



Archaetnos Culture & Cultural
Resource Consultants
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**A REPORT ON A HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR ERF 354,
PIKETBERG, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

For:

Bergrivier Municipality

REPORT: AE1144

By:

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SUMMARY

Archaetnos cc was appointed by the Bergrivier Municipality to conduct a heritage impact assessment for a proposed development on erf 354, Piketberg. This is within the town of Piketberg, Western Cape Province.

The fieldwork undertaken revealed no sites of cultural heritage significance. However, the site is adjacent to a historical cemetery and since it is known that such burial grounds may not have been properly recorded in the past, it is possible that graves are located here. **The development of a botanical garden is deemed as being of low intensity and may therefore continue. It is important that care be taken that when groundwork starts, the site is monitored for possible archaeological material, especially human skeletal material that may be unearthed.**

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1. INTRODUCTION

Archaetnos cc was appointed by the Bergrivier Municipality to conduct a cultural heritage impact assessment for a proposed development on erf 354, Piketberg. This lies within the Western Cape Province.

The development entails the lay-out of a botanical garden. The client indicated the area where the proposed development is to take place, and the survey was confined to this area.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the survey were to:

1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the property (see Appendix A).
2. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value (see Appendix B).
3. Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions.
4. Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources.
5. Recommend suitable mitigation measures should there be any sites of significance that might be impacted upon by the proposed development.
6. Review applicable legislative requirements.

Social consultation relating to the heritage report is to be handled by the client.

3. CONDITIONS & ASSUMPTIONS

The following conditions and assumptions have a direct bearing on the survey and the resulting report:

1. Cultural Resources are all non-physical and physical man-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences associated with human activity (Appendix A). These include all sites, structure and artifacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development. Graves and cemeteries are included in this.
2. The significance of the sites, structures and artifacts is determined by means of their historical, social, aesthetic, technological and scientific value in relation to their uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. The various aspects are

not mutually exclusive, and the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these aspects.

3. Cultural significance is site-specific and relates to the content and context of the site. Sites regarded as having low cultural significance have already been recorded in full and require no further mitigation. Sites with medium cultural significance may or may not require mitigation depending on other factors such as the significance of impact on the site. Sites with a high cultural significance require further mitigation (see Appendix B).
4. The latitude and longitude of any archaeological or historical site or feature, is to be treated as sensitive information by the developer and should not be disclosed to members of the public.
5. All recommendations are made with full cognizance of the relevant legislation.
6. It has to be mentioned that it is almost impossible to locate all the cultural resources in a given area, as it will be very time consuming. Developers should however note that the report should make it clear how to handle any other finds that might occur.
7. It should be noted that in this particular case the grass cover in certain areas was very dense making archaeological visibility extremely difficult.

4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with mainly in two acts. These are the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998).

4.1 The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the above-mentioned act the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artifacts, structures and sites older than 100 years
- b. Ethnographic art objects (e.g. prehistoric rock art) and ethnography
- c. Objects of decorative and visual arts
- d. Military objects, structures and sites older than 75 years
- e. Historical objects, structures and sites older than 60 years
- f. Proclaimed heritage sites
- g. Grave yards and graves older than 60 years
- h. Meteorites and fossils
- i. Objects, structures and sites of scientific or technological value.

The national estate (see Appendix D) includes the following:

- a. Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance

- b. Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage
- c. Historical settlements and townscapes
- d. Landscapes and features of cultural significance
- e. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- f. Archaeological and palaeontological importance
- g. Graves and burial grounds
- h. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery
- i. Movable objects (e.g. archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, military, ethnographic, books etc.)

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is the process to be followed in order to determine whether any heritage resources are located within the area to be developed as well as the possible impact of the proposed development thereon. An Archaeological Impact Assessment only looks at archaeological resources. An HIA must be done under the following circumstances:

- a. The construction of a linear development (road, wall, power line canal etc.) exceeding 300m in length
- b. The construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length
- c. Any development or other activity that will change the character of a site and exceed 5 000m² or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m²
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority

Structures

Section 34 (1) of the mentioned act states that no person may demolish any structure or part thereof which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

A structure means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith.

Alter means any action affecting the structure, appearance or physical properties of a place or object, whether by way of structural or other works, by painting, plastering or the decoration or any other means.

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Section 35(4) of this act deals with archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites. The act states that no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority (national or provincial):

- 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;

- c. trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- d. bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.
- e. alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years as protected.

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). In order to demolish such a site or structure, a destruction permit from SAHRA will also be needed.

Human remains

Graves and burial grounds are divided into the following:

- a. ancestral graves
- b. royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
- c. graves of victims of conflict
- d. graves designated by the Minister
- e. historical graves and cemeteries
- f. human remains

In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:

- a. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position of 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 or 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, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are subject to provisions of the Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983) and to local regulations. Exhumation of graves must conform to the standards set out in the **Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980)** (replacing the old Transvaal Ordinance no. 7 of 1925).

Permission must also be gained from the descendants (where known), the National Department of Health, Provincial Department of Health, Premier of the Province and local police. Furthermore, permission must also be gained from the various landowners (i.e. where the graves are located and where they are to be relocated) before exhumation can take place.

Human remains can only be handled by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the **Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended)**.

Unidentified/unknown graves are also handled as older than 60 until proven otherwise.

4.2 The National Environmental Management Act

This act (Act 107 of 1998) states that a survey and evaluation of cultural resources must be done in areas where development projects, that will change the face of the environment, will be undertaken. The impact of the development on these resources should be determined and proposals for the mitigation thereof are made.

Environmental management should also take the cultural and social needs of people into account. Any disturbance of landscapes and sites that constitute the nation's cultural heritage should be avoided as far as possible and where this is not possible the disturbance should be minimized and remedied.

5. METHODOLOGY

5.1 Survey of literature

A survey of literature was undertaken in order to obtain background information regarding the area. The museum in town was also visited in order to obtain information. Sources consulted in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

5.2 Field survey

The survey was conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and was aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of cultural significance in the area of proposed development. If required, the location/position of any site was determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS), while photographs were also taken where needed.

The survey was done on foot.

5.3 Oral histories

People from local communities are interviewed in order to obtain information relating to the surveyed area. It needs to be stated that this is not applicable under all circumstances. When applicable, the information is included in the text and referred to in the bibliography.

5.4 Documentation

All sites, objects features and structures identified were documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Co-ordinates of individual localities were determined by means of the Global Positioning System (GPS).The information was added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

5.5 Evaluation of Heritage sites

The evaluation of heritage sites is done by using the following criteria:

- The unique nature of a site
- The integrity of the archaeological deposit
- The wider historic, archaeological and geographic context of the site
- The location of the site in relation to other similar sites or features
- The depth of the archaeological deposit (when it can be determined or is known)
- The preservation condition of the site
- Uniqueness of the site and
- Potential to answer present research questions.

6. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The area where the development planned is located on erf 354, Piketberg (Figure 1-4). This is on the farm Groote Fontein 241 (Figure 5-7). The topography of the area is reasonably flat with a slight fall to the south. The development being planned here is a botanical garden (Figure 8).



Figure 1 Google image indicating the location of Piketberg in the Western Cape.

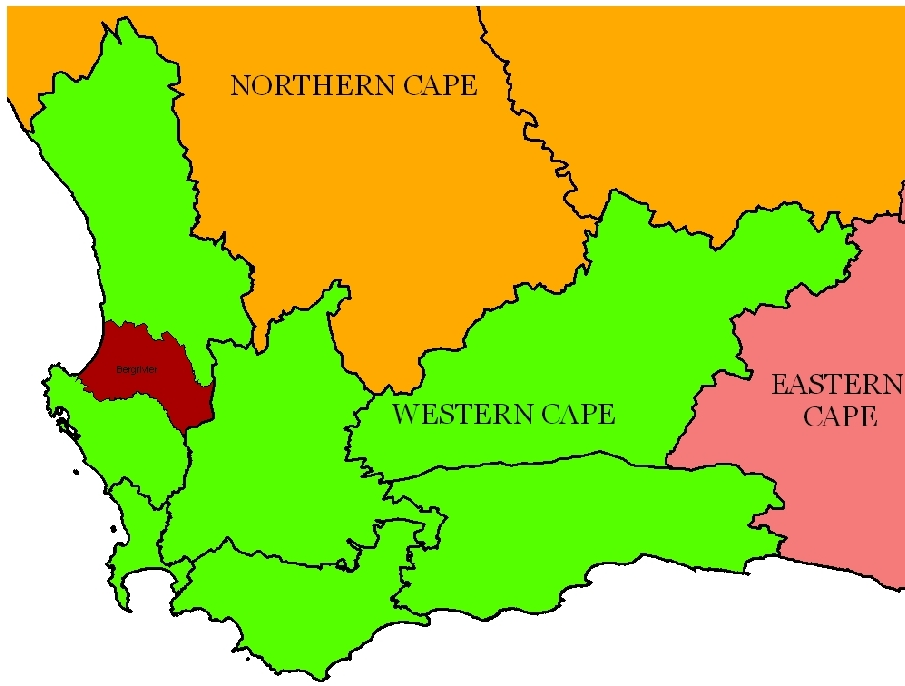


Figure 2 Location of the Bergrivier Municipality.



Figure 3 Location of the site in the town of Piketberg



Figure 4 Google map indicating the location of the site as well as the adjacent historical cemetery.

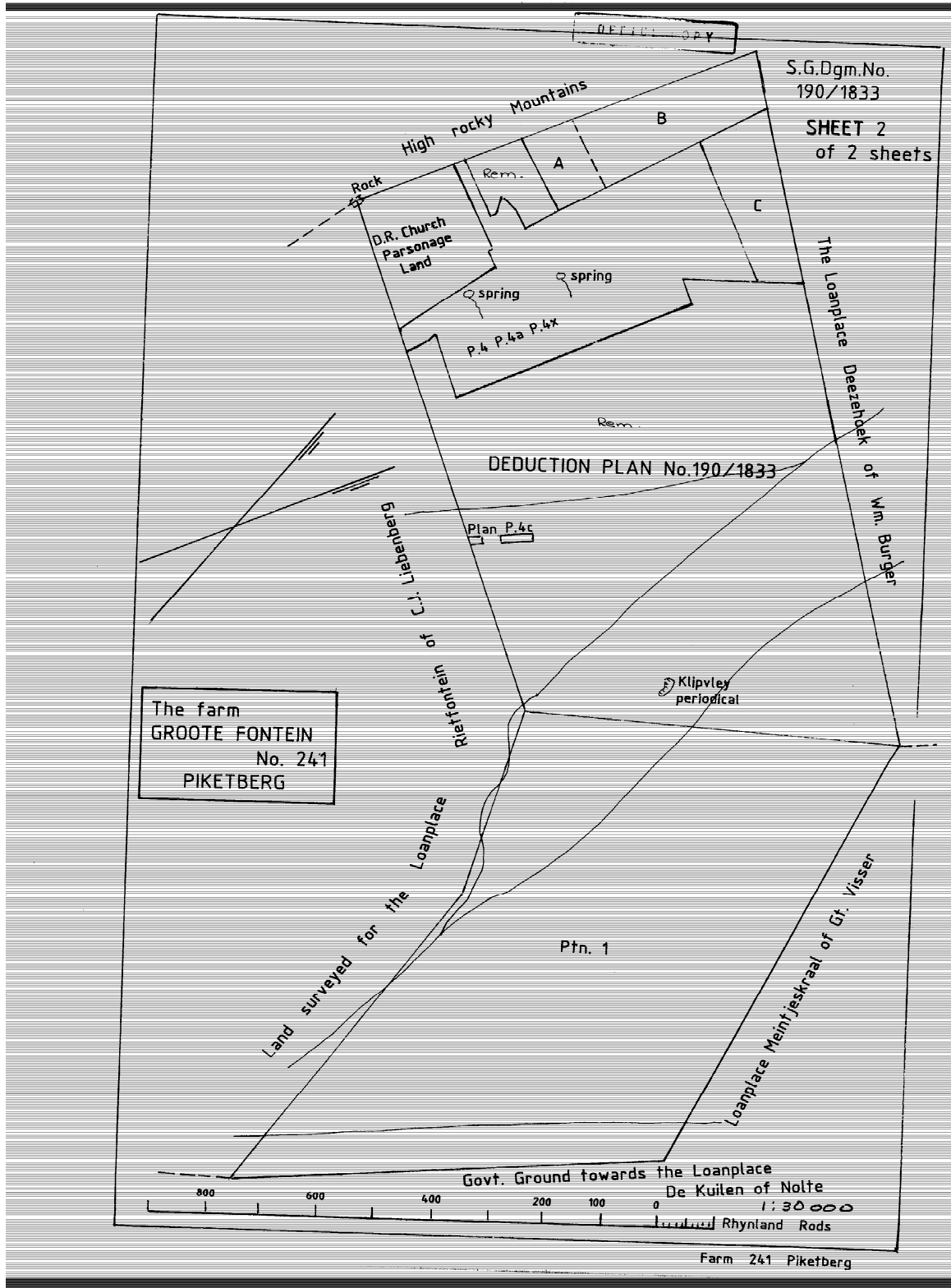


Figure 5 Diagram of the farm Groote Fontein 241 in 1833. This is before the town was officially declared.

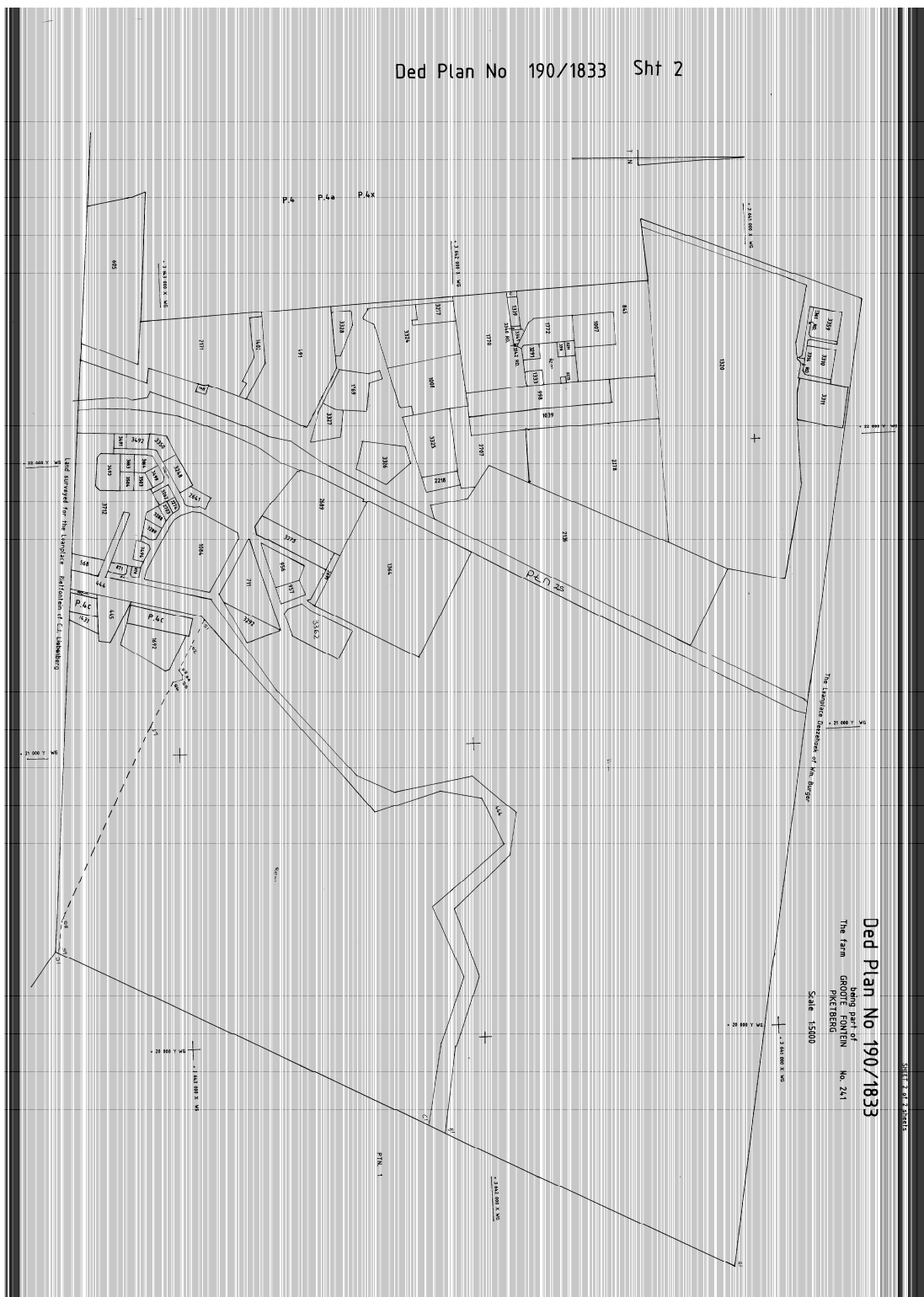


Figure 6 Diagram of the farm Grootte Fontein already partially being developed into a town in 1833 (Deeds Office)

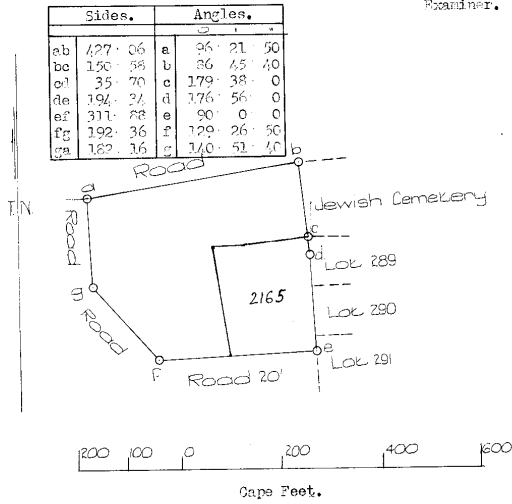
S.O. Dgn. No. 3163/1905.

3163/1905

The Numerical Data of this Diagram are sufficiently consistent.

(Sgd) M.C. Vos.

Examiner.



* Erf No 354. Piquetberg.

The above Figure lettered a b c d e f g represents 1 Morgen 474 Square Roads 55 Square Feet of Ground, situated in the Village of Piquetberg, being Cemeteries, part of the Freehold Land granted to the Dutch Reformed Church, Piquetberg, on the 31st Dec:1835.

- Bounded N by Road
- S " Road 20'
- E " Jewish Cemetery & Lots 289, 290, & 291
- W " Road
- SW " Road.

Surveyed and beaconed by me according to regulations.

(Sgd) Martin E. Smuts.

Government Surveyor.

June 1905.

Transfer 12520
 28th December, 1905, from
 The Municipality of Piquetberg, as
 Cemetery Board for the time being
 for the Village of Piquetberg.

M. Smuts

FOR ENDORSEMENTS
 SEE BACK OF DIAGRAM

Figure 7 Diagram of erf 354 on the farm Groote Fontein 241 in 1905 (Deeds Office).

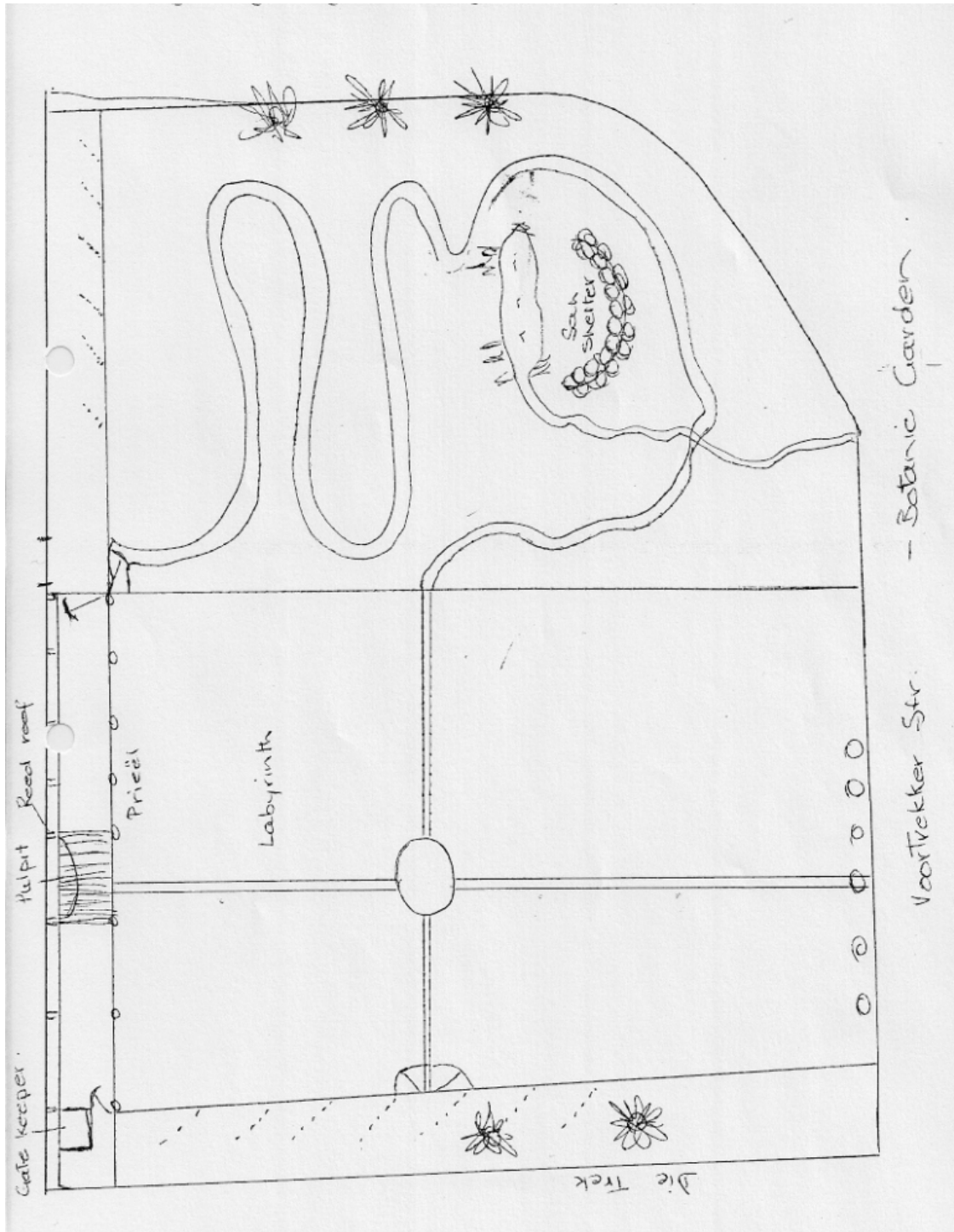


Figure 8 Sketch of the proposed development on the site.

The environment of the area is mostly disturbed by past human intervention. Most of the area is covered by grassland and a few trees are visible (Figure 9-10). Some large tree stumps indicate that trees have been removed on the site recently. The soil is sandy and seems to be the natural soil, but certain areas have been compacted with other material

(Figure 11). A number of footpaths cut through the area. The topography of erf 354 runs with a slope from west to east.

The erf is bordered by Smal Street in the east, Die Trek Street in the north and Voortrekker Street in the west. The south is bordered by a historical cemetery (Figure 12).

The GPS coordinate for the site is: $32^{\circ}54'33,1''\text{S}$
 $18^{\circ}45'19,9''\text{E}$



Figure 9 General view of the surveyed area.



Figure 10 Another view of the surveyed area.



Figure 11 **Compacted material in the surveyed area.**



Figure 12 **The historical graveyard to the south of erf 354.**

7. DISCUSSION

During the survey no sites of cultural heritage significance was located in the area to be developed. However it is important to consider that sites may become known later during construction work and that those need to be dealt with in accordance with the legislation discussed above. In order to enable the reader to better understand possible archaeological and cultural features that may be unearthed during construction activities, it is necessary to give a background regarding the different phases of human history.

7.1 Stone Age

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic material was mainly used to produce tools (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 293). In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided in three periods. It is however important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for interpretation. The division for the Stone Age according to Korsman & Meyer (1999: 93-94) is as follows:

Early Stone Age (ESA) 2 million – 150 000 years ago
Middle Stone Age (MSA) 150 000 – 30 000 years ago
Late Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 1850 - A.D.

Many Stone Age sites have been identified in the Western Cape, including Elandsfontein, Hoedjies Punt and Sea Harvest close to Piketberg as well as Duinefontein, Peers Cave, Tunnel Cave, Skildergatkop, Langebaan and Trappieskop (Volman 1984: 176-177; Mitchell 2002: 61, 73). Usually these sites obtain more than one sequence of the Stone Age, in these cases mostly the Early and Middle Stone Age.

A large number of Late Stone Age sites have been identified in the Western Cape. The ones relatively close to Piketberg are Duiker Eiland, Paternoster, Stofbergsfontein, Elands Bay Open site and Elands Bay Cave, Witklip, Kasteelberg and Diepkloof (Deacon 1984: 325-328; Mitchell 2002: 61, 73, 110, 127, 138, 228). The Late Stone Age usually is also associated with rock art. Rock art sites were found in the Western Cape, for instance at Skildergat (Willcox 1984: 182-184). These sites are associated with the San or Khoekhoen people.

The environment at Piketberg is such that it does provide much natural shelter in the mountains and the plains where the surveyed site is situated may have been a natural hunting ground. Therefore it is possible that Stone Age people settle here for long periods of time. One may therefore find stone tools in the area.

7.2 Iron Age

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce metal artifacts (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 346). In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases according to Van der Ryst & Meyer (1999: 96-98), namely:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D.
Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.

Huffman (2007: xiii) however indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which now seem to be widely accepted in archaeological circles, are:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.
Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.
Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.

No Iron Age sites have been identified in the broader geographical area of the site that was surveyed. Although the environment may be suitable, the Iron Age people never moved this far south.

7.3 Historical Age

The historical age started with the first recorded oral histories in the area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write. Although a search in the National Archives delivered no applicable information to this study, some information was obtained elsewhere.

The history Age of the Piketberg area started with the first contact between white settlers and the indigenous San and Khoekhoen people. During the 17th century a group of the latter under leadership of Gonnema (a Kogokwa headman) stayed in the area now known as Piketberg (Van Riebeeck edition 1952: 1). The first Dutch Governor at the Cape, Jan van Riebeeck, sent an expedition under Jan Donckaert in 1659 to find the legendary land of Monomotapa. During this the expedition visited the Piketberg area and was the first white people to make contact with the indigenous people (Nienaber n.d.; Van Riebeeck edition 1952: 1-2).

After 1660 there were many expeditions to this area and the two groups were frequently engaged in trade activities. The Dutch however made a pack with another Khoekhoen headman, Schachner, who was an enemy of Gonnema. As a result Gonnema regarded the Dutch as enemies and since 1672 his people attacked some of the hunting parties travelling through the Piketberg area. In 1673 some of these hunters were killed resulting in the Governor sending expeditions to fight against Gonnema. In 1677 peace was restored (Van Riebeeck edition 1952: 2-3).

The name of the mountains, which eventually would become the name of the town, came from this war. A military outpost or picket was established here in the mountain - hence the name Piketberg. Governor Simon van der Stel also visited the area. In 1684 he was travelling in search for the Namaqua copper mines when his party was attacked by a black rhino, close to Piketberg. The governor almost paid with his life (Nienaber n.d.; Van Riebeeck edition 1952: 3-4).

After this time the area were used by the settlers for hunting and fishing in the rivers. Shortly afterwards the first so-called loan farms were given to white farmer in the Piketberg area. The first was Heuningberg in 1709, followed by Groenvlei and Voëlvlei in 1715, De Drooge Rystkloof in 1716, Goedemanskraal in 1723, Hercules Fontein and Pieters Klip in 1723 and Deze Hoek (see figure 5) in 1729 (Van Riebeeck edition 1952: 5).

A French vagabond, Estienne Barbier, rebelled against the government in 1739. He had to flee and received shelter at Piketberg. Only after agreeing to assist the government against the San in 1839, he received amnesty (Van Riebeeck edition 1952: 6).

After 1800 the Piketberg area became known for grain production. In 1830 a church was erected (Figure 12-14), although permission to become an independent congregation was only granted in 1833. The town was established in 1836, but only formally laid out in 1840 (Van Riebeeck edition 1952: 7).

This was done on the government farm Groote Fontein which was granted to the Dutch Reformed Church on 31 December 1835. The first stands were sold in 1841 and the town received municipal status in 1905 (Nienaber n.d.). The town hosts many examples of buildings with an exceptional architecture (Figure 15-16).

Three possible explanations exist for the origin of the name of the town, Piketberg. The first, as indicated above, comes from the military picket which was established here (Nienaber n.d.). This one seems to be the most likely explanation.

The second explanation comes from the German traveller Peter Kolbe. He said the first messengers to this area played a card game called Piquetje here and that the name came from that (Nienaber n.d.).

The third explanation is very similar to the second. Dr. O. F. Mentzel wrote that a traveller visited a farmer here and they played the same card game one night. When the traveller asked what the name of the place was, the farmer said Piquetberg (Nienaber n.d.).

Although the first explanation, also indicated by Governor Van der Stel in his register of his travels, seems the most likely, the latter two may explain the spelling of the name Piquetberg, which was in use for some time.



Figure 12 **The old Dutch Reformed church in Piketberg.**



Figure 13 Building on the premises of the Dutch Reformed church, built in the same style as the original church.



Figure 14 The new Dutch Reformed church built in 1882.



Figure 15 Late 19th/ early 20th century historical buildings in Piketberg.



Figure 16 Another historical building in Piketberg.

As indicated earlier there also is a historical cemetery in Piketberg, adjacent to erf 354 (Figure 17-19). The graves include those of some of the first residents of the town, including people from the Jewish community. Soldiers who died during the Anglo-Boer War were also

buried here, but were later exhumed and reburied in Cape Town (Personal Communication: R. du Toit). Information on the graveyard is found in Appendix E.

Residents of the town of Piketberg, has indicated that there may have been more graves than those that can be seen (Personal communication: H. Vermeulen & R. du Toit). Apparently some graves have been washed open on erf 354 during the 1970's. It is indicated that these were covered in situ and left without headstones or other grave markings Town (Personal Communication: R. du Toit).

This means that the developer (the municipality) should be very careful when operating on site as human remains may be unearthed. More information is included in the section on recommendations in this report.



Figure 17 Some of the graves in the historical cemetery.



Figure 18 Another view of the historical cemetery.



Figure 19 Sign at the entrance to the historical cemetery.

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it can be stated that the heritage assessment of the area was conducted successfully. The final recommendations are as follows:

- As no cultural historical or archaeological features could be identified, the development of the botanic garden can continue.
- It should be noted that the subterranean presence of archaeological and/or historical sites, features or artifacts are always a distinct possibility. Care should therefore be taken when development work commences that if any of these are accidentally discovered, a qualified archaeologist be called in to investigate.
- The information given by community members should be taken in consideration when development continues. There may be no truth in the allegations of additional graves, but this would not be a surprise. Although developing a botanical garden is believed to be of low intensity, the developers should nevertheless be on the lookout for human remains, especially when digging trenches for services to be put in. Should any human remains be found, work should stop immediately and a qualified archaeologist be called in to investigate the find.
- One is tempted to recommend that a few test pits be excavated in order to investigate these allegations or to implement a watching brief when the work commences. However that would be very costly and may not reach the required results. It may be a good suggestion and be much more cost effective to train the staff that will be working on site, by giving them a short one day course on what they could expect to find. This would enable them to correctly identify possible human remains and other artifacts that may be uncovered during work at the site.

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APPENDIX A

Definition of terms:

Site: A large place with extensive structures and related cultural objects. It can also be a large assemblage of cultural artifacts, found on a single location.

Structure: A permanent building found in isolation or which forms a site in conjunction with other structures.

Feature: A coincidental find of movable cultural objects.

Object: Artifact (cultural object).

(Also see Knudson 1978: 20).

APPENDIX B

Definition of significance:

- Historic value: Important in the community or pattern of history or has an association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in history.
- Aesthetic value: Important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.
- Scientific value: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural history or is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement of a particular period
- Social value: Have a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.
- Rarity: Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage.
- Representivity: Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or object or a range of landscapes or environments characteristic of its class or of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, province region or locality.

APPENDIX C

Cultural significance:

- Low A cultural object being found out of context, not being part of a site or without any related feature/structure in its surroundings.

- Medium Any site, structure or feature being regarded less important due to a number of factors, such as date and frequency. Also any important object found out of context.

- High Any site, structure or feature regarded as important because of its age or uniqueness. Graves are always categorized as of a high importance. Also any important object found within a specific context.

Heritage significance:

- Grade I Heritage resources with exceptional qualities to the extent that they are of national significance

- Grade II Heritage resources with qualities giving it provincial or regional importance although it may form part of the national estate

- Grade III Other heritage resources of local importance and therefore worthy of conservation

APPENDIX D

Protection of heritage resources:

- Formal protection

National heritage sites and Provincial heritage sites – grade I and II

Protected areas - an area surrounding a heritage site

Provisional protection – for a maximum period of two years

Heritage registers – listing grades II and III

Heritage areas – areas with more than one heritage site included

Heritage objects – e.g. archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, visual art, military, numismatic, books, etc.

- General protection

Objects protected by the laws of foreign states

Structures – older than 60 years

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Burial grounds and graves

Public monuments and memorials

APPENDIX E

Information on Picketberg and graves in the historical cemetery