

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
PORTION 7 OF FARM NO. 716
KLAPMUTS
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

Prepared for

WITHERS ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

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Executive summary

Withers Environmental Consultants, on behalf of Livingstone-Louw Farms (Pty) Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed housing development on Portion 7 of Farm 716 Uitkomst, in Klapmuts, in the Western Cape Province.

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological heritage sites/remains that may be negatively impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed project, to assess the significance of the potential impacts and to propose measures to mitigate against the impacts.

The following findings were made:

Early Stone Age and Middle Stone Age tools were documented during the study, but these are spread very thinly and unevenly over the surrounding environment and occur in a severely disturbed and degraded context.

The archaeological remains have been rated as having low local significance.

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed construction activities.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Withers Environmental Consultants, on behalf of Livingstone-Louw Farms (Pty) Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed residential housing development on Portion 7 of Farm 716 Uitkomst, in Klapmuts, in the Western Cape Province.

Portion 7 of the farm is currently zoned Agricultural and will be rezoned to Sub divisional to provide for a mixed residential development comprising approximately 379 single residential and group housing units, open space as well as private roads.

The total area of the property is about 48 ha.

The proposed development falls within the Klapmuts urban edge. The Structure Plan for Klapmuts also suggests that the town can be targeted for rapid, large scale higher density development (Chittenden Nicks & de Villiers 2001).

The extent of the proposed development (about 15 ha) falls within the requirements for an archaeological impact assessment as required by Section 38 of the South African Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological heritage sites/remains that may be negatively impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed project, to assess the significance of the potential impacts and to propose measures to mitigate against the impacts.

A Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist has also been completed by the archaeologist and submitted to Heritage Western Cape (Belcom) for comment.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

- to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance within the proposed site;
- to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed site;
- to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites within the proposed site;
- to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
- to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist within the proposed site

3. THE STUDY SITE

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

An aerial photograph of the farm is illustrated in Figure 2.

A proposed site layout plan is illustrated in Figure 3

The subject property is located between the N1 and Old Paarl Road (R101) on the western side of Main Road 27 (R44). Portion 7 of the farm is currently farmed with guavas, citrus and table grapes and has an existing homestead and outbuilding (packing sheds). The modern farm homestead is located near the entrance to the farm, which is outside of the proposed development footprint. The property has no natural vegetation (Figures 4-11). The property has been divided into various blocks surrounded by Beefwood trees that act as windbreaks. A large in-stream dam exists within the eastern sector of the property, alongside the N1. A cluster of farm labourer's cottages are located near the farm dam (Figure 12). The surrounding land use comprises mainly farmland, with industrial development along the Old Paarl Road. A new residential development is currently being developed directly east of the south eastern edge of the property. The Klappmuts sewage treatment works is located on the land identified for industrial land to the west. There are no significant landscape features occurring on the property, although the Klappmuts River is located to the west of the R44, while the Klappmuts Mountain is located about 2 kilometers to the south.

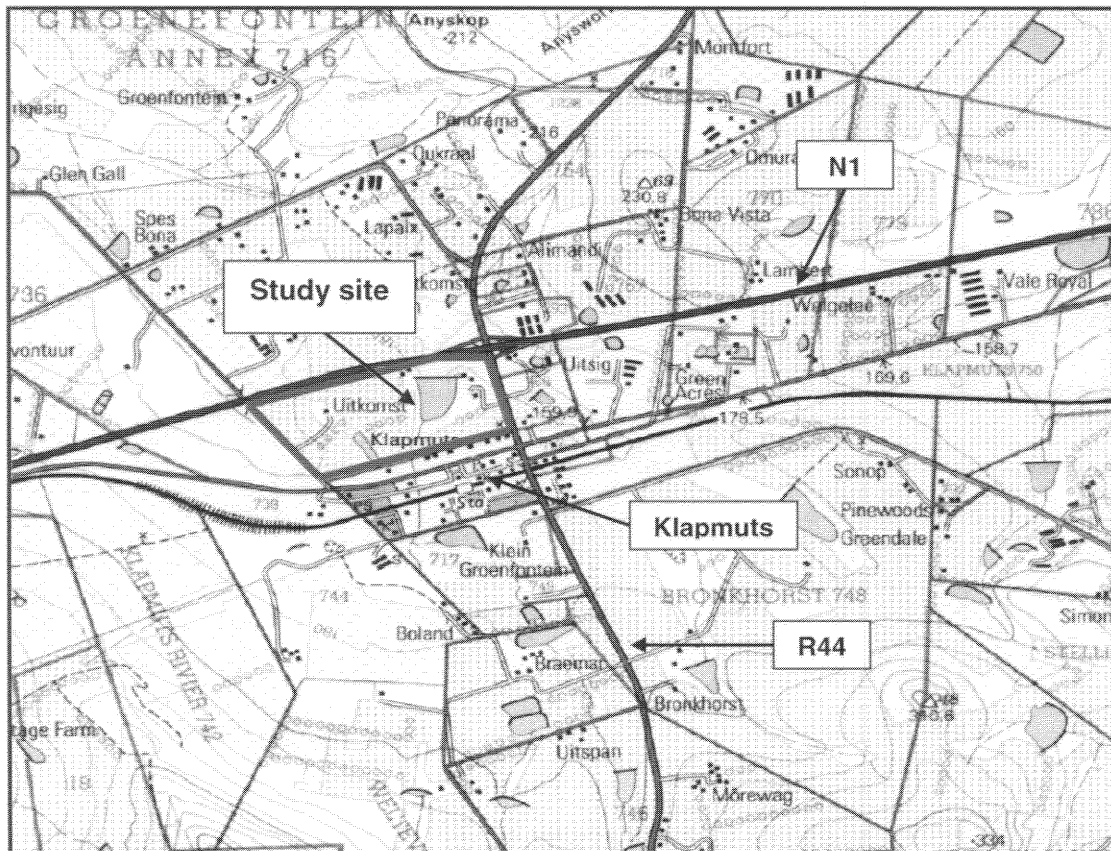


Figure 1: Locality map (3318 DD Stellenbosch)

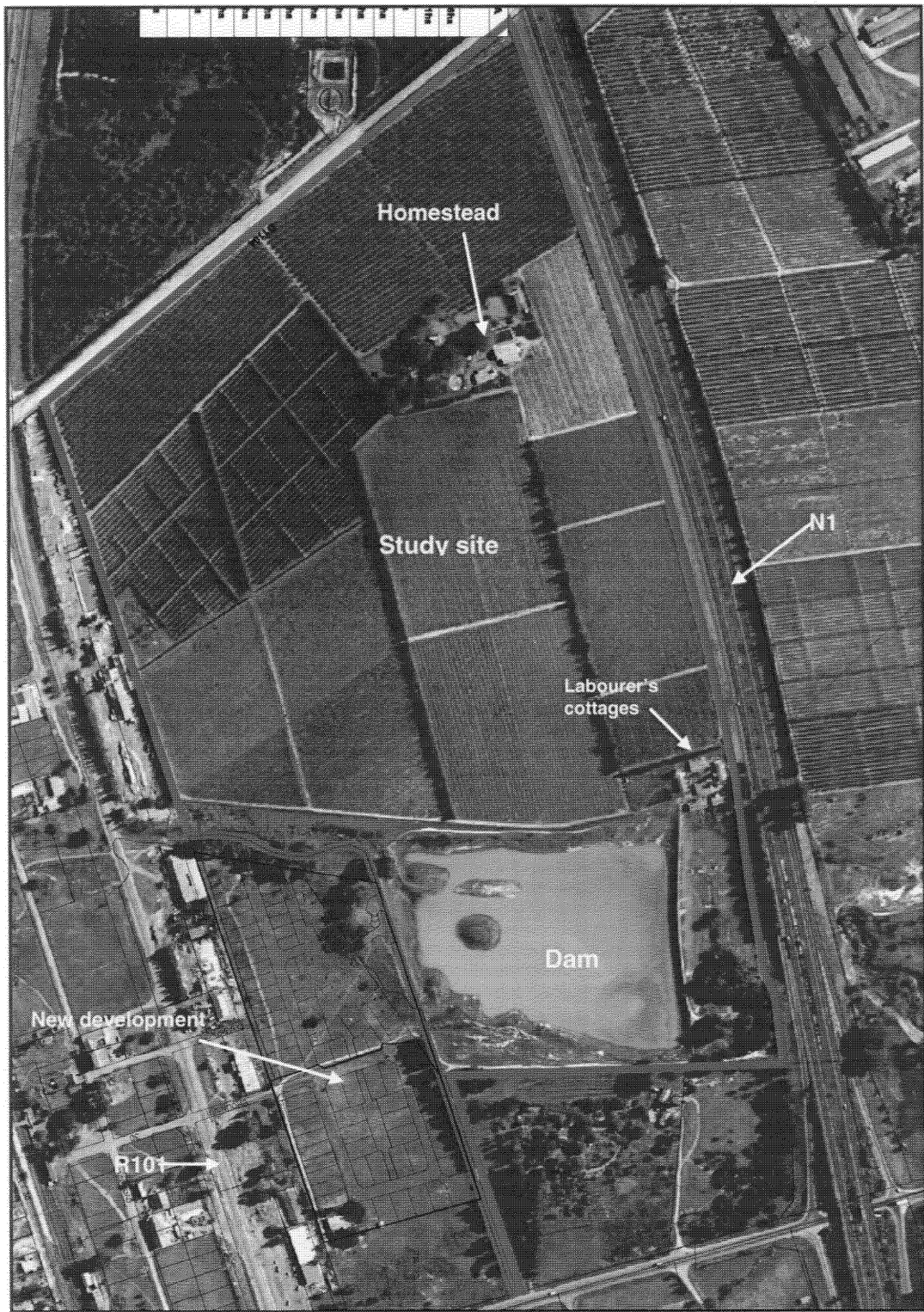


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site

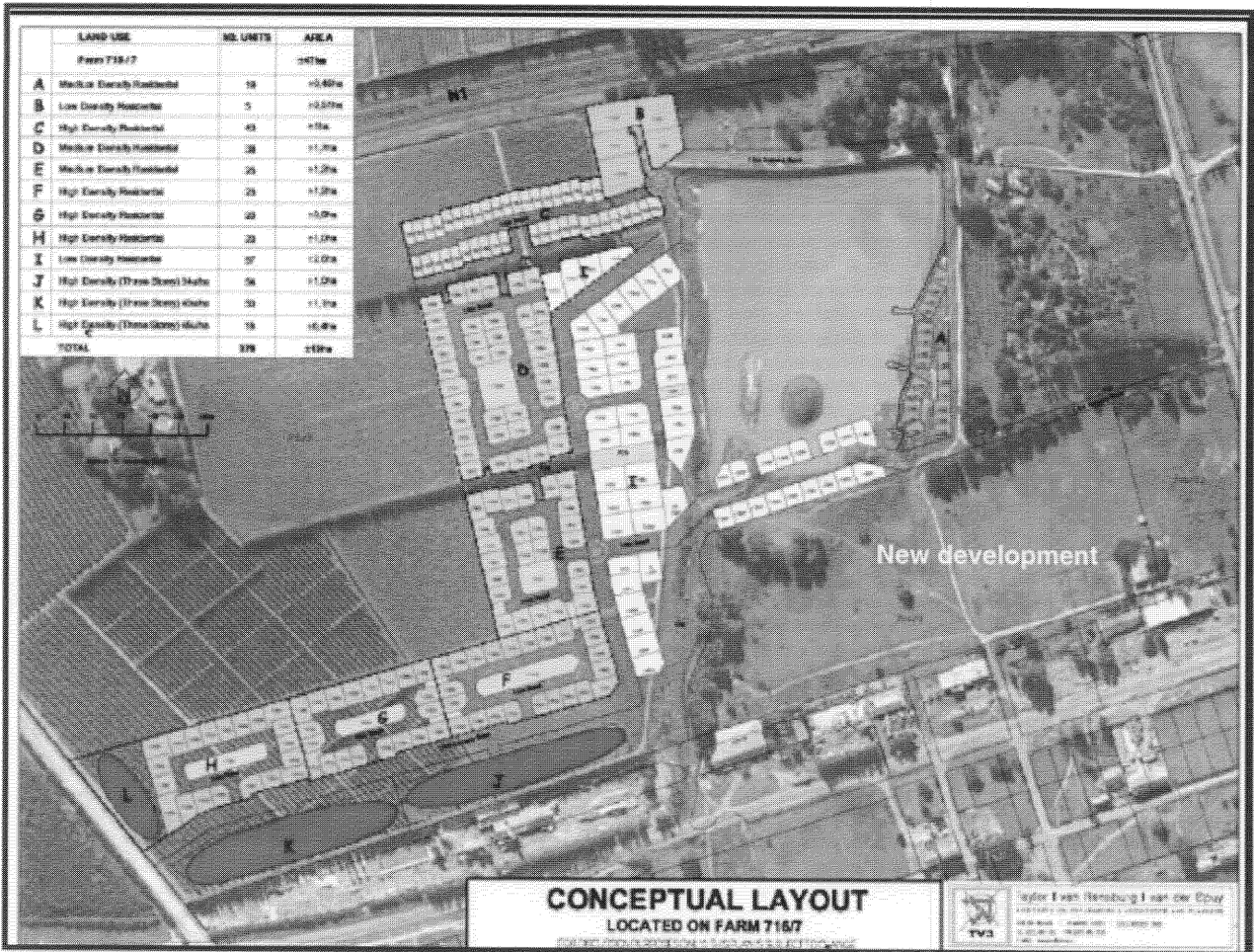


Figure 3. Proposed site layout plan



Figure 4. View of the site facing south



Figure 5. View of the site facing west

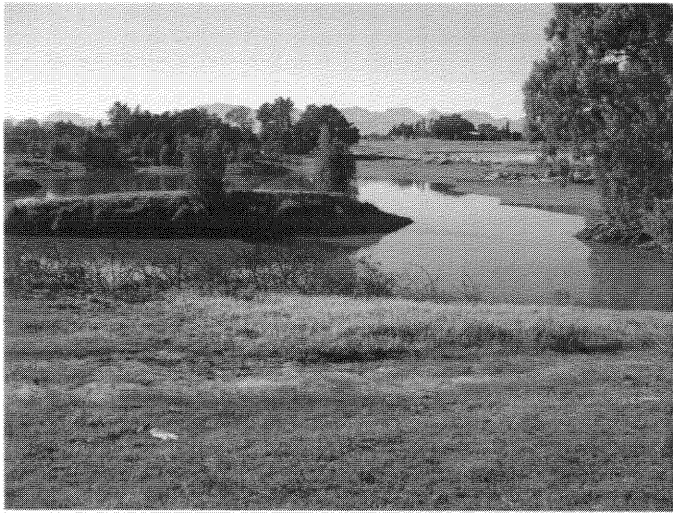


Figure 6. View of the site facing east



Figure 9. View of the site facing west



Figure 7. View of the site facing south



Figure 10. View of the site facing east

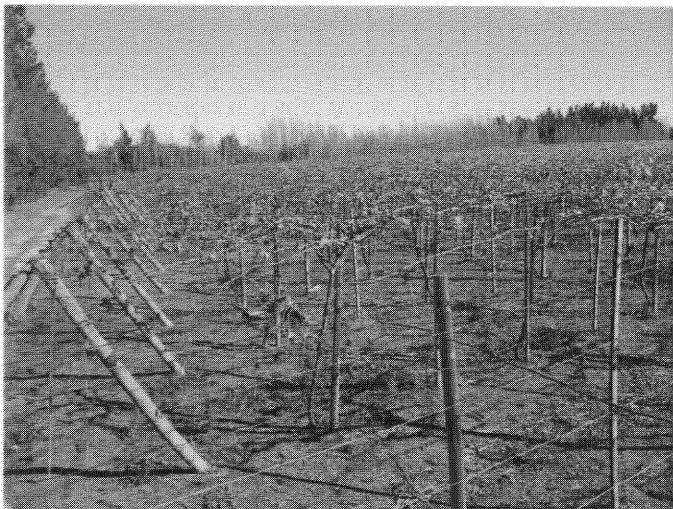


Figure 8. View of the site facing west



Figure 11. Labourer's cottages

4. STUDY APPROACH

4.1 Method

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a foot survey of the proposed development.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 23rd May, 2007.

A desktop study was also undertaken.

4.2 Constraints and limitations

There were no constraints or limitations associated with the proposed project. Almost the entire site has already been transformed as a result of intensive farming practices.

4.3 Identification of potential risks

There are no pre-colonial archaeological risks associated with the project.

From a visual impact, the majority of the proposed development will not be seen from the surrounding area as the row of industrial buildings alongside Old Paarl Road effectively screens the development. In addition, the mature windbreaks on the farm will further screen the development. Glimpses of the development will be seen from the N1 westbound traffic, however.

4.4 Results of the desk-top study

Several archaeological heritage studies have been conducted in the Klapmuts area.

Relatively large numbers of Early Stone Age (ESA) tools, including several Acheulean handaxes and cleavers were documented in grazing lands on the farm Groenfontein, alongside the R44 (Kaplan 2005). A low density scatter of ESA and a few Middle Stone Age (MSA) tools were documented on heavily contoured and terraced lands on the farm Klapmutsrivier, less than 1 kilometer south of the subject property (Kaplan 2006a). A few MSA tools were also documented on Farm 739 alongside Old Paarl Road (Kaplan 2001). ESA and MSA tools were documented in the proposed alignment of the Muldersvlei Safariland 132 Kv Double Circuit Powerline that runs alongside the railway line in Klapmuts (Kaplan 2006b). Finally, ESA tools have also been recorded on the northern slopes of the Klapmutskop (Finnegan and Halkett 2007). All the tools were documented in transformed and modified farmlands.

5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The following section provides a brief overview of the relevant legislation with regard to the archaeology of the farm Uitkomst.

5.1 The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999)

The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) requires that "...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"

The relevant sections of the Act are briefly outlined below.

5.2 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))

Section 35 (4) of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by HWC, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object.

5.3 Burial grounds and graves (Section 36 (3))

Section 36 (3) of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years, which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority.

6. RESULTS

Early Stone Age and Middle Stone Age tools were documented during the study, but these were found in a severely disturbed and degraded context. The tools are spread very thinly and unevenly over the surrounding landscape and there are no coherent patterns in their distribution. Most of the tools were found in the blocks of vineyards where the soils have been heavily worked, while a few tools were also located in several of the gravel farm roads that intersect the property.

The tools comprise mainly large and smaller flakes in quartzite, sandstone and silcrete (Figure 12). One bifacial handaxe was found in a gravel road near the farm labourer's cottage (Figure 13). It is interesting to note that eight handaxes were also located on the Farm Groenfontein (Kaplan 2005), while a single bifacial handaxe was documented on the farm Klapmutsrivier (Kaplan 2006a)

The archaeological remains have been rated as having low local significance

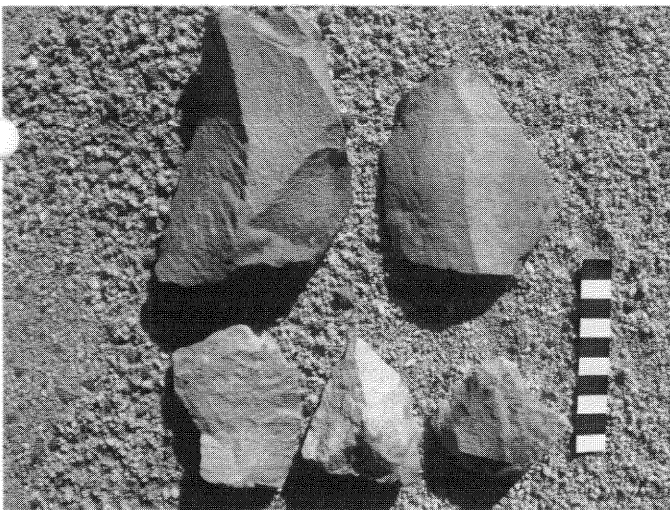


Figure 12. Collection of stone tools. Scale is in cm

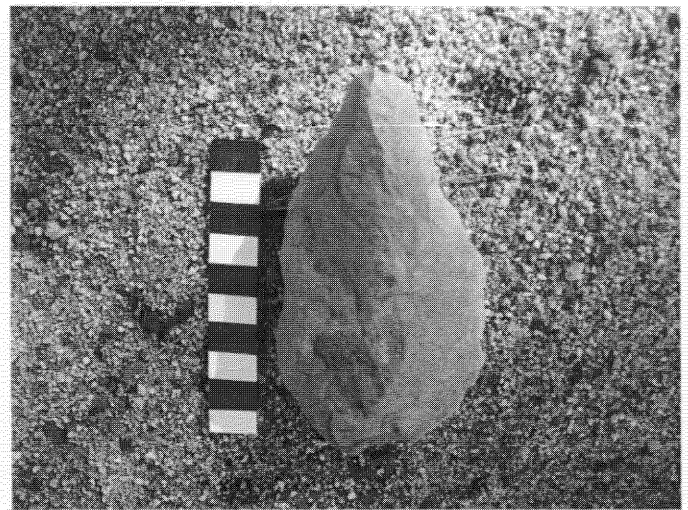


Figure 13. Bifacial handaxe. Scale is in cm

7. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed development on pre-colonial archaeological heritage remains is likely to be **low**.

The probability of locating significant pre-colonial archaeological remains during implementation of the project is likely to be improbable.

It is highly unlikely given the severely transformed nature of the property, but unmarked pre-colonial burials may be uncovered during bulk earthworks and excavations.

8. CONCLUSION

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of Portion 7 of Farm Uitkomst No. 716 in Klappmuts has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed development activities.

Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations and earthworks for the proposed project, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie (021) 462 4502), or Heritage Western Cape (Mr N. Ndlovu (021) 483 9692). Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

9. REFERENCES

Chittenden, Nicks and de Villiers. 2001. Draft Spatial Development Framework (SDF) for Stellenbosch.

Finnegan, E. and Halkett, D. 2007. Heritage Impact Assessment of proposed development of the Stellenbosch Wine and Country Estate, Klapmuts, Stellenbosch. Report prepared for Withers Environmental Consultants. Archaeology Contracts Office, Department of Archaeology, University of Cape Town.

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