



AFRICAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC

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CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR PROPOSED NEW DEVELOPMENT ON PORTION 50 (A PORTION OF PORTION 3) OF THE FARM EILAND 13 NR 502 IQ NORTH WEST PROVINCE

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.

2. PROTECTED SITES IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE 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

- 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

3. METHODOLOGY

All relevant maps and documents on the site were studied. The site was visited and evaluated. An interview was undertaken with Mr Andre Coetzee, son of the owner of the Property (Cell. No. 082 479 2598). Visual inspection and evaluation gave rise to the results below.

4. RESULTS

The property is located at the eastern extremity of a rather large landmass located in the Vaal River that fits the general description of an island. It consists of a number of smaller islands depending on the flow of water in the river. The islets are densely populated by vegetation, generally consisting of a number of *Acacia* and *Rhus* species as well as *Olea* and *Ziziphus* types well represented.

It is known that the Vaal basin has been well utilised by Stone Age People as illustrated by the stone tool ensembles discovered by Van Riet Lowe in Vereeniging. These tool deposits mainly occur on the banks of the river and not on islands. Iron Age peoples that utilised the general region preferred living some distance away from the river owing to their Agro-pastoralist lifestyles.

White pioneers appear to have shown some interest in proclaiming legal stands on the islands a few years before the South African War. But Portion 50 never appears to have been utilised for the erection of structures or for any other use than probably of leisure fishing.

On this water bound property, the easternmost portions of the property generally known as Die Groot Eiland in the Vaal River at Parys in the Free State, there are no Heritage elements visible aboveground that need to be considered regarding Act 25 of 1999. If any heritage elements such as graves are revealed during the construction phase, then the correct procedures as described in the Heritage Act should be adhered to.

5. CONCLUSION

There are no important cultural heritage resources or graves visible on the proposed development area on Groot Eiland in the Vaal Rivier.

6. RECOMMENDATION

There is no objection to the proposed development from a cultural heritage resources point of view.

Should any archaeological or historic remains or human remains are unearthed during construction an archaeologist/historian has to be notified immediately

7. SITE INFORMATION

Owners contact details: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Owner: Woodbridge Property Development (Pty) Ltd- Contact person: L.L. Coetsee- Postal address: P.O Box 5158 Helderberg- Postal code: 7135- Telephone number: 021 855 2417- Fax number: 021 855 2417
Developers contact details: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Developer: Woodbridge Property Development (Pty) Ltd- Contact person: Dr. J.E. Drewes/J.H. van Tonder- Postal address: P.O. Box 21126 Noordbrug- Postal code: 2522- Telephone number: 018 299 2543- Fax number: 086 647 1268- Cell number: 082 416 0935/082 786 8660- E-mail address: Ernst.drewes@nwu.ac.za or jhvantonder@lantic.net
Consultants contact details: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Africa Geo-Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd (AGES)- PO Box 19460, Noordbrug, 2522.- Tel: 018 297 6588, Fax: 018 297 4813,- Email: northwest@ages-group.com
Type of development (e.g. low cost housing project, mining etc.) <p>5 Star Hotel Development, with Conference and ancillary facilities on all of the 5 islands. Eco-friendly design and design philosophy incorporating as much of the natural surrounding as possible.</p>
Whether rezoning and/or subdivision of land is involved: <p>No</p>

Full location of Province, Magisterial District/Local Authority, property (e.g. farm, erf name and number):

Portion 50 (a portion of Portion3) of the Farm Eiland13 Nr. 502, I.Q. , North West Province
Located in the Vaal River South of Parys with access from the Free State side of the river

Location map must have the polygon of the area to be surveyed on it and full geographical coordinates for all relevant points and where applicable indication of the area to be developed (footprint):

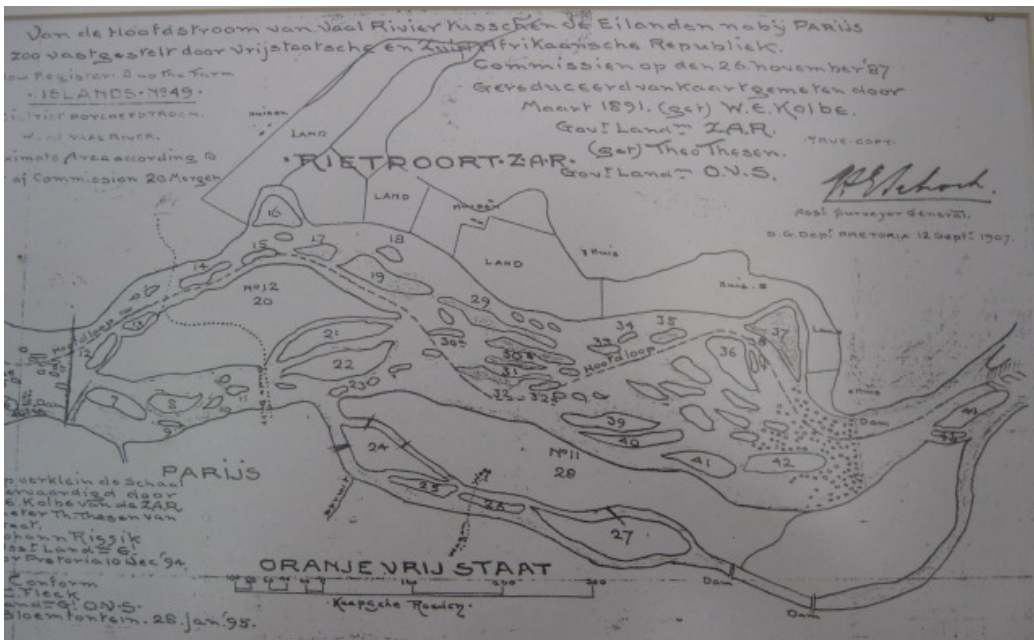
Attached

If possible an aerial photograph of the specific area showing the location of all site.

Attached

8. REFERENCES

- Archaeological database of the National Cultural History Museum Pretoria
- 1/50 000 Map 2627 CD
- Küsel U.S. July 2006. Impact assessment of historic heritage resources in the Vredefort Dome conservation area
- Mason R 1962 Prehistory of the Transvaal
- Proclamation Certificate 1887
- Van Riet Lowe 1952 The Vaal River chronology - and up-to-date summary. S A archaeological Bulletin T (28) 135-149



Red circle indicates the approximate location of the property in question on the 1887 proclamation certificate. (Diagram courtesy of Mr Andre Coetzee)



Red circle indicates the approximate location of the property in question on the 1973 surveyor map of the contours of the islets. (Drawing courtesy of Mr Andre Coetzee)

The above diagrams then also clearly illustrate that the islets are generally located below the 1: 100 year flood line and that periodical inundation in the past would have been inhibitive to human occupation



Bridge to the Property under investigation.



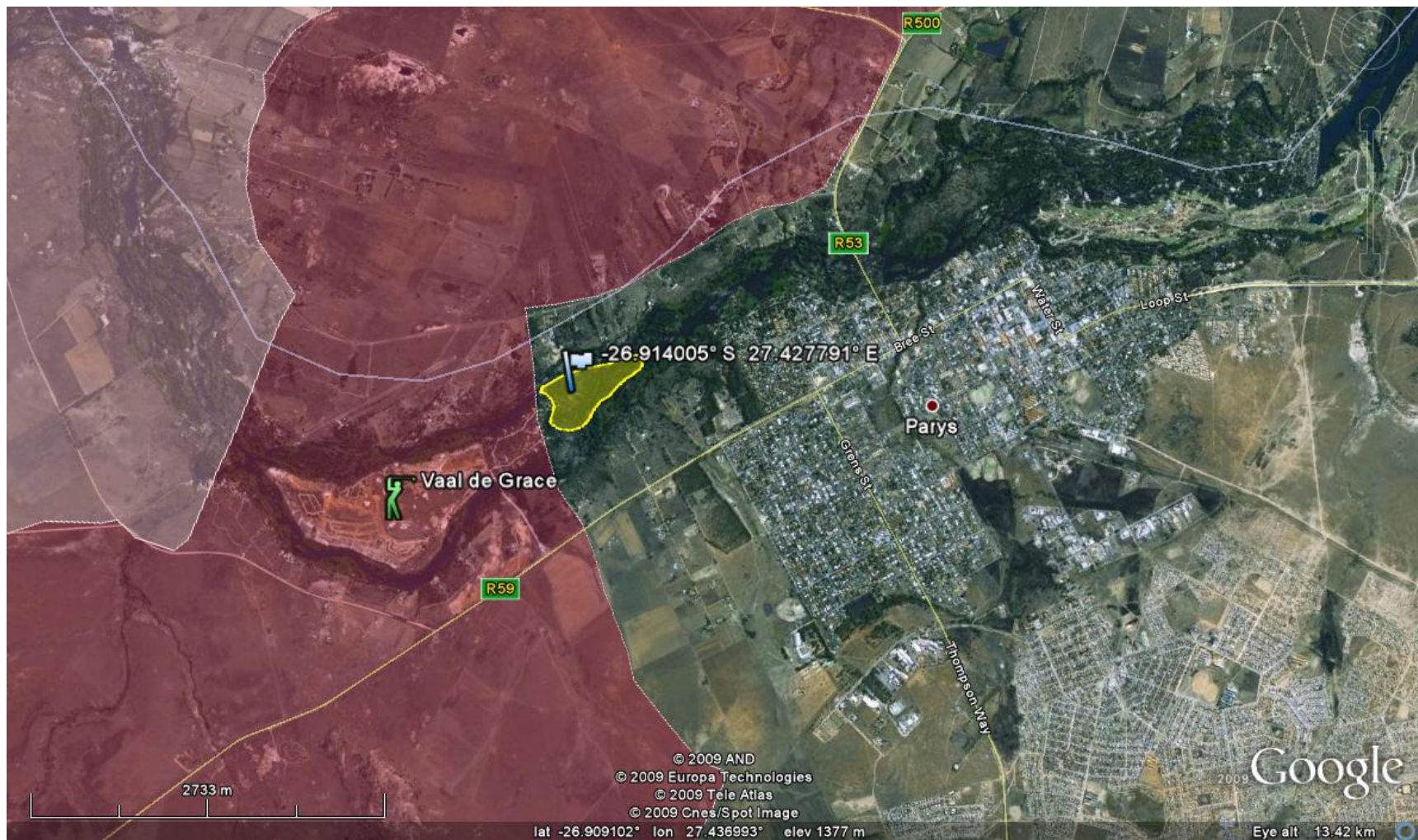
Sections from a bridge that was demolished elsewhere and dumped on the property under investigation for future use.



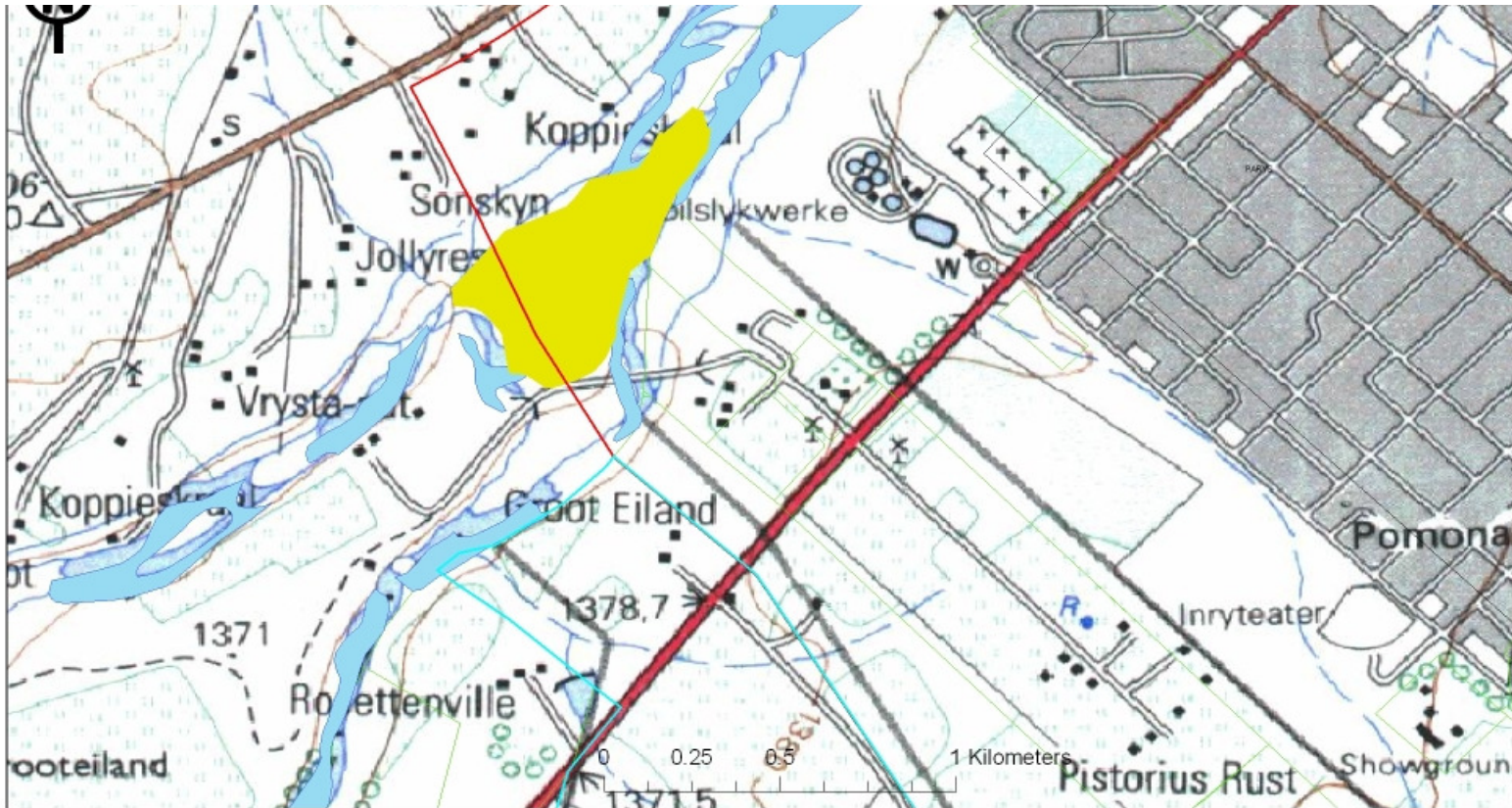
General elevation of property under discussion above normal water level



General views on the islets



Position of property under investigation (Google Earth Image).



Position of property under investigation (1 : 50 000 map)