

# Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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29 October, 2007

**Att:** Mr Nik Wullschleger  
Boland Enviro  
PO Box 250  
Worcester  
6849

Dear Mr Wullschleger

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF CHICKEN HOUSES ON THE FARM WITELS 775/R, WORCESTER, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

### **1. Introduction and brief**

Boland Enviro<sup>1</sup>, on behalf of Mr Phillip du Toit requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed construction of 12 chicken houses on the Farm Witels 775/R, near Goudini, in the Western Cape Province.

The affected property is currently zoned Agriculture.

An application for consent use is required from Worcester Municipality for the proposed activity to proceed.

The extent of the proposed development (about 4.5 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).

### **2. Terms of reference**

The Terms of Reference for the archaeological assessment are to:

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

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<sup>1</sup> Boland Enviro is represented by Mr Nik Wullschleger. Fax (023) 347 0336

### **3. The site**

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

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

The subject property (S 33° 35 904 E 19° 11 809 on map datum wgs 84) is located about 20 km northwest of Worcester, in the Slanghoek Valley. Access to the farm is via the R43 between Worcester and Wolseley. The surrounding land-use is rural farmland (mainly vineyards and vacant agricultural land).

Three proposed site options were investigated (refer to Figure 2):

**Option A.** Option A is the preferred option. The proposed site comprises several large blocks of vineyards. Existing infrastructure includes gravel roads and irrigation services. The site is in a severely modified and transformed state (Figures 3-5).

**Option B.** The proposed site is situated in the shadow of the Slanghoek Mountains and is infested with alien vegetation in the southern portion and covered in indigenous veld in the northern portion. Archaeological visibility is very low (Figures 6-8).

**Option C.** The proposed site is covered in mainly indigenous veld with some alien infestation along the northern boundary. Archaeological visibility is quite low. Some surface stone (round quartzite river cobbles) does cover the site. A deep excavation trench cuts across the central portion of the proposed site, exposing a thick layer of river cobbles about 4 m deep. Several gravel roads intersect the property (Figures 9-12). There are no significant landscape features occurring on the property, although the Witels River bisects Options B and C.

**Option D** is no longer being considered for development as it is situated in a botanically sensitive area.

### **4. Approach to the study**

Options A, B, C and D were searched for archaeological heritage remains.

An initial site visit took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2007. A follow-up site visit took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2007

### **5. Results of the study**

**Option A:** Several Early Stone Age (ESA) flake tools and chunks were noted in the vineyards, but the remains occur in a severely disturbed context.

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

**Option B:** No archaeological remains were documented in Option B

**Option C:** One ESA quartzite flake and one ESA flaked/broken chunk was documented in the gravel road in the southern portion of the property. No tools were noted in the deep excavation trench.

**Option D:** One broken ESA quartzite cobble flake and one broken quartzite chunk were found on the spoil dump alongside a deep excavation channel during an investigation of Option D in September, 2007. A Later Stone Age silcrete core was also found on a small dump of brown sand, containing some glass and a few pieces of rusted metal near the northern entrance to the property. The material has clearly been brought in from elsewhere.

It should be noted that ESA tools including a handaxe were found on the Farm de Liefde<sup>2</sup> situated alongside the R43. ESA and Middle Stone Age (MSA) tools were also recorded during a study on Portion 25 of the Farm Palmiet Valley No. 318<sup>3</sup> alongside the R43. ESA tools have been found on several other farms in the Breede River Valley alongside the R43<sup>4</sup>. The above archaeological remains were all documented in a highly disturbed context.

## **6. Impact statement**

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

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

## **7. Conclusion**

The study has shown that the no important archaeological heritage remains occur within Options A, B and C.

The proposed construction of 12 chicken houses on the Farm Witels 775/R in Worcester should be allowed to proceed.

Should any unmarked human remains be uncovered or exposed during excavations these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie 021 462 4502).

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Kaplan

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<sup>2</sup> Kaplan, J. 2007. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed construction of chicken houses on Portion 4 of Portion 2 of the farm de Liefde No 323, Tulbagh. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

<sup>3</sup> Kaplan, J. 2002. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Portion 25 of the Farm Palmiet Valley No. 318 Tulbagh. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. Agency for Cultural Resource Management

<sup>4</sup> Kaplan, J. 2001. Archaeological study Portion 12 of the Farm de Breede Rivier No. 298, Worcester. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

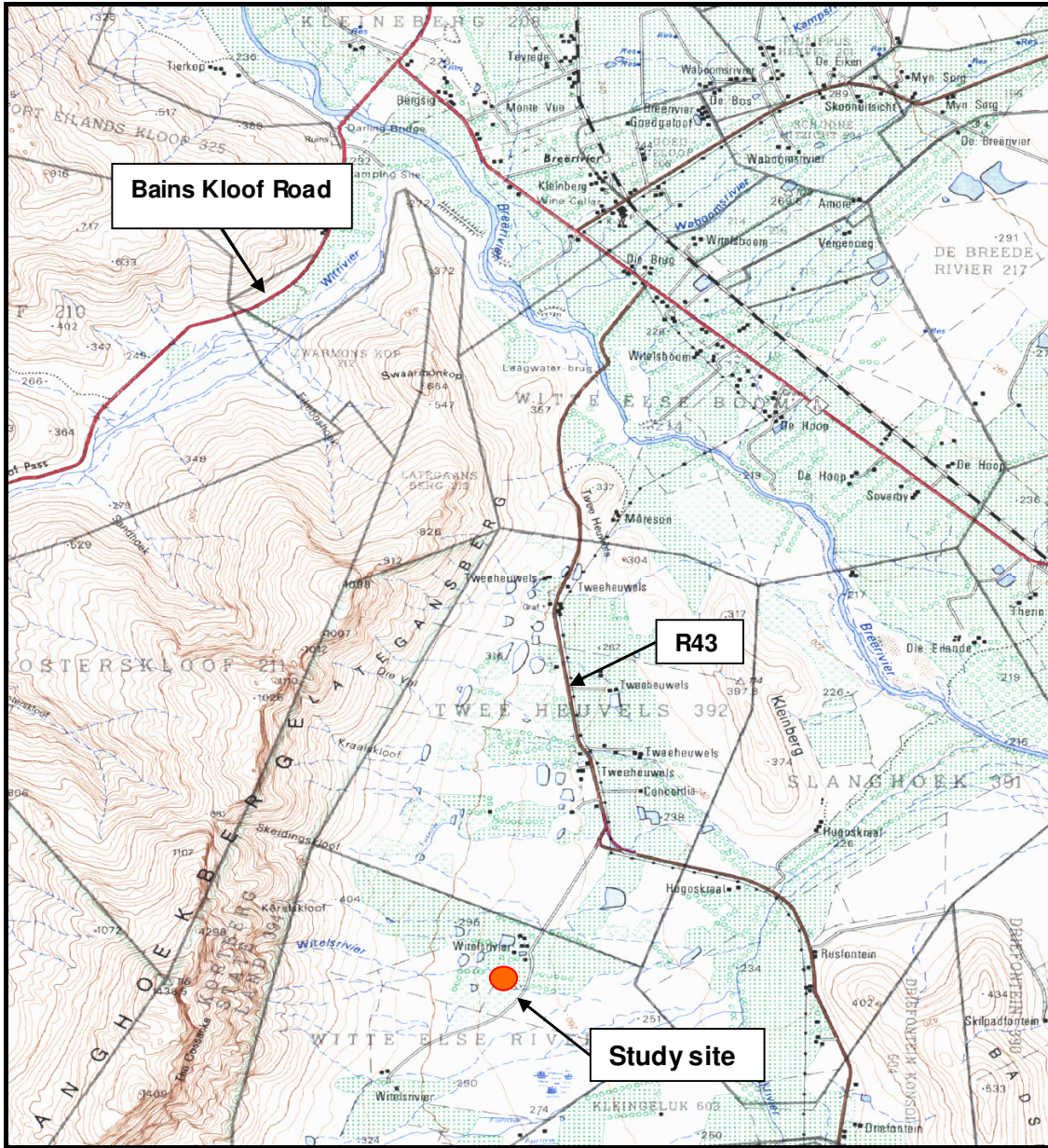


Figure 1. Locality map (3319CA Bains' Kloof)

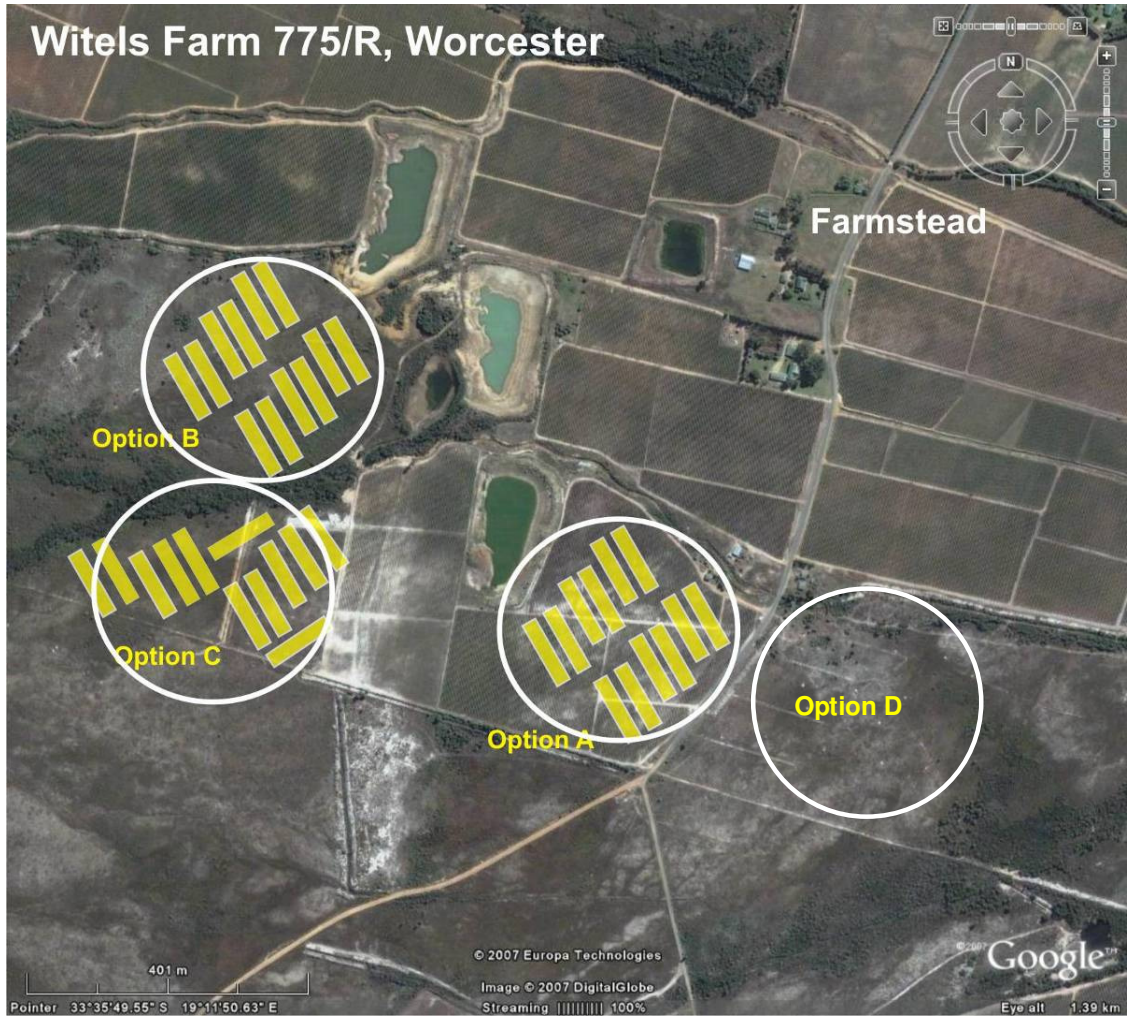


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site



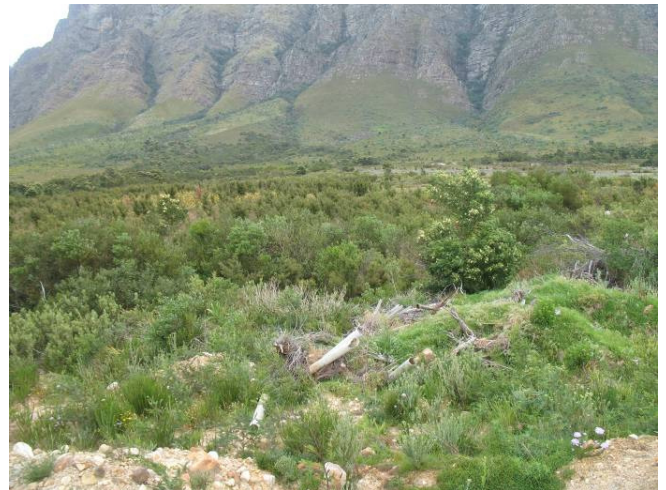
**Figure 3. Option A. View facing south east**



**Figure 6. Option B. View facing west**



**Figure 4. Option A. View facing north west**



**Figure 7. Option B. View facing south west**



**Figure 5. Option A. View facing south west**



**Figure 8. Option B. View facing north west**



**Figure 9. Option C. View facing north west**



**Figure 11. Option C. View facing north.  
Note the deep excavation trench**



**Figure 10. Option C. View facing north west**



**Figure 12. Option C. View facing south west**