

Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report

Proposed 4.08ha extension of the Bredasdorp Cemetery, Cape Agulhas Local Municipality, Overberg District Municipality, Western Cape.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Cape Agulhas Municipality proposes an extension of the existing Bredasdorp Cemetery by some 4.08ha (Figure 1) on a portion of Erf 1148. No archaeological resources were found during the foot survey of the property by Pro-Active Archaeology. The heavy disturbance of the property by years of agricultural activity make it unlikely that any archaeological resources will be found. In the unlikely event that such resources are found, Heritage Western Cape or a professional archaeologist must be contacted to assess the finds.

STAKEHOLDERS

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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) report, requested by PHS Consulting, forms part of a Basic Assessment report. Pro-Active Archaeology undertook this survey on behalf of the Cape Agulhas Municipality. The municipality proposes an extension of the existing Bredasdorp Cemetery by some 4.08ha (Figure 1) on a portion of Erf 1148. The property is currently zoned as agricultural.

1.1. Stakeholders

	Owner & Developer	Project Consultant	Environmental Practitioner
Name	Cape Agulhas Municipality	Town & Country	PHS Consulting
Contact Person	Bertus Hayward	Louna du Toit	Paul Slabbert
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1.2. Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the specialist Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment are to:

- Identify and map pre-colonial archaeological heritage resources on the proposed sites;
- Determine the importance of pre-colonial archaeological heritage resources on the proposed sites;
- Determine and assess the potential impacts of the proposed development on the pre-colonial archaeological heritage resources, and
- Recommend mitigation measures to minimise impacts associated with the proposed development.

1.3. Legislative requirements

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).

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.

2. DESK TOP STUDY

The Overberg region has seen very little academic archaeological investigation. Orton (2008) found no archaeological remains on the property investigated. However, some Earlier Stone Age (ESA) material was observed on a neighbouring property. Kaplan (2006) found a few isolated ESA flakes.

2.1. Earlier Stone Age

The ESA has been divided into two distinct stone tool cultures: the Oldowan Tradition and the Acheulian Tradition. The former is represented by the earliest stone tools (from about 2 million years ago), simple core forms and unmodified flakes (Klien 2000). Geographically, the Oldowan is found in East Africa, and within South Africa, generally limited to the Sterkfontein region. The Acheulian has a more formal, standardised component, illustrated by hand axes and cleavers. This tradition is found across Africa, Western Asia and southern Europe (Deacon & Deacon 1999) and dates from between ± 1.4 million years ago to roughly 250 000 years ago. Mitchell (2002), describes hand axes as elongated, pear-shaped or triangular forms, terminating in a point. Cleavers are broader, with an axe-like cutting edge. Some informal flakes show evidence of retouch, similar to the MSA scraper. Formal tools may represent less than ten percent of artefacts found in the field (Deacon & Deacon 1999). Such finds generally occur in valley bottoms or wetlands.

2.2. Middle Stone Age

The Middle Stone Age (MSA) is sandwiched between the ESA and Later Stone Age (LSA) and dates from between 250 000 B.P. To about 20 000 years ago (Deacon & Deacon 1999, Mitchell

2002). The technology is characterised by the absence of hand axes and cleavers, the presence of prepared core techniques (e.g. Levallois technique). The stone flakes are generally triangular in shape with faceted striking platforms. Elongated blades and blade flakes are also common.

2.3. Later Stone Age

These sites date from the last 20 000 years, but for the most part, to the last four thousand years or so. They will often be found close to water sources and may be out in the open, although by far the most common are to be found in caves and rock shelters (Deacon & Deacon 1999). San hunter/foragers inhabited the area up to 2000 years ago, when pastoralism was introduced to the Cape by the Khoenkhoen (Deacon & Deacon 1999). Evidence of ceramics and domesticated stock is often used as a marker for the arrival of pastoralists in a region. The 17 and 18th centuries saw the European colonial expansion. As colonial influence expanded and more land was settled, indigenous people were forced into economically less viable areas. The effects of diseases and organised extermination led to the eventual dissolution of indigenous society as it had existed, and the survivors were reduced to servitude on European farms (Mitchell 2002, Parkington 1977, Sealy et al 2000).

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY & METHODOLOGY

A 4.08ha area of a Portion of Erf 1148, Bredasdorp, Cape Agulhas Local Municipality, Overberg District Municipality, Western Cape, is proposed as an extension of the current cemetery. This area is adjacent to the existing cemetery, to the north of the town. The property is located on the 1:50 000 (3420 CA & CC Bredasdorp) topographic map in Figure 2. Two archaeologists, in the company of Mr Paul Slabbert of PHS Consulting, visited the site on 2011-05-16. A map of the GPS tracking illustrated in Figure 3. The property has been extensively ploughed and archaeological visibility was therefore excellent (Figure 4 & 5).

Data was acquired with Garmin GPS60 and Oregon 450. Digital photographs were taken with a Canon DSLR and a Panasonic Bridge Camera.

4. DESCRIPTION OF SITES & ARTEFACTS IDENTIFIED

Due to the highly disturbed nature of the property no archaeological resources were located.

5. FIELD RATING

A field rating of Generally Protected C is awarded. This site has been sufficiently recorded. It requires no further recording before destruction and has a generally low significance.

6. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significance Criteria	Comment
a. its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;	NA
b. its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;	NA
c. its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;	NA
d. its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;	NA
e. its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;	NA
f. its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;	NA
g. its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;	NA
h. its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa; and	NA
i. sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.	NA

7. RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSIONS

The heavy disturbance of the property by years of agricultural activity make it unlikely that any archaeological resources will be found. In the unlikely event that such resources are found, Heritage Western Cape or a professional archaeologist must be contacted to assess the finds.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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9. FIGURES



Figure 1: Plan of the proposed extension to the Bredasdorp Cemetery.

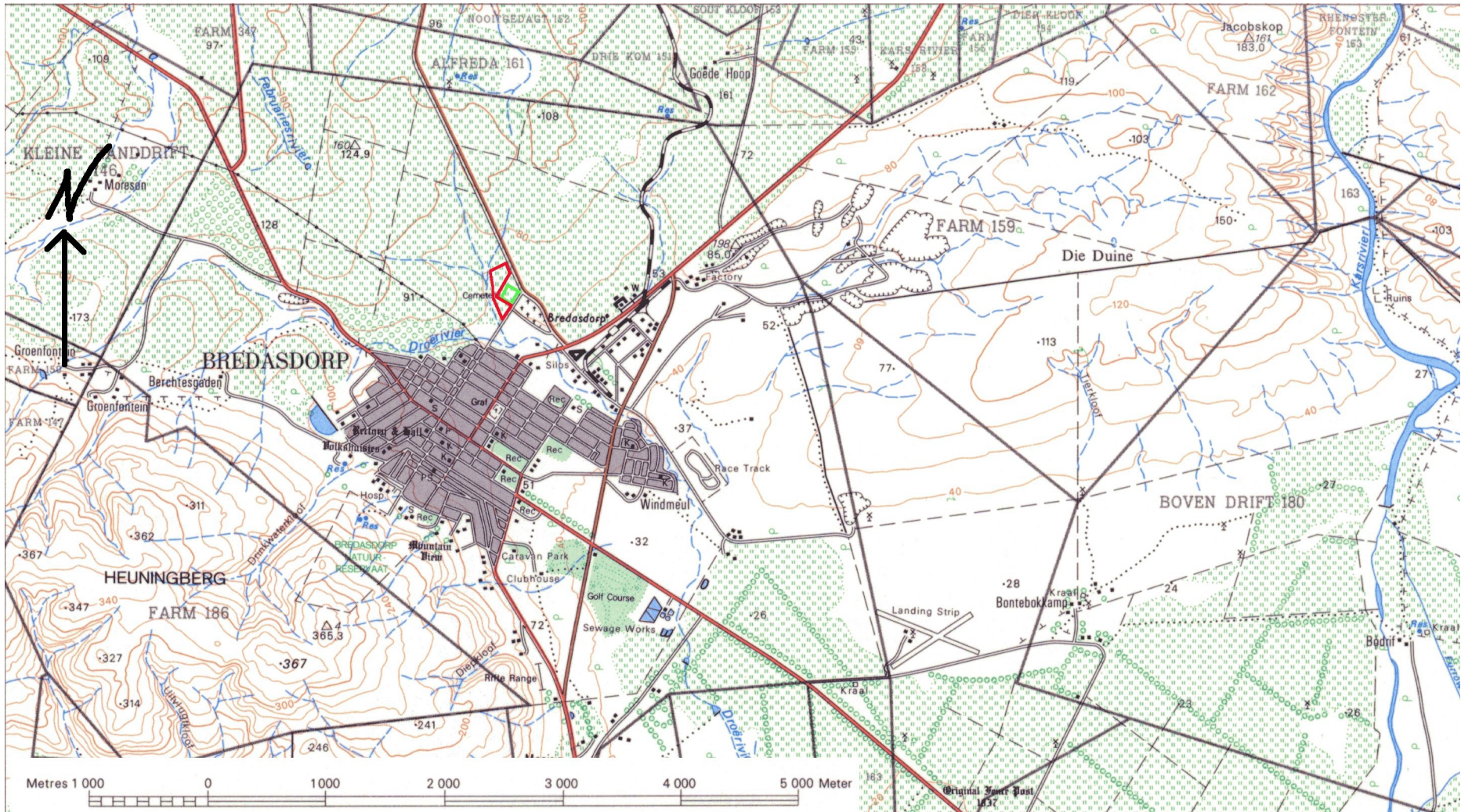


Figure 2: Location of the property on the 1:50 000 topographic map 3420 CA & CC Bredasdorp.

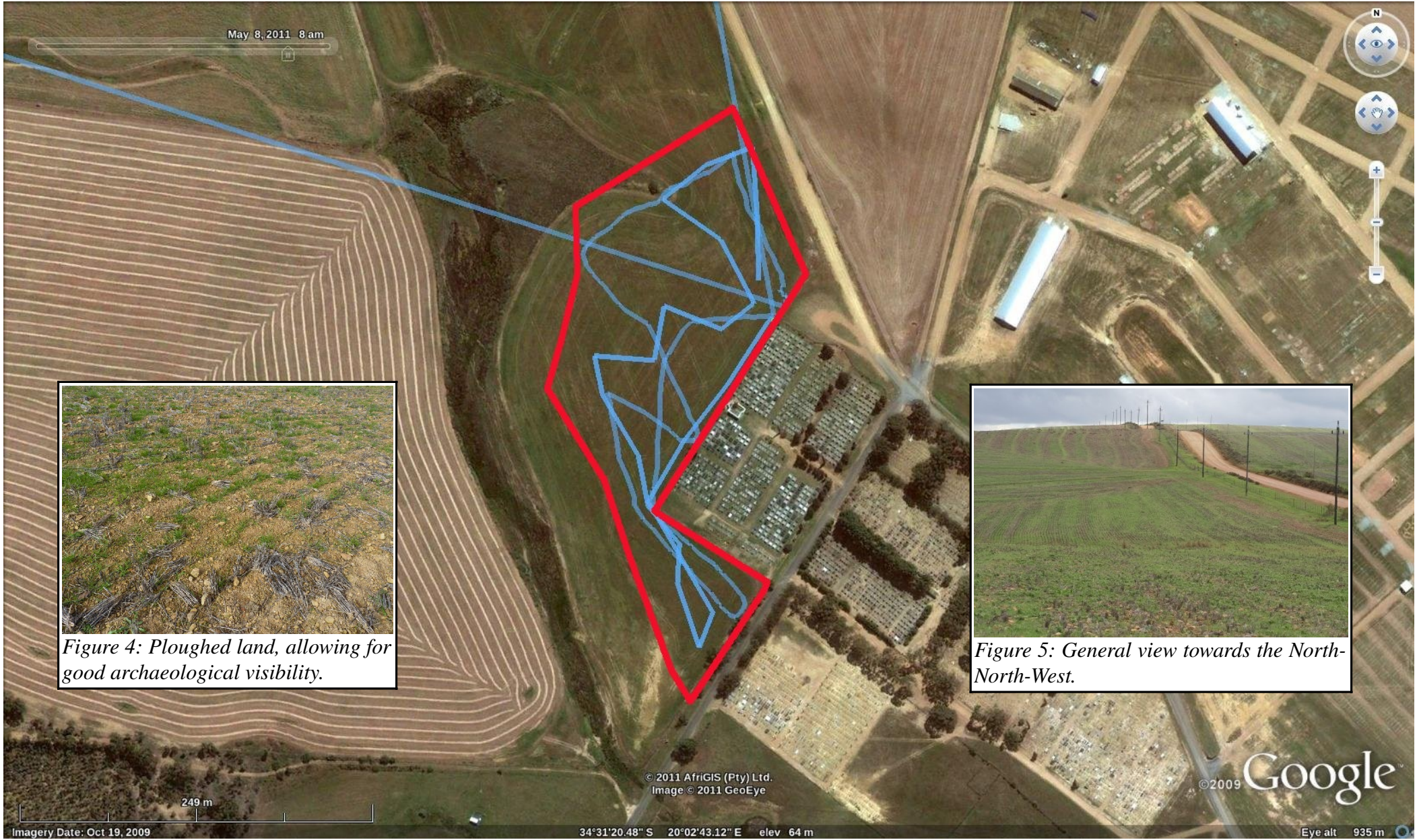


Figure 4: Ploughed land, allowing for good archaeological visibility.

Figure 5: General view towards the North-North-West.

Figure 3: GPS tracking of the proposed Bredasdorp Cemetery extension.