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**1st Phase**

**CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT FOR HARMONY GOLD MINE,  
EVANDER.**



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B.Sc (Engineering) Civil, M. (Architecture) Conservation

**September 2010**

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## DEFINITION

The broad generic term *Cultural Heritage Resources* refers to any physical and spiritual property associated with past and present human use or occupation of the environment, cultural activities and history. The term includes sites, structures, places, natural features and material of Palaeontological, archaeological, historical, aesthetic, scientific, architectural, religious, symbolic or traditional importance to specific individuals or groups, traditional systems of cultural practice, belief or social interaction.

## PROTECTED SITES IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE ACT, Act. NO. 25 OF 1999

The following are the most important sites and objects protected by the National Heritage Act:

- a. Structures or parts of structures older than 60 years
- b. Archaeological sites and objects
- c. Palaeontological sites
- d. Meteorites
- e. Ship wrecks
- f. Burial grounds
- g. Graves of victims of conflict
- h. Public monuments and memorials
- i. Structures, places and objects protected through the publication of notices in the Gazette and Provincial Gazette
- j. Any other places or object which are considered to be of interest or of historical or cultural significance
- k. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- l. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa
- m. Objects to which oral traditions are attached
- n. Sites of cultural significance or other value to a community or pattern of South African history

## METHODOLOGY

All relevant maps and documents on the site were studied. The site was visited and evaluated. The environmental officer, Mr Boet Conradie that has been working on the mine for the last 18 years accompanied the investigator to the site and pointed out all the relevant areas of impact. Google Earth was consulted for aerial information.

As the mine has been in operation since 1958 and as this is the first heritage study to be undertaken on the property, it is known that much of the heritage estate of this property has been compromised through past negligence and ignorance.

Owing to the extreme impact of the mine on the property, special care was given to find heritage remains from all periods on the undisturbed areas.

As this study is aimed to suit the needs of the mine for 'closure' documentation, there is no new 'impact areas to consider for special attention. This study is therefore to be seen as a datasheet for consideration during closure procedures.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is not a normal impact assessment as required for new work, but a compilation of data on the heritage estate of the Evander Harmony Gold Mine.

The mine has been in operation since 1958, preceding any legal requirements for heritage impact. During the waning years of the production life of the mine, there were several changes of ownership and management, and as the impact of the mine was an established fact before any heritage Act in the Country, no attention was given to 'heritage management' as described by Act 25 of 1999. Owing to the above, the heritage residue that remains on the Evander Mine property is the following

1. Thirteen informal cemetery sites containing approximately 300 graves
2. One official mine cemetery containing in the order of 1030 graves.
3. Two memorial sites.
4. A variety of foundations and remains of farmyards.
5. Remains of a large formal 'township.
6. A special site yearly utilised for initiation practices. (Witkleifontein)
7. **What is important to keep in mind by all parties is that in eight years time the whole mine will fall under the protection of the National Heritage Act, Act 25 of 1999, and special demolition permits will be necessary for any planned demolition and rehabilitation work after 2018.**

It was disturbing to find what appear to be 'grave robbing' practises at, at least two sites. Furthermore a farmhouse was identified where extensive diggings indicate the work of 'fortune hunters'. Furthermore the presence of 'new' graves in some cemeteries may be the work of people intent on fraudulent land claims.

The newly erected memorials to the deceased by the mining management and NUM, as well as the permission to the local community to use the Witkleifontein site as an initiation site indicates an amicable relationship between mine management, and the community regarding sites of importance in the landscape.

In the light of the long term benefits the mine reaped from the local communities, including all cultures, it is suggested that the mine embarks on a small project to re-establish dignity to all the cemeteries identified during this survey, as well as the ones that may still be identified. Albeit not legally required, one would expect management to have the respect for the people that relinquished their land for the mines to exist, as well as the ones that died during its operation.

If any heritage resources are located underground and are not visible at present, but are located during progress of any new work, then the appropriate authorities should be alerted to the state of affairs.



**SIDNEY MILLER**

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**CONTACT DETAILS**

**1. DESCRIPTION OF FARM, DISTRICT, PROVINCE.**

See attached map  
District Evander  
Province. Mpumalanga

**2 OWNER**

Name. Harmony Gold Mine, Evander  
Contact Nicole Houghton  
Boet Conradie  
Telephone. 017 620 1618 016 6201620  
E-mail. Boet.conradie@harmony.co.za

**3 DEVELOPERS**

Name. NA  
Telephone. NA Cell. NA  
E-mail. NA

**4 CONSULTANTS**

a. Environmental  
Company. Shangoni Management Services  
Contact name. Anel Badenhorst

Contact telephone. Cell...082 349 9955  
Business 012 348 0272  
Contact e-mail. <anel@shangoni.co.za>

b. Engineering

Company. NA  
Contact name. NA  
Contact telephone. Cell.....NA..... Business .....NA.....  
Contact e-mail. NA

**LOCAL AUTHORITY**

Municipality. NA  
Contact name.  
Contact telephone. A Cell.....NA..... Business .....NA.....  
Contact e-mail. NA

**5. TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT**

(no development)

**6. ZONING OF SITE**

Mining

**7. GPS POSITION OF THE BEACONS OF THE SITE.**

See Site Map

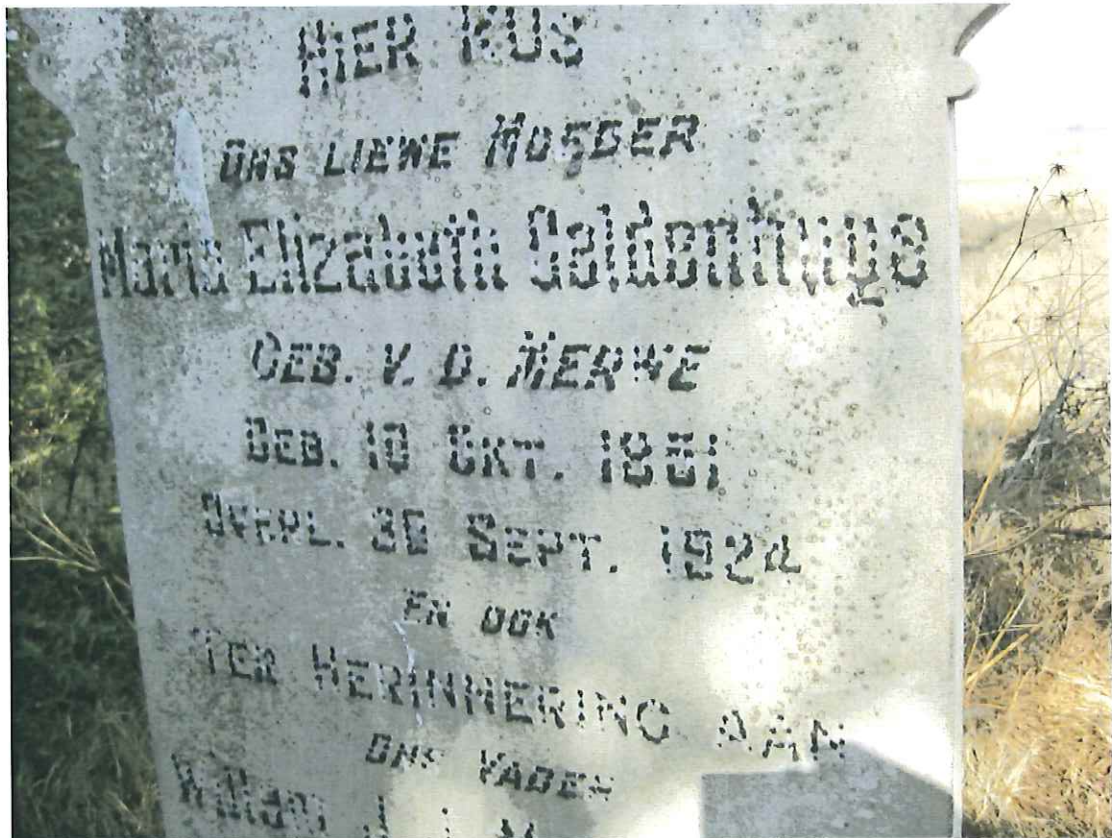


TABLE OF CO-ORDINATES FOR HERITAGE SITES

| Site no. | Description                                    | Figure no.         | No of graves | Degrees South  | Degrees East   |
|----------|--|--------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1        | Graveyard 1. (Lombard)                         | 1, 33              | 4(?)         | 26 35,264      | 28 59,604      |
| 1a       | Farmyard                                       | 33                 |              |                |                |
| 2        | Graveyard 2. (Barnard)<br><i>grave robbing</i> | 3,4, 34            | 4 (?)        | 26 33,558      | 29 00,692      |
| 2a       | Farmyard                                       | 2, 34              |              |                |                |
| 3        | Graveyard 3.                                   | 5, 35              | 7(?)         | 26 31,681      | 29 02,030      |
| 3a       | Farmyard (Zandfontein)                         | 35                 |              |                |                |
| 4        | Graveyard 4. (Roets)<br><i>grave robbing</i>   | 6, 7, 35           | 5(?)         | 26 31,839      | 29 02,260      |
| 4a       | Farmyard                                       | 8, 35              |              | 26 31,948      | 29 02,256      |
| 5        | Graveyard 5.                                   | 9, 35              | 20(?)        | 26 31,553      | 29 03,308      |
| 6        | Graveyard 6.<br><i>grave robbing</i>           | 10,11, 12, 35      | 10(?)        | 26 31,422      | 29 02,142      |
| 6a       | Farmyard                                       | 35                 |              | 26 31,207      | 29 01,942      |
| 6b       | Well<br><i>illegal gold working</i>            | 13, 35             |              | 26 30,958      | 29 01,834      |
| 7        | Graveyard 7.                                   | 14, 35             | 15(?)        | 26 30,676      | 29 01,977      |
| 8        | Graveyard 8.                                   | 15,                | 20(?)        | 26 29,309      | 29 03,772      |
| 9        | Graveyard 9.                                   | 16, 36             | 9(?)         | 26 30,147      | 29 03,930      |
| 9a       | Township foundations                           | 36                 |              |                |                |
| 10       | Graveyard 10.                                  | 17, 20, 36         | 60(?)        | 26 29,862      | 29 03,833      |
|          | Midden of township                             | 18, 36             |              |                |                |
| 10a      | Initiation site                                | 19, 36             |              | 26 29,759      | 29 03,862      |
| 11       | Graveyard 11. (Pieterse)                       | 21, 22, 36         | 13(?)        | 26 29,650      | 29 04,165      |
| 11a      | Farmyard<br><i>illegal digging</i>             | 23, 24, 25, 26, 36 |              | 26 29,756      | 29 04,203      |
| 12       | Cemetery 12. (Mine)                            | 27, 37             | 1000+        | 26 30,248      | 29 08,549      |
| 13       | Graveyard 13. (old)                            | 28, 29, 30, 38     | 65(?)        | 26 30,061      | 29 09,254      |
| 14       | Graveyard 14. (Orange brick wall)              | 31, 39             | 11(?)        | 26 28,273      | 29 04,980      |
| 15       | Memorial (No 8 shaft)                          | 32, 39             |              | 26 27,308      | 29 03,924      |
| 16       | GRAVEYARD 15                                   |                    | 18(?)        | 26° 28' 07,56" | 29° 04' 39,82" |
| 17       | GRAVEYARD 16                                   |                    | 7            | 26° 32' 03,24" | 29° 02' 13,88" |



PHOTOGRAPIC DOCUMENTATION



*Figure 1. Typical gravestone in Graveyard 1. Also buried here are Lombard people.*



*Figure 2. Remains of a farmhouse near graveyard 2. There are rumours of another graveyard located to the west of this house but owing to vegetation the site could not be found.*





*Figure 3. Typical gravestone in graveyard 2. This burial ground was seriously damaged and it also appears as if a grave, or graves may have been desecrated.*



*Figure 4. New excavations in graveyard 2, which is presumably the work of grave robbers.*





*Figure 5. Graveyard 3 was previously walled but the stone was ‘recycled.’*



*Figure 6. The Roets family cemetery, graveyard 4. This is the only headstone that survived extensive ‘grave robbing’.*





*Figure 7. The Roets family cemetery. Note the masonry in the wall and the desecrated graves.*



*Figure 8. Remains of farmyard structures near graveyard 4, presumably that of a byre.*





*Figure 9. These graves are collectively known as graveyard 5 in this report. It is difficult to estimate the number, as some appears to be disturbed.*



*Figure 10. These graves are collectively known as graveyard 6 in this report. It is difficult to estimate the number, as some appears to be disturbed. Note figure 10*





***Figure 11. This grave has clearly been opened, the remains removed, and then again been filled in shortly before the site visit. This is a disturbing practice as we know that trading in human parts is highly illegal.***



***Figure 12. The placement of 'new' grave markers in 'old' cemeteries is often associated with illegal land claims. Several of these were noticed during the survey. In the background there can also be seen the remains of an old farmyard.***





*Figure 13. A well associated with the remains of an old farmyard. This well is still in use for the illegal recovery of gold.*



*Figure 14. Graveyard 7 contains approximately 15 graves and is possibly associated with the farmyard containing the well.*





*Figure 15. Graveyard 8 contains a number of strangely elongated graves. The graves appear to be associated with an existing farmyard, but the farmyard does not fall into the study area. (To the left of the fence in the photograph.)*



*Figure 16. Graveyard 9 is associated with the remains of an extensive township that was possibly evacuated with the advent of the mine in 1958.*





*Figure 17. Graveyard 10 is also associated with the remains of an extensive township that was possibly evacuated with the advent of the mine in 1958.*



*Figure 18. Several extensive middens are all that remain of a small village. The archaeological investigation of this site may be an interesting exercise to undertake as an 'experimental' process.*





*Figure 19. Local communities use this building (of unknown origin) as an initiation centre. The fact that an amicable relationship exist between mine management and the local community can only be recommended.*



*Figure 20. Apparently graveyard 10 is still in use, albeit not approved by mine management. The reason for this being that modern amenities exist for formal modern burials.*





*Figure 21. The Pieterse cemetery (Graveyard 11) contains 9 remarkable graves and headstone. Even here the grave robbers did not shy away.*



*Figure 22. Two graves were desecrated as can be seen above in graveyard 11.*





*Figure 23. Remains of the 'Pieterse' farmyard*



*Figure 24. Large excavation in foundations of 'Pieterse' homestead is typical of 'fortune hunters'.*





*Figure 25. Remains of byre on 'Pieterse' farmyard.*



*Figure 26. The extent of the excavation in the 'Pieterse' farmhouse.*





*Figure 27. Memorial plaque for the 1981 disaster at no 2 shaft in the extensive 'official' cemetery that contains several hundreds of graves.*



*Figure 28. Graveyard 13 is located on the edge of a large quarry. The way in which the grave stones are placed is indicative of a cultural preference. See next photograph.*





*Figure 29. Typical grave from graveyard 13.*

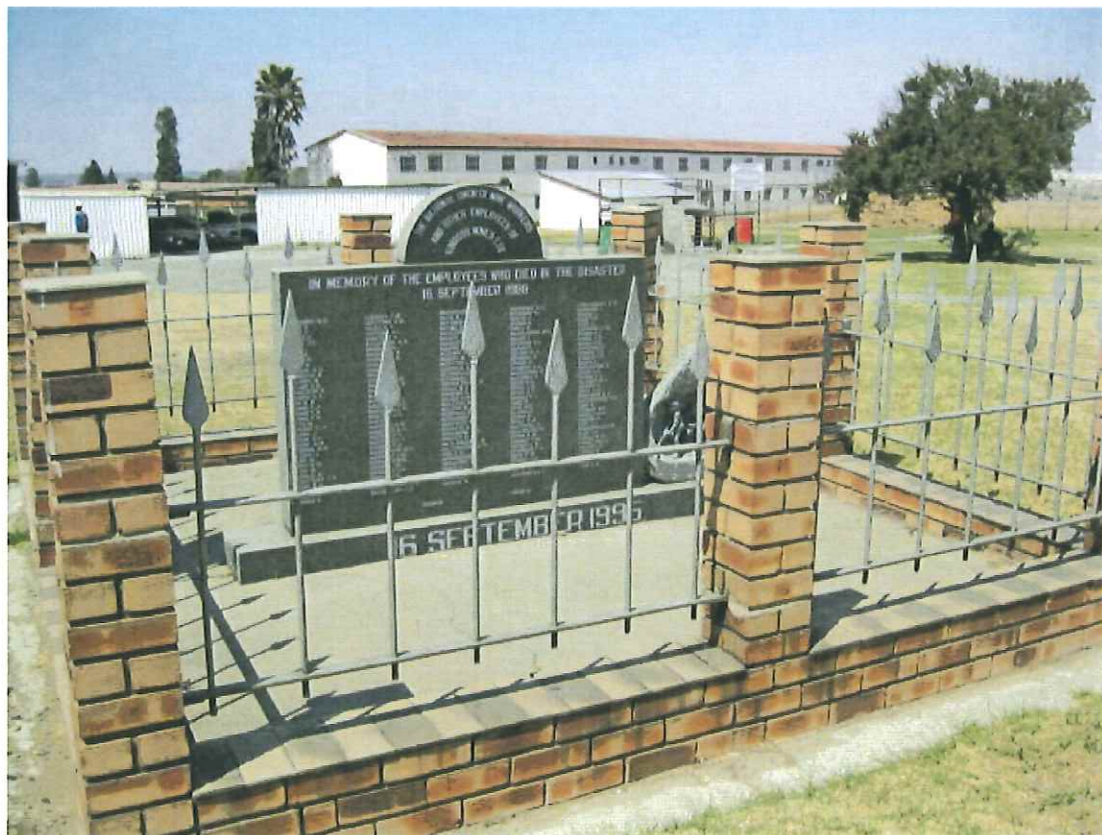


*Figure 30. 'Modern' headstone placed in graveyard 13.*





*Figure 31. 'Modern' brick wall surrounding 11 graves in graveyard 14. The ironwork built into the wall was removed by thieves.*



*Figure 32. Memorial plaque at no 8 shaft.*



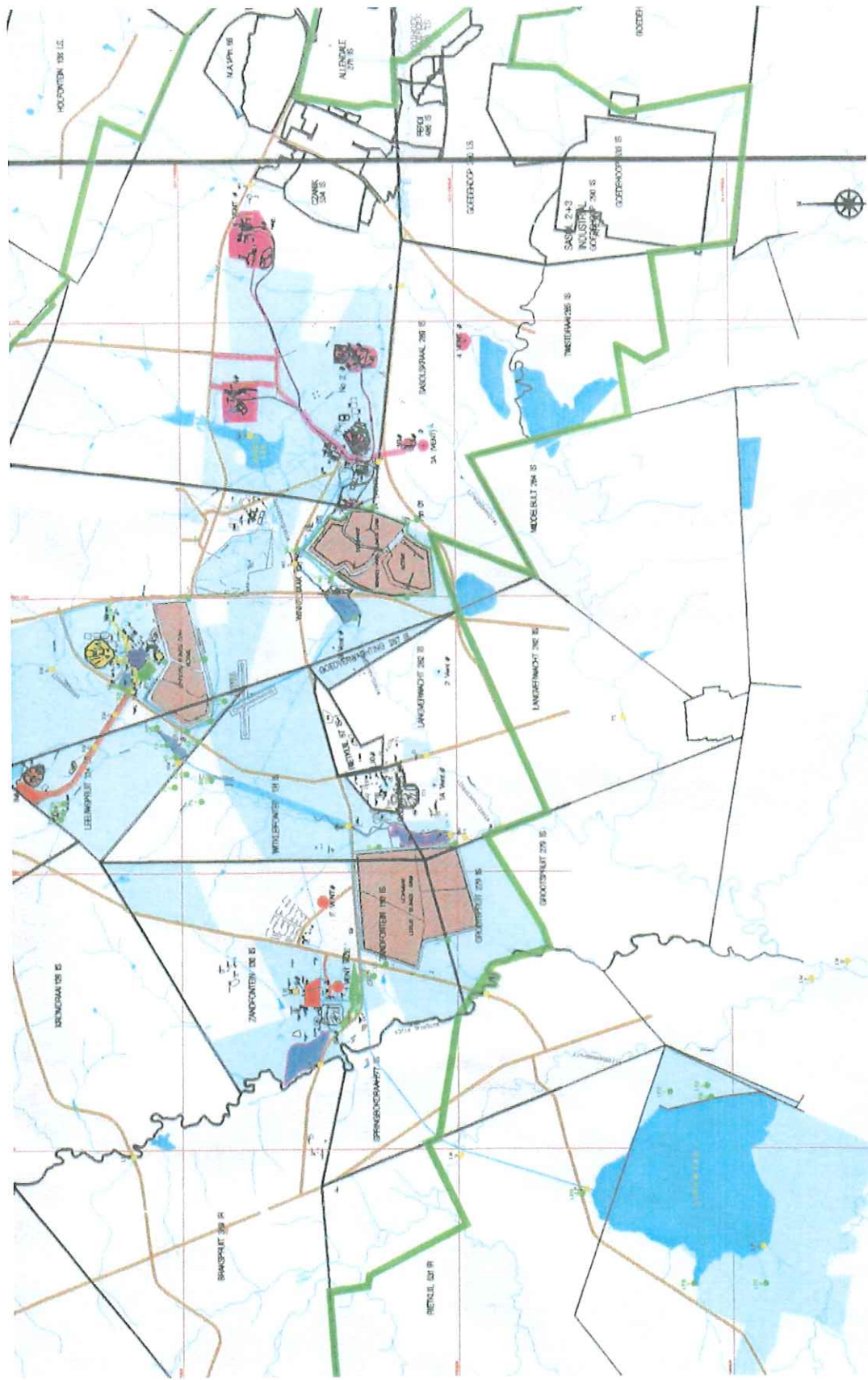


Figure 33. Light blue shading demarcates the area of investigation.





Figure 34. Positions of graves and locations of farmyard ruins, site 1.



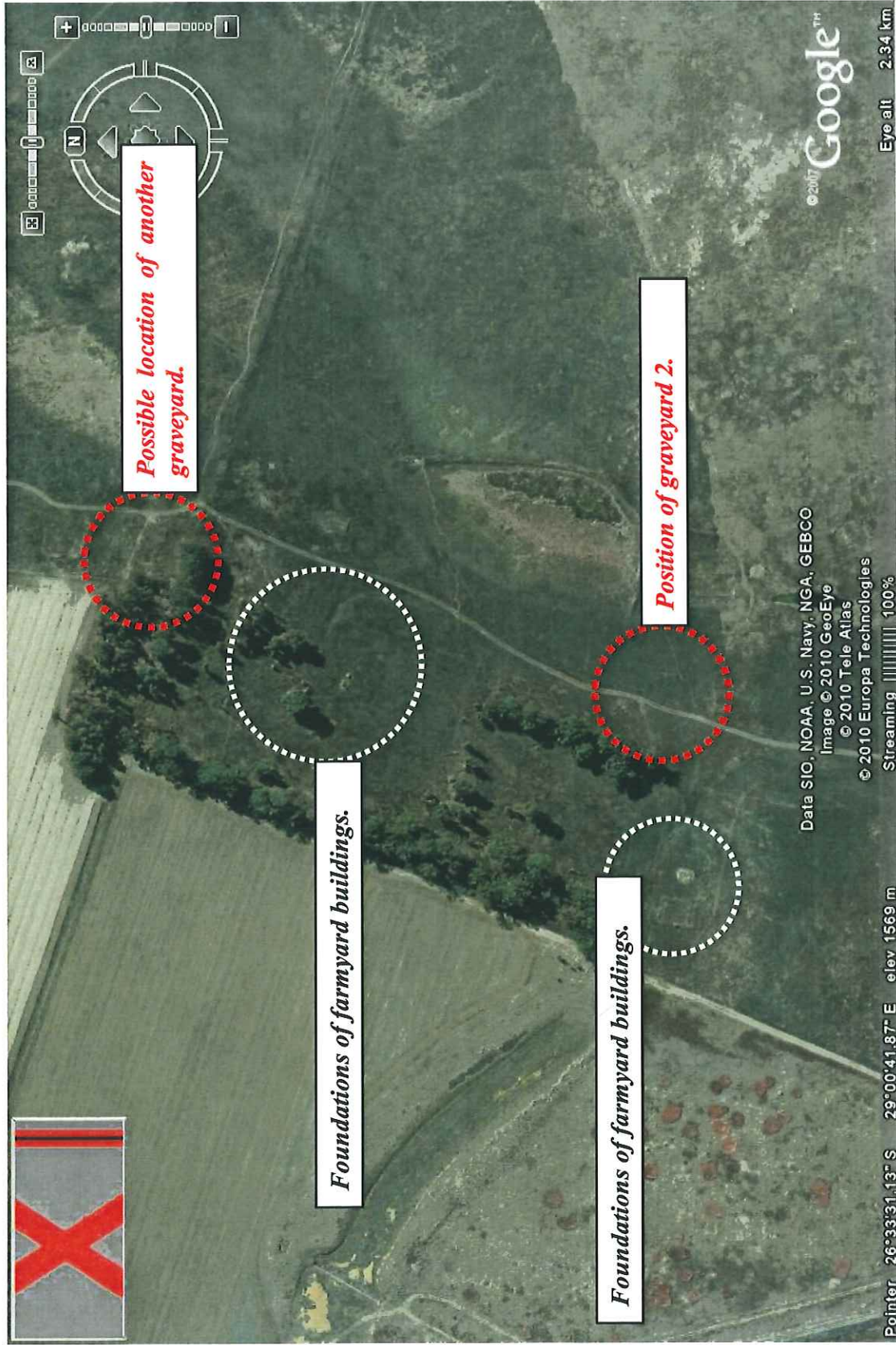


Figure 35. Positions of graves and locations of farmyard ruins, site 2.



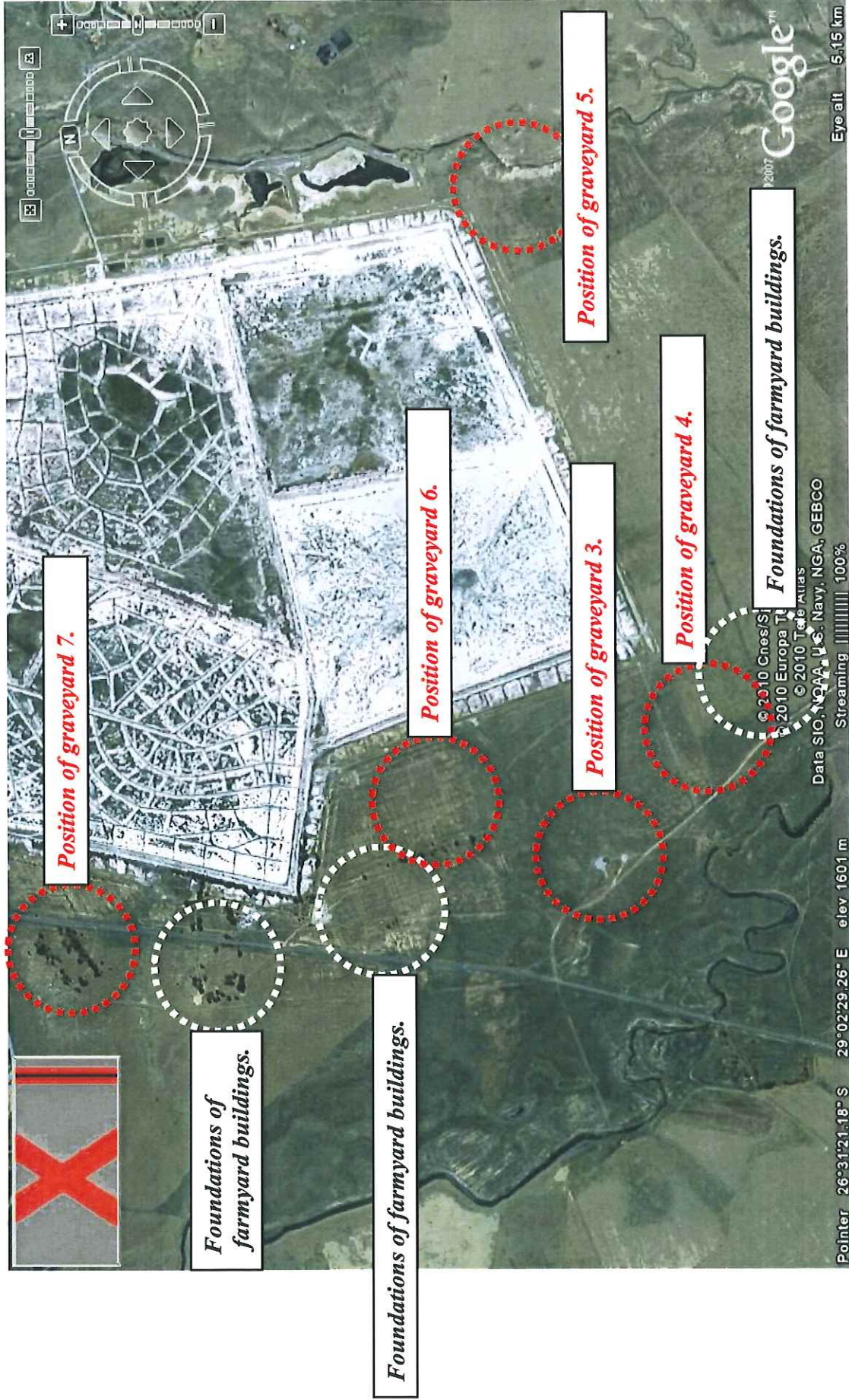


Figure 36. Positions of graves and locations of farmyard ruins, sites 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.



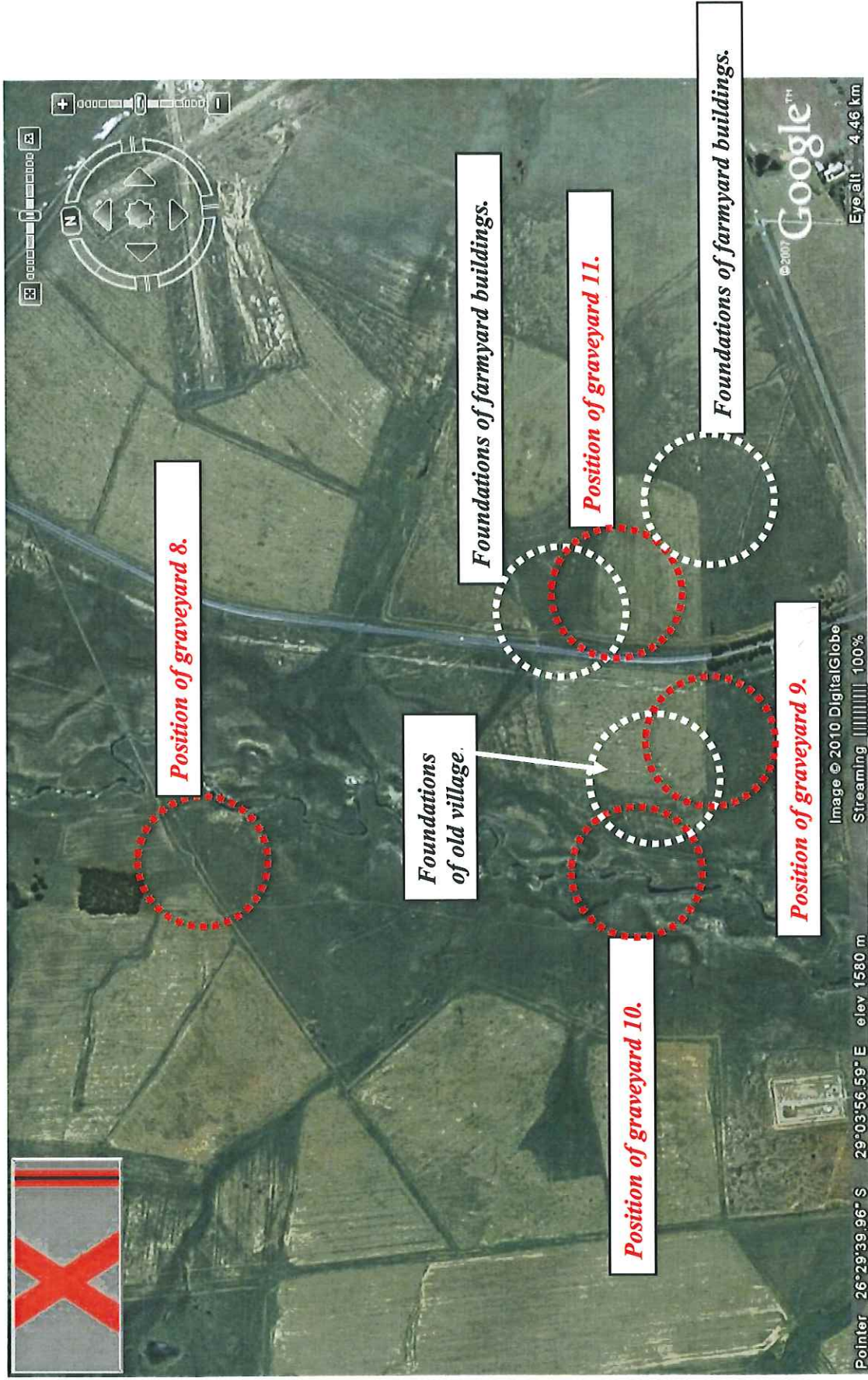


Figure 37. Positions of graves and locations of farmyard ruins, site 9, 10 and 11.



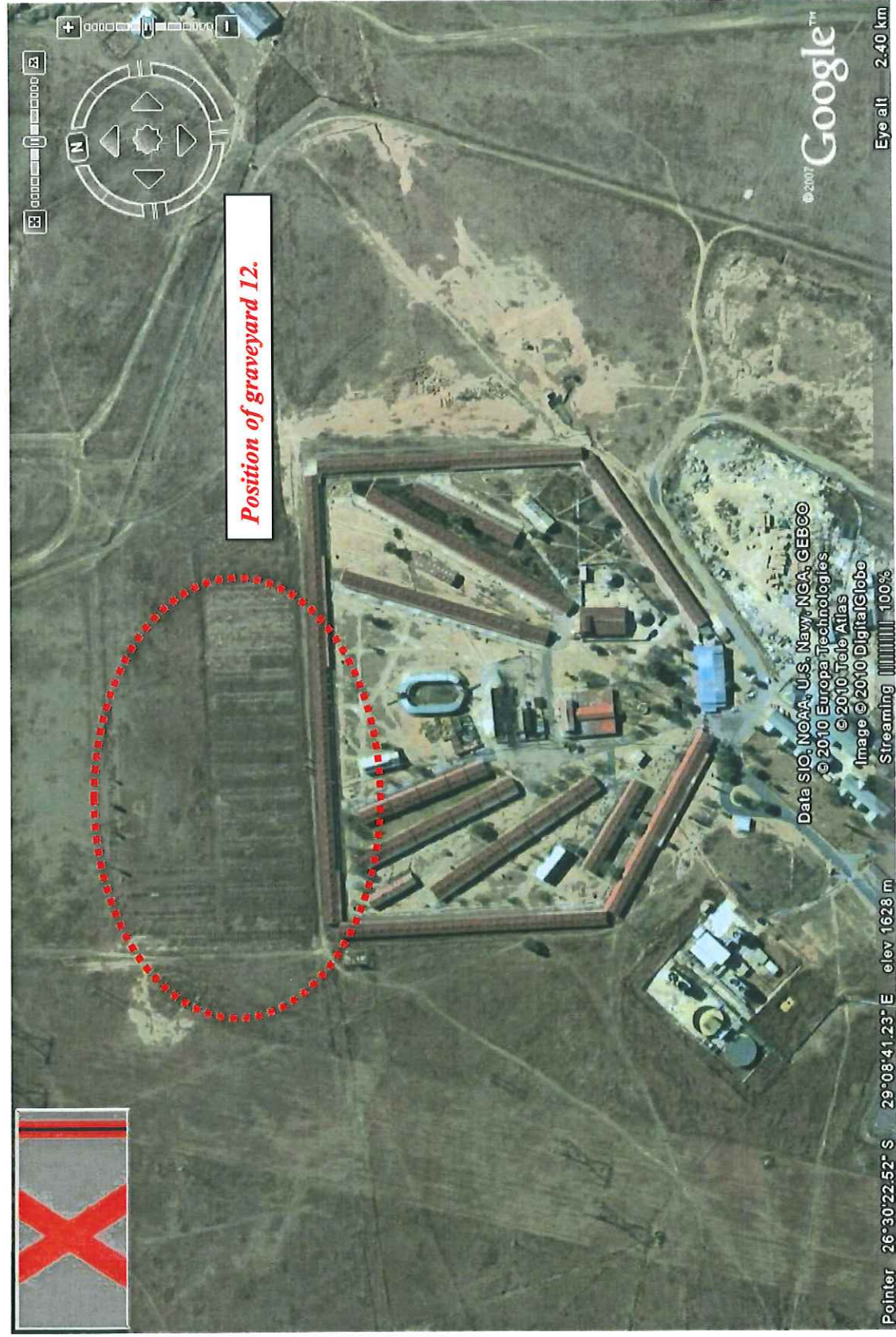


Figure 38. Positions of graves and locations of farmyard ruins, site 12.





Figure 39. Positions of graves and locations of farmyard ruins, site 13.



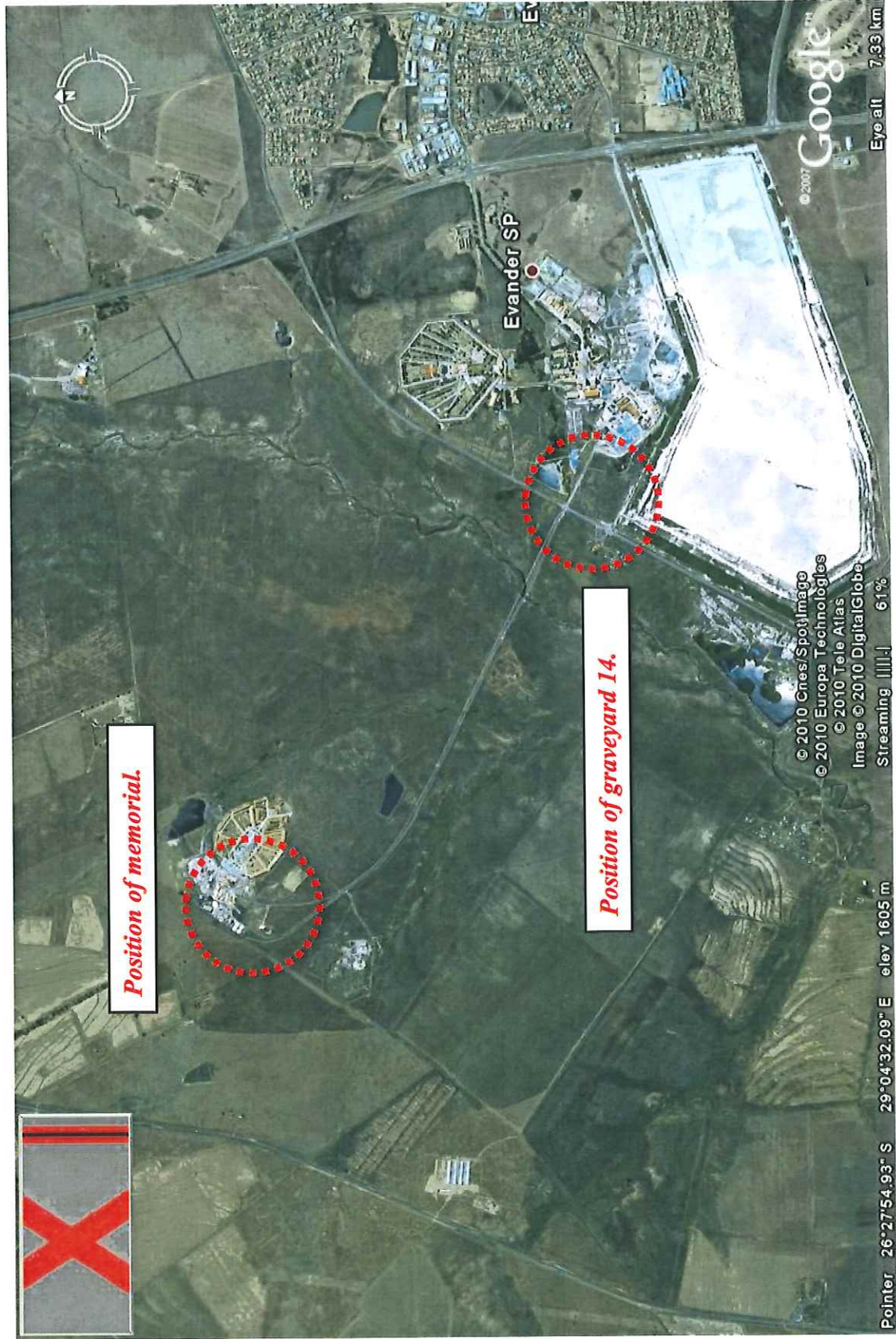


Figure 40. Positions of graves and locations of farmyard ruins, site 14 and memorial.



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*Mason 1956 The Prehistory of the Transvaal*