

INITIAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF SMALL AREAS AT LAKE MICHELLE, NOORDHOEK

Prepared for

**Andre van der Spuy
Environmental Consultants cc**

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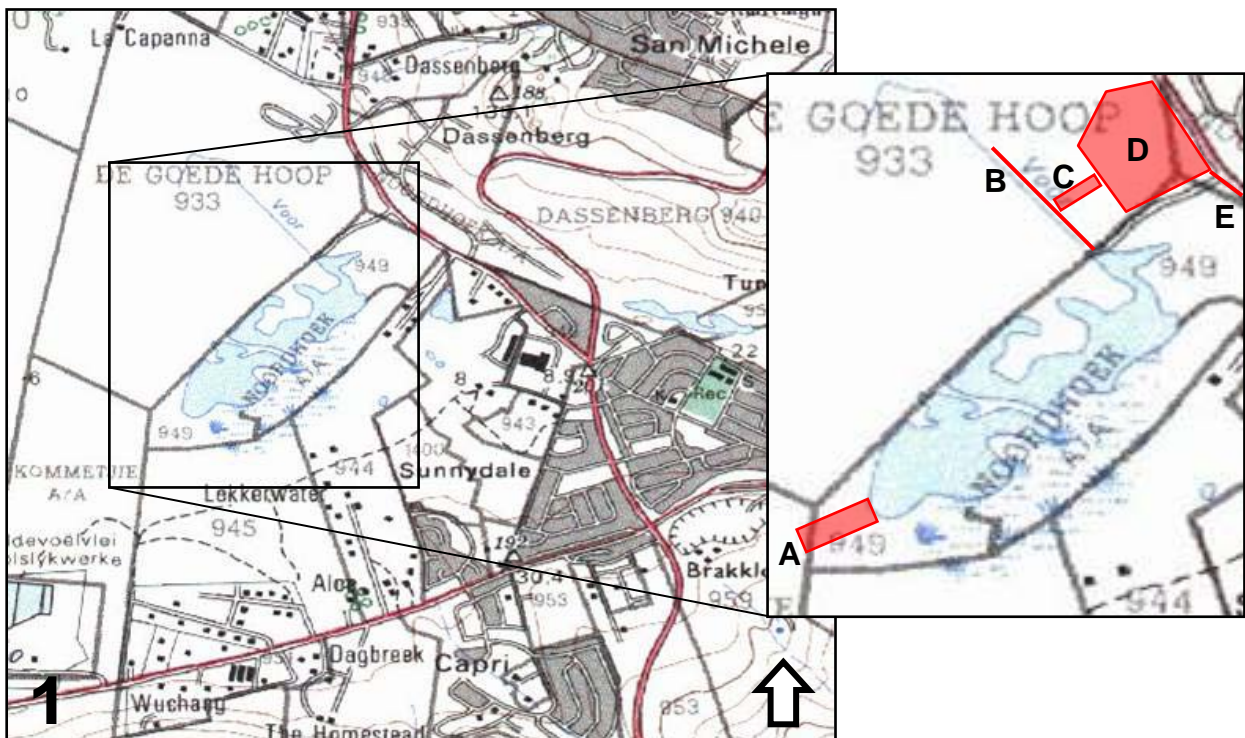
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1. INTRODUCTION

The Archaeology Contracts Office was appointed by Andre van der Spuy Environmental Consultants cc. to conduct an Initial Heritage Impact Assessment for a few areas related to the Lake Michelle development in Noordhoek (Figure 1). The areas assessed are coloured in red and labelled as follows:

- A – southern outfall
- B – northern outfall
- C – causeway
- D – tip
- E – fence line.

The lake used to be a salt pan, but was dredged in the 1970's to form the lake as it stands today. This turned up abundant Middle Stone Age (MSA) artefacts, but no precise origin was ever determined for these finds. Ground visibility in the areas under consideration is poor, but due to the disturbed nature of the area this is not thought to have impaired the ability to assess the site for archaeological material.



3418AB&AD Cape Peninsula (Mapping information supplied by - Chief Directorate: Surveys and Mapping. Website: w3sli.wcape.gov.za)

1.1 Southern Outfall

The first area under consideration is a dense marshland through which it is proposed that water from the lake be channelled so as to improve circulation within the lake (Plate 1). Due to the nature of the environment under consideration, little or no *in situ* archaeological or heritage material can be expected, although random sub-surface artefacts may be present.



Plate 1: The marshland at the southern outfall area.

1.2 Northern Outfall

In this area it is proposed that a new outfall furrow or settlement pond be excavated immediately north-east of the existing furrow. The area is very disturbed with the excavated material from the existing furrow having been dumped along its north-eastern bank to create a large berm. The surrounding areas are very marshy and little or no *in situ* archaeological material is expected. However, there is small chance that some material may be preserved beneath the berm.

1.3 Causeway

This area is also marshland (Plate 2) and it is proposed that a causeway be constructed across it to provide an access route to the development site. The north-eastern end of the causeway is on a recent rubble tip. As with the outfall area, no *in situ* archaeological material can be expected within the footprint of the causeway.

1.4 Tip and fence line

The old rubble tip, which was closed in the 1980's, was used primarily for rubble and garden refuse, and as such, its entire area has no heritage value at all. The proposed fence line runs along the edge of the Noordhoek Main Road (M6). The verge of this road is artificially raised and runs down into the edge of the marshlands. No heritage or archaeological material can be expected along this verge.

2. METHOD

The areas under consideration were examined visually for any heritage or archaeological material that may have been present on the site.



Plate 2: The marshland at the causeway area. The grassed area with the yellow flowers and site offices between the marsh and the line of gum trees is the rubble tip.

3. FINDINGS

3.1 Southern outfall

A few scattered shell fragments and stone artefacts near the outfall area testify to the earlier existence of Later Stone Age archaeological sites nearby (Figure 2). These would have been present around the pan prior to its dredging which occurred in the 1970's. Material from the pan was spread around on the north-western side of the pan and this is likely to have obliterated most archaeology in the area. Since the pan is known to have produced MSA artefacts, there is a chance that such artefacts could be encountered in the course of sub-surface excavations in the outfall area. Should this occur, the impact would be low and localised.

3.2 Northern outfall

In this area some small shell fragments and stone artefacts were seen. These are clearly in a heavily disturbed environment and again only indicate the earlier presence of LSA archaeological sites in the area. There is a chance that buried MSA or LSA material might be encountered during subsurface excavations in this area. Should this be the case, the impact would be low and localised.



3418 AB 13 Noordhoek (Mapping information supplied by - Chief Directorate: Surveys and Mapping. Website: w3sli.wcape.gov.za). Blue circles indicate areas where scattered archaeological material was observed.

3.3 Causeway

No archaeological material was observed in this area. Again, with MSA artefacts known to occur here, there is the chance that such artefacts could be encountered during construction of the causeway. Should this occur, the impact would be low and localised.

3.4 Tip and fence line

No archaeological material is present in these areas and due to the modified nature of the landscape, no impacts can occur.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Since no direct impacts will occur, it is recommended that, subject to the approval of the authorities, work be allowed to proceed in all areas assessed. However, since MSA artefacts are known to occur in the area and evidence of LSA material was noted on site, it is recommended that some monitoring of any excavations be carried out by an archaeologist. Since no monitoring occurred during the dredging of the pan, it would be useful to try to ascertain the context of any archaeological material encountered.