

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
PORTION 116 OF FARM 292
VREDENDAL
WESTERN CAPE**

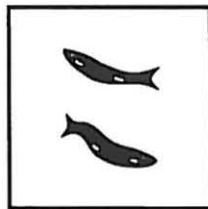
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Executive summary

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of a proposed residential development on Portion 116 of Farm No. 292 in Vredendal has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed development activities.

No archaeological heritage remains were documented during the study.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

EnviroAfrica, on behalf of Chenindal Investment (Pty) Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed residential housing development comprising 119 units (including internal streets and engineering services), on Portion 116 of Farm 292 in Vredendal in the Western Cape Province.

Portion 116 of Farm No. 292 is currently zoned for Agricultural use and is located within the urban edge of Vredendal. An application for the proposed rezoning and subdivision of the affected property will be made in order to allow for the proposed activities to proceed.

The extent of the proposed development (9.55 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 heritage sites/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 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 study were:

- to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance within the proposed site;
- to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed site;
- to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites within 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 within 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 (S 31° 40' 36.3" E 18° 30' 18.7" on map datum wgs 84) is located in Vredendal south, south of the Main Road as one enters the town from the N7, via Klaver. Access to the site is via Hanepoort Street and Pinotage Close. The proposed site comprises a large block of vineyards, where a substantial portion in the north has already recently been cleared (Figures 3-8). There are no significant landscape features on the proposed site. There is a row of five demolished and ruined farm labourer cottages on the northern boundary of the property (Figures 9-12). The surrounding land-use comprises farmland and increasing residential development. The Olifants River is situated about 1 km to the north.

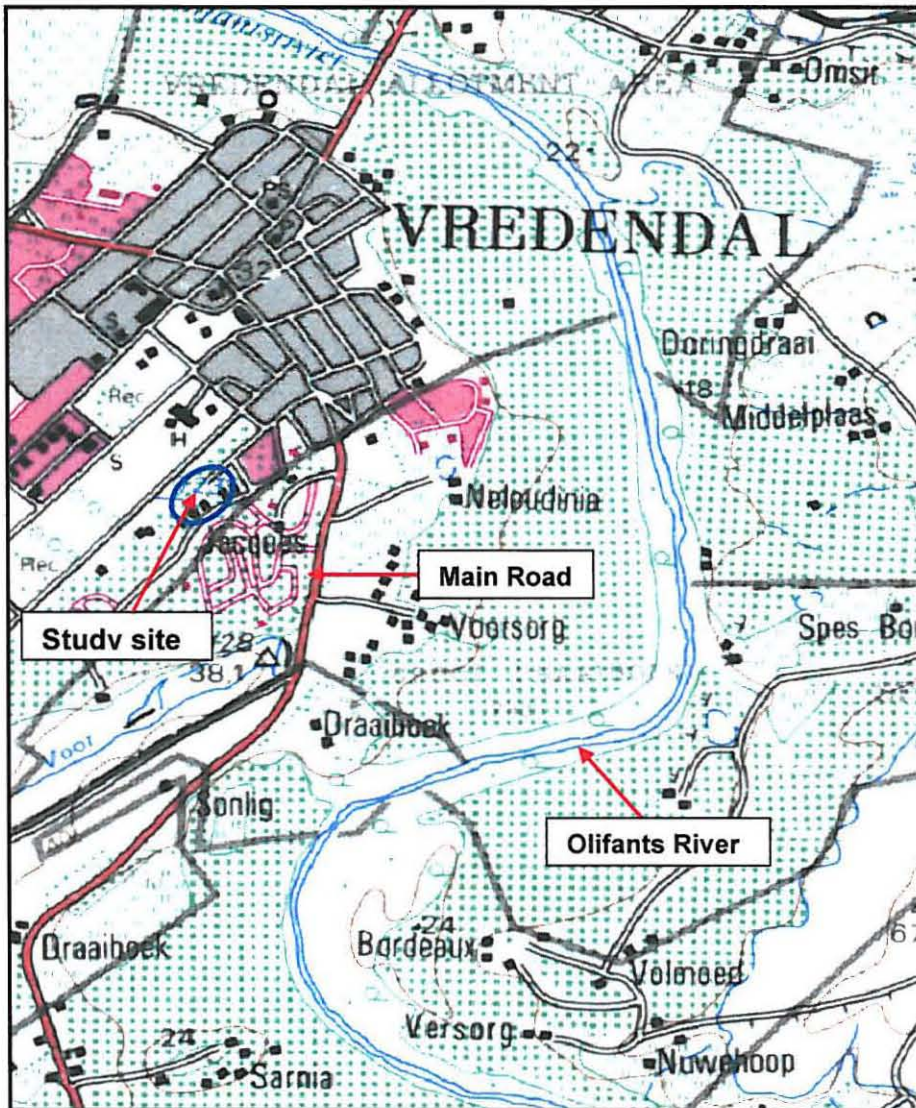


Figure 1. Locality map (3118DA Van Rhyndorp)

Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site

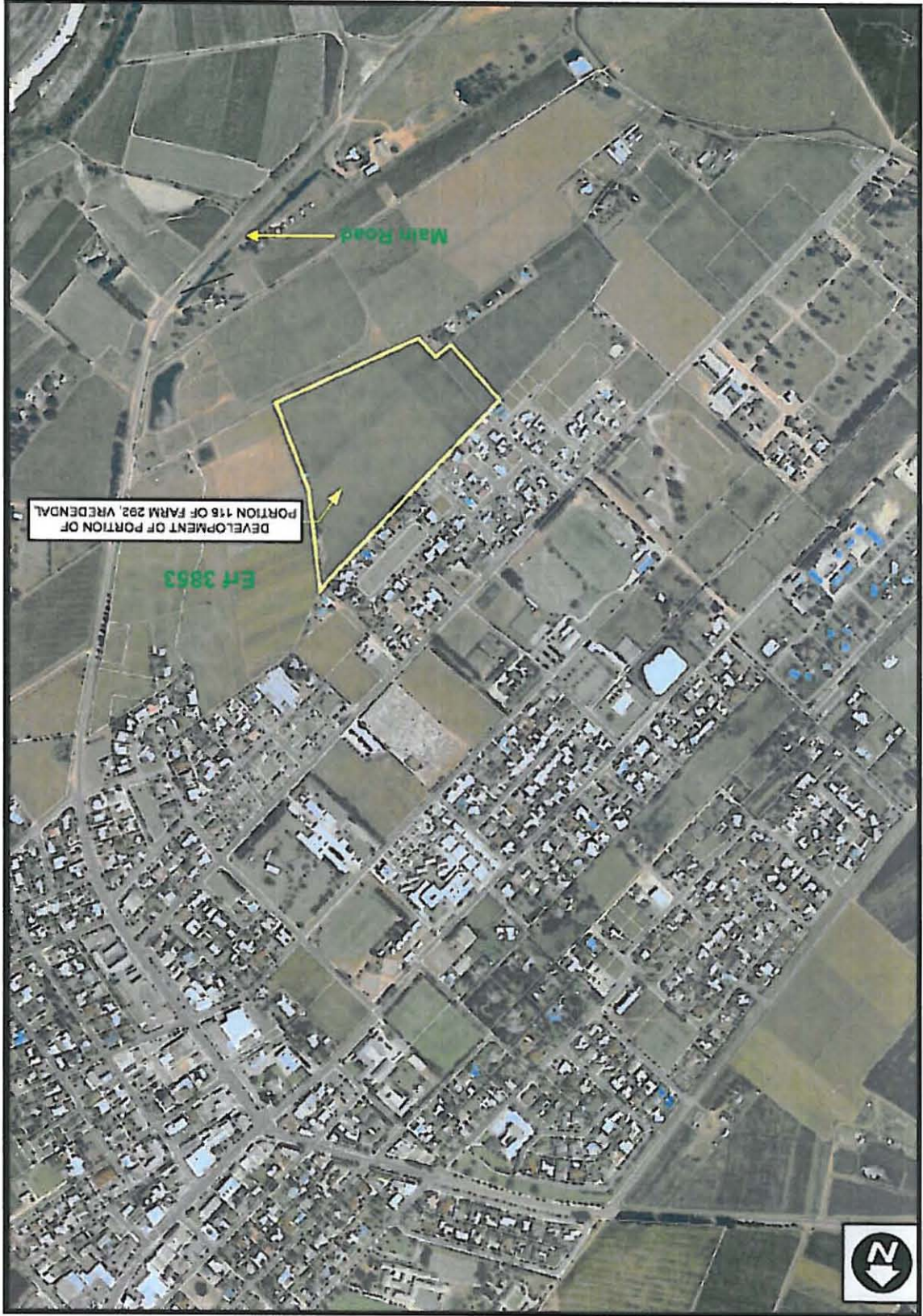




Figure 3. View of the site facing south



Figure 6. View of the site facing north east



Figure 4. View of the site facing west



Figure 7. View of the site facing west



Figure 5. View of the site facing south east



Figure 8. View of the site facing north west



Figure 9. Farm labourer's cottage



Figure 11. Farm labourer's cottage



Figure 10. Farm Labourer's cottages



Figure 12. Farm labourer's cottage

4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY

4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a survey of the proposed site.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 14th April, 2008.

4.2 Constraints and limitations

There were no constraints or limitations associated with the study.

5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

5.1 The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999)

...any development or other activity which will change the character of a site exceeding 5 000m², or the rezoning or change of land use of a site exceeding 10 000 m², requires an archaeological impact assessment in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

The relevant sections of the act are outlined below:

5.2 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))

No person may, without a permit issued by the SAHRA or Heritage Western Cape, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object.

5.3 Burial grounds and graves (Section 36 (3))

No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or Heritage Western Cape, destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years, which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority.

6. FINDINGS

No archaeological heritage remains were documented during the study of Portion 116 of Farm No. 292 Vredendal.

It is interesting to note that only two Early Stone Age quartzite flakes were documented during a study of Erf 3853, alongside the subject property, while no tools were found during a study of a Portion of Erf 3835 (Kaplan 2008a, b in prep and refer to Figure 2).

7. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed development of Portion of Portion 116 of the Farm 292 Vredendal on archaeological heritage remains is rated as being **low**.

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

The affected property is not considered to be archaeologically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.

It is highly unlikely given the already transformed nature of the site, but unmarked human burials could possibly be exposed or uncovered during earthworks and excavations.

8. CONCLUSION

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of Portion of Portion 116 of the Farm No. 292 Vredendal has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed development activities.

- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during earthworks, these should immediately be reported to the archaeologist, or the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Dr A. Jerardino 021 462 4502).

9. REFERENCES

Kaplan, J. 2008a. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed shopping centre development (Erf 3853) Vredendal, Western Cape Province. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2008b in prep. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed development Remainder Portion of Erf 3853 Vredendal, Western Cape Province. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.