

Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment

**Proposed Farm Dam on Portions 3 & 6 of Farm 695 Signal Hill,
Paarl, Stellenbosch Municipality, Western Cape.**

FOR:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

No archaeological finds were made during the Phase 1 AIA of the proposed dam on Portions 3 & 6 of Signal Hill, Farm 965. However, the dense fynbos of the site made for very poor visibility. It is recommended that monitoring of vegetation clearance take place by a professionally accredited archaeologist take place.

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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of Portions 3 & 6 of Farm Signal Hill 965, Paarl forms part of an Environmental Impact Assessment. Pro-Active Archaeology was asked by PHS Consulting to undertake the assessment of the site of a proposed farm dam on the above property. The dam dimensions are as follows:

Dam Wall height – 14.5 m

Dam Wall length – 104 m

Dam Capacity – 48 000 m²

1.1. Stakeholders

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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

Prehistoric archaeological remains in the Franschhoek area are characterised by Early Stone Age (ESA) tools, particularly handaxes. First described by Pérniguy (1902, 1911), these tools were known as the Stellenbosch Culture, before they were re-defined by Goodwin and Van Riet Lowe (1929, Mitchell 2002). The ESA is commonly divided into two periods: the Oldowan (up to 1/7 million years ago) and the Acheulian (1.7 million years ago to 200 000 years ago). Acheulian tools are often associated with pans, river terraces, streams and certain types of rock outcrops (Kaplan 2003). Mountain slopes, and degraded areas like slope washes, road and bridge cuttings, excavations, gravel deposits vineyards and ploughed fields have also yielded evidence of Acheulian tools. Though less common, Middle Stone Age (MSA – 200 000 to 20 000 years ago) and Later Stone Age (LSA – 20 000 to colonial times) artefacts have also been found in the Franschhoek area.

The list of previous AIA' s for the Franschhoek area are fairly extensive (see bibliography). However, most of the heritage resources are of an historic nature. Where pre-historic material has been found (Hart & Orton 2001, Kaplan 1999; 2000; 2001; 2002a, b; 2003a, b, c., Van Pletzen-Vos & Rust 2010) the sites are dominated by isolated flakes from the Earlier Stone Age (ESA) with some Middle Stone Age material. All finds were designated as having low significance.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY & METHODOLOGY

Portions 3 & 6 of Farm Signal Hill 965, Paarl, Municipal District of Stellenbosch, are located on the slopes of Simonsberg. The farm can be accessed via the Simondium turn-off from the R45. The entrance to the farm is associated with the Backsberg wine farm. The Portion 3 is 97.4248 ha, whilst Portion 6 is 97.4248 ha in extent (Figure 1). The location of the farm is illustrated on the 1:50 000 map (3318 DD Stellenbosch) in Figure 2. The satellite map in Figure 3 shows a more detailed image of the proposed dam site. The site is densely covered in Fynbos (Figure 4), except where vegetation has been cleared for test holes (Figure 5). Two archaeologists, in the company of Mr Anton Louw (072 430 6560), traversed the site on 2011-03-16. The GPS tracking is illustrated in Figure (Figure 6). Data was acquired using a Garmin GPS 60 and Garmin Oregon 450. Photographs were taken with a Canon DSLR and a Panasonic Bridge camera.

4. DESCRIPTION OF SITES & ARTEFACTS

No archaeological sites or artefacts were visible on the proposed dam site. The area is known for surface finds of Earlier Stone Age tools. Some examples of these were located in disturbed situations within 300 m of the development site (Figure 7).

5. FIELD RATING

A field rating of G - Generally Protected C is awarded. This site has been sufficiently recorded. It requires no further recording before development can take place and has a generally Low significance.

6. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

No archaeological sites or artefacts were found on the proposed development property. The site has very low significance.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSION

No archaeological finds were made on the site of the proposed dam on Portions 3 & 6 of Signal Hill, Farm 965. However, the dense fynbos of the site made for very poor visibility. It is recommended that monitoring of vegetation clearance take place by a professionally accredited archaeologist take place.

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- detailing citations in the text of the report. Remember that all sources and publications referring to known archaeological sites in the vicinity should be adequately acknowledged (even the web).

9. FIGURES

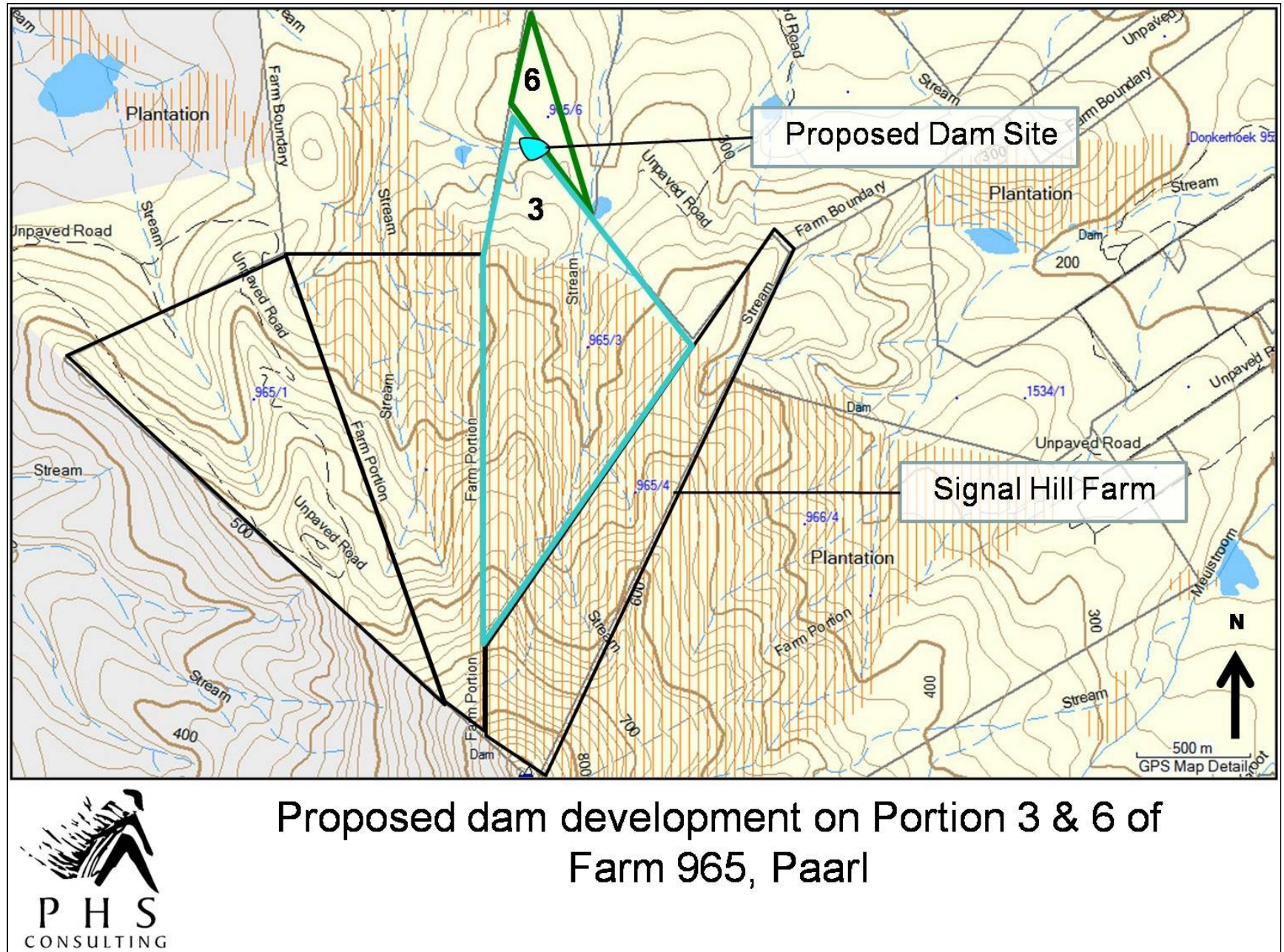


Figure 1: Signal Hill, Farm 965, Portions 3 & 6.

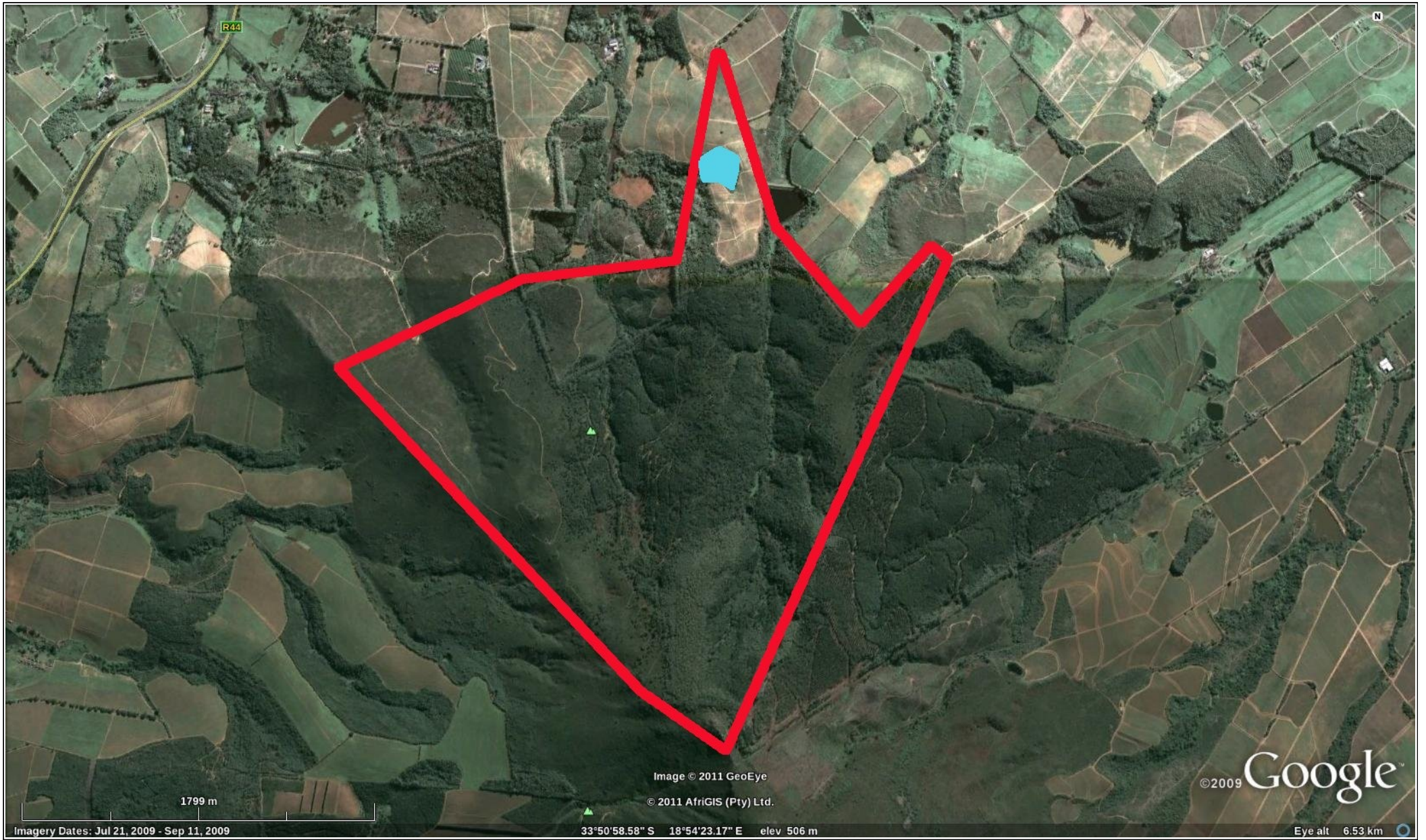


Figure 3: Satellite image of the location of the proposed dam.



Figure 4: Dense Fynbos limited visibility.



Figure 5: Open area from vegetation clearing.



Figure 7: ESA hand axe found in the vineyards near the proposed dam site.

Figure 6: GPS tracking of proposed farm dam site.