

Case No. 20091516SB1020E

**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ON  
PORTION 12 OF FARM 481 SCHERPE HEUWEL NEAR  
WORCESTER, CAPE WINELANDS DISTRICT  
MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE**

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

Prepared for

**EnviroAfrica cc**

PO Box 5367, Helderberg, 7135

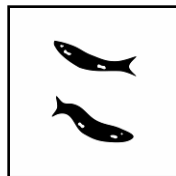
Att: Clinton Geysler

Email: [clinton@enviroafrica.co.za](mailto:clinton@enviroafrica.co.za)

Applicant

**BASS DIII BERRIES (PTY) LTD**

By



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**FEBRUARY  
2021**

## **Executive summary**

### *1. Introduction*

ACRM was instructed by EnviroAfrica, on behalf of Bass Diii Berries (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for a proposed agricultural development on Portion 12 of the Farm Scherpe Heuwel 481, in the Western Cape.

Scherpe Heuwel is located off the R60, on the Eilandia Road, about 16kms south west of Worcester in the Cape Winelands District Municipality.

### *2. The development proposal*

The proposal entails the clearing of new agricultural land for the cultivation of blue berries on the Farm Scherpe Heuwel 481/12, near Worcester. An abandoned in-stream dam will also be rehabilitated. The blue berries will be cultivated in coir bags mainly for the export market. Existing farm roads will be utilized, and no new roads will need to be constructed. The combined footprint area of the development is less than 20ha.

A HIA, comprising an archaeological study, and a desktop palaeontological study (PIA) was requested by Heritage Western Cape (HWC), following the submission of a Notice of Intent to Develop.

The PIA has been undertaken by Natura Viva (Dr John Almond), while the archaeological study has been undertaken by ACRM (Jonathan Kaplan).

ACRM is overall responsible for writing up the integrated HIA report, which includes comments from registered conservation bodies, Interested and Affected Parties, and the Breede River Municipality.

EnviroAfrica cc is the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner responsible for facilitating the Basic Assessment (BA) process for Environmental Authorization.

### *3. Aim of the HIA*

The overall purpose of the HIA is to assess the sensitivity of archaeological and palaeontological resources in the study area, to establish the potential impacts on such resources, and to avoid and/or minimise such impacts by means of management and/or mitigation measures.

### *4. Results of the study*

A field assessment was conducted on 03 October 2020, in which the following observations were made:

#### *4.1 Archaeology*

A handful of Middle Stone Age (MSA) tools (Not Conservation Worthy) were recorded on sheet washed ferruginous gravels alongside a deep donga on the edge of old agricultural lands. The area in which they were found has since been screened out of the development proposal.

No tools were recorded in the degraded dam basin.

#### *4.2 Graves*

Five or six farm labourer graves were recorded in proposed Area A, identified for the growing of blue berries. The landowner is aware of their presence and has assured the heritage practitioner that steps will be taken to protect them.

Graves are graded as having high (3A) local significance.

#### *4.2 Palaeontology*

The project area is underlain by Permian basinal mudrocks of the lower Ecca Group (Karoo Supergroup). According to Almond, potential palaeontological heritage impacts of the proposed agricultural development are anticipated to be LOW, mainly because deep excavations are not anticipated (berries will be grown in free standing coir bags), and bedrocks in this region are not known to be highly fossiliferous.

According to Almond, 'there are therefore no objections on palaeontological heritage grounds to authorisation of the project, and no specialist palaeontological monitoring or mitigation measures are proposed'.

#### *4.3 Built Environment*

There are no building or structures within the land parcels identified for the production of blue berries.

#### *4.4 Socio economic benefits*

Clearing of new land for agricultural development will increase employment opportunities in the surrounding area/towns. The bulk of employment opportunities will be generated during the harvesting/picking season, which is a highly, labour intensive activity.

### *5. Anticipated impacts*

#### *5.1 Archaeology*

Indications are that the proposed development, including the upgrading of an existing in-stream farm dam, does not pose a threat to local archaeological heritage resources.

Significant impacts on archaeological resources are therefore not anticipated.

#### *5.2 Graves*

Graves in Area A may be impacted by proposed agricultural activities.

#### *5.3 Palaeontology*

According to Almond, the proposed activity does not pose a significant threat to local palaeontological heritage resources. Significant impacts on fossil heritage resources are therefore not anticipated.

## 6. Comments

To date no heritage related comments have been received from the Breede River Municipality, Interested and Affected Parties, or registered conservation bodies.

## 7. Conclusion

The impact significance of a proposed agricultural development, including upgrading of an existing dam on Farm 481/12, on archaeological resources is, assessed as low.

Therefore, there are no objections to the authorization of the project.

Pending the chance discovery of any fossil remains during excavations for the in-stream dam, no further specialist palaeontological studies or mitigation are recommended.

## 8. Recommendations

### 8.1 Archaeology

1. No archaeological mitigation is required.
2. No archaeological monitoring is required.

### 8.2 Palaeontology

1. No specialist palaeontological monitoring or mitigation measures are required.
2. The Fossil Find Procedure must be implemented (refer to Appendix A). Should any fossil material be discovered during construction, this must be safeguarded (preferably *in situ*) and the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) should alert Heritage Western Cape so that appropriate mitigation (e.g. recording, sampling or collection) can be taken by a professional palaeontologist.

### 8.3 Graves

1. The applicant *must* consult with family members regarding the protection of graves in Area A, prior to the development commencing. Graves are graded as having high (3A) local significance and must be protected throughout the Operational Phase of the project.
2. The graves must be fenced off with gated access for family members. A 20m buffer around the informal cemetery is also proposed.

The above recommendation must be incorporated into the Environmental Management Plan for the proposed development.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

ACRM was instructed by EnviroAfrica, on behalf of Bass Diii Berries (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for a proposed agricultural development on Portion 12 of the Farm Scherpe Heuvel 481, in the Western Cape (Figures 1 & 2).

Scherpe Heuvel 481 is located off the R60, on the Eilandia Road, about 16kms south west of Worcester in the Cape Winelands District Municipality.

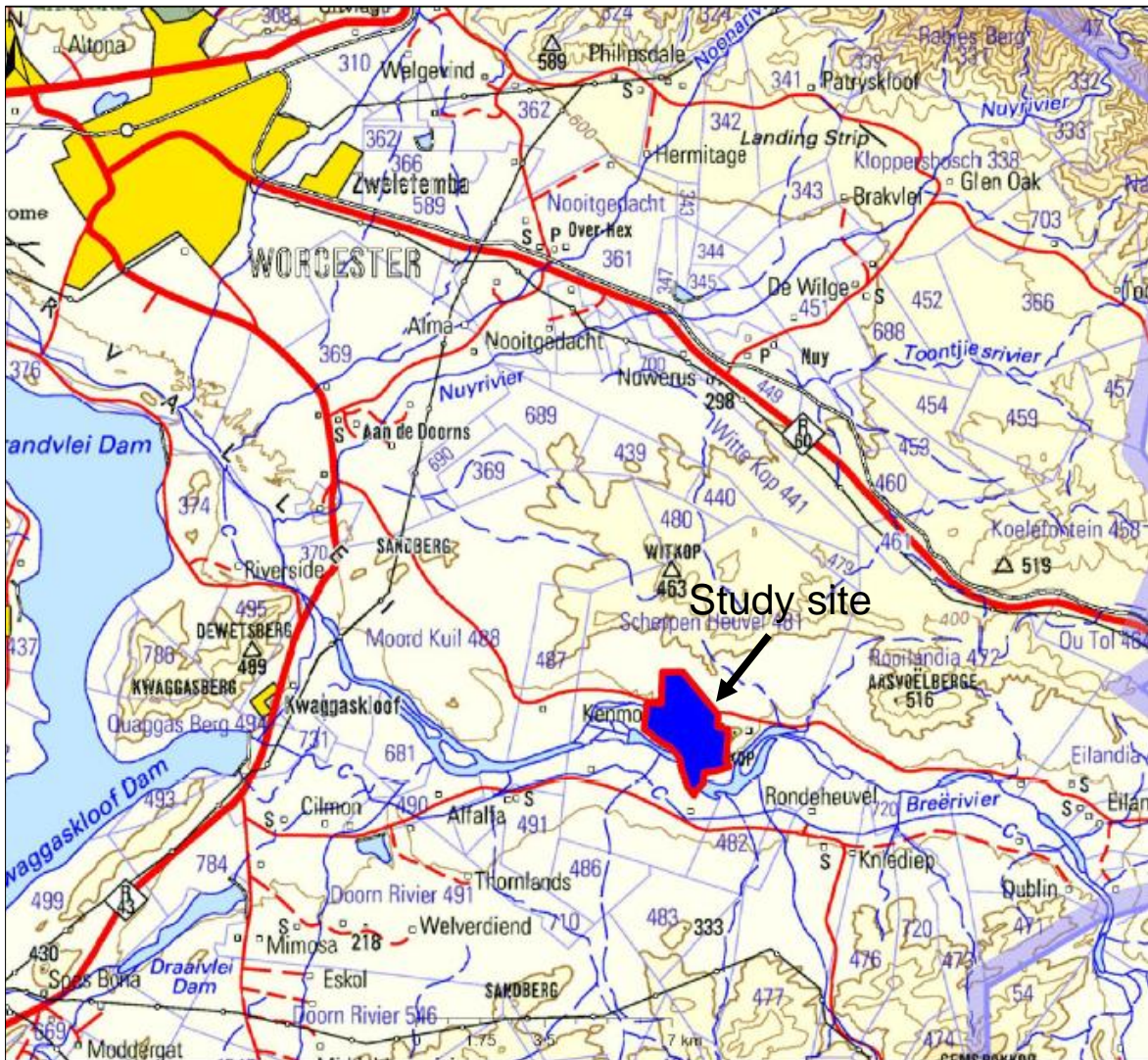


Figure 1. 1: 250 000 map sheet 3319 Worcester indicating the location of the farm Scherpe Heuvel in relation to the town of Worcester, in the Cape Winelands District Municipality



Figure 2. Google satellite map of the study site (red pin) in relation to the town of Worcester

## 2. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

The proposal entails the clearing of new agricultural land for the cultivation of blue berries on Portion 12 of the Farm Scherpe Heuwel 481, near Worcester (Figure 3).

An abandoned, in-stream dam (~ 5ha in extent) will also be rehabilitated to facilitate the proposed development.

The blue berries will be cultivated in free standing coir bags, mainly for the international export market. Existing farm roads will be utilized, and no new roads will need to be constructed.

The combined footprint area of the proposed development is less than 20ha in extent.

EnviroAfrica cc is the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) responsible for facilitating the Basic Assessment (BA) process for Environmental Authorization.

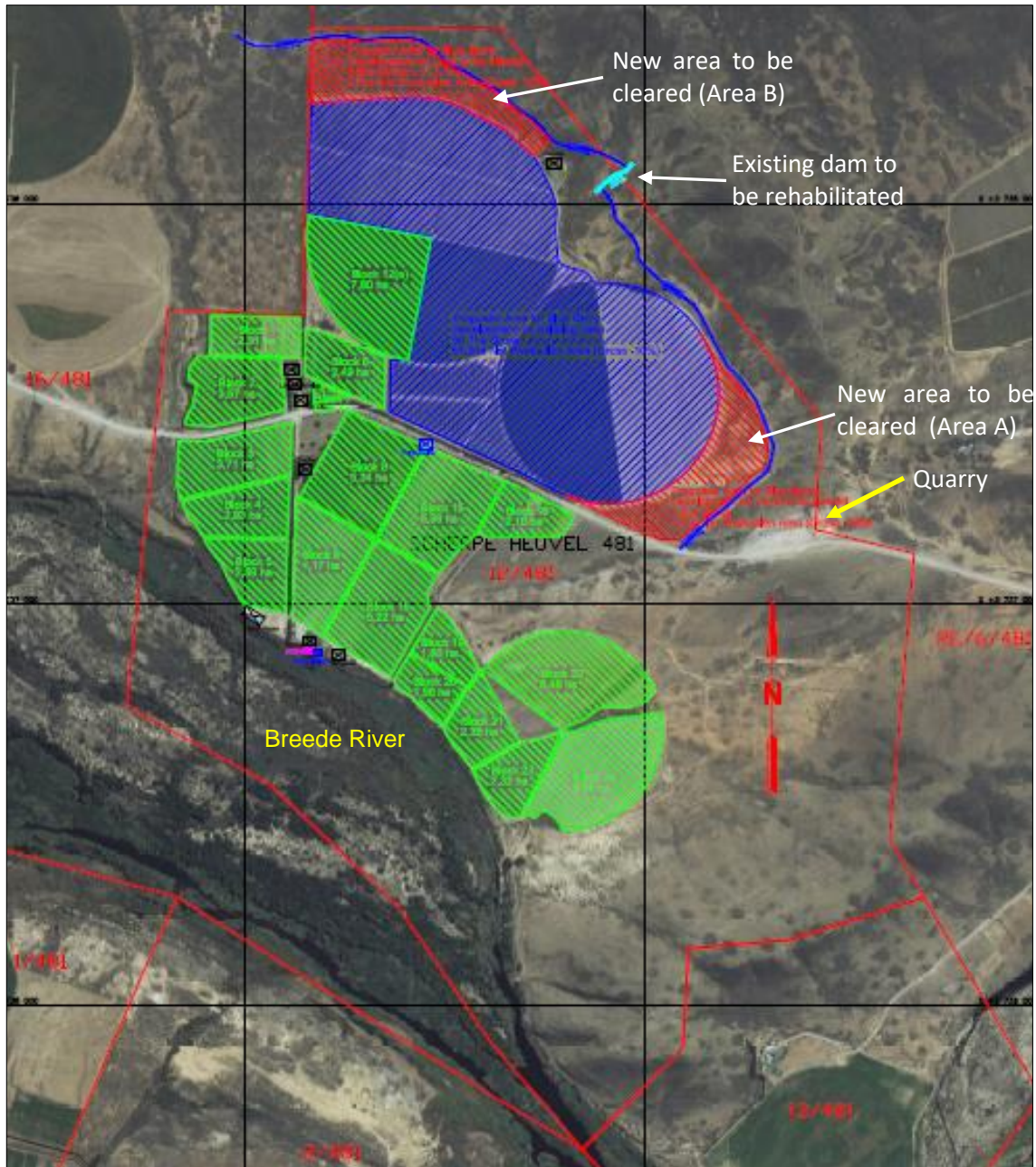


Figure 3. Scherpe Heuvel 481/12 showing the existing blue and green shaded areas currently under cultivation, and the proposed new (red shaded) areas to be cleared for blue berry production. The in-stream dam is also indicated. The existing roadside quarry excavated into the fossiliferous Whitehill Formation is indicated by the yellow arrow. This lies outside the project area.

A HIA, comprising an archaeological study, and a desktop palaeontological study (PIA) was requested by Heritage Western Cape (HWC), following the submission of a Notice of Intent to Develop (Case No. 20091516SB1020E).

The desktop PIA has been undertaken by Natura Viva (Dr John Almond), while the specialist archaeological study has been undertaken by ACRM (Jonathan Kaplan).



ACRM is overall responsible for writing up the integrated HIA report, which includes comments from registered conservation bodies, Interested and Affected Parties and the Breede River Municipality.

### 3. HERITAGE LEGISLATION

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999) makes provision for a compulsory Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) when an area exceeding 5000 m<sup>2</sup> is being developed. This is to determine if the area contains heritage sites and to take the necessary steps to ensure that they are not damaged or destroyed during development.

### 4. DESCRIPTION OF THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

Scherpe Heuwel (S 33 44 46.50 E 19 34 35.30) is on the Eilandia Road, about 16kms south west of Worcester. Several large parcels of land have been identified for the cultivation of blue berries, including the upgrading of an abandoned in-stream dam.

On the edge of existing fields of Lucerne (Area A) and vineyards (Area B), the proposed new agricultural lands are covered in natural semi-arid Karoo bossieveld vegetation on a substrate of alluvial to colluvial soils. There are no significant landscape features in any of the identified land parcels (Figures 4-7).

The old, abandoned in-stream earth dam is also covered in dense vegetation, with large, exposed patches of eroded, exposed and sheet washed gravels in the dam basin (Figures 8-10). Several deep test pits have also been excavated.

Surrounding land use is intensive agriculture including center pivots (Lucerne), vineyards, stone fruit, pears, and nuts (almonds).



Figure 4. Area A. View facing north.



Figure 5. Area A. View facing south



Figure 6. Area B. View facing west.



Figure 8. The abandoned dam site covered in dense vegetation. View facing south east.



Figure 7. Area B. View facing



Figure 9. The abandoned dam site covered in dense vegetation. View facing west.

## 5. STUDY APPROACH

### 5.1 Archaeology

The overall purpose of the study is to assess the sensitivity of archaeological and palaeontological resources in the affected areas, and to determine the potential impacts on such resources.

A field assessment was undertaken by ACRM on the, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2020.

A literature survey was also carried out to assess the archaeological context of the surrounding area.

## **5.2 Palaeontology**

The purpose of the PIA is to inform about the palaeontological sensitivities of the project area, and the probability of fossils being uncovered in the subsurface and being disturbed or destroyed during the proposed activities. The desktop study report is based on the following:

1. A review of the relevant scientific literature, including several previous desktop and field-based palaeontological impact assessments in the broader study region, as well as satellite images;
2. Published geological maps;
3. Background information and maps supplied for the project.

## **5.3 Constraints and limitations**

There were no constraints or limitations associated with the field study. Access to the site was easy and despite the vegetation cover, visibility was reasonably good.

## **5.4 Identification of potential risks**

The results of the study indicate that there are no heritage risks associated with a proposed agricultural development on Scherpe Heuwel 481/12.

## **5.5 Archaeological context**

More than 30 AIAs have been undertaken by ACRM on farms surrounding Robertson and Worcester in the Breede River Valley (refer to references). The results of these studies show a consistent distribution of archaeological resources across the landscape, which are, overwhelmingly dominated by Middle Stone Age (MSA) remains. Sporadic finds of Early Stone Age (ESA) remains such as handaxes and bifaces have been encountered, while several well-preserved Later Stone Age (LSA) sites have also been recorded (Kaplan 2012a). Rare, Bushman/San rock art has been recorded in the mountains between Robertson and Ashton (personnel observation), as well as at Goudini/Rawsonville (Kaplan 2003), at Quaggaskloof Dam near Worcester (Yates 2004), and in the Slanghoek Valley near Rawsonville (personnel observation).

# **6. RESULTS**

## **6.1 Archaeology**

A small number of MSA tools were recorded during the field study (Figure 10 & Table 1). The remains were all encountered on a large patch of sheet washed and eroded gravels, alongside a deep donga surrounded by extensive fields of Lucerne (Figures 11 & 12). The lithics comprised a few unmodified flakes, chunks and one worked out core. All the remains are in locally available quartzite. No formal tools such as points or scrapers, or

any organic remains such as pottery or ostrich eggshell was found. The area in which they were found (Area C) has since been screened out of the development proposal.

No archaeological resources were recorded in Area A and Area B, or in the footprint of the abandoned in stream dam.

The small number of isolated tools are considered Not Conservation Worthy (NCW).

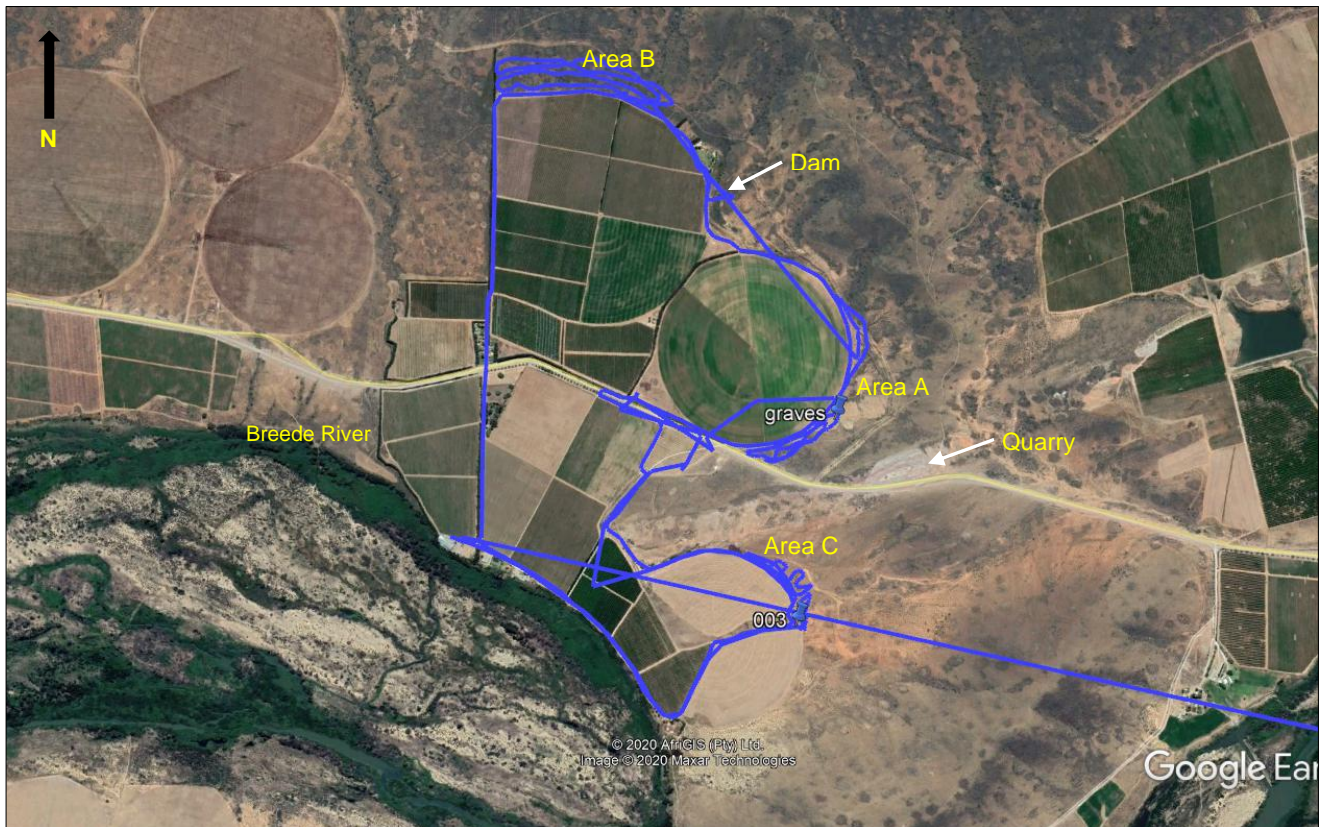


Figure 10. Trackpaths (in blue) & waypoint of archaeological find (Point 003). Note the location of the graves.

Site	Name of Farm	Lat/Long	Description	Grading	Mitigation
	481/12 Scherpe Heuwel				
003		S33° 45 627' E19°35 002'	A handful of MSA quartzite flakes, chunks and a core on eroded gravels alongside a deep donga	NCW	None required
Graves		S33°45 232' E19°34 567	5-6 farm labourer graves in Area A. Some of the graves are covered in fake flowers and appear to be fairly well maintained. No graves were found.	High IIIA	Family members to be consulted. Graves to be fenced off with gated access. 20m buffer to be established around the site

Table 1. Spreadsheet of waypoints and description of archaeological finds



Figure 11. Point 003. A few of the stone implements recorded during the study. Measuring scale is in cm.



Figure 12. Point 003.. View facing north. Area C has been screened out of the development proposal.

## 6.2 Graves

Five or six farm labourer graves were recorded in Area A, on north west facing slopes overlooking large fields of Lucerne (Figures 13 & 14). The graves comprise mounds of packed earth (shale rock) some of which have been decorated with fake plastic flowers. The burial `site' is unfenced. Indications are that at least some of the graves are fairly frequently visited and looked after. When informed of their presence, the farmer Mr Basie Smit (pers. comm.), indicated that the applicant is aware of the graves, and that all measures will be taken to protect and safeguard them, if the development is approved.

Graves are graded as having high (3A) local significance.



Figure 13. Graves. View facing north.



Figure 14. Graves. View facing north east.

### 6.3 Palaeontology

The project area is underlain by Permian basinal clay rich mudrocks of the Ecca Group (Karoo Supergroup) of Early to Middle Permian age that form part of the Worcester-Robertson Karoo Outlier (Figure 14). Satellite imagery indicates that the two small agricultural project areas are underlain by turbidite fan sediments of the Collingham Formation as well as basinal mudrocks of the overlying Tierberg Formation, while the in-stream dam lies within the outcrop area of the Tierberg Formation (Figure 15). Apart from low-diversity trace fossil assemblages, no significant fossil remains have been recorded from the Collingham and Tierberg Formations of the Scherpenheuvel region (Almond 2021).

Field photographs supplied by ACRM show that the areas are largely mantled by low karroid *bossieveld* with extensive cover by alluvial to colluvial soils, especially along stream gullies. Bedrock exposure is generally extremely poor although limited exposure of surface-weathered shales within deeper erosion gullies is possible. Older alluvial deposits of the Breede River – such as High-Level Gravels - are not mapped in the region but small erosional relicts of these might be preserved locally.

According to Almond (2021), potential palaeontological heritage impacts of the proposed agricultural developments are anticipated to be LOW, mainly because deep excavations are not anticipated so major disturbance of fresh (unweathered) bedrocks is unlikely; the Ecca Group bedrocks in this region are not known to be highly fossiliferous, apart from the Whitehill Formation which will *not* be directly impacted here.

It is noted that the substantial Scherpenheuvel Quarry excavated into pale grey, weathered mudrocks of the Whitehill Formation that is situated just outside and southeast of the project area (refer to Figure 3) has yielded important fossil material of Early Permian mesosaurid reptiles, pygocephalomorph crustaceans, palaeoniscoid fish, trace fossils and insects .

To the author's knowledge, there are no records of Caenozoic fossil remains within the alluvial sands and gravels or other superficial sediments of the Breede River drainage system near Worcester (Almond 2021). Late Caenozoic fossil biotas from superficial deposits include non-marine molluscs (freshwater bivalves, gastropods, crustaceans), ostrich egg shells, trace fossils (*e.g.*, calcretised termitaria, coprolites, rhizoliths or root casts), and plant remains such as wood, carbonized roots, peats or palynomorphs (pollens) in organic-rich alluvial horizons.

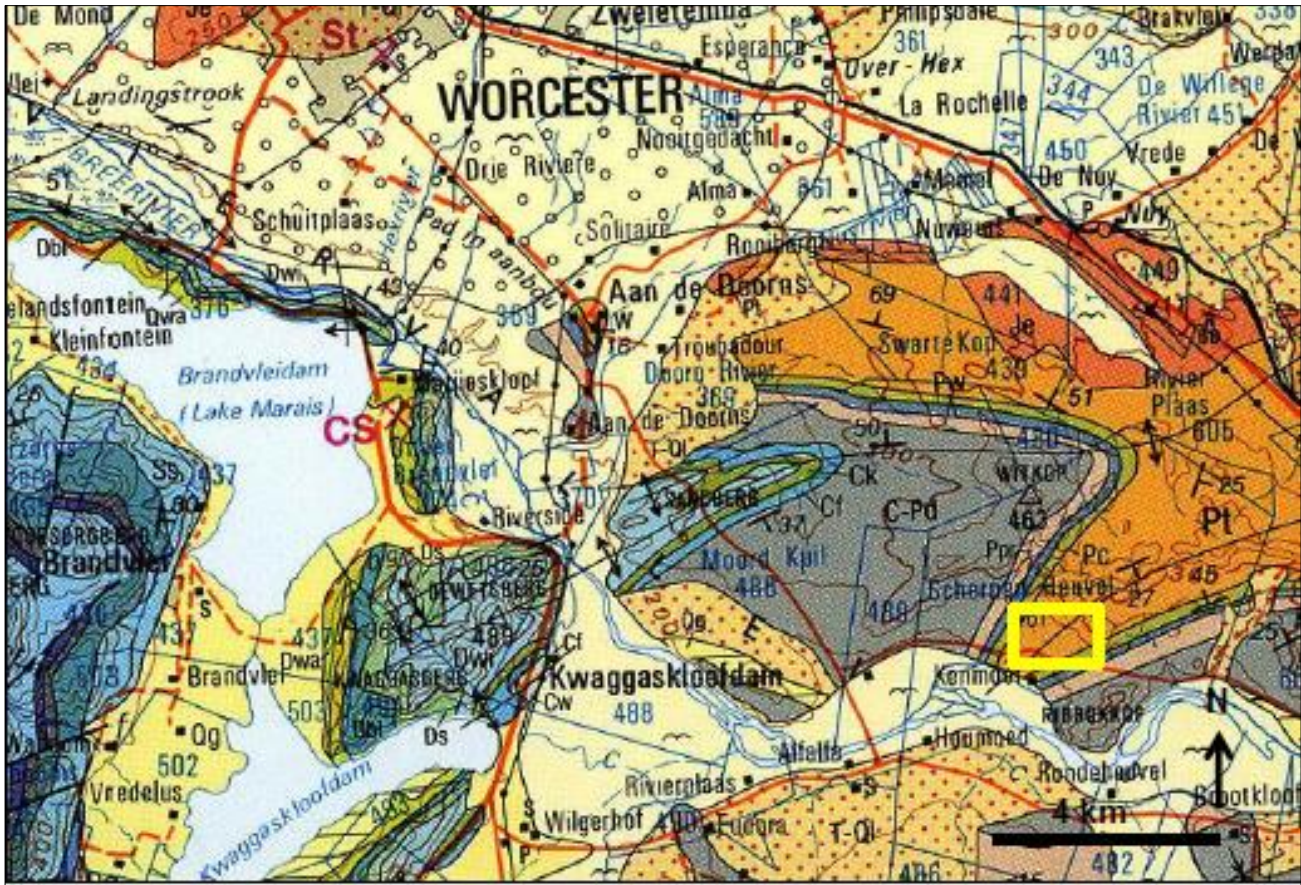


Figure 14. Extract from 1: 250 000 geology map 3319 Worcester (Council for Geoscience, Pretoria), showing the approximate location (yellow rectangle) of the proposed agricultural developments on Farm Scherpe Heuvel 481/12, located north of the Breede River near Worcester, Western Cape. The main geological units underlying or in the vicinity of the proposed development footprint are:

**ECCA GROUP (Early – Middle Permian)**

- Ppr (grey-brown): Prince Albert Formation
- Pw (blue-grey): Whitehill Formation
- Pc (green): Collingham Formation
- Pt (dark yellow): Tierberg Formation

**SUPERFICIAL SEDIMENTS (Late Tertiary / Quaternary – Recent)**

- Pale yellow : Alluvium of Breede River and its tributaries

(N.B. Most superficial soils and colluvial gravels are not mapped at this scale)



Figure 15. Google Earth© satellite image of the project area north of the Breede River. The small agricultural project areas (A, B) are underlain by the Collingham and Tierberg Formations (Pc, Pt) while the in-stream dam site lies within the Tierberg outcrop area (Compare Figures 2 & 3). Direct impacts on the palaeontologically sensitive Whitehill Formation (Pw) and Prince Albert Formation (Ppr) are not anticipated here.

## 6.4 Built environment

There are no building or structures within the land parcels identified for the production of blue berries.

## 6.5 Socio economic benefits

Clearing new land for agricultural production will increase employment opportunities in the surrounding area. The bulk of employment opportunities will be generated during the picking season, which is a highly, labour intensive activity.

## 7. IMPACT STATEMENT

### 7.1 Archaeology

Indications are that the development of new agricultural fields for the cultivation of blue berries and upgrading of a small abandoned in-stream earth farm dam, will not impact on important archaeological resources.



## **7.2 Palaeontology**

According to Almond (2021), the proposed agricultural activities do not pose a significant threat to local palaeontological resources and no specialist palaeontological monitoring or mitigation measures are proposed.

## **7.3 Graves**

Farm labourer graves in Area A may be negatively impacted by the proposed development.

## **8. COMMENTS**

To date no heritage related comments have been received from the local Breede River Municipality, Interested and Affected Parties, or registered conservation bodies (Refer to Appendix B & C)

## **9. CONCLUSION**

### **9.1 Archaeology**

The impact significance of the proposed development on local archaeological resources is, assessed as low. Therefore, there are no objections to the authorization of the proposed Scherpe Heuwel agricultural development.

### **9.2 Palaeontology**

According to Almond (2021), significant impacts on fossil heritage resources are not anticipated. Pending the potential discovery of new fossil finds during the construction phase, there are no objections on palaeontological heritage grounds to authorisation of the project,

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Regarding a proposed agricultural development on the farm Scherpe Heuwel 481/12, near Worcester, the following recommendations are made.

### **9.1 Archaeology**

1. No mitigation is required.
2. No monitoring is required.

### **9.2 Palaeontology**

1. No specialist palaeontological monitoring or mitigation measures are required.

2. The Fossil Find Procedure must be implemented (refer to Appendix A). Should any fossil material be discovered during construction, this must be safeguarded (preferably *in situ*) and the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) should alert Heritage Western Cape so that appropriate mitigation (e. g. recording, sampling, or collection) can be taken by a professional palaeontologist.

### **9.3 Graves**

1. The applicant *must* consult with family members regarding the protection of graves in Area A, prior to the development commencing. Graves are graded as having high (3A) local significance and must be protected throughout the Operational Phase of the project.

2. The graves must be fenced off, with gated access for family members. A 20m buffer around the informal cemetery is proposed.

The above recommendations must be included in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed development.

## 10. REFERENCES

Almond, J. 2021. Palaeontological heritage assessment: desktop letter of exemption from further specialist studies or mitigation. Proposed agricultural development on Portion 12 of the Farm Scherpe Heuvel 481 near Worcester, Cape Winelands District Municipality, Western Cape. Report prepared for ACRM. Natura Viva cc, Cape Town

Kaplan, J. 2018. Heritage Impact Assessment, proposed enlargement of the Wyekloof Dam on Portion 48 of the Farm Uitnoord 129, near Robertson, Western Cape. Report prepared for Pieter Badenhorst Professional Services. ACRM, Cape Town

Kaplan, J. 2015. Heritage Impact Assessment, proposed development of a dam on the Farm Goedemoed Annex 127 and Farm Goedemoed 127/1 Robertson, Western Cape. Report prepared for Enviro Africa. ACRM Cape Town

Kaplan, J. 2012a. Heritage Impact Assessment proposed expansion of a free-range chicken facility on Farm 440, Remainder Farm 441 & Farm 478 near Worcester. Report prepared for Boland Enviro. ACRM, Cape Town.

Kaplan, J. 2012b. Heritage Impact Assessment, proposed enlargement of the Rietvlei Dam on Portion 2, 14 & 15 of the Farm De Rietvalley No. 150, Robertson. Report prepared for Pieter Badenhorst Professional Services. ACRM, Cape Town

Kaplan, J. 2012c. Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed Koinonia Youth Camp near Robertson. Report prepared for Pieter Badenhorst Professional Services. ACRM Cape Town

Kaplan, J. 2012d. Heritage Impact Assessment proposed cultivation of virgin soil and construction of a dam on Portion 9 of the Farm Middelburg (Vinkrivier) No. 10, with a water pump scheme from the Breede River. Report prepared for Boland Enviro. ACRM Cape Town.

Kaplan, J. 2011a. Archaeological Impact Assessment, proposed agricultural development on Portion 6 of Farm 112 (Klipbos), Robertson. Report prepared for Boland Enviro. ACRM, Cape Town.

Kaplan, J. 2011b. Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed development of agricultural land and construction of an off-channel storage dam on Portion 18 of the Farm Uitnoord 129 Robertson. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. ACRM Cape Town

Kaplan, J. 2011c. Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed SANVAL Solar Farm, near Worcester. Report prepared for Boland Enviro. ACRM, Cape Town.

Kaplan, J. 2007. Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed housing development Erf 7545 Robertson. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. ACRM Cape Town

Kaplan, J. 2006. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, proposed development Erf 3, Robertson. Report prepared for Boland Enviro. ACRM, Riebeeck West.

Kaplan, J. 2004. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, Portion 4 of the Farm Olifantsdoorn No. 210. Report prepared for Eco Sense. ACRM, Riebeeck West.

Heritage Impact Assessment, proposed agricultural development on Farm 481/12 near Worcester

Yates, R. 2004. A Heritage Management Plan for Quaggaskloof Site 1 on Portion 1 of Farm 495 Worcester. Iziko: South African Museum.

Appendix A

Palaeontological Impact Assessment

Appendix B

Comments from the Breede River Municipality



**BREED VALLEY**  
MUNICIPALITY • MUNISIPALITEIT • UMASIPALA

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6849, South Africa, Private Bag X3046

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In your reply, please quote:

Reference: 10/3/R

Enquiries: P. Hartzenberg

21 May 2020

Stephan Badenhorst  
United Exports Group  
Mainroad  
Paarl  
7646

**Proposed agricultural development on the Portion 12 of the Farm Scherpe  
Heuvel 481, Worcester**

Your letter dated 18 May 2020, refers.

Your proposed development is of a bona fide agricultural nature and therefore in accordance with the municipal scheme regulations and spatial planning guidelines for the area and property in question.

This department has no objection to your proposed and wish for you to go ahead with the proposed project at your soonest convenience, subject to all relevant environmental legislation being adhered to.

Regards

P.S.J. Hartzenberg  
Senior Manager: Municipal Planning and Building Control

**A caring valley of excellence.**

## Appendix C

### Comments from registered conservation bodies





**CONSERVATION INTELLIGENCE: LANDSCAPE  
CENTRAL**

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email aduffell-canham@capenature.co.za  
reference SSD14/2/19/2481-12\_Cult&Dam\_exp\_ScherpenHeuvel  
date 30 October 2020

Clinton Geysler  
EnviroAfrica  
PO Box 5367  
Helderberg  
7135

By email: [clinton@enviroafrica.co.za](mailto:clinton@enviroafrica.co.za)

Dear Mr Geysler

**RE: Proposed agricultural development and dam expansion on portion 12 of Farm Scherpen Heuvel No. 481, Worcester – Background Information Document.**  
DEA&DP Ref: TBC

CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the notification/Background Information Document for this application and wish to make the following initial comments:

Agricultural expansion:

1. The applicant is proposing a blueberry orchard in the northern part of the property (according to coordinates provided as site is not indicated on the map). The site supports Robertson Karoo, which is not currently listed as a threatened ecosystem. Consideration must still be given to the potential for any special microhabitats or species occurring on site. Erosion control measure must also be considered.

Dam expansion:

2. In general, CapeNature does not support new instream dams or enlargement of existing instream dams unless it can be shown that the condition of the catchment, particularly downstream of the dam, will not worsen and that other compensation measures are put in place. In this case we acknowledge that the dam site is in a non-perennial watercourse and that much of the immediate surrounding area has been degraded and even transformed. However, we would still like to request that the freshwater specialist terms of reference include determination of whether an Ecological Flow Reserve is required. Please also indicate if the additional storage capacity is within the existing lawful user amount allocated.

The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board trading as CapeNature  
Board Members: Associate Prof Denver Hendrickx (Chairperson), Prof Gavin Maneveldt (Vice Chairperson), Ms Marguerite Loubeur, Mr Mervyn Burton, Dr Colin Johnson, Prof Aubrey Reddinghula, Mr Paul Slack

General:


3. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) needs to include requirements for monitoring post-construction success of rehabilitation, alien clearing and erosion control.

CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.

Yours sincerely



Alana Duffell-Canham



**BREED-GOURITZ**  
CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AGENCY

51 Baring Street Worcester 6850, Private Bag X3055 Worcester 6850

---

Enquiries: M Mmbadi    Tel: 023 346 8000    Fax: 023 347 2012    E-mail: [mmmbadi@bgcma.co.za](mailto:mmmbadi@bgcma.co.za)

REFERENCE NO: 4/10/1/H40F/SCHERPEN HEUVEL 481/12, Worcester    Date: 03 December 2020

EnviroAfrica  
P.O Box 5367  
**HELDERBERG**  
7135

Attention: Clinton Geyser

**RE: PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND DAM EXPANSION ON PORTION 12 OF THE FARM SCHERPEN HEUVEL NO 481, WORCESTER, WESTERN CAPE.**

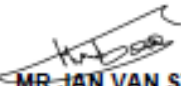
With reference to the above-mentioned document received by this office on 21/10/2020.

- ❖ The Breed-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency would like to register as interested and affected party and will therefore request a report for commenting when it becomes available.
- ❖ Any activity within the 1:100 year floodline or within 100 metres of a watercourse (river, spring, natural channel, a lake or dam) or within a 500 m radius from the delineated boundary (extent) of any wetland or pan triggers a water use activity in terms of Section 21 (c) & (l) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998).
- ❖ Please note that engaging in activity that triggers the National Water Act without authorisation is an offence and will result in the BGCMA taking legal action against the proponent in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998).

This office reserves the right to amend and revise its comments as well as to request any further information.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you have any further queries.

Yours faithfully

  
**MR JAN VAN STADEN**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (Acting)

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