

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SPECIALIST REPORT

Proposed mixed use development of Remainder of Farm 654 (Portions 3;  
9; 10 & 14), Croydon, City of Cape Town, Western Province

For

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1

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This Archaeological Specialist Report (ASR) forms part of a Heritage Impact Assessment. The developers wish to build a mixed residential, commercial and light industrial development on the remainder of Farm 654, Portions 3, 9, 10 and 14, Croydon, some 11.5 ha. The property is currently zoned as agricultural and will need to be re-zoned.

One historical ceramic fragment was found.

The heavily over-grown and disturbed site of Remainder Farm 654 (Portions 3; 9; 10 & 14), Croydon, has no pre-historic archaeological significance. The site has been sufficiently recorded and no further archaeological actions are recommended. Please remember that there is always the possibility of finding human remains during the development. If such remains are found the appropriate steps must be followed.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	2
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	3
1.BACKGROUND INFORMATION.....	4
1.1. Terms of Reference.....	4
2.BACKGROUND TO THE RELEVANT HERITAGE COMPONENTS.....	4
2.1. Earlier Stone Age.....	4
2.2. Middle Stone Age.....	5
2.3. Later Stone Age.....	5
3.DESCRPTION OF THE PROPERTY & METHODOLOGY.....	5
4.FINDS.....	6
5.FIELD RATING .....	6
6.STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE.....	6
7.RECOMMENDATIONS .....	6
7.1. NHRA 1999 S36 – Burial grounds and graves.....	7
8.CONCLUSIONS.....	9
9.BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	9
10.FIGURE.....	11

### Figures

Figure 1: Contour map of Croydon.....	11
Figure 2: 1:50 000 topographic maps (3418 BA & BB).....	12
Figure 3: Extent of property.....	13
Figure 4: Site, overgrown with grasses.....	14
Figure 5: Heavily disturbed.....	14
Figure 6: One of the many dumping areas on the property.....	14
Figure 7: Archaeologically sterile dune mole rat activity.....	14
Figure 8: Fragment of historical ceramic.....	14
Illustration 9: GPS Tracking.....	16

## **1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

This Archaeological Specialist Report (ASR) forms part of a Heritage Impact Assessment. The developers wish to build a mixed residential, commercial and light industrial development on the remainder of Farm 654, Portions 3, 9, 10 and 14, Croydon, some 11.5 ha (Figure 1). The property is currently zoned as agricultural and will need to be re-zoned.

### **1.1. Terms of Reference**

- Identify and map pre-colonial archaeological heritage resources on the proposed sites;
- Determine the importance of pre-colonial archaeological heritage resources on the proposed sites;
- Determine and assess the potential impacts of the proposed development on the pre-colonial archaeological heritage resources, and
- Recommend mitigation measures to minimise impacts associated with the proposed development.

## **2. BACKGROUND TO THE RELEVANT HERITAGE COMPONENTS**

The Winelands region is known to have both Earlier and Middle Stone Age stone tool scatters (Deacon & Deacon 1999; personal observation). However, previous AIA reports (ACRM 2006, Kaplan 2001; 2002; 2005a-c; 2007a & b; Wurz 2005) indicate that no significant pre-historical archaeological finds have been made in the area.

### **2.1. Earlier Stone Age**

The ESA has been divided into two distinct stone tool cultures: the Oldowan Tradition and the Acheulian Tradition. The former is represented by the earliest stone tools (from about 2 million years ago), simple core forms and unmodified flakes (Klien 2000). Geographically, the Oldowan is found in East Africa, and within South Africa, generally limited to the Sterkfontein region. The Acheulian has a more formal, standardised component, illustrated by hand axes and cleavers. This tradition is found across Africa, Western Asia and southern Europe (Deacon & Deacon 1999) and dates from between  $\pm 1.4$  million years ago to roughly 250 000 years ago. Mitchell (2002), describes hand axes as elongated, pear-shaped or triangular forms, terminating in a point. Cleavers are broader, with an axe-like cutting edge. Some informal flakes show evidence of retouch, similar to

the MSA scraper. Formal tools may represent less than ten percent of artefacts found in the field (Deacon & Deacon 1999). Such finds generally occur in valley bottoms or wetlands.

## **2.2. Middle Stone Age**

The Middle Stone Age (MSA) is sandwiched between the ESA and Later Stone Age (LSA) and dates from between 250 000 B.P. To about 20 000 years ago (Deacon & Deacon 1999, Mitchell 2002). The technology is characterised by the absence of hand axes and cleavers, the presence of prepared core techniques (e.g. Levallois technique). The stone flakes are generally triangular in shape with faceted striking platforms. Elongated blades and blade flakes are also common.

## **2.3. Later Stone Age**

These sites date from the last 20 000 years, but for the most part, to the last four thousand years or so. They will often be found close to water sources and may be out in the open, although by far the most common are to be found in caves and rock shelters (Deacon & Deacon 1999). San hunter/foragers inhabited the area up to 2000 years ago, when pastoralism was introduced to the Cape by the Khoenkhoen (Deacon & Deacon 1999). Evidence of ceramics and domesticated stock is often used as a marker for the arrival of pastoralists in a region. The 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries saw the European colonial expansion. As colonial influence expanded and more land was settled, indigenous people were forced into economically less viable areas. The effects of diseases and organised extermination led to the eventual dissolution of indigenous society as it had existed, and the survivors were reduced to servitude on European farms (Mitchell 2002, Parkington 1977, Sealy et al 2000).

## **3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY & METHODOLOGY**

The Remainder of Farm 654, Portions 3, 9, 10 and 14, Croydon, lies 10 km west of Somerset West. It is located on the 1:50 000 topographic maps (Figure 2) 3418 BA (Mitchells Plain) & BB (Somerset West). The satellite map indicating the extent of the ±11.5 ha property is illustrated in Figure 3.

A two person team from PAAC surveyed the site on foot on Tuesday 29 January 2013. The property is very overgrown with grass and various alien trees (Figure 4). The use of the land for agriculture

has created a very disturbed landscape (Figure 5). The coverage and disturbed nature of the property means that archaeological visibility was very poor. The site has also been used for the dumping of building material (Figure 6) This has subsequently been overgrown with grass, making traversing the site quite dangerous, due to hidden holes and instability. Dune mole rat activity (Figure 7) on the eastern section of the property also indicated no sub-surface archaeological resources.

GPS coordinates were taken using Garmin hand units. Photographs were taken using a digital camera. The GPS trail is illustrated in Figure 8.

#### **4. FINDS**

One fragment from an historical ceramic object (Figure 9) was located on the dump closest to the historical barn.

#### **5. FIELD RATING**

A field rating of Generally Protected C is awarded. This site has been sufficiently recorded and requires no further archaeological recording before destruction.

#### **6. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The lack of any pre-historical archaeological resources and the highly disturbed nature of the site indicated that the property has a very low significance in terms of prehistoric archaeology.

#### **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

There is always the possibility of finding human remains on a property with historical connections. If human remains, burials or graves are found the following actions must be taken:

- Leave the remains in place
- Cordon off the area
- Contact SARHA (021 462 4502)
- Contact an archaeologist

- Once an archaeologist has examined the find, the SA Police services and state pathologist must be contacted to report human remains
- If the remains are found to be a legitimate burial or pre-colonial burial, an emergency exhumation permit will be issued by SAHRA or HWC
- If a crime is suspected, a police docket will be opened

## **7.1. NHRA 1999 S36 – Burial grounds and graves**

(1) Where it is not the responsibility of any other authority, SAHRA must conserve and generally care for burial grounds and graves protected in terms of this section, and it may make such arrangements for their conservation as it sees fit.

(2) SAHRA must identify and record the graves of victims of conflict and any other graves which it deems to be of cultural significance and may erect memorials associated with the grave referred to in subsection (1), and must maintain such memorials.

(3) No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority—

(a) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;

(b) destroy, damage, alter, exhume, 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 its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons; local authority; or

(c) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

(4) SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority may not issue a permit for the destruction or damage of any burial ground or grave referred to in subsection (3)(a) unless it is satisfied that the applicant has made satisfactory arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the contents of such graves, at the cost of the applicant and in accordance with any regulations made by the

responsible heritage resources authority.

(5) SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority may not issue a permit for any activity under subsection (3)(b) unless it is satisfied that the applicant has, in accordance with regulations made by the responsible heritage resources authority—

(a) made a concerted effort to contact and consult communities and individuals who by tradition have an interest in such grave or burial ground; and

(b) reached agreements with such communities and individuals regarding the future of such grave or burial ground.

(6) Subject to the provision of any other law, any person who in the course of development or any other activity discovers the location of a grave, the existence of which was previously unknown, must immediately cease such activity and report the discovery to the responsible heritage resources authority which must, in co-operation with the South African Police Service and in accordance with regulations of the responsible heritage resources authority—

(a) carry out an investigation for the purpose of obtaining information on whether or not such grave is protected in terms of this Act or is of significance to any community; and

(b) if such grave is protected or is of significance, assist any person who or community which is a direct descendant to make arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the contents of such grave or, in the absence of such person or community, make any such arrangements as it deems fit.

(7) (a) SAHRA must, over a period of five years from the commencement of this Act, submit to the Minister for his or her approval lists of graves and burial grounds of persons connected with the liberation struggle and who died in exile or as a result of the action of State security forces or agents provocateur and which, after a process of public consultation, it believes should be included among those protected under this section.

(b) The Minister must publish such lists as he or she approves in the Gazette.

(8) Subject to section 56(2), SAHRA has the power, with respect to the graves of victims of conflict outside the Republic, to perform any function of a provincial heritage resources authority in



terms of this section.

(9) SAHRA must assist other State Departments in identifying graves in a foreign country of victims of conflict connected with the liberation struggle and, following negotiations with the next of kin, or relevant authorities, it may re-inter the remains of that person in a prominent place in the capital of the Republic.

## **8. CONCLUSIONS**

The heavily over-grown and disturbed site of Remainder Farm 654 (Portions 3; 9; 10 & 14), Croydon, has no pre-historic archaeological significance. The site has been sufficiently recorded and no further archaeological actions are recommended. Please remember that there is always the possibility of finding human remains during the development. If such remains are found the appropriate steps must be followed.

## **9. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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10. FIGURE

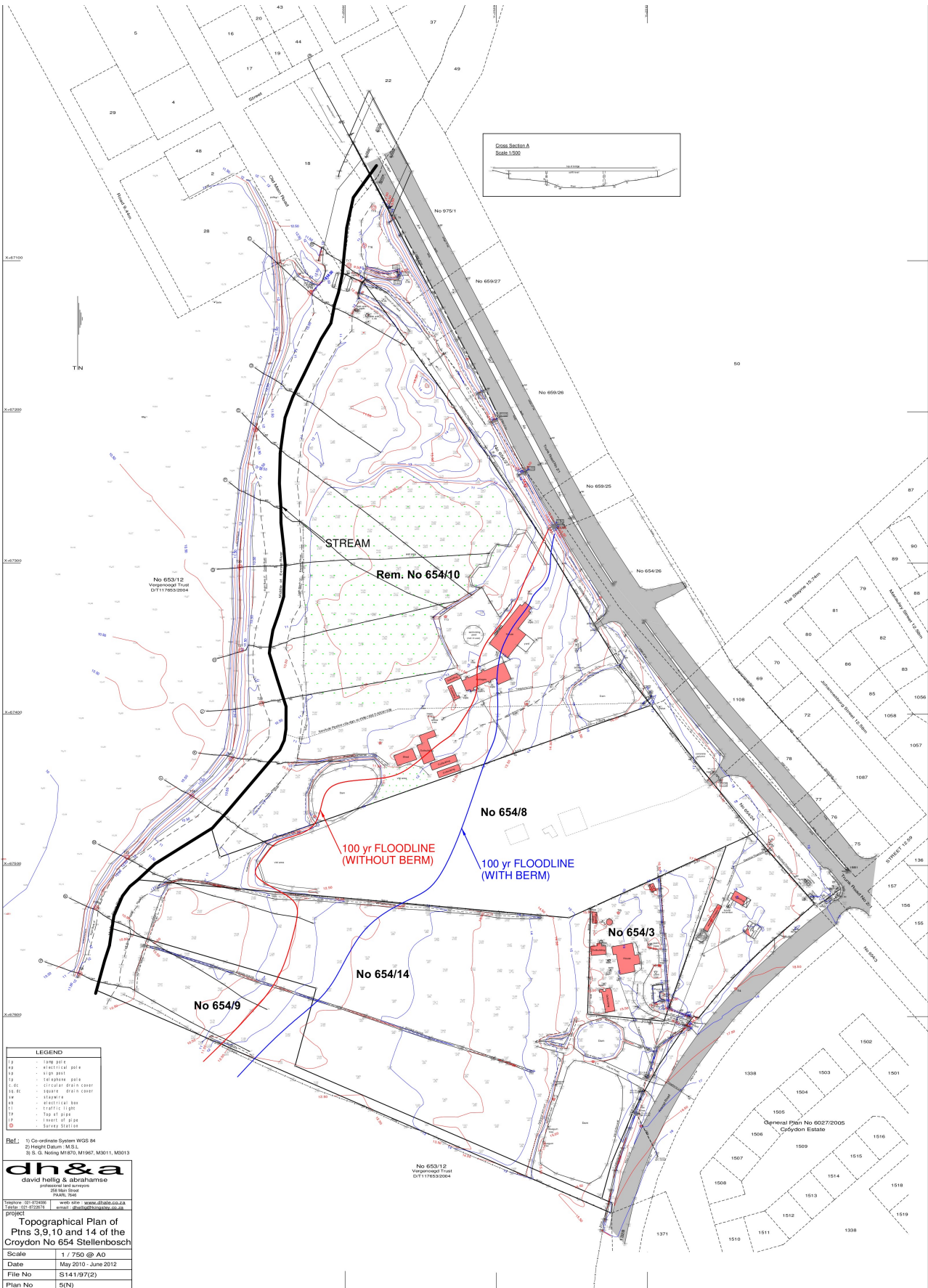


Figure 1: Contour map of Croydon



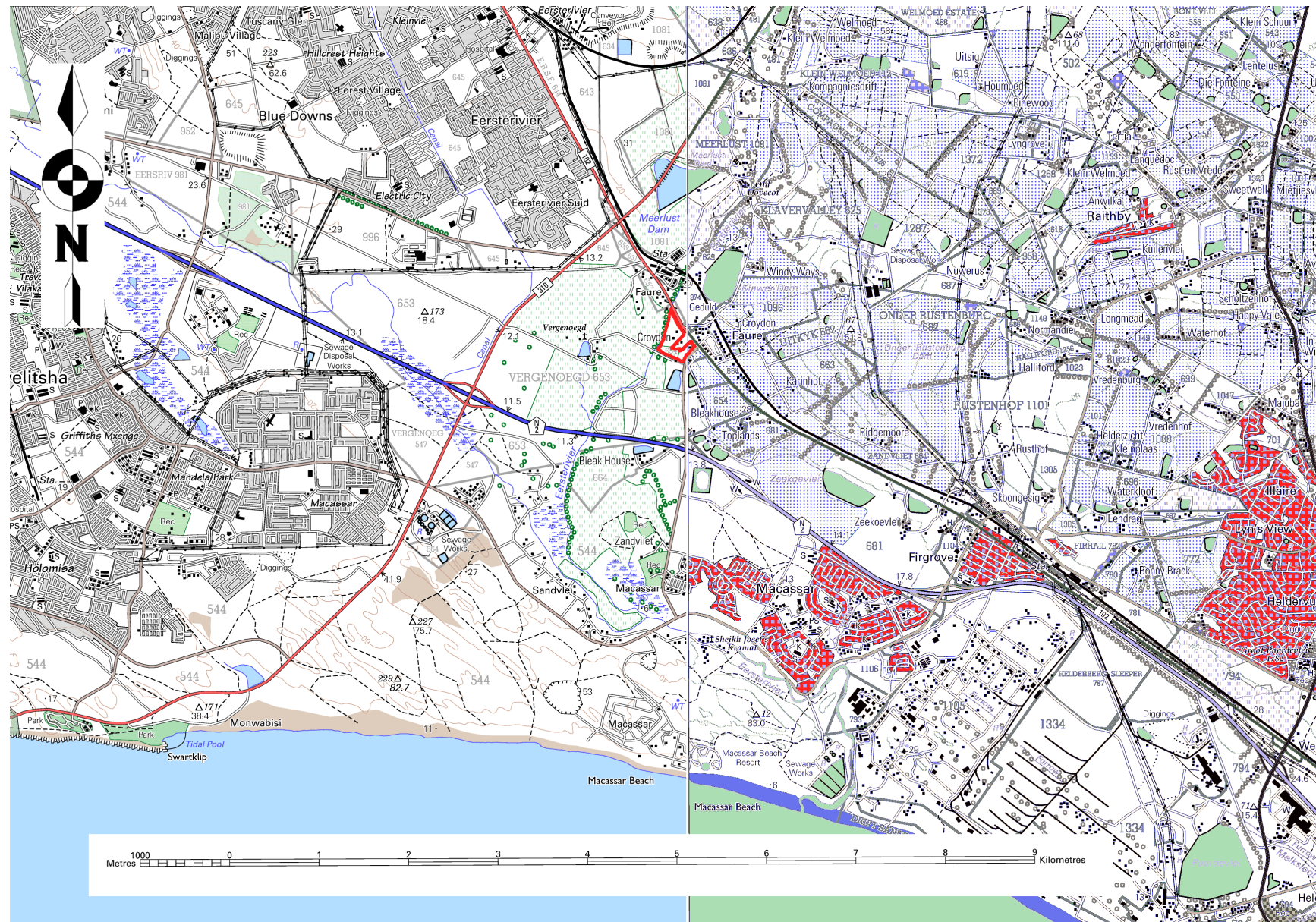


Figure 2: 1:50 000 topographic maps (3418 BA & BB).





Figure 3: Extent of property





*Figure 4: Site, overgrown with grasses.*



*Figure 5: Heavily disturbed.*



*Figure 6: One of the many dumping areas on the property.*



*Figure 7: Archaeologically sterile dune mole rat activity.*



*Figure 8: Fragment of historical ceramic.*





Figure 9: GPS Tracking