

PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS FOR THE PROPOSED LOCALITIES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BAVIAANSKLOOF WORLD HERITAGE SITE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE IN THE WESTERN PORTION OF THE BAVIAANSKLOOF IN THE DR BEYERS NAUDÉ LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OF THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MBSA Consulting on behalf of the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency appointed Eastern Cape Heritage Consultants to conduct Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIA's) for the proposed localities for the construction of the Baviaanskloof World Heritage Site (WHS) interpretive centre and associated infrastructure in the western portion of the Baviaanskloof in the Dr Beyers Naudé Local Municipality of the Eastern Cape Province. Two sites the "preferred" and "alternative" have been identified for possible development on the Farm Nieuwe Kloof No. 202. The survey was conducted to establish the range and importance of the archaeological sites/remains, the potential impact of the development and to make recommendations to minimize possible damage to these sites.

Access to the proposed sites for development was easy and the archaeological visibility was relatively good, but no archaeological sites/materials were observed. The development on either the sites will take place on old river flood plains and it is unlikely that any sites/materials will be exposed during the construction activities.

A stone walled dam/kraal was observed at the "preferred" site, but it is a fairly modern structure and no action is needed. There are no known graves or buildings older than 60 years on this site and it is of low cultural significance and therefore suitable for the development.

The Baviaanskloof Wilderness Area is considered of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for representing ongoing ecological and biological processes associated with the evolution of the unique Fynbos biome. There is no risk from a cultural perspective to the Inscription of the site as a WHS as long as the development takes place at the "preferred" site. The size and visual impact of the proposed development at the "preferred" site will be relatively low and it can therefore not be regarded as a significant negative impact on the OUV of the site.

At the "alternative" site there is a cemetery and a historical farmhouse close to the boundary of the proposed development. The construction of the interpretive centre will have a visual impact on the cultural historical landscape. Preferably, this site should not be used for the development.

Although it would seem unlikely that any significant archaeological remains will be exposed during the development, there is always a possibility that human remains and/or other archaeological remains and historical material may be uncovered during the development. It is recommended that if such features or any other concentrations of archaeological materials are exposed, it must be reported to the archaeologist at the Albany Museum in Makhanda (Grahamstown) or to the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (ECPHRA) so that a systematic and professional investigation can be undertaken. Furthermore, all construction activities must be monitored and managers/foremen should be informed before clearing/development starts on the possible types of heritage sites and cultural material they may encounter and the procedures to follow when they find sites. The ECO can be trained to monitor the project and to report finds. Should the "alternative" site be selected for the development, a historian must conduct a cultural historical impact assessment.

A cultural heritage specialist should be appointed to supervise and assist with any display of cultural material and / or information at the Interpretive Center, in collaboration with any affected community or other stakeholders, to ensure that the information is authentic, correct and with due regard and respect for the cultural beliefs of such a community.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Type of development

The proposed project will include the construction of an interpretive centre and associated infrastructure in the western section of the Baviaanskloof. Two sites, the "preferred" and "alternative" have been identified for possible development on the Farm Nieuwe Kloof No. 202 (Maps 1-4).

Applicant

The Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency

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Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to conduct Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIA's) for the two proposed localities for the construction of the Baviaanskloof World Heritage Site Interpretive Centre in the western portion of the Baviaanskloof in the Dr Beyers Naudé Local Municipality of the Eastern Cape Province. The survey was conducted to establish;

• the range and importance of possible exposed and *in situ* archaeological sites, features and materials,

- the potential impact of the development on these resources and,
- to make recommendations to minimize possible damage to these resources.

Sites and locations

The proposed localities for the development are located within the 1:50 000 topographic reference maps 3323DA Voorkloof (Map 1). The sites are situated on the original farm Nieuwe Kloof No. 202 (now part of the greater Baviaanskloof Wilderness Area) in the western portion of the Baviaanskloof in the Dr Beyers Naudé Local Municipality, Sarah Baartman District Municipality of the Eastern Cape Province (Maps 1-5).

The "preferred" site is situated approximately 31 kilometres directly southeast from Willowmore, 30 kilometres directly west of Studtis and adjacent to the R332 gravel road (north) connecting Willomore to Studtis. It is located at the base of a high mountain ridge of the Baviaanskloof Mountains on a relatively flat floodplain with a gentle gradient from northwest to southeast next to the non-perennial Saagkuilskloof River. The site is covered by fynbos vegetation. There is a stone-walled dam/kraal, an earthen-walled dam and other disturbances on the site. The proposed parking area across the gravel road is situated on old ploughed fields on a relatively flat sandy flood plain sparsely covered by low shrubs in places. The "alternative" site is situated approximately 30 kilometres directly southeast from Willowmore, 31 kilometres directly west of Studtis and 300 metres southwest of the R332 gravel road (north) connecting Willomore to Studtis. It is located on a floodplain adjacent to the non-perennial Baviaanskloof River (south). There is a cemetery on the southern boundary of the proposed site and a historical farmhouse a few hundred metres towards the southwest. The site is situated on previously ploughed alluvial deposits and is sparsely covered by low shrubs.

Relevant impact assessments from the wider region

Binneman, J. and Reichert, K. 2019. Phase 1 archaeological impact assessments for the proposed construction of wooden chalets at three different localities, a campsite facility and the upgrading of the access roads for the Leopard Trail in the western portion of the Baviaanskloof in the Dr Beyers Naudé Local Municipality of the Eastern Cape Province. Prepared for SRK Consulting. Port Elizabeth. Eastern Cape Heritage Consultants. Jeffreys Bay.

Binneman, J. 2016. A letter of recommendation (with conditions) for the exemption of full phase 1 archaeological impact assessments for the proposed upgrade of two new sections of the existing bulk water supply pipeline between Wanhoop WTW and Willowmore in the Baviaans Local Municipality of the Eastern Cape Province. Prepared for Anton Bok Aquatic Consultants cc. Port Elizabeth. Eastern Cape Heritage Consultants. Jeffreys Bay.

Binneman, J. 2010. Phase 1 archaeological heritage impact assessment of the proposed upgrading of the new boreholes and water pipelines in Wilgerkloof on the farm Wanhoop No. 19, Eden Municipality, Western Cape Province. Prepared for Anton Bok Aquatic Consultants cc. Port Elizabeth. Eastern Cape Heritage Consultants. Jeffreys Bay.

Binneman, J. 2008. Phase 1 archaeological heritage impact assessment of the proposed construction of a water pipeline on the farm Wanhoop No. 19, Baviaans Municipality, Western Cape Province. Prepared for Anton Bok Aquatic Consultants cc. Port Elizabeth. Eastern Cape Heritage Consultants. Jeffreys Bay.

Museum/University databases and collections

The Albany Museum in Grahamstown houses collections and information from the wider region.

BRIEF ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Literature review

Little is known about the earliest inhabitants of the immediate Baviaanskloof area. The only evidence of early inhabitants is large stone tools called hand axes and cleavers which have been observed within the Baviaanskloof. However, these stone tools are found throughout the greater Baviaanskloof region usually near water sources such as rivers, springs or wetlands. These large stone tools are from a time period called the Earlier Stone Age (ESA) and may date between 1,5 million and 250 000 years old.

The hand axes and cleavers from the ESA were replaced by a different stone tool industry, the so-called flake and blade industries of the Middle Stone Age (MSA). This time period, between 120 000 - 30 000 years ago, also witness the emergence of the first modern humans in the wider region, believed to be the early ancestors of the KhoiSan people of southern Africa.. These long pointed flakes and blades can be found throughout the region in virtually all the different habitats. Unfortunately little is known of the MSA in the Baviaans/Kouga Mountain region, but recent research in the Kouga River area found deposits dating to older than 55 000 years old.

Some 25 000 years ago the MSA gave way to the Later Stone Age (LSA), a time period marked by large scale technological changes. The period between 20 000 and 14 000 years ago experienced extremely cold climatic conditions which created favourable conditions for grassland expansion, which in turn gave rise to large herds of grazing animals. The mammal remains from archaeological sites indicate that there were several large grazing animal species living on the grassland, for example giant buffalo, giant hartebeest and the Cape horse. After 14 000 years ago the climate started to warm up again and caused the previously exposed grassland to disappear, causing the extinction of many of these grassland species. Between 10 000 and 8 000 years ago the terrestrial environment became more closed (bushier) giving rise to small browsing territorial animals that lived in small groups or pairs.

The LSA is characterized by several 'new' technological innovations while other cultural artefacts became more common, such as rock art. New microlithic stone tool types (some fixed to handles with mastic) emerged along with bows and arrows, containers (such as tortoise shell bowls and ostrich eggshell flasks which were sometimes decorated), decorative items and bone tools. For the first time people were buried in caves and shelters and often these burials are associated with grave goods and marked by painted stones.

Excellent preservation of organic material at several caves and shelters close to the proposed development and in the wider Baviaanskloof region yielded remarkable botanical artefacts, such as digging sticks (4 500 years old), fire sticks (5 800 years old), decorated wooden sticks (9 200 years old) and almost complete mummified human remains dating to some 2 000 years ago. Other interesting features are 'storage pits' (hollows lined with plant material) which were used to store seeds for later use, and 'postholes' (often with the post still *in situ*) (Binneman 1993, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000; Binneman and Hall, 1993).

For most of the past 20 000 years San hunter-gatherers lived in the cave rock shelters of the region and many still display paintings along the walls. In general the paintings are not well-preserved and appear to be of a similar 'style' throughout the region with the dominant colours being red and maroon, and red with black, with yellow and white being present to a lesser degree.

The first real change in the socio-economic landscape came some 2 000 years ago when Khoi pastoralists settled in the region. They were the first food producers in this area and introduced domesticated animals (sheep, goats and cattle) and ceramic vessels to the region. Not long after their arrival, the first Europeans rounded the Cape and greatly altered the prehistoric socio-economic landscape.

References

- Binneman, J.N.F. 1996. The symbolic construction of communities during the Holocene Later Stone Age in the south-eastern Cape. Unpublished D.Phil. thesis: University of the Witwatersrand.
- Binneman, J.N.F. 1997. Results from a test excavation at The Havens Cave, Cambria, southeastern Cape. Southern African Field Archaeology 6:93-105.
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- Binneman, J.N.F. 1999. Results from a test excavation at Groot Kommandokloof Shelter in the Baviaanskloof/Kouga region, Eastern Cape Province. Southern African Field Archaeology 8:100-107.
- Binneman, J.N.F. 2000. Results from two test excavations in the Baviaanskloof Mountains, Eastern Cape Province. Southern African Field Archaeology 9:81-92.
- Binneman, J.N.F. & Hall, S.L. 1993. The context of four painted stones from the Eastern Cape. Southern African Field Archaeology 2:89-95.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

Methodology

The surveys at the different sites were conducted by two archaeologists. A Google Earth aerial image and literary search studies were conducted prior to the investigations. GPS readings were taken with a Garmin and all important features were digitally recorded.

Finds and results

The archaeological visibility was relatively good at both sites, but no sites/materials were observed. However, archaeological sites/materials may be covered by soil and vegetation. In general it would appear unlikely that any archaeological remains of significance will be found *in situ* or exposed during the developments.

A stone-walled dam/kraal was observed at the "preferred" site, but it is a fairly modern structure and no action is needed. There are no known graves or buildings older than 60 years on the site. The site is of low cultural significance and suitable for the construction of the interpretive centre.

At the "alternative" site there is a cemetery and a historical farmhouse close to the boundary of the proposed development. The construction of a modern designed interpretive centre will have a visual impact on the cultural historical landscape and the 'sense of place'. Preferably, this site should not be used for the development. Should the site be selected for the development, a historian must conduct a cultural historical impact assessment.

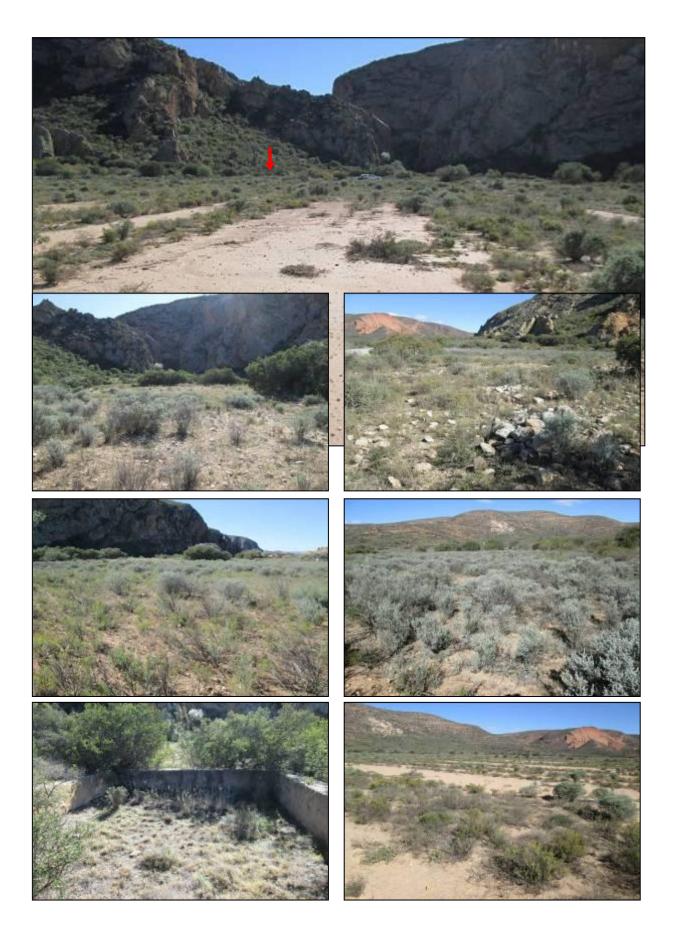


Figure 1. General views of the "preferred" site (in the background marked by the red arrow and the top and second row inserts) and the parking area in the foreground (also bottom row right insert), The stone walled dam/kraal is illustrated in the bottom left insert.

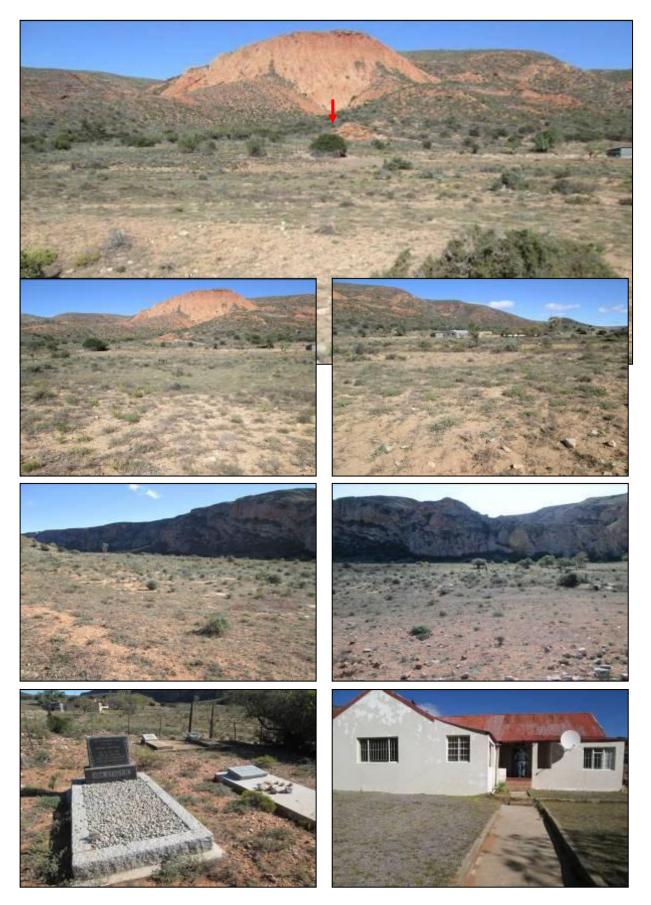


Figure 2. General views of the "alternative" site, the cemetery bottom left image and the farmhouse (bottom right image). The red arrow marks the cemetery (main image).

DISCUSSION AND MITIGATION

The two sites investigated for the proposed construction of the interpretive centre were small and are situated on old river flood plains covered by sandy deposits, fynbos vegetation and low shrubs. The archaeological visibility was relatively good, but no sites/materials were observed. However, sites/materials may be covered by soil and vegetation. The main impact on archaeological sites/remains (if any) will be the physical disturbance of the material and its context. The clearing of the vegetation and construction activities may expose, disturb and displace archaeological sites/material.

The Cape Floral Region Protected Areas that includes the Baviaanskloof Wilderness Area where the interpretive center is proposed, was Inscribed in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage List in 2004. World Heritage Sites must meet the requirements for Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) which means that the site must have exceptional qualities from a global perspective based on the natural and / or cultural value of the site.

The Baviaanskloof Wilderness Area is considered of Outstanding Universal Value for representing ongoing ecological and biological processes associated with the evolution of the unique Fynbos biome. It is not only significant for its natural qualities but also for its historical and cultural heritage. The possible impacts of any development that is planned within a World Heritage Site (WHS) should therefore be assessed to determine what the impact will be on the Outstanding Universal Value of the site.

There is no risk from a cultural perspective to the Inscription of the site as a WHS as long as the development takes place at the "preferred" site. The size and visual impact of the proposed development at the "preferred" site will be relatively low and it can therefore not be regarded as a significant negative impact on the OUV of the site. The purpose of the Interpretive Center would be to introduce and showcase the Baviaanskloof WHS unique features, biodiversity, history, activities and attractions to visitors to the western section of the WHS. This will have a beneficial effect on the visitor experience and it can also contribute to better knowledge and understanding of the area. It is however important that any cultural information and material that is displayed at the Interpretive Center should be authentic and in line with the integrity of the OUV.

From the investigations it would appear that both the proposed sites are of low archaeological sensitivity and therefore suitable for the development. However, the cemetery and the historical farmhouse close to the boundary at the "alternative" site are visible components of the historical cultural landscape. The construction of the interpretive centre will have a visual impact on the cultural historical landscape and 'sense of place'.

It is recommended that;

1. Although it would seem unlikely that any significant archaeological remains will be exposed during the development, there is always a possibility that human remains and/or other archaeological remains and historical material may be uncovered during the development. Should such material be exposed during construction, all work must cease in the immediate area (depending on the type of find) and it must be reported to the archaeologist at the Albany Museum in Makhanda (Grahamstown) (Tel.: 046 6222312) or to the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (Tel.: 043 7450888), so that a systematic and professional investigation can be undertaken. Sufficient time should be allowed to investigate and to remove/collect such material. Recommendations will follow from the investigation (See appendix B for a list of possible archaeological sites that maybe found in the area).

- 2. All clearing activities and construction activities must be monitored. Managers/foremen should be informed before clearing/construction starts on the possible types of heritage sites and cultural material they may encounter and the procedures to follow when they find sites. Alternatively it is suggested that a person must be trained (ECO) as a site monitor to report to the foreman when heritage sites/materials are found.
- 3. It is recommended that the "preferred" site be selected for the development. However, if the "alternative" site is selected for the development, then a historian must be appointed to conduct a cultural historical impact assessment with further recommendations.
- 4. A cultural heritage specialist should be appointed to supervise and assist with any display of cultural material and / or information at the Interpretive Center, in collaboration with any affected community or other stakeholders, to ensure that the information is authentic, correct and with due regard and respect for the cultural believes of such a community.

References

CES Environmental and Social Advisory Services. 2019. Proposed Baviaanskloof World Heritage Site Interpretive Center, Eastern Cape: Draft Basic Assessment Report. Prepared for Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency. 1 -149

ICOMOS. 2011. Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Sites. A publication of the International Council on Monuments and Sites. 1-26

UNESCO. World Heritage List. Cape Floral Region Protected Areas. http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1007/ (accessed on 4/09/2019)

GENERAL REMARKS AND CONDITION

Note: This is an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) report compiled for the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (ECPHRA) to enable them to make informed decisions regarding the heritage resources assessed in this report and only they have the authority to revise the report. This Report must be reviewed by the ECPHRA where after they will issue their Review Comments to the EAP/developer. The final decision rests with the ECPHRA who must grant permits if there will be any impact on cultural sites/materials as a result of the development

This report is a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment and does not exempt the developer from any other relevant heritage impact assessments as specified below:

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, No. 25 of 1999 (section 38) ECPHRA may require a full Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to assess all heritage resources, that includes *inter alia*, all places or objects of aesthetical, architectural, historic, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic, or technological significance that may be present on a site earmarked for development. A full Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) should assess all these heritage components, and the assessment may include 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 this Phase 1 AIA is based on the visibility of archaeological sites/material and may not therefore reflect the true state of affairs. Sites and material 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 during construction activities, ECPHRA or an archaeologist must be informed immediately so that they can investigate the importance of the sites and excavate or collect material before it is destroyed (see attached list of possible archaeological sites and material). The developer must finance the costs should additional studies be required as outlined above. The *onus* is on the developer to ensure that the provisions of the National Heritage Resources Act No. 25 of 1999 and any instructions from ECPHRA are followed. The EAP/developer must forward this report to ECPHRA in order to obtain their Review Comments, unless alternative arrangements have been made with the heritage specialist to submit the report.

APPENDIX A: brief 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.

APPENDIX B: IDENTIFICATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES AND MATERIAL FROM INLAND AREAS: guidelines and procedures for developers

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.

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.

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

Fossil bone

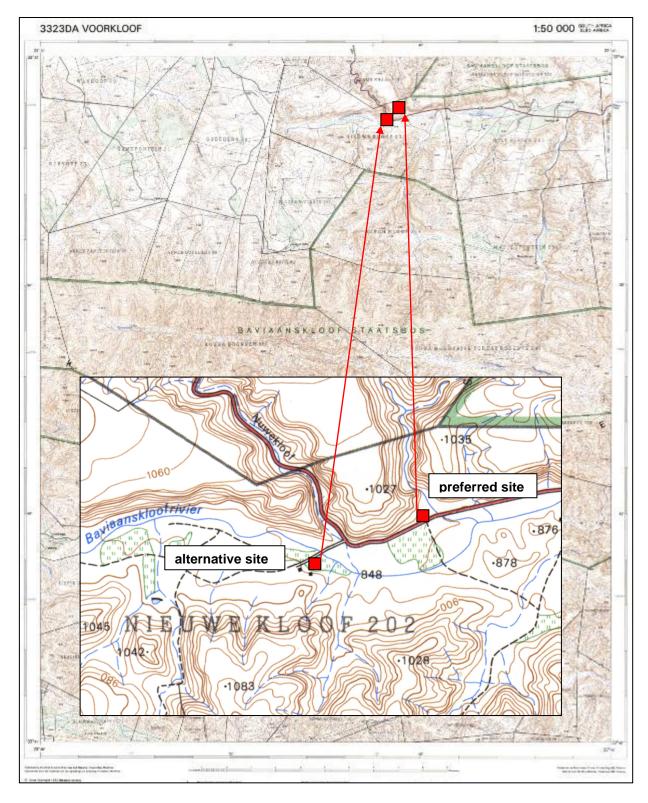
Fossil bones may be found embedded in geological deposits. Any concentrations of bones, whether fossilized or not, should be reported.

Large stone features

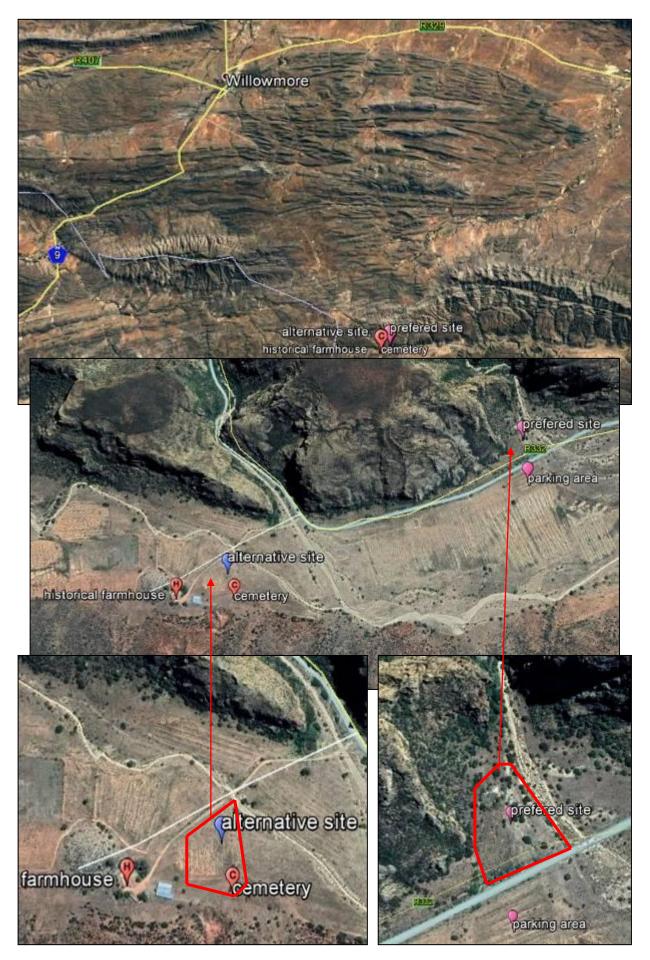
They come in different forms and sizes, but are easy to identify. The most common are roughly circular stone walls (mostly collapsed) and may represent stock enclosures, remains of wind breaks or cooking shelters. Others consist of large piles of stones of different sizes and heights and are known as *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.

Historical artefacts or features

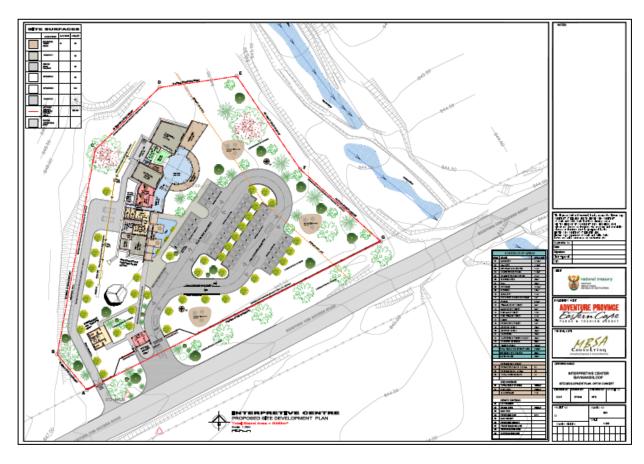
These are easy to identified and include foundations of buildings or other construction features and items from domestic and military activities.



Map 1. 1:50 000 Topographic maps indicating the approximate locations for the construction of the proposed Baviaanskloof World Heritage Site Interpretive Centre in the western portion of the Baviaanskloof.



Map 2. Aerial images indicating the locations for the "preferred" (pink place mark) and the "alternative" (blue place mark) sites outlined by the red lines. The cemetery is marked by the C place mark and the farmhouse by the H place mark (information courtesy of MBSA Consulting).



Map 3. Layout of the proposed Baviaanskloof Information Centre at the "preferred" site (map courtesy of MBSA Consulting).



Map 4. Layout of the proposed Baviaanskloof Information Centre at the "alternative" site (map courtesy of MBSA Consulting).