

**COMMENT ON THE EAST LONDON FORESHORE
RECLAMATION PROJECT**

FOR

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Umlando was asked to comment on the need for a heritage survey for the East London Foreshore Reclamation Project. The attached BID document gives the background and locality of the project.

I requested the following information before I was prepared to comment. This included:

1. Locality Map on Google Earth
2. Information on the source of the original backfill location and type of backfill
3. Location of quarry for new backfill

I consulted a modern 1:50 000 topographical map, as well as the 1959 1:50 000 map (fig. 1).

The area was originally reclaimed in the 1950s. The backfill used was from a local quarry. There was thus no use of older rubbish dumps for land reclamation as was the case for many parts of Durban beachfront.

The topographical maps indicate that the area has had no human occupation since it was reclaimed. There is however a shipwreck 500m – 800m south of the study area. The wreck is the Stuart Star and dates to 1937. The project is unlikely to affect the shipwreck, although it may cover some artefacts that may have washed closer to the shore. This should not be an issue for heritage management. In one sense, the project is in fact preserving the possible artefacts by covering them.

The use of a quarry is of concern. While the quarry already has permission to quarry, both the Google Earth aerial photograph (fig. 2) and the 1941 topographical maps (fig. 3) suggest to me that there will be heritage sites, especially along the top of the hill, and along the slopes. I would suggest that a heritage

survey is undertaken for the extension of the quarry, if it has not already been undertaken. While a permit for the quarry has been given, one needs to consider the fact that it will be extended for the purpose of the project and is thus a secondary impact area.

I have no further concerns regarding this project.

FIG. 1: 1959 TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP – STUDY ARE IN RED

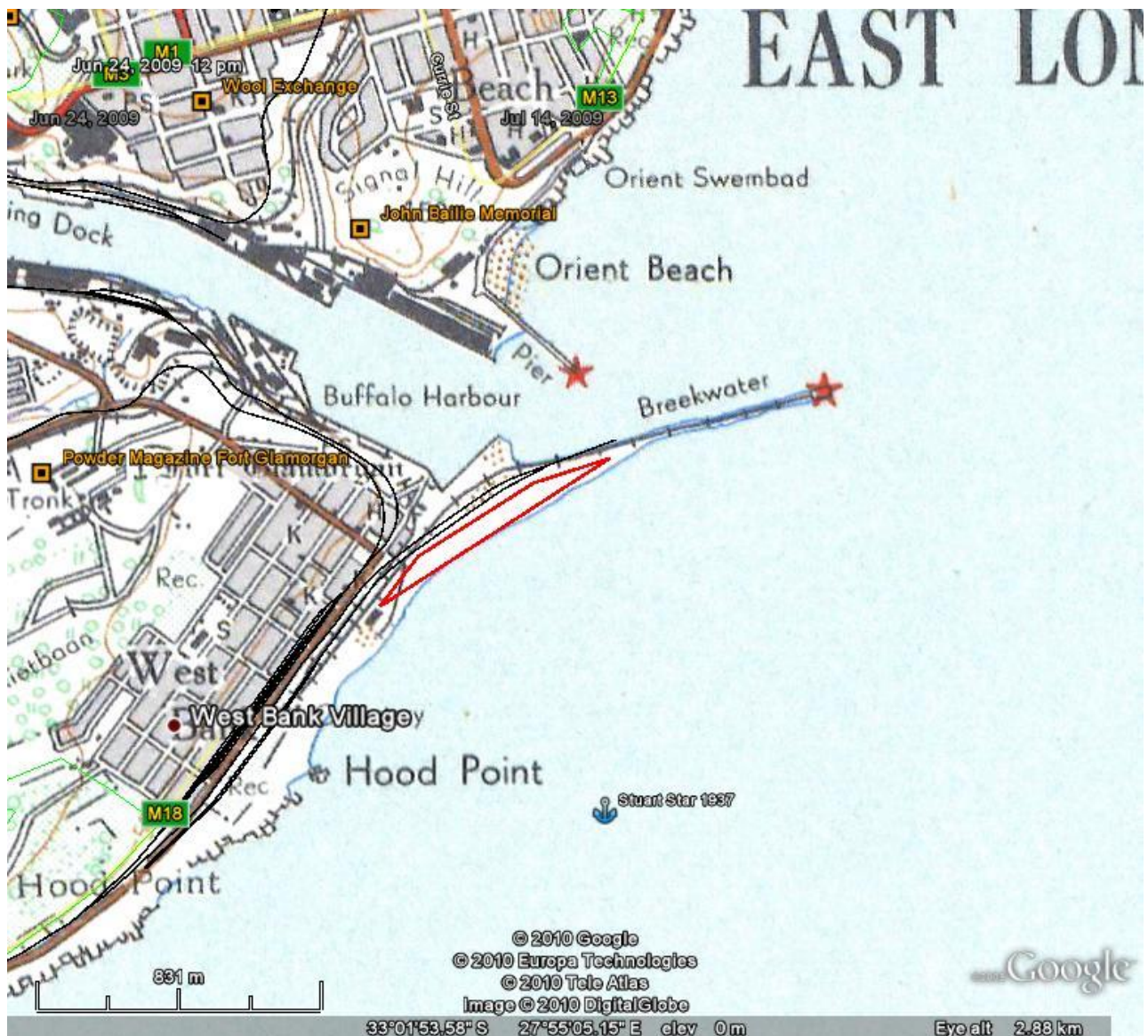


FIG. 2: AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF THE GENERAL QUARRY AREA

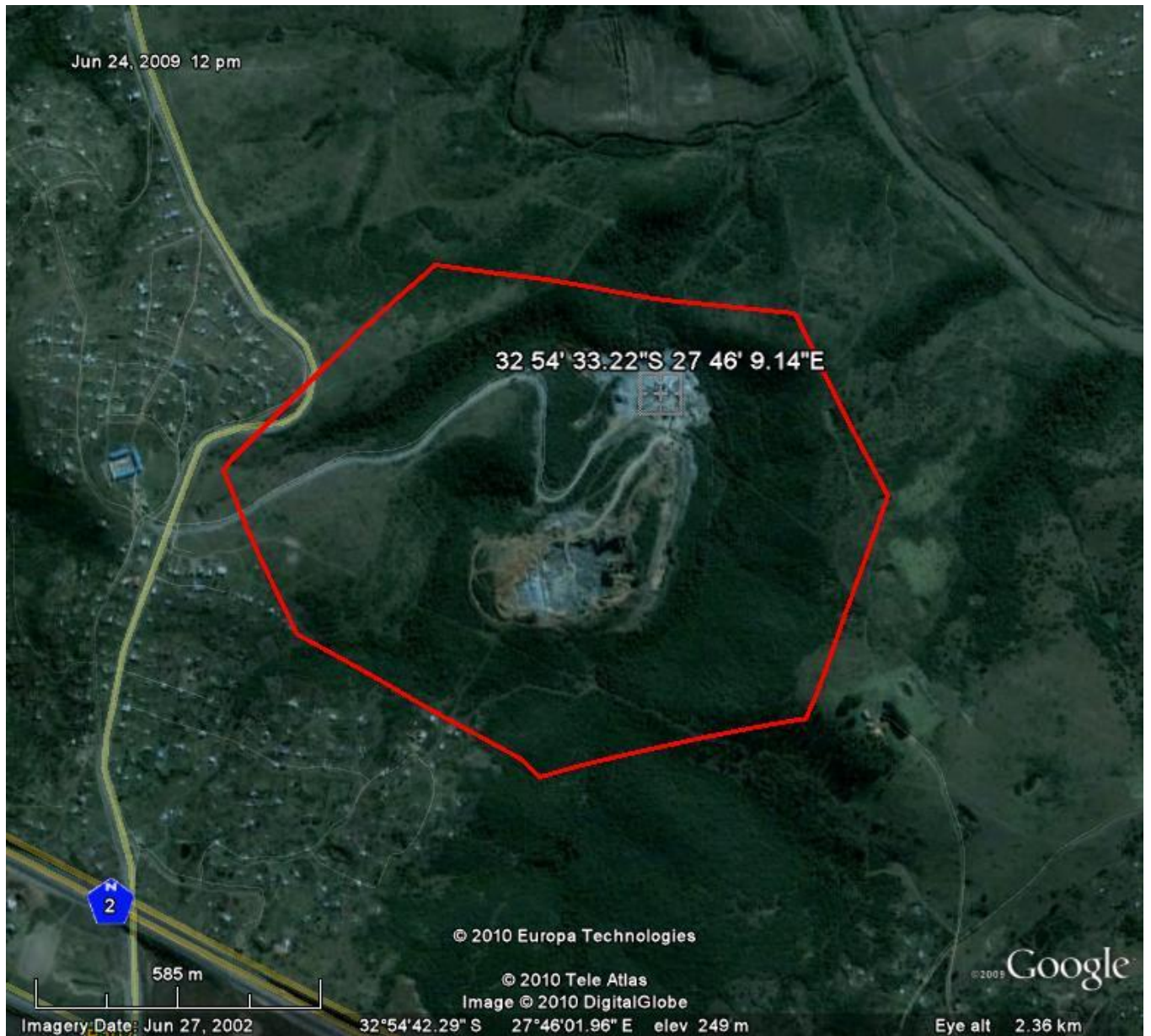


FIG. 3: 1941 TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF THE GENERAL QUARRY AREA

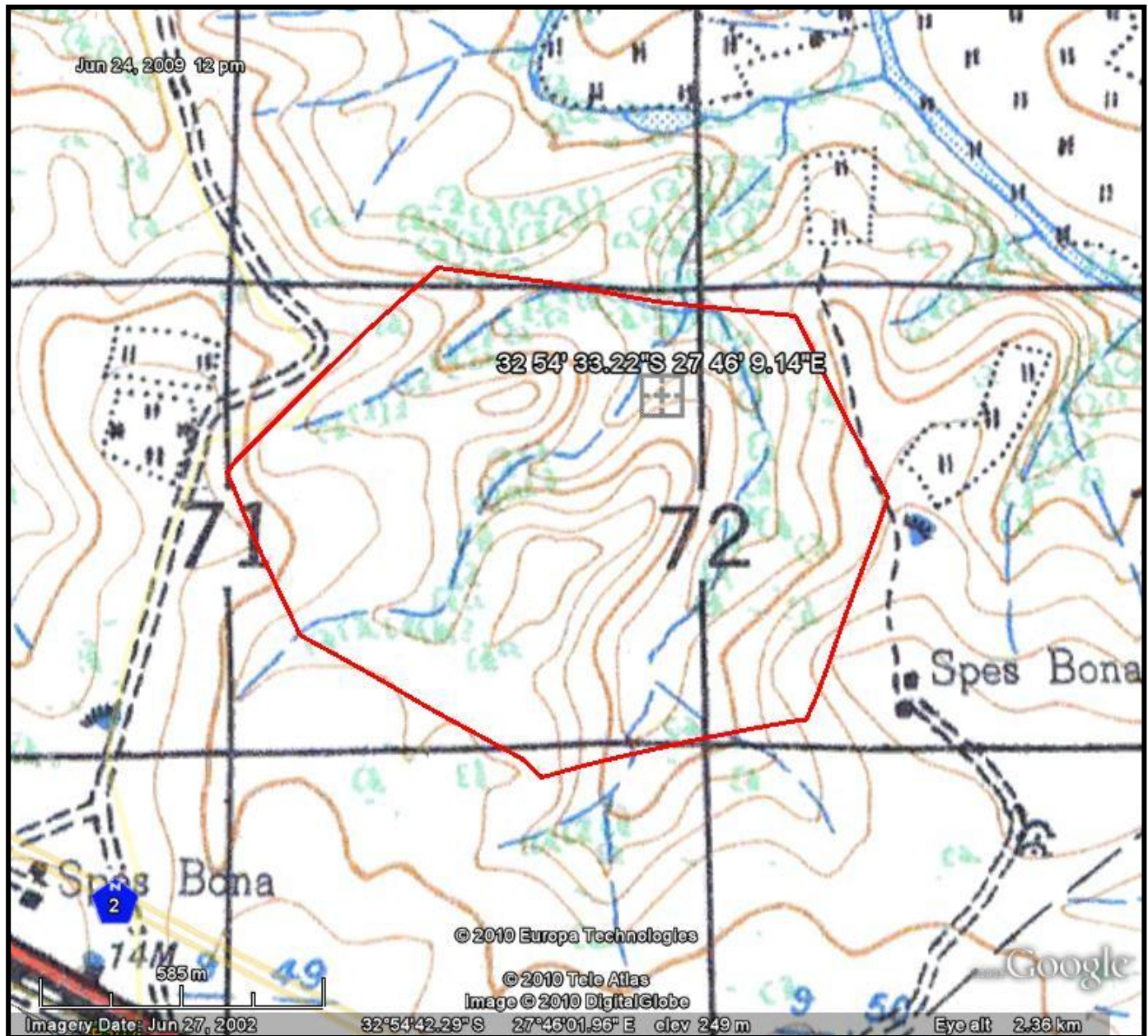


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