

Case No. 14061209

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

THE PROPOSED HAWSTON EAST HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON REMAINDER OF ERF 1, HAWSTON WESTERN CAPE

Assessment conducted under Section 38 (3) of the National Heritage Resource
Act (No. 25 of 1999)

Prepared for:

WITHERS ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

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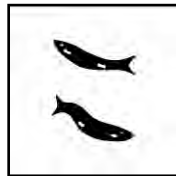
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Executive summary

ACRM was appointed to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed Hawston East housing development on Remainder of Erf 1 Hawston, near Hermanus in the Western Cape.

The HIA, which was requested by Heritage Western Cape (Case No. 14061210GT0617E), forms part of the Basic Assessment Process that is being undertaken by Withers Environmental Consultants.

The footprint area for the proposed development is 13.76 ha.

The proposed development site is located east of the R43 at the foot of the Onrus Mountains, which runs through Hawston and north of the established suburb of Mountain View. The site is currently vacant and is infested with alien vegetation (a mix of acacias & myrtle), Kikuyu grass and weeds. A portion of the property was previously used as a Municipal landfill site but has since been closed. Dumping of rubble and domestic waste is fairly extensive. A few tracks and footpaths intersect the site, which is virtually impenetrable due to the extremely dense vegetation cover.

The project entails the development of ± 292 subsidized low cost housing units, ± 192 erven for 'Gap Housing', four mixed-use erven, and community facilities (such as a crèche and a clinic). Provision is also made for public open space areas. The development will link into existing municipal bulk services (potable water, storm water, sewerage and electricity).

A Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) was submitted to Heritage Western Cape (HWC) for comment, who requested that a HIA, consisting of an archaeological study must be done (HWC Case No. 14061210GT0617E). HWC also requested that the heritage practitioner consult with local conservation bodies.

A survey of the proposed development site was undertaken by ACRM in September 2014, in which the following observations were made:

- Two Early Stone Age chunks and a flake (of low significance) were recorded during the study.
- Middle Stone Age and Later Stone Age flakes (of low significance) were recorded.

The results of the study indicate that the proposed Hawston East housing development will not have an impact of great significance on the archaeological heritage.

Archaeological visibility is very low due to dense vegetation cover, but indications are that the receiving environment is not a sensitive archaeological landscape.

With regard to the public participation process, the Hermanus Aesthetics and Heritage Conservation Committee and Overstrand Conservation Foundation were informed of the availability of the Draft Basic Assessment Report for comment. At the time of writing, no comments have been received from them.

With regard to the proposed Hawston East housing project on Remainder Erf 1, Hawston, the following recommendations are made:

1. No archaeological mitigation is required.
2. In the unlikely event of any unmarked human remains being uncovered during bulk earthworks, these must immediately be reported to the archaeologist (J Kaplan 082 321 0172), or Heritage Western Cape (Guy Thomas 021 483 96 85).

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1. INTRODUCTION

ACRM was appointed by Withers Environmental Consultants (WEC) to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed Hawston East housing development on Remainder of Erf 1, Hawston near Hermanus in the Western Cape (Figures 1 & 2).

A Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) was submitted by WEC to Heritage Western Cape (HWC) for comment, who requested that a HIA, consisting of an archaeological study must be done (HWC Case No. 14061210GT0617E). HWC also requested that the heritage practitioner consult with local conservation bodies and include their comments in the final HIA report.

The HIA forms part of the Basic Assessment Process that is being undertaken by WEC.

The proposed development site is located within the urban edge of the town, and has been identified for residential use by the Overstrand Local Municipality, who is also the applicant. The footprint area for the proposed development is 13.76 ha.

The project entails the development of ± 292 subsidized low cost housing units, ± 192 erven for 'Gap Housing', four mixed-use erven, and community facilities (such as a crèche and a clinic). Provision is also made for public open space areas and internal streets (Figure 3). The development will link into existing municipal bulk services (including potable water, storm water, sewerage & electricity). The development will most likely comprise single storey and double storey units. The smaller RDP subsidy erven will have an average size of $\pm 130\text{m}^2$, while the larger GAP housing erven will have an average size of $\pm 170\text{m}^2$.



Figure 1. Locality map indicating the location of the proposed Hawston East housing development. Arrow indicates the study site



Figure 2. Google aerial map indicating the proposed development site.

2. HERITAGE LEGISLATION

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999) makes provision for a compulsory Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) when an area exceeding 5000 m² is being developed. This is to determine if the area contains heritage sites and to take the necessary steps to ensure that they are not damaged or destroyed during development.

The NHRA provides protection for the following categories of heritage resources:

- Landscapes, cultural or natural (Section 3 (3))
- Buildings or structures older than 60 years (Section 34);
- Archaeological sites, palaeontological material and meteorites (Section 35);
- Burial grounds and graves (Section 36);
- Public monuments and memorials (Section 37);
- Living heritage (defined in the Act as including cultural tradition, oral history, performance, ritual, popular memory, skills and techniques, indigenous knowledge systems and the holistic approach to nature, society and social relationships) (Section 2 (d) (xxi)).

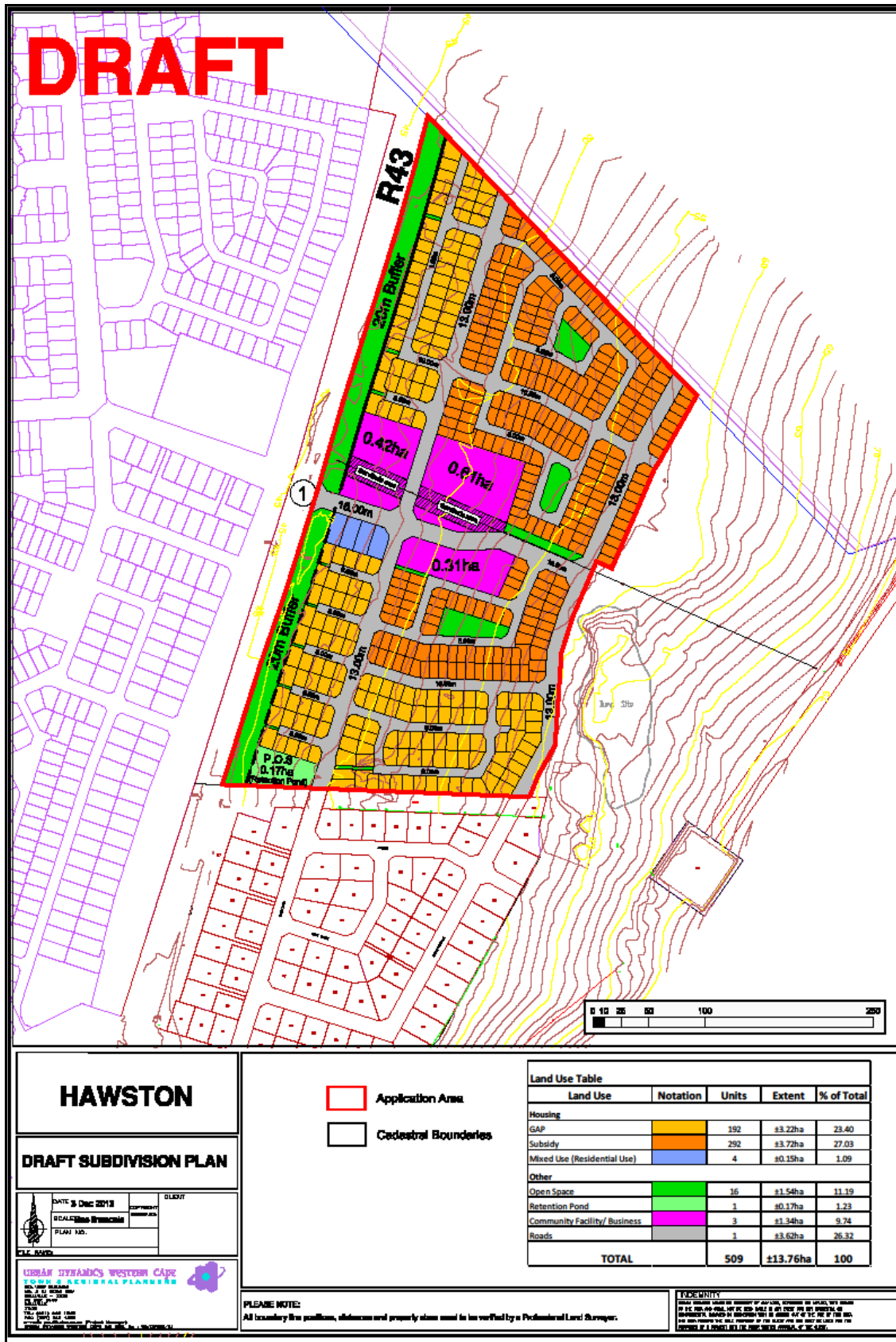


Figure 3. Hawston East housing development: Proposed site development plan (Draft).

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

The proposed development site is located east of the R43 at the foot of the Onrus Mountains, which runs through Hawston, and directly north of the established suburb of Mountain View (Figure 4). The site is currently vacant and has been severely degraded over time. It is infested with a mixture of alien vegetation (acacias & myrtle), Kikuyu grass and weeds, on a substrate of quartzitic rocks (upper slopes) and gritty weathered sands on the mid-lower slopes (Figures 5-9). Some natural vegetation still occurs in places. A portion of the proposed development site in the south east was previously used as a Municipal landfill site but has since been closed. Illegal dumping of building rubble and domestic waste has taken place mainly alongside the R43, and some sand has also been (illegally) quarried for building purposes. There are no buildings or structures on the proposed site. There is a stormwater drainage line to the south of the site between the site and the Mountain View residential area. The main access to the site is along a small gravel sand track that runs alongside the eastern boundary of the subject property. Several small footpaths bisect the property from east to west. Woodcutter's trails into the forest end after a very short distance (Figures 10-13).

Surrounding land use includes an open cast aggregate mine to the north of the site, road (R43), residential housing (Hawston and Mountain View), an Eskom substation, powerline servitude, and vacant land.



Figure 4. Google aerial map of the proposed development site.



Figure 5. View of the site facing west. Hawston is the background.



Figure 6. View of the site facing northwest



Figure 7. View of the site facing south, with the backdrop of the Onrus Mountain



Figure 8. View of the site facing east with the backdrop of the Onrus Mountain



Figure 9. View of the site facing north east, taken from the R43



Figure 10. Main access track alongside the eastern boundary of the proposed development site



Figure 11. Small footpath



Figure 12. Track down to the R43.



Figure 13. Woodcutter clearing

4. STUDY APPROACH

4.1 Method

A survey of the proposed development site was undertaken by J. Kaplan of ACRM on 4th September, 2014. A track path of the survey was captured (Figure 14). Archaeological remains identified during the study were plotted using a hand held GPS device set on the map datum wgs 84. A desk top study was also done.

4.2 Constraints and limitations

The proposed development site is covered in very dense alien vegetation resulting in poor archaeological visibility. Primary access was along an established track alongside the eastern boundary of the proposed development site. Several small footpaths bisect the subject property. Numerous woodcutters' trails into the dense forest end after a short distance, where the archaeologist was faced with a wall of thick vegetation. Some areas in the northern portion were easier to access.

4.3 Identification of potential risks

The results of the study have shown that there are no archaeological risks associated with the proposed development.

4.4 Archaeology of the study area

By 1993, more than 50 archaeological sites had been officially recorded along the coastline between Hermanus and Hawston (Kaplan 1993). This number has increased dramatically, coinciding with a spike in the number of archaeological impact assessments (AIA's) that have been done in the area, as part of the EIA process. The sites include mostly Later Stone Age (LSA) shell middens along the shoreline, but scatters of Middle Stone Age (MSA), as well as Early Stone Age (ESA) implements have also been documented. The rocky shoreline around this area would have been very attractive to both LSA and MSA hunter-gatherers, who harvested the abundant coastal resources. Several rivers, streams, springs and pans also provided fresh water. Shell

middens have been recorded at Hoek van de Berg, Mudge Point, Nuwebaai, Vermont, Onrus, Sandbaai, Schulphoek, Swartdam, Hermanus and Voelklip (Hart & Halkett 2005; Kaplan 2013, 2004, 1993; Rudner 1968). Shelters provided by large Milkwood trees also provided circumstances suitable for the settlement of LSA hunter-foragers. These types of sites are very rare, but campsites with shellfish, stone artefacts and pottery have been recorded at Schulphoek near Sandbaai (Kaplan 2004a), Hermanus (Kaplan 2007) and Hoek van der Berg (Kaplan 2013). Most of the coastal shell middens probably date to the period between 5000 and 3000 years ago, but the presence of pottery on some of the sites indicates that hunter-gathers and possibly even Herders were living in the area within the last 2000 years. A LSA silcrete quarry has also been found on a farm alongside the R43 about 6 kms north of Hawston (Kaplan 2003a).

Isolated ESA and MSA stone tools have been documented on the slopes of the Onrus Mountains east of the R43 near Hawston (Kaplan 2005), as well as in Fisherhaven (Kaplan 2006), while MSA and ESA tools have been recorded in the Fernkloof Nature Reserve and in the Hemel en Aarde valley (Kaplan 2004b, Kaplan 2010a). Large numbers of ESA flakes, handaxes and choppers were documented on a hill site overlooking the Bot River estuary about 3 kilometres northwest of Hawston (Kaplan 2003b), and ESA and MSA tools have been recorded in Botriver and near Kleinmond (Kaplan 2010a, Kaplan 2007b, Kaplan 2006b).

No archaeological remains were found during a survey between the mouth of the Bot River and Hawston, which is a long stretch of sandy beach and back dune area (Kaplan 2005, Kaplan 2010b). A few dispersed fragments of shellfish and a white sand mussel scraper were recorded during monitoring of excavations for a water pipeline in Hawston (Kaplan 2009b).

5. RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY

Very little archaeological heritage was located during the study, although it must be remembered that visibility was extremely poor due to dense vegetation cover.

Two ESA chunks (Sites 183) were found in the main access track alongside the eastern boundary of the property, while an ESA flake (Site 184) was found in a small wood cutters clearing (Figures 15 & 16). The tools are made on yellow, weathered, quartzite.

Several pieces of quartzite including a snapped MSA flake (Site 188) were found alongside a small footpath on gritty sands.

A broken MSA quartzite flake/butt (Site 189) was found in a small sandy track, and a possible broken, milky white quartz flake (Site 191) and a flat worked out silcrete LSA core (Site 190) were found outside the footprint area (Figure 16).

Concrete foundations (Site 186) were found in a sandy track (Figure 17) while the ruins of a modern house/dwelling (Site 192) were found at the foot of the mountains about 250m outside the boundary of the proposed housing site (Figure 18).

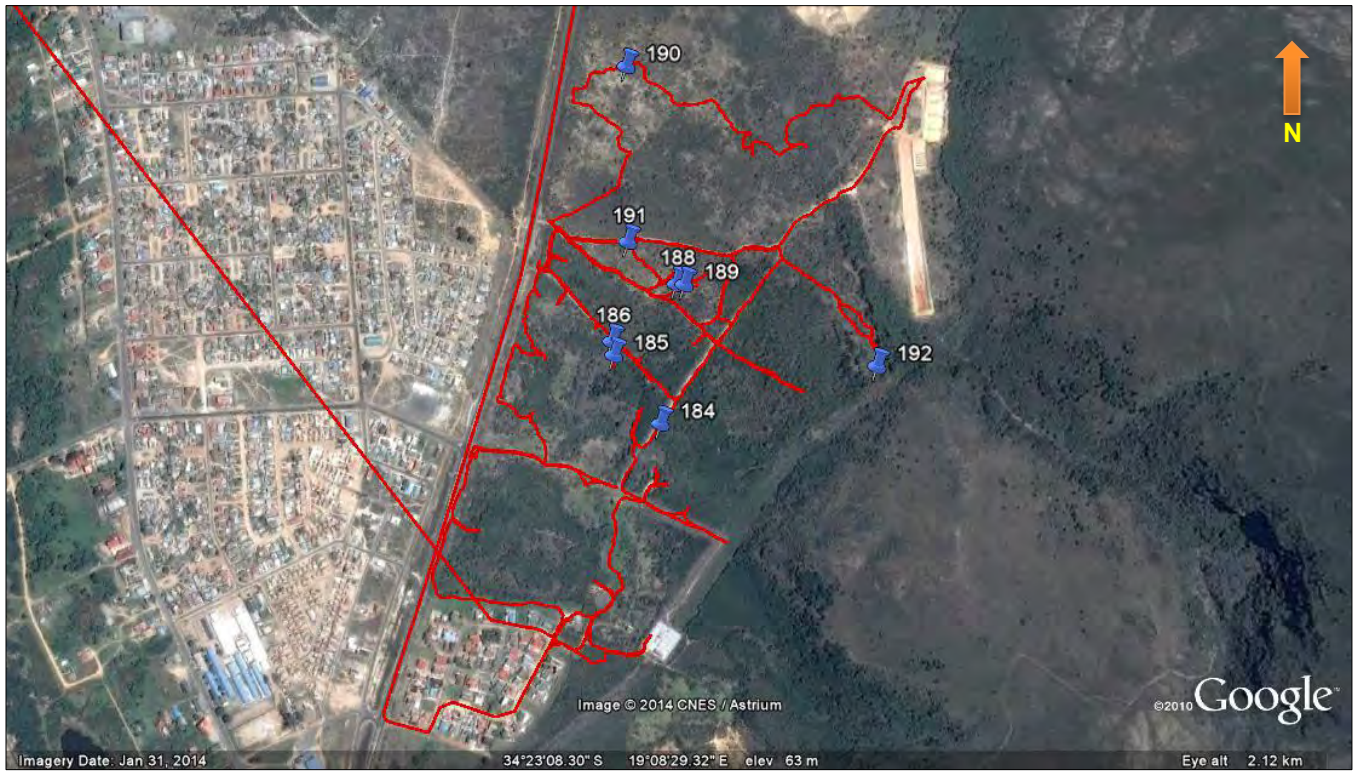


Figure 14. Track path of illustration of waypoints



Figure 15. Site 184. Scale is in cm

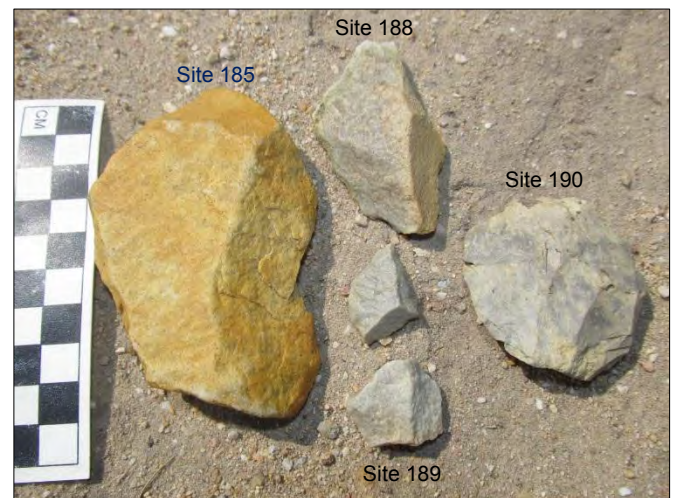


Figure 16. Collection of tools. Scale is in cm



Figure 17. Site 186. Foundation in footpath



Figure 18. Site 192 at the base of the mountain outside the development site

Site	Name of farm	Lat/long	Description	Grading	Suggested mitigation
	Remainder of Erf 1, Hawston				
184		S34 23.171 E19 08.468	Embedded ESA chunk & ? ESA chunk	3C	None required
185		S34 23.106 E19 08.414	? ESA flake in clearing	3C	None required
186		S34 23.093 E19 08.412	Building foundation in footpath	3C	None required
188		S34 23.038 E19 08.486	Broken quartzite MSA flake & 2 small chunks on gritty sands alongside footpath	3C	None required
189		S34 23.039 E19 08.495	Broken MSA flake (butt) & chunk	3C	None required
190		S34 22.830 E19 08.428	Flat, worked out silcrete core outside footprint area	3C	None required
191		S34 22.998 E19 08.430	? broken milky quartz flake	3C	None required
192		S34 23.117 E19 08.714	Ruined building 250m outside footprint area	3C	None required

Table 1. Spreadsheet of waypoints and description of archaeological finds

5.1 Significance of the archaeological remains

As archaeological sites are concerned, the occurrences are all lacking in context. No organic remains such as ostrich eggshell, bone or pottery were found.

The small numbers and isolated context mean that the archaeological remains have been rated as having low (Grade C) local significance.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The local Hermanus Aesthetics and Heritage Conservation Committee and Overstrand Conservation Foundation were informed of the availability of the Draft Basic Assessment Report for comment. To date no comments or objections to the proposed development have been received

7. IMPACT STATEMENT

The results of the study indicate that the proposed Hawston East housing development on Remainder of Erf 1, Hawston, will not have an impact of great significance on the archaeological heritage. Archaeological visibility is very low due to dense vegetation cover, but indications are that the receiving environment is not a sensitive archaeological landscape. No koppies or outcroppings/quarries occur on the proposed development site, although some sandstone outcrops at base of the Onrus Mountains.

8. CONCLUSION

The study has identified no significant impacts to archaeological heritage that will need to be mitigated prior to the proposed development commencing.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed Hawston East housing development on Remainder of Erf 1, Hawston, the following recommendations are made:

1. No archaeological mitigation is required.
2. In the unlikely event of any unmarked human remains being uncovered during earthworks, these must immediately be reported to the archaeologist (J Kaplan 082 321 0172), or Heritage Western Cape (Mr Guy Thomas 021 683 9543).

10. REFERENCES

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