

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT
OVER FARM 364/72 & PORTION FARM 364/18 (95.53 HA),
CERES, WITZENBERG MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE.**

For:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Report was commissioned by Cape Lowlands Environmental Services (CLES) on behalf of the Witzenberg Municipality for the proposed Vredebes Low Income Housing Project. The project will cover 95.53 ha and comprise almost 3000 single residential units, community activities (schools and churches) and businesses.

Archaeological finds on the property Farm 364, Portions 72 and 18, Ceres, Witzenberg Municipality, were limited to isolated stone tools. The artefacts were mostly from the MSA and comprised cores and flakes manufactured from silcrete and quartzite. The paucity of material has led to the site being awarded a field rating of Generally Protected C. The site has been sufficiently recorded and requires no further action before destruction.

The archaeological sites will be destroyed by the development of this project. However, given the low significance and isolated nature of the finds the social and economic benefits of the project far outweigh the conservation of these sites.

As always, the possibility exists that archaeological sites will be found during the construction process. If archaeological finds are discovered it is recommended that construction stop and Mr Nick Wiltshire of Heritage Western Cape (021 483 9685) or the archaeologists be contacted to evaluate the finds.

Details of Stakeholders

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) report forms part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report to be submitted to HWC and the developers under Section 38(1) of the NHRA 1999. The report was commissioned by Cape Lowlands Environmental Services (CLES) on behalf of the Witzenberg Municipality for the proposed Vredebes Low Income Housing Project. The surveyed property encompasses Farm 364, Portions 72 and 18, Ceres. The land is currently zoned as agricultural within the urban edge and will be rezoned as residential. The municipality wishes to establish a low income housing development on the property (Figure 1). 2993 individual residential units will be built. These comprise a mixture general residential units, GAP housing and subsidy housing. Provision has also been made for Primary and Secondary schools, churches, crèches, an old age home and various community and business activities. The entire development will occur over 95.53 Ha.

Terms of Reference

A phase 1 archaeological impact assessment of the Vredebes (Farm 364 portions 72 and 18, Ceres) development, in fulfillment of the requirements of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) has been undertaken. The area to be affected by the proposed development, additional infrastructure such as waste management, excavation and construction work have to be surveyed.

Legislative requirements

The national legal framework for the protection and management of the cultural environment is the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) Act No. 25 of 1999, and also the legal and policy frameworks aimed at the protection of the environment, e.g. the Environment Conservation Act (ECA) (Act No. 73 of 1989) and associated EIA regulations and the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998). Section 38 of the NHRA requires heritage assessments as a stand-alone or as a specialist component of the EIA process.

BACKGROUND TO THE RELEVANT HERITAGE COMPONENTS

The Ceres area has received little attention from academic research (Kaplan 2007). There are a few archaeological and palaeontological reports pertinent to the study area. In general stone artefacts area associated with the Earlier or Middle Stone Ages and are found in isolation (ACRM 2005; Kaplan 2007). A generally low grade of local significance is reported. One study (Van Schalkwyk 2006) found no prehistoric resources, but did note dry stone walling. The most significant natural heritage feature of the region are the invertebrate fossils (Almond 2007) found in the Bokkeveld Formation outcroppings of the Ceres region. These areas are extremely sensitive.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

Farm 364, Portions 72 and 18, Ceres, Witzenberg Municipality, is located on the 1:50 000 map (3319 AD CERES) in Figure 2. The area searched is located between the following polygon points and tracking illustrated in Figure 3.

S	E
-33.361284	19.325561
-33.35385	19.325110
-33.350370	19.327379
-33.353299	19.340246

Survey Methodology

The area was searched on foot by two archaeologists for five hours on Thursday 20 February 2010. For ease of reference the search area was divided into five sections (1, 2, 3a, 3b & 4) as illustrated in Figure 4. In some areas high grass and other vegetation limited visibility. Dams also occur on the property. Data was acquired using a Garmin GPS60 (WGS 84) and a camera.

Description of Sites

Section 1:

This section is mainly covered with dry grasses and burnt veld (Figure 5). The area has been primarily used for agricultural purposes and is heavily ploughed. A open profile (Figure 6) indicates sterile ground. A stream marks the northern boundary of this section with Section 2. Two stone

tools were found.

Section 2:

Section 2 has also been ploughed and at the time of the survey was covered with tall grass, though some areas had been ploughed while others burnt (Figure 7). Five stone tools were found

Section 3a:

Latrines (Figure 8) for the local residents have been placed on this section as it borders a small stream on the boundary of the property. Section 3a is characterised by very dense tall grass (Figure 9). The current residents have also cultivated a small geranium plantation (Figure 10) and a vegetable garden in this section. No archaeological material was found.

Section 3b:

The northern area of Section 3b is covered with a pear orchard (Figure 11) with limited visibility. The southern area is open ploughed land with good visibility (Figure 12) and farm buildings (Figure 13). Two flakes were found in the southern section.

Section 4:

This section is characterised by wheat stubble (Figure 14) and ploughed areas (Figure 15). Archaeological visibility was generally good. Four stone tools were found.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ARTEFACTS

Section 1:

Two isolated stone tools were located in Section 1. The context of both has been destroyed as they were found in a heavily ploughed areas. Earlier Stone Age (ESA) flake is made from sandstone (Figure 16), while the Middle Stone Age (MSA) core seems to be silcrete (Figure 17).

Section 2:

The finds in this section are limited to four MSA cores (Figures 18-21) and one MSA flake (Figure 22). Two of the cores are silcrete as is the flake. The two remaining cores are quartzite.

Section 3a:

No archaeological finds were made.

Section 3b:

Two MSA flakes (one notched) were found in Section 3b (Figure 23). Both were manufactured on silcrete.

Section 4:

The four MSA flakes (Figures 24-27) and one MSA core (Figure 28) found in Section 4 are all of silcrete. One of the flakes is notched. All are found in isolation within the heavily ploughed ground.

FIELD RATING

A field rating of **Generally Protected C:** is awarded. It is deemed that this site has been sufficiently recorded and requires no further recording before destruction as it has a generally Low significance.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The isolated, heavily disturbed nature of the archaeological finds means that these sites have a very low level of significance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The archaeological sites will be destroyed by the the development of this project. However, given the low significance and isolated nature of the finds the social and economic benefits of the project far outweigh the conservation of these sites.

As always, the possibility exists that archaeological sites will be found during the construction process. If archaeological finds are discovered it is recommended that construction stop and Mr Nick Wiltshire of Heritage Western Cape (021 483 9685) or the archaeologists be contacted to evaluate the finds.

CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological finds on the property Farm 364, Portions 72 and 18, Ceres, Witzenberg Municipality, were limited to isolated stone tools. These findings are in line with previously reports of archaeological material in the area (ACRM 2005; Kaplan 2007). The artefacts were mostly from the MSA and comprised cores and flakes manufactured from silcrete and quartzite. The paucity of

material has led to the site being awarded a field rating of Generally Protected C. The site has been sufficiently recorded and requires no further action before destruction.

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Kaplan, J. February 2007. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, proposed Ceres Golf Estate, Hotel and Housing developments.

van Schalkwyk, J. 25 April 2006. Heritage Scoping Assessment: Road DR 1458 and borrowpits DR 1470/14 & DR '1479/2

FIGURES

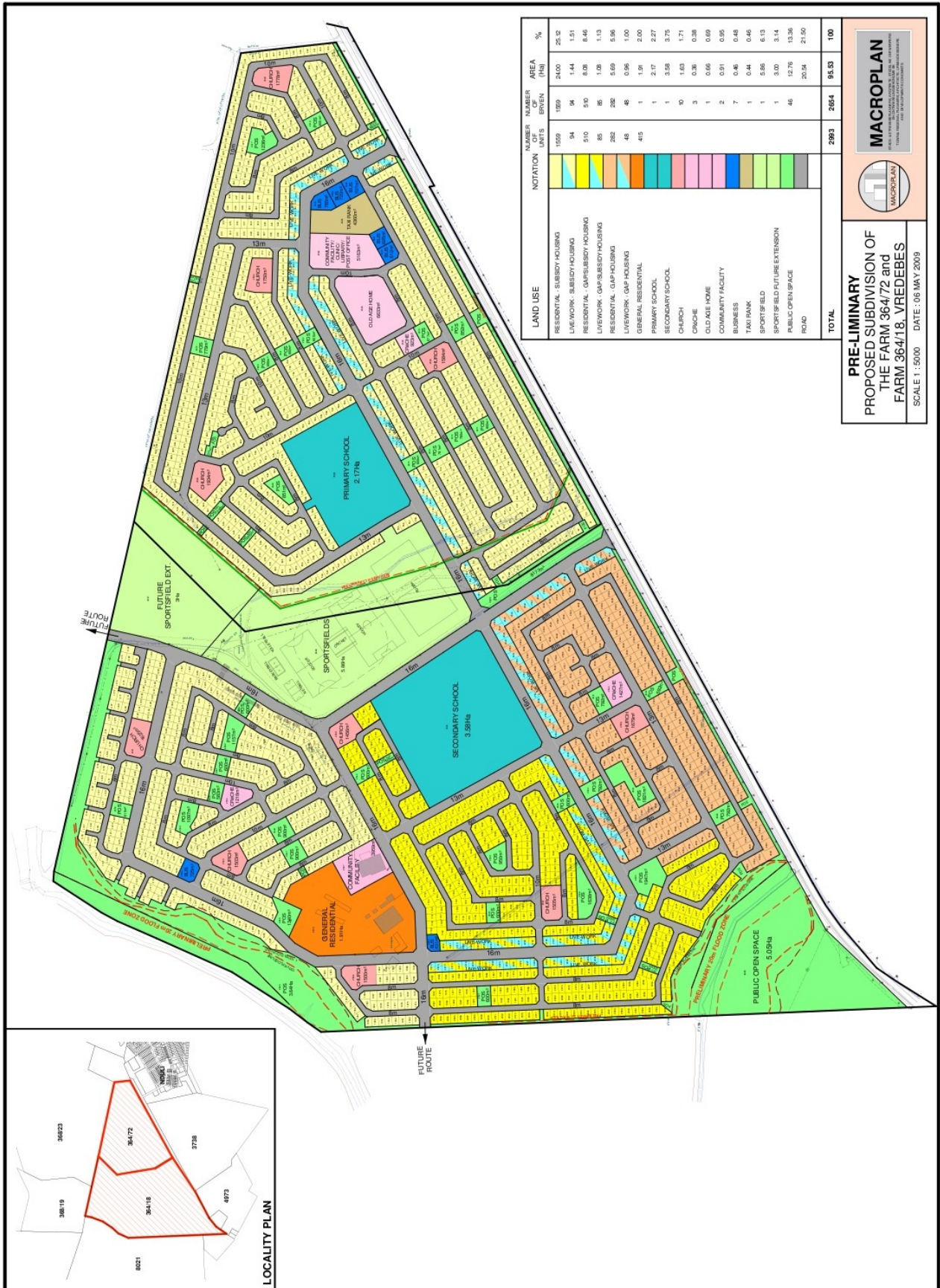


Figure 1: Development plan for Vredebes Low Income Housing Project.

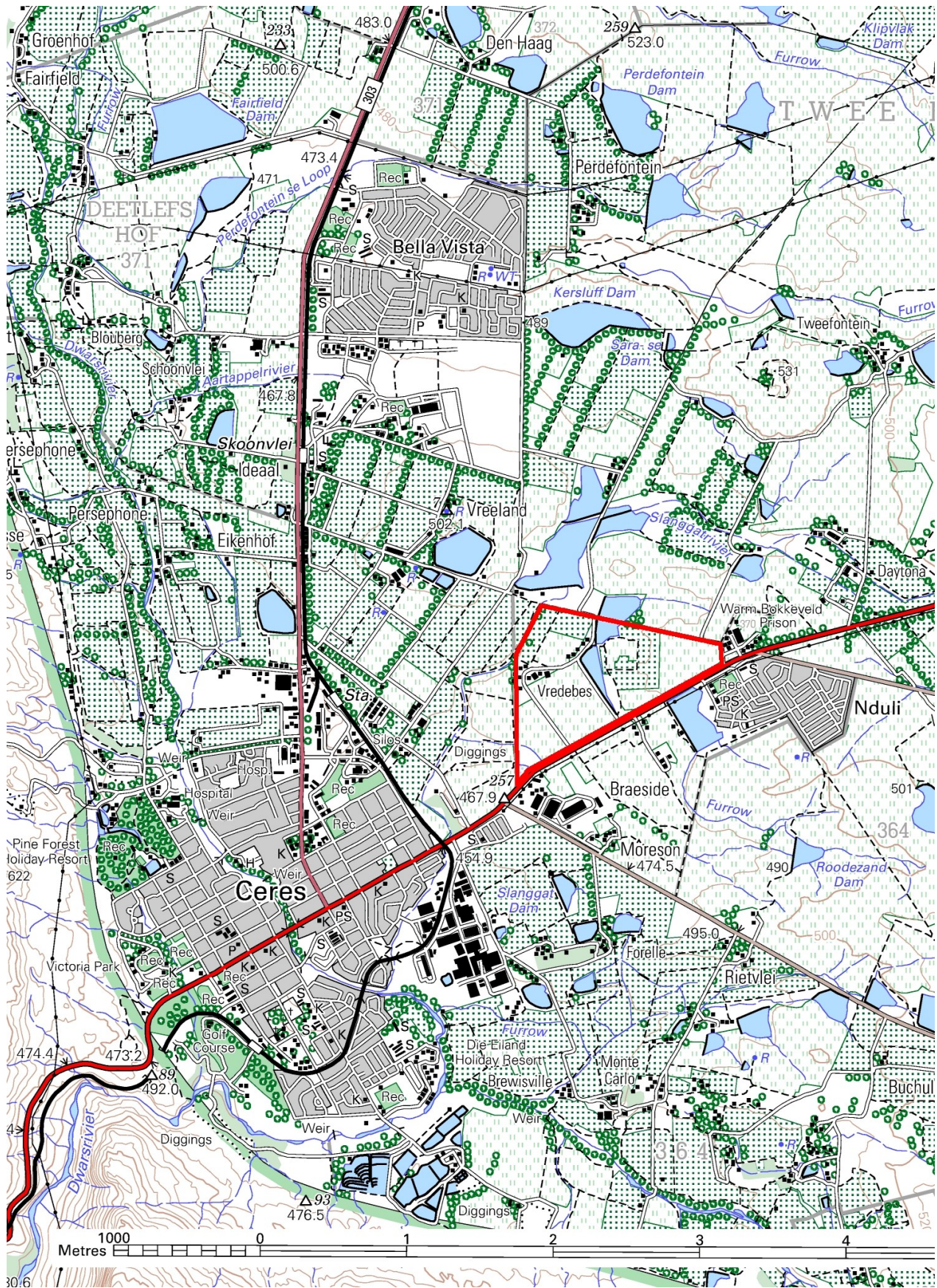


Figure 2: 1:50 000 map



Figure 3: Vredeb's tracking and waypoints.



Figure 4: Vredebos search sections.



Figure 5: Section 1: general view showing ground cover.



Figure 6: Section 1: sterile profile.



Figure 7: Section 2: General view.



Figure 8: Section 3a: General view.



Figure 9: Section 3a: tall grass



Figure 10: Section 3a - geranium plantation.



Figure 11: Section 3b - view through pear orchard.



Figure 12: Section 3b - general view of ploughed land.



Figure 13: Section 3b - view towards farm buildings.



Figure 14: Section 4 - general view of wheat stubble.



Figure 15: Section 4 - General view of ploughed area, with dam in background.



Figure 16: Section 1 - ESA flake.



Figure 17: Section 1 - MSA flake.



Figure 18: Section 2 - MSA core



Figure 19: Section 2 - MSA core



Figure 20: Section 2 - MSA core.



Figure 21: Section 2 - MSA core.



Figure 22: Section 2 - MSA flake.



Figure 23: Section 3 - MSA notched flake, MSA flake, Silcrete.



Figure 24: Section 4 - MSA Silcrete flake, ventral, dorsal & profile views.



Figure 25: Section 4 – MSA Silcrete flake.



Figure 26: Section 4 – MSA silcrete flake



Figure 27: Section 4 - MSA silcrete flake.



Figure 28: Section 4 - Ventral and dorsal view of MSA silcrete flake.