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# PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT THE PROPOSED SWARTLAND SHOPPING MALL

**Remainder Farm Tweefontein No. 696, Erf 2654 (Portion of Erf  
327), Erf 9215 (Portion of Erf 2654) & Portion of Erf 327  
Malmesbury**

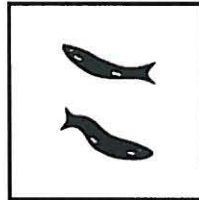
Prepared for:  
**ENVIROAFRICA CC**

Att: Mr Jerry Avis  
PO Box 5367  
Helderberg  
7135

Ph: (021) 851 1616  
Fax: 086 512 0154

Client:  
**PLOT 226 VAN RIEBEECKSHOF cc**

By



**Agency for Cultural Resource Management**

P.O. Box 159  
Riebeeck West  
7306

Ph/Fax: 022 461 2755

Mobile: 082 321 0172

E-mail: [acrm@waccess.co.za](mailto:acrm@waccess.co.za)



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## **Executive summary**

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed Swartland Shopping Mall in Malmesbury has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to the proposed development activities.

The following findings were made:

- Two Stone Age tools were documented during the study.

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

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

EnviroAfrica on behalf of Plot 226 Van Riebeeckshof cc requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed development of the Swartland Regional Shopping Mall in Malmesbury, in the Western Cape Province.

The proposed site comprises four pieces of land; namely (a) farmland (b) show grounds (c) municipal reservoir site and (d) private school with details as follows:

- a) Remainder of the Farm Tweefontein No. 696, zoned Agriculture;
- b) Erf 2654 (Portion of Erf 327) which includes the existing Malmesbury show ground and is zoned Private Open Space;
- c) Erf 9215 (Portion of Erf 2654) which includes the Malmesbury Private Christian School and is zoned Private Open Space, and
- d) Portion of Erf 327 which includes commonage accommodating a municipal reservoir and is zoned Private Open Space

The proposed project comprises eight phases and includes a regional shopping centre (or mall) with office space, private clinic, lifestyle centre, sectional title units, cluster housing, parking and roads.

The extent of the proposed development (about 23 ha) falls within the requirements for an archaeological impact assessment as required by Section 38 of the South African Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological heritage sites and remains that may be 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.

A Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist has been completed by the town planner and heritage consultant Ms Lize Malan and submitted to Heritage Western Cape (Belcom) for comment.

## **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

- Identify and map pre-colonial archaeological heritage resources on the proposed site;
- Determine the importance of pre-colonial archaeological heritage resources on the proposed site;
- Determine and assess the potential impacts of the proposed development on pre-colonial archaeological heritage resources, and
- Recommend mitigation measures to minimize impacts associated with the proposed development

### 3. THE STUDY SITE

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

An aerial photograph of the study site is illustrated in Figure 2.

The proposed Swartland Regional Shopping Mall (S 33° 26 41.8 E 18° 43 23.9 on map datum wgs 84) is located in the Swartland region of the Western Cape Province and falls within the jurisdiction area of the Swartland Municipality, on the north western border of the town of Malmesbury, and some 70 km north of Cape Town. The receiving environment comprises agricultural land (to the north west), the Malmesbury Show Grounds, a municipal reservoir and the Malmesbury Christian Private School (Figures 3-8). The proposed site constitutes a highly disturbed and transformed landscape. The affected property is bordered by agriculture land (vineyards) to the north and the N7 on the west. No significant landscape features occur on the site. Surrounding land use comprises agriculture (vineyards and grazing) to the north and northwest, the Mount Royal Golf Estate to the west and residential housing to the south and east.

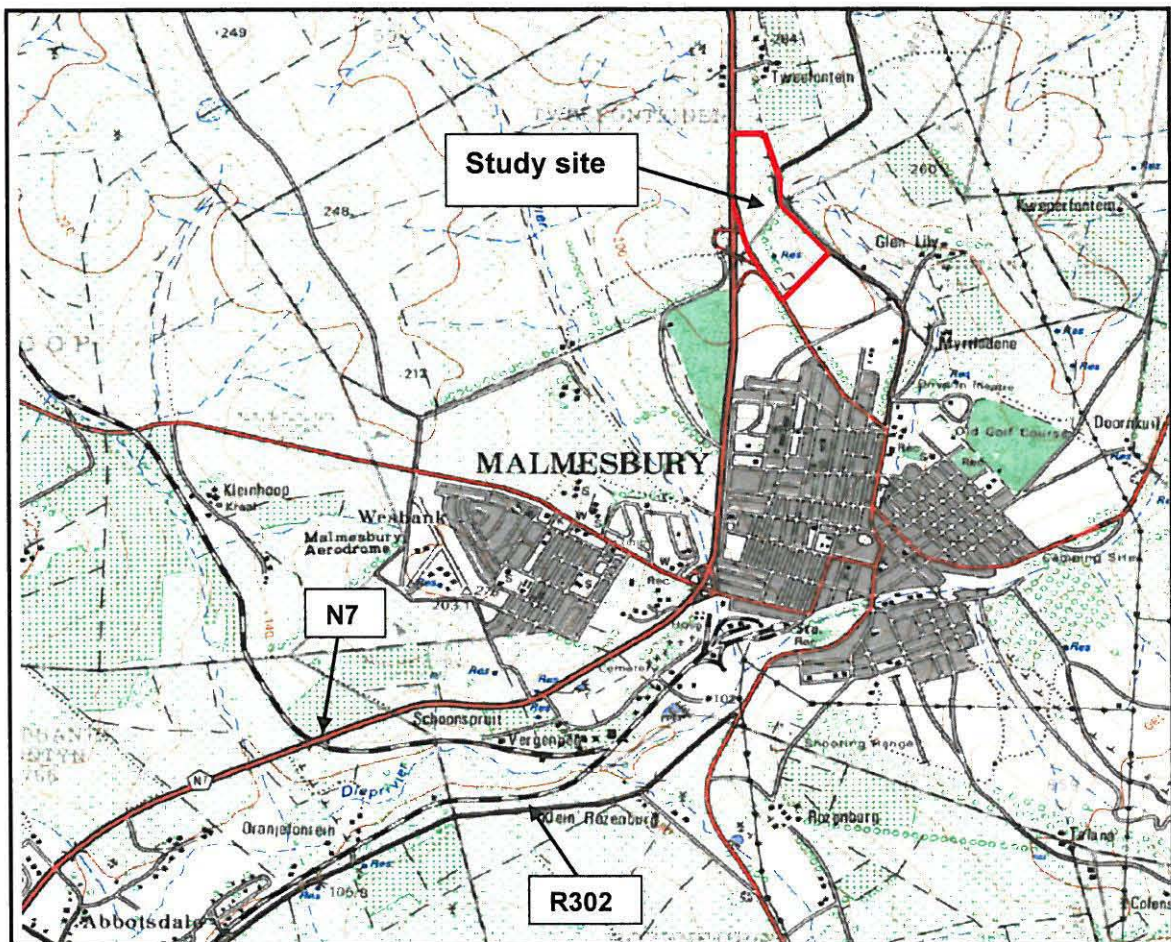
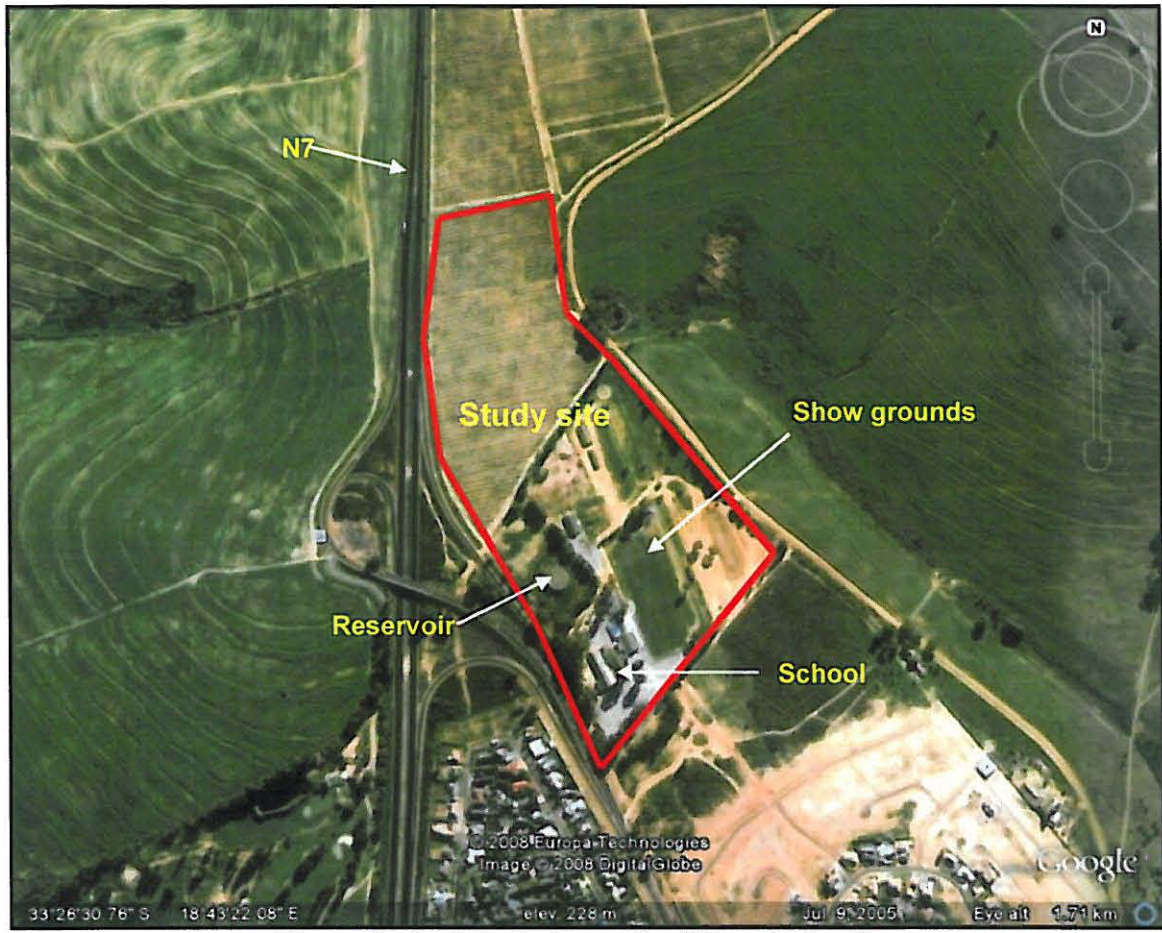


Figure 1. Locality Map (3318 BC Malmesbury)



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

## **4. STUDY APPROACH**

### **4.1 Method**

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a ground survey of the proposed site.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2008.

### **4.2 Constraints and limitations**

There were no constraints or limitations associated with the study.

### **4.3 Identification of potential risks**

There are no potential (archaeological) risks associated with the proposed development.

#### **4.4 Results of the desk top study**

The town of Malmesbury has been identified as a core area for large scale industrial, commercial and residential development. As a result, several archaeological impact assessments have been carried out in the area in the last few years.

Early Stone Age (ESA) and Middle Stone Age (MSA) tools in Malmesbury were first documented during a study of the proposed Schoonspruit development, a large mixed use development situated within the urban edge of the town (Kaplan 2006a, 2007a). A few ESA tools were also documented on land identified for the planned Mount Royal Golf Estate (Kaplan 2004) situated alongside the N7 and the proposed Malmesbury Regional Shopping Centre, while several ESA tools were found on the farm Roodraai about 5 kms further to the north west (Kaplan 2006b). ESA tools have also been recorded on the Farm Klipfontein immediately north of the proposed Regional Shopping Centre (Kaplan 2007b). Marginal scatters of Middle Stone Age and ESA tools were documented on the Farm Rozenburg, alongside the R302 (2007d). Further afield, ESA tools have been found on the Farm Amoskuil, about 2.5 kms south of Malmesbury, alongside the N7 (Kaplan 2007c) and Later Stone Age tools have been recorded on the Farm Olyvenhoek situated about 10 km south of Malmesbury on the Malmesbury-Kalbaskraal road (Kaplan 2006c). ESA tools have been found on several smallholdings at Tierfontein about 10 kms south west of Malmesbury and on several farms surrounding the Perdeberg Mountain (pers. observation). All the above tools have been located in disturbed and mostly highly transformed landscapes.

Studies undertaken to date in Malmesbury indicate that the region is not an area of pre-colonial archaeological importance. This may have much to do with the fact that the region (the Swartland) has been characterised by intensive agriculture activities (mainly wheat farming) for more than 100 years and that the archaeological landscape has already been largely destroyed.

### **5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

The following section provides a brief overview of the relevant legislation with regard to the archaeology of the subject property.

#### **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 HHR 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 broken Middle Stone Age quartzite flake and one possible Early Stone Age flaked quartzite cobble were documented in the vineyards alongside the N7.

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

## **7. IMPACT STATEMENT**

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

The probability of locating important pre-colonial archaeological heritage remains during implementation of the project is likely to be improbable.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

With regard to the proposed Swartland Regional Shopping Mall, the following recommendations are made:

- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations and earthworks for the proposed project, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Dr Antionet Jerardino 021 462 4502), or Heritage Western Cape (Mr Calvin van Wyk 021483 9692). Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

## 9. REFERENCES

Kaplan, J. 2007a. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed development Precinct 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 Malmesbury Western Cape. Portion of Erf 317, a Portion of Erf 7455, a Portion of Farm Oranje Fontein 1113, Portion of Farm 771 Rozenburg, Portion of Portion 1 of Farm 697 and a Portion of Portion 2 of Farm 695 Malmesbury. Report prepared for CK Rumboll and Partners. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

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Kaplan, J. 2004. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed Mount Royal Golf and Country Estate Malmesbury. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.