

# Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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07 April, 2011

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

Dear Mr Donald,

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE PALMIET QUARRY (FARM ELGIN FOREST RESERVE 295/7) NEAR GRABAUW, WESTERN CAPE**

### **1. Introduction**

Site Plan Consulting, on behalf of Capmat (Pty) Ltd requested the Agency for Cultural Resource Management to conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed extension of the Palmiet Quarry situated near Grabauw in the Western Cape (Figure 1).

The proposed western extension of the existing Palmiet Quarry on the Farm Elgin Forest Reserve 295/7 will cover an area of about 4.8ha and will take place within the approved mining right area. Proposed mining of quartzitic sandstone rock will be by means of hard rock drill, blast and crushing open cast quarry. Stockpiling of quarried material will take place on the adjacent property known as Oude Brug 312, situated behind the existing operation. No mining will take place in the stockpile area. At the end of the 30 year mining permit application, the entire site (including the existing quarry and stockpile area) will be rehabilitated to form an outdoor educational/recreational centre for the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve.

### **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 quarrying operations;
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

### **3. The study site**

The proposed site is situated about 3 kms south of Grabauw (Figures 2 & 3). Access to the site is via the N2. The proposed application area is an extension of the existing Palmiet Quarry which lies adjacent to the proposed site. There is very little top soil covering the site. The affected environment is extremely rocky and is covered in thick vegetation such as Restio grasses, Fynbos, Protea species and bulbs. The vegetation is especially dense across the northern and eastern portions. The ridge overlooking the site is very rocky with several larger outcroppings of sandstone occurring in places. The slopes are also very rocky. The property was previously a pine plantation as there are piles of rotted logs that occur sporadically over the site, as well as felled trees and dry branches. There is a gravel forestry road that cuts across the northern portion and some older roads. The property has also recently been burnt and some heat spall stone is lying around. There are three Eskom powerlines which run east-west just behind the southern ridge that feed into the Palmiet substation situated in the south western corner (Figures 4-10). Other surrounding land uses include deciduous orchards, the Eskom environmental centre, Pine plantations, vacant veld, and the residential suburb of Grabauw north of the N2.

### **4. Methodology for the study**

A foot survey of the proposed site was undertaken. The archaeological study was conducted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011. A GPS track path of the archaeological survey was also created. While most of the site was traversed on foot, archaeological visibility was very poor due to thick vegetation cover over large portions of the property. This was a major constraint associated with the project. However, roads, older forestry tracks, firebreaks, and the powerline servitudes were walked and searched for archaeological remains, while the larger sandstone outcrops on the southern ridge were searched for rock paintings.

A desk top study was also undertaken.

#### **4.1 Identification of potential risks**

Based on the results of the study there are no archaeological risks associated with the proposed project.

#### **4.2 Desk top study**

Several archaeological impact assessments have been undertaken by this archaeologist in the Grabauw area with very limited results. A few Middle Stone Age (MSA) quartzite flakes were found during a study of the Ikapa/Palmiet Quarry<sup>1</sup> adjacent to the proposed application area. One rough quartzite MSA stone flake was found in very rocky terrain alongside R312 as one enters Grabauw from the N2<sup>2</sup>. One rough quartzite chunk was found near a pine plantation south of the N2<sup>3</sup>. Quartzite flakes also were found near the

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<sup>1</sup> Kaplan, J. 1998. Archaeological Study Ikapa Quarry, Grabauw. Report prepared for Ecosense. ACRM

<sup>2</sup> Kaplan, 2006. Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed housing development Erf 563 Grabauw. Report prepared for Gypsey Queen Properties 37 (Pty) Ltd. ACRM

<sup>3</sup> Kaplan, 2011. Archaeological Scoping Study proposed prospecting for gravel deposits on several land parcels in Somerset West, Grabauw and Botriver. Report prepared for Site Plan Consulting. ACRM

Rockview Dam south west of the application area<sup>4</sup>. Some very crude and faded rock art has been reported from near the Steenbras Dam (Royden Yates pers comm.).

## **5 Results of the archaeological study**

No archaeological remains were documented during the study for the proposed expansion of the existing Palmiet Quarry on the Farm Elgin Forest Reserve 295/7.

No paintings were found among the sandstone outcrops searched.

The results reflect the findings of several previous studies in the area, which suggest that the receiving environment is not a sensitive, threatened or vulnerable archaeological landscape.

## **6. Conclusion**

The study has shown that the impact of proposed quarrying operations on the archaeological heritage is likely to be very low.

## **7. Recommendations**

- No archaeological mitigation is required.
- Proposed quarrying should be allowed to proceed.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Kaplan

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<sup>4</sup> Kaplan, 1993. Archaeological Study Kogelberg Nature Reserve. Report prepared for the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry. ACRM



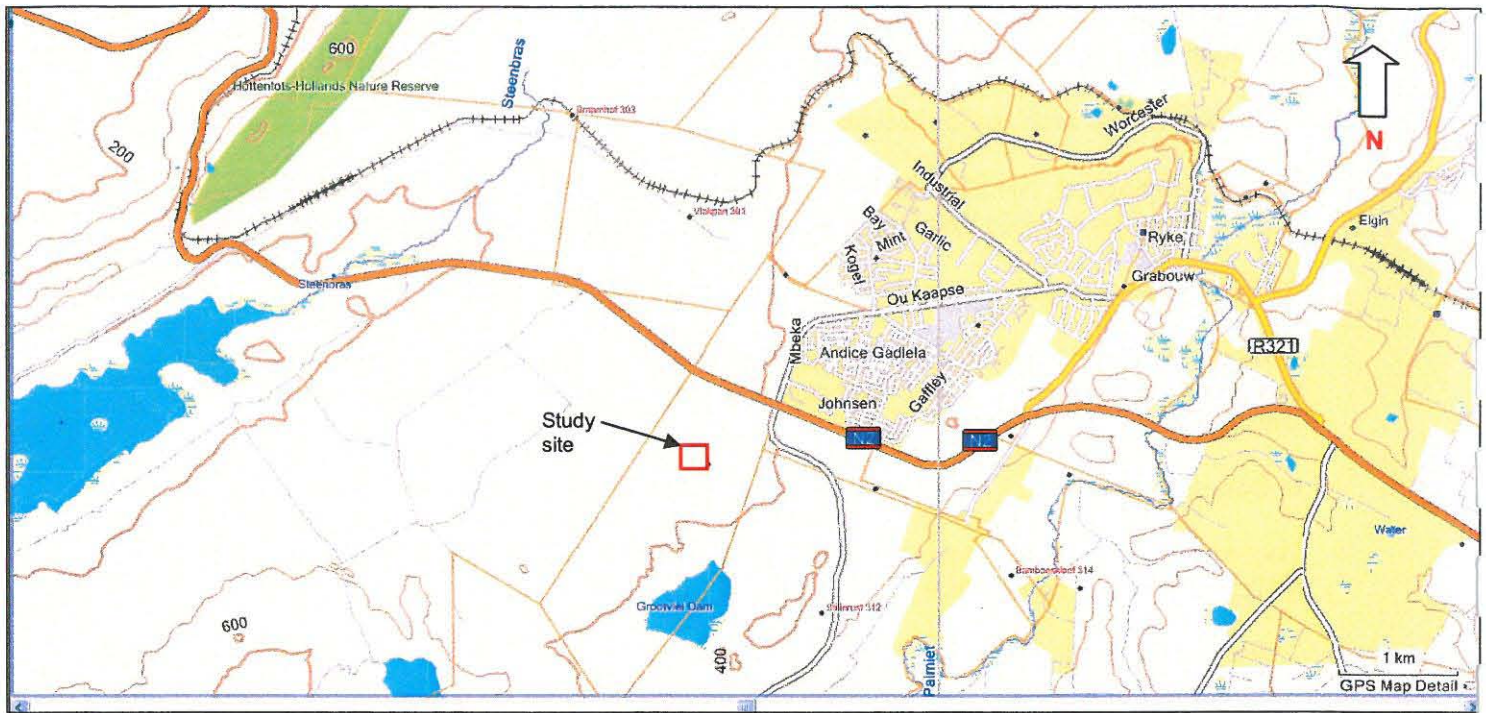


Figure 1. Locality map



Figure 2. Google aerial photograph of the study site





Figure 3. Aerial photograph of the study site



Figure 4. View of the site facing south west





Figure 5. View of the site facing south

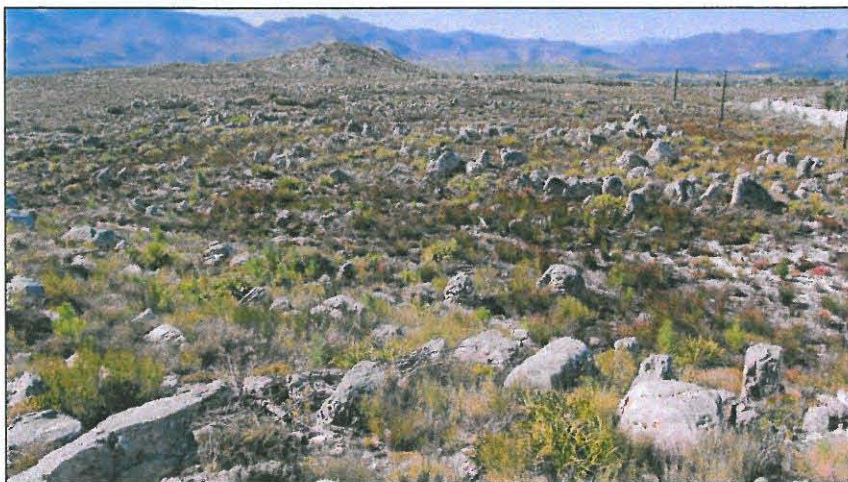


Figure 6. View of the site facing north west

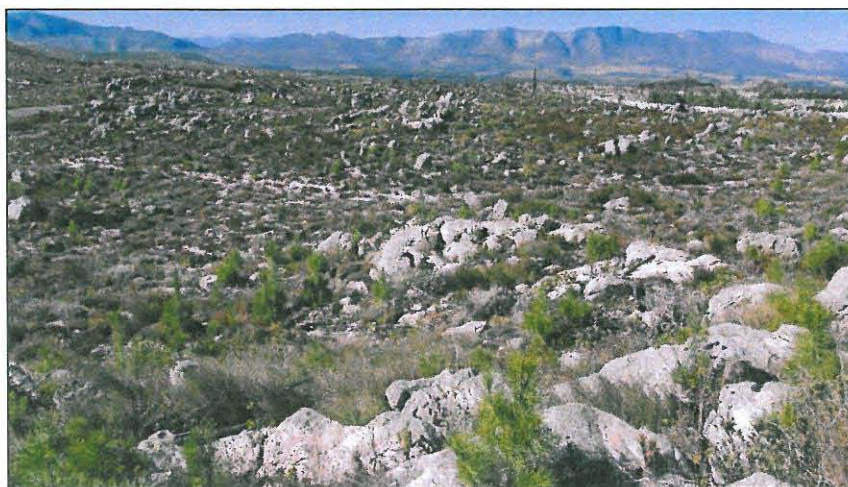


Figure 7. View of the site facing north



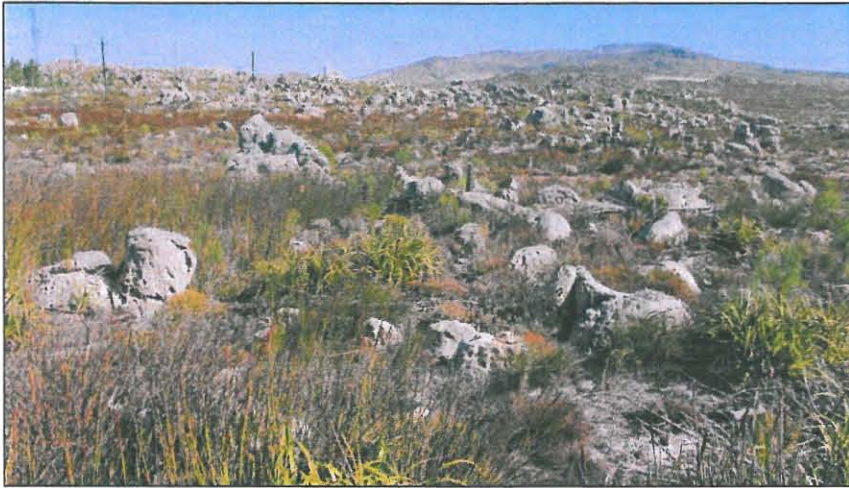


Figure 8. View of the site facing south

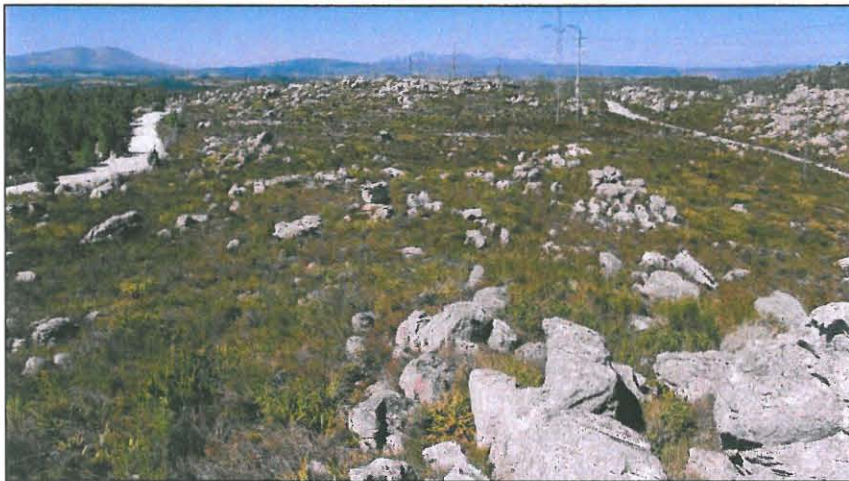


Figure 9. View of the site facing east



Figure 10. View of the site facing east

