

Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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24 January, 2008

Att: Ms Eloise Costandius
CCA Environmental (Pty) Ltd
Unit 35, Roeland Square
30 Drury Lane
Cape Town 8001

Dear Ms Costandius

PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROPOSED BORROW PIT FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF TRUNK ROAD 22 AND MAIN ROAD 305 BETWEEN GOUDA AND WOLSELEY WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

1. Introduction and brief

CCA Environmental (Pty) Ltd¹, on behalf of the Western Cape Provincial Administration Department of Transport and Public Works, requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of a proposed borrow pit near Tulbagh in the Western Cape Province. Source material from the borrow pit would be used for the rehabilitation and upgrading of a section of Trunk Road (TR) 22 and Main Road (MR) 305 between Gouda and Wolseley.

The section of TR22 to be upgraded extends from km 5.0 from the junction with TR23 at the Gouda/Porterville turnoff, to the junction with MR305 and includes the section of MR305 from TR22 to the municipal boundary of the town of Wolseley (Figure 1).

A Phase 1 AIA of the proposed upgrading of TR23, TR22 and MR305 was undertaken in 2006².

The extent of the proposed borrow pit (about 17 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 and remains that occur on the site and 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.

¹ CCA Environmental is represented by Ms Eloise Costandius Fax 461 1120.

² Kaplan, J. 2006. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed upgrading of Trunk Road 22/1 between Gouda and Wolseley and Trunk Road 23/3 between Gouda and Porterville. Report prepared for CCA Environmental. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

A Notification of Intent to develop checklist (for the proposed project) 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 within the proposed borrow pit;
- Determine the importance of heritage resources within the proposed borrow pit;
- 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 site was searched for archaeological heritage remains. The site visit and assessment took place on 16th January, 2008. A desk top study was also undertaken.

4. The receiving environment

The proposed site (S 33° 18 448 E 19° 06 639 on map datum WGS 84), on Remainder Portion 54 of the Farm Straatskerk No. 190, is located alongside the TR22, about 250 m before the Ceres/Tulbagh intersection approaching from Gouda (Figure 2). The site slopes from north to south. The receiving environment comprises old, previously disturbed and degraded agricultural lands that have been ploughed and terraced (Figures 3-8). According to the owner of the property, large parts of the property were also previously used for extracting rock for crushing. Surface stone, comprising mostly rounded quartzite river cobbles still occurs over the property, most of it in the eastern portion of the site. Several piles of stone also occur alongside the edges of the property. There are no buildings or structures on the proposed site. The Klein Berg River is located less than 500 m south of the TR22 and the proposed site.

5. Results of the desk top study

Early Stone Age (ESA) tools including flakes, chunks, cores, broken cobbles and handaxes, have been documented in disturbed farmlands alongside the affected property³. Relatively large numbers of ESA flake tools, chunks, cores, retouched flakes and handaxes were counted in agricultural lands on the Farm Groot Vallei either side of TR22, as well among a large pile of rocks cleared from the nearby fields. ESA tools were also documented on the gravel banks alongside the Skilpadrug River that crosses underneath TR22 (Kaplan 2006).

³ Kaplan, J. 2002. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed 66 Kv overhead powerline between Tulbagh and Waterval. Report prepared for Eskom. Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Large numbers of ESA tools, including more than 60 handaxes were also documented on the Farm Schalkenbosch, a few kms east of TR22⁴. Finally, relatively large numbers of ESA tools, including large flakes, chunks, flaked cobbles, retouched flakes and handaxes were documented on the farms Goedgevonden, Artois, Boontjiesrivier and Weltevreden⁵, alongside TR22.

5. Results of the study

A low density, scatter of Early Stone Age (ESA) flake tools were documented during the study. All of the tools occur in the eastern portion of the study site on south facing terraced slopes, where much surface stone is scattered about (refer to Figure 2). The tools, all struck from rounded river quartzite cobbles, comprises mostly large side struck flakes and several retouched tools. Four large round cores and several broken/flaked cobbles were also counted. Some of the tools are also clearly tractor damaged. A few flake tools were also noted among the piles of stone stacked alongside the fields. One large, incomplete handaxe was also found on a pile of rocks stacked alongside TR22, in the south eastern portion (outside) of the study site.

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

6. Impact statement

The impact of the proposed borrow pit for the reconstruction of TR22 and MR305 between Gouda and Wolseley on important pre-colonial archaeological remains is likely to be **low**.

The impacts of the proposed project on archaeological sites are presented in the table below.

CRITERIA	IMPACT	
	Without mitigation	With mitigation
Extent	Local	N/A
Duration	Permanent	N/A
Intensity	Low	N/A
Probability	Low	N/A
Significance	Low	N/A
Status	Negative	N/A
Confidence	High	N/A

⁴ Kaplan, J. 2005. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, proposed Schalkenbosch Golf Estate. Report prepared for Chand Environmental Consultants. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

⁵ Kaplan, J. 2005. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed resort development on Portions 5 & 6 of the Farm Weltevreden No. 236 Tulbagh. Report prepared for Vitex 861 (Pty) Ltd. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 1997. Archaeological study of the farm Boontjiesrivier Tulbagh. Report prepared for Mr Eugene Spiers. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

7. Conclusion

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that would need to be mitigated prior to proposed construction activities.

Yours sincerely

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

Jonathan Kaplan

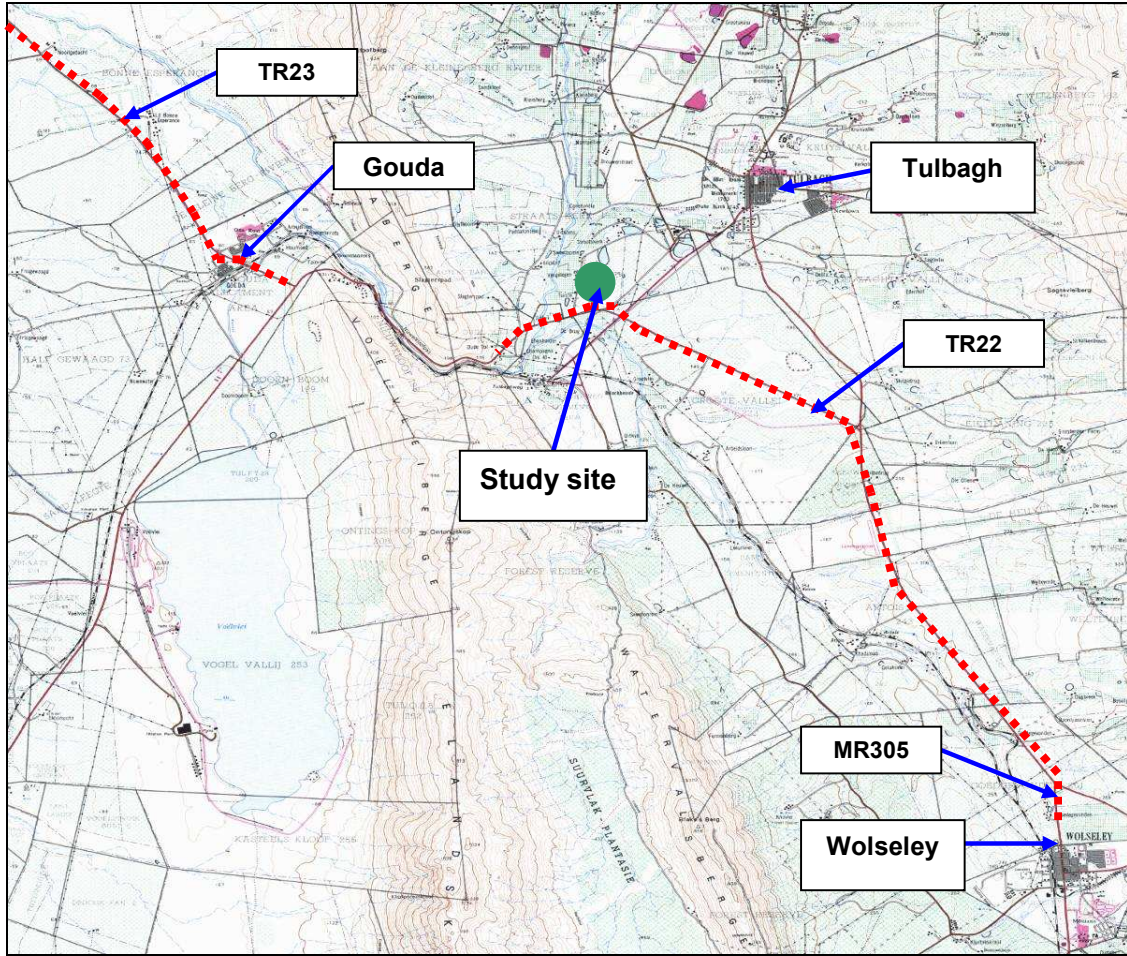


Figure 1. Locality map (3319 AC Tulbagh)

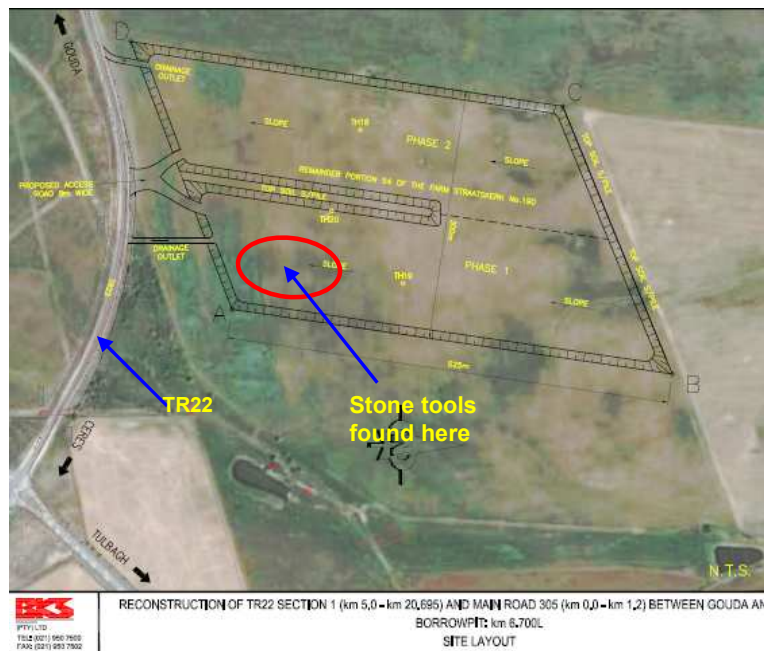


Figure 2. Proposed borrow pit for the reconstruction of TR22 and MR305 between Gouda and Wolseley. Site Layout



Figure 3. View of the site facing south west



Figure 6. View of the site facing south west



Figure 4. View of the site facing south west



Figure 7. View of the site facing east



Figure 5. View of the site facing south west



Figure 8. View of the site facing north east

