ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS ON PORTION 19 OF FARM 100 (DE GOREE)
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Boland Enviro cc requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed development of four parcels of agricultural land on Portion 19 of Farm 100 (De Goree) near Robertson in the Western Cape.

De Goree is a wine farm situated alongside Divisional Road (DR1364) about seven kms north west of Robertson. The total area of the properties to be developed is 30 ha. It is the intention of the applicant to cede ownership of the land parcels to farm workers as part of a BBBEE initiative. Natural vegetation will cleared from the affected lands and planted with vineyards. Existing roads and infrastructure will be utilised by the proposed development and no new infrastructure is envisaged.

The affected landholdings are already zoned for Agriculture, but have not been utilised for agriculture in the past. There is a large quarry on one of the proposed sites, but apart from this, the affected environments comprise mostly natural veld. Most of the landholdings are however, already fairly disturbed and degraded. There are no buildings or structures or features on any of the affected land holdings.

A Notice of Intent to Develop (NID) has been completed by the archaeologist and submitted to Heritage Western Cape Impact Assessment Review Committee (IARC) for comment.

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological sites/remains that may be negatively impacted by the proposed project, to assess the significance of the potential impacts and to propose measures to mitigate against the impacts.

The following archaeological findings were made:

More than 200 archaeological occurrences were documented during the study, spread over the four affected land portions. All the occurrences have all been mapped with a hand held GPS unit. Many of the finds have also been photographed. Most of the tools comprise unmodified Middle Stone Age flakes and flake blades, chunks and few round cores including one flat disc core. A relatively large number of flakes, chunks and flake blades in both quartzite and indurate shale were found on compact red sands in the old quarry. A few tools in silcrete were also found. Less than five Early Stone Age flakes/chunks were found over the affected land holdings, but two Acheulean handaxes were documented. No evidence of any factory or workshop site, or the result of any human settlement was identified. No organic remains such as pottery, bone or ostrich eggshell was found.

It is maintained that the archaeological study has captured good information on the archaeological heritage present, and that the proposed development, of agricultural lands will not have an impact of great significance on these and potentially other archaeological remains that might be exposed during vegetation clearing operations.

The Archaeological Impact Assessment has therefore identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed development activities.
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Appendix
1. INTRODUCTION

Boland Enviro cc on behalf of De Goree Farming (Pty) Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed development of four parcels of (vacant) agricultural land on Portion 19 of Farm 100 (De Goree) near Robertson in the Western Cape (Figure 1).

The total area of the land to be developed is about 30 ha. It is the intention of the applicant to transfer ownership of the various land parcels to farm workers as part of a BBBEE initiative. Natural vegetation will be cleared from the land and will be planted with vineyards. Existing roads and infrastructure will be utilised by the proposed development and no new infrastructure is envisaged.

The land parcels are currently zoned Agriculture I, but have not been utilised for agricultural in the past. No rezoning of the land is therefore required.

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological occurrences that may be impacted by the implementation of the proposed project, to assess the significance of the potential impacts and to propose measures to mitigate against the impacts.

A Notice of Intent to Develop (NID) has been completed by ACRM and submitted to HWC Impact Assessment Review Committee (IARC) for comment.

Figure 1. Location of De Goree Farm land holdings in relation to Robertson
2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

- to determine whether there are likely to be any important archaeological sites within the proposed land parcels (Sites A-D);
- to identify and map archaeological occurrences within the proposed land parcels;
- to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites within the proposed land parcels;
- to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
- to identify measures to protect any valuable archaeological sites that may exist within the proposed land parcels.

3. THE STUDY SITE

An aerial photograph of the study site is illustrated in Figures 2 and 3. De Goree Farm is situated about 7 kms north west of Robertson, alongside DR1364. Access to the farm is via the R60, between Robertson and Worcester.

**Site A:** The proposed 10 ha site is situated south of DR1364, alongside the road and up against the steep mountain slopes. Most of the site is covered in dense natural vegetation, and there are large swathes across the western portion that is virtually impenetrable. There is a large (old) quarry in the top portion and some diggings in the lower southern portion. There are several gravel roads that intersect the site. Surrounding land use is agriculture and natural vegetation (Figures 4-9).

**Site B:** The proposed 6.0 ha site comprises a long, wide strip of land situated alongside (i.e. north of) DR1364, and south of the railway line. Most of the site is covered in very dense vegetation (thorn trees and scrub) and is impenetrable. There is an Eskom line and servitude running about 40 m north of the road and the servitude is covered in very thick vegetation. There is some erosion and extensive sheet wash on the slopes below the railway line in the north west. Surrounding land use is agriculture (Figures 10-16).

**Site C:** The proposed 9.0 ha is mostly flat and covered in quite thick natural vegetation, but this comprises mainly grass and low bush, so mobility over the site was reasonably easy. At least 3 ha of the proposed site alongside the railway line are severely degraded, as a result of dumping of farm equipment and diggings. Surrounding land use is agriculture (Figures 17-22). Much of the site is however, already fairly disturbed.

**Site 4:** The proposed 5.0 site is located directly north of and alongside the railway line, on higher, steeper mountain slopes overlooking the farm. The slopes are covered in thick natural vegetation, and are especially dense (infested with Euphorbia’s) across the northern portion. There is substantial erosion and sheet wash on the lower slopes alongside the railway line. Surrounding land use is agriculture (Figures 23-28).

There are no buildings, structures or features on any of the affected land holdings.
Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site – regional context

Figure 3. Close up aerial photograph of the study site
Figure 10. Site B view facing east

Figure 11. Site B view facing west. Note the servitude
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