

A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION (WITH CONDITIONS) FOR THE EXEMPTION OF A FULL PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED UPGRADE OF THE ABERDEEN WASTE WATER TREATMENT WORKS (WWTW), ABERDEEN, CAMDEBOO MUNICIPALITY, CACADU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

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PROJECT INFORMATION

The type of development

The upgrading of the existing Aberdeen waste water treatment works.

The Developer

Cacadu District Municipality
Port Elizabeth
and
Camdeboo Municipality
Graaff Reinet

The Consultant

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Terms of reference

The original proposal was to conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed upgrade of the Aberdeen waste water treatment works (wwtw), Aberdeen, Camdeboo Municipality, Cacadu District Municipality, Eastern Cape Province; to describe and evaluate the importance of possible archaeological heritage sites; the potential impact of the development and to make recommendations to minimize possible damage to these sites.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

Map: 1:50 000 3224AC Aberdeen

Location data

The proposed upgrade of the Aberdeen waste water treatment works will take place next to the existing system which is situated on municipal commonage land, Erf 1721 Aberdeen. The development is located approximately 0,5 km south-east of Aberdeen and about the same distance north-east of Thembalesizwe Township. The Kraai River is situated immediately north of the project (Maps 1-2). GPS reading was taken at 32.28.968S; 24.04.868E.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

Methodology

The investigation was conducted by two people on foot. The terrain is relatively flat with a gently slope towards the Kraai River, covered sparsely by short grass and patches of small bushes (Figs 1-2). Natural drainage of rainwater towards the river has eroded the topsoil and bedrock of shale and sandstone are exposed in places. In general the proposed area for development was disturbed in the past during the construction of the existing ponds and other human activities (Figs 3-4). Apart of a few weathered hornfels flakes no other archaeological materials were found. It would appear that it is unlikely that any archaeological heritage remains of any value will be found *in situ* or of any contextual value will be exposed during the development.



Figs 1-2. General views of the proposed property for development.



Figs 3-4. Areas of exposed shale and sandstone bedrocks.

Conditions

Although it is unlikely that any archaeological heritage remains of any value will be found *in situ* or of any contextual value, there is always a possibility that human remains and/or other archaeological material may be uncovered during the development. Such material must be reported to the nearest museum, archaeologist or to the South African Heritage Resources Agency if exposed, so that a systematic and professional investigation can be undertaken. Sufficient time should be allowed to remove/collect such material (See Appendix A for a list of possible archaeological sites that maybe found in the area).

Letter of recommendation

It is recommended that the proposed upgrade of the Aberdeen waste water treatment works (wwtw), Aberdeen, Camdeboo Municipality, Cacadu District Municipality, is exempted from a full Phase 1 Archaeological Heritage Impact Assessment. The proposed area for development has been severely disturbed in the past and it is unlikely that any archaeological heritage remains will be found on the property. The proposed development may proceed as planned.

Note: This letter of recommendation **only** exempt the proposed development from a full Phase 1 Archaeological Heritage Impact Assessment, but **not** for other heritage impact assessments.

It must also be clear that this letter of recommendation for exemption of a full Phase 1 archaeological heritage impact assessment will be assessed by the relevant heritage resources authority. The final decision rests with the heritage resources authority, which should give a permit or a formal letter of permission for the destruction of any cultural sites.

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999, section 35) requires a full Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in order that all heritage resources, that is, all places or objects of aesthetics, architectural, historic, scientific, social, spiritual linguistic or technological value or significance are protected. Thus any assessment should make provision for the protection of all these heritage components, including archaeology, shipwrecks, battlefields, graves, and structures older than 60 years, living heritage, historical settlements, landscapes, geological sites, palaeontological sites and objects.

GENERAL REMARKS AND CONDITIONS

It must be emphasised that this letter of recommendation for exemption of a full Phase 1 archaeological heritage impact assessment is based on the visibility of archaeological sites/material and may not therefore, reflect the true state of affairs. Sites and material may be covered by soil and vegetation and will only be located once this has been removed. In the unlikely event of such finds being uncovered, (during any phase of construction work), archaeologists must be informed immediately so that they can investigate the importance of the sites and excavate or collect material before it is destroyed (see attached list of possible archaeological sites and material). The *onus* is on the developer to ensure that this agreement is honoured in accordance with the National Heritage Act No. 25 of 1999.

APPENDIX A: IDENTIFICATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES AND MATERIAL FROM INLAND AREAS: guidelines and procedures for developers

1. Human Skeletal material

Human remains, whether the complete remains of an individual buried during the past, or scattered human remains resulting from disturbance of the grave, should be reported. In general the remains are buried in a flexed position on their sides, but are also found buried in a sitting position with a flat stone capping and developers are requested to be on the alert for this.

2. Freshwater mussel middens

Freshwater mussels are found in the muddy banks of rivers and streams and were collected by people in the past as a food resource. Freshwater mussel shell middens are accumulations of mussel shell and are usually found close to rivers and streams. These shell middens frequently contain stone tools, pottery, bone, and occasionally human remains. Shell middens may be of various sizes and depths, but an accumulation which exceeds 1 m² in extent, should be reported to an archaeologist.

3. Stone artefacts

These are difficult for the layman to identify. However, large accumulations of flaked stones which do not appear to have been distributed naturally should be reported. If the stone tools are associated with bone remains, development should be halted immediately and archaeologists notified

4. Fossil bone

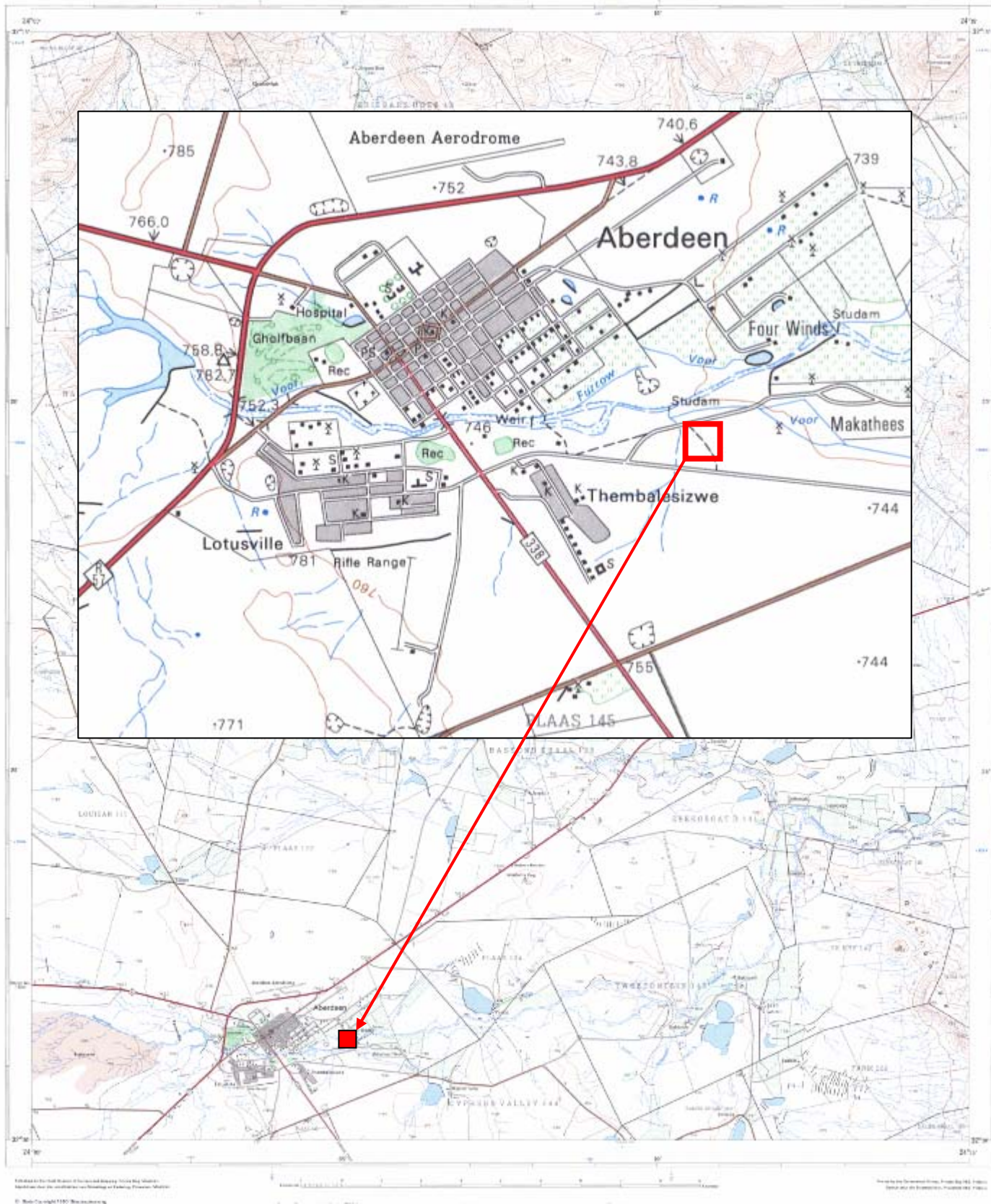
Fossil bones may be found embedded in geological deposits. Any concentrations of bones, whether fossilized or not, should be reported.

5. Large stone features

They come in different forms and sizes, but are easy to identify. The most common are roughly circular stone walls (mostly collapsed) and may represent stock enclosures, remains of wind breaks or cooking shelters. Others consist of large piles of stones of different sizes and heights and are known as *isisivane*. They are usually near river and mountain crossings. Their purpose and meaning is not fully understood, however, some are thought to represent burial cairns while others may have symbolic value.

6. Historical artefacts or features

These are easy to identified and include foundations of buildings or other construction features and items from domestic and military activities.



Map 1. 1:50 000 maps indicating the location of the proposed development.



Map 2. Aerial photographs of the location of the proposed development.