

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
SCHALKENBOSCH ESTATE  
TULBAGH**

Prepared for

**CHAND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS**

By

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Chand Environmental Consultants requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management (ACRM) undertake a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of the proposed Schalkenbosch Estate in Tulbagh in the Western Cape Province.

...any development or other activity which will change the character of a site exceeding 5 000m<sup>2</sup>, or the rezoning or change of land use of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup>, requires an archaeological impact assessment in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

The proposed project comprises a Golf Estate, a Conservation Estate and a Wellness Centre.

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological sites 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.

Five portions of land will be combined to form the proposed Schalkenbosch Estate.

- Remainder of Portion 7 of the Farm 244 Tulbagh
- Remaining extent of Portion 3 of Farm 244 Tulbagh
- Zagte Vleisberg No. 266 Tulbagh
- Annex Zachte Vlei No. 225 Tulbagh
- Portion 3 of the Farm Schalkenbosch No. 229

The site is approximately 2000 ha in extent.

Currently, the land is used for wheat, wine and stud farming and as a place of residence.

Although large numbers of ancient Early Stone Age implements were located, the Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed Schalkenbosch Estate has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to development activities.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background and brief**

Chand Environmental Consultants requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management (ACRM) undertake a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of the proposed Schalkenbosch Estate in Tulbagh in the Western Cape Province.

'...any development or other activity which will change the character of a site exceeding 5 000m<sup>2</sup>, or the rezoning or change of land use of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup>, requires an archaeological impact assessment in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999)'.

The proposed project will entail a Golf Estate with a residential precinct comprising approximately 350 units. A Wellness Centre will be incorporated into the Golf Estate.

A Conservation Estate consisting of approximately 46 units will also be developed within a 275 ha Nature Reserve.

The extent of the property is about 2000 ha.

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

Melanie Atwell has been appointed to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the proposed development.

## **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The terms of reference for the 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 indicate the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites potentially affected by the proposed development;
- 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 site.

### **3. THE STUDY AREA**

A locality map of the study area and the boundary of the proposed development is illustrated in Figure 1.

The site is located about 5 kms east of Tulbagh in the direction of Wolsley on the farm Schalkenbosch (Figures 2-5).

Five portions of land will be combined to form the proposed Schalkenbosch Estate. These include:

- Remainder of Portion 7 of the Farm 244 Tulbagh
- Remaining extent of Portion 3 of Farm 244 Tulbagh
- Zagte Vleisberg No. 266 Tulbagh
- Annex Zachte Vlei No. 225 Tulbagh
- Portion 3 of the Farm Schalkenbosch No. 229

Currently the site is being used for wheat farming, wine farming, and stud farming and as a place of residence (Figures 6-9).

The site is approximately 2000 ha in extent.

### **4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY**

#### **4.1 Method of survey**

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a baseline survey of the proposed project.

Rock kopjes on the property were targeted as possible areas of archaeological sensitivity

A desktop study was also undertaken.

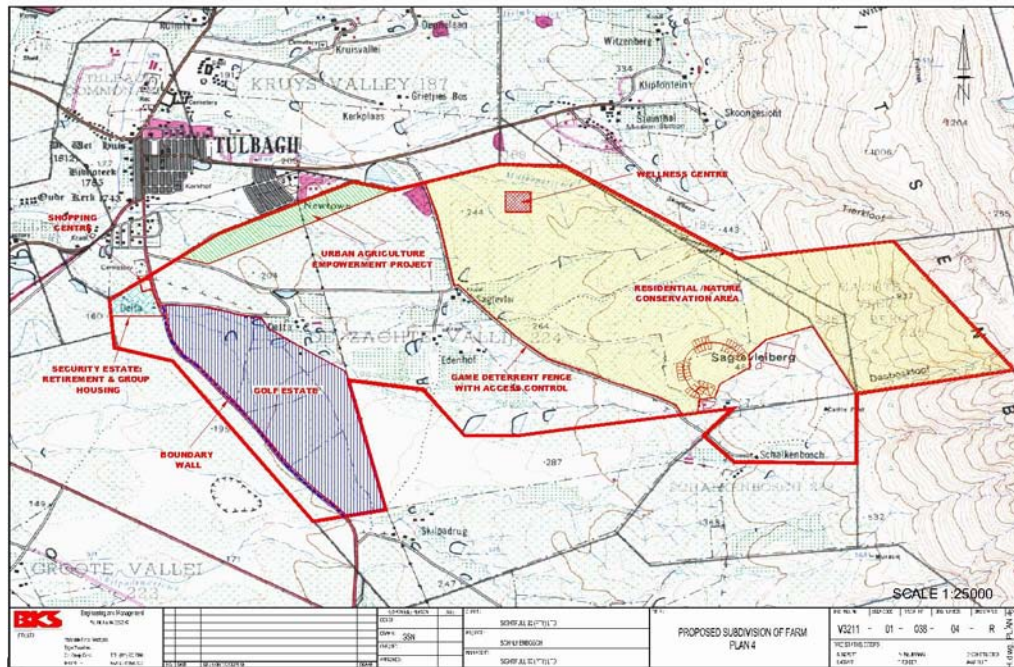


Figure 1. Archaeological study Schalkenbosch Estate. Map indicating the location of the proposed Schalkenbosch Estate.



Figure 2. Overview of the site.



Figure 3. Overview of the site.



Figure 4. Overview of the site.



Figure 5. Overview of the site.



Figure 6. The site facing south east.



Figure 7. The site facing east



Figure 8. The site facing east



Figure 9. The site facing south east.

## **5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

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

#### **5.1.1 Structures (Section 34 (1))**

No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), or Heritage Western Cape.

#### **5.1.2 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))**

No person may, without a permit issued by the SAHRA or Heritage Western Cape, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object.

#### **5.1.3 Burial grounds and graves (Section 36 (3))**

No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or Heritage Western Cape, 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**

Large numbers of ancient Early Stone Age<sup>1</sup> (ESA) and some Middle Stone Age<sup>2</sup> (MSA) tools were located during a targeted survey of the property. Tools were found in old grazing lands, heavily ploughed wheat fields, nearby farm dams, in farm roads and dongas, on terraced mountain slopes, and on rocky kopjes. Tools were effectively found wherever there has been some physical alteration of the landscape. Some tools were also noted among piles of rocks cleared from nearby fields. According to the Schalkenbosch farm manager, piles of rocks are periodically removed by the local quarry for crushing.

A range of tool types were located during the study. These include large and smaller edge stuck flakes (both retouched, unmodified and faceted), some cleavers and choppers, numerous cores (all round irregular), chunks and some split/flaked cobbles, all made on river quartzite cobbles (Figures 10-16). A number of bifacial, unifacial, and incomplete handaxes were also located during the study (Figure 17). Many of the tools are heavily patinated.

All the stone tools found were located in a severely disturbed and degraded context.

Significance of finds: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

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<sup>1</sup> A term referring to the period between 2 million and 200 000 years ago.

<sup>2</sup> A term referring to the period between 200 000 and 20 000 years ago.





Figure 10. Collection of stone tools.



Figure 11. Collection of stone tools.



Figure 12. Collection of stone tools.



Figure 13. Collection of stone tools.



Figure 14. Collection of stone tools.



Figure 15.



Figure 16. Collection of stone tools.



Figure 17. collection of handaxes.

Similar ESA tools in quartzite were also found during the course of archaeological surveys in Tulbagh (Kaplan 2002), and on the farms Boontjiesrivier (Kaplan 1997) and Weltevrede No. 236 (Kaplan 2004 in prep.) in the Tulbagh Valley.

A modern ruined concrete and cement cattle post (indicated on the 1:50 000 map 3319 AC Tulbagh) on the steep mountain slopes above Schalkenbosch farm was noted.

No rock painting sites or caves with archaeological deposits were found on the rocky kopjes located on the property. The rough quarzitic sandstones of the kopjes and the steep mountains do not lend themselves to the formation of caves and overhangs. However, it is interesting to note that San/Bushman rock paintings have been located by the archaeologist in the Tulbagh Valley near Waterval Forest Station.

The mission station at Steinhall, established by free Cape slaves in 1843, is also located immediately north of Schalkenbosch. Most of the Steinhall buildings were destroyed by the earthquake in 1969; the remaining buildings (currently the library) were declared a National Monument in 1999. A Dutch East India Company (VOC) cannon (1743), a British fort relating to the Anglo Boer War (1899-1904) and a historic wagon trail, are known to occur in the mountains above the mission station (Kaplan 2001).

## **7. IMPACT STATEMENT**

The overall impact of the proposed Schalkenbosch Estate development on archaeological remains is considered to be low.

Despite the location of large numbers of Stone Age tools, all the artefacts were found in a disturbed context. The receiving environment has been severely altered and modified as a result of farming and agricultural activities, and the affected environment is not considered to be archaeologically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.

The probability of locating any significant archaeological remains during implementation of the project is also considered to be low.

## **8. CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed Schalkenbosch Estate has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to development activities.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

With regard to the proposed Schalkenbosch Estate development in Tulbagh, the following recommendations are made.

- No archaeological mitigation is required.
- No more detailed studies are required

## **10. REFERENCES**

Kaplan, J. 2004 in prep. Archaeological Survey Remainder of Portion 3 of the Farm Weltevrede No. 236. Report prepared for Vitex (Pty) Ltd. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2002. Phase 1 Archaeological Heritage Impact Assessment Tulbagh 66 Kv refurbishment. Report prepared for Eskom Land Development. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2001. Gamma-Omega 765 Kv Transmission Line. Heritage Management Plan. Report prepared for PD Naidoo & Associates and Pba International Ltd. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 1997. Archaeological study Boontjiesrivier, Wolsley. Report prepared for Mr Eugene Spiers. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.