

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF MULTIPLE ERVEN IN NORTHERN PAARL, PAARL MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, WESTERN CAPE

(Assessment conducted under Section 38 (8) of the
National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999) as part of an HIA)

Prepared for

Guillaume Nel Environmental Consultants

P.O. Box 2632
Paarl
7620

24 May 2013



Prepared by

Jayson Orton

ACO Associates cc
8 Jacob's Ladder
St James
7945

Phone (021) 706 4104

Fax (086) 603 7195

Email: Jayson.Orton@aco-associates.com

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACO Associates cc was requested by Guillaume Nel Environmental Consultants (GNEC) to assess the potential impacts to archaeology that might arise through development of a number of erven in the northern part of Paarl, immediately east of Mbekweni. The site includes the following properties: erf 8359, erf 8370, erf 8378, erf 8399, erf 8400, erf 12 628, erf 12 633 and erf 33 027. It is intended that housing, commercial and education facilities be constructed on the site.

The site is an old agricultural landscape and is covered by grass, scattered trees and an informal farming enterprise.

No Stone Age material was noted on the site and all rubble and historical material was clearly 20th century. An examination of the 1938 aerial photograph of the area confirmed that no old structures were present on the site and that the large quantities of rubble seen must therefore have been brought in from elsewhere. No graves were seen.

This archaeological study has found no evidence that archaeological heritage resources will be impacted by the proposed development. No mitigation or monitoring are required.

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	4
1.1. Terms of reference	4
2. HERITAGE LEGISLATION	5
3. METHODS.....	5
3.1. Literature survey.....	5
3.2. Field survey	5
3.3. Limitations	5
4. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT	5
5. HERITAGE CONTEXT	7
6. FINDINGS.....	8
6.1. Stone Age archaeology	8
6.2. Historical archaeology	8
6.3. Graves.....	9
6.4. The landscape.....	9
7. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS	9
8. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION	9
9. REFERENCES	9

1. INTRODUCTION

ACO Associates cc was requested by Guillaume Nel Environmental Consultants (GNEC) to assess the potential impacts to archaeology that might arise through development of a number of erven in the northern part of Paarl, immediately east of Mbekweni (Figure 1). The site includes the following properties: erf 8359, erf 8370, erf 8378, erf 8399, erf 8400, erf 12 628, erf 12 633 and erf 33 027. It is intended that housing, commercial and education facilities be constructed on the site.

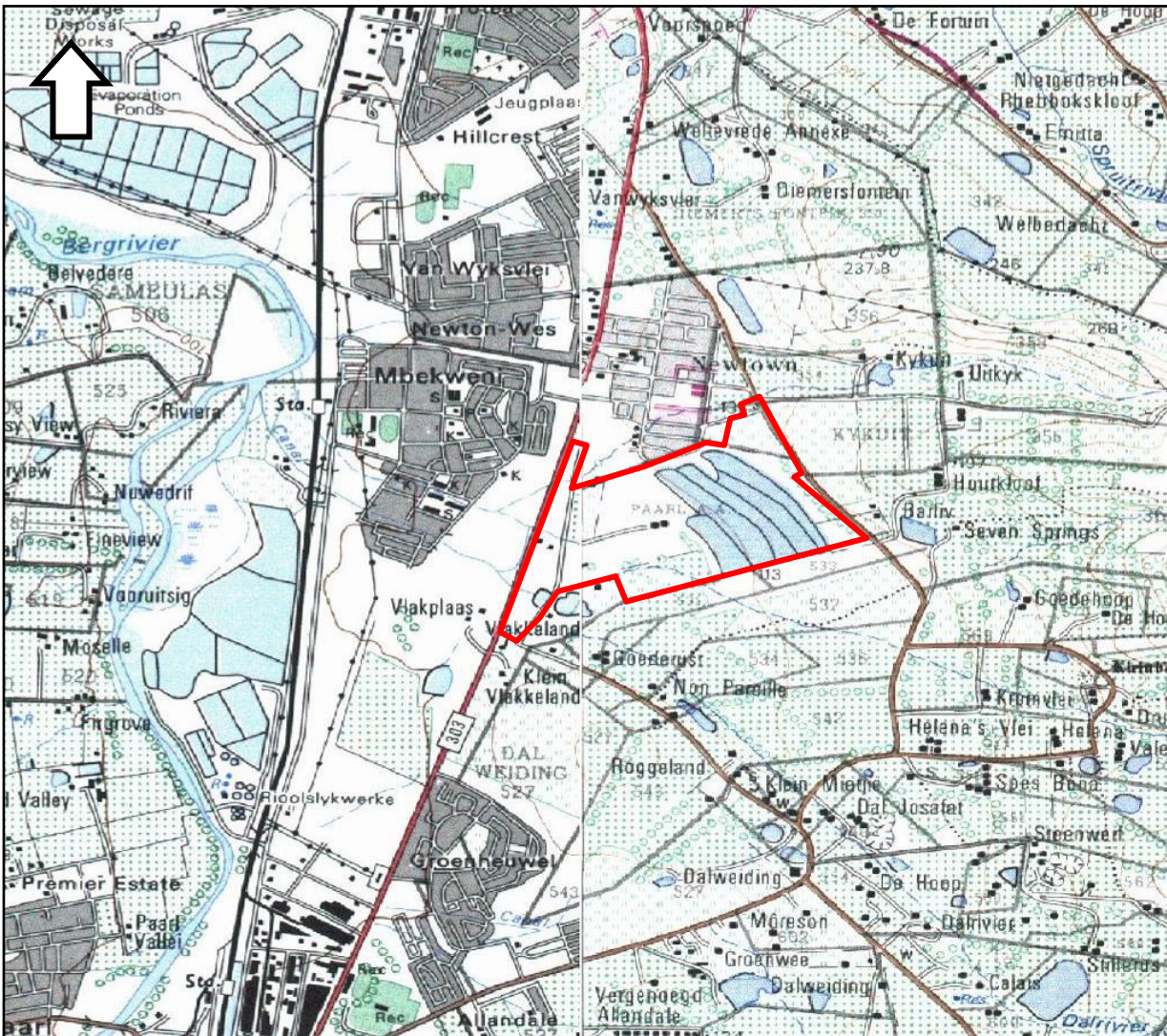


Figure 1: Map showing the location of the study area (3218DB&3319CA - Mapping information supplied by - Chief Directorate: Surveys and Mapping. Website: w3sli.wcape.gov.za).

1.1. Terms of reference

A NID was submitted to Heritage Western Cape by GNEC. The response did not indicate the need for a specialist archaeological study but, given that archaeological material is well known to occur in the vicinity and that large quantities of rubble were present, it was decided by GNEC to conduct a survey in any case. ACO was asked to examine the site for archaeological traces and document any that were located.

2. HERITAGE LEGISLATION

The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) No. 25 of 1999 protects a variety of heritage resources including palaeontological, prehistoric and historical material (including ruins) more than 100 years old (Section 35), human remains older than 60 years and located outside of a formal cemetery administered by a local authority (Section 36) and non-ruined structures older than 60 years (Section 34). Landscapes with cultural significance are also protected under the definition of the National Estate (Section 3 (3.2d)). Section 38 (2a) states that if there is reason to believe that heritage resources will be affected then an impact assessment report must be submitted. This report makes a contribution to the heritage impact assessment report.

3. METHODS

3.1. Literature survey

A survey of available literature was carried out to assess the general archaeological context into which the development is to be set.

3.2. Field survey

The site was examined through a combination of driving around it and walking across it in places on 24th May 2013. During the surveys tracks were recorded on a hand-held GPS receiver set to the WGS84 datum. Photographs were taken at times in order to capture representative samples of both the affected heritage and the landscape setting of the proposed development.

3.3. Limitations

Unfortunately the day chosen for the study was very misty which meant that long views were not possible. While this is a disadvantage for illustrating the report, it had no material effect on the study.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The site is a large, open, remnant agricultural landscape with several long, parallel dams and evidence of much human activity in the past. Tracks and stream beds cross the site, several isolated trees or clusters of trees occur and an informal farming enterprise is on-going. Aside from the few large trees, the vegetation is generally very short grass. Figures 2 to 4 show aspects of the landscape, while Figure 5 shows an aerial view.



Figure 2: View of ground cover on the site.



Figure 3: View of isolated gum trees on the site.



Figure 4: View of grass and trees on the site.



Figure 5: Aerial view of the study area (red polygon) with tracks indicated (blue lines).

5. HERITAGE CONTEXT

Other surveys in the region have generally shown the most frequent archaeological heritage resources to be Early Stone Age (ESA) artefacts. Such artefacts (flakes, cores and occasional hand-axes) are routinely exposed through ploughing of the agricultural lands and are widely dispersed along the western edge of the Cape Folded Belt mountains from

Somerset West in the south (Orton 2004), through Stellenbosch, Paarl and Wellington (Goodwin & Van Riet Lowe 1929; Orton & Webley 2013) to the Gouda and Porterville area in the north (Hart 1984; Orton 2008, 2010a). Recent surveys have revealed many ESA artefacts in and around Paarl (Orton 2006, 2010c, 2010d; Orton & Hart 2008; Orton & Webley 2013). While Later Stone Age (LSA) material seems to be rare, when such sites are found they could have research value (e.g. Orton 2012).

6. FINDINGS

6.1. Stone Age archaeology

The substrate was found to be granitic soil throughout and Stone Age artefacts are seldom associated with such soils. No Stone Age material was seen during the survey.

6.2. Historical archaeology

The site is densely littered with the remains of many structures in the form of piles of rubble scattered over the landscape. While a set of cement floors were noted near the south-western corner of the site (Figure 6), the majority of the rubble may well have come from other areas and been dumped here (Figure 7-9). The rubble all appears to be 20th century, a fact that is confirmed by an examination of the 1938 aerial photograph of the area (Figure 6). No structures at all are evident on the site at that time, despite the many far older structures in the surrounding landscape.



Figure 6: Cement floors.



Figure 7: Dumped rubble.



Figure 8: Dumped rubble.



Figure 9: Dumped rubble.

6.3. Graves

No graves or evidence of burials was seen on the site. An elderly local inhabitant of a house at the southern end of the site confirmed that people were buried elsewhere (he pointed to the south – a large graveyard with many informal graves exists in town in that direction; Orton 2010b). Although no graves are known, the chance of intersecting graves should always be borne in mind.

6.4. The landscape

The entire site is a remnant agricultural landscape with dams, tracks, furrows and trees all contributing. However, as shown by the 1938 aerial photograph, none of these features appears to be old. In any event, they have lost context and have no heritage value.

7. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

This archaeological study has found no evidence that archaeological heritage resources will be impacted by the proposed development. No mitigation or monitoring are required.

8. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION

No archaeological impacts will be experienced. From the perspective of archaeology, the proposed development may proceed with no further archaeological work required.

9. REFERENCES

Goodwin, A. J. H. & Van Riet Lowe, C. 1929. The Stone Age cultures of. South Africa. *Annals of the South African Museum*, 27, 1-289.

Hart, T.J.G. 1984. An archaeological survey of the Berg River-Porterville area. Unpublished Honours Project, University of Cape Town.

- Orton, J. 2004. Heritage scoping study for the proposed rezoning and subdivision of erven 5100 & 5101, Somerset West. Unpublished report prepared for CCA Environmental (Pty) Ltd. Archaeology Contracts Office, University of Cape Town.
- Orton, J. 2006. Phase 1 archaeological impact assessment of rem. Farm, 1675 (Palmiet Valley), Paarl, Paarl Magisterial District. Unpublished report prepared for Palmiet Valley Development Trust. Archaeology Contracts Office, University of Cape Town.
- Orton, J. 2008. Heritage statement for the proposed construction of a farm dam at Dasbosch, Portion 2 of farm 16, Piketberg Magisterial District, Western Cape. Unpublished report prepared for Ninham Shand (Pty) Ltd. Archaeology Contracts Office, University of Cape Town.
- Orton, J. 2010a. Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Gouda Wind Energy Facility, Tulbagh Magisterial District, Western Cape. Unpublished report prepared for Savannah Environmental. St James: ACO Associates.
- Orton, J. 2010b. Heritage statement for the proposed expansion of the Parys Cemetery in Paarl, Paarl Magisterial District, Western Cape. Unpublished report prepared for Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd. Archaeology Contracts Office, University of Cape Town.
- Orton, J. 2010c. Heritage statement for the proposed Mbekweni Ring Road in Paarl, Paarl Magisterial District, Western Cape. Unpublished report prepared for Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd. Archaeology Contracts Office, University of Cape Town.
- Orton, J. 2010d. Heritage statement for the proposed Van Der Stel Road in Paarl, Paarl Magisterial District, Western Cape. Unpublished report prepared for Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd. Archaeology Contracts Office, University of Cape Town.
- Orton, J. 2012. Final heritage survey for the Gouda Wind Energy Facility, Western Cape. Unpublished report prepared for Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd. Diep River: ACO Associates cc.
- Orton, J. & Hart, T. 2008. Heritage statement for the proposed rezoning and subdivision of Erf 1306, Wellington, Wellington Magisterial District, Western Cape. Unpublished report prepared for Guillaume Nel Environmental Consultants. Archaeology Contracts Office, University of Cape Town.
- Orton, J. & Webley, L. 2013. Heritage walk down for the proposed power line for the Gouda Wind Energy Facility, Tulbagh Magisterial District, Western Cape. Unpublished report prepared for Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd. Diep River: ACO Associates cc.