

Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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05 December, 2012

Att: Ms Katie Smuts
South African Heritage Resources Agency
PO Box 4637
Cape Town
8000

Dear Ms Smuts,

RECOMMENDED EXEMPTION FROM HAVING TO CONDUCT AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY: THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY AT LEKKERSING (ALTERNATIVE 2), NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

1. Introduction

Lekkersing is a small Nama settlement located about 60 kms east of Port Nolloth in Northern Cape Province (Figure 1).

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for the proposed Lekkersing Waste Disposal Facility (Alternative 1) was conducted in 2011 (Kaplan 2011a). This site has now been found to be unsuitable for development and a new site (Alternative 2) has subsequently been identified (Figure 2).

The proposed activity includes the digging of trenches (4m - 5m wide & 2m - 3m deep), 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. The footprint area for the proposed Alternative 2 waste site is about 1.5 ha. The proposed activities are to be located on Portion 5 of Farm Richtersveld 11, Namaqualand.

2. Archaeology in the Lekkersing area

Some archaeological work has taken place in Lekkersing (Kaplan 2011a, b), but no remains were documented. No graves sites were located, either.

3. Description of the environment.

An aerial photograph indicating the layout of the proposed Lekkersing Waste Site (Alternative 2) is illustrated in Figure 3. The proposed site is located about 1 km northwest of the village, more or less in the same area in which an AIA for the proposed Lekkersing Oxidation Dam was done (Kaplan 2011a).

The proposed Alternative 2 site is located directly alongside an abandoned quartzite mine. The 2011 study described the surrounding environment as being...`severely degraded' and where `diggings and dumping of domestic waste and building rubble are widespread' (Kaplan 2011a:2). Surrounding land use is vacant land and mining (quartzite stone).

4. Conclusion

It is the archaeologist's professional opinion, that the construction of a new waste disposal facility (i. e. Alternative 2), on Portion 5 of Farm Richtersveld 11, in Lekkersing is not considered to pose a serious threat to the archaeological heritage for the following reasons:

- Indications are that the receiving environment is not a sensitive archaeological landscape, and is in fact severely degraded.
- An AIA for the proposed Lekkersing Oxidation Dam (less than 400 m from the planned waste site) failed to document any archaeological heritage.

5. Recommendations

The following recommendations are therefore made:

1. An AIA is not required, since the probability of locating any significant archaeological remains is likely to be extremely low.
2. In the unlikely event of any unmarked human burials or buried ostrich eggshell caches being uncovered during construction, these must immediately be reported to the archaeologist (Jonathan Kaplan 082 321 0172), or the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Katie Smuts 021 462 4502).

6. References

Kaplan, J. 2011a. Archaeological Impact Assessment the proposed Lekkersing Oxidation Dam, Northern Cape. Report prepared for Bvi Consulting Engineers. ACRM Cape Town

Kaplan, J. 2011b. Archaeological Impact Assessment the proposed Lekkersing Waste Site, Northern Cape. Report prepared for Bvi Consulting Engineers. ACRM Cape Town

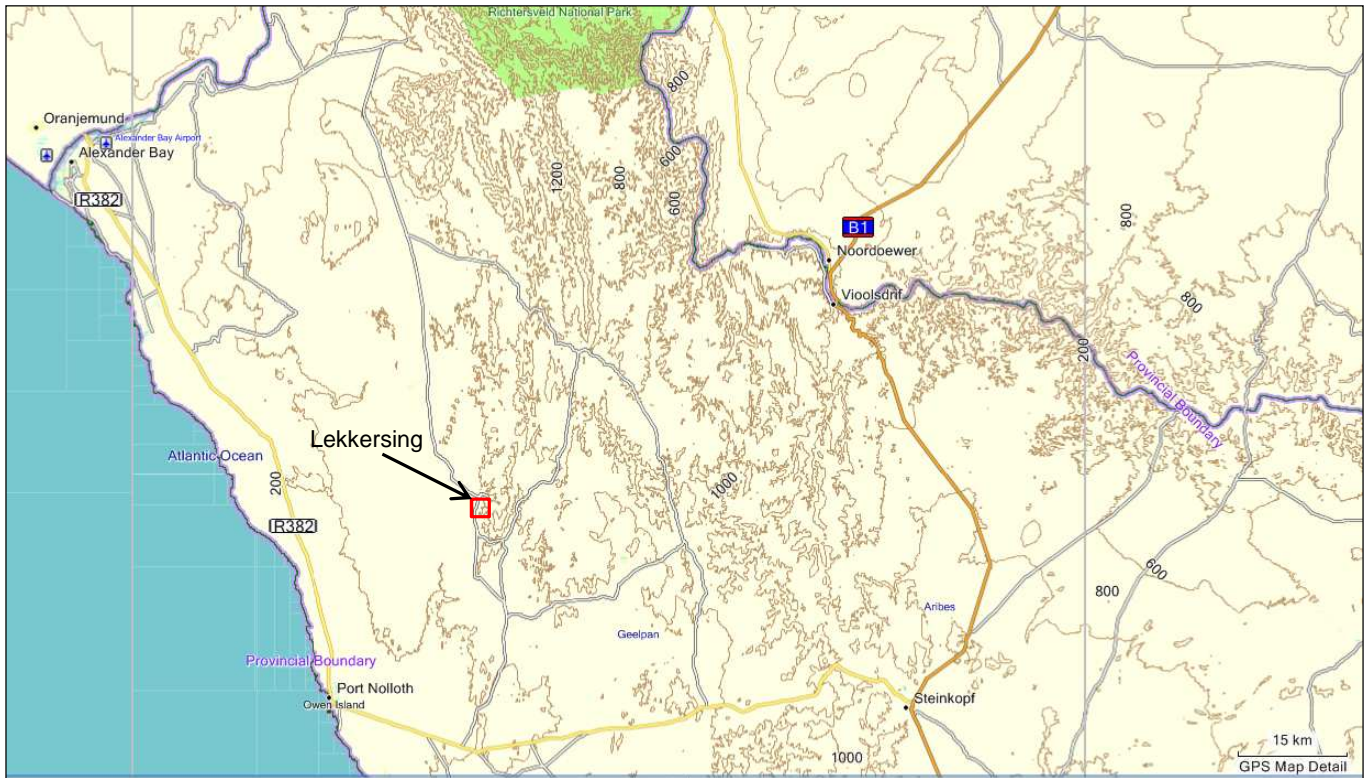


Figure 1. Locality map: Regional context

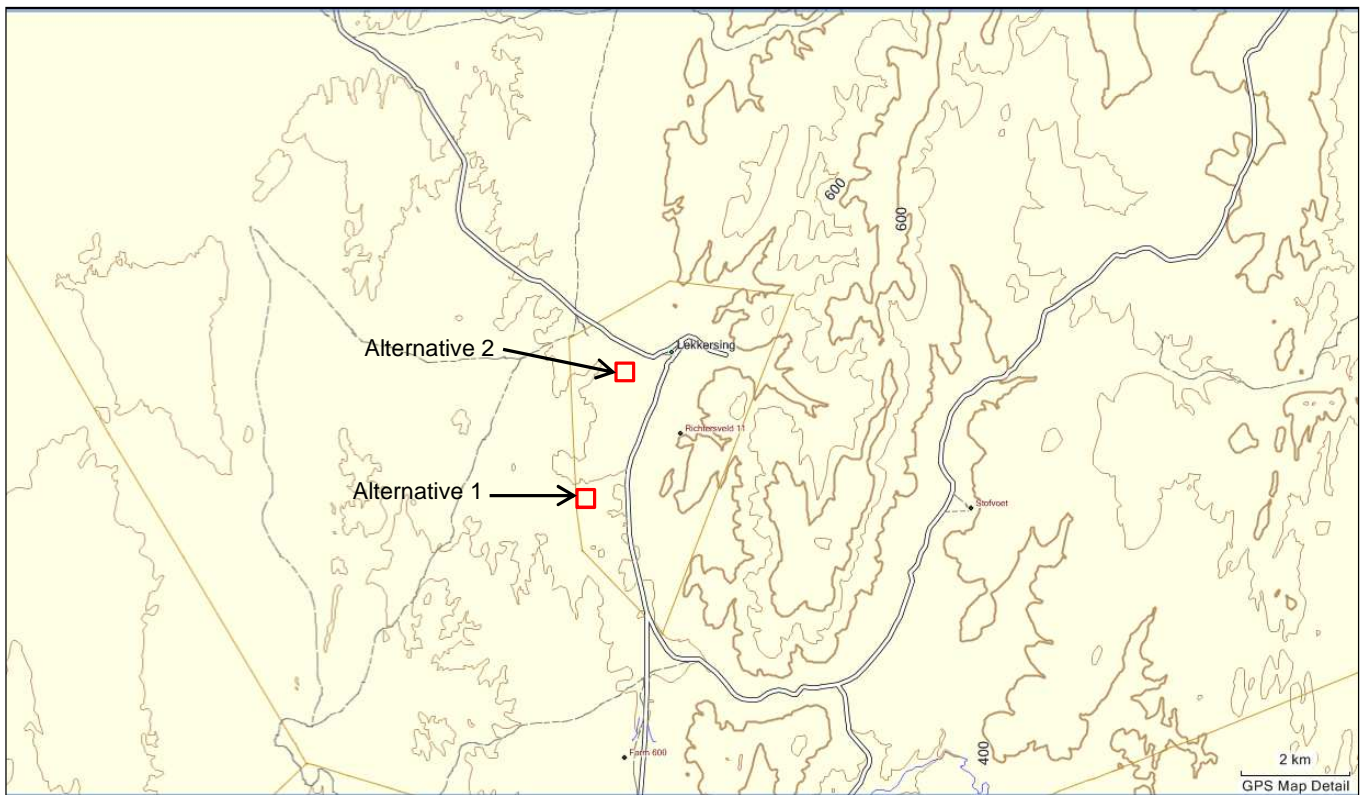


Figure 2. Locality map: Local context

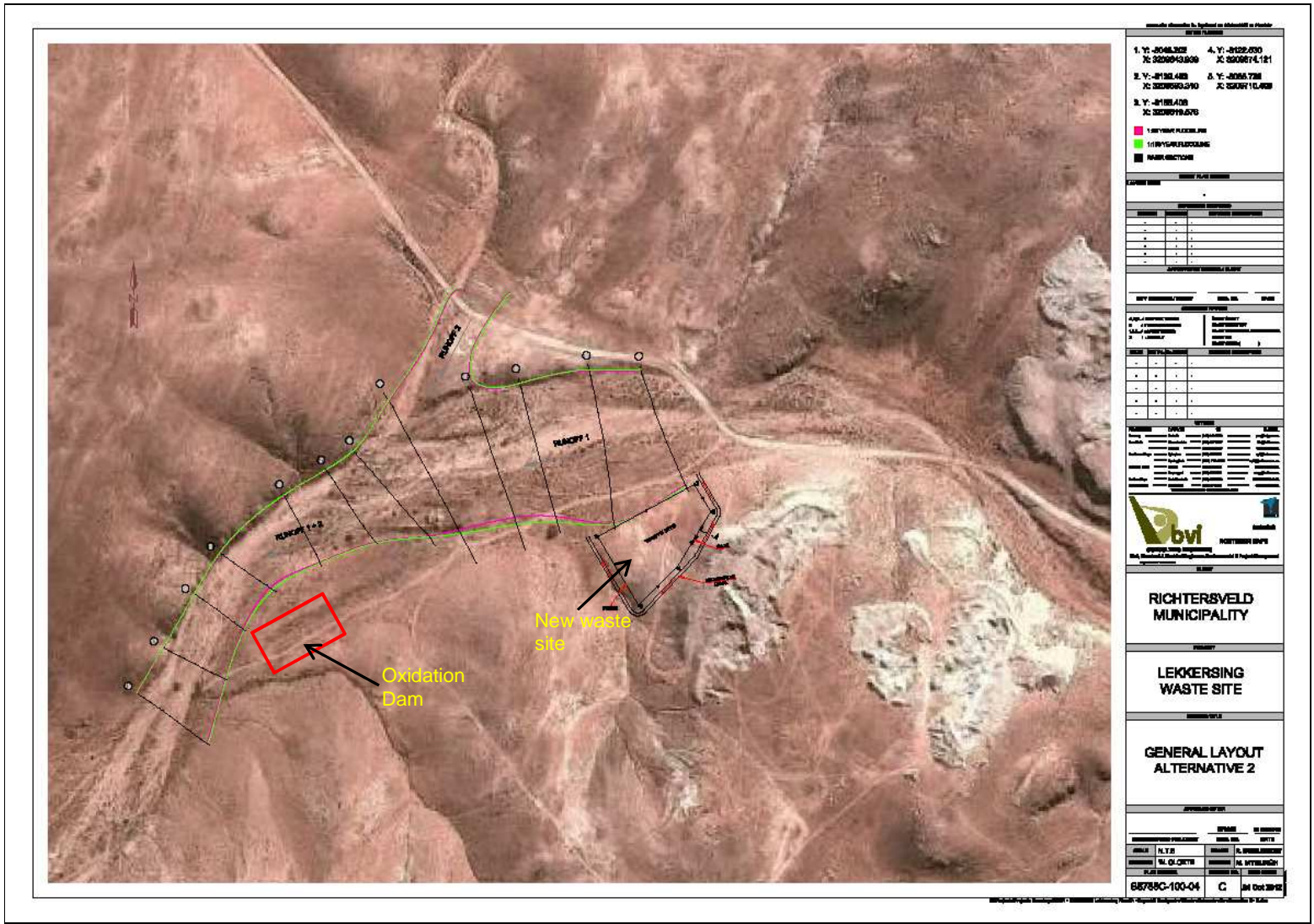


Figure 3. Lekkersing Waste Site: Alternative 2.