

Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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24 February, 2011

Att: Mr Craig Donald
Site Plan Consulting
PO Box 28
Strand
7139

Dear Mr Donald,



ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROPOSED GRAVEL MINE ON ERF 210 GANSBAAI, WESTERN CAPE

1. Introduction

Site Plan Consulting, on behalf of Sizisa Ukhanyo Trading 410 cc appointed the Agency for Cultural Resource Management to conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed operation of a gravel and aggregate mine on Erf 210 in Gansbaai in the Western Cape Province (Figure 1).

The proposed mining application area measures about 1.4 ha in extent. Proposed mining activities entail the removal of gravel and aggregate from below an old borrow pit, to a maximum depth of between 5 and 10 m. The operation is primarily haul and load. Mining will be conducted by excavator or front end loader, but some drilling and blasting may also be required. The top soils will be retained for rehabilitation of the site. In terms of the EMP, the mined out area will be rehabilitated¹.

2. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference for the archaeological study entailed the following:

1. Determine whether there are likely to be any important archaeological remains that may potentially be impacted by proposed mining activities;
2. Indicate any constraints that would need to be taken into account in considering the proposed activities;
3. Identify sensitive archaeological areas, and
4. Recommend any further mitigation action

¹ Site Plan Consulting, 2011. Environmental Management Plan Proposed mining operation on Erf 210 Gansbaai, Hermanus Magisterial District.

3. The study site

The proposed site is situated about 2.5 kms east of Gansbaai in the Hermanus Magisterial District., on the very lower slopes of Fransmans se Berg. Access to the site is via Voortrekker Road near the entrance to the town. A gravel road from the Afrimat Gansbaai Plant leads to the proposed mining area. The proposed site is located below the old borrow pit, and is infested with dense Port Jackson (Figures 2-5). The sandy grey top soils are very shallow. The entire surrounding commonage area is invaded with Rooikrans and Port Jackson. Some Fynbos occurs on the higher north western slopes, where a few larger sandstone boulders and loose pieces of soft sandstone occur. About a quarter (25%) of the proposed site has already been mined out. Several abandoned sand and stone quarries are located adjacent the gravel access road. Fransmans se Berg looms over the property. There is a Milkwood Grove located about 250 m west of the proposed mining area but will not be impacted or affected by proposed mining operations.

4. Methodology for the study

Where possible, a foot search of the proposed mining area was conducted. There is a gravel road that cuts through the middle of the site and this road was walked and inspected along the way. Previously disturbed areas were also searched. The upper western slopes which are covered in Fynbos were inspected. The access road and diggings alongside the road, from the Afrimat Gansbaai Plant to the proposed mining area (a distance of about 800 m) were also searched for archaeological remains.

The archaeological study was conducted on the 23rd of February 2011. Archaeological occurrences were mapped using a hand held Garmin Oregon 300 GPS unit, set on map datum wgs 84. A GPS track path of the archaeological survey was also created.

4.1 Constraints and limitations

The entire proposed mining application area is invaded with alien Port Jackson resulting in very poor archaeological visibility. Leaf litter is also very thick on the ground. The upper western slopes are also covered in thick natural Fynbos. Access to the proposed site was also severely constrained due to the extremely dense vegetation, but was penetrated in some areas.

4.2 Identification of potential risks

There are no potential archaeological risks associated with the proposed project. The study site is not considered to be a sensitive archaeological landscape.

5. Results of the study

One Middle Stone Age quartzite flake (GNS1) was found in the old borrow pit (Figure 6), while several possible chunks (GNS2 & GNS3) were also found in the old mining area. No implements were found in the access road, or in any of the disturbed areas alongside the road.

5.1. Significance of the archaeological material

The presence of such small numbers of stone artefacts and the fact that all of the remains occur in a highly disturbed context means that their significance is rated as being very low.

6. Conclusion

The study has shown that the impact of proposed mining on the archaeological heritage in Erf 210 is likely to be very low.

7. Recommendations

- No archaeological mitigation is required
- The project should be allowed to proceed
- It is highly unlikely, but should any unmarked human remains be uncovered or exposed during sand mining operations these must immediately reported to Heritage Western Cape (Att: Ms Jenna Lavin 483 9685, or Ms Belinda Mutti 021 483 9543).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Kaplan', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jonathan Kaplan

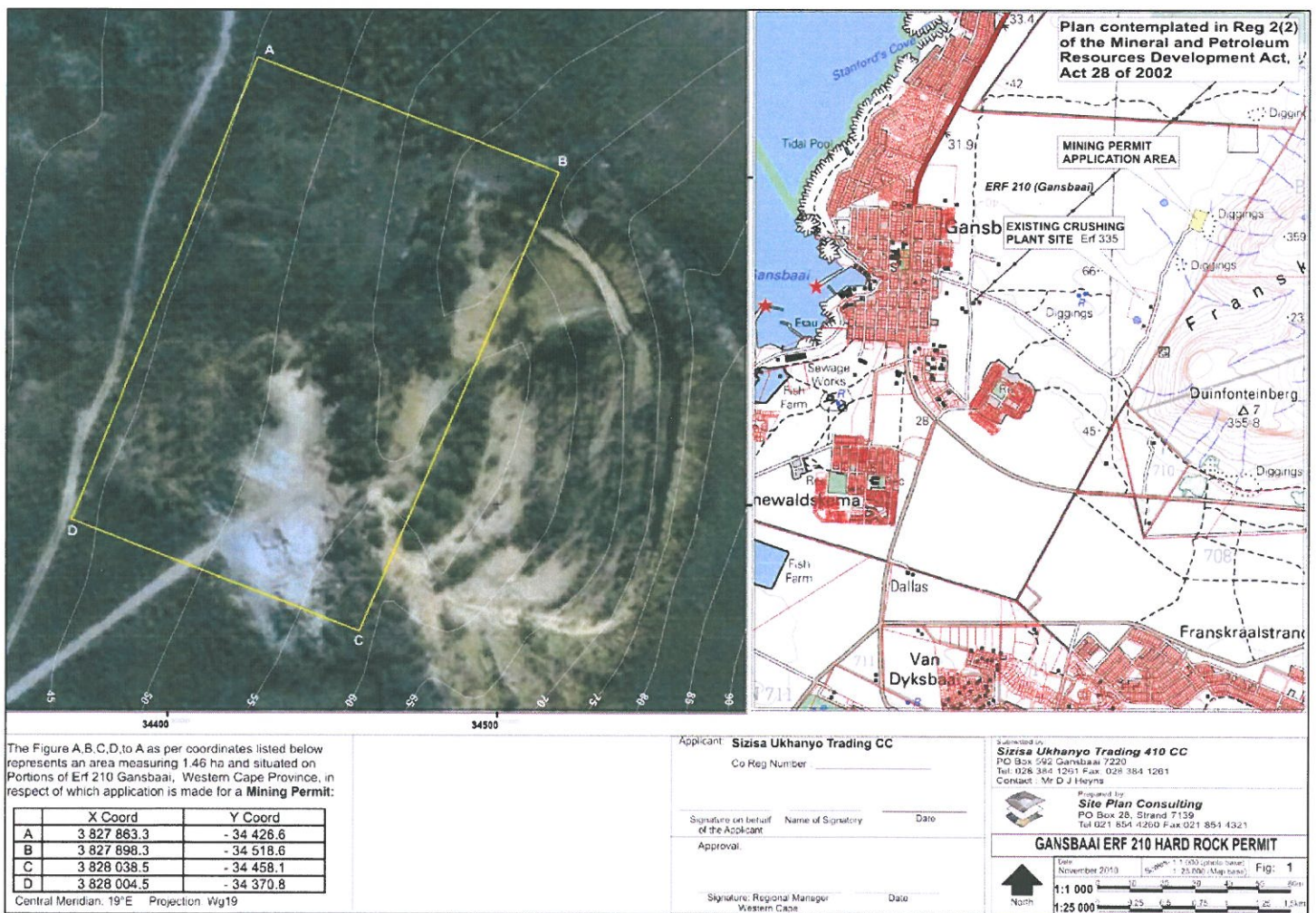
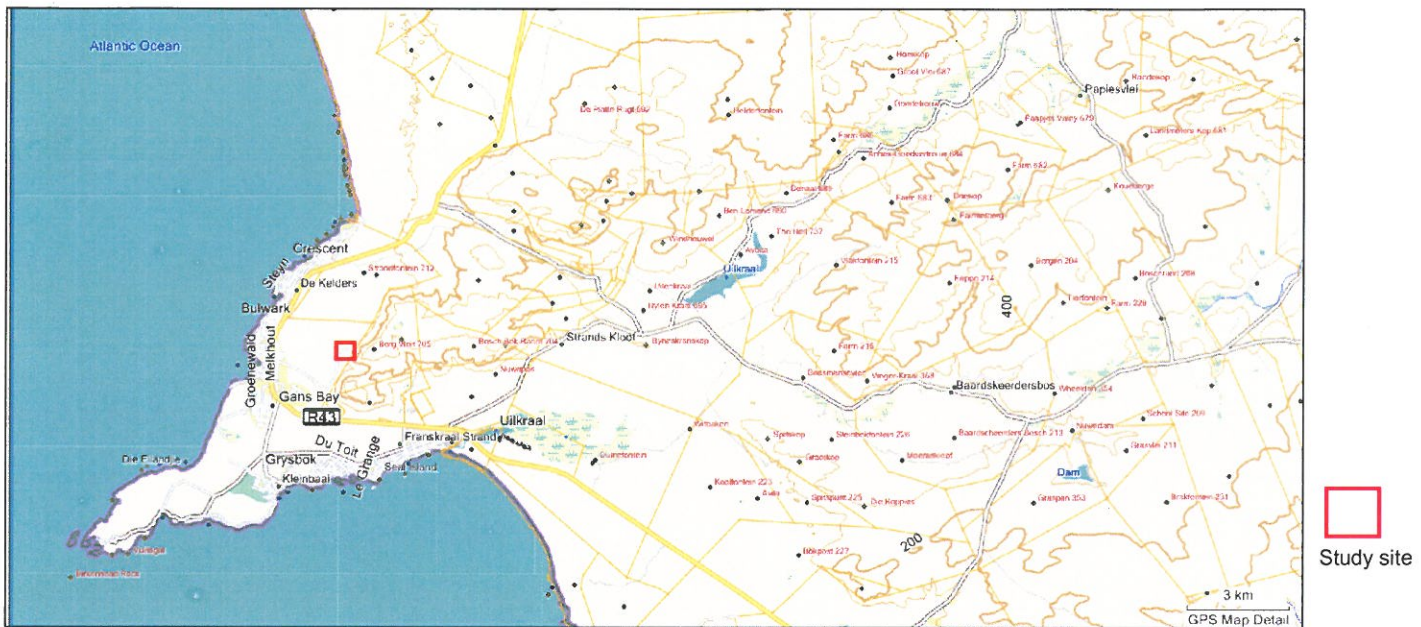


Figure 2. Locality map and aerial photograph of the proposed site. Note the previously disturbed areas



Figure 3. View of the proposed site. Die Kelders residential area is located in the foreground.



Figure 4. View of the proposed mining area



Figure 5. View of the proposed mining area



Figure 5. Middle Stone Age quartzite flake (GNS1). Scale is in cm