

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Proposed development of housing and associated infrastructure on Farms
475 & 476, Elandskloof, Clanwilliam District, Cedarberg Municipality,
Western Cape.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The developers propose 227 new erven and associated infrastructure (6m wide gravel roads with storm water structures) to be serviced via connection to the water pipeline and reservoir network as well as the sewer and waste water treatment works infrastructure.

A few isolated, weathered ESA handaxes were found during the survey. Their context was heavily disturbed and they are of little significance.

There is always the possibility of the discovering sub-surface archaeological resources, including human remains. Should any archaeological resources be discovered during subsequent development actions, a professional archaeologist must be contacted. The archaeologist will then assess the significance of the finds and make further recommendations.

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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Eco Impact Legal Consulting asked Pro-Active Archaeological Consultants to undertake an archaeological study of the proposed development areas on Farms 475 & 476, Elandskloof. This report forms part of the larger Heritage Impact Assessment and fall within the EIA. The properties are currently zoned as agricultural.

The developers propose 227 new erven and associated infrastructure (6m wide gravel roads with storm water structures) to be serviced via connection to the water pipeline and reservoir network as well as the sewer and waste water treatment works infrastructure.

The activity also entails the construction of a reservoir and water pipeline that will link the borehole to the reticulation system. It further entails the construction of a new 600 m² activated sludge waste water treatment works that will link to the existing sewerage network and 5 storage tanks. These storage tanks will be used as settling tanks and the sludge built-up will be sucked from these tanks once a year and transported to the activated sludge waste water treatment works for final treatment.

The purpose of the application is to accommodate a court ruling and to develop the infrastructure as indicated below to provide the necessary infrastructure and services to the Elandskloof community.

The activities for which a waste license and environmental authorization are applied for entail the construction of a new 1 mega litre reservoir and 200 mm PVC water pipeline to link to the existing water reticulation system and a borehole that needs to be established to increase the water supply to the residential development.

The existing 72 erven make use of French drains sewage systems. The existing houses, as well as the construction of the planned houses will generate sewage and waste water that must be treated and discharged within the Department of Water Affairs' discharge standard.

1.1. Terms of Reference

- 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.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE RELEVANT HERITAGE COMPONENTS

A desk top study was undertaken surveying recent academic literature and previous archaeological impact assessments pertinent to the area surrounding Citrusdal. Of interest are the Earlier Stone Age, particularly the Acheulian Tradition and the Later Stone Age (LSA). The Middle Stone Age (MSA) is less well represented in the area.

2.1. Acheulian Tradition

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 handaxes 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 250 000 years ago. Mitchell (2002), describes handaxes 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.

In the Citrusdal area, Acheulian finds are relatively common with numerous hand axes located on the eastern bank of the Olifants River at the site of the Tienrivieren Dam (Halkett 2004) which is to the south of Groenvlei (Halkett 2008) and at the site of the Bleskop Dam to the north of Citrusdal (Halkett 2006). Just north of Citrusdal, on the urban edge, Acheulian tools and some MSA material has also been found (Van Pletzen-Vos & Rust 2010a).

2.2. Later Stone Age

Sites dating to the LSA are also relatively abundant in the Citrusdal area. 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). Rock paintings are also a common occurrence in the Cederberg mountains many still waiting to be found and described. The Archaeological Contracts Office from UCT have located a number of rock art sites from the southern end of the Olifants River, for example (Koorlandskloof (Halkett 1996), Farm 567/1 (Halkett 1996), Olifants/Doorn Basin Study (Halkett et al 1997). PAAC also assessed a limited area in Farm 475 in 2010 (Van Pletzen & Rust 2010b), finding no archaeological remains.

Many archaeological sites around Citrusdal have been recorded by the Spatial Archaeology Research Unit at UCT. 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 17th and 18th centuries saw the European colonial expansion, resulting in the establishment of farms on the frontier of the Cape colony which included the Olifants River valley (Halkett 1996). 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

Farms 475 & 476, known as Elandskloof, lies about 20 km west of Citrusdal and can be accessed by driving through Citrusdal, then onto the road to Ceres (R303). A further 17 km on this road leads to Elandskloof turn-off to the south east. The property falls within the Cederberg Municipality, West Coast District Municipality, Western Cape. The properties are located on the 1:50 000 topographic map 3219 CA Citrusdal (Figure 1 & 2).

A foot survey of the property was undertaken on 4 July 2013 by three members of PAAC. Visibility was hampered in places by long grasses. The area is also heavily impacted by filled trenches for water pipes (Figure 3) and agricultural activities. Data was acquired with a Garmin GPS device and a digital camera.

4. DESCRIPTION OF SITES

Only a few, isolated and weathered ESA handaxes (e.g. Figure 4) were located during the survey.

These find were limited to areas that have already been heavily disturbed by either farming or placement of water pipes.

5. FIELD RATING

5.1. HWC Grading guidelines

- a. National: This site is considered to be of Grade I significance and should be nominated as such.
- b. Provincial: This site is considered to be of Grade II significance and should be nominated as such.
- c. Local: this site is of Grade IIIA significance. Mitigation as part of the development process is not advised. The site should be retained as a heritage site (High significance).
- d. Local: this site is of Grade IIIB significance. It should be mitigated and (part) should be retained as a heritage site (High significance).
- e. Generally Protected A: this site should be mitigated before destruction (generally High/Medium significance).
- f. Generally Protected B: this site should be recorded before destruction (generally Medium significance).
- g. Generally Protected C: this site has been sufficiently recorded. It requires no further recording before destruction (generally Low significance).

5.2. Field Rating

A field rating of g. Generally Protected C is awarded to the properties. They have been sufficiently recorded.

6. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

6.1. NHRA, section 3 (3)

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

6.2. Statement

Elandskloof has strong heritage ties with the extant community and therefore has a high cultural significance. However, limited archaeological resources means that the properties in questions have a low significance.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSIONS

A few isolated, weathered ESA handaxes were found during the survey. Their context was heavily

disturbed and they are of little significance.

There is always the possibility of the discovering sub-surface archaeological resources, including human remains. Should any archaeological resources be discovered during subsequent development actions, a professional archaeologist must be contacted. The archaeologist will then assess the significance of the finds and make further recommendations.

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Figure 2: Satellite image of the property.



Figure 3: General view of disturbed area.



Figure 4: Very weathered Achuelian Hand Axe.