

Annexure A. Application for a rescue permit - Rand Easter Showground

A large historic dump associated with the main arena of the Wits Agricultural Society Show grounds (commonly known as the Rand Easter Show grounds), was disturbed during the construction of a new Science building on the West Campus of Wits University.

The larger property, on which the dump is located, was originally owned by Johannes Lindeque, but was purchased by the government in the late 1800s to create a public park. In 1903 it became known as Milner Park. In 1907 Milner Park became the venue for the Rand Show, which was then staged at this venue every Easter until 1984.

The dump lies immediately south and east of the tower of light (constructed for the Empire Exhibition in 1936, indicated by the blue arrow in Fig1.) and north and east of the main arena. The northern public grandstand, built in 1914, is still in place (Fig1. blue roof immediately to the left of the red arrow).

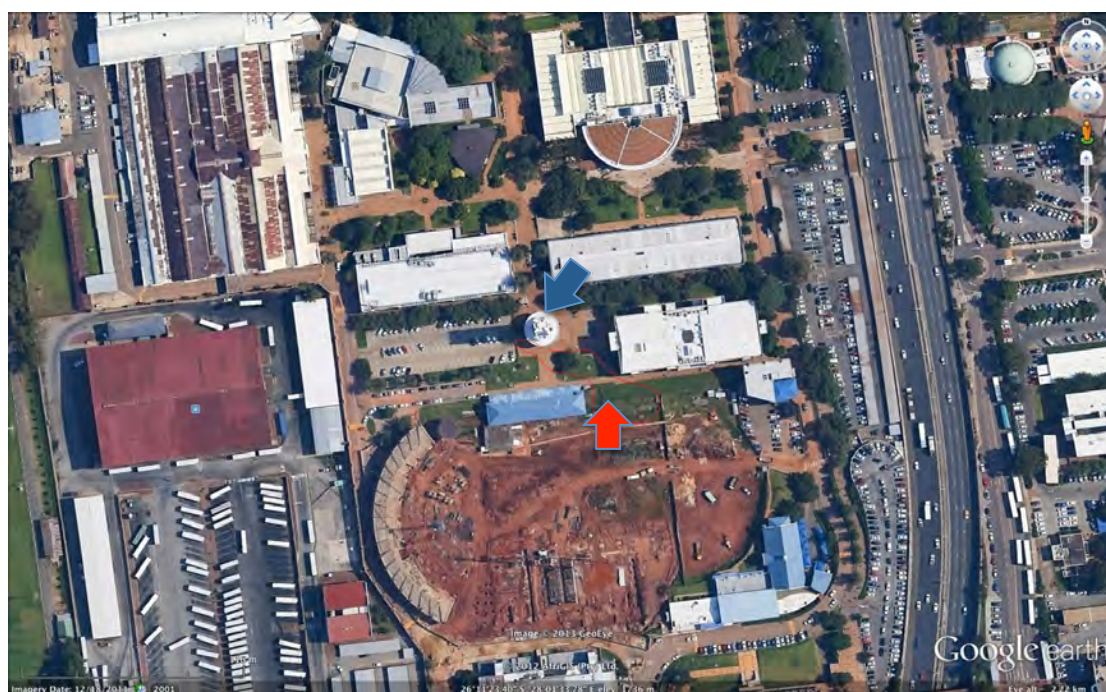


Fig. 1. The red arrow points to the suggested red fine-line outline of the dump.

When the dump was disturbed, the contractors removed many historic bottles, jars and casks. These have been claimed by the Archaeology Division at Wits and will be curated with their collections. The presence of 'burst top' bottles and other 'time-specific' artefacts suggest that at least part of the dump could date back to 1907 (the date of the first Rand Easter Show held on this property). For this reason the Division feels it is important to document the dump and sample three different areas (at different heights) to obtain a properly documented sample. The areas to be sampled are indicated on the architects map (Annexure B points 1,2 &3).

The excavations will be conducted as part of a student training exercise under the supervision of Dr Amanda Esterhuysen from the Archaeology Division of the School of Geography, Archaeology and Environmental Studies. All excavated material will be

curated and stored in the Archaeology Division of the School of Geography,
Archaeology and Environmental Studies.

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