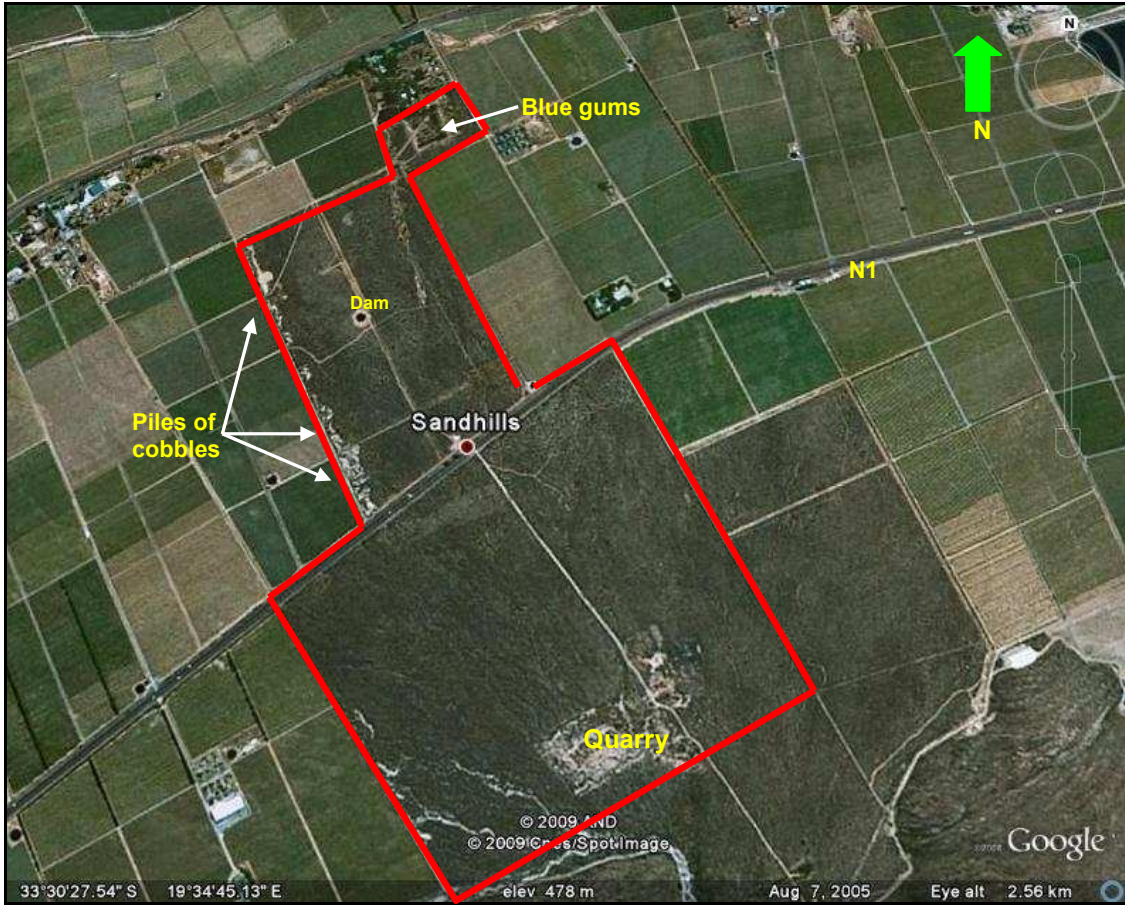


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site



Figure 3. South of the N1. View facing north

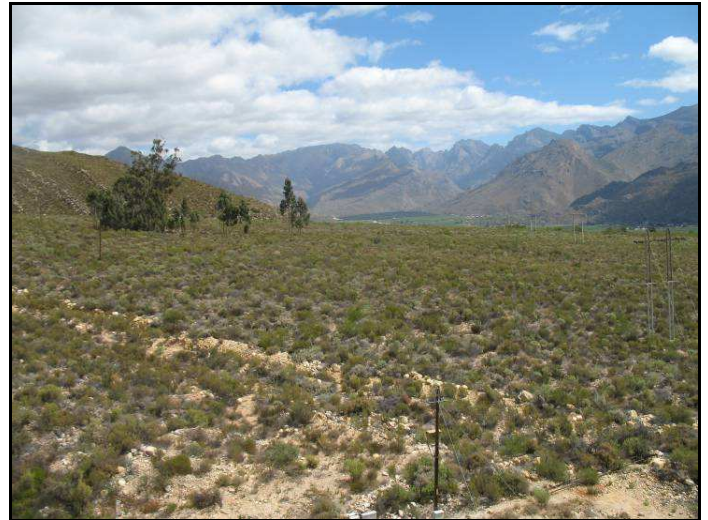


Figure 4. South of the N1. View facing north west



Figure 5. South of the N1. View facing north east



Figure 8. South of the N1. View facing north



Figure 6. South of the N1. View facing north east



Figure 9. South of the N1. View facing north west



**Figure 7. South of the N1. View facing north.
Old quarry**



Figure 10. South of the N1. View facing south



Figure 11. South of the N1. View facing west



Figure 14. South of the N1. View facing west



Figure 12. North of the N1. View facing north



Figure 15. South of the N1. View facing north



Figure 13. North of the N1. View facing north



Figure 16. South of the N1. View facing north



Figure 17. North of the N1. View facing south west



Figure 18. North of the N1. View facing south east

4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY

4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed an archaeological scoping assessment of the large (± 90 ha) landholdings above the N1 and about 15 ha below and to the east of the N1. Archaeological scoping entailed walking several transects in both the upper and lower sections. As indicated above, the botanical assessment has recommended that these landholdings be set aside as a formal Conservation Area.

The remaining 13 ha of (less botanically sensitive) land below and to the west of the N1 was subjected to a more detailed (Phase 1) Archaeological Impact Assessment.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 17th of March, 2009.

A desk top study was also undertaken.

4.2. Constraints and limitations

The affected lands are covered in thick natural veld, resulting in low archaeological visibility.

4.3 Potential risks

There are no archaeological risks associated with the proposed project.

4.4 Results of the desk top study

Early Stone Age (ESA) and Middle Stone Age (MSA) tools have been documented in the Hex River Valley, at De Doorns (Kaplan 2007) and Sandhills (Kaplan 2002). However, these were all found in old agricultural lands in disturbed context.

5. FINDINGS

Two large, Early Stone Age (ESA) flakes, one large ESA core and several broken/flaked cobbles (all in river rolled quartzite stone) were found among the extensive piles of stone stacked alongside the western boundary of the proposed site, below the N1 (refer to Figure 2 and Figure 18). The piles of stone originate from adjacent fields that have been cleared prior to being planted with vines. The remains therefore occur in a secondary (disturbed) context and have been rated as having low local significance.

A broken Middle Stone Age quartzite flake was also found in the old quarry above the N1.

No tools were found in the 13 ha of land that the botanist has recommended be set aside for agricultural development.

No tools were found on the remainder of the site below the N1.

A collection of some of the tools found is illustrated in Figure 19.



Figure 19. Collection of stone tools. Scale is in cm

6. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed project on archaeological heritage remains is likely to be **low**.

The study area is essentially the remains of an old alluvial fan, which drains the large kloof above the N1. There may well be sites such as rock paintings in the large kloof, but due to time constraints, this area was not searched.

The probability of locating significant or important archaeological heritage remains during implementation of the project is likely to be improbable. The receiving environment is not considered to be archaeologically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.

7. CONCLUSION

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed development of new agricultural lands on the Farm Naudesia near De Doorns has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed development activities.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendation is made:

- Should any unmarked human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during preparation of the lands for agricultural activities, these must immediately be reported to Heritage Western Cape (Att: Mr Nick Wiltshire 021 483 9695) or the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Att: Dr A. Jerardino 021-462 4502).

9. REFERENCES

Helme, N. 2008. Botanical assessment of proposed agricultural expansion area on the Naudesia Farm De Doorns Valley. Report prepared for Cederberg Environmental Assessment Practice Cederberg. Nick Helme Botanical Surveys

Kaplan, J. 2007. Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed development of Erf 660 De Doorns Western Cape. Report prepared for Boland Enviro. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2002. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment and Heritage Review. The proposed N 1 N 2 Winelands Toll Highway Project. Report prepared for Crowther Campbell & Associates on behalf of the National Roads Agency.