

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON ERF 878,
CHURCH ROAD, RIEBEEK KASTEEL,
SWARTLAND MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE**

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

HWC CASE 20030413

Prepared for:

ENVIROAFRICA (OVERBERG)

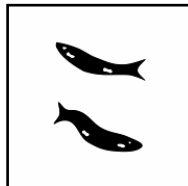
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Huguemont Trust

By:



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**JUNE
2024**

Executive Summary

1. Site name

Proposed residential development on Erf 878, Church Road, Riebeek Kasteel, near Malmesbury

2. Location

Riebeek Kasteel, about 90kms northeast of Cape Town (Figures 1 & 2)

3. GPS Co-ordinates

33°23'14.87"S 18°53'36.24"E

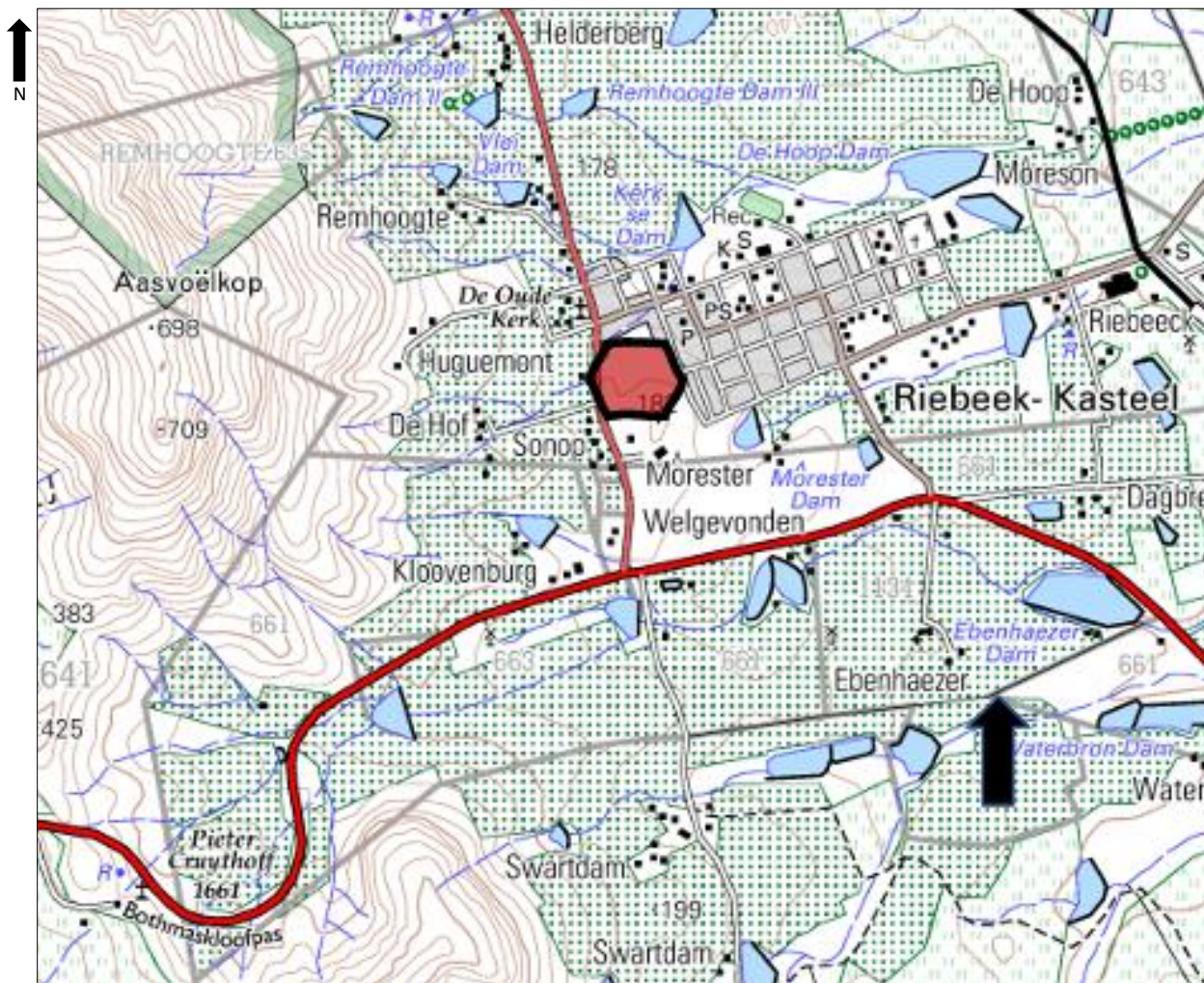


Figure 1. 1:50 000 Locality Map (3318BD Riebeek Kasteel). The red polygon outlined in black is the location of the proposed development site in Riebeek Kasteel



Figure 2. Google aerial satellite map indicating the location of Erf 878 (yellow pin) alongside Church Road in Riebeek Kasteel

4. The development proposal

The development objective is to establish a 'unique, authentic, compact, sustainable and safe residential township/neighbourhood with business component, sensitive to the topography of the application area'.

The development proposal provides for a variety of housing types including upmarket residential, townhouse units and flats, a retirement village/frail care facility, Open Space Areas, and retail/commercial opportunities.

A service station/garage is also proposed alongside Church Road, at the entrance to the village.

Single residential plots with a footprint of between 600m² and 1203m² are envisaged, while single title townhouse erven will consist of plots between 189m² and 471m².

Engineering services, including internal streets and services such as stormwater runoff, sewerage, electricity, and potable water will also be provided.

Erf 878 measures about 11.0ha in extent and is located within the urban edge of Riebeek Kasteel.

A proposed Site Layout Plan is presented in Figure 3.

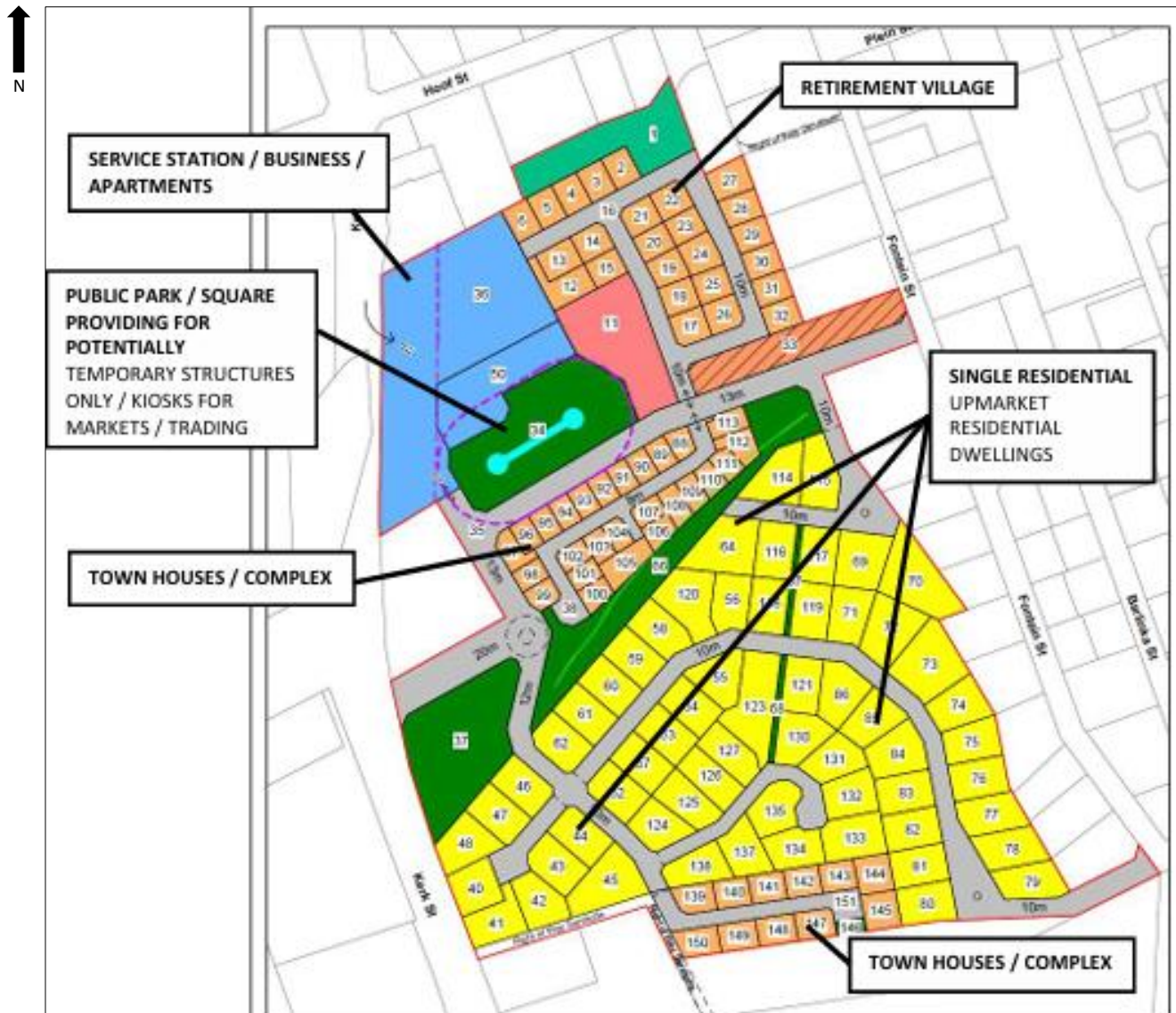


Figure 3. Erf 878 Riebeek Kasteel: Proposed Layout Plan.

Enviroafrica (Overberg) is the appointed Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), responsible for facilitating environmental authorization for the project.

An Environmental Basic Assessment (BA) process will be followed in this application.

5. Aim of the study

The overall purpose of the study is to assess the sensitivity of archaeological heritage resources on Erf 878 and to determine the potential impacts (of the development) on such resources.

The specialist archaeological study forms part of a wider Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) which will be conducted by Heritage Specialist & Architect, Bridget O'Donoghue.

6. Constraints & limitations

Erf 878 Riebeek Kasteel is covered in Kikuyu and Kwek grass across the flatter, northern portion, while the steeper, southern slopes are covered in a mix of dense indigenous grasses, Kwek and shrub vegetation, resulting in low archaeological visibility.

7. Heritage resources

A walk down survey of the proposed development site was conducted by ACRM on 7 June 2024, in which the following heritage resources were recorded.

- A small number of Early Stone Age (ESA) and Middle Stone Age (MSA) flakes and chunks were recorded during the field assessment. The isolated remains occur in a severely transformed and disturbed context. No evidence of any human occupation or settlement was found across the development area.
- A fragment of a late 19th Century/early 20th Century, blue and white willow pattern floor tile was found in the gravel road that rings the development site.

7.1 Grading

The very small number, isolated and disturbed context in which they were found means that the archaeological remains are graded as Not Conservation Worthy (or NCW).

7.2 Graves

No graves were encountered during the field study.

8. Anticipated impact

The site has been transformed by historical agriculture, and the anticipated impact on tangible archaeological heritage resources is expected to be very low.

9. Conclusion

The specialist study has identified no significant impact to local Stone Age and historical archaeological resources that will need to be, mitigated prior to construction activities commencing.

Therefore, there are no objections to the proposed development proceeding.

10. Recommendations:

1. No further archaeological mitigation is required
2. No archaeological monitoring is required during construction phase excavations
3. If any buried human remains are uncovered during construction excavations, these must be immediately reported to the archaeologist (J Kaplan 082 321 0172. Burials must not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

11. Author notes

Kaplan, J. 2024. Archaeological Impact Assessment, proposed housing and mixed use development on Erf 878, Church Street, Riebeek Kasteel, Swartland Municipality, Western Cape Report prepared for EnviroAfrica (Overberg Region). ACRM, Cape Town

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1. INTRODUCTION

ACRM was, instructed by EnviroAfrica (Overberg), on behalf of Huguemont Trust to conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for a proposed housing development on Erf 878, Church Road, Riebeek Kasteel in the Swartland region of the Western Cape (Figures 1 & 2).

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed development will be conducted by Heritage Specialist and Architect, Bridget O'Donoghue. The AIA forms part of a wider HIA, which includes a Townscape Analysis and a Visual Impact Assessment.

The HIA was requested by Heritage Western Cape (HWC), following the submission of a Notice of Intent to Develop (NID).

EnviroAfrica (Overberg) is the appointed independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) responsible for facilitating environmental authorisation for the project.

An Environmental Basic Assessment (BA) process will be followed in the application.

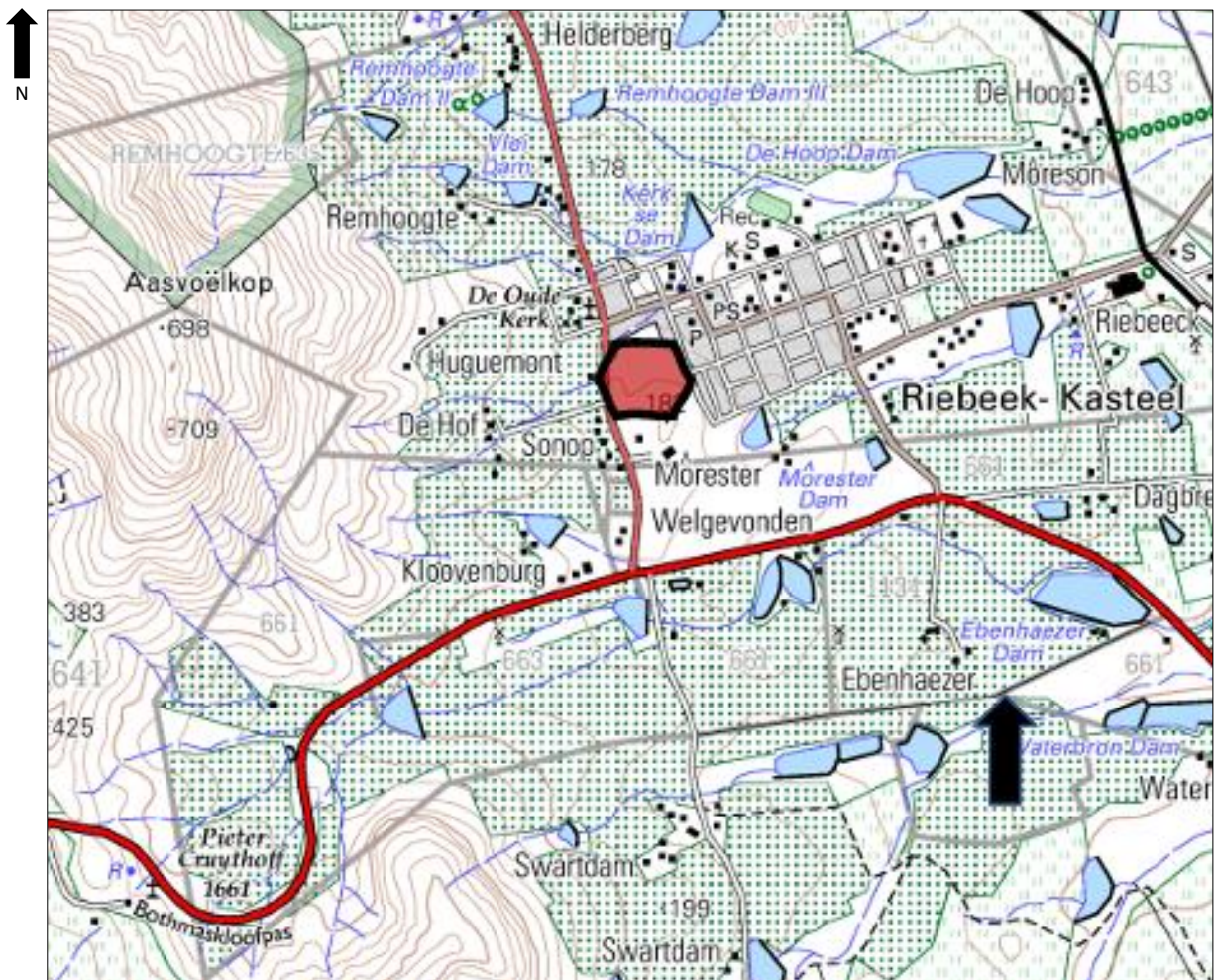


Figure 1. 1:50 000 Locality Map (3318BD Riebeek Kasteel). The red polygon outlined in black is the location of the study site



Figure 2. Google aerial satellite map indicating the location of the study site (yellow pin) in Yzerfontein

2. THE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

The development objective is to establish a `unique, authentic, compact, sustainable and safe residential township/neighbourhood with business component, all sensitive to the topography of the application area'¹

The development proposal thus provides for a variety of housing types including upmarket residential, townhouse units and flats, a retirement village/frail care facility, Open Space Areas, and retail/commercial opportunities.

A service station/garage is also proposed alongside Church Road, at the entrance to the village.

The extent of the residential plots will be between 600m² and 1203m², while single title townhouse erven consist of erf extents of between 189m² and 471m².

Engineering services, including internal streets and services such as stormwater runoff, sewerage, electricity, and potable water will also be provided by the applicant/developers.

Erf 878 measures about 11.0ha in extent and is located within the urban edge of Riebeek Kasteel.

A proposed Site Layout Plan is presented in Figure 3.

¹ Interactive Town & Regional Planners, November 2023. Erf 878 Church Road, Riebeek Kasteel. Application for rezoning, consent use & subdivision



Figure 3. Proposed Site Layout Plan

3. HERITAGE LEGISLATION

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999) protects archaeological and palaeontological sites and materials, as well as graves/cemeteries, battlefield sites and buildings, structures and features over 60 years old. 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) heritage.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

Erf 878 is located alongside Church Road on the right-hand side of the road, at the entrance to the village of Riebeek Kasteel (Figure 4). The village is ± 16kms east of Malmesbury, and about 90kms northeast of Cape Town.

A prominent hill is located in the southern portion of the site, which slopes steeply in all directions, providing a scenic and panoramic view of the valley below and the imposing Kasteelberg and its vine covered slopes. The slopes have been contoured and cultivated in the past (visible on Google Earth) but are currently covered in a mix of thick natural grass,

shrubs, and Kweek, on a substrate of clay and gravel. The lower, flatter slopes below the hill are covered in thick Kikuyu and Kweek grass. Several strips of grass have recently been bushcut where a few modern clay bricks and visible alongside a small stream/wetland and (old) brick lined well. The stream drains into the north eastern corner of the site. A gravel road rings the site. Existing infrastructure comprises farm fencing, fence poles, farm gates. Survey pegs and droppers have also been placed across the site. Surrounding last use is agriculture (vines & olives), residential, restaurants, visitor accommodation, etc. Springbok currently graze, on the affected property.

A series of photographs of the development site are illustrated in Figures 5-10.



Figure 4. Google Earth satellite map of the proposed development site (red polygon) in Riebeeek Kasteel



Figure 5. View of the development site facing south. Note the dense Kweek and Kikuyu grass. The prominent hill can be seen in the distance.



Figure 6. View of the proposed development site facing northwest, with the imposing Kasteelberg in the background of the plate.



Figure 7. View of the proposed development site facing north. Note the dense grasses on the contoured hill slopes, with the flatter northern portion in the background of the plate.



Figure 8. View of the proposed development site facing north, with the Kasteelberg to the left of the plate, and the village of Riebeek Kasteel to the right



Figure 9. View of the proposed development site facing northeast. Church Street is to the left of the plate. The Barn Restaurant is located behind the trees alongside the road, which falls outside the proposed site.



Figure 10. View of the proposed development site facing north. Note the Kweek grass that covers a large portion of the upper slopes alongside Church Street

5. STUDY APPROACH

5.1 Method

The overall purpose of the study is to assess the sensitivity of archaeological resources on Erf 878, to determine the potential impacts of the development on such resources, and to avoid and/or minimise such impacts by means of management and/or mitigation measures.

Heritage resources identified during the study were recorded on a handheld Garmin Oregon 500 GPS units set on the map datums WGS 84.

A trackpath of the survey was created.

A desktop study was carried out to assess the heritage context surrounding the proposed development site.

5.2 Constraints and limitations

The site is covered in thick Kikuyu and Kweek grass (on the flatter lower slopes), and dense grasses, bush and Kweek (on the upper slopes) resulting in low archaeological visibility.

However, the results of the field study indicate that the development area is not a sensitive archaeological landscape.

5.3 Identification of potential risks

There are no archaeological risks associated with the proposed development.

5.4. Archaeological context

Early Stone Age (ESA) tools (mostly flakes, cores, Large Cutting Tools, & occasionally bifaces such as handaxes) have been recorded by this archaeologist on numerous farms in the Riebeek Valley, including Ongegund, Groenrivier, Moreson, PPC and Allesverloren (in Riebeek West), and on the farms Het Vlok Kasteel, Welgevonden, Kloovenburg, and Remhoogte (in Riebeek Kasteel). ESA resources have also been recorded on farms as far away as Hermon and Sonquasdrift in the Berg River Valley. All the remains were encountered in a severely degraded, and transformed context (old agricultural land, vineyards, borrow pits & gravel farm roads (see also Kaplan 2011, 2007a, b, 2005).

ESA and Later Stone Age (LSA) tools have also been recorded on the Farm Swaevelberg, on the Riebeeksrivier road that runs around the back end of the Kasteelberg, while Middle Stone Age (MSA) tools have been recorded in a large shelter near the top of Kasteelberg overlooking Riebeeksrivier road.

Enigmatic, indigenous (possibly Khoi & San) rock art comprising, entoptic forms, circles, finger dots, handprints, antelope and a possible feline/leopard have been recorded in several small shelters and overhangs on the slopes of the Kasteelberg overlooking Riebeek West, while human figures, a shaman, and antelope, including a large overpainted 'dying' eland have been recorded on the farm Groenrivier on the lower slopes of the Kasteelberg (Kaplan, personal records).

The archaeologist Andrew Smith (1994) has postulated that the hills around Darling, Malmesbury and Riebeek Kasteel once formed part of a local annual transhumance cycle where Khoi tribes moved between landscapes as fresh grazing for their stocks became

available and that their settlements would likely have been visible in the landscape, before the expansion of early frontier settler farming.

6. RESULTS

A small number of Early Stone Age and Middle Stone Age flakes and chunks were recorded during the field study which was conducted on the 7th of June (Figure 11 & Table 1). No formally retouched tools, such as bifaces, points, or modified pieces were recorded. The remains were all found in a severely degraded and disturbed context, embedded in the gravel, or lying on the surface of the gravel road that circles the site. A few isolated pieces of stone were found in the strips of land that have been bushcut alongside the small stream/wetland (Figure 12). No evidence of any early human occupation or settlement was encountered.

A fragment of a late 19th/ early 20th Century, blue and white willow pattern, glazed floor tile was found (Point 029) in the gravel road, among some rubble and gravel in the north eastern portion of the site.

6.1 Grading

The very small number, isolated and disturbed context in which they were found means that the archaeological remains are graded as Not Conservation Worthy (or NCW).



Figure 11. Track path (in blue) & waypoints of archaeological finds

Waypoint	Name of Farm	Lat/long	Finds	Grading	Mitigation
	Erf 878 Riebeek Kasteel			NCW- Not Conservation Worthy	
018		S33° 23.193' E18° 53.526'	MSA flake	NCW	None required
029		S33° 23.113' E18° 53.602'	Fragment of blue & white willow pattern floor tile in gravel road	NCW	None required
039		S33° 23.169' E18° 53.575'	Large, broken chunk	NCW	None required
058		S33° 23.187' E18° 53.558'	Blue & White floor tile	NCW	None required
068		S33° 23.186' E18° 53.585'	Small broken cortex cobble	NCW	None required
078		S33° 23.181' E18° 53.601'	Weathered MSA flake	NCW	None required
087		S33° 23.212' E18° 53.560'	Embedded chunk	NCW	None required
097		S33° 23.239' E18° 53.561'	Milky quartz flake	NCW	None required
107		S33° 23.245' E18° 53.544'	Quartzite flake	NCW	None required
127		S33° 23.301' E18° 53.616'	Flake on hill slope, gravel stone patch	NCW	None required

Table 1. Spreadsheet of waypoints and description of finds



Figure 12. Collection of Stone Age remains, and floor tile, recorded during The field study. Scale is in cm.

6.2 Graves

No graves were, encountered during the field assessment.

7. ANTICIPATED IMPACT

The site has been transformed by historical agriculture, and the anticipated impact on tangible archaeological heritage resources is expected to be very low.

8. CONCLUSION

The specialist study has identified no significant impact to local Stone Age and historical archaeological resources that will need to be, mitigated prior to construction activities commencing.

Therefore, there are no objections, on archaeological grounds, to the development proceeding.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding a proposed housing and mixed-use development on Erf 878 Riebeek Kasteel, the following recommendations are, made:

1. No further archaeological mitigation is required.
2. No archaeological monitoring is required during construction phase excavations
3. If any buried human remains are uncovered during construction excavations, these must be immediately reported to the archaeologist (J Kaplan 082 3210172. Burials must not be disturbed until inspected by the archaeologist.

10. REFERENCES

Kaplan, J. 2011. Preliminary Archaeological Impact Assessment, proposed housing development on Allesverloren Farm, Riebeek West. Report prepared for CKR and Partners. ACRM, Cape Town

Kaplan, J. 2007a. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, proposed construction of chicken houses on Ptn 4 and 18 of the Farm Skoenmakersfontein 486, Riebeek West. Report prepared for Enviroafrica. ACRM, Riebeek West

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