

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
PORTION 7 OF THE FARM NORMANDY 1170  
PAARL**

Report prepared for

**URBAN DYNAMICS WESTERN CAPE**

By

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### **Executive summary**

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of a proposed housing and hotel development on Portion 7 of the Farm Normandy 1170 Paarl, near Franschoek, has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological that will need to be mitigated prior to development activities.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background and brief**

Urban Dynamics Western Cape, on behalf of Swish Properties, requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of a proposed housing and hotel development on Portion 7 of the Farm Normandy No. 1170 Paarl, near Franschoek, in the Western Cape Province.

The proposed development provides for the following:

- ± 62 single residential units
- Boutique Hotel
- Fish Hatchery
- Environmental Education Centre
- Conservation Area

The extent of the proposed development (165 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 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.

Heritage consultants Aikman Associates have been appointed to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the proposed project.

The Phase 1 archaeological assessment forms part of the HIA.

## **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The terms of reference for the study were:

1. to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance within the proposed site;
2. to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed site;
3. to indicate the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites potentially affected by the proposed development;
4. to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development; and

5. 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 study site is illustrated in Figure 2.

Portion 7 of the Farm Normandy No 1170, Paarl (at S 33° 53 93.4 E 18° 59 19.7 set on map datum WGS 84) is located off the R45, about 15 kms from the town of Franschoek, in the Drakenstein Valley.

The affected property is currently zoned Agriculture Zone 1.

At present, the property is heavily mined and quarried (for quartzitic alluvial gravels and stone) and consists mostly of un-rehabilitated land (Figures 3-7). Two large dams occupy the central portion of the property. Numerous spoil dumps from mining and processing activities also cover a large portion of the site. A storage facility and buildings, including a water bottling plant, are located near the entrance to the property. A substantial backfilled area occurs across the northern portion of the site. A block of vineyards is located on the south eastern boundary. Some agricultural land is located on the lower slopes of the Klein Drakenstein Mountains.

A 67 ha portion of the property on the lower slopes of the Klein Drakenstein Mountains has been set-aside for a proposed Conservation Area (refer to Mountainous Areas in Figure 2). The south facing slopes are covered with a mix of alien and indigenous vegetation. Several small streams drain off the mountain.

Overall, the receiving environment is severely degraded and modified as a result of mining and associated activities.

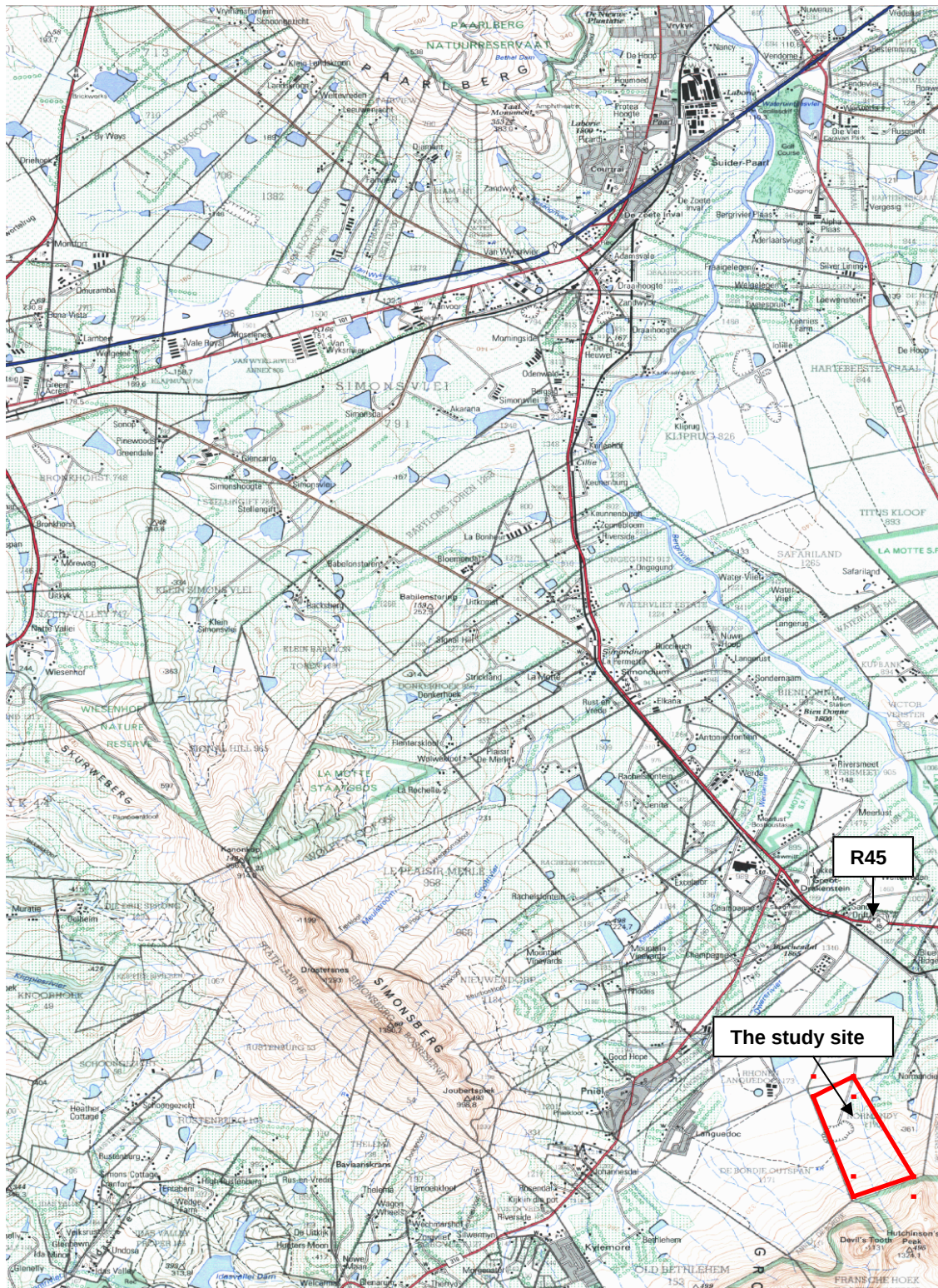




Figure 1. Site locality (150 000 Map Reference No. 3318 DD Stellenbosch)

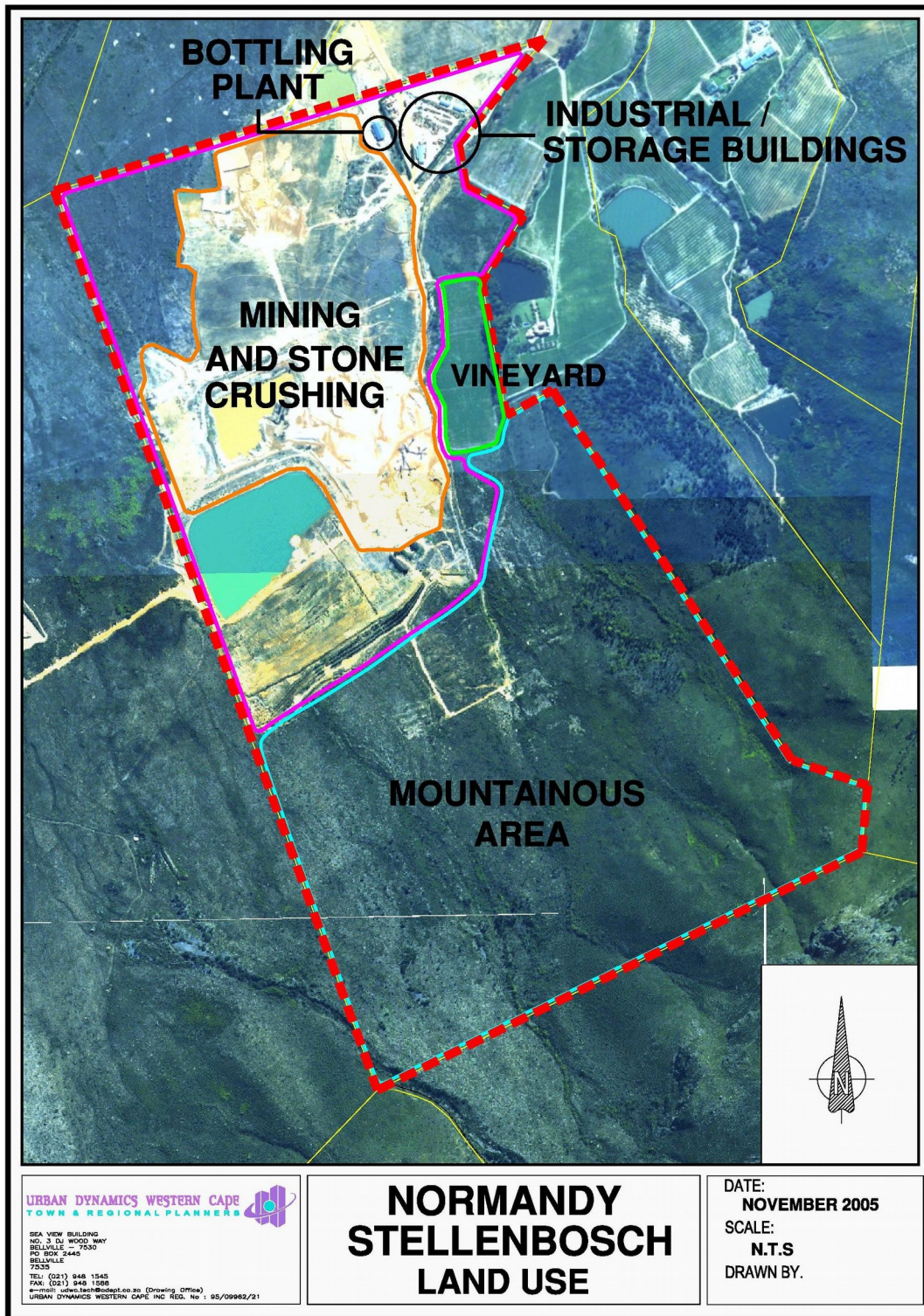


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site.



Figure 3. View of the site facing north west. The Simonsberg Mountains are in the background. Note the large dam in the foreground of the plate.



Figure 4. View of the site facing north-east taken from the dam wall.





Figure 5. View of the site facing north east taken from the top of a spoil dump.



Figure 6. View of the site facing north west. The Simonsberg Mountains are to the left of the plate.



Figure 7. View of the site facing south west. The Klein Drakenstein Mountains are in the background.

#### **4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY**

##### **4.1 Method of survey**

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a foot survey of the affected site.

The site visit and assessment took place on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2005.

A desktop study was also undertaken.

Archaeological work undertaken in the Franschoek/Paarl area has recorded relatively large numbers of Stone Age tools (Kaplan 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002a,b, 2003a,b,c, 2004a,b, 2005a, b).

The most commonly-occurring tools in the area are assigned to a period known as the Early Stone Age<sup>1</sup> (ESA). ESA tools were first discovered on terraces above the Eerste River in Stellenbosch (Peringuey 1902, 1911). Among these was an artefact type of great antiquity recognised as an early handaxe. For many years after this, the ESA of South Africa was referred to as the 'Stellenbosch Culture' until the term was re-defined in the 1960s (Goodwin & Van Riet Lowe 1929).

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<sup>1</sup> A term referring to the period between 2 million and 200 000 years ago.

Today the ESA is divided into the 'Olduvian' period, which is up to 1.7 million years old. This industry is associated with the oldest and most simple human-made artefacts. This was followed by the 'Acheulean' Tradition, a more developed stone artefact industry, characterised by the presence of specific types of stone tools such as handaxes, choppers and cleavers.

Acheulean sites have been recorded throughout South Africa and are especially associated with pans, river terraces, streams, and certain types of rock outcrops. Acheulean tools are also commonly found on mountain slopes, in degraded areas such as slope washes, road and bridge cuttings, excavations, in gravels deposits, vineyards, and in ploughed fields.

Younger Middle Stone Age<sup>2</sup> (MSA) and Later Stone Age<sup>3</sup> (LSA) remains appear to be less common in the Franschoek area, but such sites are known to occur. LSA rock paintings occur in the Wemmershoek area and on the farm Môrelië (Kaplan 2003).

## **5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

### **5.1 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 000m<sup>2</sup>, or the rezoning or change of land use of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup>, requires an archaeological impact assessment in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

#### **5.1.1 Structures (Section 34 (1))**

No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), or Heritage Western Cape.

#### **5.1.2 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.

#### **5.1.3 Burial grounds and graves (Section 36 (3))**

No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or Heritage Western Cape, 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.

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<sup>2</sup> A term referring to the period between 200 000 and 20 000 years ago.

<sup>3</sup> A term referring to the last 20 000 years of precolonial history in southern Africa.

## 6. IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL RISKS

There are no potential precolonial archaeological risks associated with the proposed project.

The proposed development footprint has been totally transformed as a result of mining and quarrying activities.

## 7. CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS

There were no constraints or limitations associated with the proposed study.

## 8. FINDINGS

A few ESA tools, all in locally available quartzites, were located during the study, but these were spread very thinly over the surrounding landscape and occur in a severely disturbed and degraded context.

Several large flakes were located in the backfilled area in the northern portion of the property, while two flakes and several flaked/split cobbles were found in the block of vineyards on the south eastern boundary of the site.

No formal tools were located during the study.

**The archaeological remains have been graded low local significance.**

No archaeological remains were located in the proposed Conservation Area.

## 9. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed development on precolonial archaeological heritage remains is likely to be very low.

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

## 10. CONCLUSION

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of Portion 7 of the Farm Normandy 1170 Paarl, has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed development activities.

The affected environment has been totally transformed as a result of mining and quarrying activities, and is not considered to be archaeologically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.



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