

PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

ELANDSKLOOF FLOOD DAMAGE REPAIRS AND RIVER DAMMING

**FARM 475 (ELANDSKLOOF), CEDERBERG MUNICIPALITY,
WEST COAST DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE**

For

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment approximately 1 ha of Farm 475 (Elandskloof), Cederberg Municipality, West Coast District Municipality, Western Cape was undertaken by Pro-Active Archaeology on behalf of Cape Lowlands Environmental Services. The development proposes to repair flood damage on the Elandskloof River and to construct a dam on the river.

No archaeological material was found during the survey. However, there is always the possibility of sub-surface archaeological finds or human burial occurring during development. If any such finds are made during the development process (e.g. trenching, infrastructure etc.), construction must cease immediately and Heritage Western Cape or an accredited archaeologist be contacted.

Stakeholders:

	Project Applicant	Project Consultant	Environmental Practitioner	Landowner
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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report forms part of an Environmental Impact Assessment report. Pro-Active Archaeological was asked by Cape Lowlands Environmental Services (CLES) on behalf of the Elandskloof Communal Property Association c/o the Department of Land Affairs to conduct an AIA. The property in question is Farm 475, Cederberg Municipality, West Coast District Municipality, Western Cape. Approximately 1 ha of the property will be affected by the proposed flood damage repairs and damming of the Elandskloof River.

Stakeholders:

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1.1 Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the specialist Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment are to:

- Identify and map pre-colonial archaeological heritage resources on the proposed sites;
- Determine the importance of pre-colonial archaeological heritage resources on the proposed sites;
- Determine and assess the potential impacts of the proposed development on the pre-colonial archaeological heritage resources, and

- Recommend mitigation measures to minimise impacts associated with the proposed development.

1.2 Legislative requirements

The national legal framework for the protection and management of the cultural environment is the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) Act No. 25 of 1999, and also the legal and policy frameworks aimed at the protection of the environment, e.g. the Environment Conservation Act (ECA) (Act No. 73 of 1989) and associated EIA regulations and the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998). Section 38 of the NHRA requires heritage assessments as a stand-alone or as a specialist component of the EIA process.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE RELEVANT HERITAGE COMPONENTS

A desk top study was undertaken surveying recent academic literature and previous archaeological impact assessments pertinent to the area surrounding Citrusdal. Of interest are the Earlier Stone Age, particularly the Acheulian Tradition and the Later Stone Age (LSA). The Middle Stone Age (MSA) is less well represented in the area.

2.1 Acheulian Tradition

The ESA has been divided into two distinct stone tool cultures: the Oldowan Tradition and the Acheulian Tradition. The former is represented by the earliest stone tools (from about 2 million years ago), simple core forms and unmodified flakes (Klien 2000). Geographically, the Oldowan is found in East Africa, and within South Africa, generally limited to the Sterkfontein region. The Acheulian has a more formal, standardised component, illustrated by handaxes and cleavers. This tradition is found across Africa, Western Asia and southern Europe (Deacon & Deacon 1999) and dates from between ± 1.4 million years ago to 250 000 years ago. Mitchell (2002), describes handaxes as elongated, pear-shaped or triangular forms, terminating in a point. Cleavers are broader, with an axe-like cutting edge. Some informal flakes show evidence of retouch, similar to the MSA scraper. Formal tools may represent less than ten percent of artefacts found in the field (Deacon & Deacon 1999). Such finds generally occur in valley bottoms or wetlands.

In the Citrusdal area, Acheulian finds are relatively common with numerous hand axes located on the eastern bank of the Olifants River at the site of the Tienrivieren Dam (Halkett 2004) which is to

the south of Groenvlei (Halkett 2008) and at the site of the Bleskop Dam to the north of Citrusdal (Halkett 2006). Just north of Citrusdal, on the urban edge, Acheulian tools and some MSA material has also been found (Van Pletzen-Vos & Rust 2010).

2.2 Later Stone Age

Sites dating to the LSA are also relatively abundant in the Citrusdal area. These sites date from the last 20 000 years, but for the most part, to the last four thousand years or so. They will often be found close to water sources and may be out in the open, although by far the most common are to be found in caves and rock shelters (Deacon & Deacon 1999). Rock paintings are also a common occurrence in the Cederberg mountains many still waiting to be found and described. The Archaeological Contracts Office from UCT have located a number of rock art sites from the southern end of the Olifants River, for example (Koorlandskloof (Halkett 1996), Farm 567/1 (Halkett 1996), Olifants/Doorn Basin Study (Halkett et al 1997).

Many archaeological sites around Citrusdal have been recorded by the Spatial Archaeology Research Unit at UCT. San hunter/foragers inhabited the area up to 2000 years ago, when pastoralism was introduced to the Cape by the Khoenkhoen (Deacon & Deacon 1999). Evidence of ceramics and domesticated stock is often used as a marker for the arrival of pastoralists in a region. The 17th and 18th centuries saw the European colonial expansion, resulting in the establishment of farms on the frontier of the Cape colony which included the Olifants River valley (Halkett 1996). As colonial influence expanded and more land was settled, indigenous people were forced into economically less viable areas. The effects of diseases and organised extermination led to the eventual dissolution of indigenous society as it had existed, and the survivors were reduced to servitude on European farms (Mitchell 2002, Parkington 1977, Sealy et al 2000)

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

Farm 475, known as Elandskloof lies about 20 km west of Citrusdal and can be accessed by driving through Citrusdal, then onto the road to Ceres (R303). A further 17 km on this road leads to Elandskloof turn-off to the south east. The location of the future dam is approximately 6.5 km into the kloof along the Elandskloof River. The property falls within the Cederberg Municipality, West Coast District Municipality, Western Cape. Figure 1 indicates the size of the property on the 1:50 000 topographic map 3219 CA Citrusdal. The satellite image in Figure 2 shows the approximate

affected area of the dam, while Figure 3 shows tracking. The current road servicing the area will be used during construction. This road has been marked in the map in Figure 2.

3.1 Methodology

The area was searched by a two-person team on foot, on Monday 20 September 2010 in the company of Mr Joseph van Wyk, foreman of the communal farm. Visibility was affected by vleiland, high grasses and dense vegetation cover (Figures 4-7). The area is also prone to severe periodic flooding, so it is likely that any archaeological material has already been swept down-river. It is thus unlikely that any archaeological material will be found during construction. Data was acquired using a Garmin GPS60 (WGS 84) and a Canon DSLR.

4. DESCRIPTION OF SITES IDENTIFIED

No archaeological sites or materials were found.

5. FIELD RATING

This site has been sufficiently recorded. No further actions are required before destruction. A field rating of Generally Protected C is awarded as the site has low significance.

6. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Generally low significance as no archaeological material was located during the survey. It is unlikely that any material will be found during the development of the dam.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

There is always the possibility of sub-surface archaeological finds or human burial occurring during development. If any such finds are made during the development process (e.g. trenching, infrastructure etc.), construction must cease immediately and Heritage Western Cape or an accredited archaeologist be contacted.

8. CONCLUSIONS

The AIA of the proposed flood damage repairs and damming of the Elandskloof River on Farm 475

has no archaeological impediments. No archaeological material was found during the survey and the site has been sufficiently recorded. No further actions are required before destruction.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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10. FIGURES

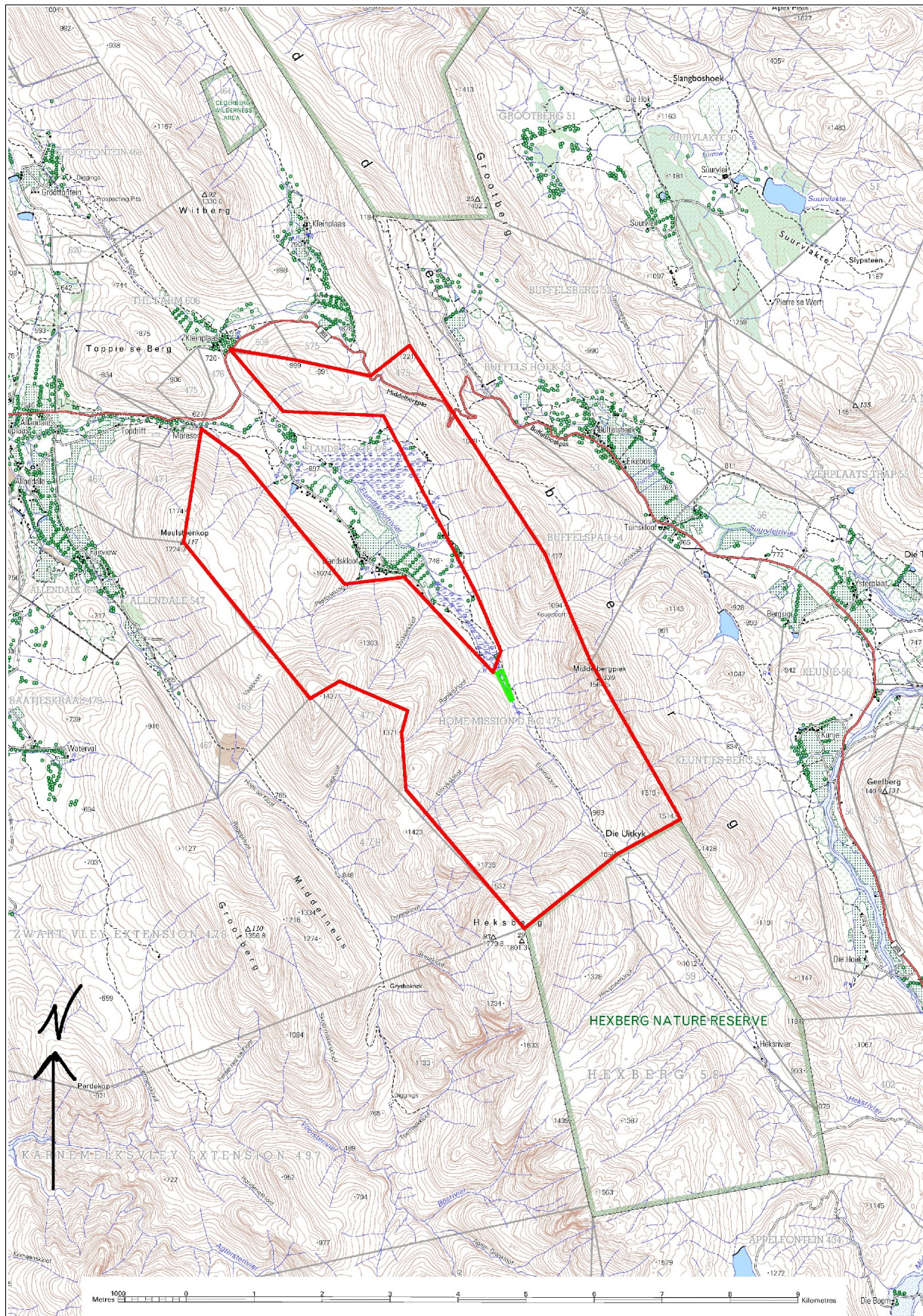


Figure 1: Farm 475, Elands Kloof. 1:50 000 CA CITRUSDAL.

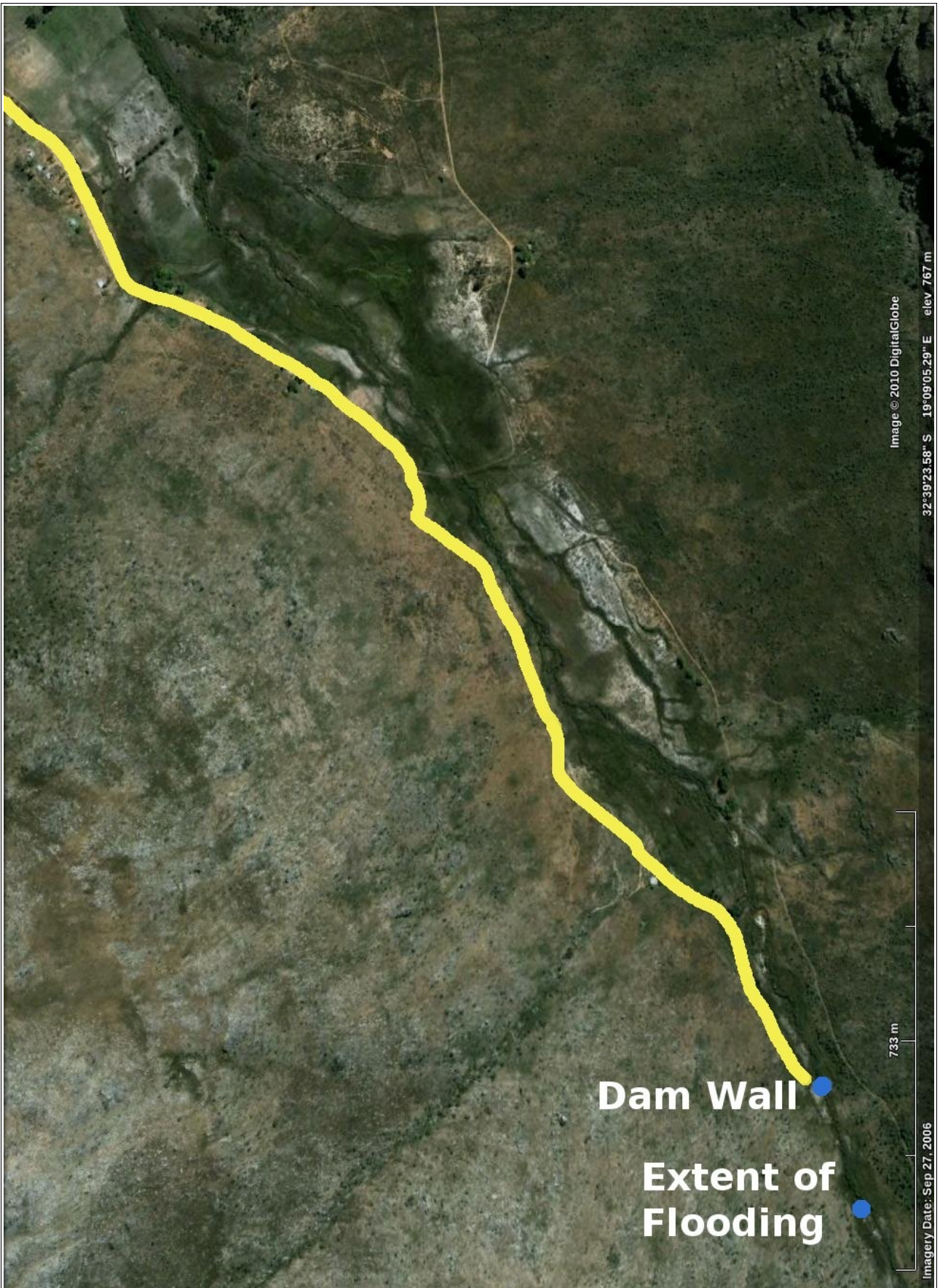


Figure 2: Access road and location of proposed dam with extent of flooding.

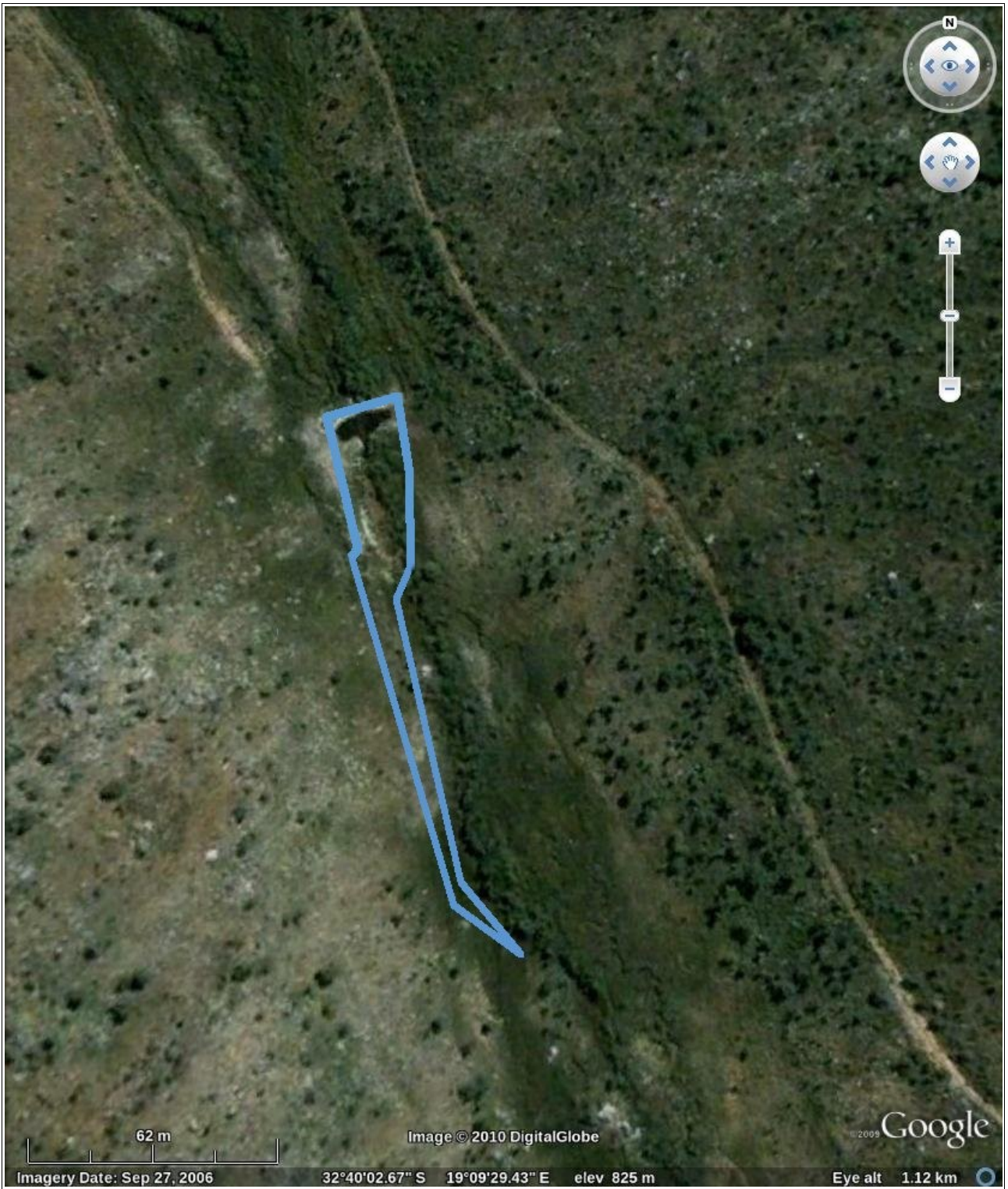


Figure 3: Tracking on Elandsloof.



Figure 4: At the NW point of the proposed dam, Mr J van Wyk in foreground.

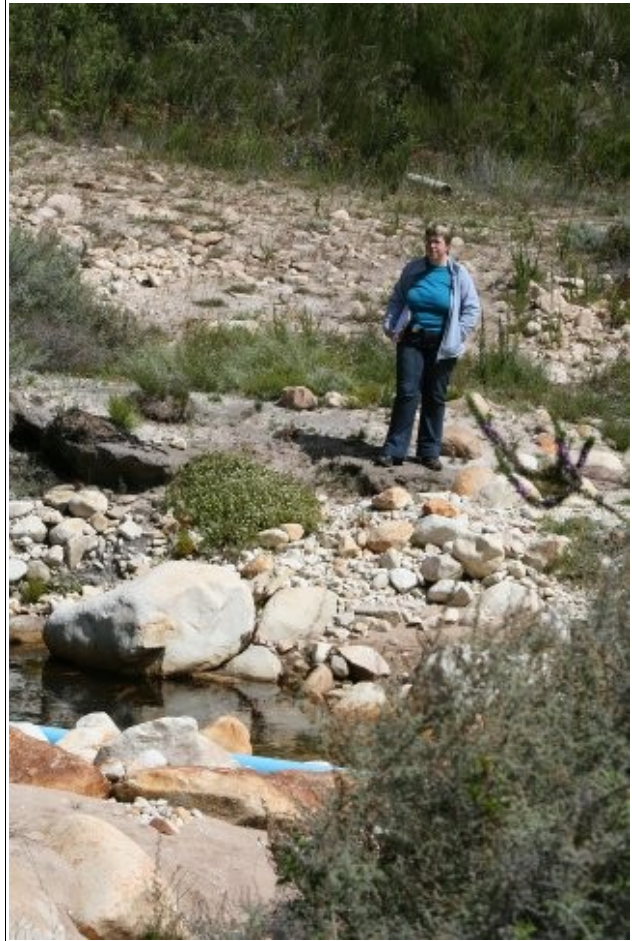


Figure 5: Rocky area at proposed dam site.



Figure 6: General view of vegetation cover.



Figure 7: At furthest estimated extent of flooding.