

**HERITAGE SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED REITZ
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SITE, FREE STATE
FOR METSI METSENG GEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

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INTRODUCTION

“Nketoana Local Municipality is in the process of obtaining environmental authorisation for the construction of a new solid waste disposal site and associated infrastructure in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998 as amended).

The site for the proposed development is in the most north eastern corner of the existing municipal land on the farm Blignauts Rust 494. This land has been demarcated for solid waste disposal site in the current Spatial Development Framework (SDF) of the Nketoana Local Municipality.

The existing solid waste site situated below the prominent hill Stompkop has no more capacity left and is becoming an environmental and health risk. The need has thus arrived for the construction of a new solid waste disposal site to cope with the needs of the Nketoana Local Municipality to deliver effective waste management to the town. The planned development will consist of the construction of a solid waste disposal site comprising of 3 cells of 140m long, 30m wide and 2m deep where solid waste from the town of Reitz/Petsana will be dumped, compacted and covered.

The excavated cells will be lined with a clay lining to prevent any leachate from the disposal site to reach the groundwater. Rain water that falls on the site and flows as surface water will be collected in a pipe and directed to a holding/evaporation pond to prevent any polluted water from entering the natural system. Clean surface water will be directed around the site to prevent the unnecessary pollution of clean water. Solid waste will be dumped and compacted until a height of 2m is reached when it will be covered with soil and a new layer of waste will be started. At every 2m interval the compacted waste will be covered until each cell reaches an eventual height of 17.7m whereby the waste will be covered and rehabilitated. A 2m high fence will be erected around the site to prevent animals entering the site. An entrance gate will be constructed to provide controlled access to the site. The lifespan of the proposed waste site is 20 years.” (Metsi Metseng GS BID)

Umlando was contracted by Metsi Meteseng Geological Services to undertake the desktop heritage survey of the new solid waste disposal site near Reitz, Free State. Fig.'s 1 – 3 illustrate the location of the site.

FIG. 1 GENERAL LOCATION OF THE REITZ SOLID WASTE SITE



FIG. 2: AERIAL OVERVIEW OF THE REITZ SOLID WASTE SITE

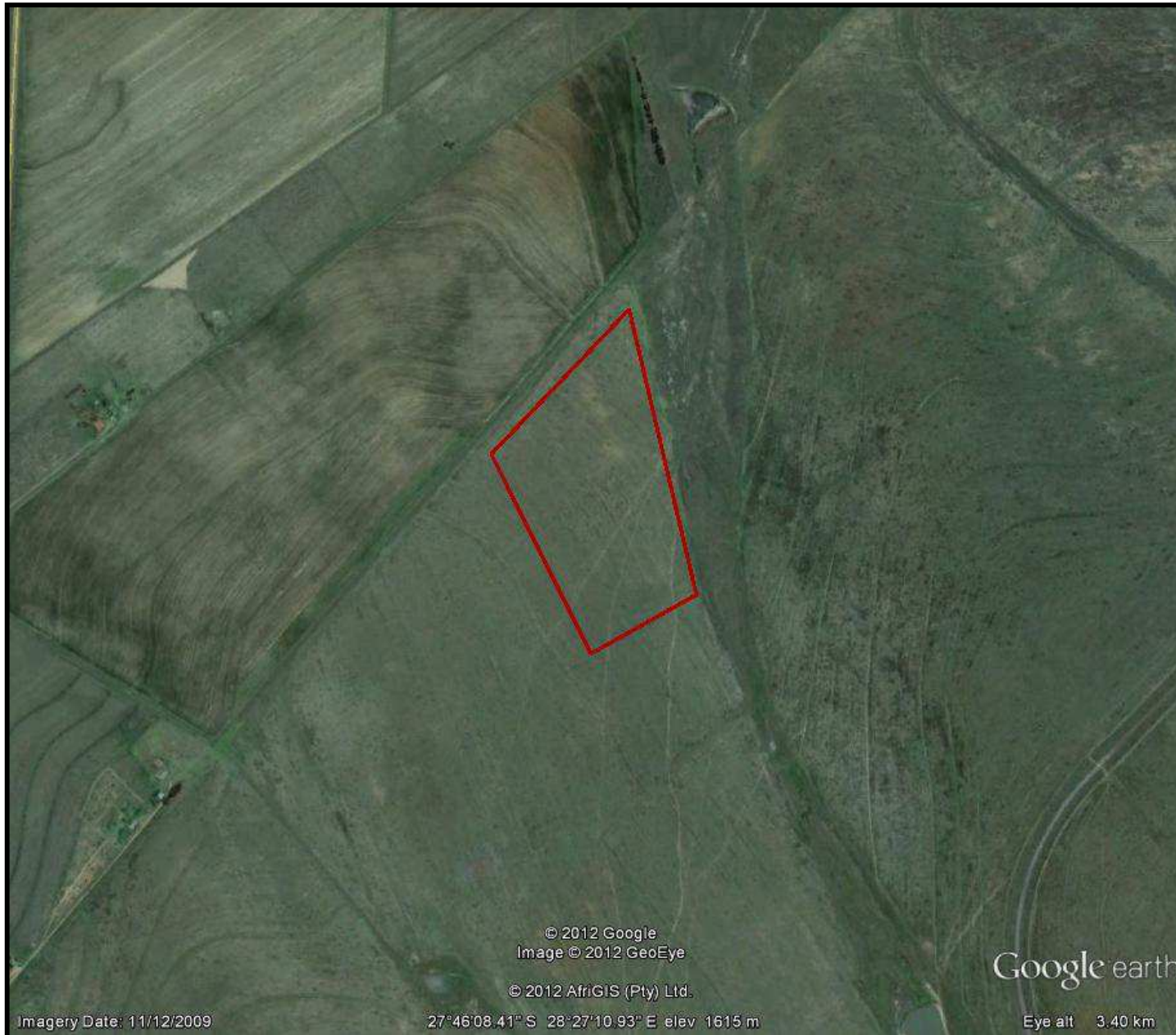
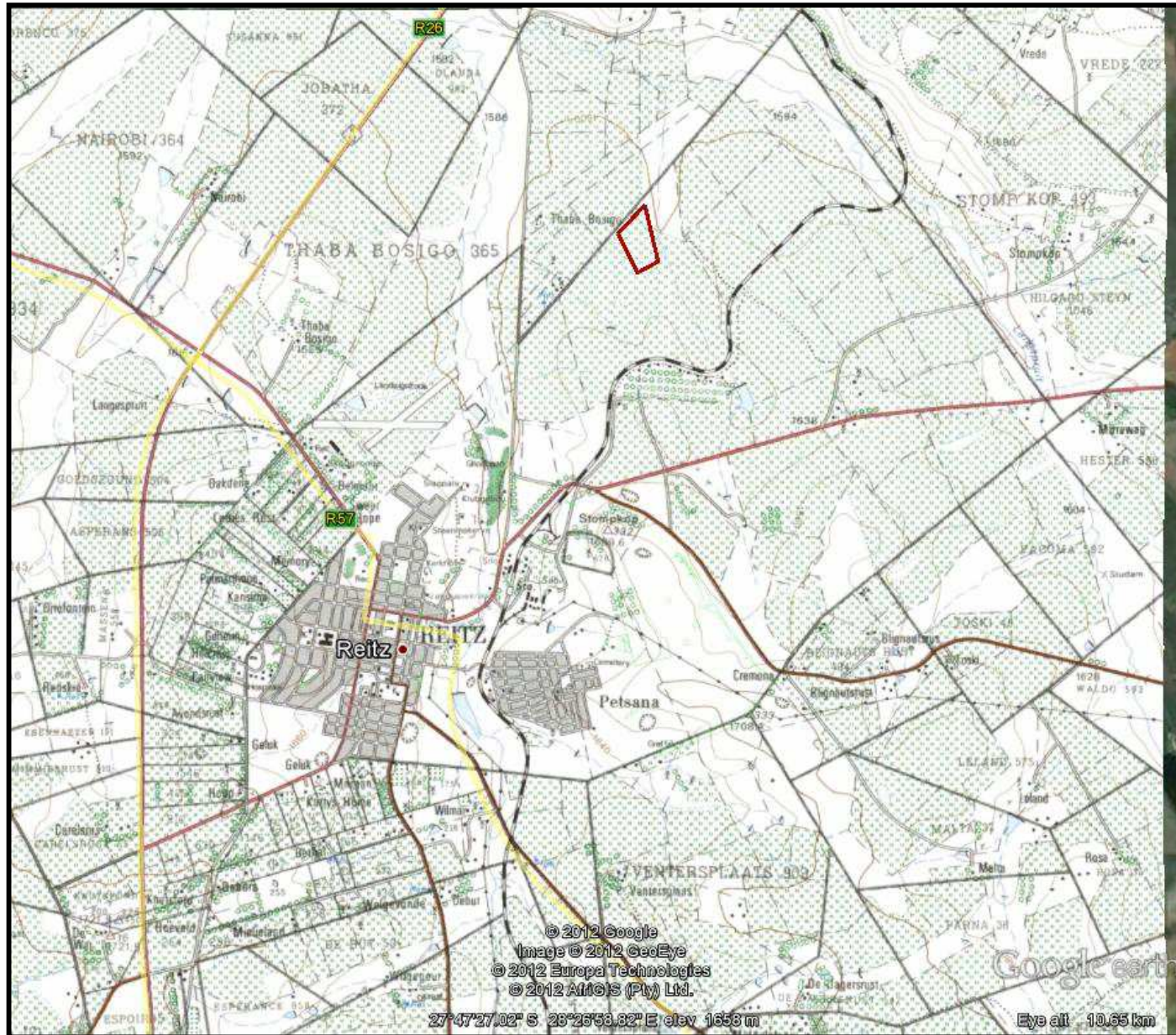


FIG. 3: TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF THE REITZ SOLID WASTE SITE



NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT OF 1999

The National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (pp 12-14) protects a variety of heritage resources. These resources are defined as follows:

1. “For the purposes of this Act, those heritage resources of South Africa which are of cultural significance or other special value for the present community and for future generations must be considered part of the national estate and fall within the sphere of operations of heritage resources authorities.
2. Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the national estate may include—
 - 2.1. Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
 - 2.2. Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
 - 2.3. Historical settlements and townscapes;
 - 2.4. Landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
 - 2.5. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
 - 2.6. Archaeological and palaeontological sites;
 - 2.7. Graves and burial grounds, including—
 - 2.7.1. Ancestral graves;
 - 2.7.2. Royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
 - 2.7.3. Graves of victims of conflict;
 - 2.7.4. Graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;
 - 2.7.5. Historical graves and cemeteries; and
 - 2.7.6. Other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);
3. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
 - 3.1. Movable objects, including—

4. Objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
 - 4.1. Objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
 - 4.2. Ethnographic art and objects;
 - 4.3. Military objects;
 - 4.4. objects of decorative or fine art;
 - 4.5. Objects of scientific or technological interest; and
 - 4.6. books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996).
5. Without limiting the generality of subsections (1) and (2), a place or object is to be considered part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value because of—
 - 5.1. Its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
 - 5.2. Its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
 - 5.3. Its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
 - 5.4. Its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
 - 5.5. Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
 - 5.6. Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
 - 5.7. Its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
 - 5.8. Its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa; and

5.9. sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa”

METHOD

The method for Heritage assessment consists of several steps.

The first step forms part of the desktop assessment. Here we would consult the database that has been collated by Umlando. This database contains archaeological site locations and basic information from several provinces (information from Umlando surveys and some colleagues), most of the national and provincial monuments and battlefields in Southern Africa (<http://www.vuvuzela.com/googleearth/monuments.html>) and cemeteries in southern Africa (information supplied by the Genealogical Society of Southern Africa). We use 1st and 2nd edition 1:50 000 topographical and 1937 aerial photographs where available, to assist in general location and dating of buildings and/or graves. The database is in Google Earth format and thus used as a quick reference when undertaking desktop studies. Where required we would consult with a local data recording centre, however these tend to be fragmented between different institutions and areas and thus difficult to access at times. We also consult with an historical architect, palaeontologist, and an historian where necessary.

The survey results will define the significance of each recorded site, as well as a management plan.

All sites are grouped according to low, medium, and high significance for the purpose of this report. Sites of low significance have no diagnostic artefacts or features. Sites of medium significance have diagnostic artefacts or features and these sites tend to be sampled. Sampling includes the collection of artefacts for future analysis. All diagnostic pottery, such as rims, lips, and decorated sherds are sampled, while bone, stone, and shell are mostly noted. Sampling usually

occurs on most sites. Sites of high significance are excavated and/or extensively sampled. Those sites that are extensively sampled have high research potential, yet poor preservation of features.

Defining significance

Heritage sites vary according to significance and several different criteria relate to each type of site. However, there are several criteria that allow for a general significance rating of archaeological sites.

These criteria are:

1. State of preservation of:

- 1.1. Organic remains:
 - 1.1.1. Faunal
 - 1.1.2. Botanical
- 1.2. Rock art
- 1.3. Walling
- 1.4. Presence of a cultural deposit
- 1.5. Features:
 - 1.5.1. Ash Features
 - 1.5.2. Graves
 - 1.5.3. Middens
 - 1.5.4. Cattle byres
 - 1.5.5. Bedding and ash complexes

2. Spatial arrangements:

- 2.1. Internal housing arrangements
- 2.2. Intra-site settlement patterns
- 2.3. Inter-site settlement patterns

3. Features of the site:

- 3.1. Are there any unusual, unique or rare artefacts or images at the site?

3.2. Is it a type site?

3.3. Does the site have a very good example of a specific time period, feature, or artefact?

4. Research:

4.1. Providing information on current research projects

4.2. Salvaging information for potential future research projects

5. Inter- and intra-site variability

5.1. Can this particular site yield information regarding intra-site variability, i.e. spatial relationships between various features and artefacts?

5.2. Can this particular site yield information about a community's social relationships within itself, or between other communities?

6. Archaeological Experience:

6.1. The personal experience and expertise of the CRM practitioner should not be ignored. Experience can indicate sites that have potentially significant aspects, but need to be tested prior to any conclusions.

7. Educational:

7.1. Does the site have the potential to be used as an educational instrument?

7.2. Does the site have the potential to become a tourist attraction?

7.3. The educational value of a site can only be fully determined after initial test-pit excavations and/or full excavations.

8. Other Heritage Significance:

8.1. Palaeontological sites

8.2. Historical buildings

8.3. Battlefields and general Anglo-Zulu and Anglo-Boer sites

8.4. Graves and/or community cemeteries

8.5. Living Heritage Sites

8.6. Cultural Landscapes, that includes old trees, hills, mountains, rivers, etc related to cultural or historical experiences.

The more a site can fulfill the above criteria, the more significant it becomes. Test-pit excavations are used to test the full potential of an archaeological deposit. This occurs in Phase 2. These test-pit excavations may require further excavations if the site is of significance (Phase 3). Sites may also be mapped and/or have artefacts sampled as a form of mitigation. Sampling normally occurs when the artefacts may be good examples of their type, but are not in a primary archaeological context. Mapping records the spatial relationship between features and artefacts.

TABLE 1: SAHRA GRADINGS FOR HERITAGE SITES

SITE SIGNIFICANCE	FIELD RATING	GRADE	RECOMMENDED MITIGATION
High Significance	National Significance	Grade 1	Site conservation / Site development
High Significance	Provincial Significance	Grade 2	Site conservation / Site development
High Significance	Local Significance	Grade 3A / 3B	
High / Medium Significance	Generally Protected A		Site conservation or mitigation prior to development / destruction
Medium Significance	Generally Protected B		Site conservation or mitigation / test excavation / systematic sampling / monitoring prior to or during development / destruction
Low Significance	Generally Protected C		On-site sampling monitoring or no archaeological mitigation required prior to or during development / destruction

RESULTS

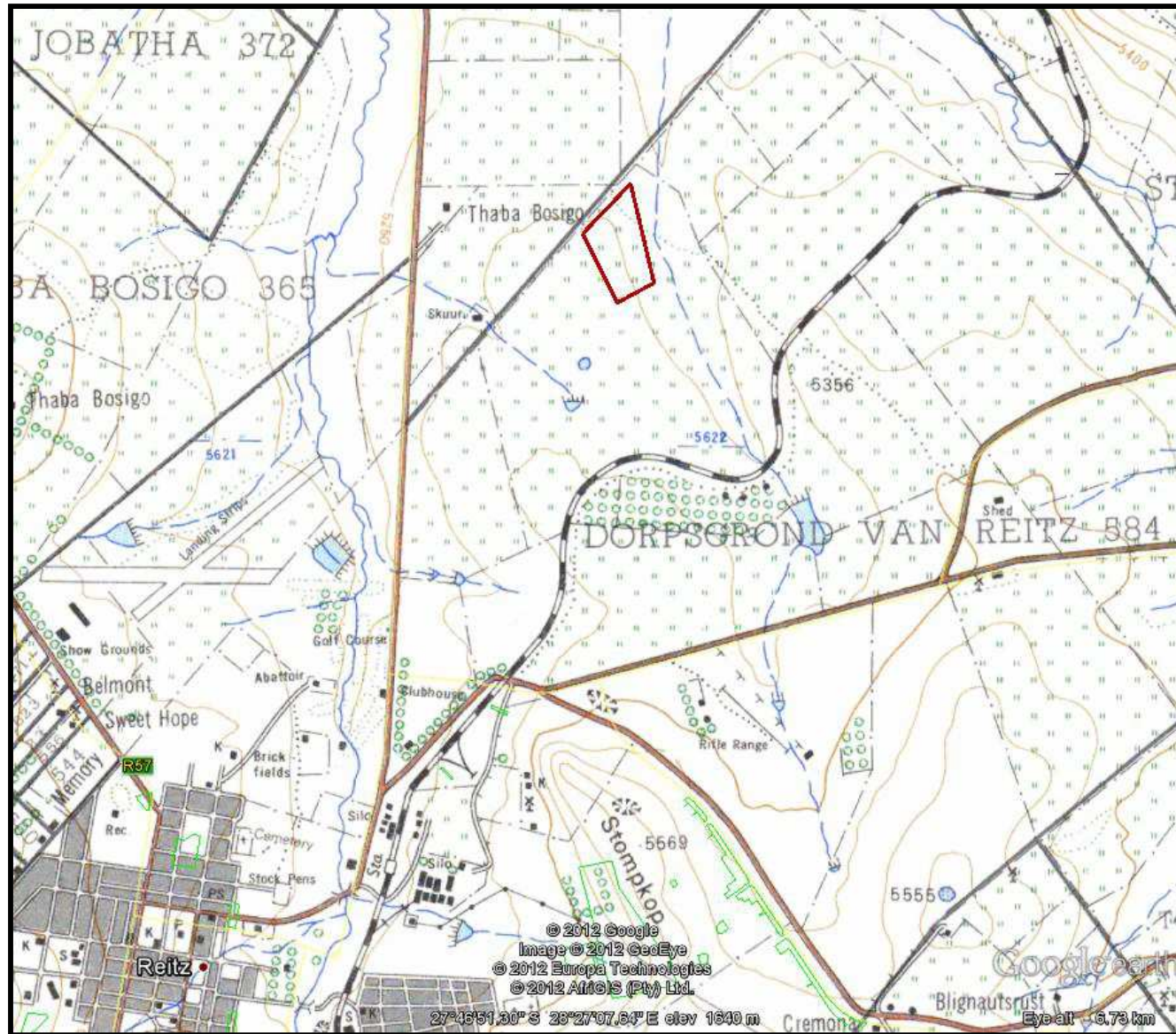
The desktop study consisted of analysing various maps for evidence of prior habitation in the study area, as well as for previous archaeological surveys.

The desktop study shows that the area has been ploughed for several years. The 1969 topographical map shows the area as already being ploughed. There are no known archaeological sites, monuments or cultural landscape features in the study area.

There have been three archaeological surveys undertaken near the study area by Dreyer (2005, 2007). The results from these survey indicate there is no archaeological material in the area. Two study areas from Dreyer (2007) occur in very similar terrain and in fields that have been systematically ploughed over the years.

The results from the desktop study indicate that the affected area will be of no, or very low, archaeological significance.

FIG. 4: LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED REITZ SOLID WASTE SITE IN 1969



MANAGEMENT PLAN

No management plan would be required.

CONCLUSION

A desktop heritage survey was undertaken for the proposed Reitz Solid Waste site. Historical maps, aerial imagery and similarities to other nearby archaeological surveys, suggest that the proposed site would have very little, if any, archaeological material. I suggest that this proposal be exempted from an archaeological survey.

REFERENCES

Dreyer, C. 2005. *Archaeological Assessment of the Proposed Upgrading of the R57 Road (P9/2) Between Reitz & Petrus Steyn, Free State.*

Dreyer, C. 2007. *Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Proposed Residential Developments at Reitz, Free State*