

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

PROPOSED SAND MINE ON THE FARM BRAKKE KUYL NO. 38 AND NO. 39 BLOUBERG WESTERN CAPE

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

Prepared for

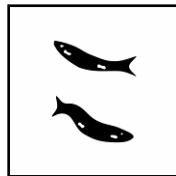
Leap Sustainable Development

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On behalf of:

JLJ Logistics (Pty) Ltd

By



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**OCTOBER
2016**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

ACRM was instructed by Leap Sustainable Development to conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for a proposed sand mine on the Farm Brakke Kuyl No. 38 and No. 39 near Atlantis in the Western Cape.

JLJ Logistice (Pty) Ltd proposes to establish an open cast sand mine on Brakke Kuyl Farm. The deposit consists mostly of unconsolidated sand and will be used in the building and construction industry. Mining will be undertaken in 1.0 ha mining blocks; with continuous rehabilitation taking place once each block is mined. Existing access roads will be used and no new infrastructure is envisaged. The extent of the proposed mine is 27.5ha.

The AIA forms part of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) that is being done by Cedar Tower Services. An HIA was requested by Heritage Western Cape.

Aim of the AIA

The overall purpose of the AIA is to assess the sensitivity of archaeological resources in the proposed development site, to determine the potential impacts on such resources, and to avoid and/or minimise such impacts by means of management and/or mitigation measures.

The significance of archaeological resources was assessed in terms of their content and context. Attributes considered in determining significance include artefact and/or ecofact types, rarity of finds, exceptional items, organic preservation, potential for future research, density of finds and the context in which archaeological traces occur.

Results of the study

A site assessment of the proposed activity was undertaken in October 2016, in which the following observations were made:

- The proposed development site has been heavily transformed by agriculture
- Large numbers of Later Stone (LSA) tools were recorded on the edge of the existing agricultural land south of the Sout River (Site 732)
- Many thousands of LSA artefactual remains, including modified and unmodified flakes, chunks, bladelets, scrapers, retouched and backed tools, cores, hammerstones, anvils, grindstone fragments, large nodules of raw silcrete, ochre, ostrich eggshell and pottery were recorded in a sand blowout on the edge of the ploughed fields south of the Sout River (Site 733)
- Large numbers of LSA tools, including anvils, cores, grindstone fragments, hammerstones, flakes, chunks, manuports, ochre, raw silcrete and ostrich eggshell were recorded in a dune blowout in the south western portion of the farm, east of the Sout River (Site 740)

Anticipated impacts

Proposed sand mining on the Farm Brakke Kuyl near Atlantis will have a direct impact on archaeological resources (Site 732), but these remains have been severely displaced by agricultural activities. Site 732 is rated as having *low* (Grade 3C) local significance.

Site 733 and Site 740 may be indirectly impacted by proposed sand mining operations. Measures must therefore be put in place to safeguard and protect these important sites from all activities associated with the proposed development. The very high density, rarity, range of finds and the relatively undisturbed context in which they occur, means that Site 733 has been rated as having *moderate to high* (Grade 3B/A) local significance.

Site 740 is rated as having *moderate* (Grade 3B) local significance.

It is noted in the Draft Scoping Report for mining, that a 100m riparian zone along the Sout River is excluded from mining activities. Site 733 and Site 740 fall inside this mining exclusion zone.

It is considered unlikely but unmarked Khoisan burials may be uncovered or exposed during mining operations.

Recommendations

1. Mitigation (i. e. rescue of archaeological resources) should be seen as a last resort as it is better to try and save and protect sites in their original context. It is therefore recommended that a 50m buffer be established around Site 733. No trucks, plant equipment, stock pile areas, site office, or any other activity associated with the proposed mine must be permitted in this area. A sign must be constructed highlighting the presence of an important and fragile archaeological resource, indicating that it is illegal and an offence, to remove any archaeological remains without a permit from Heritage Western Cape.

2. Alternatively, Site 733 must be fenced off and declared a 'No-Go' area. Any fencing or physical demarcation of the site must be done in consultation with Heritage Western Cape.

3. A Conservation Management Plan (CMP) must be written up to protect threatened archaeological sites (Site 733 & Site 740). The CMP must include an annual audit of the archaeological resources throughout the life cycle of the proposed mine.

4. If any unmarked human remains, or ostrich eggshell caches, for example, are exposed or uncovered during excavations and earthworks, these must immediately be reported to Heritage Western Cape (Att: Mr Andrew September 021 483 9543), or the archaeologist (Jonathan Kaplan 082 321 0172).

5. The above recommendations must be incorporated into the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed development.

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Declaration of independence

I, **Jonathan Kaplan** (MA in archaeology, University of Cape Town, 1989), hereby confirm that I am a professional member, in good standing, of the Association of South African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA membership # 253).

I am an accredited Principal Investigator for coastal shell middens and Stone Age archaeology, and Field Director for Rock Art.

As the appointed independent specialist archaeologist for this project, I hereby declare that I:

- Act as an independent specialist in this application;
- Regard the information contained in this report as it relates to my specialist input to be true and correct;
- Do not have any financial interest in the undertaking of the activity, other than remuneration for work performed.



Signature of the specialist:

Name of company: Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Date: 15 August, 2016

1. INTRODUCTION

ACRM was instructed by Leap Sustainable Development to conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for a proposed sand mine on Farm No. 38 and No. 39 Brakke Kuyl, near Atlantis in the Western Cape (Figures 1 & 2).

The AIA forms part of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) that is been done by Cedar Tower Services. A HIA was requested by Heritage Western Cape following the submission of a Notice of Intent (NID) to develop¹.

JLJ Logistice (Pty) Ltd proposes to establish an open cast sand mine on Brakke Kuyl Farm. The deposit. consists mostly of unconsolidated sand and will be used in the building and construction industry. Mining will be undertaken in 1.0 ha mining blocks; with continuous rehabilitation taking place once each block is mined. Mining will require the removal of top soil which will be set aside for rehabilitation. Existing access roads will be used and no new infrastructure is envisaged (Pro-Earth Consulting 2015).

The total area that will be mined is 27.5ha, although it is not known what the life span of the mine is.

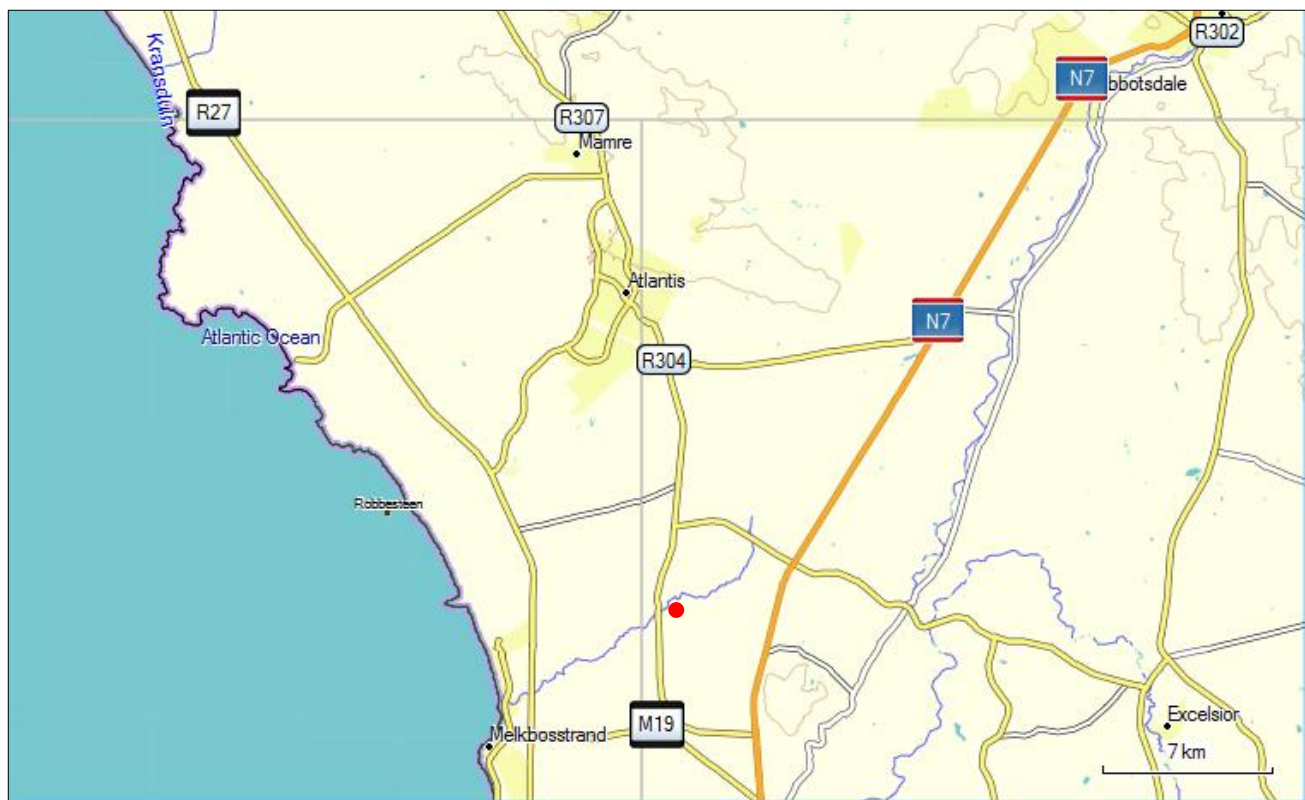


Figure 1. Figure 1. Locality map indicating the location of Brakkuil Farm near Atlantis (red polygon)

¹ HWC Case No.16051905

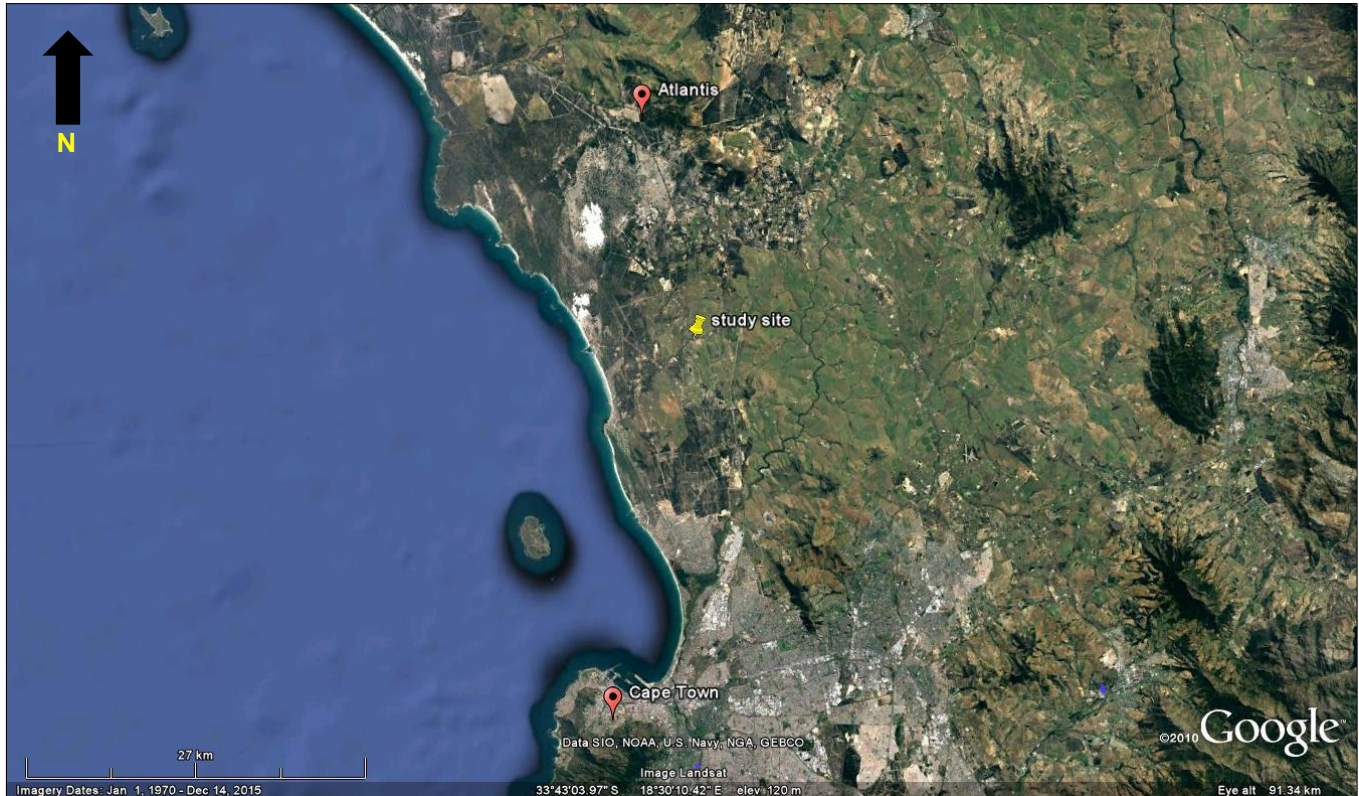


Figure 2. Google satellite map indicating the location of the study in relation to Cape Town and Atlantis

3. HERITAGE LEGISLATION

The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA No. 25 of 1999) protects archaeological sites and materials, as well as graves/cemeteries, battlefield sites and buildings, structures and features over 60 years old. The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) administers this legislation nationally, with Heritage Resources Agencies acting at provincial level. According to the Act (Sect. 35), it is an offence to destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original place, or collect, any archaeological, palaeontological and historical material or object, without a permit issued by the SAHRA or applicable Provincial Heritage Resources Agency, viz. Heritage Western Cape (HWC).

Notification of HWC is required for proposed developments exceeding certain dimensions (Sect. 38), upon which they will decide whether or not the development must be assessed for heritage impacts (an HIA) that may include an assessment of archaeological (a AIA) or palaeontological heritage (a PIA).

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the study were to:

- Determine whether there are likely to be any important archaeological resources that may be impacted by the proposed development;

- Indicate any constraints that would need to be taken into account in considering the development proposal;
- Identify possible `No-Go` areas, and
- Recommend any mitigation action

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

Brakke Kuyl farm is located about 30kms north of Cape Town and 10kms south of Atlantis on the R304/old Mamre Road. The turnoff to the farm is just before Vaatjie School, on the right hand side of the road. The proposed development site is located immediately south of the Sout River. The site for the proposed mine comprises old agricultural lands and constitutes a highly transformed landscape (Figures 3-7). The topography is open, sandy and gently undulating. Plough lines are still visible over the proposed development site. A large portion of the site is covered in dry knee high grass and weeds, with some remnant grain crops still growing in places. There are no significant landscape features on the proposed site, apart from the Sout River which defines the northern boundary of the proposed mine. Several wetlands occur in the south west. Surrounding land use comprises agriculture and grazing.

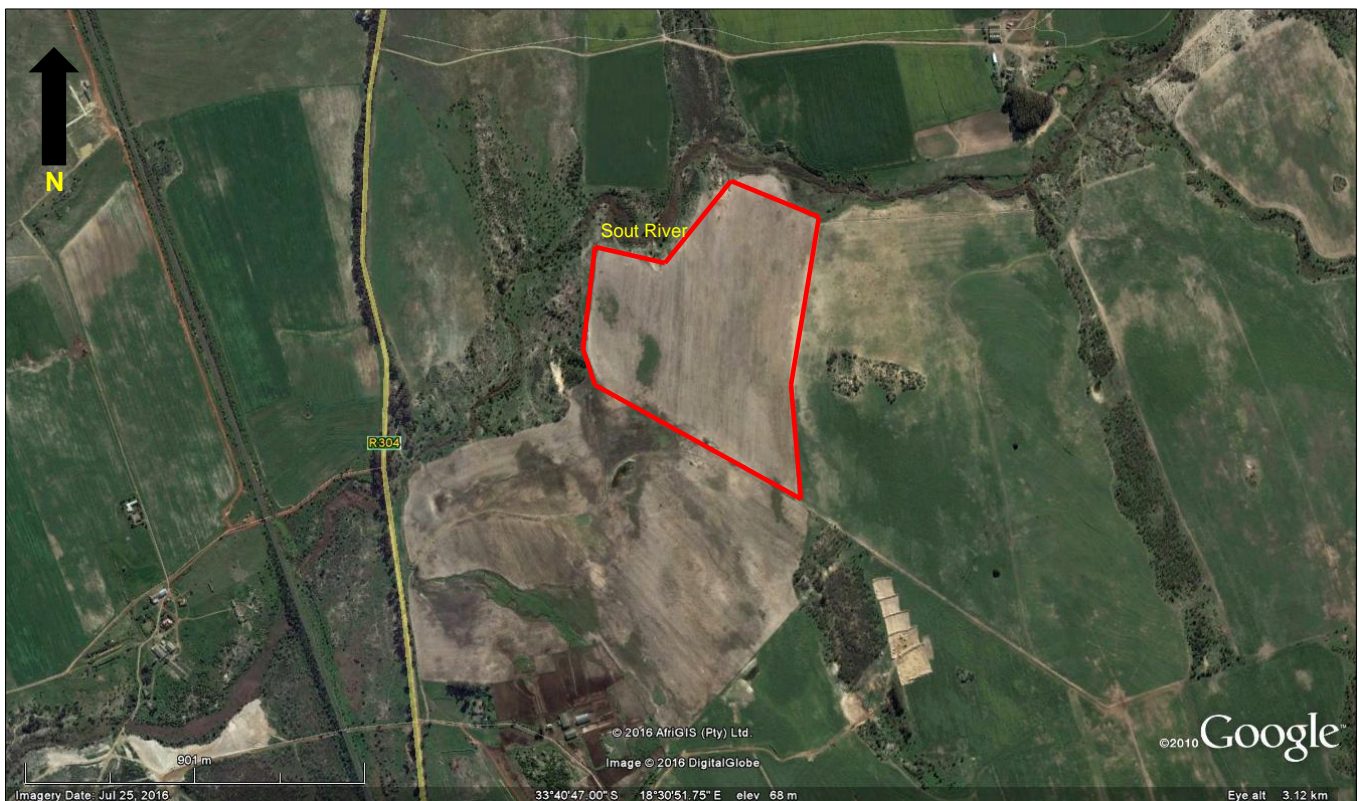


Figure 3. Google satellite map indicating the proposed sand mine on the Farm Brakke Kuyl (red polygon)



Figure 4. View of the proposed site facing south. Table Mountain can be seen in the distance



Figure 5. View of the proposed site facing south



Figure 6. View of the proposed site facing south

6. STUDY APPROACH

6.1 Method

The purpose of the AIA is to assess the sensitivity of archaeological resources in the proposed mine area, to determine the potential impacts on such resources, and to avoid and/or minimize such impacts by means of management and/or mitigation measures

The significance of archaeological resources was assessed in terms of their content and context. Attributes considered in determining significance include artefact and/or ecofact types, rarity of finds, exceptional items, organic preservation, potential for future research, density of finds and the context in which archaeological traces occur.

The field assessment was undertaken by ACRM on the 30th September, 2016.

The position of archaeological resources, were plotted using a hand held GPS unit set on the map datum wgs 84.

A track path of the survey was also captured.

A literature survey was carried out to assess the heritage context surrounding the proposed development site.

Heritage Western Cape (2012) uses a system in which archaeological resources of local significance are divided into Grade 3A, 3B and 3C. These equate to *high*, *medium* and *low* local significance. This grading system is employed in the present report.

6.2 Constraints and limitations

Much of the study site across the eastern portion is covered in dry, knee high grass and weeds, limiting mobility and resulting in poor archaeological visibility.

The presence of several groups of ostriches also limited the archaeologists, freedom of movement over the site.

However, it is felt that these constraints have not had an adverse effect on the findings of the study.

6.3 Identification of potential risks

Based on the results of the study, there are no major risks associated with a proposed sand mining operation on the farm.

Measures, however, will need to be put in place to protect vulnerable and threatened archaeological resources located on the edge of the existing agricultural lands, which may be indirectly impacted by mining operations and associated activities.

It is considered unlikely, but unmarked Khoisan burials may be uncovered during mining activities.

7. HERITAGE CONTEXT

Early Stone Age (ESA) and Middle Stone Age (MSA) tools have been recorded on a number of farms situated between the R27/West Coast Road and the N7 (Halkett 2004, 2006; Hart *et al* 2010; Kaplan 2012a, 2000a, 2000b, 2002b, 1996; Orton pers. comm.). These remains comprise mostly dispersed scatters, and isolated tools in transformed agricultural landscapes, that have been rated as having low (Grade 3C) archaeological significance.

Later Stone Age (LSA) sites have also been recorded between the R27 and the N7, on the Farms Blaauwberg/Joyce's Dairy (Kaplan 2012b; Orton 2007), Groot Oliphantskop (Kaplan 1996; Orton & Hart 2004), Klein Zoute Rivier alongside the Donkergrat River (Halkett 2006), and alongside the floodplain of the Sout River, on the farms Vaatjie, Brakkuil and Keet de Koe (Kaplan 2000b, 2007). These rare, open air hunter-gatherer settlement sites, typically occur in wind exposed dune blowouts, and contain large numbers of silcrete tools, including flakes, scrapers, backed pieces, chunks, cores, grindstone fragments, hammerstones, anvils, pottery and ostrich eggshell.

There are numerous historical accounts of the presence of 'Strandlopers' (Khoi entrepreneurs in the trade between the Dutch and the Khoi), peopling the Table Bay coastline before and after the arrival of the Dutch settlers at the Cape. From his residence at the fort in what is now central Cape Town, Van Riebeeck in 1652 recorded 'many fires burning in the mountains on the opposite side of the bay...' (Thom 1952:102). Sadly, much of the archaeological heritage in Table Bay and inland of the coast has been destroyed as a result of the rapid agricultural and residential development north of Cape Town.

Silcrete outcrops/quarries (i. e. sources of raw materials for making stone tools) have also been recorded on the farms Groot Oliphantskop (Kaplan 1996), Keet de Koe (Kaplan 2007), Vissershok (Kaplan 2002b) and near the Philadelphia turnoff between the N7 and the M19 (Orton 2010).

7.1 Burials

Historical graves are usually well marked and occur in small family farm graveyards. Pre-colonial Khoisan burials, on the other hand, can occur at any location where sand suitable for excavation and burial exists. Melkbosstrand for example has produced an extremely high density of pre-colonial burials (Morris 1992). Most of the unmarked human remains were uncovered during excavations for water pipelines, substations, building foundations, roads, and landscaping. A rare double burial (mother & child) was uncovered during archaeological monitoring for an electrical substation at Duynefontein (Kaplan 2013).

Further inland, two burials associated with stone tools and ostrich eggshell beads were excavated from a sand dune in the late 1960's, on the farm Groot Oliphantskop, about 3 kms south of Brakke Kuyl Farm (Kaplan 1996).

8. FINDINGS

The following archaeological resources were recorded during the baseline study (Figure 7 & Table 1).

While a few isolated LSA tools (i. e. flakes & chunks) of *low* (Grade 3C) significance were encountered in the ploughed fields, three sites are worth describing in more detail.

Site 732: Large numbers of LSA artefactual remains were recorded on the edge of the ploughed fields in the northern portion of the proposed sand mine, 50m south of the Sout River (Figure 8). These include many unmodified and utilized flakes, chunks, round cores, quartz bipolar cores, grindstone fragments, manuports, ochre, and chunks of raw silcrete, in an area measuring about 40 x 50m² in extent (Figures 9-12). LSA flakes on several older MSA flakes were also found. No pottery or ostrich eggshell was found, but it is likely that these are present, buried in the soft loose sands.

It is estimated that more than 90% of the tools are made on silcrete, with the remainder in quartz, quartzite and indurated shale. It is worth noting that a large source of silcrete occurs on the Farm Keet de Koe, about 2.5km east of the proposed sand mine (Kaplan 2007).

The wide scatter, most likely representing the remains of a hunter-gatherer settlement site alongside the river has been destroyed by agricultural activities.

Recommended grading: *Low* (Grade 3C)

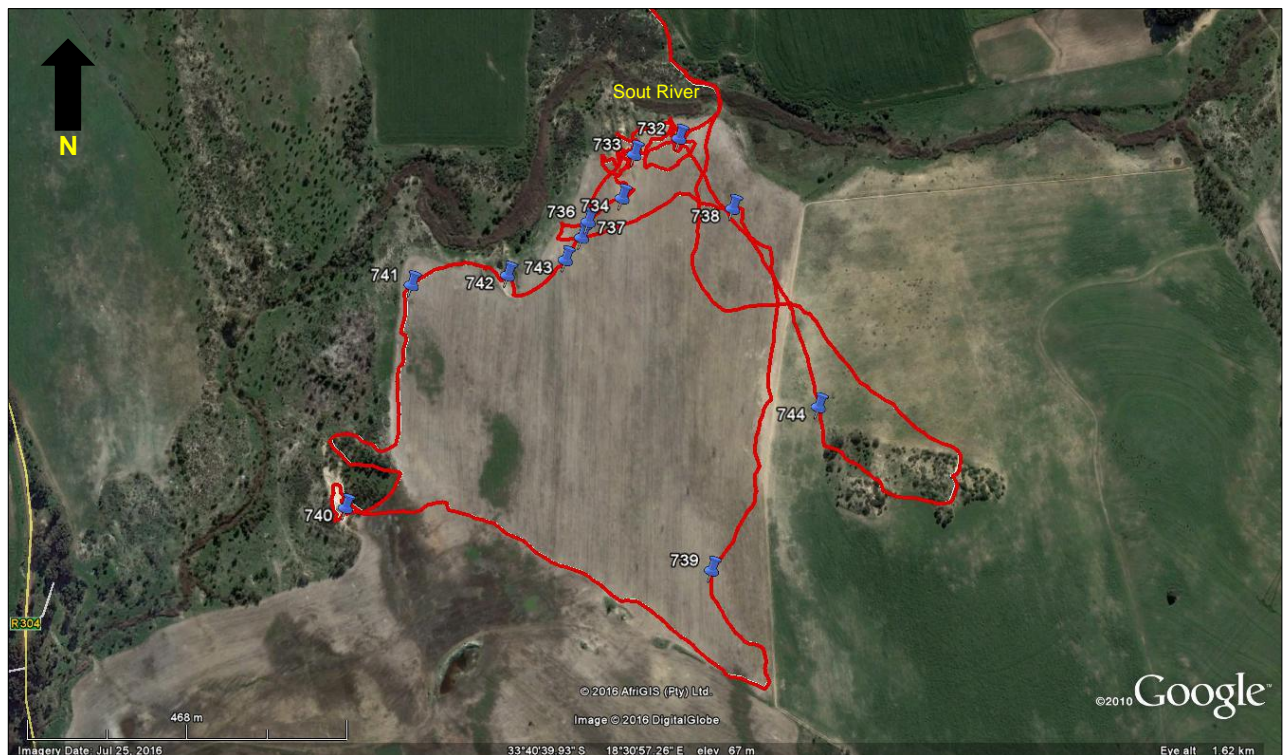


Figure 7. Track paths (red) and waypoints of archaeological finds



Figure 8. Site 732. View facing north with the Sout River in the background



Figure 10. Site 732. Collection of tools. Scale is in cm



Figure 9. Site 732. Collection of tools. Scale is in cm



Figure 11. Site 732. Collection of tools. Scale is in cm

Site 733: An estimated 10000 pieces of artefactual stone, including chips, chunks, utilised and retouched flakes, round and quartz bipolar cores, pressure flaked bladelets, anvils, hammerstones, scrapers, backed pieces (including drills & points), grindstone fragments, raw silcrete, chunks of red ochre, manuports, ostrich eggshell and numerous potsherds occur in a large dune blowout on the edge of the agricultural fields, 70m south of the Sout River (Figures 12-19).

Site 733 and Site 732 most likely originate from a single hunter-gatherer settlement site, where the river provided water and subsistence, and a wide range of domestic and social activities took place. More than 90% of the tools on Site 733 are in silcrete, with the remainder in quartzite, quartz and indurated shale. A likely source of silcrete raw material is the quarry located on the nearby Farm Keet de Koe (Kaplan 2007). Unfortunately, the site has been

trampled by ostriches, which has compromised the integrity of the site, but the incredibly high density of artefactual remains makes it a very rich and rare site.

Site 733 was previously recorded by Kaplan (2000b) during a multi-disciplinary study of the Sout River Catchment. It is clear that more of the site has since 'blown' open with many tools exposed on the slightly gravelly and compact surface which is also associated with outcroppings of iron-rich ferricrete. It is one of the richest deflated sites this archaeologist has seen in the south western Cape, where similar silcrete dominated scatters have been recorded on the Farms Keet de Koe (Kaplan 2007), Joyces' Dairy (Kaplan 2012b), Vissershok (2000a) and Klein Zoute Rivier (Halkett 2006). Orton and Hart (2004) recorded a scatter of LSA tools in a deflated site alongside the R304/old Mamre road, on the Farm Groot Oliphantskop, about 3kms south of Brakke Kuyl.

Recommended grading: The very high density, rarity, wide range of finds and the relatively undisturbed context in which they occur, means that Site 733 has been rated as having *medium/potentially high* (Grade 3B/A) local significance



Figure 12. Site 733 and proposed buffer / 'No Go' area (red polygon). View facing north



Figure 13. Site 733. View facing south. Note Table Mountain in the distance.



Figure 14. Site 733. View facing south. Note the outcropping of Ferrecrete to the right of the plate



Figure 15. Site 733. View facing south. Note the very large numbers of implements on the sandy slopes



Figure 16. Site 733. Anvil & hammerstone. Scale is in cm



Figure 18. Site 733. Cores, h/stones & g/stone fragments



Figure 17. Site 733. Anvil and potsherds. Scale is in cm



Figure 19. Site 733. Potsherds from a single vessel.

Site 740: Large numbers of LSA tools, including utilised and retouched flakes, bladelets, chunks, round cores, quartz bipolar cores, anvils, grindstone fragments, ochre, raw silcrete, manuports, and ostrich eggshell were recorded on the sandy slopes in a large dune blowout behind a thick stand of Port Jackson Willows in the south western portion of the study area, about 100m west of the Sout River (Figures 20-24). More than 95% of the tools are in silcrete, with the remainder in quartz, quartzite and indurated shale. Several LSA retouched pieces on older MSA flakes were also noted. Trampling by animals and dumping of old, rusted farming equipment have compromised the integrity of this hunter-gatherer settlement site.

Recommended grading: medium (Grade 3B).



Figure 20. Site 740. View facing north



Figure 21. Site 740. View facing east. The proposed sand mine is in the background, behind the trees



Figure 22. Site 740. Large numbers of tools occur on the trampled sands in the dune blowout

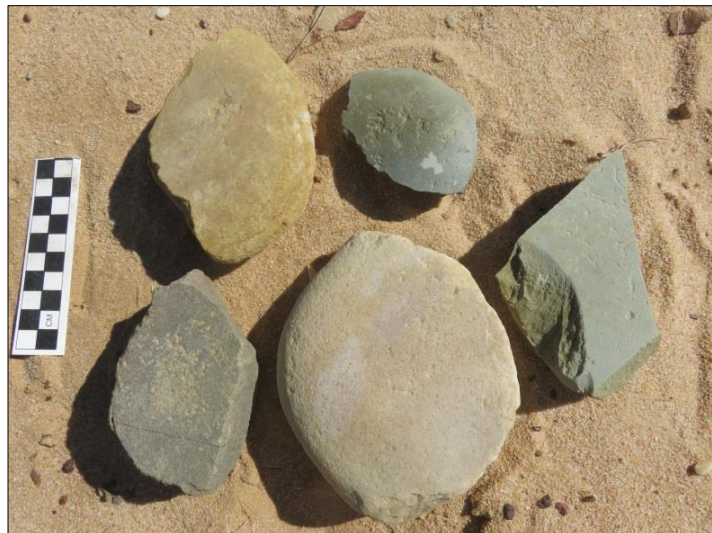


Figure 23. Collection of anvils. Scale is in cm



Figure 24. Chunks, cores, flakes and ochre. Scale is in cm

Site	Name of farm	Lat/Long	Description of finds	Grading	Proposed mitigation
	Farm No. 38 & No. 39 of Brakke Kuyl				
732		S33° 40.476' E18° 31.010'	Large numbers of LSA tools on the edge of agricultural lands in the northern portion of the proposed mine, about 60m south of the Sout River. More than 95% of tools are in silcrete, with remainder on quartz, quartzite & indurated shale. Tools include many hundreds of modified and unmodified flakes, chunks, round cores, quartz bipolar cores, grindstone fragments, ochre, large chunks of raw silcrete, in an area measuring about 40x50m ² . No pottery or ostrich eggshell. Also LSA flakes on older MSA flakes.	3C	None required
733		S33° 40.484' E18° 30.966'	Thousands of LSA artefactual remains in a large dune blowout on the edge of the proposed sand mine, 60m south of the Sout River. Site previously recorded by Kaplan (2000b). 95% of implements in silcrete including flakes, chips, bladelets, utilized & retouched pieces, chunks, round silcrete & quartz bipolar cores, raw silcrete, manuports, hammerstones, grindstone fragments, anvils, scrapers, backed points/pieces, pottery, quartzite flakes, ochre and LSA retouched pieces on older patinated MSA flakes.	3B/Potential 3A	No Go Area A CMP must be written up
734		S33° 40.518' E18° 30.950'	Silcrete flake & chunk	3C	None required
736		S33° 40.533' E18° 30.916'	Silcrete fake	3C	None required
737		S33° 40.545' E18° 30.908'	Silcrete chunk	3C	None required

738		S33° 40.535' E18° 31.054'	Silcrete flake	3C	None required
739		S33° 40.816' E18° 30.999'	Silcrete flake	3C	None required
740		S33° 40.738' E18° 30.660'	Large numbers of LSA tools, including utilised & retouched flakes, bladelets, chunks, round silcrete cores, quartz bipolar cores, anvils, grindstone fragments, ochre, raw silcrete, manuports & ostrich eggshell on the sandy slopes in a large dune blowout behind a stand of Port Jackson Willows in the south western portion of the study area, 100m west of the Sout River. More than 95% of the tools are in silcrete, with the remainder in quartz, quartzite & indurated shale. Several LSA tools made on older MSA flakes were also noted. Trampling and dumping of rusted farming equipment have compromised the integrity of this settlement site.	3B	No-Go Area A CMP must be written up
741		S33° 40.569' E18° 30.743'	Silcrete flake	3C	None required
742		S33° 40.569' E18° 30.835'	Silcrete chunk and nearby flakes x 2	3C	None required
743		S33° 40.562' E18° 30.891'	Silcrete chunk	3C	None required
744		S33° 40.697' E18° 31.115'	Silcrete flake	3C	None required

Table 1. Spreadsheet of waypoints and description of archaeological resources

9. ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

Proposed sand mining on the Farm Brakke Kuyl near Atlantis will have a direct impact on archaeological resources (Site 732), but these remains (Grade 3C) have already been severely displaced and disturbed by agricultural activities.

Site 733 and Site 740 may be indirectly impacted by sand mining operations. Measures must therefore be put in place to safeguard and protect these important sites from all activities associated with the proposed development. The very high density, rarity, range of finds, and the relatively undisturbed context in which they occur, means that Site 733 has been rated as having *moderate to high* (Grade 3B/A) local significance.

Site 740 is rated as having *moderate* (Grade 3B) local significance.

It is noted in the Draft Scoping Report for mining (Pro-Earth Consulting 2016), that a 100m riparian zone along the Sout River is excluded from proposed mining activities. Site 733 and Site 740 fall inside this mining exclusion zone.

It is considered unlikely but unmarked Khoisan burials may be uncovered or exposed during mining operations.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed a proposed sand mining operation on Farm No. 38 and No. Farm 39 Brakke Kuyl, the following recommendations are made:

1. Mitigation (i. e. rescue of archaeological resources) should be seen as a last resort as it is better to try and save and protect sites in their original context. It is therefore recommended that a 50m buffer be established around Site 733. No trucks, plant equipment, stock pile areas, site office, or any other activity associated with the proposed mine must be permitted in this area. A sign must be constructed highlighting the presence of an important and fragile archaeological resource, indicating that it is illegal and an offence, to remove any archaeological remains without a permit from Heritage Western Cape.
2. Alternatively, Site 733 must be fenced off and declared a `No-Go' area. Any fencing or physical demarcation of the site must be done in consultation with Heritage Western Cape.
3. A Conservation Management Plan (CMP) must be written up to protect threatened archaeological sites (Site 733 & Site 740). The CMP must include an annual audit of the archaeological resources throughout the life cycle of the proposed mine.
4. If any unmarked human remains, or ostrich eggshell caches, for example, are exposed or uncovered during excavations and earthworks, these must immediately be reported to Heritage Western Cape (Att: Mr Andrew September 021 483 9543), or the archaeologist (Jonathan Kaplan 082 321 0172).
5. The above recommendations must be incorporated into the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed development.

11. REFERENCES

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