

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

**THE PROPOSED CONSERVANCY ESTATE**

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.

The proposed project comprises a Golf Estate and a Conservancy Estate.

### **The focus of this report is on the proposed Conservancy Estate.**

A report on the proposed Golf Estate will be submitted at a later stage during the EIA process.

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.

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 affected property is approximately 2000 ha in extent, while the proposed Conservancy Estate is approximately 275 ha in extent.

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

Ancient Early Stone Age and some Middle Stone Age artefacts were located in the proposed Conservancy Estate. The tools were found mainly in old agricultural and grazing lands on the lower and middle mountain slopes, and in degraded areas such as gravel slope washes and erosion dongas. Some tools were also noted on the steep, terraced mountain slopes.

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

## 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 Schalkenbosch project envisages a Golf Estate with a residential component comprising about 350 units.

A Conservancy Estate consisting of approximately 50 units will also be developed within a 275 ha Nature Reserve.

**The focus of this report is on the proposed Conservancy Estate.**

A report on the proposed Golf Estate will be submitted to Heritage Western Cape, the delegated Provincial Heritage Authority, at a later stage during the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

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

Heritage Consultant Ms Melanie Atwell has been appointed to undertake a full 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 Conservancy Estate;
- to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed Conservancy Estate;
- 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 proposed Conservancy Estate.

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

A locality map of the study area indicating the boundary of the proposed Schalkenbosch project is illustrated in Figure 1.

The study 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

The affected property is approximately 2000 ha in extent.

Currently the property (i.e. Schalkenbosch Farm) is being used for wheat farming, wine farming, stud farming and as a place of residence.

The proposed Conservancy Estate is illustrated in Figure 6.

A proposed site development plan for the Conservancy Estate is illustrated in Figure 7.

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

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

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

Rocky kopjes and outcrops on the affected property were targeted as possible areas of archaeological sensitivity.

Archaeological occurrences were recorded and given a co-ordinate using a Gamin Gecko GPS set on map datum WGS 84.

A desktop study was also undertaken.

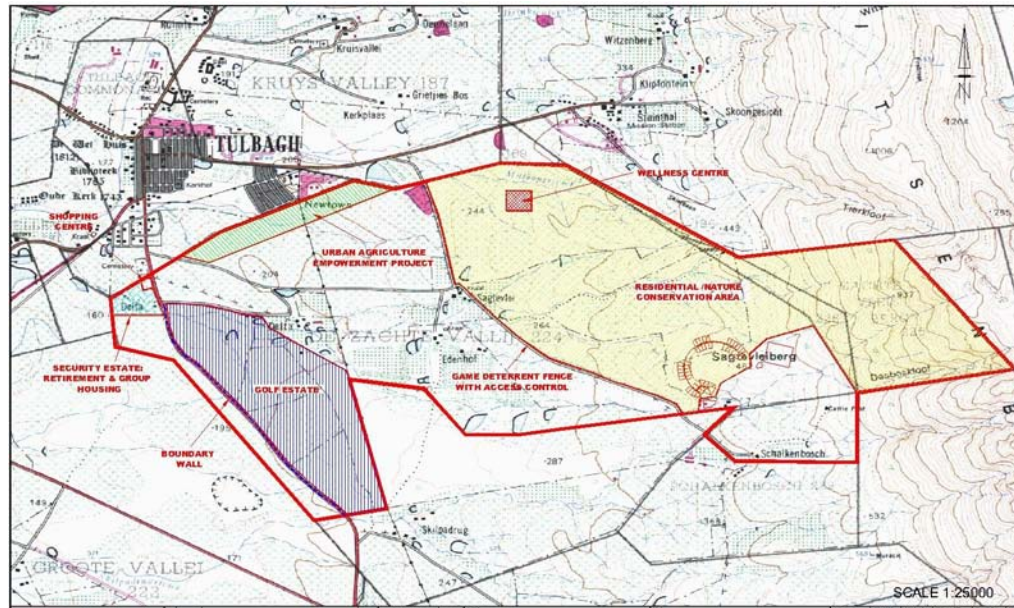


Figure 1. 1:50 000 Map (Ref. No. 3319 AC Tulbagh) indicating the location of the proposed Schalkenbosch Estate.



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. Aerial photograph of the proposed Conservancy Estate where some of the more visible archaeological occurrences were located.



Figure 7. Aerial photograph of the proposed Conservancy Estate with overlay of the proposed site development plan.

## **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**

### **6.1 The proposed Conservancy Estate**

Low to medium-density scatters of Early Stone Age<sup>1</sup> (ESA) and some Middle Stone Age<sup>2</sup> (MSA) artefacts were located during a baseline survey of the proposed Conservancy Estate.

It was not possible to determine the exact boundaries of individual archaeological occurrences, as there is material scattered more or less throughout the affected property, but GPS co-ordinates for some of the more visible and dense occurrences are indicated in Table 1. The contents of these scatters are similar, consisting exclusively of stone artefacts scatters in the surrounding landscape.

Areas where more visible archaeological occurrences were noted are indicated in Figure 6.

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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.



Table 1. Location of occurrences of archaeological material.

<b>DEGREES SOUTH</b>	<b>DEGREES EAST</b>	<b>FIGURES</b>
33° 17 607	19° 10 218	8 and 9
33° 18 162	19° 10 666	10 and 11
33° 18 328	19° 11 349	12 and 13
33° 18 232	19° 11 941	
33° 18 192	19° 11 793	
33° 18 273	19° 11 063	
33° 17 912	19° 10 895	
33° 17 683	19° 10 509	14 and 15
33° 17 799	19° 10 340	

Tools in the proposed Conservancy Estate were located more or less throughout the affected property, consisting exclusively of stone artefacts scatters in the surrounding landscape. Stone tools were, however, found mainly in old grazing and agricultural lands on the lower and middle slopes of the affected property. Small scatters of artefacts were also noted near/alongside heavily eroded dongas, streams, and gravel slope washes. Occasional tools were also located on some of the steep, terraced mountain slopes near the large storage dam above Sagtervleikop. Tools were also located near/on Sagtervleikop, as well as on the steep slopes in front of Sagtervleikop.

Tools were found wherever there has been some physical alteration of the landscape, although tools were also located in less disturbed areas, such as indigenous Renosterveld on the middle and lower, mountain slopes.

A range of ESA tool types were located during the baseline survey of the proposed Conservancy Estate (see Figures 8, 10, 12, and 14). These include large, edge stuck flakes some of which are retouched and utilized, numerous cores (mostly round irregular), chunks and some split/flaked cobbles. A number of bifacial and unifacial handaxes (both complete and incomplete) were also located. In addition, a few smaller unmodified and modified MSA flakes and blade tools were found. Some of the ESA and MSA tools are also heavily weathered and patinated.

All the tools, both ESA and MSA, are made on rounded, locally available, river quartzite cobbles.

The collection of tools illustrated in each of Figures 8, 10, 12 and 14 belong to single occurrences.

Figures 9, 11, 13 and 15 indicate the actual disturbed context in which the stone artefacts were found.



Figure 8. Collection of stone tools made from the proposed Conservancy Estate.  
Scale is in cm.



Figure 9. Disturbed context (old agricultural lands) in which the stone tools were found.



Figure 10. Collection of stone tools made from the proposed Conservancy Estate.  
Scale is in cm.



Figure 11. Disturbed context (old agricultural lands) in which the stone tools were found.



Figure 12. Collection of stone tools made from the proposed Conservancy Estate.  
Scale is in cm.



Figure 13. Disturbed context (old agricultural lands) in which the stone tools were found.  
Note some of the slowly recovering natural veld.



Figure 14. Collection of stone tools made from the proposed Conservancy Estate.  
Scale is in cm.



Figure 15. Disturbed context (old agricultural lands) in which the stone tools were found.

Comparable ESA artefacts made on rounded quartzite river cobbles were found during the course of archaeological surveys in the Tulbagh Valley (Kaplan 1997, 2002, 2005a in prep.). Very large numbers of ESA tools also occur in the proposed Schalkenbosch Golf Estate (Kaplan 2005b in prep.).

Significance of finds in the proposed Conservancy Estate: **LOW**

Suggested mitigation: **NONE REQUIRED**

## **6.2 Other finds**

A modern ruined concrete and cement cattle post (indicated on the 1:50 000 map 3319 AC Tulbagh), located south east of the large storage dam on the steep mountain slopes, was also noted.

No rock paintings or caves with archaeological deposits were found on the rocky kopjes located within as well as outside of the proposed Conservancy Estate. The rough quartzitic sandstones of the kopjes and the very steep mountains do not lend themselves to the formation of caves and overhangs conducive to such activities. 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 the proposed Conservancy Estate. Most of the Steinhall buildings were destroyed by the Tulbagh 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 impact of the proposed development (i.e. the Conservancy Estate) on significant archaeological heritage remains is likely to be low.

Despite the location of scatters of Stone Age tools more or less throughout the surrounding landscape, all the artefacts were found in a disturbed and degraded context. The receiving environment has been severely altered and modified as a result of farming and other agricultural-related activities.

Overall, the affected environment is not considered to be archaeologically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.

The probability of locating any significant archaeological heritage remains during implementation of the proposed project is likely to be improbable.

## **8. CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

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

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

With regard to the proposed development of the Schalkenbosch Conservancy Estate, the following recommendations are made.

- No archaeological mitigation is required.

## 10. REFERENCES

Kaplan, J. 1997. Archaeological study Boontjiesrivier, Wolsley. Report prepared for Mr. Eugene Spiers. 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.

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