AFRICAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC

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DR. UDO S KÜSEL

Tel/fax: (012) 567 6046
Cell: 082 498 0673
E-mail: udo.heritage@absamail.co.za

P.O. Box 652
Magalieskruin
0150

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CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON THE FARM SCHRIKKLOOF 428 KR BELA - BELA

1.   DEFINITION

The broad generic term *Cultural Heritage Resources* refers to any physical and spiritual property associated with past and present human use or occupation of the environment, cultural activities and history.   The term includes sites, structures, places, natural features and material of palaeontological, archaeological, historical, aesthetic, scientific, architectural, religious, symbolic or traditional importance to specific individuals or groups, traditional systems of cultural practice, belief or social interaction.

1.   PROTECTED SITES IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT, ACT. NO. 25 OF 1999

The following are the most important sites and objects protected by the National Heritage Act:

> a. Structures or parts of structures older than 60 years
> b. Archaeological sites and objects
> c. Palaeontological sites
> d. Meteorites
> e. Ship wrecks
> f. Burial grounds
> g. Graves of victims of conflict
> h. Public monuments and memorials

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i. Structures, places and objects protected through the publication of notices in the Gazette and Provincial Gazette
j. Any other places or object which are considered to be of interest or of historical or cultural significance
k. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
l. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa
m. Objects to which oral traditions are attached
n. Sites of cultural significance or other value to a community or pattern of South African history

2. METHODOLOGY

All relevant maps and documents on the site were studied. The site was visited and visually inspected.

3. RESULTS

The proposed development area lies in a valley with low hills on the east, west and southern sides. A small rock shelter was found at S24° 45' 21.5" and E28° 09' 42.4" (see photograph 1 & 2). On the floor of the shelter Later Stone Age cores and flakes are present. Two undecorated potshards were also found. The shelter is very small $\pm$ 2 X 3 meters

Two semi circular stonewalls were found near each other at the entrance to a saddle on a low hill

(i) S24° 45' 16.6" and E28° 09' 48.7"
(ii) S24° 45'17.0" and E28° 09' 47.7"

Both semi circular stonewalls are about 50 centimetre high and have a diameter circuit of about 10 meters. No pottery or any other cultural material could be found near the two walled sites (see photograph 3 & 4).

The remains of a farm workers settlement was found at S24° 45' 06.8" and E28° 09' 45.2". This ruin is modern and falls outside the development area.
No other important cultural heritage resources could be found on he site.

4. CONCLUSION

Though the rock shelter is very small there is a good deposit of Stone Age material present. The site should be preserved and can be developed as a point of interest to visitors.

The two stonewall sites at the approach of the saddle on the mountain are interesting and should be preserved.

5.   RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the rock shelter as well as the two stonewalls be preserved and protected and that the proposed layout of stands be changed to avoid these sites.
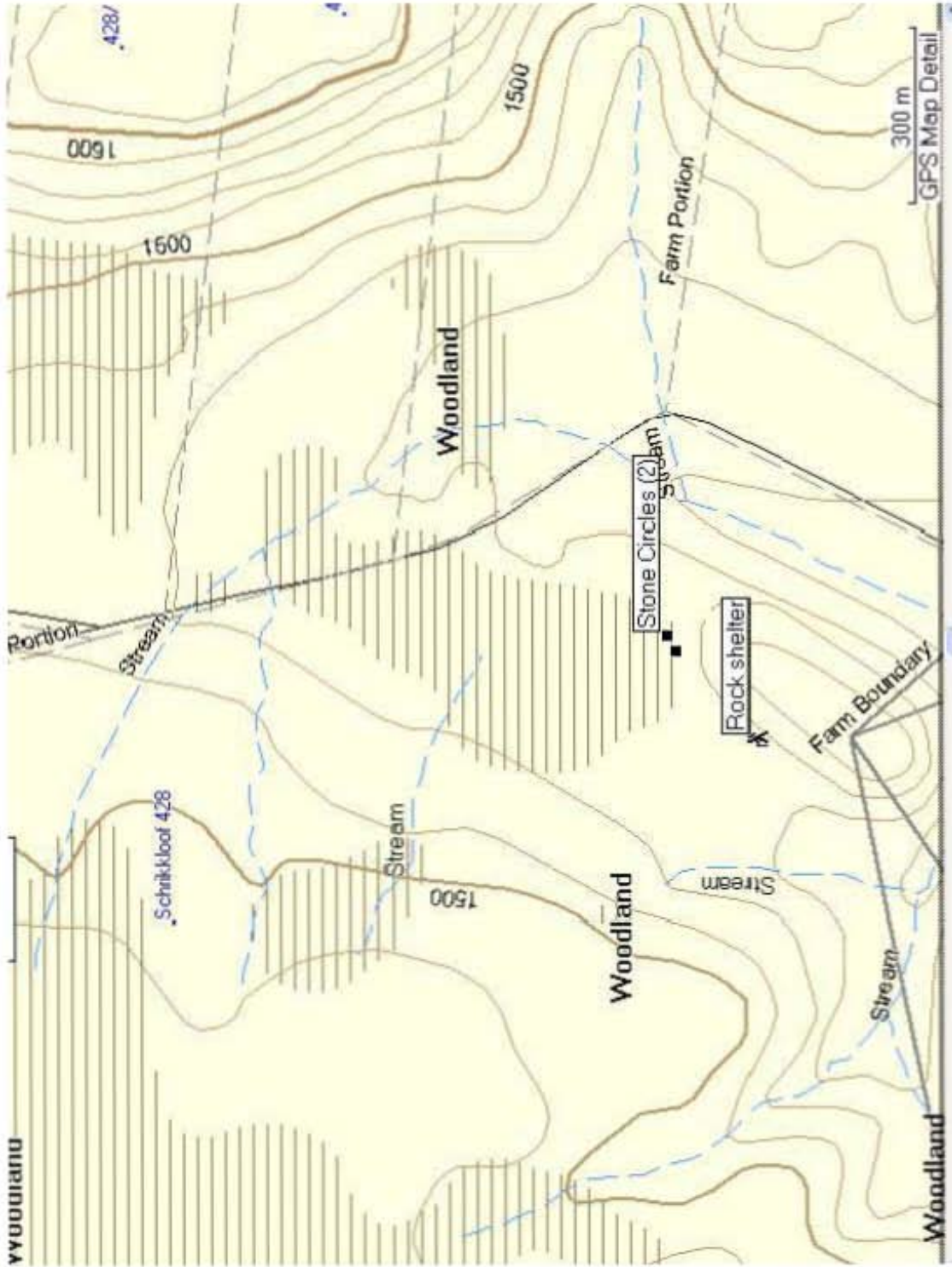
The necessary care should be taken to protect these sites especially the rock shelter. Visitors to the site will pickup stone age material and thus destroy the site. The best option would be to excavate the site and to develop it into a small site museum with the necessary interpretation and protection of the site.

6.   REFERENCES

Deacon H.J. and Janette. Human Beginnings in South Africa 1999, p.107 – 127.

Mitchell P. The Archaeology of Southern Africa 2002, p. 344 – 379.

MAP 1

PHOTOGRAPHS

No. 1 Small rock shelter

No. 2 Later Stone Age cores and flakes

No. 3 Small semi circular stonewall

No. 4 Another small semi circular stonewall