

# Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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30 August, 2011

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

Dear Mr Cloete,

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT THE PROPOSED LEKKERSING WASTE FACILITY 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 a waste refuse facility at Lekkersing in the Richtersveld region of the Northern Cape Province (Figures 1 & 2).

The proposed project entails the following:

- Construction of a waste refuse facility
- Installation of security fencing around the facility.
- Construction of a  $\pm 0.95$  km long gravel access road

The footprint area for the proposed waste site is about 2.8 ha.

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

Trenches (4m - 5m wide and 2m - 3m deep) will be excavated in which general waste will be disposed. After a trench has reached its capacity it will be closed off by covering it with a final layer of soil and a new trench will be opened up.

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 waste site and access road;
- 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 impacted by the proposed development

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

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

Lekkersing is a small settlement located about 60 kms east of Port Nolloth. The proposed site for the waste facility is located about 5 kms south of the settlement. The site is severely degraded (Figures 4-8). A number of old rusted cars and equipment, litter the area and dumping of other waste and refuse is widespread. There is substantial sheet wash and erosion across the southern portion of the proposed site. There is also evidence for overgrazing. There are no significant landscape features on the proposed site. Surrounding land use is vacant land (marginal grazing).

The proposed 0.95 km long gravel access road will be constructed alongside an existing gravel road before connecting to the main road that enters Lekkersing from the south (Figures 9-11).

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

The proposed 2.8 ha footprint area was searched for archaeological remains.

The route for the proposed 0.95 km access road was walked and 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 footprint area is not a sensitive archaeological landscape.

It is highly unlikely, but unmarked human burials or cache of ostrich eggshell may be uncovered or exposed during excavations for waste trenches.

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

##### **7.1 The proposed waste site**

No archaeological remains were documented in the footprint area for the proposed waste site.

##### **7.2 The proposed gravel access road**

No archaeological remains were documented in the proposed gravel access road.

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

The Archaeological Impact Assessment has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated, prior to proposed development activities.

#### **9. Recommendations**

The proposed project is deemed to be viable.

Should any unmarked human remains, or features such as buried ostrich eggshell caches be exposed or uncovered during excavations and bulk earthworks these must immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Ms Mariagrazia Galimberti 021 4624502).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JK' with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jonathan Kaplan



Figure 1. Locality map: Regional context

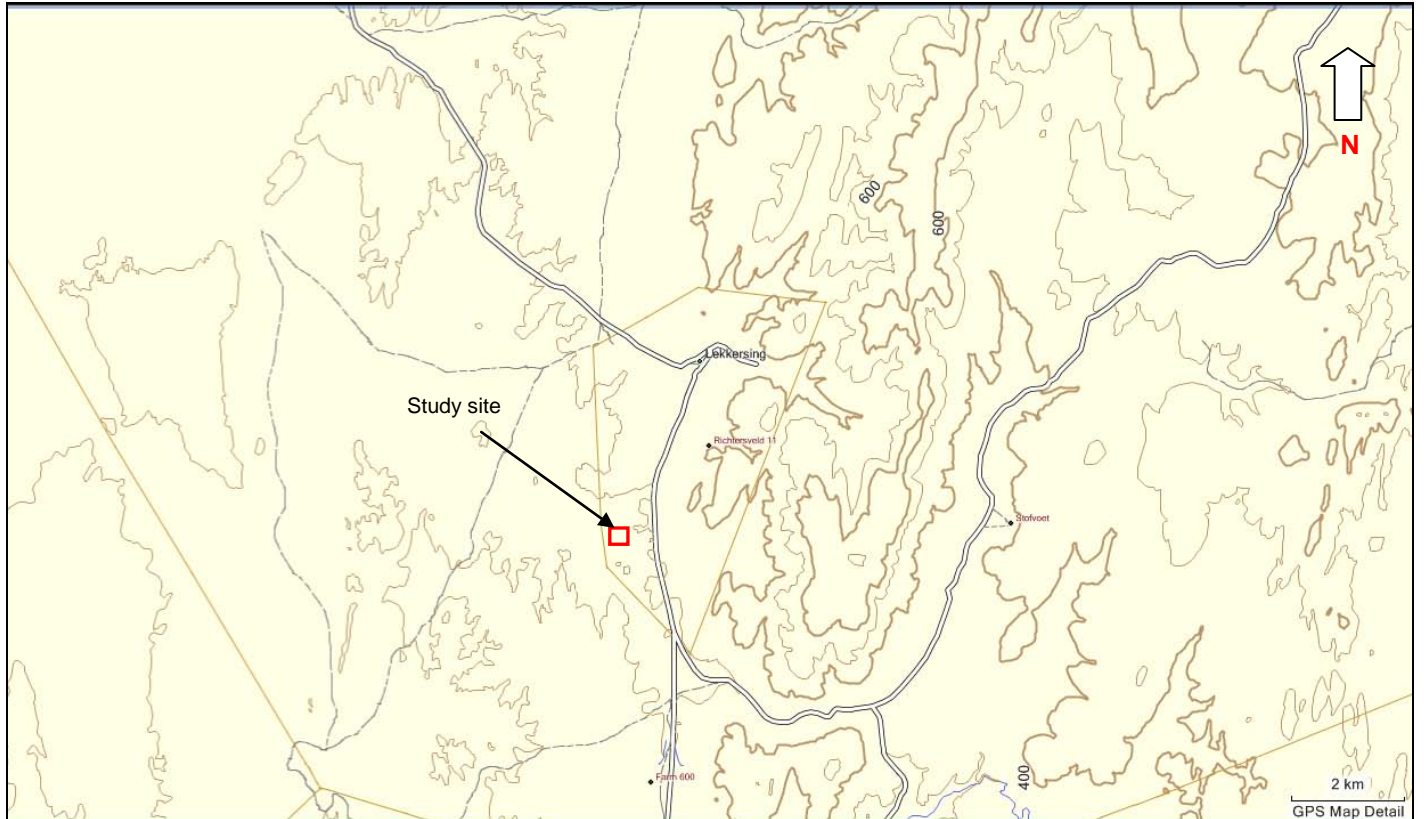


Figure 2. Locality map: Local context

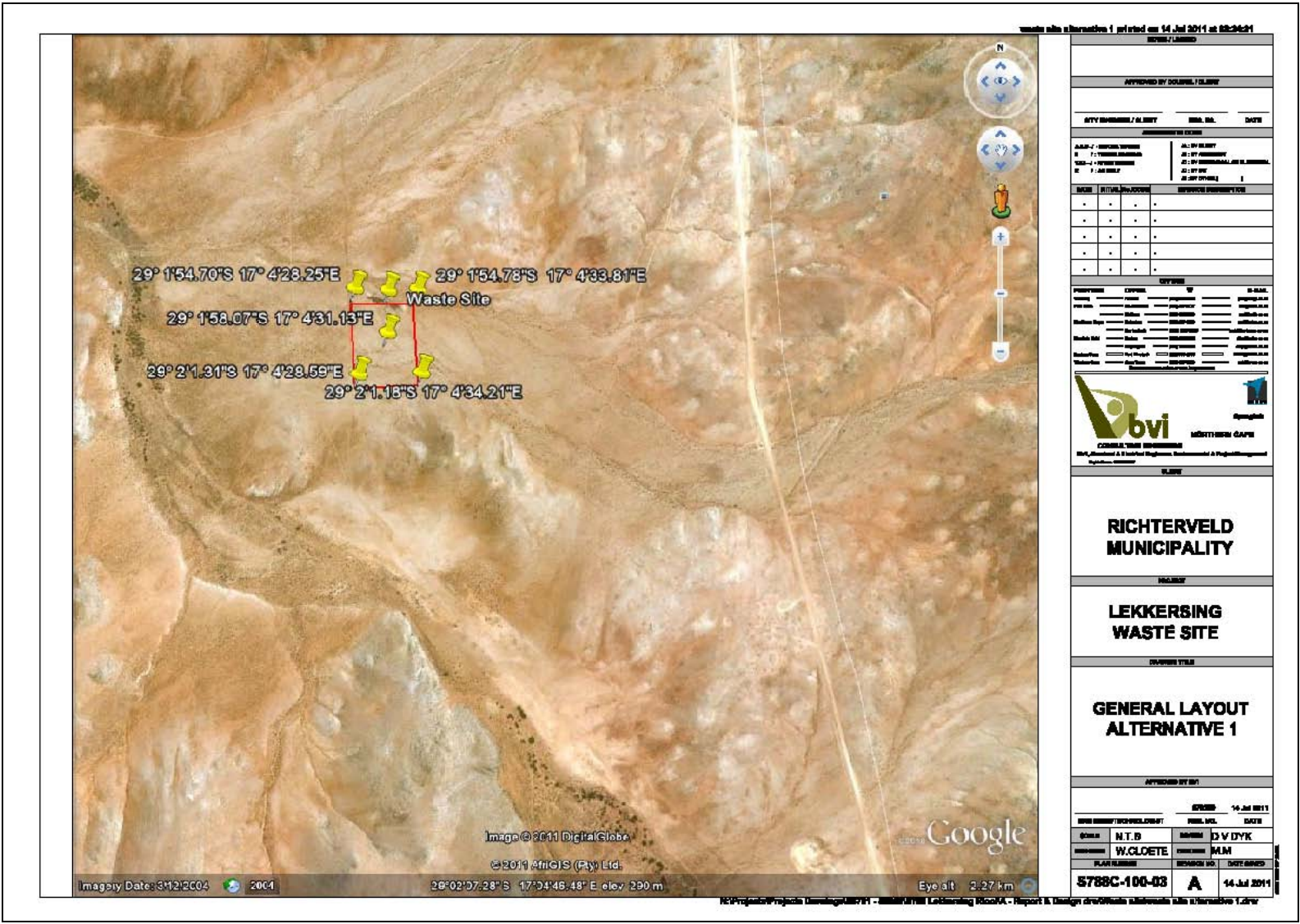


Figure 3. Proposed layout for the Lekkersing Waste Site



Figure 4. View of the proposed site facing south east



Figure 5. View of the proposed site facing west



Figure 6. View of the proposed site facing west



Figure 7. View of the proposed site facing north east



Figure 8. View of the proposed site facing northeast



Figure 9. View of the proposed access road facing east. The existing access road is situated to the left of the plate





Figure 10. View of the proposed access road facing east. The main road to Lekkersing is in background of the plate

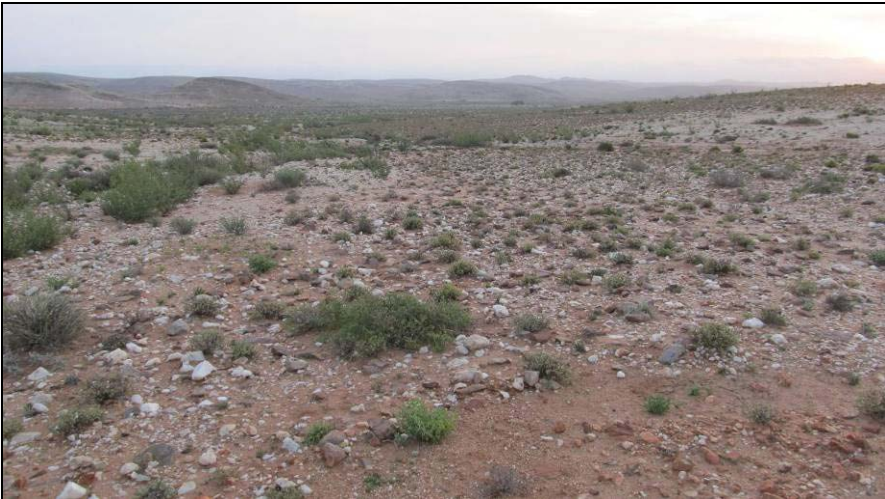


Figure 11. View of the proposed road facing south toward the proposed waste site.