

**THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A LANDFILL AND
ASSOCIATED FACILITIES IN THE BREEDE RIVER WINELANDS
MUNICIPALITY**

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Prepared for

SRK Consulting

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Prepared by

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Executive summary

The author was engaged by SRK Consulting to carry out a Heritage Impact Assessment of three areas in the Breede River Winelands Municipality (BRWM). The assessment is aimed at evaluating these three areas with a view to establishing a landfill and associated waste minimisation facilities for the entire municipality incorporating the towns of Robertson, Bonnievale, Ashton, McGregor and Montagu and the surrounding rural areas. Only physical heritage issues are dealt with in this report. Visual and aesthetic concerns are dealt with elsewhere.

The heritage assessment of the areas has revealed that;

- There are no structures over 60 years of age.
- There are no features of heritage significance.
- Very little archaeological material greater than 100 years of age was found in the areas.

Bullida Gronde is an attractive and relatively unspoiled natural area close to the town of Robertson. Should Bullida Gronde be chosen the archaeological material present should be recorded as a minimal mitigation, and the area should be archaeologically monitored during the establishment of the landfill, with a view to possible further mitigation should that become necessary

Stockwell is a scenic valley adjoining extensive natural areas. There is no heritage or archaeological material at this site and no objection to the use of this site is noted here.

Heritage impacts are considered to be insignificant at Olienhouts Kloof. This area is already degraded. From a heritage standpoint there can be no objection to a landfill here. This is the preferred site in this report.

roduction

The author was engaged by SRK Consulting to carry out a Heritage Impact Assessment of three areas in the Breede River Winelands Municipality (BRWM) as a heritage component of an EIA. The BRWM is planning the establishment of a landfill and associated waste minimisation facilities for the entire municipality incorporating the towns of Robertson, Bonnievale, Ashton, McGregor and Montagu and the surrounding rural areas. Only physical heritage issues are dealt with in this report. Visual and aesthetic concerns are dealt with elsewhere.

The process which started in 1999 efforts have been made to identify and assess possible sites for a new landfill. After extended scoping and public participation three preferred sites have been identified from a possible 11 sites initially considered. These three sites are:

Stockwell (near Bonnievale; owned by a Mr Malherbe);
Olienhoutskloof (near Bonnievale; owned by BRWM); and
Bullida Gronde (near Robertson; owned by BRWM).

The locations of the possible sites are indicated on Figures 1 and 2. For the purposes of this report the three areas are dealt with separately.

The terms of reference for this specialist Heritage assessment are:

- Identify and map heritage resources on the site and immediately surrounding area;
- Determine the importance of the heritage resources;
- Determine and assess the impact of the proposed landfill on the heritage resources and cultural landscape;
- Recommend mitigation measures to minimise impacts associated with the proposed landfill;
- Indicate whether Stockwell, Olienhoutskloof and Bullida Gronde are suitable or unsuitable from a heritage standpoint for waste disposal purposes and identify a preferred site.

Methodology

Each area was visited by the author (heritage specialist) and covered on foot for some 2 to 3 hours in a series of transects across the proposed landfill site and surrounding areas. Heritage material and finds of interest were photographed and described. Co-ordinates for features of particular interest were located with a handheld GPS, but no mapping was carried out as there are no features of archaeological or heritage significance that required this. In the one area with a small amount of archaeological material, this was not considered worth mapping as the occurrence was very diffuse. All areas visited were easily accessible and for the most part ground visibility was good.

No archival or other research was done on the areas as the lack of heritage material indicated the probable futility of this.

This report was prepared by John Lanham and reviewed by Tim Hart, of the Archaeology Contracts Office at UCT.

Bullida Gronde

This is a large flat area to the east of Robertson, between the R317 to Bonnievale and the R60 to Ashton, and is owned by the BRWM. It is well vegetated with a very stony soil.



Figure 3. Bullida Gronde, looking west towards Nkqubela and south Robertson.

To the west towards Robertson the area stretches unchanged as far as the intersection of the R317 and the R60. To the south and east the area is bounded by agricultural lands. The Robertson aerodrome lies to the north.

Despite being well vegetated, visibility on the ground is good. Several transects were walked across the area, as well as a short distance to the west to compare artefact density outside the area of interest, and to determine the extent of the scatter. During these walks a few stone artefacts were noted. Except for one, they were all made on hard local quartzite, and fall into the Early Stone Age category. Two radial cores and one oval biface (figure 4. 5 and 6) were noted as well as a small number of smaller flakes.

Figure 4: Radial core, max dimension 140 mm

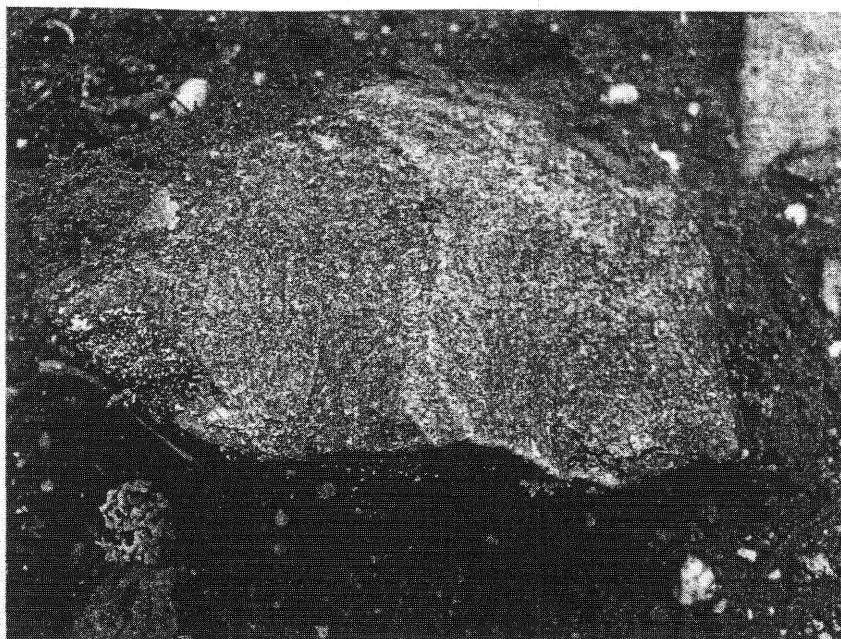


Figure 5: Biface, 150 mm, showing cortex remaining

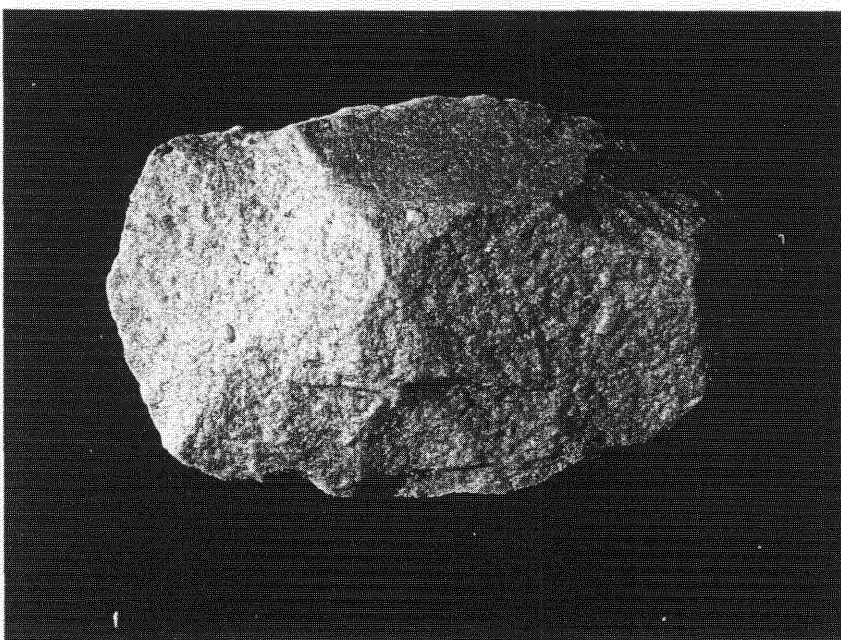
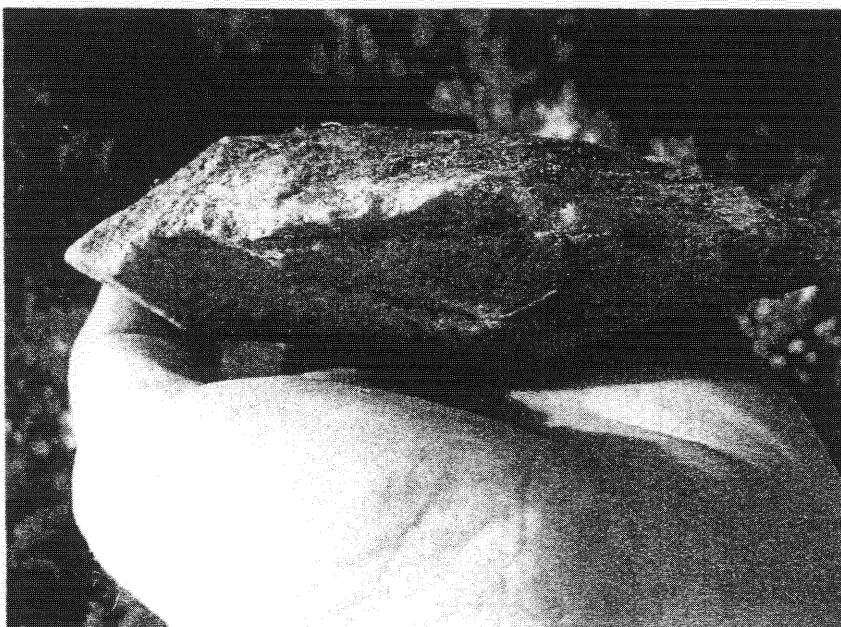


Figure 6: Same biface, side view



The density of artefacts is very low - below one artefact per 10 m as stipulated by Jerardino (n.d). It was not possible to determine the extent of the occurrence as it was still possible to find artefacts up to a kilometre away from the area of interest. It would appear as if this sort of low-level occurrence is ubiquitous in this part of the Breede River valley.

One unusual artefact found was a retouched convergent silcrete flake, probably Middle Stone Age, which has been re-worked by Later Stone Age people to form an adze, a tool type commonly associated with wood-working and frequently found in Later Stone Age sites around the Cape Fold Belt.

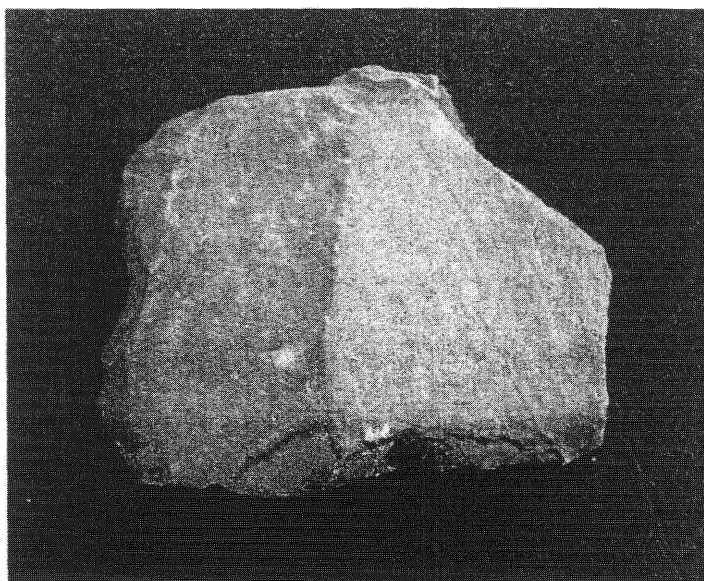


Figure 7: Re-worked flake. The older retouch can be seen on the left and the more recent re-working at the bottom, showing the penetration of the surface weathering. Max width 55 mm.

Examination of piles of stone at the edge of newly established vineyards failed to expose any significant amount of material. This was also the case at a borrow pit to the west and in piles of material dug up when the pylons to the north and south of the area were erected.

There is no concentration of artefacts anywhere in this area dense enough to be of special significance. No structures or other features of heritage significance are present. There is nothing to suggest that this area is of particular heritage importance nor that there has been significant historical use of the area. Impacts of the proposed development on this site would thus be of very low significance.

Archaeological monitoring of the area should however be carried out during the establishment of a landfill should this area be selected, to ensure that any archaeological material which may occur on the site can be suitably treated and recorded. Without mitigation, there is a definite probability that material will be disturbed and/or buried and lost to research for the foreseeable future. Construction and operation of the landfill will both have direct impact on the archaeological material. A simple intervention would reduce the impact to minimal proportions.

From an archaeological and heritage point of view there can be no objection to the development at Bullida Gronde.

NATURE OF IMPACT Character of the area, archaeology	WITHOUT MITIGATION – ie without heritage conservation measures	WITH MITIGATION – with active measures to ensure where necessary, collection of archaeological material
<i>Extent</i>	Local	Local
<i>Intensity</i>	Low	Low
<i>Duration</i>	Long term	Long term
<i>Consequence</i>	Low	Low
<i>Probability</i>	Probable	Probable
<i>Confidence</i>	High	High
<i>Status</i>	-ve	-ve
<i>Significance</i>	Low	Low

Olienhouts Kloof

This area lies in a secluded valley just to the north of Bonnievale, beyond the rifle range. It is owned by the BRWM. The soil is fairly hard and generally compact, in contrast to the other two sites. The area has undergone some disturbance in the recent past as evidenced by abandoned ploughed lands, the foundation of a recent building, alien plants, litter, rubble and a broken earth dam. There are also several disturbed areas and widespread erosion. Piles of litter and rubbish are scattered about the lower parts of the area. The approach, too, is through an eroded and degraded area. It is evident that this area has been used for some municipal dumping in the recent past.



Figure 8: Foundation of abandoned cattle-shed/abattoir S33° 54' 48.7" W20° 05' 33.3"



Figure 9: Detail of building. Note the patterned breeze-block construction typical of the 1960's and 1970's.



Figure 10: Breached earth dam and resultant erosion.

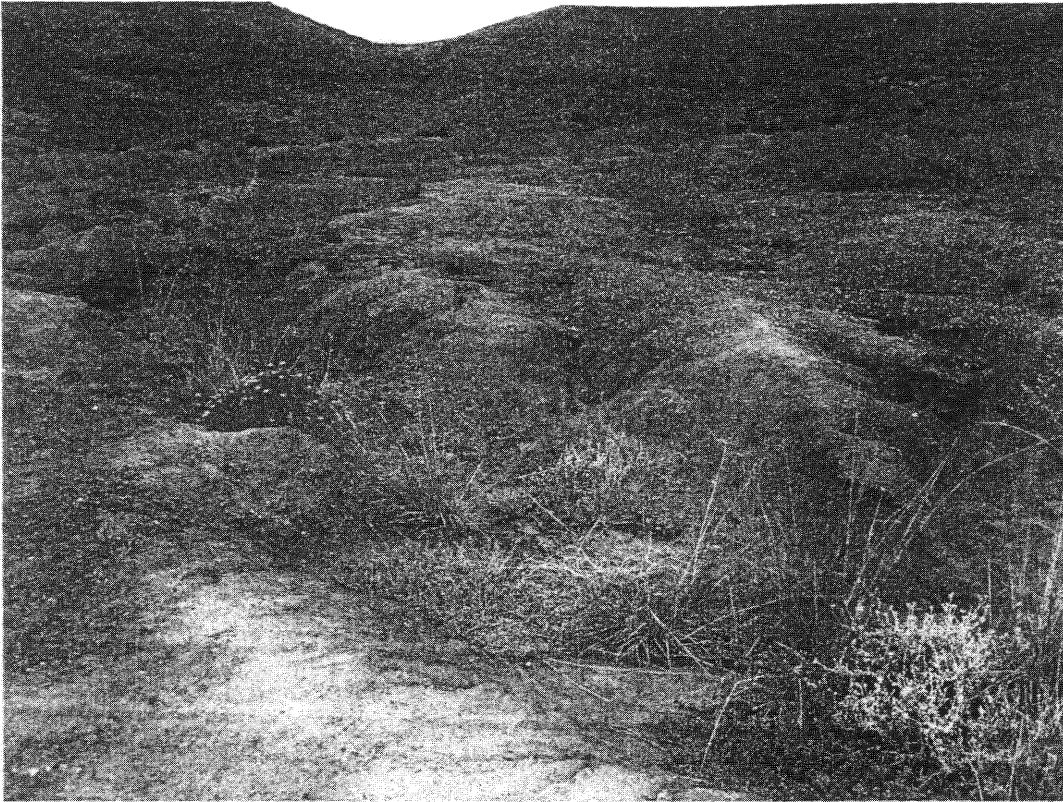


Figure 11: Eroded area above dam showing degraded veld.

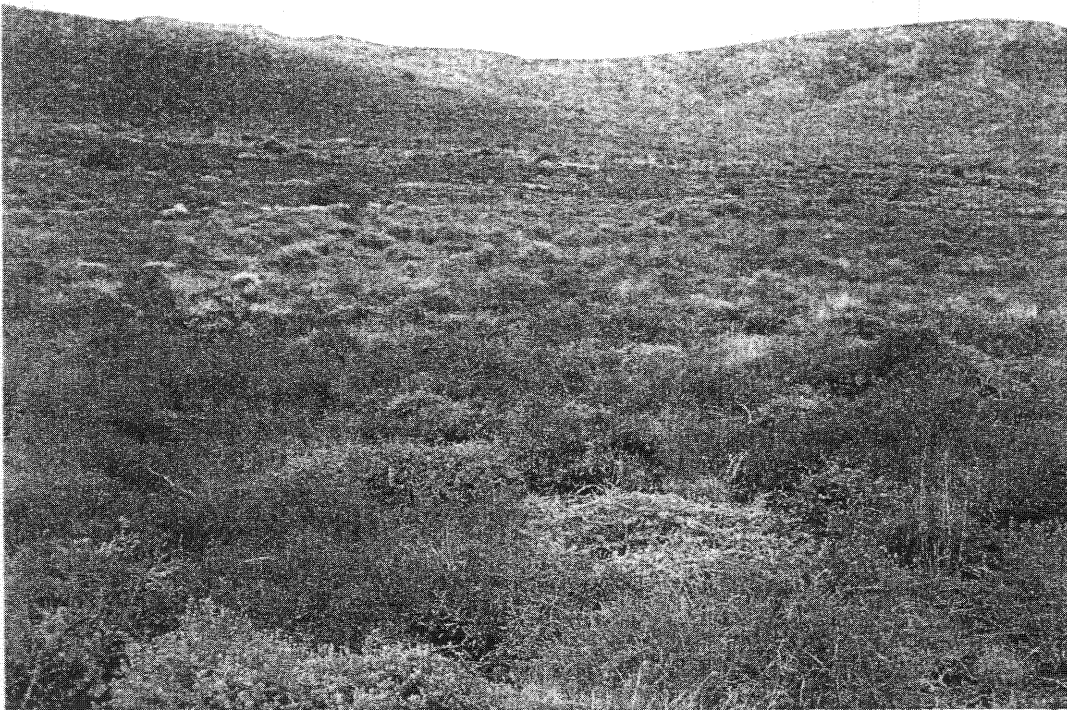


Figure 12: Looking NW showing darker rectangle of abandoned field.



Figure 13: Piles of rubble in the veld below the dam.



Figure 14: Water trough in front of building. Signed and dated A. Paulse 15.6.73.

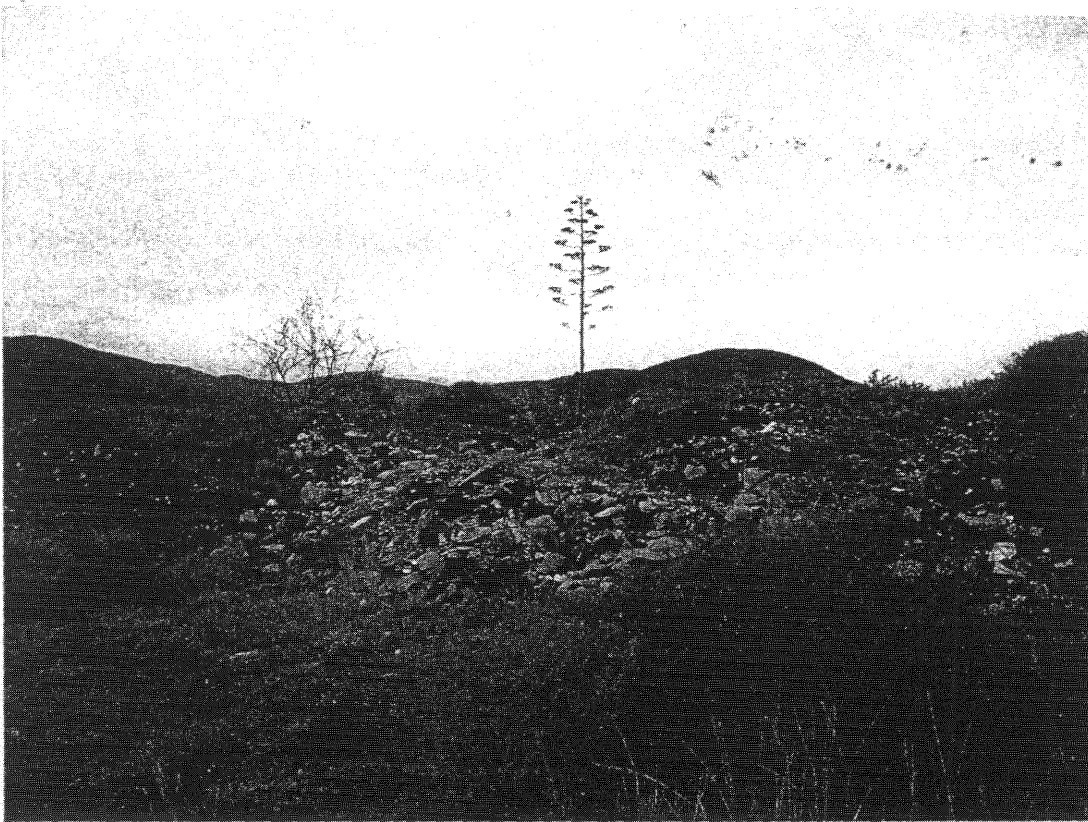


Figure 15: Piles of rubble and household waste on the way towards the Olienhoutsklouf site.

The area was walked to cover as much of the ground as possible. Visibility on the ground is generally good. Only two Early Stone Age artefacts, a unifacial core and a radial core were found. They were widely separated across the valley and are not considered to be significant.

No other archaeological or heritage material was seen. The two artefacts noted above are very isolated and are not considered to be of any importance, and do not merit any mitigation. The building and farming remains are recent and of no special interest. From a heritage point of view there can be no objection to the establishment of a landfill on this site.

NATURE OF IMPACT	WITHOUT MITIGATION – ie	No mitigation necessary
Character of the area, archaeology	without heritage conservation measures	
Extent	Local	Local
Intensity	Low	Low
Duration	Long term	Long term
Consequence	Low	Low
Probability	Improbable	Improbable
Confidence	High	High
Status	-ve	-ve
Significance	Very low	Very low

Stockwell

This is an attractive sandy valley across the Ashton road from Olienhouts Kloof. It has been partly ploughed, but retains a very well wooded part at the head of the valley to the north as well as further up the hillsides above the valley. It is in private ownership.



Figure 16: The head of the Stockwell valley, filled with mature wild olives.

The current tenant is keeping horses on the property, and the veld is in good condition. The valley gives access to several attractive natural areas in the surrounds. Parts of the valley lie in direct line of sight with Bonnievale.

Both sides of the valley were explored on foot. Visibility was generally good to very good. There is a small earth dam on the west of the stream at the top of the field. It is already nearly obscured by vegetation and is not significant. There are no structures on the property other than a recent wooden shed and barn. No heritage material was found nor is there anything to suggest historical use of the area. From a heritage aspect there can be no objection to development of this site.

NATURE OF IMPACT Character of area	WITHOUT MITIGATION – ie without heritage conservation measures	No mitigation necessary
Extent	Local	Local
Intensity	Low	Low
Duration	Long term	Long term
Consequence	Low	Low
Probability	Improbable	Improbable
Confidence	High	High
Status	-ve	-ve
Significance	Very low	Very low

Conclusions and recommendations

There is a small amount of archaeological and no heritage material present at Bullida Gronde. This material is considered to be of very low significance. The impact of development here would be only marginally greater than at the other two sites. The archaeological material at Bullida Gronde should be recorded and monitoring carried out should a landfill be established there.

Stockwell is a very attractive valley backing onto extensive natural and unspoiled areas. There is no archaeological and no heritage material present. There can be no objection upon archaeological or heritage grounds for opposing a development here.

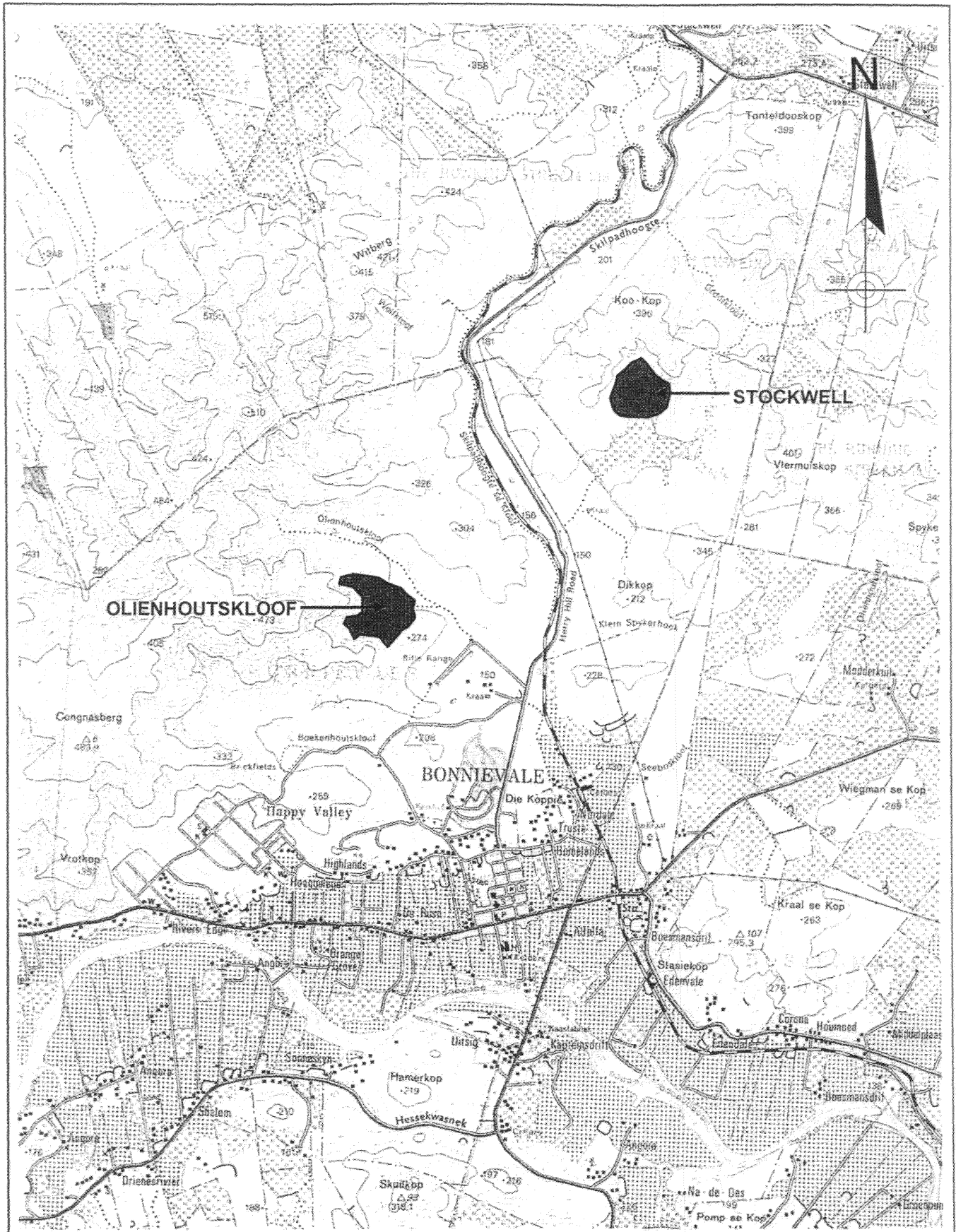
Olienhouts Kloof is the preferred site in this report. There is almost no archaeological and no heritage material present. There are no objections for heritage reasons to the establishment of a landfill here.


The preferred site from a heritage and archaeological perspective is thus Olienhouts Kloof although there would be no/little objection to establishment of the landfill at either of the other two sites.

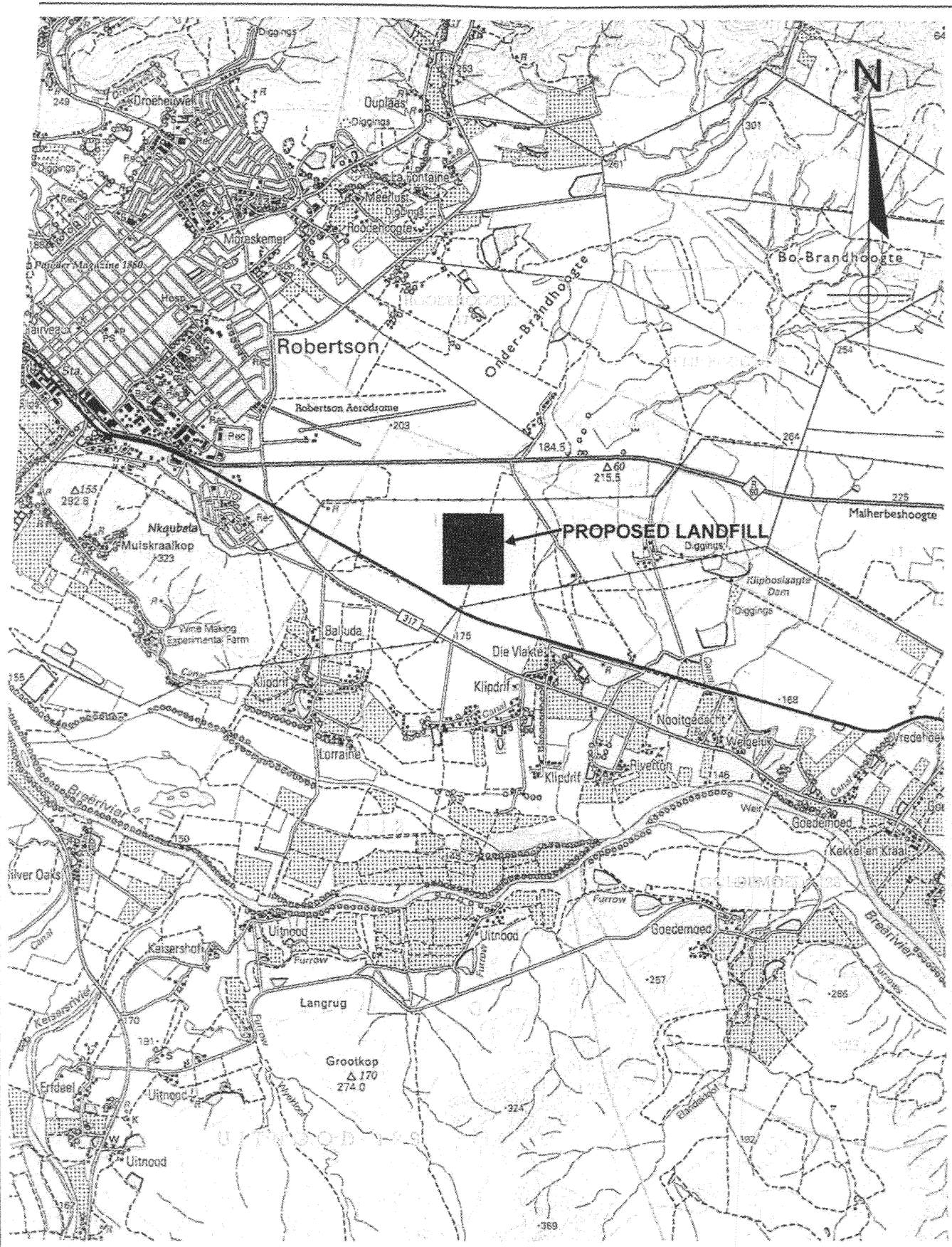
References


Jerardino, A. (with assistance from H. Deacon) (not dated). Minimum professional standards for reporting on Phase I AIA: Early Stone Age (ESA) occurrences. Draft document, Heritage Western Cape.

SRK Consulting 2005. Revised final scoping report, (2005) Proposed establishment of a 'municipal' landfill and associated facilities. Report Prepared for Breede River Winelands Municipality. Report No 352306/2.



CLIENT	BREEDERIVER WINELANDS MUNICIPALITY	DESIGNED	cv	 <p>JAN PALM CONSULTING ENGINEERS SPECIALIST CONSULTING ENGINEERS</p>
	PROJECT	BRWM LANDFILL SITE	DRAWN	
DRW. TITLE		LOCALITY PLAN: STOCKWELL AND OLIENHOUTSKLOOF	CHECKED	
			DATE	
		SCALE	1:50000	FIGURE No. Figure 2



CLIENT	BREDE RIVER WINELANDS MUNICIPALITY	DESIGNED	CV	 <p>JAN PALM CONSULTING ENGINEERS SPECIALIST CONSULTING ENGINEERS</p>
PROJECT	BRWM LANDFILL SITE	DRAWN	CV	
		CHECKED	JP	
DRW. TITLE	LOCALITY PLAN: BULLIDA	DATE	OCTOBER 2005	FIGURE No. Figure 1
		SCALE	1:50000	