

**A PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESMENT (AIA) FOR THE PROPOSED
JACHTVLAKTE PRECINCT SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT PLAN, NELSON
MANDELA BAY MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

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A PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESMENT (AIA) FOR THE PROPOSED JACHTVLAKTE PRECINCT SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT PLAN, NELSON MANDELA BAY MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

Note: This report follows the minimum standard guidelines required by the South African Heritage Resources Agency for compiling a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to conduct a phase 1 archaeological impact assessment (AIA) for the proposed Jachtvlakte Precinct Sustainable Human Settlement Plan, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, Eastern Cape Province. The survey was conducted to establish the range and importance of the exposed and *in situ* archaeological heritage materials and features, the potential impact of the development, and to make recommendations to minimize possible damage to these sites.

Brief Summary of Findings

The proposed area for development is mostly covered in dense thicket vegetation that made archaeological visibility relatively difficult. The exposed and disturbed areas were then investigated for possible occurrences of archaeological material remains and sites. The area is currently being used as an informal dump area and has generally been heavily disturbed by the construction of a reservoir, a substation, small farming plots, manholes, underground piping, the construction of gravel roads and new tar roads, fences, powerlines and telephone lines, as well as the occurrence of stock grazing. Much of the area comprises informal gravel roads that are used as recreational 4x4 and off-road motorbike tracks.

The proposed area was historically a farming community and the ruins of farmsteads, some buildings older than 60 years, and some modern buildings and additions to older buildings, still remain. Occasional surface scatters of mainly quartzite Middle Stone Age (MSA) stone artefacts were observed within the disturbed areas, namely the ploughed field, informal footpaths and the gravel roads and stone artefacts were also observed in the undisturbed vegetation area to the south of the proposed area for development.

It is highly unlikely that the stone tool scatters are *in situ* and are, therefore, considered to be in a secondary context. No sites containing any depth of deposit

or other archaeological material associated with the stone artefacts were observed within the area. The proposed area for development is considered as having a low-medium cultural significance, although the following recommendations must be taken into consideration prior to the construction activities.

Recommendations

The area is of a low-medium cultural sensitivity and development may proceed as planned, although the following recommendations must be considered:

1. If the built environment structures are to be demolished an historian or built environment specialist should assess the significance of the structures documented within the proposed area for development.
2. It is possible that *in situ* stone artefacts and archaeological sites/remains would be uncovered within the dense thicket vegetation during construction. Therefore, a professional archaeologist should be appointed during the vegetation removal and construction phases of the development.
3. If concentrations of archaeological heritage material and human remains are uncovered during construction, all work must cease immediately and be reported to the Albany Museum (046 622 2312) and/or the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) (021 642 4502) so that systematic and professional investigation/ excavation can be undertaken.
4. Construction managers/foremen should be informed before construction starts on the possible types of heritage sites and cultural material they may encounter and the procedures to follow when they find sites.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The phase 1 archaeological impact (AIA) assessment report is part of a heritage impact assessment (HIA) required for the environmental impact assessment (EIA).

The Department of Archaeology, Albany Museum, has been appointed by SRK Consulting (appointed by the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM)) to conduct the Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the proposed mixed-use housing and industrial development in the Jachtylakte Precinct area, within the NMBM SDF (2009). The area has been identified for housing development and has strategic importance due to its location

between Despatch, Uitenhage and Port Elizabeth with the associated opportunities for integration through infill development.

The Jachtlakte Precinct is essentially a Greenfields area where the focus will be on creating an integrated sustainable settlement which reflects the vision of new initiative in the NMBM. The proposed site extends over an area of approximately 2 383ha and includes both municipal and private land. The development will include industrial, residential (with various housing typologies) and associated non-residential zonings such as community facilities (e.g. schools, clinics, crèches, open spaces, etc) and business sites. Initial planning estimated that approximately 6 650 residential erven will be developed together with a large industrial component (~400ha) on the northern portion of the site. In addition it is intended to accommodate urban agricultural should this be found to be sustainable.

The necessary internal roads, storm water, bulk water and sewerage services infrastructure will be upgraded and installed as required for the proposed development.

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Terms of Reference

The purpose of the study was to conduct a phase 1 archaeological impact assessment (AIA) for the proposed Jachtlakte Precinct Sustainable Human Settlement Plan, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, Eastern Cape Province. The survey was conducted to establish the range and importance of the exposed and *in situ* archaeological heritage materials and features, the potential impact of the development and, to make recommendations to minimize possible damage to these sites.

HERITAGE LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Parts of sections 35(4), 36(3) and 38(1) (8) of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 apply:

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

35 (4) *No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority—*

- (a) destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;*
- (b) destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological material or object or any meteorite;*
- (d) bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment which assist in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.*

Burial grounds and graves

36. (3) (a) *No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority—*

- (a) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;*
- (b) destroy, damage, alter, exhume, 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; or*
- (c) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.*

Heritage resources management

38. (1) *Subject to the provisions of subsections (7), (8) and (9), any person who intends to undertake a development categorized as -*

- (a) the construction of a road, wall, powerline, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300m in length;*
- (b) the construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length;*

- (c) *any development or other activity which will change the character of the site -*
- (i) exceeding 5000m² in extent, or*
 - (ii) involving three or more erven or subdivisions thereof; or*
 - (iii) involving three or more erven or divisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or*
 - (iv) the costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA, or a provincial resources authority;*
- (d) *the re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000m² in extent; or*
- (e) *any other category of development provided for in regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority, must as the very earliest stages of initiating such a development, notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development.*

BRIEF ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Literature review

Little is known of the early prehistory of the region. The oldest evidence of the early inhabitants are large stone tools, called handaxes and cleavers, which may be found amongst river gravels such as the Swartkops River and in old spring deposits within the region. These large stone tools are from a time period called the Earlier Stone Age (ESA) and may date between 1, 4 million and 250 000 years old. Large numbers of Early Stone Age stone tools were found at a research excavation at Amanzi Springs, some 10 kilometres north-east of Uitenhage (Deacon 1970). In a series of spring deposits a large number of stone tools were found *in situ* to a depth of 3-4 meters. Wood and seed material preserved remarkably very well within the spring deposits, and possibly date to between 800 000 to 250 000 years old.

The large handaxes and cleavers were replaced by smaller stone tools called the Middle Stone Age (MSA) flake and blade industries. Evidence of Middle Stone Age sites occur throughout the region and date between 250 000 and 30 000 years old. Fossil bone may in rare cases be associated with Middle Stone Age occurrences (Gess 1969). These stone artefacts, like the Earlier Stone Age handaxes are usually observed in secondary context with no other associated archaeological material.

The majority of archaeological sites found in the area date from the past 10 000 years (called the Later Stone Age) and are associated with the campsites of San hunter-gatherers and Khoi pastoralists. These sites are difficult to find because they are in the open veld and often covered by vegetation and sand. Sometimes these sites are only represented by a few stone tools and fragments of bone. The

preservation of these sites is poor and it is not always possible to date them (Deacon and Deacon 1999). There are many San hunter-gatherers sites in the nearby Groendal Wilderness Area and adjacent mountains. Here, caves and rock shelters were occupied by the San during the Later Stone Age and contain numerous paintings along the walls. The last San/KhoiSan group was killed by Commando's in the Groendal area in the 1880s.

Some 2 000 years ago Khoi pastoralists occupied the region and lived mainly in small settlements. They were the first food producers in South Africa and introduced domesticated animals (sheep, goat and cattle) and ceramic vessels to southern Africa. Often archaeological sites are found close to the banks of large streams and rivers. Large piles of freshwater mussel shell (called middens) usually mark these sites. Prehistoric groups collected the freshwater mussel from the muddy banks of the rivers as a source of food. Mixed with the shell and other riverine and terrestrial food waste are also cultural materials. Human remains are often found buried in the middens (Deacon and Deacon 1999).

References

- Deacon, H.J. 1970. The Acheulian occupation at Amanzi Springs, Uitenhage District, Cape Province. *Annals of the Cape Provincial Museums*. 8:89-189.
- Deacon, H.J. & Deacon, J. 1999. *Human beginnings in South Africa*. Cape Town: David Phillips Publishers.
- Gess, W.H.R. 1969. Excavations of a Pleistocene bone deposit at Aloes near Port Elizabeth. *South African Archaeological Bulletin* 24:31-32.

Relevant archaeological impact assessments:

- Binneman, J. 2007. A Phase 1 Archaeological Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed construction of the chicken broilerhouses of the Farm Rooihoogte Erf 328, Portions 25 and 26, Uitenhage District, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, Eastern Cape. Albany Museum: Grahamstown.
- Binneman, J; Booth, C and Higgitt, N. 2010. A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for the Proposed Rosedale Low Cost Housing Project, Uitenhage, Nelson Mandela Bay, Eastern Cape Province. Albany Museum: Grahamstown.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

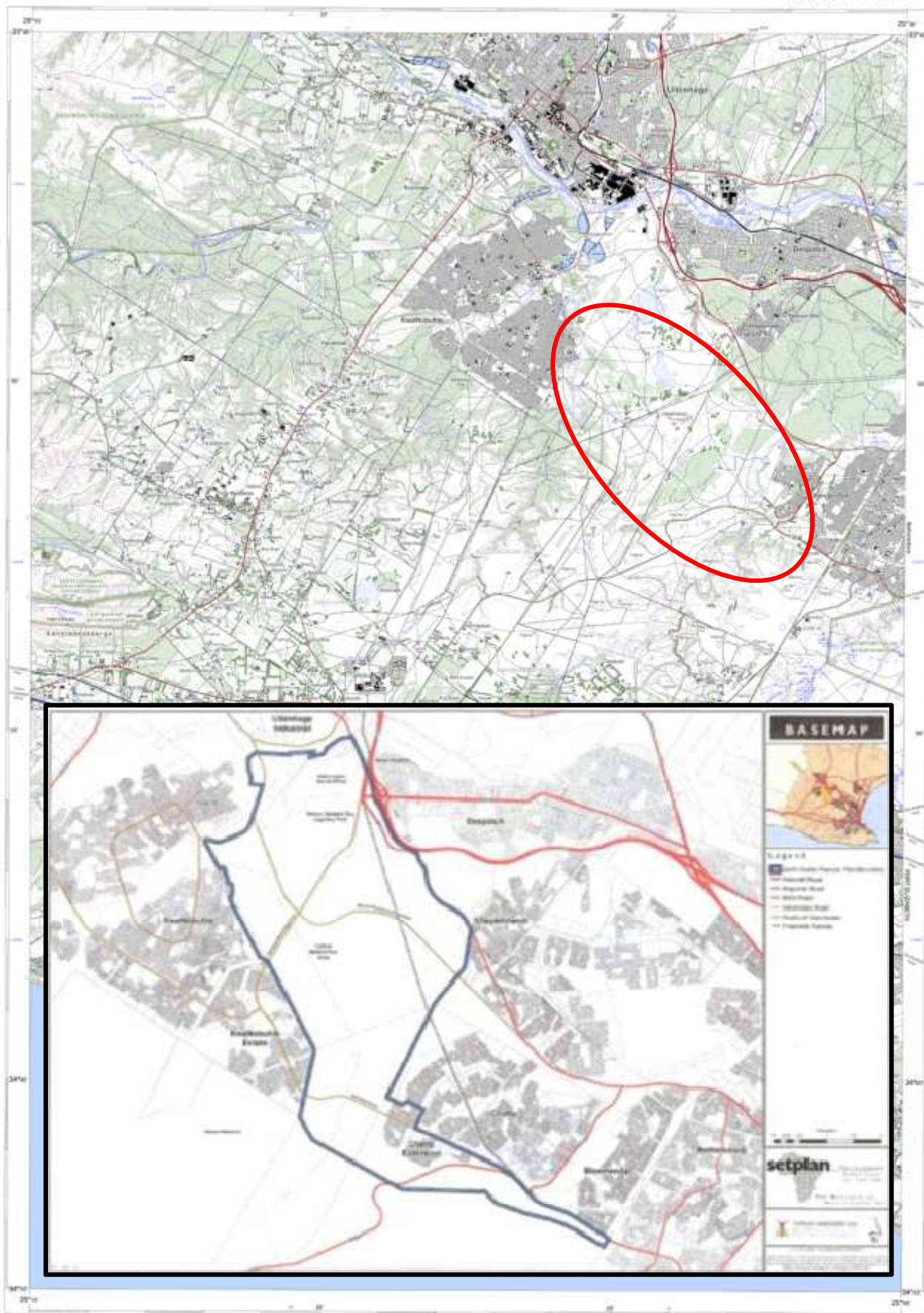
Area surveyed

Location data

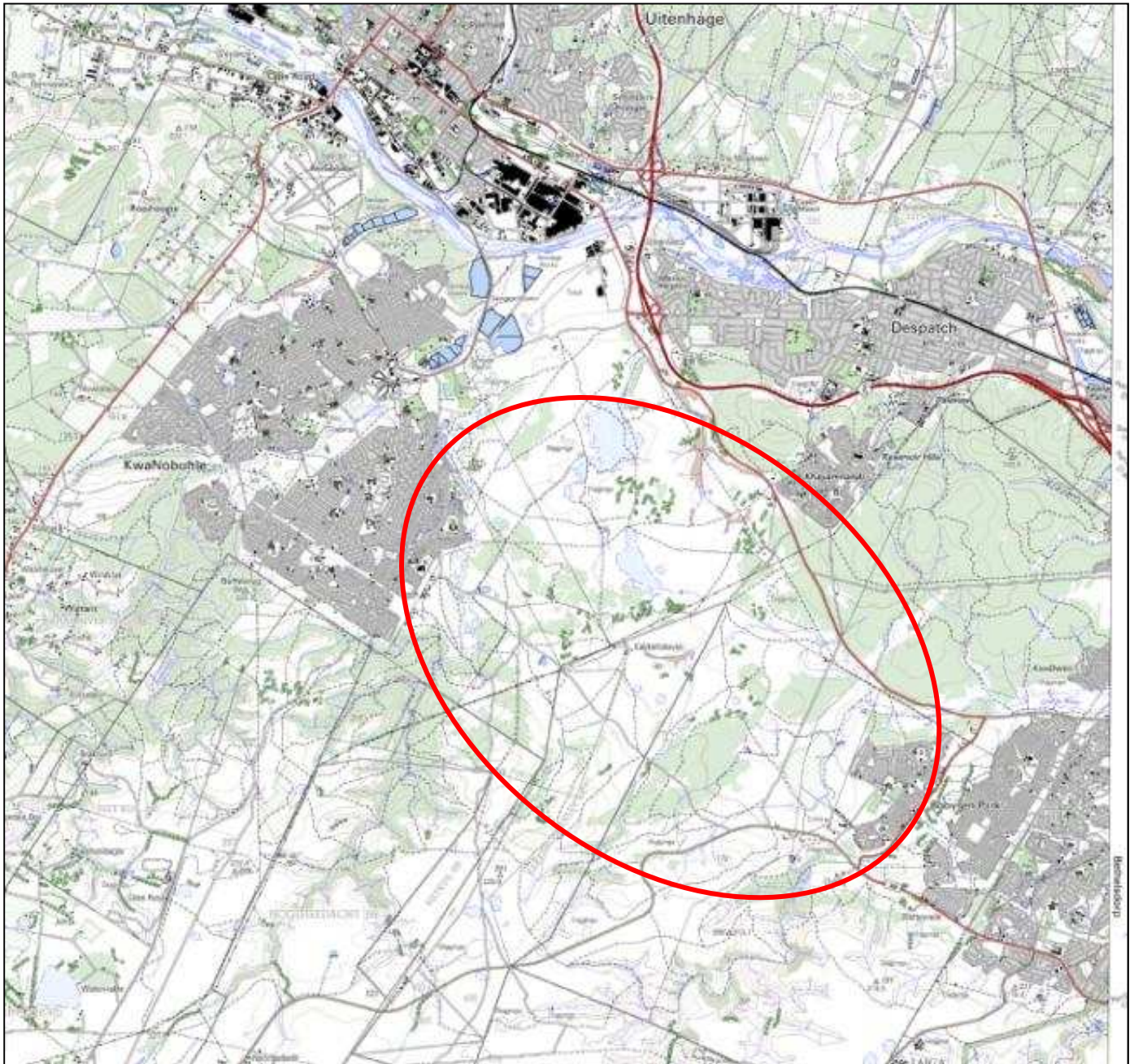
The proposed area for development is situated between the small towns of Uitenhage (north) and Despatch (north) and 30km from Port Elizabeth (south-east). The surrounding area comprises mainly Uitenhage's industrial area as well as the townships of Kwanobuhle, Khayamnandi, Chatty and Chatty Extension, as well as Bloemendal and Bethelsdorp situated on the outskirts of the proposed area for development. The proposed area is easily accessible on the R75 road between Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage, passing Despatch to the south, or the R368 road, and Stanford Road that is in the process of being extended through the southern section of the Jachtylakte Precinct area. The nearest coastline is situated about 15km to the east and the area is bordered by the Swartkops River to the north.

Map

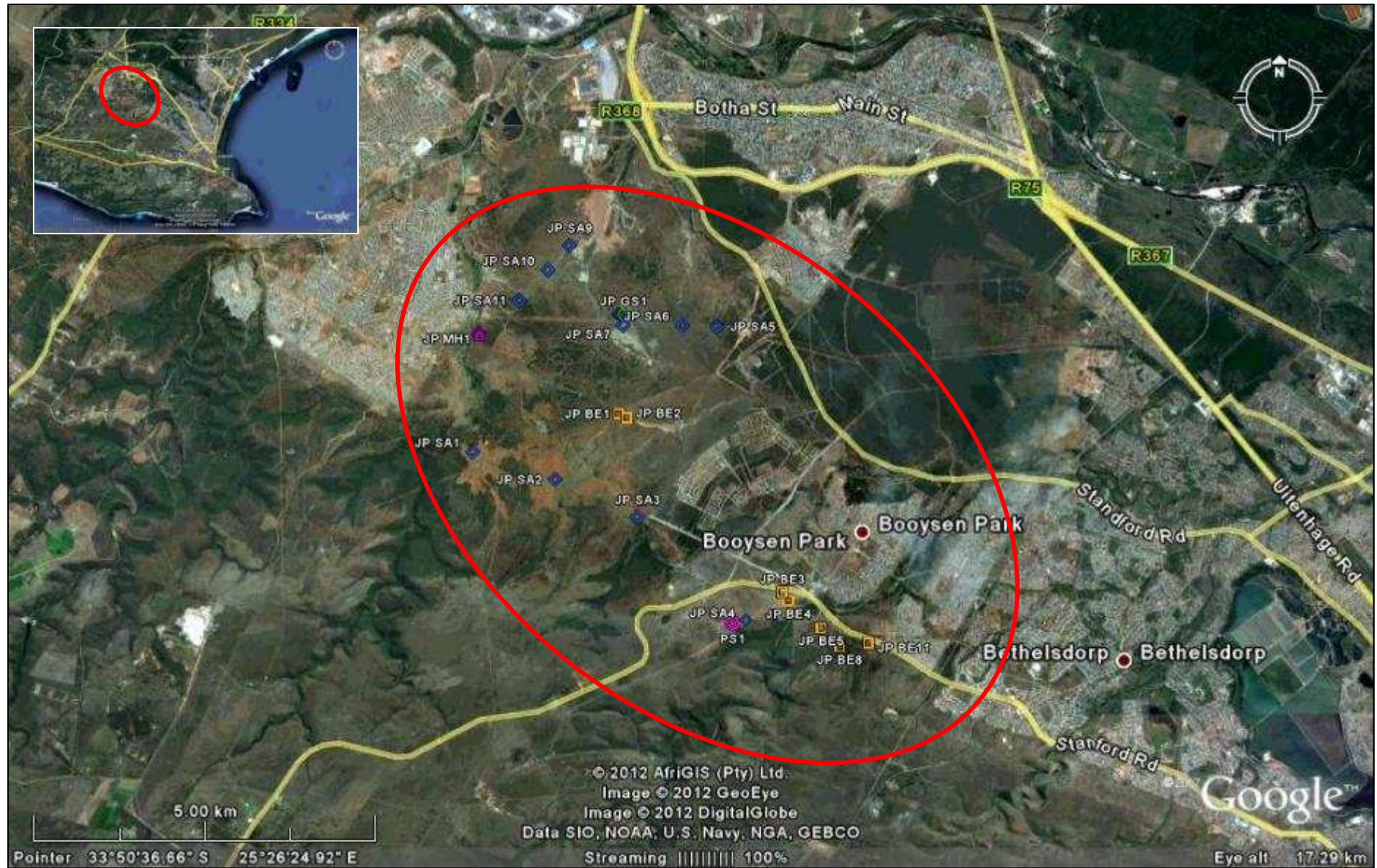
1:50 000 Maps: 3325CD & 3425AB Uitenhage (Map 1).



Map 1. 1: 50 000 map indicating the proposed area for the development of the Jachtlakte Precinct (Insert map courtesy of SRK Consulting)



Map 2. Close-up 1:50 000 map showing the area proposed for the Jachtlakte Precinct.



Map 3. Aerial view of the area proposed for the Jachtlakte Precinct.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

Methodology

Most of the area proposed for development is covered in thick dense thicket vegetation (Figs 1-4) which made archaeological visibility difficult, therefore, the methodology for the survey was carried out by conducting spot checks from a vehicle wherever exposed and disturbed surface areas were observed. GPS readings were taken using a Garmin Oregon 550 (Table 1). The GPS readings have been plotted on Map 3.



Figs 1-4. Views of the general landscape and vegetation cover.

The proposed area for development has been heavily disturbed (Figs 5-10) by the construction of the built environment such as various modern small holdings, the reservoir, the substation, industrial development to the north, and the surrounding suburbs and townships. Electricity pylons extend from the substation to the surrounding suburbs and townships. Excavations for the construction of concrete manholes as an indicator of various underground pipelines would have disturbed the surface and underlying surface areas. The general construction of fences and previous farming activities (cultivated lands) as well as stock grazing, past and present, past and

present, would also be included as disturbances to any possible in situ archaeological material remains and sites. The Jachtlakte area is popular for off-road recreational activities and the area comprises several heavily eroded informal gravel roads and dongas for these activities. Currently the area is being used as an informal dumping area as well as legal and illegal mining/quarrying activities in the area to the south. Small scale stock grazing also continues.



Figs 5-10. Views of the disturbances including, off-road recreational tracks (top), informal dumping (middle), small holdings and and small-scale stock-grazing (bottom).

The proposed area for development comprises several disturbances and disturbed area where the occurrence of archaeological material remains and sites would be in a secondary, out-of-context position. However, much of the proposed area still comprises large areas of possible undisturbed thicket vegetation where the possibility of the occurrence of *in situ* archaeological material is highly probable.

Archaeological Material Remains and Sites:

Mainly isolated surface scatters of Middle Stone Age (MSA) stone artefacts were observed within the exposed, disturbed, and eroded donga areas of the proposed area for development (Figs 11-14). The exposed surface areas occurred mainly in the southern part of the area proposed for development between the townships of Chatty and Chatty Extension and Kwanobuhle to the west. These areas have been disturbed by off-road recreational activities as evidenced by off-road motorbike tracks in the exposed surface. Middle Stone Age stone artefacts were documented on the top and on the slopes of larger eroded donga areas that occur with the area proposed for development. The stone artefacts were also documented along and adjacent to the power line service roads.



Figs 11-14. The occurrences of stone artefacts within the exposed, disturbed and eroded donga areas.

The stone artefacts were manufactured on medium-grained quartzite and show the characteristic faceted striking platform attributed to the particular Middle Stone Age period. These types of surface scatters of stone artefacts have been documented within this area and the surrounding area, between the Sundays River Valley and Port Elizabeth in previous archaeological impact assessments conducted. The ensemble of stone artefacts documented were mainly flakes that showed some retouch and edge-damage. No other archaeological material or organic remains were observed with the occurrences of the surface scatters (Figs 15-16). One Early Stone Age handaxe manufactured from medium-grained quartzite was documented together with several Middle Stone Age flakes within one of the exposed surface areas that may be the route for the extension of Stanford Road (Figs 15-18).



Figs 15-16. Examples of the Middle Stone Age stone artefacts documented within the proposed area for development.



Fig 17. The Early Stone Age handaxe documented with the proposed area for development.

Isolated surface scatters were documented across the proposed area for development in a disturbed and secondary context within the exposed, disturbed, eroded donga areas and the informal gravel roads. The thicket vegetation that covers a large area of the landscape prevented archaeological visibility for the observation of any possible archaeological material remains and sites. It is possible that archaeological material remains and sites may occur in situ within the Thicket vegetation, from previous observations, Middle Stone Age stone artefacts may occur between the surface and 50cm-80cm below ground owing to years of soil deposition. No other archaeological materials were observed in association with the stone artefact scatters.

Built Environment:

Several building remains were documented during the course of the survey. The proposed area was historically a farming community and the ruins of farmsteads, some buildings older than 60 years, and some modern buildings and additions to older buildings, still remain. The occurrences of the building remains occur mainly within the southern section of the proposed area for development, adjacent to Bloemendal, Bethelsdorp, and Chatty Extension and across the Chatty River and along the power line service road closer to the substation.

Several building remains occur around the area marked BE 1-2 (Map 3), situated closer to the power station and observed from the informal power line service road (Figs 18-21). The buildings have been stripped of windows and roofs and are severely dilapidated. The construction materials comprise mainly of manufactured and concrete bricks plastered with concrete-mix. No possible archaeological or historical artefacts were observed within the area.



Figs 18 - 19. Views of the dilapidated building remains at BE1-2.



Figs 20-21. Views of the dilapidated building remains at BE1-2.

Building remains situated at the area marked BE 3 have been fenced and comprise the foundations of buildings (a house and possible outhouse or storage area), concrete water tanks, a trough and a stone wall in front of the house (Figs 22-24). Currently occupied Informal small holdings occur upslope towards the reservoir at the top of the hill. The stone wall has been constructed with the use of concrete as a binding factor. Other construction materials as evidenced by the foundations and the rubble from the ruins include manufactured brick and concrete mix. Another dilapidated building, not included within the fenced area, that may however have been associated as a larger complex in the past is situated up slope towards the small holding adjacent to the remains (Fig 25). No possible archaeological or historical artefacts were observed with the area.



Figs 22-23. Views of the dilapidated buildings at BE3.



Figs 24-25. Views of the dilapidated buildings at BE3.

The ruins at BE 5 are situated to the east, nearby the Chatty River, and comprise several stone wall structures. The area is currently being used as an informal dumping area which made the investigation for possible archaeological and historical archaeological artefacts difficult (Figs 26-27). No artefacts were observed. The building complex comprises three main buildings constructed with stone and a clay mix used to bind the stones. Concrete plastering and paint may have been added later to strengthen the walls. Similarly the water tanks may also have been a later addition with the use of brick and concrete plastering (Figs 28-31). The stone wall foundation of the separate possible storage building can still be observed, however, a later addition concrete foundation can be observed mainly within the building itself.



Figs 26-27. Views of the building complex at BE5 currently used as an informal dumping area.



Figs 28-33. Views of the stone wall and clay mix structures and possible later additions on the water tanks and plastering.



Fig 34-35. Views of the concrete and stone walling foundation of the separate possible storage structure.

The building remains situated at BE 6-9 comprise two adjacent severely dilapidated structures constructed with bricks and concrete. A stone wall built into the slope possibly to avoid erosion and channel water is situated behind on the dilapidated structures. Stone wall paving can be observed downslope from the structures (Figs 36-39). Broken sherds of modern ceramics, glass, and metal were observed around the structures (Fig 40).



Figs 36-39. Views of the dilapidated remains at BE6-9 including the stone walling and paving.



Fig 40. Examples of the ceramics, glass, metal observed within the area of the dilapidated structures.

The building remains situated at BE 10 comprise two severely dilapidated building ruins constructed from bricks and concrete. Stone paving can be observed downslope from the building remains (Figs 41-44). No archaeological or historical archaeological artefacts were observed within the area of the building remains.



Figs 41-42. Views of the dilapidated structures at situated at BE10.



Figs 43-44. Close-up of the construction materials and stone paving.

Historically, the proposed area for development was an early settler farming area and it is expected that building ruins of farmsteads would occur within the area. However, for the exception of the stone walling structures situated at BE5, it is difficult to determine whether the ruins are older than 60 years. The ruins at BE5 are presumed to be the original structure built.

SURVEY/DESCRIPTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Exposed surface scatters of Middle Stone Age stone artefacts were observed in mainly disturbed conditions such as informal gravel roads, exposed surface areas as well as eroded areas within proposed area for development. No associated archaeological material and organic remains nor any substantial depth of deposit was associated with the stone artefact surface scatters. It is, therefore, unlikely that the artefacts are *in situ* and occur in secondary context owing to the previous and present disturbances occurring with the area. However, it is possible that undisturbed *in situ* stone artefacts may be encountered within the areas covered in thicket vegetation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The area is of a low-medium cultural sensitivity and development may proceed as planned, although the following recommendations must be considered:

1. If the built environment structures are to be demolished an historian or built environment specialist should assess the significance of the structures documented within the proposed area for development.
2. It is possible that *in situ* stone artefacts and archaeological sites/remains would be uncovered within the dense thicket vegetation during construction. Therefore, a professional archaeologist should be appointed during the vegetation removal and construction phases of the development.

3. If concentrations of archaeological heritage material and human remains are uncovered during construction, all work must cease immediately and be reported to the Albany Museum (046 622 2312) and/or the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) (021 642 4502) so that systematic and professional investigation/ excavation can be undertaken.
4. Construction managers/foremen should be informed before construction starts on the possible types of heritage sites and cultural material they may encounter and the procedures to follow when they find sites.

GENERAL REMARKS AND CONDITIONS

Note: This report is a phase 1 archaeological heritage impact assessment/ investigation only and does not include or exempt other required heritage impact assessments (see below).

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.

It must be emphasized that the conclusions and recommendations expressed in this archaeological heritage sensitivity investigation are based on the visibility of archaeological sites/features and may not therefore, reflect the true state of affairs. Many sites/features may be covered by soil and vegetation and will only be located once this has been removed. In the event of such finds being uncovered, (such as 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. The onus is on the developer to ensure that this agreement is honoured in accordance with the National Heritage Act No. 25 of 1999.

It must also be clear that Archaeological Specialist Reports (AIAs) will be assessed by the relevant heritage resources authority. The final decision rests with the heritage resources authority, which may grant a permit or a formal letter of permission for the destruction of any cultural sites.

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.