

# Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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29 August, 2011

Att: Mr Winston Cloete  
Bvi Consulting Engineers  
P. O. Box 683  
Springbok  
8240

Dear Mr Cloete,

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT THE PROPOSED LEKKERSING OXIDATION PONDS AND SEWER PIPELINE, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

### **1. Introduction**

Bvi Consulting Engineers, on behalf of the Richtersveld Municipality commissioned the Agency for Cultural Resource Management to conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for the proposed construction of oxidation ponds and a sewer pipeline at Lekkersing in the Richtersveld region of the Northern Cape Province (Figures 1 & 2).

The proposed project entails the following:

- Construction of sewer oxidation and evaporation ponds
- Construction of inlet and outlet structures to convey water from one pond to another
- Installation of security fencing around the ponds
- Construction of a  $\pm$  1.2 km underground sewer pipeline
- Construction of a sewer, pump station

The footprint area of the proposed oxidation ponds will be about 2.1 ha.

The proposed activities are to be located on Portion 5 of Farm Richtersveld 11, Namaqualand.

In terms of Section 38 (1) (c) of the National Heritage Resources Act 1999 (Act 25 of 1999), an AIA of the proposed development is required if the development footprint area is more than 5000 m<sup>2</sup>. This is to determine if the area contains heritage sites and to take the necessary steps to ensure that they are not damaged or destroyed during development.

In addition, Section 38 (1) (a) of the Act indicates that any person constructing a powerline, pipeline or road, or linear development exceeding 300m in length is required to notify the responsible heritage resources authority, who will advise whether an impact assessment is required before development can take place.

ACRM has been instructed to undertake a baseline study in order to locate and map archaeological sites or remains that may potentially be impacted by the proposed development, to assess the significance of the potential impacts and to propose measures to mitigate any impacts.

The AIA forms part of the Environmental Basic Assessment process that is being undertaken by independent environmental consultants, Enviro-Logic cc.

## **2. Terms of reference**

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were to:

- Determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological resources that may be impacted by the proposed construction of the oxidation ponds, including associated infrastructure;
- To identify and map archaeological resources that may be impacted by the proposed development;
- To assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological resources affected by the proposed development;
- To assess the significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
- To identify measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may be impacted by the proposed development

## **3. Description of the affected environment**

An aerial photograph indicating the site layout for the proposed Lekkersing oxidation ponds is illustrated in Figure 3.

Lekkersing is a small settlement located about 60 kms east of Port Nolloth. The proposed site for the oxidation ponds is located about 1 km northwest of the village. The site is severely degraded. Diggings and dumping of domestic waste and building rubble is widespread (Figures 4-6). There is a ruined modern building alongside the gravel access road, and the complete ruins of another modern dwelling inside the proposed footprint area. There are no significant landscape features on the proposed site. Surrounding land use is vacant land and mining (quartzite stone).

The proposed 1.2 km long underground sewer pipeline will run alongside existing gravel roads before connecting to a proposed sewer pump station near the entrance to the settlement.

#### **4. Approach to the study**

The proposed 2.1 ha footprint area was searched for archaeological remains.

The site visit and assessment took place on 03<sup>rd</sup> August, 2011.

#### **5. Constraints and limitations**

There were no constraints or limitations associated with the study.

#### **6. Identification of potential risks**

There are no archaeological risks associated with the project. The proposed site is not a sensitive archaeological landscape.

#### **7. Results of the study**

No pre-colonial archaeological remains were documented during the study.

A ruined (modern) building occurs alongside the gravel access road adjacent to the footprint area, and the almost complete ruined remains of a modern building occur within the proposed footprint area (refer to Figure 7), but neither of these structures have any heritage value or significance.

#### **8. Impact statement**

The impact of the proposed development on important pre-colonial archaeological remains is low.

#### **8. Recommendations**

The Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed construction of oxidation ponds and associated pipeline in Lekkersing in the Northern Cape has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated, prior to proposed development activities.

The project is considered to be viable and should be allowed to proceed as planned.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Kaplan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jonathan Kaplan



Figure 1. Locality map: Regional context

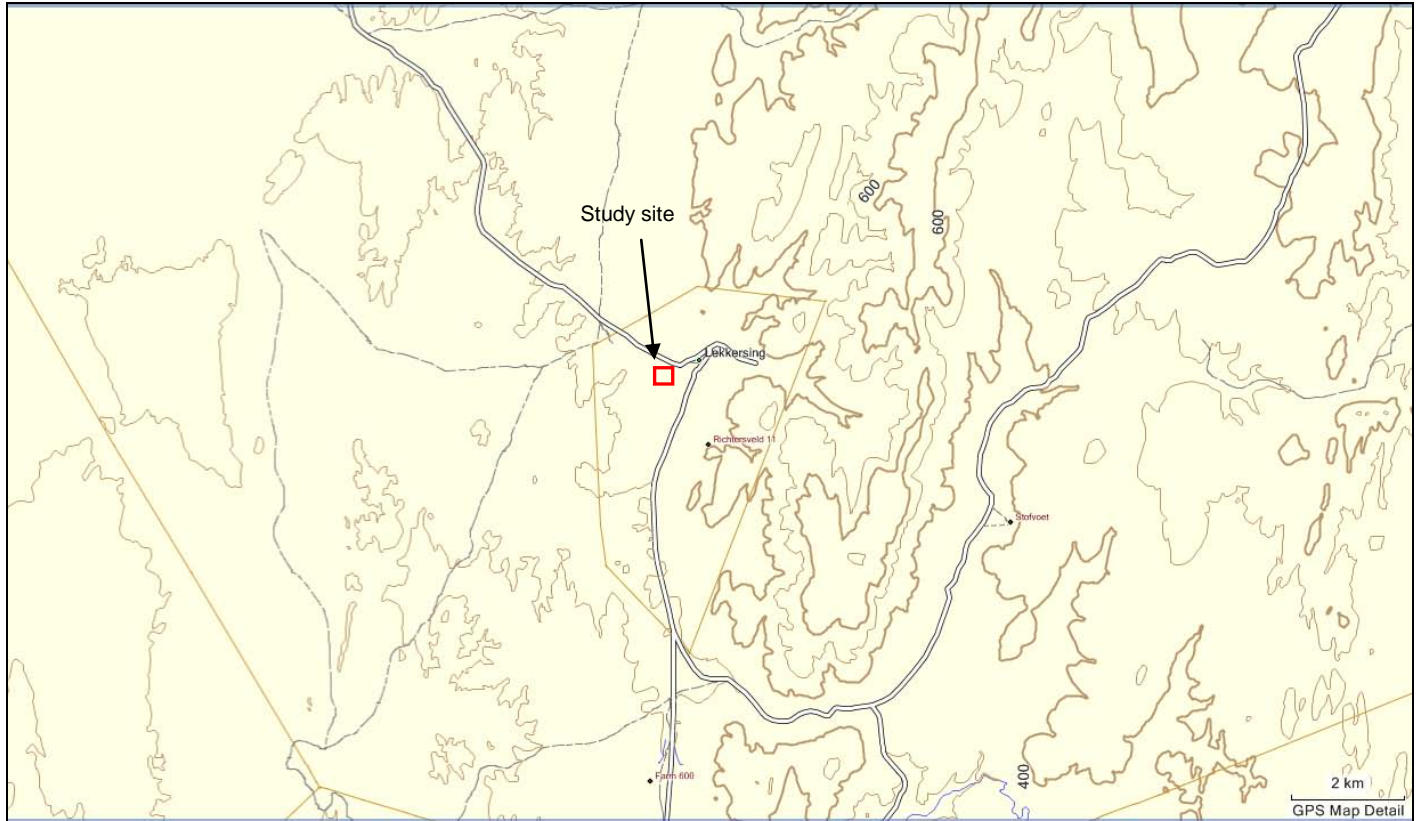


Figure 2. Locality map: Local context



Figure 3. Layout of the proposed Lekkering Oxidation Ponds



Figure 4. View of the proposed site facing south.



Figure 5. View of the proposed site facing north east



Figure 6. View of the proposed site facing north.



Figure 7. Ruined building on the edge of the proposed footprint area. Arrow indicates the ruined remains of modern structure within the proposed footprint area of the oxidation ponds