

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
THE PROPOSED ENKOSI ESTATE & NATURE RESERVE**

(Portion 71 of the Farm Veldriff No. 110 Piketberg)

Prepared for:

CONRADIE GOODWIN AND ASSOCIATES

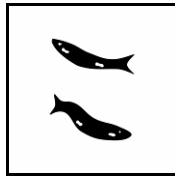
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Conradie Goodwin & Associates requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for a proposed development on Portion 71 of the Farm Veldriff No. 110 (Piketberg) in the Western Cape.

The proposed rezoning and subdivision of the subject property provides for the development of a retirement village, including a high care unit, visitor lodge, restaurant and associated infrastructure such as access roads and engineering services.

Vidamemoria Heritage Consultants have been appointed to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed project.

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

The proposed site is located on degraded agricultural land on the northern bank of the Berg River about 4 kms outside the town of Veldriff on the Cape West Coast. The site is completely covered in agricultural feed, resulting in extremely poor archaeological visibility. The surrounding land use comprises agricultural lands.

The following findings were made:

One quartz bipolar core, one quartz chunk and one small fragment of a porcelain rim sherd were documented during the study. The remains have been rated as having low local significance.

With regard to the proposed development on Portion 71 of the Farm Veldriff No. 110, situated in the Piketberg District, the following recommendations are made

- Should any unmarked human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations and earthworks, these should immediately be reported to Heritage Western Cape (Mr N. Wiltshire 483 9692). Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Conradie Goodwin & Associates on behalf of Melkplaas Eiendomsontwikkeling Pty Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed development on Portion 71 of the Farm Veldriff No. 110 near Veldriff (Piketberg District) in the Western Cape.

The proposed rezoning and subdivision of the subject property (currently zoned Agriculture), provides for the development of a retirement village consisting of about 133 units, a frail care facility, visitor lodge and restaurant, including associated infrastructure such as internal roads and engineering services.

The extent of the proposed development (about 5.0 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 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.

Vidamemoria Heritage Consultants have been appointed to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed project.

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 on the proposed site;
- to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance on the proposed site;
- to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites on 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 on the proposed site

3. THE STUDY SITE

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

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

The subject property is located on a flat piece of agricultural land on the northern bank of the Berg River, about 4 kms outside the town of Veldriff on the Cape West Coast. The proposed site and surrounding area is almost completely covered in knee-high wild peas (for grazing). Apart from the Berg River, there are no significant landscape features occurring on the proposed site. The surrounding land use comprises agricultural lands (Figures 3-12).

The proposed development will be clustered around and alongside two small patches of natural veld that occur on the proposed site.

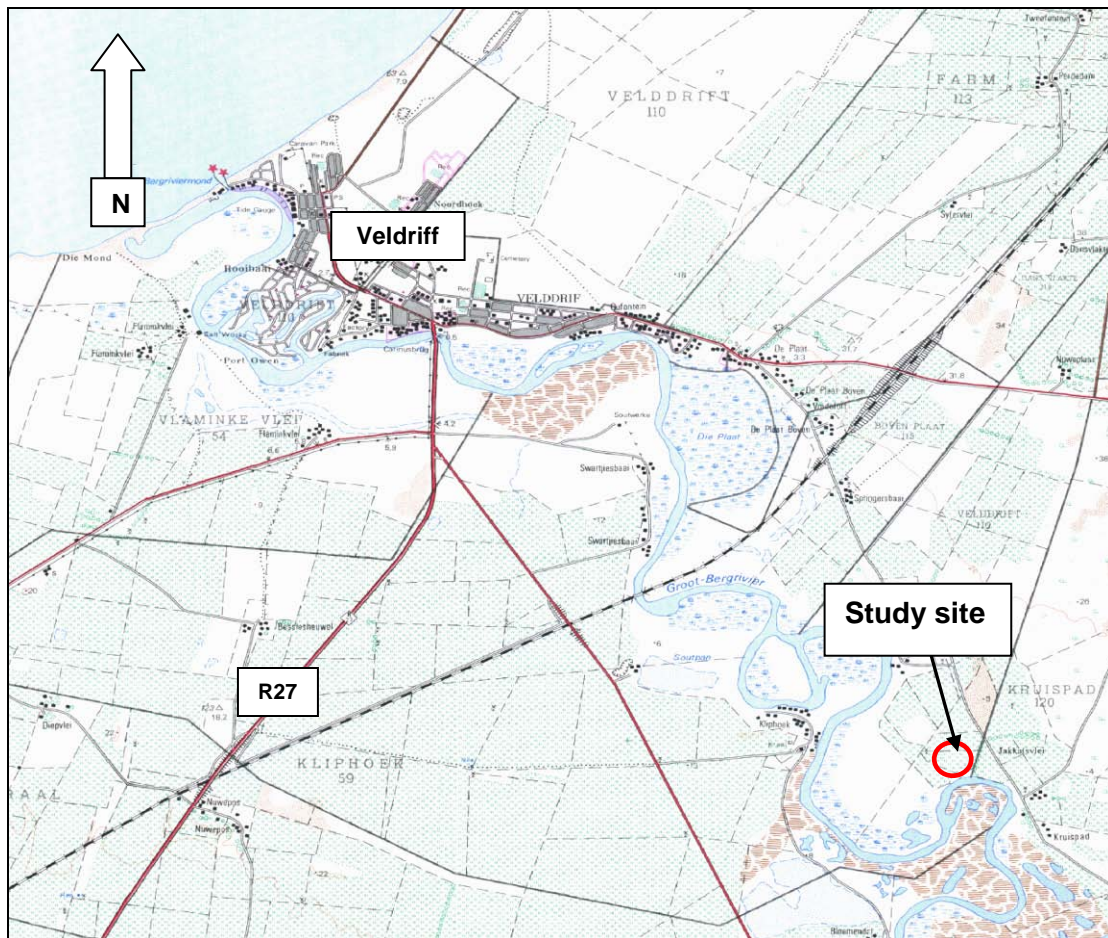


Figure 1. Site locality (3218 CA & CC Veldriff)



Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site



Figure 3. View of the site facing south



Figure 4. View of the site facing south



Fig. 5. The site facing northwest



Fig. 9. The site facing south



Fig. 6. The site facing southwest



Fig. 10. The site facing north



Fig. 7. The site facing north



Fig. 11. The site facing southeast



Fig. 8. The site facing northwest



Fig. 12. The site facing west

4. STUDY APPROACH

4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed an assessment of the proposed development site. Due to the extremely thick vegetation on the ground, a proper foot survey was not possible. The site was approached via a small, sometimes barely visible 2-track sandy road in the eastern portion of the study site.

A GPS track path of the archaeological assessment was created. The track path has been saved to CD and submitted with a digital copy of this report.

All archaeological finds were plotted (and photographed) using a Garmin Oregon 300 GPS unit, set on map datum wgs 84. A spreadsheet of the waypoints and a description of the provenance of each of the artefacts are also included with the CD.

The site visit and assessment took place on 24th August, 2009.

A desktop study was undertaken.

4.2 Constraints and limitations

The proposed site is completely covered in knee-high wild peas (grazing feed), resulting in very poor archaeological visibility. Apart from the two patches of natural veld (which will not be developed) there is no natural vegetation occurring on the site.

4.3 Identification of potential risks

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

It is unlikely given the highly disturbed nature of the receiving environment, but unmarked human burials may be exposed or uncovered during bulk earthworks and excavations.

4.4 Results of the desk top study

The archaeological significance of the Cape West Coast has been highlighted and is well-known (Kaplan 1990, 1993), but the inland region around Veldriff has not been investigated much. Intensive agriculture activity over many years has most likely destroyed much of the archaeological evidence in this area.

On the coast, ancient tidal fishtraps (*visvywers*) and shell middens have been documented at Swartpunt and Vlaminke Vlei, south of the mouth of the Berg River (Hart & Halkett 1992; Halkett 2008) and shell middens have been recorded on the eastern shores of St Helena Bay, between Laaiplek and Dwarskersbos (Hart & Miller 1994).

Inland of the coastal shoreline, the region is characterised by an expanse of red sands, bush and scrub known as the Sandveld. Agricultural activity (mainly wheat and grazing) dominates the rural landscape around Veldriff. From the records of early Dutch travellers, it seems clear that much hunter-gatherer settlement was ephemeral and in the open veld. Most explorers mentioned the large numbers of abandoned windbreaks,

which seem to have been occupied for very short periods of time (Parkington 1976). If these were the most 'typical' sites then their remains would not be visible in the modern Sandveld landscape of today.

In the last few years, mainly in response to several proposed developments in the Veldriff area, some surveys have been done in and around Veldriff. Scatters of Later Stone Age (LSA) tools, ostrich eggshell and pottery have been recorded on the Farms De Plaat, Vredefort, Melkplaas and Springerbaai (Kaplan 2007, 2006a, b, 2005a, b), all within a 3 km radius of the town. Relatively large numbers of LSA tools, ostrich eggshell, some marine shellfish and a large collection of colonial era artefacts such as glass and ceramics were documented in a sand blowout during a survey of Portion 4 of the Farm Melkplaas, about 1 km south west of the study site (Kaplan 2006a). Pottery, stone scrapers and backed tools have also been documented among remnant sand dunes on the Farm Springerbaai immediately to south west of Melkplaas (Kaplan 2007)

5 FINDINGS

One quartz chunk and one small piece of a (white) porcelain rim sherd were documented on a sandy patch of agricultural land in the northern portion of the study site.

Quite by chance, a quartz bipolar core was also found in an area completely covered by wild peas (Figure 13).

These isolated finds, all in a highly disturbed context, are not considered to be important and have been rated as having low local significance.



Figure 13. Small finds: Scale is in cm

6. IMPACT STATEMENT

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

The probability of locating significant archaeological heritage remains during implementation of the proposed project is likely to be improbable. The study site is severely disturbed as a result of many years of agricultural activities.

It is highly unlikely, but unmarked human burials may be exposed or uncovered during earthworks and excavations.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed development on Portion 71 of the Farm Veldriff No. 110, situated in the Piketberg District, 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 Heritage Western Cape (Mr N. Wiltshire 483 9692). Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

8. REFERENCES

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