

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Proposed Packing Shed, Portion of Erf 1731 Kakamas South, Northern Cape

Prepared for:

ENVIROAFRICA

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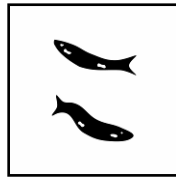
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Executive summary

1. Introduction

ACRM was commissioned by EnviroAfrica to conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for the proposed construction of a fruit packing shed on a Portion of Erf 1731 Kakamas South in the Northern Cape.

The site for the proposed packing shed is located 3kms south of Kakamas on the N14 to Pofadder.

The proposed packing shed will cover a footprint area of less than 2.0ha in extent.

The AIA forms part of a Basic Assessment process that is being conducted by independent environmental consultants, EnviroAfrica cc.

2. Aim of the study

The overall purpose of the study is to assess the sensitivity of archaeological resources in the affected area and to determine the potential impacts on such resources.

3. Results of the study

A field assessment took place on 11 May, 2017 in which the following observations were made:

- The proposed development site is severely degraded
- Six stone flakes were documented during the study
- No graves or grave markers were found

4. Impact statement

The proposed development of a fruit packing shed on a Portion of Erf 1731 Kakamas South will not impact on important archaeological heritage.

5. Conclusion

The proposed development site is not a threatened archaeological landscape.

There are no objections to the authorization of the development.

6. Recommendations

1. No archaeological mitigation is required.
2. Should any unmarked human burials/remains or ostrich eggshell water flask caches be uncovered, or exposed during construction activities these must immediately be reported to the archaeologist (Jonathan Kaplan 082 321 0172), or the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Ms Natasha Higgitt 021 462 4502).

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1. INTRODUCTION

ACRM was appointed by EnviroAfrica, on behalf of Kobus van Zyl Family Trust to conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment (or AIA) for the proposed construction of a fruit packing shed on a Portion of Erf 1731 Kakamas South (Kai Garib Municipality) in the Northern Cape (Figure 1).

The site for the proposed development is located 3kms south of Kakamas on the N14 to Pofadder (Figures 2 & 3).

The proposed packing shed will cover a footprint area of less than 2.0ha in extent.

The AIA forms part of a Basic Assessment process that is being conducted by independent environmental consultants, EnviroAfrica cc.



Figure 1. Locality map. Red polygon indicates the location of the study site in relation to Kakamas



Figure 2. Google satellite map illustrating the location of the study site (yellow pin)

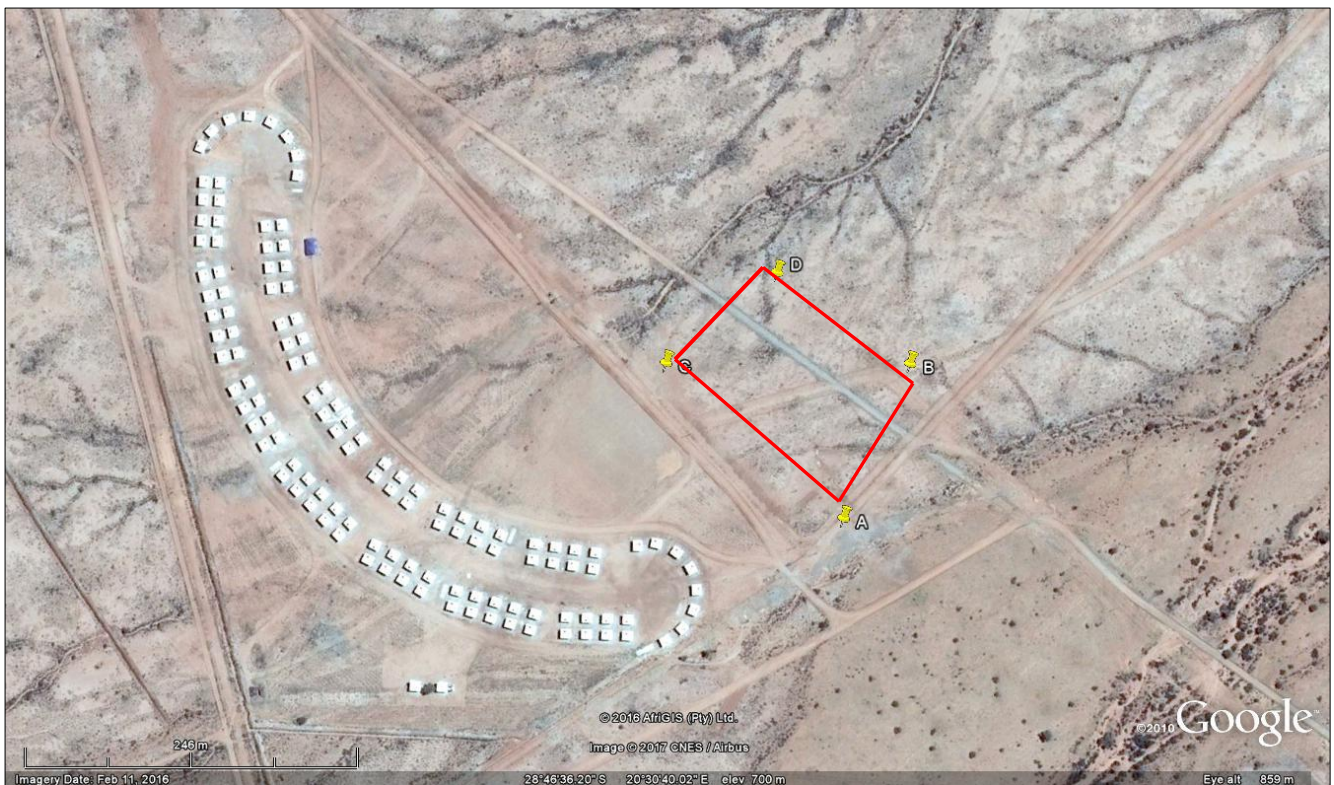


Figure 3. Close up view of the study site (outlined in red)

2. HERITAGE LEGISLATION

The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA No. 25 of 1999) protects archaeological and palaeontological sites and materials, as well as graves/cemeteries, battlefield sites and buildings, structures and features over 60 years old. The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) administers this legislation nationally, with Heritage Resources Agencies acting at provincial level. According to the Act (Sect. 35), it is an offence to destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original place, or collect, any archaeological, palaeontological and historical material or object, without a permit issued by the SAHRA or applicable Provincial Heritage Resources Agency.

Notification of SAHRA is required for proposed developments exceeding certain dimensions (Sect. 38), upon which they will decide whether or not the development must be assessed for heritage impacts (an HIA) that may include an assessment of archaeological (a AIA) or palaeontological heritage (a PIA).

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the study were to:

- Determine whether there are likely to be any important archaeological resources that may potentially be impacted by the proposed development;
- Recommend any further mitigation action.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

The proposed development site is located 3kms south of Kakamas on the N19 to Poffader. The site is a fairly level, vacant piece of land located alongside the gravel entrance road to the farm. The site is fenced off and comprises severely degraded agricultural land. Several gravel roads cut across the site, and the surrounding area is heavily scraped. Some dumping also occurs. The substrate comprises quartz gravels and small pebbles. Sparse vegetation covers the site which has also been overgrazed. The proposed site has been pegged out with fence droppers.

There are no significant landscape features on the proposed development site, although a drainage channel is located about 40m north of pegs C and D.

Surrounding land use is agriculture (marginal grazing), newly established vineyards for the Sosa Roma empowerment project, and farm worker housing (Figures 4-7).



Figure 4. Peg A. View facing north



Figure 6. Peg C. View facing south



Figure 5. Peg B. View facing north west



Figure 7. Peg D. View facing north

5. STUDY APPROACH

5.1 Method of survey

The purpose of the study is to assess the sensitivity of archaeological resources in the affected area and to determine the potential impacts on such resources.

A survey track path was captured (refer to Figure 8) and the position of identified archaeological occurrences were fixed by a hand held GPS unit set on the map datum WGS 84.

The field assessment took place on 11 May, 2017

A literature survey was carried out to assess the archaeological context surrounding the proposed development site.

5.2 Constraints and limitations

There were no constraints or limitations associated with the study.

Archaeological visibility was very good.

5.3 Identification of potential risks

The results of the study indicate that there are no archaeological risks associated with the proposed development.

5.4 Heritage context

A few commercial archaeological surveys have been done in Kakamas. Dispersed scatters of MSA and LSA tools in banded ironstone, quartz, quartzite and weathered indurated shale were recorded during a study for a proposed solar energy farm west of the town's waste water treatment works (Kaplan 2012). A study for a proposed low cost housing development in the town did not encounter any archaeological heritage, although the site was already transformed at the time (Kaplan 2013). A few discarded MSA flakes were found near the town's concrete water reservoir (Kaplan 2016).

Orton (2012) notes that a number of skeletons; most dating to the 18th and 19th Centuries were exhumed from the area between Augrabies and Upington in the late 1930s. Historical sites and remains (such as forts) relating to events such as the Anglo Boer War are also well preserved in the region, including the presence of war graves in Kakamas. Orton reports that the water related infrastructure in the Kakamas area was important for agricultural development and several water wheels and excavated tunnels and leiwaters/furrows in Kakamas have been declared Provincial Heritage Sites.

J. van Schalkwyk (2010) undertook a survey of a large (250ha) tract of agricultural land on a Portion of Erf 1173 (alongside the study site), in which a few dispersed scatters of LSA tools of low significance were recorded.

6. FINDINGS

Six, isolated stone implements were recorded during the survey (Table 1), despite a detailed ground survey of the proposed development site, which extended beyond the development footprint area (Figure 8).

A collection of the tools is illustrated in Figure 9.

6.1 Significance of the archaeological remains

The very small numbers means that the archaeological remains have been graded as having *low* (Grade 3C) significance.

AIA, proposed packing shed, Portion of Erf 1731 Kakamas South, Northern Cape

Site	Farm	Lat/long	Description of finds	Significance	Mitigation
	Portion of Erf 1731, Kakamas South				
3901		S28° 46.642' E20° 30.718'	Retouched quartzite flake/chunk	Low 3C	None required
3921		S28° 46.609' E20° 30.700'	Banded ironstone misc. retouched/utilized MSA flake	Low 3C	None required
3931		S28° 46.541' E20° 30.737'	Edge retouched quartzite chunk (cortex)	Low 3C	None required
3951		S32° 57.809' E17° 53.314'	Small, tip retouched quartzite chunk	Low 3C	None required
3981		S32° 57.813' E17° 53.325'	Utilized quartz flake	Low 3C	None required
3991		S28° 46.657' E20° 30.744'	Banded ironstone utilized side struck cortex blade – tip broken	Low 3C	None required

Table 1. Spreadsheet of waypoints and description of archaeological finds



Figure 8. Portion of Erf 1731 Kakamas South. Track paths and waypoints of archaeological finds. Pegs A-D demarcate the development footprint area



Figure 9. Stone tools from Portion of Erf 1731 Kakamas South. Scale is in cm

7. IMPACT STATEMENT

The survey has indicated that the proposed construction of a fruit packing shed on Portion of Erf 1731 Kakamas South, will not have an impact of great significance on archaeological heritage.

8. CONCLUSION

The proposed site for the packing shed is not a sensitive archaeological landscape.

Therefore, there are no objections to the authorization of the proposed development.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. No archaeological mitigation is required.
2. Should any unmarked human burials/remains or ostrich eggshell water flask caches be uncovered, or exposed during construction activities, these must immediately be reported to the archaeologist (Jonathan Kaplan 082 321 0172), or the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Att: Ms Natasha Higgit (021 462 4502). Burials must not be removed or disturbed until inspected by the archaeologist.

10. REFERENCES

Kaplan, J. 2016. Archaeological Impact Assessment, proposed housing development Erf 1612 Kakamas. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. ACRM, Cape Town

Kaplan, J. 2013. Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed low cost housing development in Kakamas, Northern Cape. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2012. The proposed Keren Energy Kakamas Solar Farm on Erf 1654 Kakamas, Northern Cape Province. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica cc. ACRM, Cape Town

Van Schalkwyk, J, A. 2010. Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed agricultural development on a section of the property Kakamas South, Gordonias Magisterial District, Northern Cape Province. Report prepared for MEG Environmental Consultants.