

Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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Att: Mr Martin Langenhoven
Planscape cc
PO Box 557
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7310

Dear Mr Langenhoven

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT VENSTERKLIP RESORT (PORTION 37 OF THE FARM BONTEHEUWEL NO. 1) ELANDS BAY, CLANWILLIAM DIVISION

1. Introduction and brief

Planscape cc, on behalf of the Scott Family Trust requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed upgrading and redevelopment of the existing Vensterklip Resort at Elands Bay on the Cape West Coast, Western Cape Province (Figure 1).

Various development options were investigated in order to convert the resort into a more sustainable enterprise. It was decided that, instead of dispersing housing units over the various properties owned by the Scott Family Trust, to rather strengthen and redevelop the existing resort node. The owners therefore envisage redeveloping the existing camping site (Resort Zone 1) to freehold resort of about 10 units (Resort Zone II). The existing resort currently zoned as Resort Zone I will further be extended with two additional units in order to add to the existing short-term rental pool. Finally, an additional five Resort Zone II units north of the Redelinghuys – Elands Bay road, will also be applied for.

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.

A Notification of Intent to develop (NID) checklist has also 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 assessment were to:

- Identify and map heritage resources affected by the proposed development ;
- Determine the importance of heritage resources affected by the proposed development;
- Determine and assess the potential impacts of the proposed project on the heritage resources, and
- Recommend mitigation measures to minimise impacts associated with the proposed project.

3. Approach to the study

The proposed development sites (Options 1-3) were searched for archaeological heritage remains.

With regard to Option 3 – an area several times larger than the proposed development footprint was searched, between the road and the farm boundary fence lines and the water tanks on the dune ridge about 100 m north from the existing single cottage on the proposed site.

The site visit and assessment took place on 10th June, 2008.

4. The study site

Elands Bay is situated on the Cape West Coast, about 225 kms north of Cape Town. Vensterklip (on Portion 7 of the Farm Bonteheuwel No. 1) is situated at the Leipoldville intersection, about 5 kms from Elands Bay. The area is a region of great archaeological importance, with large numbers of rock art sites and shelters occurring among the steep rocky cliffs overlooking the Verlorenvlei. The sandy Sandveld area between the coast and the mountains also support large numbers of scatters of pottery and stone tools in wind deflated sand basins, as well as small caves and shelters among the sandstone kopjes¹. More than thirty years of archaeological research has been undertaken in the Elands Bay area and a vast body of knowledge on the history of the indigenous San people has been generated.

An aerial photograph of the study site and the various proposed development options are illustrated in Figure 2.

¹ Kaplan, J. 1993. The state of archaeological information in the coastal zone from the Orange Rive to Ponta do Ouro. Report prepared for the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. Agency for Cultural Resource Management

5. Findings

5.1 Option 1 (2 units)

No archaeological remains were located during an investigation of proposed Option 1. The receiving environment comprises Kikuyu grass and an orchard of lemon trees, situated between the main farm house and the lapa (Figures 3 and 4)

5.2 Option 2 (10 units)

No archaeological remains were located during an investigation of proposed Option 2. The proposed site is already taken up by 10 overland camping sites (Figures 5 and 6).

5.3 Option 3 (5 units)

A very thin and dispersed scatter of Later Stone Age tools, including five quartz flakes, three quartz chunks, a few quartz chips and one silcrete nodule were documented in Option 3. The receiving environment comprises thick bush and Restio grasses with open patches of unconsolidated, wind blown sands (Figures 7 and 8). Sheep currently graze in the area and the landscape is quite heavily trampled. Dune mole rat activity and burrowing is widespread. There are several jeep and 2-track sandy roads running through the proposed site and surrounding area. The area immediately surrounding the one existing cottage on the proposed site is very disturbed. There is also some dumping of building material and farming equipment. Some glass, rusted metal and bits of ceramics were also noted lying about. Digging and laying of water pipelines also occur. A GPS reading of the site is S 32° 18 54.4 E 18° 23 43.8 on map datum wgs 84.

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

6. Impact statement

The impact of the proposed project on important pre-colonial archaeological remains is likely to be **low**.

Buried archaeological sites and unmarked human burials may, however, be exposed or uncovered during excavations for foundations and services, in Option 3.

7. Recommendations

With regard to the proposed upgrading and redevelopment of the Vensterklip Resort in Elands Bay, the following recommendations are made:

- Excavations for the proposed 5 chalets (Option 3) must be monitored by a professional archaeologist.
- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations and earthworks, these should immediately be reported to the archaeologist or the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Dr A. Jerardino @ 021 462 4502). Burials should not be removed until inspected by the archaeologist and must be treated sensitively at all times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JK' with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jonathan Kaplan

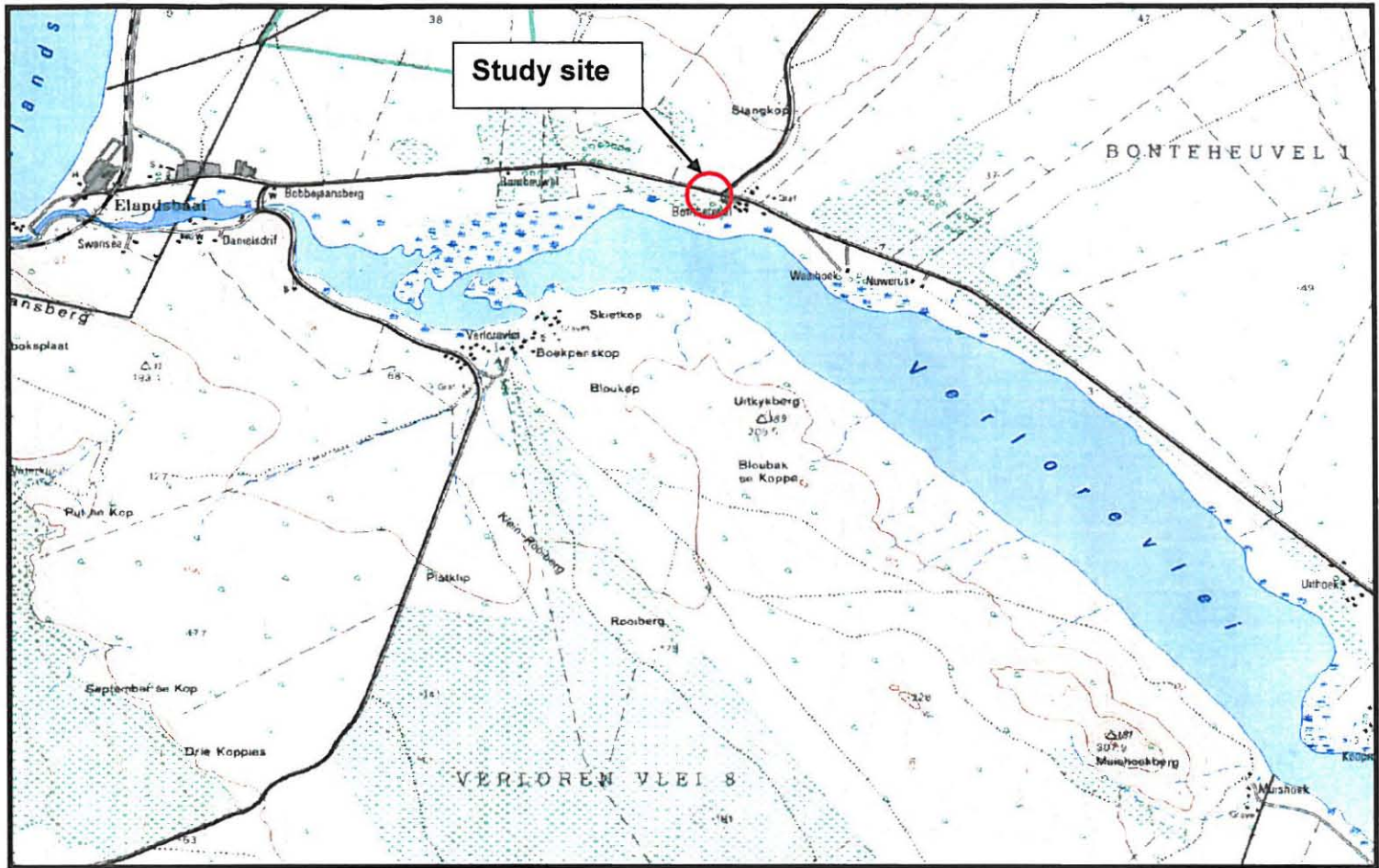
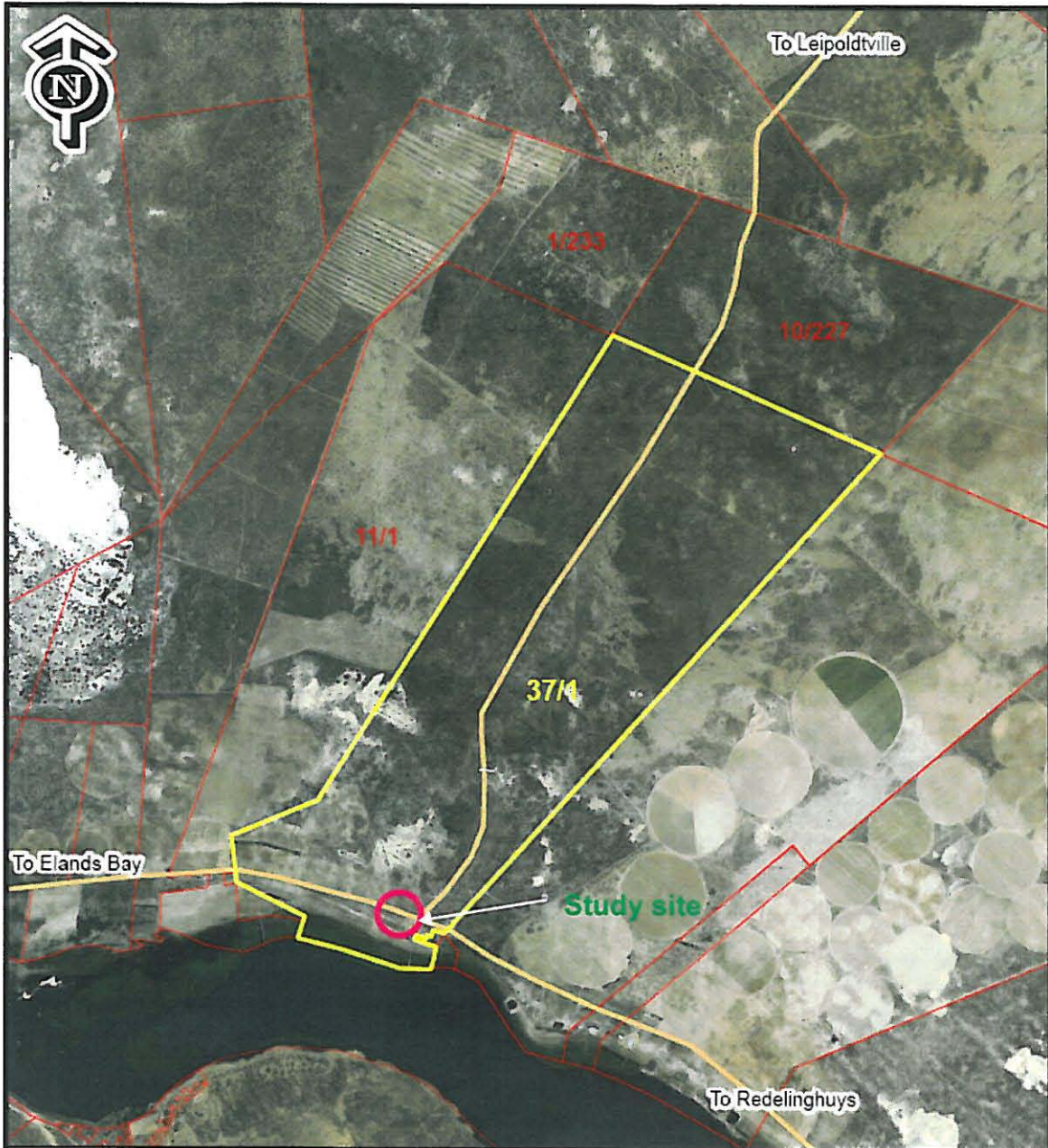


Figure 1. Locality Map (3218 AD Elands Bay)



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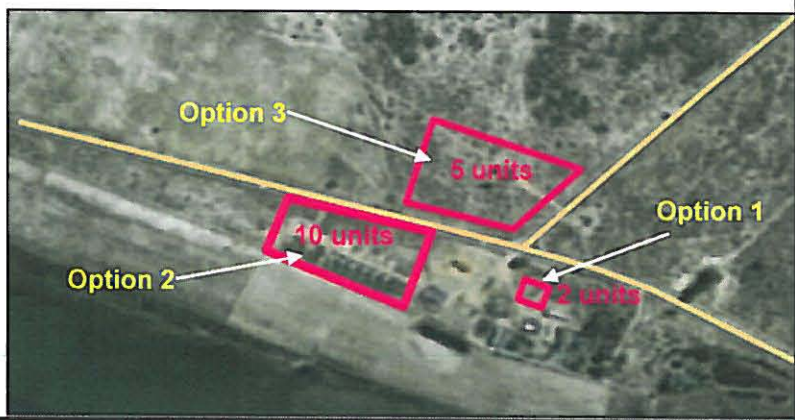




Figure 3. Development Option 1



Figure 6. Development Option 2



Figure 4. Development Option 1



Figure 7. Option 3. View facing south east



Figure 5. Development Option 2



Figure 8. Option 3. View facing north east