

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF PORTION 48 OF FARM TRADOUW 69, SWELLENDAM MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, WESTERN CAPE

(assessment conducted under Section 38 (8) of the  
National Heritage Resources Act as part of an EIA)

Prepared for

**JBA Schoonhoven**  
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6750

17 October 2007



Prepared by

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Archaeology Contracts Office was asked to conduct A Heritage Assessment of Portion 48 of Farm Tradouw 69. It is proposed that the land be rezoned from Agriculture 1 to Agriculture 2 to allow for agricultural industrial infrastructure. The assessment was initiated after the property owner commenced the construction of a fruit factory on his land. The 4.6 Ha site lies approximately 15 km west along the R62 from Barrydale in the Swellendam Magisterial District. Our study was primarily archaeological but included some consideration of palaeontology and general heritage.

It was impossible to determine whether any archaeological features or traces had existed on the site as it had already been leveled, surfaced and built upon. We did, however, survey areas to the east and south of the development for any signs of archaeological remains. This search turned up no evidence. An aerial photograph betrays the prior existence of three small structures on the site which are no longer there.

Portion 48 is situated on a shale substrate which does not provide good raw materials for stone tool manufacture. It is also fairly open and exposed, with no topographical features providing likely occupation sites in the vicinity. These factors all militate against the likelihood of there being any archaeology present. Although no fossils were seen, the shale substrate could be fossiliferous but this could not be determined by our study. The age of the structures that were previously on the site is unknown.

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

The UCT Archaeology Contracts Office was asked by Johan Schoonhoven to conduct a Heritage Assessment and complete a Notification of Intent to Develop for Portion 48 of the farm Tradouw 69, Swellendam Magisterial District (Figs 1 & 2). The site is part of a farm known as 'Op de Tradouw'. Despite having already commenced construction of a fruit processing factory on the site, the proponent is applying for a rezoning of the 4.6 Ha site from Agriculture 1 to Agriculture 2. The latter allows for the provision of industrial infrastructure related to the farming activities. The assessment, which forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment, was conducted retrospectively and included archaeology, palaeontology and general heritage concerns.

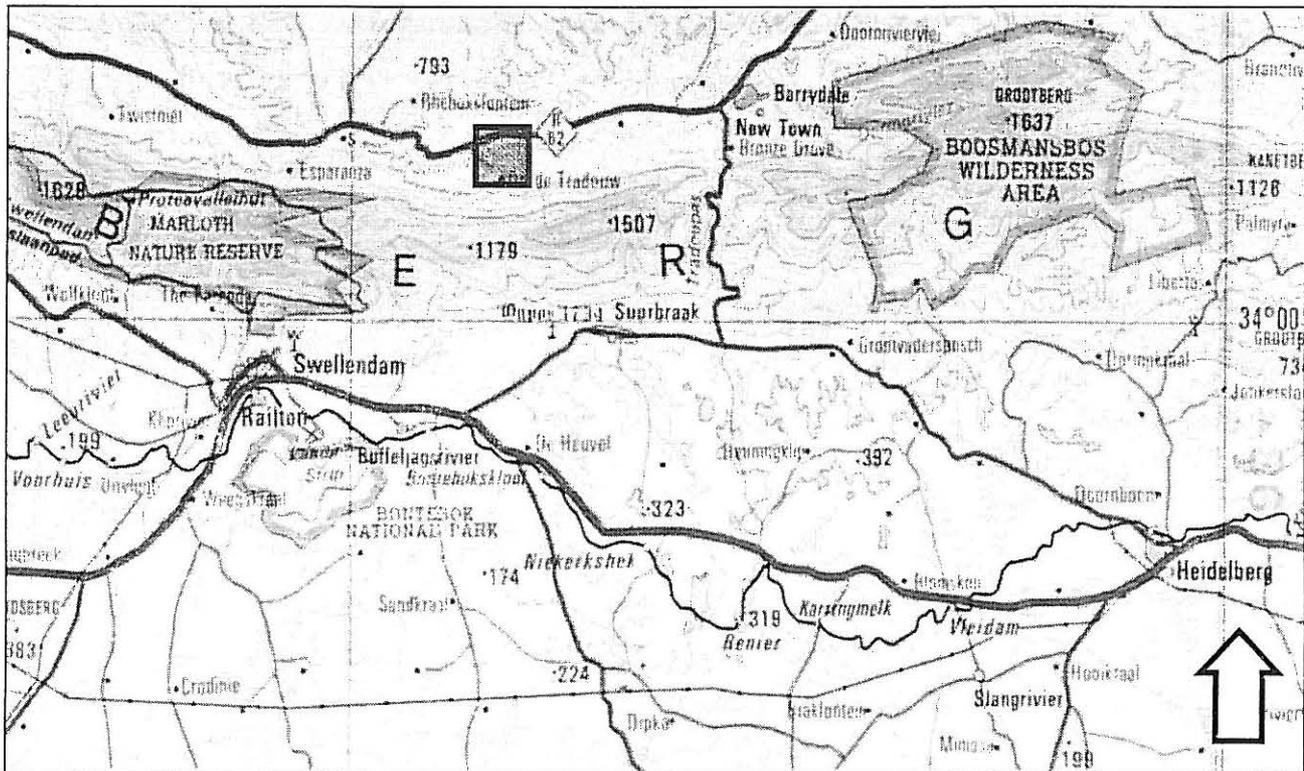


Figure 1: Location of the property (the area in the red box is enlarged in Fig. 2).

## 2. HERITAGE LEGISLATION

The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) of 1999 protects a variety of heritage resources including:

- palaeontological, prehistoric and historical material (including ruins) more than 100 years old (Section 35);
- human remains (Section 36);
- non-ruined structures older than 60 years (Section 42); and
- Landscapes with cultural significance.

According to Section 38 (1) of the Act the affected property requires heritage assessment based on its size of greater than 5000 m<sup>2</sup>.

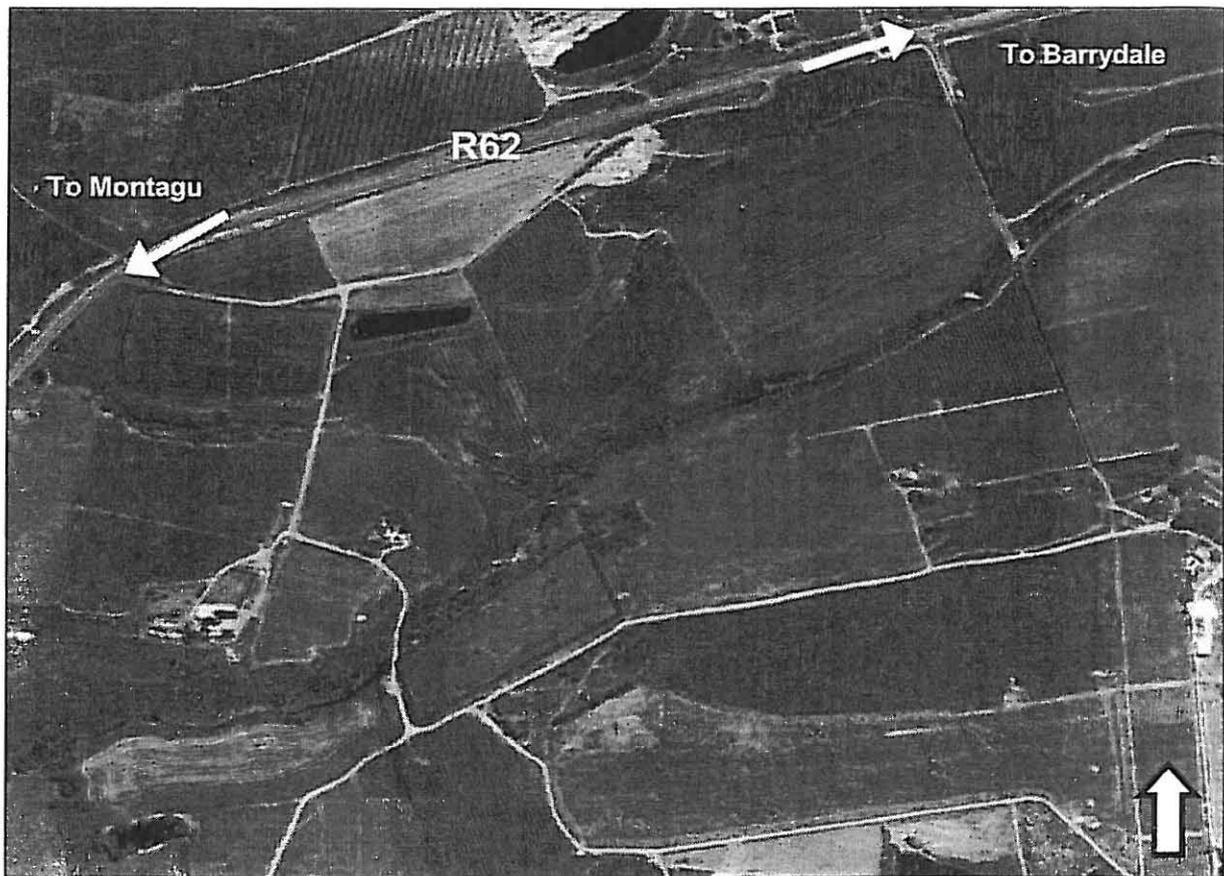


Figure 2: Google Earth aerial photograph showing the farm with the site outlined in red.

### 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Portion 48 has been levelled and gravelled and components of the fruit factory have already been built on the property (Fig. 3). A close up view taken from Google Earth reveals what appears to be mainly old agricultural land and three small structures (Fig. 4). These structures are no longer present having been removed prior to the commencement of construction activities.

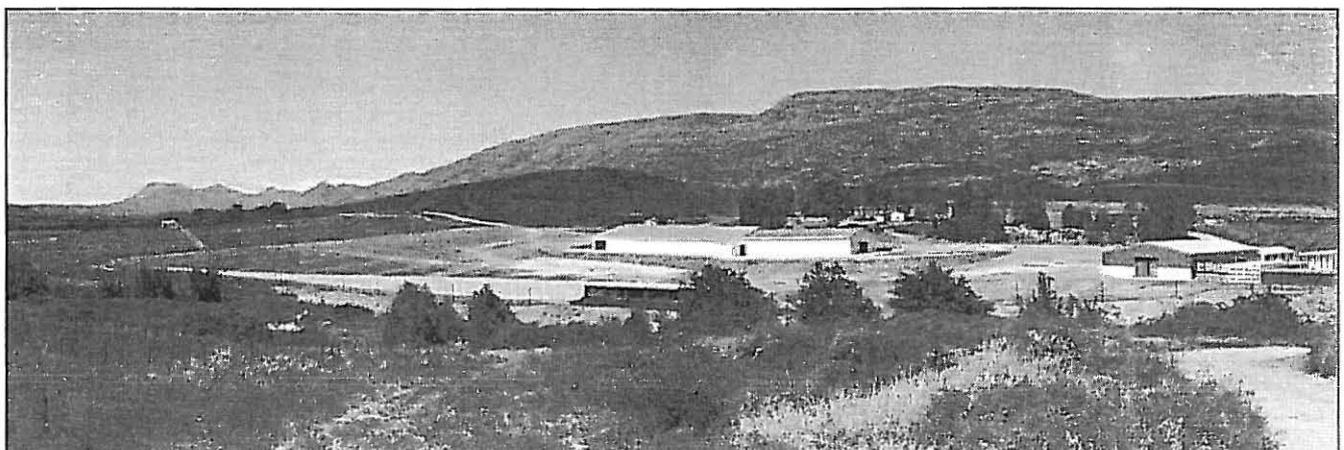
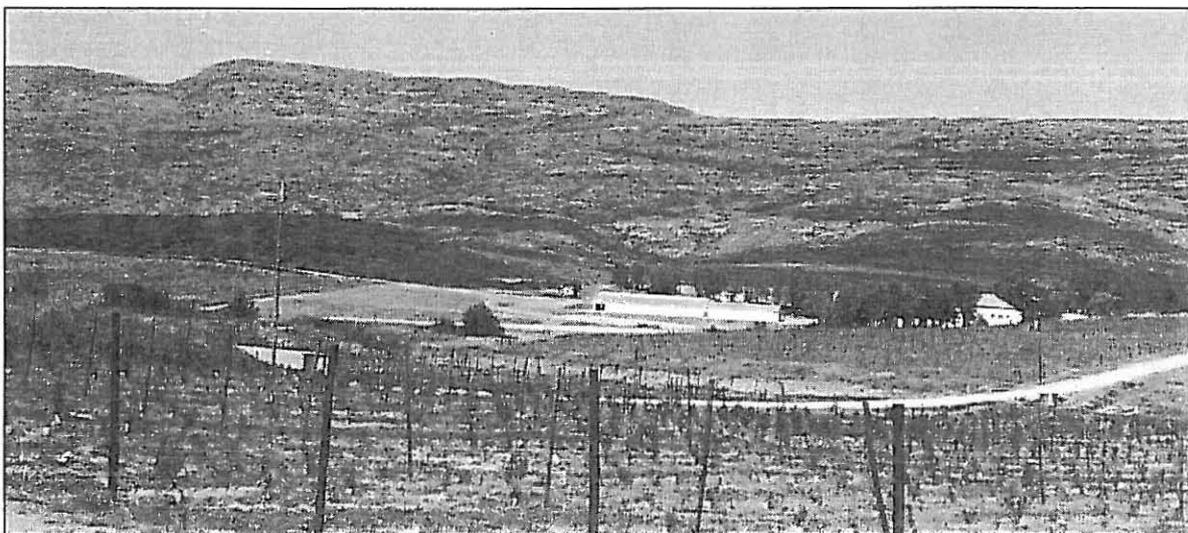


Figure 3: View towards the south east across the site. The grey levelled area and buildings occupy the site of Portion 48.



**Figure 4:** Aerial view of the site from Google Earth showing disused agricultural land and three small structures on the site.

Much of the site is surrounded by orchards, while to the southeast there is a hill covered by undisturbed indigenous vegetation (Figs 3 & 5). A river runs along the north-western edge of the site. The substrate in the area is shale (Figs 6 & 7), and the ground surface on the site before levelling would probably have looked much like that noted in the orchard immediately to the east (Fig. 7). Along the north-western edge of the site a small dam has been excavated into the shale (Fig. 8).



**Figure 5:** A view to the south across Op de Tradouw showing Portion 48, with the hill to the southeast and the cultivated areas to the north (foreground), east and southwest.



**Figure 6:** (left) The vegetation and substrate on the hill to the southeast of Portion 48.  
**Figure 7:** (right) The shale substrate in the orchard immediately east of the site.



**Figure 8:** An image of the dam being built on the northern extent of Portion 48.

## 4. METHODS

A survey of the property was conducted by two archaeologists on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2007. Although no archaeological material was found, landscape features, geology and vegetation in the surrounding areas were photographed and described. Given the extant disturbance of the site, land to the east and south of the site was included in the survey in order to check for any archaeological material that may have been present in the general area. Some of the material excavated from the dam and a nearby trench was also checked in an attempt to determine whether the shale substrate was fossiliferous.

## 4.1. Limitations

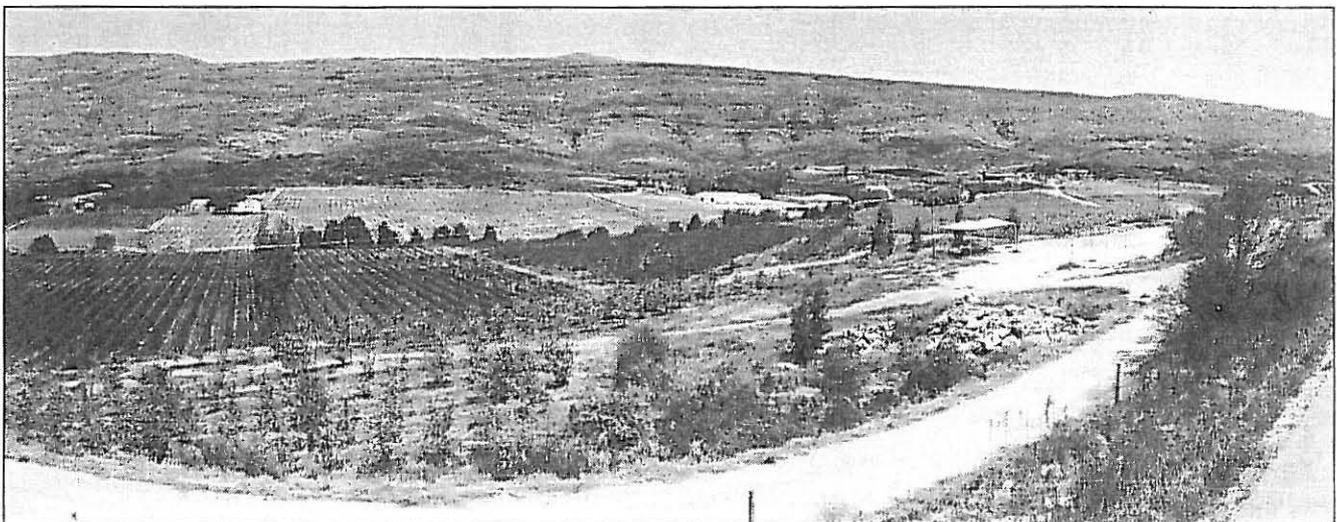
The survey was limited by the fact that the site had already been levelled and surfaced. Furthermore, most of the land around the site has been extensively cultivated for years. This results in a very disturbed landscape in which extant archaeological traces are likely to be ephemeral and out of context.

## 5. FINDINGS

Due to the disturbance, no prehistoric or historic archaeological material or structures were found on the site. No trace of the buildings evident in Figure 4 was present. The shale substrate on which the site is located is not suited to the manufacture of stone artefacts and no obvious landscape features that may have attracted habitation are present in the area. This suggests that prehistoric occupation is unlikely to have occurred with any intensity. Because the site is located on shale, the possibility exists that it might contain fossils. For this reason comment was solicited from John Almond, a palaeontologist with specialist knowledge of the area. His comments are as follows:

The various formations of the lower Bokkeveld group (Early to Mid Devonian, marine) in the Barrydale area are dipping steeply to the north and have narrow outcrop areas. It is therefore difficult to be certain on the basis of the published 1: 250 000 geological map (Ladismith sheet) exactly which mudrock unit has been excavated in this development. The most likely option seems to be the Tra Tra Formation (Eifelian, c. 395 Ma), but this would require field confirmation. To my knowledge, no significant fossil biota has been recorded from this particular unit in the Little Karoo, so any fossils exposed in bedrock excavations would be of palaeontological significance. There are historically important collections of lower Bokkeveld shelly invertebrates from the Montagu area to the west, made in the 1830s. In my experience, the Bokkeveld mudrocks in this whole region tend to be highly cleaved, making fossil collection difficult. It is therefore unlikely in this case that palaeontological heritage has been substantially compromised by this development.

The site is visible from Route 62, which is considered a scenic route (Fig.7). Development on the site will have a negative visual impact on this route and the general character of the agricultural landscape.



**Figure 7:** A view to the southwest of Op de Tradouw taken from Route 62 with Portion 48 visible.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

- The entire site was levelled prior to this assessment and therefore no archaeological or historical material was present.
- It is felt that archaeological impacts would not have occurred.
- Due to the timing of this assessment, the structures that were present before could not be considered and their age and importance are therefore unknown.
- The site and its structures are visible from Route 62 and impinge on the quality of this scenic route.

## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that some form of mitigation of the visual impact on Route 62 and the general landscape be carried out. This could take the form of painting the buildings a suitable colour or planting trees that will screen the buildings from the R62.

Given the advanced state of development on the site, no further heritage work could be carried out and, if agreeable to Heritage Western Cape, the rezoning should be allowed to proceed.

## 8. INVESTIGATION TEAM

Fieldwork & report:	K. Smuts J. Orton
Palaeontological desktop comment:	John Almond



# Heritage Western Cape

## Notification of Intent to Develop

Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25, 1999)

Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act requires that any person who intends to undertake certain categories of development in the Western Cape (see Part 1) must notify Heritage Western Cape at the very earliest stage of initiating such a development and must furnish details of the location, nature and extent of the proposed development.

This form is designed to assist the developer to provide the necessary information to enable Heritage Western Cape to decide whether a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) will be required, and to establish the appropriate scope of and range of skills required for the HIA.

Note: This form must be completed when the proposed development does not fulfil the criteria for Environmental Impact Assessment as set out in the EIA regulations.

Its completion is recommended as part of the EIA process to assist in establishing the requirements of Heritage Western Cape with respect to the heritage component of the EIA.

1. It is recommended that the form be completed by a professional familiar with heritage conservation issues.
2. The completion of Section 7 by heritage specialists is not mandatory, but is recommended in order to expedite decision-making at notification stage. If Section 7 is completed:
  - Section 7.1 must be completed by a professional heritage practitioner with skills and experience appropriate to the nature of the property and the development proposals.
  - Section 7.2 must be completed by a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist.
  - Each page of the form must be signed by the heritage practitioner and archaeologist/palaeontologist.
3. Additional information may be provided on separate sheets.
4. This form is available in electronic format so that it can be completed on computer.

OFFICIAL USE	
Date received:	Response date:

**PART 1: BASE INFORMATION**

<b>1.1 PROPERTY</b>	
Name of property	Op de Tradouw
Street address or location (e.g. off R44)	Off R62
Erf or farm number/s	Portion 48 of Tradouw 69
Town or District	between Montagu and Barrydale
Responsible Local Authority	
Magisterial District	Swellendam
Current use	Construction site
Current zoning	Agriculture 1
Predominant land use of surrounding properties	Agriculture
Extent of the property	4.6 Ha

<b>1.2 CATEGORY OF DEVELOPMENT (S. 38 (1))</b>	<b>X</b>	<i>Brief description of the nature and extent of the proposed development or activity (See also Part 3.1)</i>
1. Construction of a road, wall, powerline, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier over 300m in length		Rezoning of site from Agriculture 1 to Agriculture 2 to allow for the provision of infrastructure related to the fruit farming industry.  Development has already taken place on the site prior to the necessary rezoning having taken place.
2. Construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50 m in length		
3. Any development or activity that will change the character of a site—		
a) exceeding 5 000 m <sup>2</sup> in extent	X	
b) involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof		
c) involving three or more erven or divisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years		
4. Rezoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m <sup>2</sup>	X	
5. Other (state)		

<b>1.3 INITIATION STAGE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT</b>		
Exploratory (e.g. viability study)		<i>Notes:</i> Development is already underway.
Conceptual		
Outline proposals		
Draft / Sketch plans		
Other (state)	X	

**PART 2: HERITAGE ISSUES**

<b>2.1 CONTEXT</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>(check box of all relevant categories)</i>	<i>Brief description/explanation</i>
	Urban environmental context	Agricultural area dominated by fruit orchards and vineyards lying at the northern foot of the Langeberg Mountains.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rural environmental context	
	Natural environmental context	
<b>Formal protection (NHRA)</b>		
	Is the property part of a protected area (S. 28)?	
	Is the property part of a heritage area (S. 31)?	
<b>Other</b>		
	Is the property near to or visible from any protected heritage sites?	
	Is the property part of a conservation area or special area in terms of the Zoning Scheme?	
	Does the site form part of an historical settlement or townscape?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the site form part of a rural cultural landscape?	
	Does the site form part of a natural landscape of cultural significance?	
	Is the site within or adjacent to a scenic route?	
	Is the property within or adjacent to any other area which has special environmental or heritage protection?	
	Do the general context or any adjoining properties have cultural significance <sup>1</sup> ?	

<b>2.2 PROPERTY FEATURES AND CHARACTERISTICS</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>(check box if YES)</i>	<i>Brief description</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Has the site been previously cultivated or developed?	cultivated
	Are there any significant landscape features on the property?	
	Are there any sites or features of geological significance on the property?	unknown
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the property have any rocky outcrops on it?	snale substrate (levelled for construction)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the property have any fresh water sources (springs, streams, rivers) on or alongside it?	stream to the northwest
	Does the property have any sea frontage?	
	Does the property form part of a coastal dune system?	
	Are there any marine shell heaps or scatters on the property?	
	Is the property or part thereof on land reclaimed from the sea?	

<b>2.3 HERITAGE RESOURCES<sup>2</sup> ON THE PROPERTY</b>		
<b>X</b>	<i>(check box if present on the property)</i>	<i>Name / List / Brief description</i>
<b>Formal protections (NHRA)</b>		
	National heritage site (S. 27)	
	Provincial heritage site (S. 27)	
	Provisional protection (s.29)	
	Place listed in heritage register (S. 30)	
<b>General protections (NHRA)</b>		
	structures older than 60 years (S. 34)	
	archaeological <sup>o</sup> site or material (S. 35)	
	palaeontological <sup>o</sup> site or material (S. 35)	
	graves or burial grounds (S. 36)	
	public monuments or memorials <sup>o</sup> (S. 37)	
<b>Other:</b>		
	Any heritage resource identified in a heritage survey (state author and date of survey and survey grading/s)	
	Any other heritage resources (describe)	

<b>2.4 PROPERTY HISTORY AND ASSOCIATIONS</b>		
<b>X</b>	<i>(check box if YES)</i>	<i>Brief description/explanation</i>
	Provide a brief history of the property (e.g. when granted, previous owners and uses).	history unknown but agricultural use for at least several decades
	Is the property associated with any important persons or groups?	
	Is the property associated with any important events, activities or public memory?	
	Does the property have any direct association with the history of slavery?	
	Is the property associated with or used for living heritage <sup>6</sup> ?	
	Are there any oral traditions attached to the property?	

<b>2.6 SUMMARY OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY (OR ANY PART OF THE PROPERTY) (S. 3(3))</b>		
<b>X</b>	<i>(check box of all relevant categories)</i>	<i>Brief description/explanation</i>
	Important in the community or pattern of South Africa's (or Western Cape's, or local) history.	
	Associated with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in history.	
	Associated with the history of slavery.	
	Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons	
	Exhibits particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group	
	Demonstrates a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period	
	Has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural heritage	
	<b>Typical:</b> Demonstrates the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places	
	<b>Rare:</b> Possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage	
Please provide a brief statement of significance		
There is no heritage of significance on the property		
Neighbouring Route 62 is a scenic route which will be visually impacted by the development		

### **PART 3: POTENTIAL IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT**

<b>3.1 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Brief description of proposed development	rezoning of site to allow for the construction of buildings for the fruit industry
Monetary value	
Anticipated starting date	already underway
Anticipated duration of work	
Does it involve change in land use?	yes
Extent of land coverage of the proposed development	4.6 Ha
Does it require the provision of additional services? (e.g. roads, sewerage, water, electricity)	yes
Does it involve excavation or earth moving?	yes
Does it involve landscaping?	
Does it involve construction work?	yes

What is the total floor area?	
How many storeys including parking?	
What is the maximum height above natural ground level?	
<b>3.2 POTENTIAL IMPACT</b>	
What impact will the proposed development have on the heritage values of the context of the property? (e.g. visibility, change in character)	complete change of character of the site and visual impact on the R02 scenic route.
Are any heritage resources listed in Part 2 affected by the proposed development? If so, how?	
Please summarise any public/social benefits of the proposed development.	
allows for more efficient processing of fruit	

#### PART 4: POLICY, PLANNING AND LEGAL CONTEXT

X	(check box if YES)	Details/explanation
X	Does the proposed development conform with approved regional and local planning policies? (e.g. SDF, Sectoral Plans)	
	Does the development require any departures or consent use in terms of the Zoning Scheme?	
	Has an application been submitted to the planning authority?	
	Has their comment or approval been obtained? (attach copy)	
	Is planning permission required for any subdivision or consolidation?	
X	Has an application been submitted to the planning authority?	Rezoning plan submitted
X	Has their comment or approval been obtained? (attach copy)	Awaiting approval
	Are there title deed restrictions linked to the property?	
	Does the property have any special conservation status?	
	Are there any other restrictions on the property?	
X	Is the proposed development subject to the EIA regulations of the Environment Conservation Act (Act 73 of 1989)?	Section 24(g) application in terms of NEMA.
X	Has an application (or environmental checklist) been submitted to DEA&DP? What are the requirements of DEA&DP?	Section 24(g) application in terms of NEMA.
X	At what stage in the IEM process is the application (scoping phase, EIA etc.)	Section 24(g) application in terms of NEMA.
X	Has any assessment of the heritage impact of the proposed development been undertaken in terms of the EIA or planning process?	This application and attached report

	Are any such studies currently being undertaken?	
	Is approval from any other authority required?	
	Has permission for similar development on this site been refused by any authority in the past?	
	Have interested and affected bodies have been consulted? Please list them and attach any responses.	

**PART 5: APPLICANT DETAILS**

REGISTERED PROPERTY OWNER		
Name	SCHOONIES FAMILY TRUST	
Address	J B A SCHOONHOVEN, OP DIE TRADOUW BOERDERY, P O Box 194, BARRYDALE, 6750	
Telephone	(028)5721211	
Fax	(028)5721240	
E-mail	tradoux@schoonies.co.za	
Signature		Date

DEVELOPER		
Name	SCHOONIES FAMILY TRUST	
Address	J B A SCHOONHOVEN, OP DIE TRADOUW BOERDERY, P O Box 194, BARRYDALE, 6750	
Telephone	(028)5721211	
Fax	(028)5721240	
E-mail	tradoux@schoonies.co.za	
Signature		Date

PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLETING THE FORM		
Name	Barry Wiesner	
Address	P O Box 305 Greyton 7233	
Telephone	028-2611155	
Fax	0866727238	
E-mail	barrywiesner@mweb.co.za	
Field of expertise & qualifications	EAP Mphil (Environmental Management)	
Signature		Date

PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLETING THE FORM			
Name	Jayson Orion		
Address	Department of Archaeology, University of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch, 7701		
Telephone	(021) 650 2357		
Fax	(021) 650 2352		
E-mail	jayson.orton@uct.ac.za		
Field of expertise & qualifications	MA (Archaeology), CRM work since 1999		
Signature		Date	17.10.2007

**PART 6: ATTACHMENTS**

	Plan, aerial photo and/or orthophoto clearly showing location and context of property.
	Site plan or aerial photograph clearly indicating the position of all heritage resources and features.
	Photographs of the site, showing its characteristics and heritage resources.
	Relevant sketch proposals, development plans, architectural and engineering drawings and landscaping plans.
	Responses from other authorities.
	Responses from any interested and affected parties.
	Any archaeological reports or other reports that may have been carried out on the property or properties within the immediate area.
	Any other pertinent information to assist with decision-making.

**PART 7. RECOMMENDATIONS BY HERITAGE SPECIALISTS**

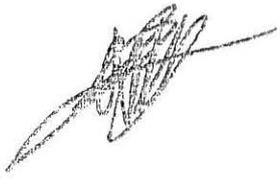
7.1 RECOMMENDATIONS OF GENERALIST HERITAGE PRACTITIONER		
<i>Further investigation required</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>	<i>Describe issues and concerns</i>
Existing Conservation and Planning Documentation		
Planning		
Urban Design		
Built Environment		
Architecture/building fabric	yes	structures visible from R62 and should be screened or painted to blend in
Cultural Landscape		
Visual Impact	yes	as above (R62)
History		

Published Information		
Title Deeds Survey		
Archival		
Oral History		
Social History		
Other specialist study (specify)		
Public Consultation		
Specialist Groups		
Neighbours		
Open House		
Public Meeting		
Public Advertisement		
Other (specify)		
No further specialist conservation studies required		
Alternative development options and mitigation measures		
No development option		
<b>Heritage Impact Assessment required, co-ordinated by a generalist heritage practitioner</b>		
<b>Development inappropriate and should not be permitted. Further HIA not required.</b>		
Other recommendations (use additional pages if necessary)		

I have reviewed the property and the proposed development and this completed form and make the recommendations above.

Name of Heritage Practitioner    Jayson Orton

Qualifications, field of expertise    MA (Archaeology) CRM since 1999

Signature.....  .....

.....Date..... 17.10.2007 .....

**7.2 RECOMMENDATIONS OF ARCHAEOLOGIST/PALAEONTOLOGIST**

<i>Further investigation required</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>	<i>Describe issues and concerns</i>
Palaeontology	No	comment from palaeontologist (John Almond) was obtained and included in the report
Pre-colonial archaeology		
Historical archaeology		
Industrial archaeology		
No further archaeological or palaeontological investigation		
Other recommendations (use additional pages if necessary)		

I have reviewed the property and the proposed development and this completed form and make the recommendations above.

Name of Archaeologist/Palaeontologist Jayson Orton

Qualifications, field of expertise MA (Archaeology), CRM since 1989



Signature.....

.....Date.....17.10.2007.....

- <sup>5</sup> Public monuments and memorials means all monuments and memorials –
- (a) erected on land belonging to any branch of ... government or on land belonging to any organisation funded by or established in terms of the legislation of such a branch of government; or
  - (b) which were paid for by public subscription, government funds, or a public-spirited or military organisation, and are on land belonging to any private individual.
- <sup>6</sup> Living heritage means the intangible aspects of inherited culture, and may include cultural tradition, oral history, performance, ritual, popular memory, skills and techniques, indigenous knowledge systems and the holistic approach to nature, society and social relationships.

**Notes:**

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- 1 Cultural significance means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance.
- 2 Heritage resource means any place or object of cultural significance.  
"Place" includes –
  - (a) a site, area or region;
  - (b) a building or other structure which may include equipment, furniture, fittings and other articles associated with or connected with such building or other structure;
  - (c) a group of buildings or other structures [and associated equipment, fittings, etc];
  - (d) an open space, including a public square, street or park; and
  - (e) in relation to the management of a place, includes the immediate surroundings.
- 3 Archaeological means –
  - (a) material remains resulting from human activity which are in a state of disuse and are in or on land and which are older than 100 years, including artefacts, human and hominid remains and artificial features and structures;
  - (b) rock art, being any form of painting, engraving or other graphic representation on a fixed rock surface or loose rock objects, which were created by human agency and which date from the