



27 June, 2014

Att: Ms Mariagrazia Galimberti
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
South African Heritage Resources Agency
PO Box 4637
Cape Town
8000

Dear Ms Galimberti,

RECOMMENDED EXEMPTION FROM AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON ERVEN 4995, 4997, 5007, & 5009, HARMONY ESTATE, SPRINGBOK (NAMA KHOI MUNICIPALITY), NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Harmony Estate project entails the development of residential erven over four properties; namely Erven 4995, 4997, 5007 and 5009, in Springbok in the Namaqualand region of the Northern Cape Province (Figure 1). Engineering services include potable water, storm water, sewerage, electricity, internal streets and lighting.

The proposed development site is located south of Markus Street and west of Inry Street in Bergsig, in the northern part of Springbok, inside the urban edge (Figure 2). The site borders existing residential erven on the north western and south western side (the existing Harmony Estate development), and undeveloped land on the north eastern and south eastern side.

The combined size of the four properties is 3097m².

Photographs taken by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner indicate very clearly that the proposed development site is severely degraded (Figures 3-8). It comprises mostly bare soil (the site has been heavily scraped) with very little natural veld occurring. Piles of rocks and stones have been dumped along the north eastern side of the proposed development site. There are no significant landscape features occurring on the affected properties.

A desk top study has shown that until recently, very little archaeological work has taken place in the Springbok area, where most research has largely concentrated on the Namaqualand coast, the Richtersveld and further south in the Kamiesberg area¹. Closer to the study area, three stone flakes were encountered over a very large area during an HIA for a proposed Wind Energy Farm near Springbok, where some faded rock art and a burial were

¹ Webley, L. 1992. The history and archaeology of pastoralist and hunter-gatherer settlement in the north-western Cape, South Africa. Unpublished D. Phil thesis: University of Cape Town.

Kaplan, J. 1993. The state of archaeological information in the coastal zone from the Orange River to Ponto do Ouro. Report prepared for the Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism. ACRM Riebeeck West.

Dewar, G.I. 2007. The Archaeology of the Coastal Desert of Namaqualand, South Africa: A regional synthesis. Unpublished PhD Dissertation, Department of Archaeology, University of Cape Town.



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also recorded.² A few stone flakes were encountered in the proposed powerline servitude between Springbok and Nababeep during scoping for the same study. Low density scatters of Later Stone Age quartz flakes, chunks, a few cores and utilized pieces were documented by Kaplan³ alongside DR2595 near Bulletrap (north of Springbok), during an assessment of three borrow pits. No pre-colonial archaeological remains were documented during a scoping study for a proposed pipeline between Rooiwinkel and Nababeep north of Springbok⁴, and between Okiep and Bulletrap alongside the N7⁵. A few stone tools of low significance, and a possible grave were encountered by Smith⁶ during a HIA for a proposed solar energy farm near Carolusberg east of Springbok. Ephemeral scatters of stone tools, a stone walled kraal, colonial artefacts and a possible grave were also encountered by Smith⁷ during a HIA for a proposed solar energy farm near Nababeep. No archaeological heritage was encountered by Gaigher⁸ during a HIA for a proposed solar energy farm south of Springbok. No pre-colonial archaeological traces were encountered by Morris⁹ during a survey of the proposed upgrading of the Goegap Nature Reserve facilities just outside Springbok.

Since the proposed development site is already severely degraded, ACRM is applying for exemption from having to conduct an archaeological inspection of the proposed housing project.

The proposed Harmony Estate development is not considered to pose a serious threat to the local archaeological heritage because:

- The proposed development site is severely degraded (refer to Figures 3-8).
- It is considered highly unlikely that significant archaeological heritage will be impacted by proposed activities.
- The proposed development site is less than 0.5ha in extent.

² Kaplan, J. 2010. Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed wind energy facility near Springbok, Northern Cape. Report prepared for DJ Environmental Consultants. ACRM, Cape Town.

³ Kaplan, 2008. An archaeological assessment of three proposed borrow pits alongside DR2595 N7 to Bulletrap, Northern Cape Province. Report prepared for Irme van Zyl Environmental Consultants.

⁴ Kaplan, 2011. Archaeological scoping the proposed construction of a new water pipeline between Rooiwinkel and Nababeep, Northern Cape. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. ACRM Cape Town.

⁵ Kaplan, J. 2011. Archaeological scoping the proposed construction of a new pipeline between Bulletrap and Okiep, Northern Cape. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. ACRM Cape Town

⁶ Smith, A. B. 2013. Proposed Solar PV Facility Melkboskuil Farm 132/6 Carolusberg: A Heritage Impact Assessment. Report prepared for Footprint Environmental Services.

⁷ Smith, A. B. Proposed Solar PV Facility Klipdam Farm 134/17 Springbok, Northern Cape: A Heritage Impact Assessment. Report prepared for Footprint Environmental Services.

⁸ Gaigher, S. 2012. Heritage Impact Assessment Report Basic Assessment, proposed establishment of the Brax Energy Photovoltaic Solar Park on a Portion of the Farm Voelklip near Springbok in the Northern Cape Province. Report prepared for Shawn Johnston Sustainable Future/Savannah Environmental

⁹ Morris, D. 2012. Archaeological Impact Assessment, Phase 1 for inclusion in Basic Assessment Report 25/2011. Proposed upgrading of the Goegap Nature Reserve near Springbok, Northern Cape. Report prepared for Van Zyl Environmental Consultants. McGregor Museum, Kimberly.



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- The desk top study has shown that Springbok and surrounding areas do not appear to be an archaeologically sensitive or threatened landscape.
- While one or two stone implements may be found in the small footprint area, the significance of the finds are likely to be rated as having low significance.

It is therefore recommended that exemption from further specialist archaeological studies and mitigation be granted for the proposed development.

Should any unmarked human remains, or any bones, be exposed or uncovered during construction activities, the archaeologist (Jonathan Kaplan 082 321 0172), or the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Ms Mariagrazia Galimberti 021 462 4502) must be immediately informed.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Kaplan

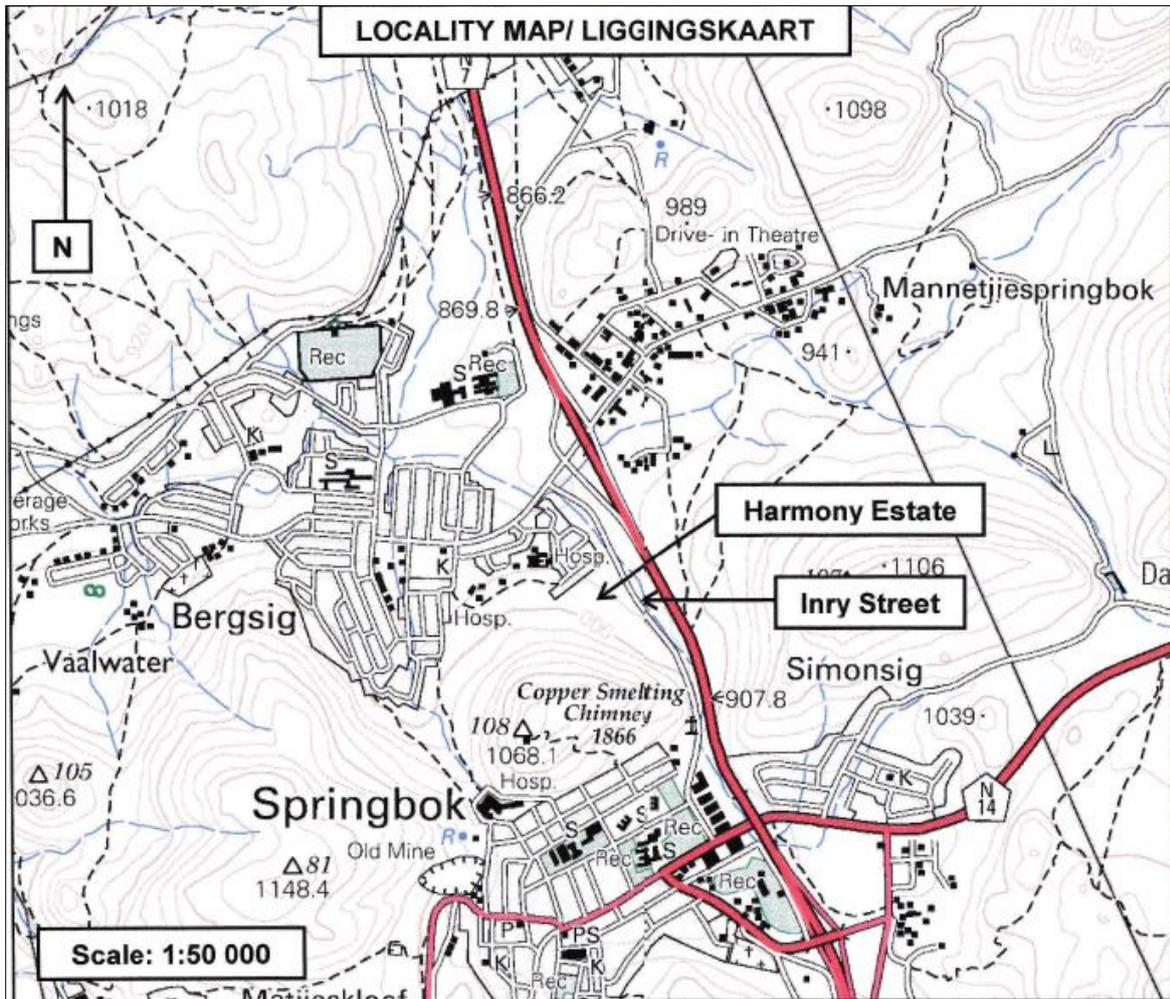


Figure 1. Locality Map.

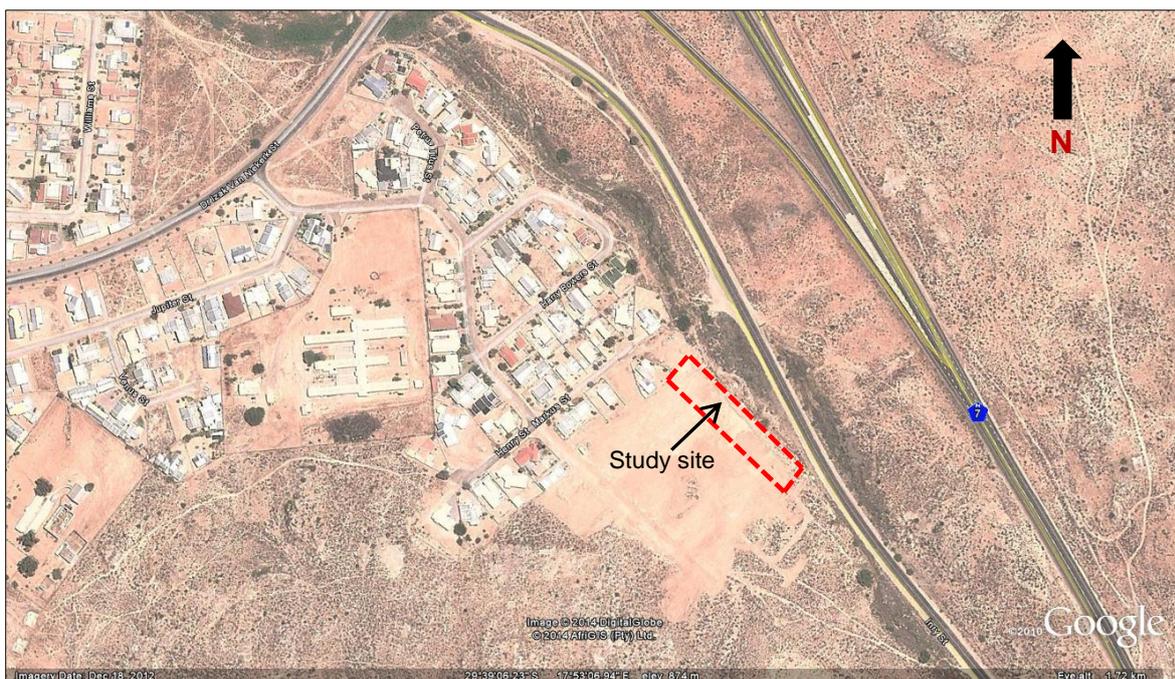


Figure 2. Google aerial map of the study site and the affected erven



Figure 3. view of the site facing south west from Inry Street.



Figure 4. View of the site facing north west taken from Inry Street.



Figure 5. View of the site facing north west



Figure 6. view of the site facing north west. Arrow indicates Inry street



Figure 7. View of the site facing south east



Figure 8. View of the site facing south east