

Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment

Title: Diep and Platteklip River Clearing Project.

Proposal to manage the clearing of the courses of the Diep and Platteklip rivers running through the town of Malmesbury to prevent flooding. .

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Date: 17 December 2008

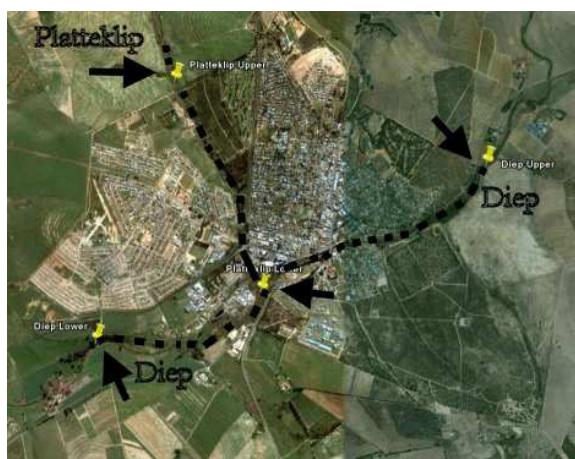


Figure 1. The confluence of the Diep River and its Platteklip tributary is in the town of Malmesbury. Sections (arrows) of the Diep (from GPS 184233.473 & 332833.343 to 184452.022 & 332729.055) and Platteklip (from GPS 184233.428 & 332658.915 to 184313.077 & 332815.744) require clearing (1: 50 000 sheet 3318).

Executive Summary

A survey of the courses of the Diep and Plattekip rivers running through the town of Malmesbury was undertaken to assess any possible impact on cultural resources by clearing the courses. No significant heritage, archaeological or palaeontological resources that will be threatened by this development.

Background Information

The Diep and Platteklip rivers (Figs. 1 & 2) flowing through the town of Malmesbury are subject to periodic flooding resulting in damage to property. The flooding requires a program to ensure adequate drainage along the river channels. Siltation of the bed and encroachment of vegetation that cause blockages along the channels are recurrent threats and repeated clearing is necessary. This report is part of the assessment of the status quo and contributes to advising via an EMP, the principles for ongoing management and maintenance as may be required.

Archaeological Background

No major archaeological sites are known in close proximity to the river courses.

Description of the property

The rivers are entrenched on the borders of the town and within the town they are partly channelled in culverts under road and rail bridges. There is significant siltation at a number of locations (Figs. 3 & 4).

Methodology

The exposures and surface disturbances along the courses of the rivers were examined for archaeological and palaeontological materials and for any possible impacts on the built structures.

Observations and Results

No archaeological or palaeontological materials were observed. There are no built structures that will be impacted by the clearing operations.

Sources of Risk and Statement of Significance

It is unlikely that development will disturb any buried materials because the river channels are naturally cut into bedrock, here Malmesbury metasediments and granite. The risks are considered low. The significance is rated as low.



Figure 3. The Diep River dammed up with silt where it passes the Bokomo grain storage facilities. Sports fields on the left bank here are seasonally flooded.



Figure 4. Silt accumulation under rail bridge on the Platteklip River near the confluence with the Diep River.