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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED LANDFILL SITES AT VILJOENSKROON, FREE STATE

### INVESTIGATION

Four alternative sites for the proposed new rubbish dump at Viljoenskroon, Free State, were visited on 14 July 2005 in the company of Dr Johan du Preez of Cebo Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein. At Viljoenskroon, Mr Gert Van Straaten from the local municipality took us to the different sites.

The area was examined for possible archaeological and historical remains and to establish the potential impact on any cultural material that might be found. The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is done in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), (25 of 1999) and under the Environmental Conservation Act, (73 of 1989).

### LOCALITY

Several sites were selected for the proposed development of (Map 1).

Four different sites are considered for the new landfill terrain at Viljoenskroon, Free State (Maps 2-4).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken (2726BB).

**Alternative A:** Portion of the farm Biesiesvlei 497 along the R59 road from Viljoenskroon to Vredfort and Potchefstroom (27°13'09"S 026°54'29"E Altitude 1330m) (Map 2) (Figs.1-3).

**Alternative B:** R76 to Kroonstad & Orkney (Figs.).

**Alternative C:** (Figs.).

**Alternative D:** The land lies east of the R59 road from Viljoenskroon to Bothaville (Figs.).

Existing rubbish dump:

## **INVESTIGATION**

At Viljoenskroon were helpfully accompanied by Mr Gert van Straaten, the former town clerk.

The land was examined for possible archaeological and historical material and to establish the potential impact on any cultural material that might be found. The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is done in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), (25 of 1999) and under the Environmental Conservation Act, (73 of 1989).

## **LOCALITY**

The first of the suggested areas lies land is located to the west of the R707 road to Senekal (Fig.4) (28°02'08"S 027°50'47"E Altitude 1564m). GPS co-ordinates given in Cape scale (Map2 2827BB).

The turn-off from the R707 to Arlington railway station marks the northern limit of the proposed land (28°02'04"S 027°50'48"E Altitude 1564m) (Fig.5).

Remains of the old railway line that marks the northern limit of the proposed area is still visible on the surface (Fig.3).

## **FINDS**

No indication of any archaeological or historical material was found on the surface neither were any stone tools or ceramic ware found.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

There is no obvious reason to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site.

After examination by the archaeologist, I recommend that the proposed developments may proceed.

## **MITIGATION**

Concerning the area for the proposed development, no mitigation measures are needed.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Dr Johan du Preez of CEBO Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, took me to the site and supplied information on this investigation.

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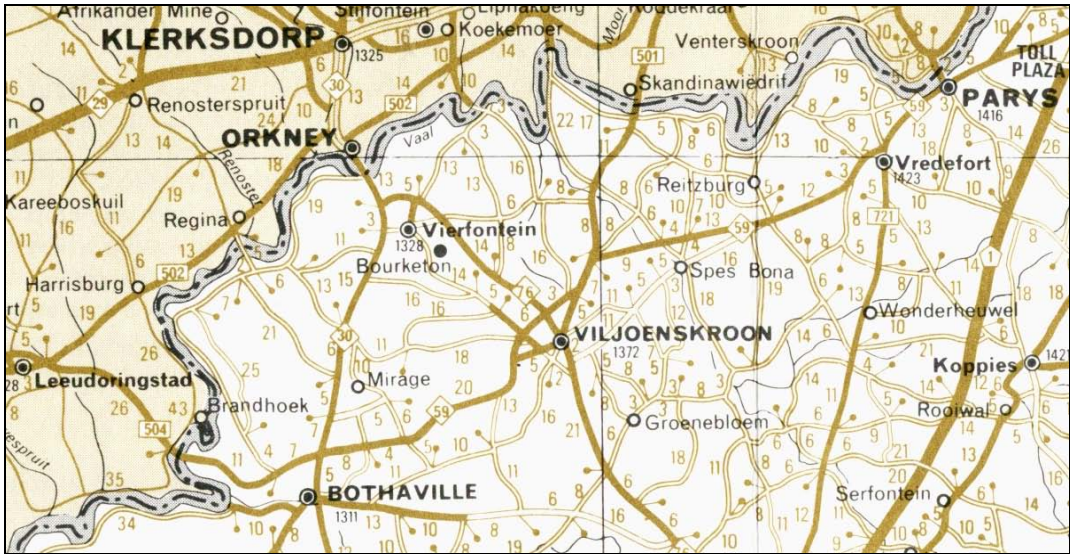
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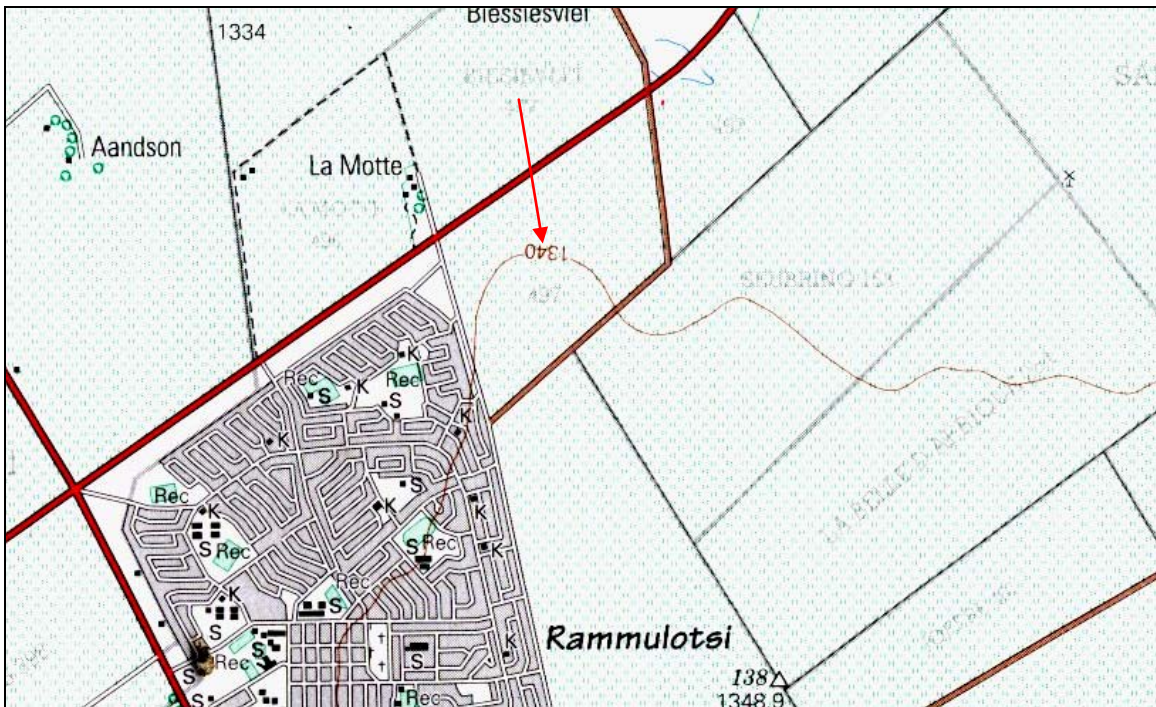


**LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:**



Map 1

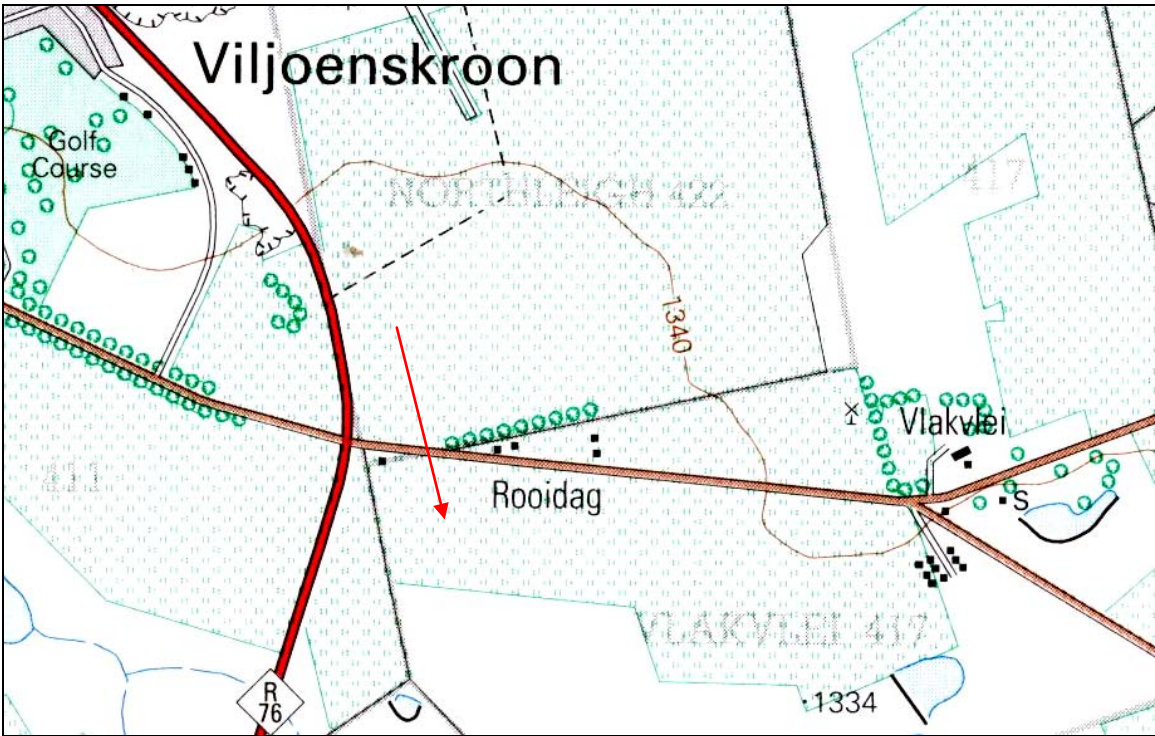
Locality of Viljoenskroon in relation to Bothaville, Orkney & Parys.



Map 2

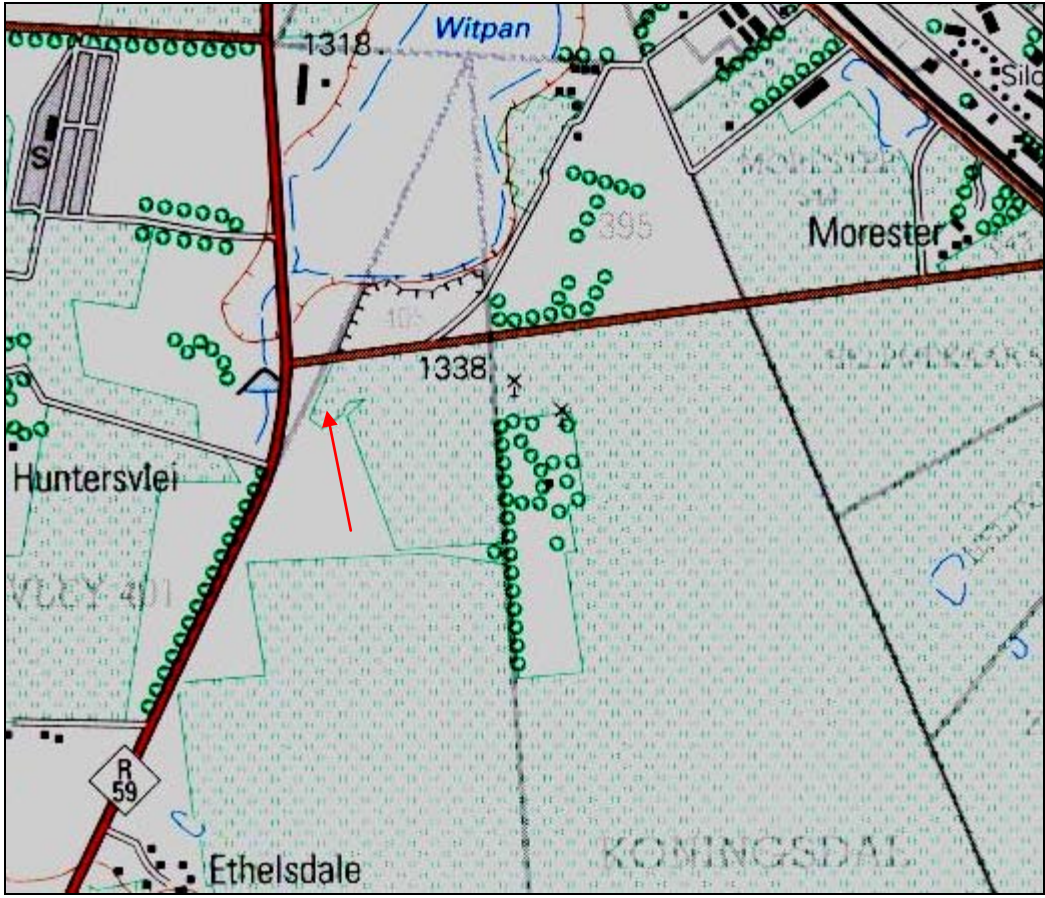






Map 3 R76





Map 4



Fig.1 Alternative A along the R59 to Vredefort facing south.





Fig. Alternative A. facing south east.



Fig. Alternative A. facing east.



Fig. There is a tendency that patches of *Rhus ciliata* (Klein Suurtaaibos) appear where the soil had been disturbed.





Fig. remains of stone-walled structures occur scattered on the surface.



Fig. A tin can dating from the Anglo-Boer War. The heavy soldering is characteristic of this time period.









Fig. Sponge ware decorated crockery and an inner piece of a mouth organ.



Fig. A spur found at the site.



Fig. Metal object of unknown purpose.



Fig. A flat galvanised sheet used for target shooting.



Fig.