

**A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION (WITH CONDITIONS) FOR THE
EXEMPTION OF A FULL PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE
IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED STONE QUARRY ON A
PORTION OF THE FARM MOUNT AYLIFF NO. 202, FORT BEAUFORT,
AMATHOLE DISTRICT, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

Prepared for: Site Plan Consultants

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PROJECT INFORMATION

Registration No.:

The type of development

The proposed development will include the mining of stone. The size of the mine is still to be determined.

The Developer

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

The original proposal was to conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed mining of stone on a portion of the farm Mount Ayliff No. 202, Fort Beaufort, Amathole District, 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 – 3226 DC Fort Beaufort

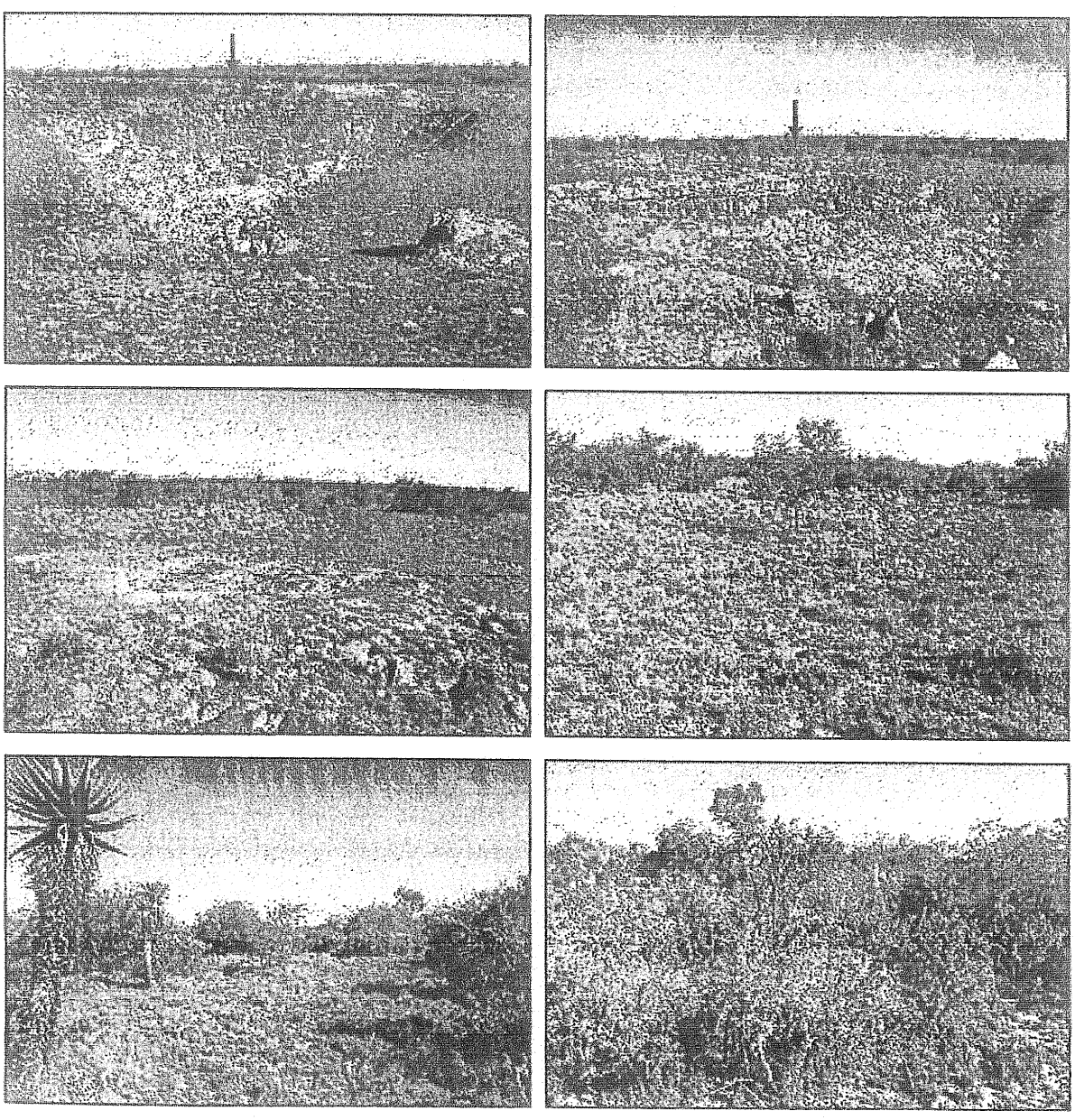
Location data

The proposed mining of stone on a portion of the farm Mount Ayliff No. 202, Fort Beaufort, Amathole District, is situated approximately 8 kilometres west of Fort Beaufort close (south) to the R63 and the railway line between Fort Beaufort and Adelaide (Maps 1-2). GPS readings were taken using a Garmin Plus II at 32.47.992S; 26.32.463E and 32.47.940S; 26.32.524E.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

Methodology

The investigation was conducted by two people on foot. The proposed area for the stone quarry is situated next to the railway line and close to the R63 between Fort Beaufort and Adelaide, some 8 km west of Fort Beaufort. The proposed area for sandstone mining is located next (east) to an old quarry on a relatively flat hilltop. Low dense grass and patches of scrubs and thorn trees covers a thin layer of topsoil which overlies the sandstone deposit (Figs 1-6). The top soil overlying the sandstone deposit is shallow and does not allow for Iron Age archaeological features, such as grain pits, hut floors and cattle kraals. No archaeological sites/materials were found during the survey. In general it would appear 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 1-6. Different views of the proposed property for stone mining. The previous quarry (top) and the new area to be mined (bottom). The red arrows indicate the location of the new mining area.

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 and historical 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 (SAHRA) 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 mining of stone on a portion of the farm Mount Ayliff No. 202, Fort Beaufort, Amathole District, Eastern Cape Province is exempted from a full Phase 1 Archaeological Heritage Impact Assessment. The proposed area for development is of low cultural sensitivity and it is believed that 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** exempts 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.