

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
PROPOSED EXPANSION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS  
ON TANDFONTEIN FARM (WABOOMSRIVIER)  
KOUÉ BOKKEVELD  
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

Prepared for

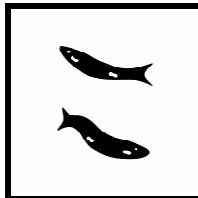
**CEDERBERG ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTICE**

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By



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## **Executive summary**

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed development of new agricultural lands on the Farm Tandfontein (Waboomsrivier) in the Koue Bokkeveld region of the Western Cape has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed development activities.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background and brief**

Cederberg Environmental Assessment Practice, on behalf of the Du Toit Groep in Ceres, requested the Agency for Cultural Resource Management to undertake an archaeological impact assessment of the proposed development of existing agricultural lands (orchards) on Tandfontein Farm (Waboomsrivier) in the Koue Bokkeveld region in the Western Cape Province.

The existing landholdings on Tandfontein Farm are already zoned for Agricultural use and rezoning of the affected property is therefore not required.

Water for irrigation of the affected property will be via an existing pipeline – of which a new section of less than 200 m in length will be laid. An existing dam already supplies water to landholdings in the surrounding area.

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.

Tandfontein Farm is located about 50 kms north of Ceres in the intensively cultivated Koue Bokkeveld valley of the Western Cape, and about 20 kms north of 'Op Die Berg' on the R303 to Citrusdal.

The proposed site (also known as Die Drif) is generally flat (on sandy soils) and covered in pristine Alluvium Fynbos (Figures 3-10). Large parts of the site on the lower Witzenberg Mountain slopes particularly, are covered in mature proteas that have not been burned for at least 20 years (Helme 2008). There are several gravel tracks and paths that intersect the proposed site. A small (dry) stream bed is situated on the western boundary of the proposed site, against the mountains. There are numerous small seasonal, sheetflow streams and channels that traverse the study area, that are characteristic of a seasonal wetland area. No significant landscape features occur on the property.

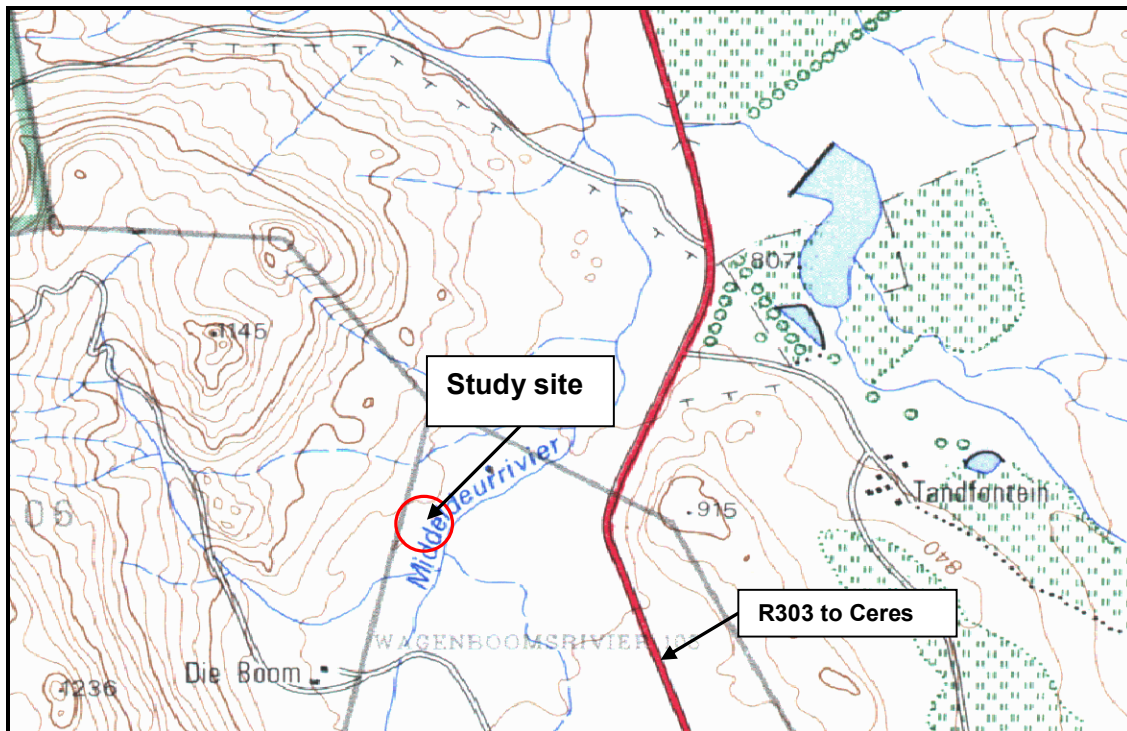
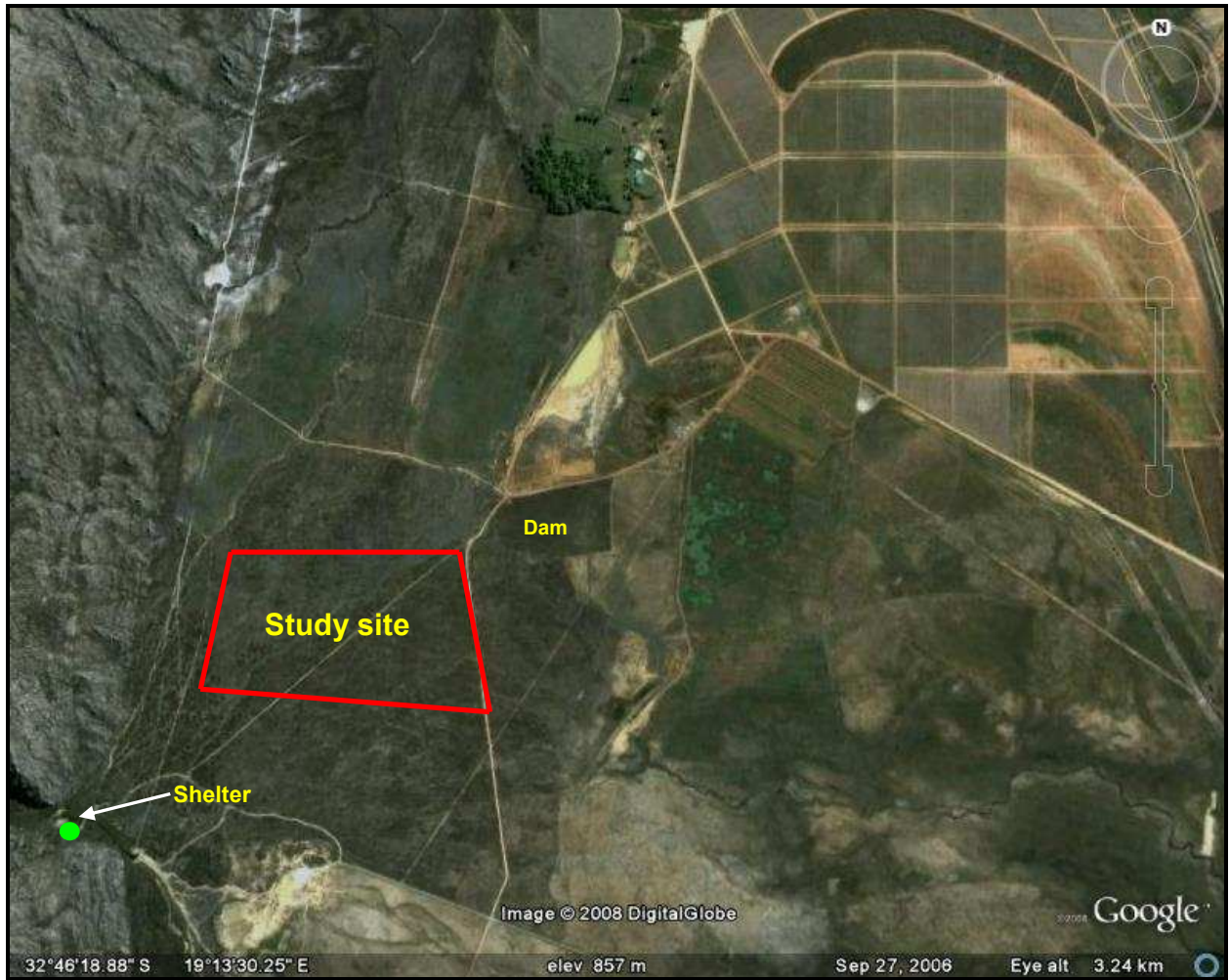


Figure 1. Locality map (3219 CA Citrusdal)



**Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study area**



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



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



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



**Figure 8. View of the site facing north**



**Figure 6. View of the site facing north west**



**Figure 9. View of the site facing north east**



**Figure 7. View of the site facing east**



**Figure 10. View of the site facing south east**

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

### **4.1 Method of survey**

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a ground survey of the proposed 30 ha development area.

The archaeologist also searched a small kloof (outside the proposed development area), for archaeological remains.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, 2008.

### **4.2. Constraints and limitations**

A large portion of the study area in the west is covered in mature Protea, species. The remainder of the study site is covered in thick natural veld, resulting in low archaeological visibility.

### **4.3 Potential risks**

There are no archaeological risks associated with the proposed project.

## **5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

### **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 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"

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 NHR 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. FINDINGS**

One Early Stone Age (ESA) flake, one (possible) broken ESA flake, one ESA flaked chunk, one flat Middle Stone Age flake, and several broken ESA/MSA chunks were documented during the baseline study. The tools were all located in the gravel tracks that intersect the site. All the tools are in locally available quartzite. No evidence of any factory or workshop site, or the result of any human settlement was identified. It is very likely that the flaked tools are not in primary context, but have most likely been moved around as a result of past fluvial (or river) activity.

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

### **6.1 Other finds**

One rock painting site, consisting of several faded indeterminate human and animal figures, was located in a shallow sandstone shelter on the south bank of a small stream in Waterkloof, about 1 km south west of the proposed development area (refer to Figure 2). Several Later Stone Age flakes were found in the drip line to the west of the shelter, while one upper grindstone and several pieces of flaked stone were found on the flat, bush covered slopes to the south east of the shelter.

According to the estate manager, Mr Izak Smit (pers. comm.) there are other rock painting sites on the Tandfontein property, but these are located in the mountains and river kloofs some distance from the proposed development area. The Kou Bokkeveld region of the southern Cederberg is known for its large number of rock paintings, particularly those depicting colonial imagery (Johnson *et al* 1959; Yates *et al* 1993). The Kou Bokkeveld was also unusual in terms of early Cape history, in that unlike many other areas from which the Khoisan quickly disappeared, there was sustained contact in the region between remnants of the Khoisan and colonists throughout the eighteenth century (Penn 1987).

## **7. IMPACT STATEMENT**

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

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

One small rock painting site was documented during the study, but this site is located about 1 km from the proposed development area and will not be impacted in any way by the proposed activities.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed development of new agricultural lands on the Farm Tandfontein (Waboomsrivier) in the Koue Bokkeveld has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed development activities.



## **9. 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).

## **10. REFERENCES**

Johnson, R.T., Rabinowitz, H & Sieff, P. Rock paintings at Katbakkies, Koue Bokkeveld, Cape. South African Archaeological Bulletin 14: 99-103.

Penn, N. 1987. The frontier in the Western Cape, 1700-1740. In: Parkington, J.E. and Hall, M. (eds.) Papers in the prehistory of the Western Cape, South Africa:462-503. Oxford: British Archaeological Reports.

Yates, R., Manhire, A. & Parkington, J. 1993. Colonial era paintings in the rock art of the south-western Cape: some preliminary observations. South African Archaeological Society Goodwin Series 7:59-70.