

# Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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22 December, 2008

**Att** : Mr Nick Wiltshire  
Heritage Western Cape  
Private Bag X 9067  
Cape Town  
8000

Dear Mr Wiltshire

## **PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE KLIPRIVIER DAM (PORTION 21 OF THE ROMANSRIVIER FARM NO. 320) WOLSELEY WITZENBERG**

Heritage Western Cape (HWC) requested that a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed construction of the Kliprivier Dam (on Portion 21 of the Farm Romansrivier No. 320) near Wolseley in the Western Cape (Figure 1) be undertaken (HWC Record of Decision attached).

A Notice of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist has already been completed by the by the lead environmental consultant<sup>1</sup>.

The proposed off-stream channel dam will cover an area of about 5000 m<sup>2</sup> and a full supply capacity of about 140 000 m<sup>3</sup>. A water supply pipeline (about 2 km long) will also be constructed from the Dwars River to the proposed dam. A small pump station will be constructed to abstract mainly winter surplus water from the river, for storage and use as irrigation water during summer for an agricultural empowerment project. The proposed dam site is currently zoned for Agricultural use.

### **2. Terms of reference**

The Terms of Reference for the archaeological assessment were to:

- Identify and map any heritage resources on the proposed site and in the proposed pipeline;
- Determine the importance of heritage resources on the proposed site and in the proposed pipeline;
- Determine and asses the potential impacts of the proposed project on the heritage resources, and
- Recommend mitigation measures to minimise impacts associated with the proposed project.

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<sup>1</sup> Mr Charel Marais EnviroAfrica PO Box 4 Onrus River 7201 Fax 0865 13 2141

### **3. The study site**

The proposed dam site (S 33° 28 08.2 E 19° 11 59.3 on map datum wgs 84) is located on Farm Romansrivier near Wolseley. Access to the farm is off the R303 between Wellington and Ceres (Figure 2). The receiving environment (for both the proposed and proposed alternative dam site) comprises old agricultural lands that have not been utilised for many years. Previously, onions and potatoes were grown on the land. The proposed site slopes gently from south to north, and is currently covered with dry winter grasses. Several test pits have been excavated on the property. The overburden comprises soft loose sand underlain by thick clay deposits (Figures 3-7). There are no significant landscape features on the proposed site. There are no buildings or structures on the proposed site either. The surrounding land use comprises orchards and vineyards.

As indicated, the proposed pipeline will run alongside existing farm roads till the Dwars River about 2 kms to the north. The floodplain of the Dwars River has been heavily modified by agricultural activities. There are virtually no undisturbed areas between the proposed dam site and the river. Berms have been constructed by the farmer to prevent flooding and much of floodplain material and silts has been widely dispersed.

### **4. Approach to the study**

The proposed dam site and the proposed pipeline route were searched for archaeological remains. The site visit and assessment took place on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2008.

### **5. Findings**

#### **5.1 The proposed dam**

A few Early Stone Age (ESA) tools were documented on the proposed dam site, but these are spread very thinly and unevenly over the surrounding landscape. The tools comprise a large quartzite core, and several retouched/utilised quartzite flakes, of which two are tractor damaged. The tools were found near or alongside the deep excavation test pits, in disturbed areas and in a farm road alongside the proposed site. The remains occur in a severely disturbed context. The archaeological remains documented during the study are illustrated in Figures 8-12.

#### **The archaeological remains have been rated as having low local significance**

Comparable ESA tools (including a handaxe) have been documented on farms in the surrounding area, on the farm Romansrivier (north of the R303), and on the farm de Liefde about 3 kms west of the proposed site<sup>2</sup>. These tools were also documented in disturbed and degraded contexts.

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<sup>2</sup> Kaplan, J. 2005. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed construction of the 132/66 Kv substation and tie-in powerlines Romansrivier. Report prepared for Eskom. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2007. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed construction of chicken houses on Portion 4 of Portion 2 of the farm de Liefde No 323, Tulbagh. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. Agency for Cultural Resource Management

## **5.2 The proposed pipeline**

No archaeological remains were found in the proposed pipeline route.

## **6. Impact statement**

The impact of the proposed project on important pre-colonial archaeological remains is likely to be **low**.

## **7. Recommendations**

The Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed construction of the of the Kliprivier Dam (on Portion 21 of the Farm Romansrivier No. 320) near Wolseley in the Western Cape has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to mitigated, prior to proposed development activities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Kaplan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jonathan Kaplan

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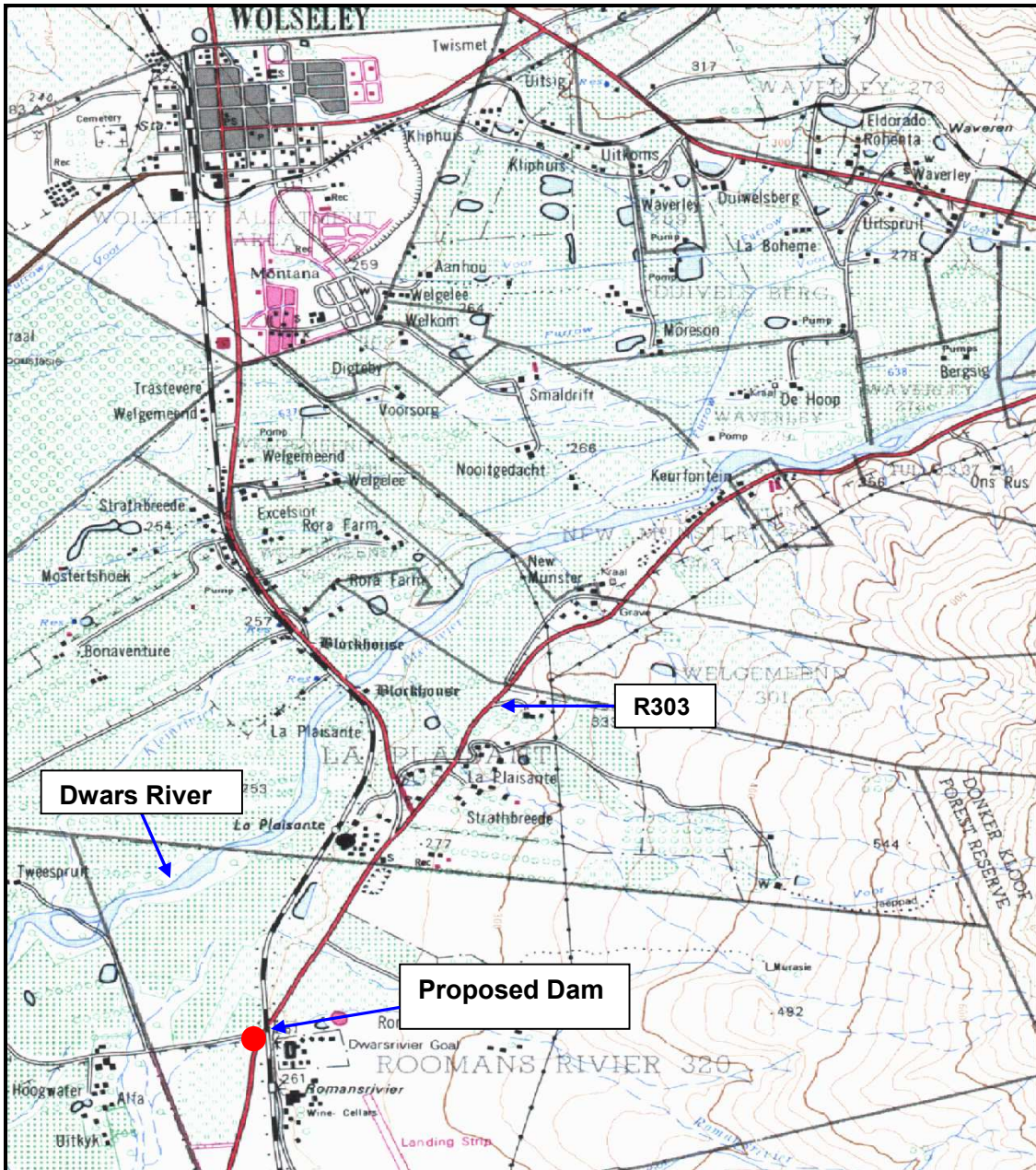


Figure 1. Locality Map (3319 AC Tulbagh)

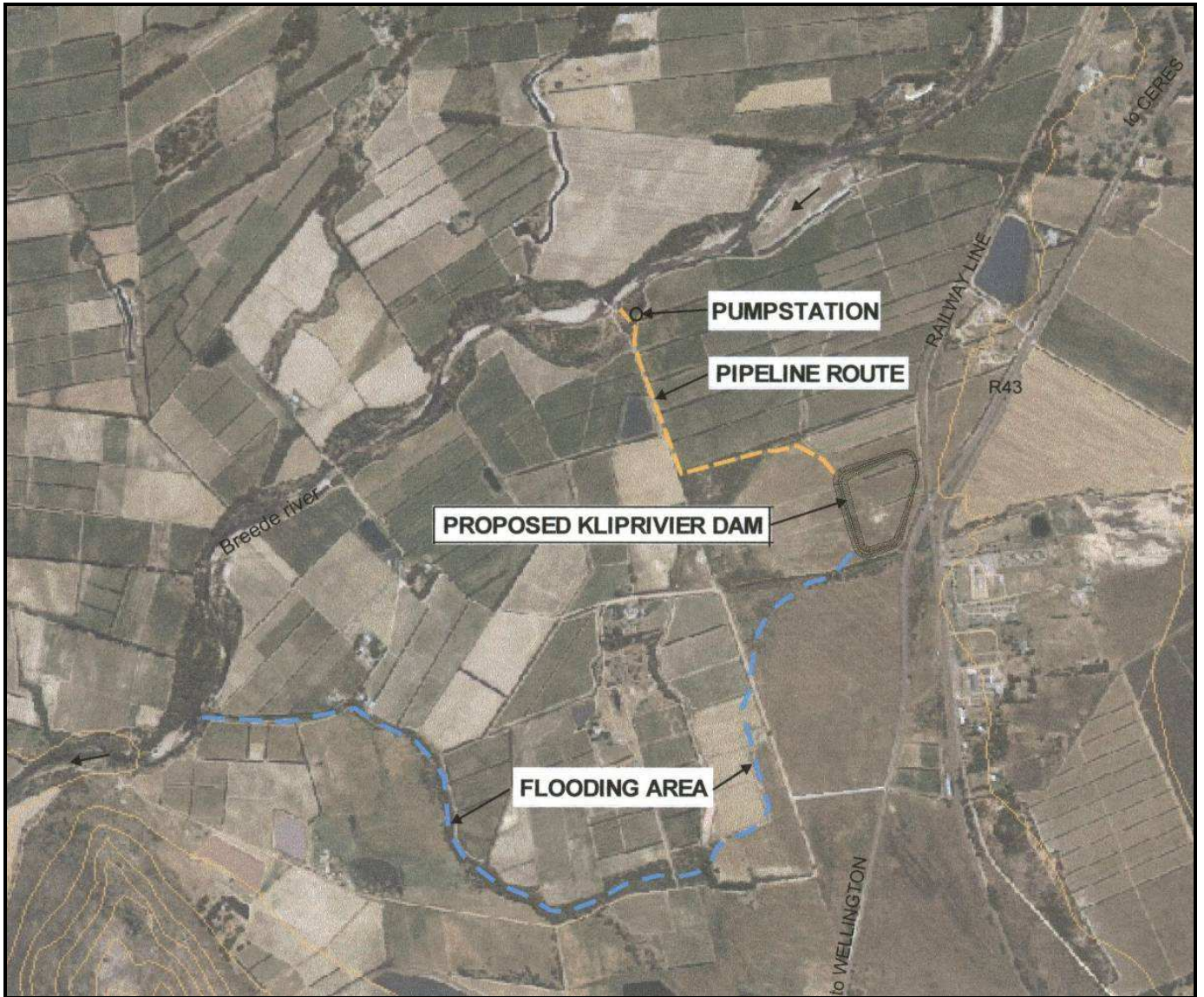


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study area and proposed infrastructure



**Figure 3. View of the dam site facing north west**



**Figure 6. View of the dam site facing south east**



**Figure 4. View of the dam site facing north west**



**Figure 7. View of the dam site facing south west**



**Figure 5. View of the dam site facing south**



Figure 8. ESA flake. Scale is in cm



Figure 11. ESA core. Scale is in cm.



Figure 9. ESA flake. Scale is in cm



Figure 12. ESA flake. Scale is in cm



Figure 10. ESA flake. Scale is in cm

