

**SCOPING REPORT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES FOR THE  
PROPOSED CLARENS TO SUIKERBOSRAND PIPELINE**

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<b>SUMMARY</b>
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**Scoping report on cultural resources for the proposed Clarens to Suikerbosrand pipeline.**

It has been shown that sites of cultural significance occur in the area through which it is proposed lay the pipeline. It is therefore postulated that a pipeline, covering such a long distance, will definitely impact upon sites of cultural significance at a number of places. However, it is believed that few of these sites are so unique that it will present a 'no-go' option for the proposed development. It is possible that important sites can be avoided by

- (a) realigning the route around it, or
- (b) the implementation of mitigation measures, such as extensive excavation and documentation of the sites that cannot be avoided.

It is therefore recommended that

- (c) as soon as the route which the pipeline is to follow has been determined, it is surveyed by archaeologists to determine the significance
- (d) The developers should be notified that archaeological sites might be exposed during the construction work. If anything is noticed, it should immediately be reported to a museum, preferably one at which an archaeologist is available, so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

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## SCOPING REPORT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES FOR THE PROPOSED CLARENS TO SUIKERBOSRAND PIPELINE

### 1. AIMS OF THE SURVEY

The National Cultural History Museum was requested by **Walmsley Environmental Consultants** to produce a “scoping” report for a route over which it is planned to build a pipeline that is to bring water from Clarens in the Free State to Heidelberg in Gauteng. The aim of the survey was to give an overview of sites, objects and structures of cultural importance that might occur within the boundaries of the area in which the development is planned.

### 2. DEFINITIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The following aspects have a direct bearing on the survey and the resulting report:

- **Cultural resources** are all nonphysical and physical human-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences that are associated with human activity. These include all sites, structures and artifacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development.
- The **significance** of the sites and artifacts are determined by means of their historical, social, aesthetic, technological and scientific value in relation to their uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. It must be kept in mind that the various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and that the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these.

### 3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are mainly dealt within two acts. These are the National Monuments Act (Act 28 of 1969) and the Environmental Conservation Act (Act 73 of 1989). It is however important to note that new legislation is being prepared and this come into effect by April 2000.

### 3.1 National Monuments Act

Article 12, subsection 2A of this act states that anyone who wishes to disturb, destroys, alter, remove or export any fossils, rock art or artifacts left at places inhabited by indigenous people before European colonisation, shipwrecks and their contents older than 50 years, buildings and structures that are older than 50 years, as well as paintings or furniture that have been in South Africa for more than 50 or years respectively, may do so only if they have a permit from the National Monuments Council. According to this Act the following resources are protected:

- a. Meteorites and fossils
- b. Prehistoric rock art
- c. Prehistoric tools, ornaments and structures
- d. The anthropological and archaeological contents of graves, rock shelters, caves, middens etc.
- e. Historical sites and archaeological finds, material or artifacts
- f. Declared national monuments
- g. Cemeteries and graves with headstones older than 50 years

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit from the National Monuments Council to do so.

### 3.2 Environmental Conservation Act

This act states that a survey and an evaluation of cultural resources should be undertaken in areas where development, which will change the face of the environment, is to be made. The impact of the development on the cultural resources should also be determined and proposals to mitigate this impact is to be formulated.

### 3.3 The new Heritage Resources Act

This act is currently being discussed by parliament and is destined to be promulgated by April 2000. It will replace the current National Monuments Act. The types of sites protected by the new act will be more or less the same than that covered by the current act, but provide more strict measures of protection. One of the changes to the current act is that the 50 year clause is extended to 60 years.

## 4. METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 Preliminary investigation

#### 4.1.1 Survey of the literature

A survey of the relevant literature was conducted with the aim of reviewing the previous research done and determining the potential of the area. In this regard, various anthropological, archaeological and historical sources were consulted - see the list of references below.

#### 4.1.2 Data bases

The **Archaeological Data Recording Centre (ADRC)**, housed at the National Cultural History Museum, Pretoria, was consulted. The **Environmental Potential Atlas** was also consulted.

#### 4.1.3 Other sources

The relevant topocadastral and other maps were also studied.

### 4.2 Field survey

A field survey was done by the investigation team driving along the approximate route the pipeline is to follow. Although the route was not covered in detail, it was possible to get a working knowledge of the environment and some cultural resources were identified.

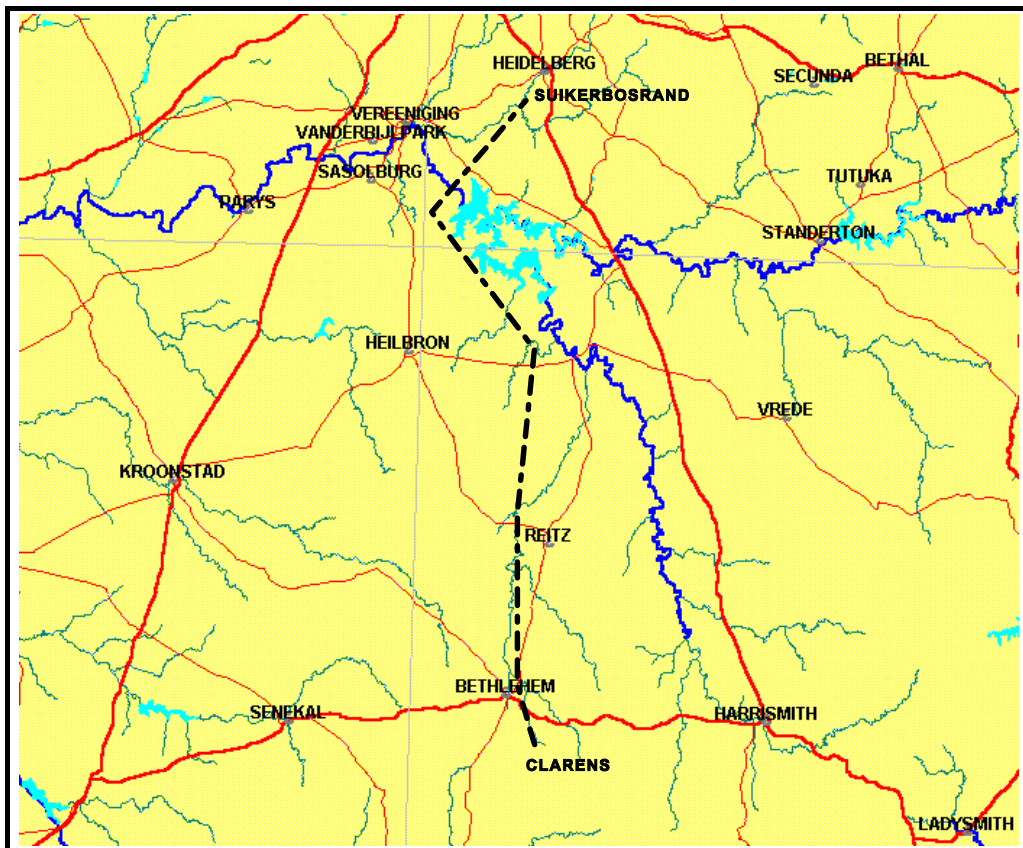
## 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The area through which it is proposed to build the pipeline, is only generally known and is indicated in Fig. 1. For that reason, this scoping includes an area much broader than what is probably needed for the pipeline.

## 6. DISCUSSION

In this section, the incidence of occurrence of possible cultural resources is discussed only on a general level.

### 6.1 Stone Age



Over the last 2 000 000 years, Stone Age people occupied most of the area under discussion at one stage or another. This is evidenced from their stone tools that are found in most places, especially close to water courses.

Early Stone Age people, roamed over large areas and had a relatively low impact on the environment. This makes detecting primary occupation sites difficult. For that reason, such sites are very important.



- ❑ The Vaal River basin is well-known for its river gravels which in some places produce Early Stone Age tools as well as faunal material. Although the original identification and dating (eg. Söhnge, P.G., Visser, D.J.L. & Lowe, C. van Riet 1937; Archaeological Survey 1948) of these were later proved to be wrong (Partridge & Brink 1967), it still remains an important source of information on the Early Stone Age. It is therefore advisable to be on the lookout for these gravels when development starts. If it is exposed, an archaeologist should be called in to investigate.

Middle Stone Age people occupied large sections of the area under consideration. Similar to the ESA people, they preferred open areas, close to rocky outcrops and water courses. Their material remains are mostly found as open surface finds, but in some cases might also occur in primary context. These latter sites are usually few and far between and are therefore very important. They are mostly found near river beads, occurring usually below ground and can only be detected in the profile of the river bed self.

- ❑ It is expected to find tools dating to this period over much of the area under consideration, although few primary sites are expected.

Late Stone Age people preferred to settle in rock shelters close to water. Their sites are usually stratified and in some cases span long periods of time. Many of these shelters contain rock art.

- ❑ Rock paintings is known to occur in various places in the districts of Bethlehem, Reitz, Frankfort and Heidelberg. Engravings, found for example in the Vereeniging district, occur on outcrops that are not necessarily associated with hills and rock shelters.

## 6.2 Iron Age

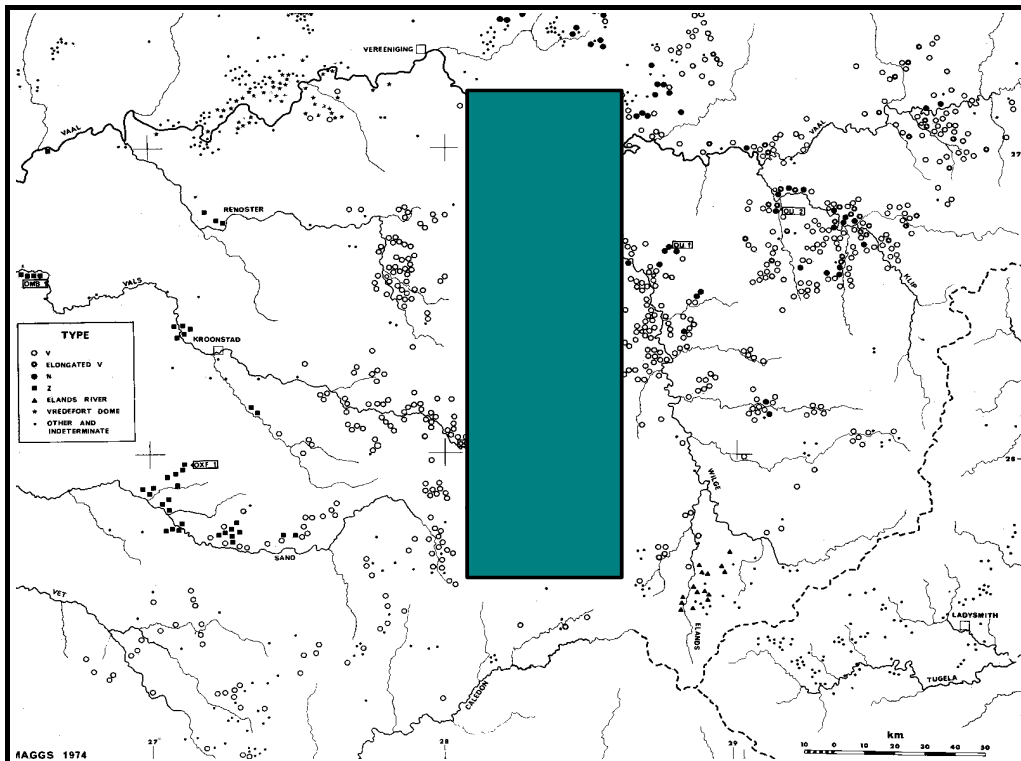
Two archaeological surveys were done on sections of the area and indicate that this is possibly one of the richest areas with the large number of Late Iron Age sites it contains. For the southern section, the work of Maggs (1976) is relevant. For the section to the north and west, Mason (1968) is relevant.

By using aerial photographs and field surveys, Maggs were able to identify the existence of a large number of Iron Age settlements in the northern and eastern Free State. According to particular attributes, he was able to classify it into different categories, which cannot necessarily be linked to current ethnic groups. These sites are characterised by stone walling, ash middens and material remains.

- ❑ In the area of the Liebenbergsvlei, Maggs identified, from aerial photo's, the existence of a large number of Iron Age sites. These were identified by him as early Sotho/Tswana settlements and were coded as type V sites (Fig. 2). These

sites date to between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. Similar sites were noticed during the field visit more to the northwest as well as in the Denysville area.

- Mason identified similar sites in the Heidelberg area and some of them is known to occur in the Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve.



### 6.3 Historical period

It should be noted that there might be any number of cemeteries, formal as well as informal, occurring in a random manner all over the area. Most are easily visible, but some are marked only with small cairns of stone, making their detection difficult. During the field survey, a number of such features were noticed.

The north-eastern Free State and southern Gauteng was also the scene for some heavy fighting that took place during the Second Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902). Some of the battlefields are located in the area under discussion. Although it is doubtful if much evidence of such battles remains, it is possible that artifacts and even graves can be found on these sites.

- Some heavy fighting took place in the vicinity of Bethlehem, eg. Spitskop and Wolhuterskop, and at Reitz. Genl. C de Wet was very active in this area.
- Fighting also took place in the Suikerbosrand and Heidelberg areas.

## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS

It has been shown that sites of cultural significance occur in the area through which it is proposed lay the pipeline. It is therefore postulated that a pipeline, covering such a long distance, will definitely impact upon sites of cultural significance at a number of places. However, it is believed that few of these sites are so unique that it will present a 'no-go' option for the proposed development. It is possible that important sites can be avoided by

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## 8. REFERENCES

### 8.1 Unpublished sources

#### 8.1.1 Data base

Archaeological Data Recording Centre, (former) Tvl section, National Cultural History Museum, Pretoria.

Environmental Potential Atlas, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

### 8.2 Published sources

#### 8.2.1 Books and journals

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#### **9. PROJECT TEAM**

J van Schalkwyk

J van den Bos

## APPENDIX 1: GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

This section is included to give the reader some necessary background. It must be kept in mind, however, that these dates are all relative and serve only to give a very broad framework for interpretation.

### STONE AGE

Early Stone Age (ESA)	2 000 000 - 150 000 Before Present
Middle Stone Age (MSA)	150 000 - 30 000 BP
Late Stone Age (LSA)	30 000 - until c. AD 200

### IRON AGE

Early Iron Age (EIA)	AD 200 - AD 1000
Late Iron Age (LIA)	AD 1000 - AD 1830

### HISTORICAL PERIOD

Since the arrival of the white settlers - c. AD 1840 in this part of the country

core - a piece of stone from which flakes were removed to be used or made into tools

tuyeres - clay pipes used as part of the bellows during iron smelting