# Proposed Banna ba Pifhu Wind Farm near Humansdorp, Eastern Cape

## **Amendment Report to Visual Impact Assessment**

22 February 2022



Prepared by

Bernard Oberholzer

Landscape Architect / Environmental Planner

In association with

Quinton Lawson

Prepared for
Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd
On behalf of Banna ba Pifhu Wind Farm (RF) (Pty) Ltd

Architect



#### DETAILS OF THE SPECIALIST, DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH

	(For official use only)
File Reference Number:	
NEAS Reference Number:	DEA/EIA/
Date Received:	

Application for authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended (the Regulations)

#### PROJECT TITLE

Proposed Banna ba Pifhu Wind Farm near Humansdorp, Eastern Cape Amendment Report to Visual Impact Assessment

#### Kindly note the following:

- 1. This form must always be used for applications that must be subjected to Basic Assessment or Scoping & Environmental Impact Reporting where this Department is the Competent Authority.
- 2. This form is current as of 01 September 2018. It is the responsibility of the Applicant / Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the form have been published or produced by the Competent Authority. The latest available Departmental templates are available at https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms.
- 3. A copy of this form containing original signatures must be appended to all Draft and Final Reports submitted to the department for consideration.
- 4. All documentation delivered to the physical address contained in this form must be delivered during the official Departmental Officer Hours which is visible on the Departmental gate.
- 5. All EIA related documents (includes application forms, reports or any EIA related submissions) that are faxed; emailed; delivered to Security or placed in the Departmental Tender Box will not be accepted, only hardcopy submissions are accepted.

#### **Departmental Details**

#### Postal address:

Department of Environmental Affairs

Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Private Bag X447

Pretoria 0001

#### Physical address:

Department of Environmental Affairs

Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road

Arcadia

Queries must be directed to the Directorate: Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support at:

Email: EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za

#### 1. SPECIALIST INFORMATION

Specialist Company Name:	qarc				
B-BBEE	Contribution level (indicate 1 to 8 or non-compliant)	4	Percentage Procurement recognition	100%	
Specialist name:	Quinton Lawson				
Specialist Qualifications:	BArch (Natal)				
Professional affiliation/ registration:	SACAP 3686				
Scientific Organisation Registration / Member Number	-				
Status of Registration / Membership	Current				
Physical address:	8 Blackwood Drive, Hout Bay, Cape Town				
Postal address:	As above				
Postal code:	7806 Cell: 083 309 3338				
Telephone:	021 790 5119 Fax: -				
E-mail:	quinton@openmail.co.za				

#### 2. DECLARATION BY THE SPECIALIST

#### I, Quinton Lawson, declare that -

- I act as the independent specialist in this application;
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting the specialist report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that
  reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing any decision to be taken with respect to the application by
  the competent authority; and the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for
  submission to the competent authority;
- all the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and
- I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the Act.

Dansor.
Signature of the Specialist
qarc
Name of Company:
7/2/12022
Date
3. UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH/ AFFIRMATION
I, <b>Quinton Lawson</b> , swear under oath / affirm that all the information submitted or to be submitted for the purposes of this application is true and correct.
Causer
Signature of the Specialist
qarc
Name of Company
7/2/12022
Date
Signature of the Confinissioner of Oaths
102/2020
Date
I cer If y that the DEPONENT has acknowledged that he / she knows and understands the contents of this affidavit, that he / she does not have any objection to taking the oath and that he / she considers it to be binding on his / her conscience, and which was sworn to and signer before me and that the administering oath complied with regulations contained in 12 termment Gazette No. R 1258 of 21 July 1972, as amended.  BRANCH MANAGER  Post Office
SIGNATURE 07 FEB 2022

HOUTBAAI 7872



DETAILS OF THE SPECIALIST, DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH

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Application for authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended (the Regulations)

#### **PROJECT TITLE**

#### BANNA BA PIFHU WEF AND GRID CONNECTION, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

#### Kindly note the following:

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Email: EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za

#### 1. SPECIALIST INFORMATION

Specialist Company Name:	BOLA						
B-BBEE	Contribution level (indicate 1 to 8 or non-compliant)	5	Percenta Procurer recogniti	ment			
Specialist name:	Bernard Oberholzer	Bernard Oberholzer					
Specialist Qualifications:	B.Arch, ML Arch.						
Professional	SACLAP						
affiliation/registration:							
Physical address:	Caledon Street, Stanford						
Postal address:	PO Box 471, Stanford, W Cape						
Postal code:	7210 Cell:						
Telephone:	0835135696 Fax:						
E-mail:	bernard.bola@gmail.com						

#### 2. DECLARATION BY THE SPECIALIST

I. B. Oberholzer, declare that -

- I act as the independent specialist in this application;
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting the specialist report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
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- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that
  reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing any decision to be taken with respect to the application by
  the competent authority; and the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for
  submission to the competent authority;
- all the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and
- I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the Act.



Signature of the Specialist

BOLA

Name of Company:

23 February 2022

<ol><li>UNDERTAKING UNDER</li></ol>	OATH/ AFFIRMATION
submitted for the purposes of this a	and dati / diffinition and submitted of 10 pe
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Signature of the Specialist	
BOLA	
Name of Company	3
23 Feb 2022	
Date	Vag is Smelle
Signature of the Commissioner of C	
	23 February 2022
Date	
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### CONTENTS OF THE SPECIALIST REPORT - CHECKLIST

Regulation GNR 326 of 4 December 2014, as amended 7 April 2017, Appendix 6	Section of Report
(a) details of the specialist who prepared the report; and the expertise of that specialist to compile a specialist report including a <i>curriculum vitae</i> ;	Appendix A
(b) a declaration that the specialist is independent in a form as may be specified by the competent authority;	Form attached
(c) an indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the report was prepared;	Section 1
(cA) an indication of the quality and age of base data used for the specialist report;	Section 3
(cB) a description of existing impacts on the site, cumulative impacts of the proposed development and levels of acceptable change;	Section 10
(d) the duration, date and season of the site investigation and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment;	Section 3
(e) a description of the methodology adopted in preparing the report or carrying out the specialised process inclusive of equipment and modelling used;	Section 4
(f) details of an assessment of the specific identified sensitivity of the site related to the proposed activity or activities and its associated structures and infrastructure, inclusive of a site plan identifying site alternatives;	Section 10 and Map 2b
(g) an identification of any areas to be avoided, including buffers;	Maps 4 to 6
(h) a map superimposing the activity including the associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the site including areas to be avoided, including buffers;	Maps 4 to 6
(i) a description of any assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge;	Section 3
(j) a description of the findings and potential implications of such findings on the impact of the proposed activity, including identified alternatives on the environment, or activities;	Section 10
(k) any mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr;	Section 9
(I) any conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation;	Sections 9 and 10
(m) any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or environmental authorisation;	Section 9
(n) a reasoned opinion— i. as to whether the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorised; iA. Regarding the acceptability of the proposed activity or activities; and ii. if the opinion is that the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorised, any avoidance, management and mitigation measures that should be included in the EMPr or Environmental Authorization, and where applicable, the closure plan;	Section 10
(o) a summary and copies of any comments received during any consultation process and where applicable all responses thereto; and	Refer to EAP
(p) any other information requested by the competent authority	Refer to EAP
Where a government notice gazetted by the Minister provides for any protocol or minimum information requirement to be applied to a specialist report, the requirements as indicated in such notice will apply.	Appendix B

#### 1. Introduction

Banna ba Pifhu Wind Farm (RF) (Pty) Ltd is proposing to amend the environmental authorisation of July 2014 for the proposed Banna ba Pifhu Wind Farm (BWF) and Grid Connection, near Humansdorp in the Eastern Cape.

The scope and purpose of this amendment report is to address the potential changes in visual impact significance from the authorised layout to that of the new proposals.

The location of the proposed WEF is indicated in Map 1, as well as its relation to surrounding existing or authorised wind farms.

#### 2. Original VIA

The original Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) for the Banna ba Pifhu Wind Farm (December 2013), was prepared by Henry Holland for the CSIR, and was based on 13 wind turbines with hub heights of 80-105m and a rotor diameter of 90-117m, (see Map 2a). The visual significance rating after mitigation at that time can be summarized as follows:

- Significance of visual impact on the landscape character of the area is **high** (long term duration, regional extent and medium intensity).
- Significance of visual impact on sensitive viewers during the construction phase is **high** (Based on number of affected sensitive viewers). Not all of the construction phase would necessarily be negative given possible interest in the engineering aspects.
- Overall significance of the visual impact on sensitive viewers during the operational phase is **high** (regional extent, long term and high intensity / visual intrusion on receptors).
- Significance of visual impact of lighting of the turbines according to aviation regulations is **moderate** for residents in close proximity, but low overall (given existing sky-glow from surrounding settlements).

The VIA Report concluded that the wind farm will be in a landscape composed of agricultural and coastal resort elements. Stock farming (dairy and beef) is the main agricultural activity, a landscape character type expected to have a low sensitivity to changes brought by a wind farm, since the farming will not be affected.

Coastal resorts are likely to have a low sensitivity to the wind farm development since most of them are growing rapidly and their attraction to tourists and holiday makers is more related to well-established coastal activities. An additional consideration is that residential and holiday development tends to be orientated towards the coast, away from the proposed wind farm.

Oyster Bay is likely to be more sensitive to a wind farm development being less accessible than the other towns and with a sense of remoteness which may be compromised by the wind farm. Note: the existing Kouga Wind Farm and the proposed Impofu East Wind Farm are already in close proximity to Oyster Bay, and the considerable distance of the proposed Banna ba Pifhu from Oyster Bay can be seen as a mitigating factor.

#### 3. Assumptions and Limitations

It was assumed that the original VIA of 2013 for the authorised wind farm was adequate and that an amendment would address any potential changes to the visual impact significance ratings based on the amended layout.

The Visual Specialists are familiar with the general area, having worked on the nearby proposed Impofu Wind Farms. It was therefore not considered necessary to visit the actual Banna ba Pifhu site, as visual assessments are based on views from the surroundings. The season is not a consideration in the assessment of visual impacts.

#### 4. Methodology

The same methodology as that for the original VIA Report was used in order to provide a comparison between the previous and the amended layouts, (Maps 2a and 2b), as well as a comparison of the viewsheds, (Maps 3a and 3b).

More site-specific detail has been added for 'Visual Constraints' and 'Visual Sensitivity' (Maps 4, 5 and 6) as an overlay on the proposed amended layout. The visual montages were based on Google street view, which provide a reasonably good indication of the potential visibility of the proposed WEF.

#### 5. Project Description and Proposed Amendments

The proposed amendments are to increase the hub height up to 150m, and the rotor diameter up to 190m. The number of turbines has been reduced from 13 to 7, with a revision to the layout, as indicated in Map 2b. Although an 8<sup>th</sup> turbine is indicated on the layout as an alternative position for authorisation, only a total of 6 or 7 turbines would be constructed.

The site of the proposed substation and the newly proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) is also indicated on Map 2b. The BESS will comprise of multiple battery units or modules housed in shipping containers and/or applicable housing structure delivered pre-assembled to the project site. Supplementary infrastructure and equipment may include power cables, transformers, power converters, buildings and offices, HV/MV switch gear, inverters and temperature control equipment that may be positioned between the battery containers. The BESS would cover an area of up to 1 ha.

The site boundaries remain the same as before. A comparison of the authorised and proposed wind farm components is given in Table 1.

Table 1: Description of Authorised and Current Proposed Wind Farm Components

Aspect	Authorised Specification	New Specification
Hub Height	80 m - 105 m	Up to 150 m
Rotor Diameter	90 m - 117 m	Up to 190 m
Blade Length	Not specified in EA but can be calculated as 45 m - 58 m	Up to 95 m
No. of Turbines	13	Up to 8 to be authorised and up to 7 to be constructed

Aspect	Authorised Specification	New Specification
Maximum generation capacity	Up to 30.6 MW	Up to 40.5 MW
Substation	On-site - connection via existing 66 kV Melkhout / St Francis overhead powerline, passes through the site.	New location: On-site - connection via existing 66 kV Melkhout / St Francis overhead powerline, passes through the site
Grid connection	Approximately 1 km	Approximately 1.2 km
Grid connection substation	100 m x 100 m	New location: 100 m x 100 m
Battery storage system (BESS)	n/a	Approx. 100 x 100 m, and 8 m high. Containerised system.
Gravel access roads	Wider than 4 m	Approx. 12 m wide during construction and rehabilitated to approx. 6 m during operations.
Concrete Foundations	Approx. 20 m x 20 m	Approx. 1500 m <sup>2</sup> . Reinforced concrete foundations to support the turbine towers.
Site Boundary	Portion 1 of Farm No. 868 Portion 2 of Farm Diep Rivier 689 Portion 15 of Farm Diep Rivier 689 Rem. of Farm Geelhoutboom 688	No change
Size of Site (ha)	1140 ha	No change

Electricity generated by the BWF will be transferred into the national grid via the proposed on-site substation and 66 kV transmission line (overhead powerline) to the existing 66 kV Melkhout / St Francis overhead powerline which passes through the site. The route for the grid remains the same as for the 2013 authorised grid, with a minor variation in the alignment within the site.

#### 6. Viewshed Analysis

A viewshed analysis has been prepared to provide a comparison of the difference in hub height between the original and the amended proposals (Maps 3a and 3b), also taking into account the fewer number of turbines proposed for construction (a maximum of 7 turbines).

The viewshed analysis indicates that with the proposed amendments, the viewshed would be similar, but would extend slightly further out, because of the higher turbines being potentially more visible from a distance. However, at distances beyond 10 km the increase in visibility of the wind farm would in any case taper off.

At closer distances the reduced number of turbines would tend to reduce the visual clutter effect of the proposed wind farm, particularly when seen on the skyline, helping to balance out any difference in the overall visual impact. The reason for this is that the additional height of the proposed turbines would only have significance within close range. The current amendments will therefore have no, or negligible, effect on the significance of visual impacts identified in the original VIA Report of 2013.

#### 7. Visual Sensitivity

The Visual Constraints Map, (Map 4), indicate the proximity of sensitive landscape features and receptors in the vicinity of the proposed BWF, together with associated visual buffers. These include scenic resources, nearby farmsteads, Humansdorp town and district and arterial roads. Visual sensitivity levels are indicated on Maps 5 and 6.

The proposed battery energy storage system would be located adjacent to the substation, and due to its relatively small height (8 metres), would have little visual significance compared to the much larger proposed wind turbines. The battery energy storage system would furthermore be about 1 km from the nearest arterial road, and therefore unlikely to be visible at this distance.

#### 8. Cumulative Visual Impacts

As stated in the original VIA, the Banna ba Pifhu Wind Farm is one of many wind farms proposed for the coastal plain of the Kouga Municipality. A number have been constructed and others have been authorised by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).

These wind farms will stretch from Oyster Bay to Jeffrey's Bay (Map 1), resulting in a regional wind energy landscape. The addition of the relatively small Banna ba Pifhu Wind Farm is therefore likely to only affect sensitive viewers nearby, and the cumulative effect in the region is considered to be <u>medium</u>. Although the proposed WEF is not within a REDZ, it forms part of an existing wind farm node.

#### 9. Mitigations

The layout of the wind farm has been through previous iterations based on specialist studies and engineering considerations. The visual mitigations contained in the original VIA of 2013, which should be read in conjunction with this amendment report, would still have relevance. Additional visual mitigations for the battery energy storage system include the following:

- the containerised batteries should be located as indicated on Map 2b, to avoid being visible from sensitive receptors and arterial routes;
- the containerised batteries should not have any white or reflective finishes and should be of a matt grey or green tone to limit visibility and blend with the landscape.

There are no changes to the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) to those contained in the original VIA Report.

#### 10. Conclusion

Although the proposed WEF indicates an 8 turbine layout, the Applicant only intends to utilise a maximum of 7 turbines, i.e., a maximum of 2 of the 3 eastern turbines. Where a choice exists, Turbine 8 is less preferred than Turbines 6 and 7 from a visual standpoint based on the visual sensitivity mapping.

The reduced number of wind turbines (a maximum of 7 turbines), together with the increased hub height, rotor diameter and blade tip height would result in a similar overall visual impact significance rating of <u>high</u> for the construction and operational phases of the project as determined in the original VIA prepared by others.

The increased visual effect of the marginally expanded viewshed is offset by the reduced visual effect of having fewer wind turbines in the landscape.

Table 2: Visual Impact Assessment: Wind Turbines

## Impact Phase: Construction/ Operation/Decommissioning

#### **Potential impact description:**

Potential visual intrusion of the wind turbines on the rural landscape and on sensitive receptors in the area.

	Severity	Extent	Duration	Status	Probability	Significance	Confidence
Without Mitigation	High	Med	High	Negative/ Positive	High	High	High
With Mitigation	High	Med	High	Negative/ Positive	High	High	High
Can the im	pact be reve	reversed? Yes, once the WEF has been decommissioned and the site rehabilitated.			site		
Will impact loss of reso	cause irrepl ources?	aceable	No, there are no significant scenic resources on the site, and buffers have been included for landscape features in the surrounding area.			,	
	: be avoided, or mitigated?		There is some potential for visual mitigation of wind turbines through relocation or micro-siting of turbines.			bines through	
Outland	Ontional mitigation managements under a made of miles of antional miles of						

Optional mitigation measures to reduce residual risk or enhance opportunities:

- Where fewer turbines are required, consideration should be given to removing Turbines T08 and T07.
- Where further micro-siting is possible, turbines T02 and T03 should be moved slightly southward.

Residual impact No further residual visual impacts are expected.

Table 3: Visual Impact Assessment: Related Infrastructure including the BESS

# Impact Phase: Construction/ Operation/Decommissioning Potential impact description:

Potential visual intrusion of the proposed substation, BESS and grid on the rural landscape and on sensitive receptors in the area.

	Severity	Extent	Duration	Status	Probability	Significance	Confidence
Without Mitigation	Med	Low	High	Negative/ Positive	High	Med	Med
With Mitigation	Low	Med	High	Negative/ Positive	High	Med	Med
Can the im	Can the impact be reversed?  Yes, once the WEF has been decommissioned and the site rehabilitated.			site			
Will impact loss of reso	t cause irreplaceable ources?  No, there are no significant scenic resources on the site, and buffer have been included for landscape features in the surrounding area.			,			
	: be avoided, r mitigated?		Some mitigation is achievable through careful siting and screening infrastructure.			d screening of	

Mitigation measures to reduce residual risk or enhance opportunities:

- Location of substation and BESS facilities to be as indicated on the layout plan (Map 2b).
- Reflective finishes to structures to be avoided and only muted colours to blend with the landscape to be used.
- Strategic tree planting implemented to further screen visually obtrusive structures.

Residual impact No further residual visual impacts are expected.

The proposed amendments would not result in significant changes to the overall visual impact ratings contained in the original authorised wind farm proposals. Advantages and disadvantages of the proposed amendments are indicated in Table 4 below.

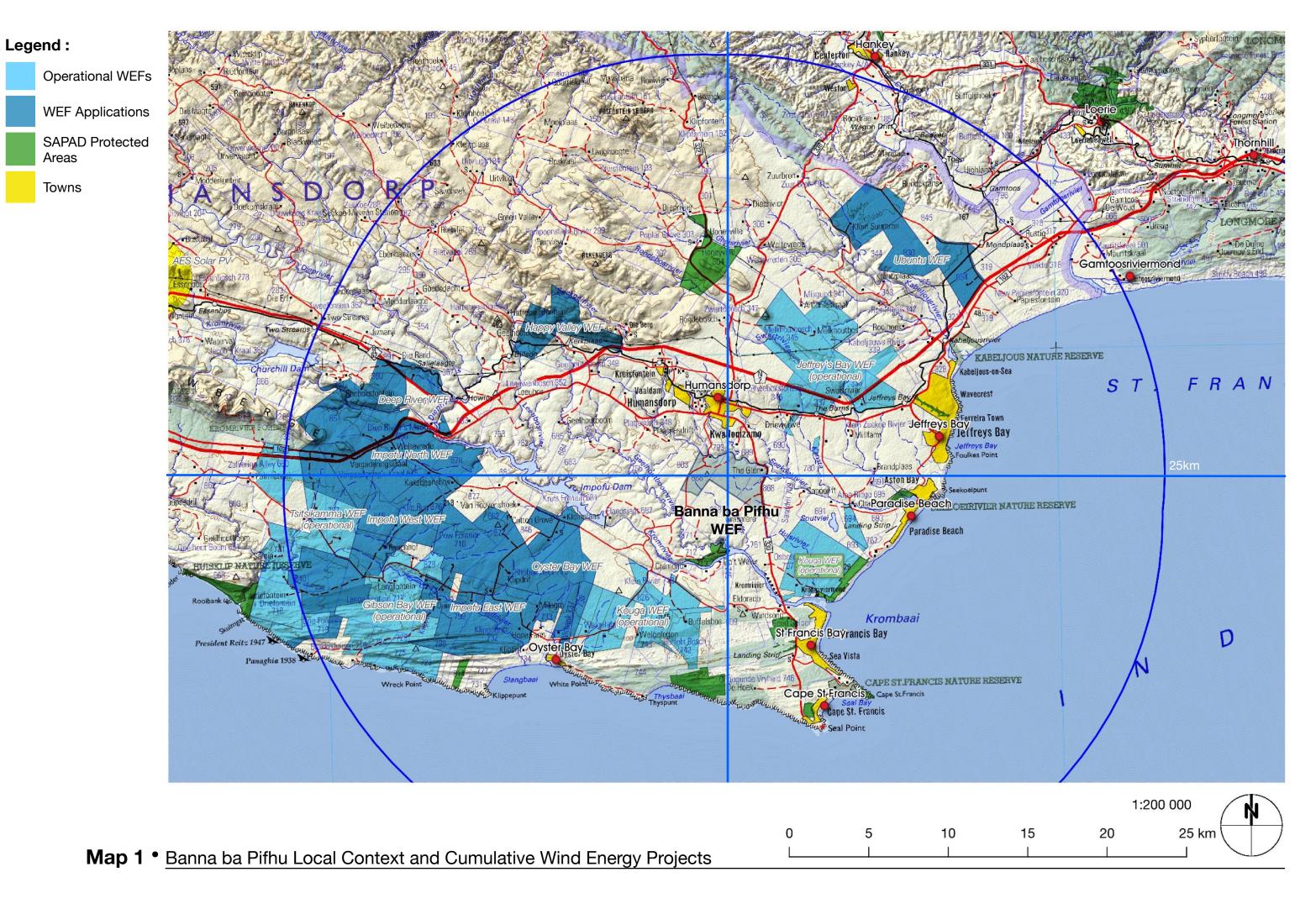
Table 4: Advantages and Disadvantages of the Proposed Amendments

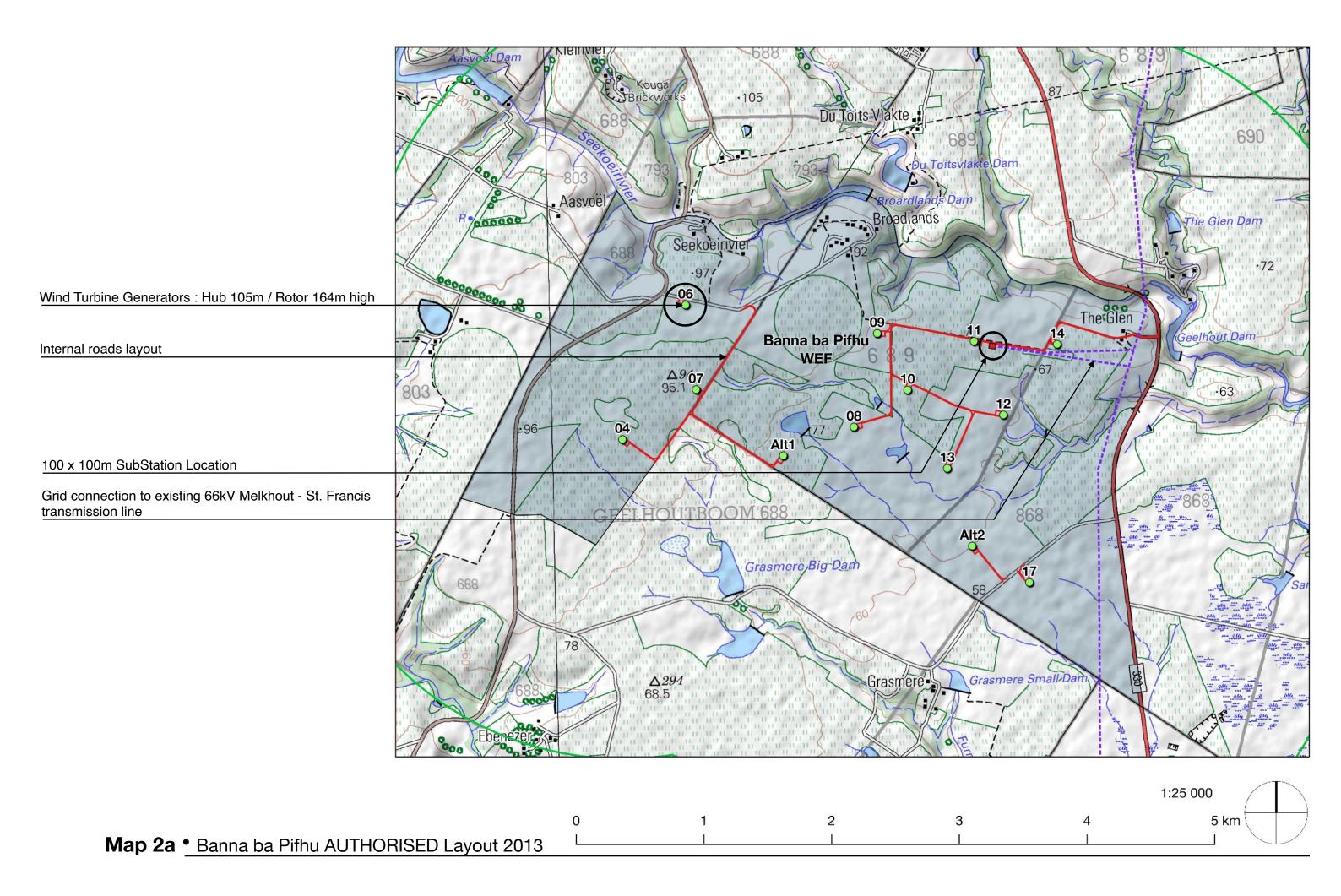
Advantages of Amended layout	Disadvantages of Amended Layout
Fewer proposed wind turbines (reduced from 13 to max. 7 turbines).	Increased height of proposed wind turbines (from 105 to max. 150m hub height).
Proposed wind turbines located further away from sensitive receptors to the south and west.	Proposed wind turbines located closer to the scenic Seekoei River to the north and R330 arterial road to the east.

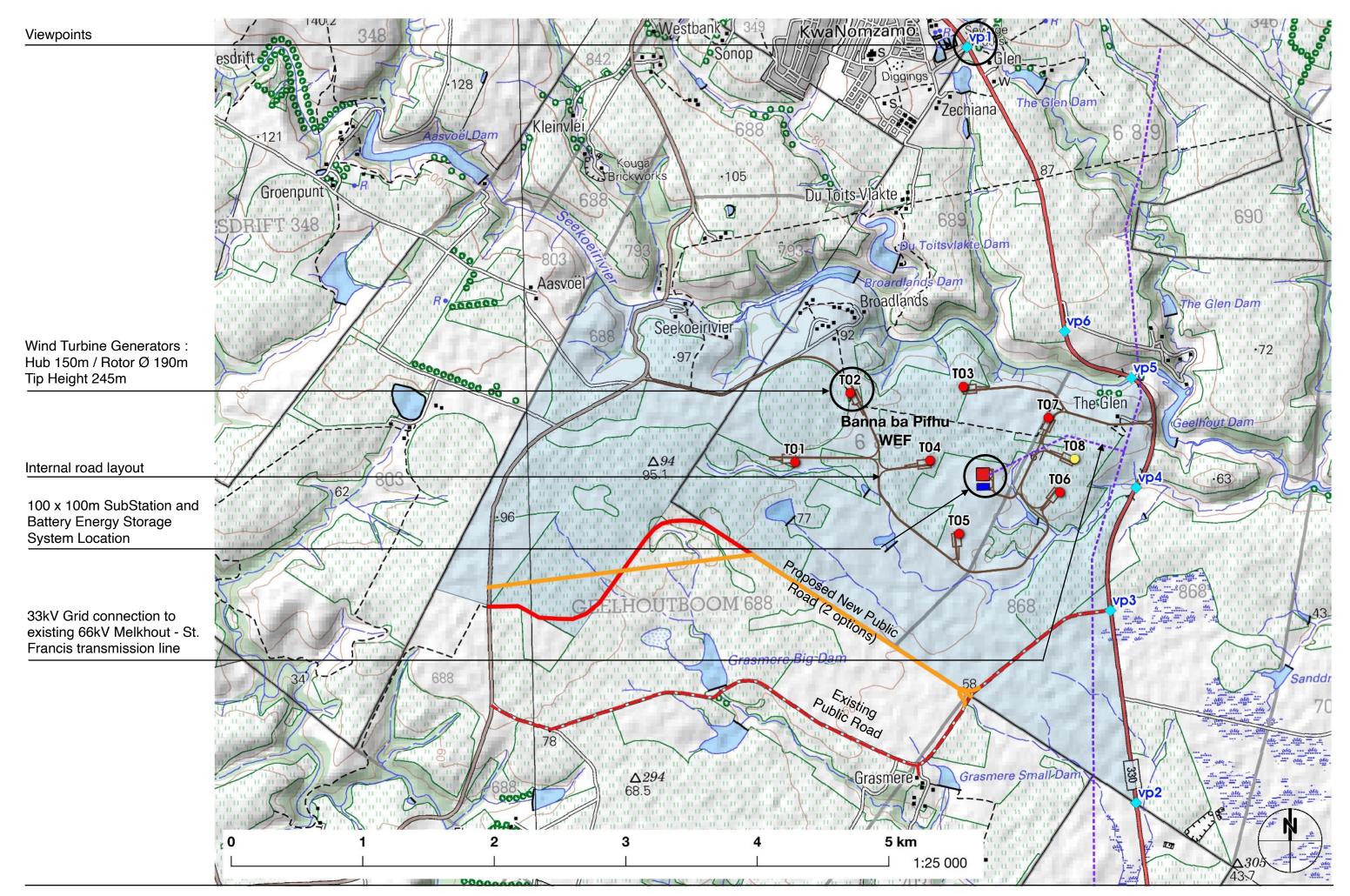
The amended location of the proposed substation and the addition of the battery storage system would not have any effect on the overall visual significance ratings because of their limited height and distance from potential receptors. Both of these are located in a low visual sensitivity area with no important visual constraints, (see Map 4). (Note: Maps 5 and 6 apply to wind turbines only).

The change in layout of the grid connection and internal access roads would also be insignificant in visual terms compared to the visual prominence of the proposed wind turbines. The grid and access roads are similarly located in a low visual sensitivity area with no important visual constraints.

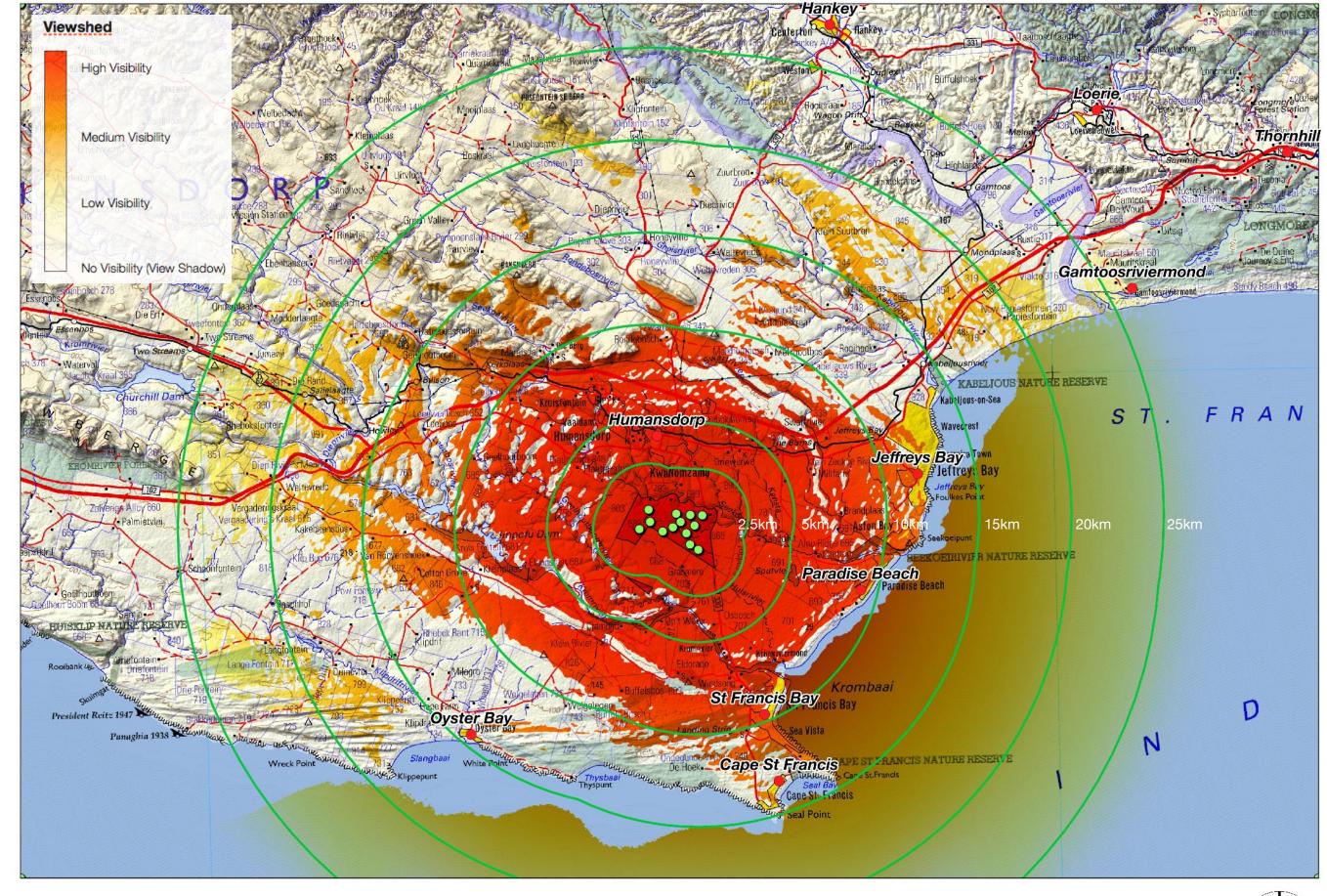
Provided that the visual mitigations listed in the original visual impact study (including post-construction rehabilitation of the site) are adhered to, together with the additional mitigations for the battery energy storage system above, the Environmental Authorisation for the Banna ba Pifhu Wind Farm should still be valid. Our opinion from a visual perspective is that the proposed amendments could be approved.

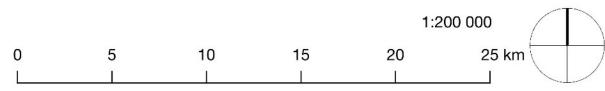


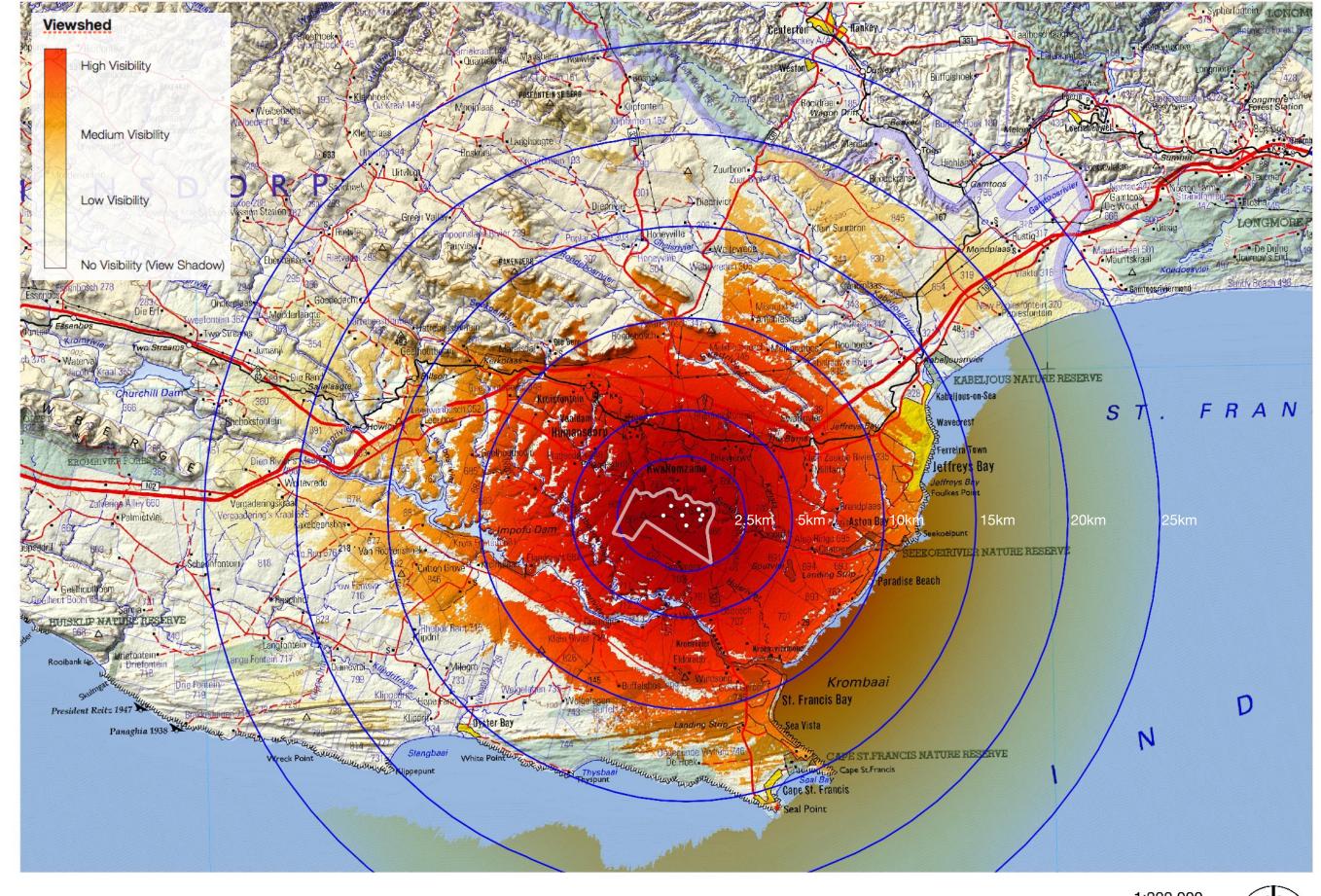


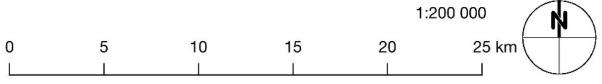


Map 2b • Banna ba Pifhu AMENDMENT Layout 2022



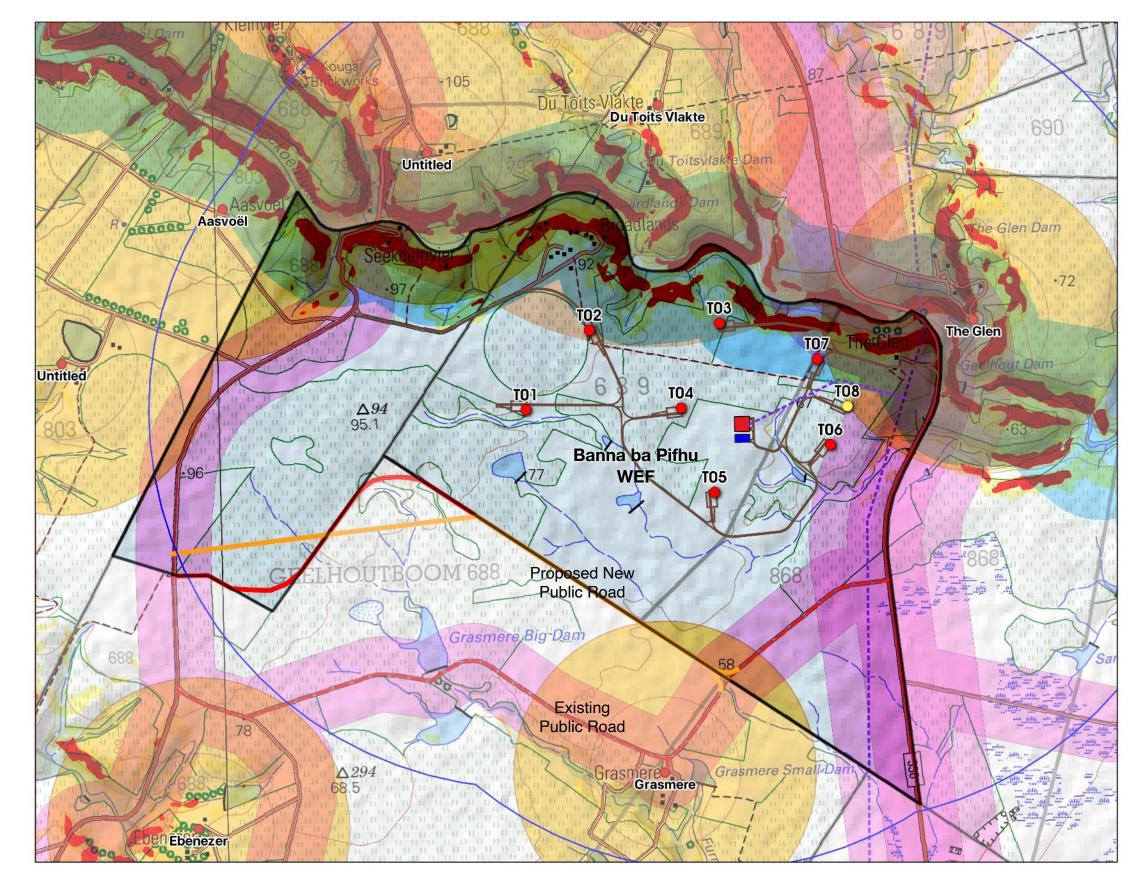






## **Visual Constraints**

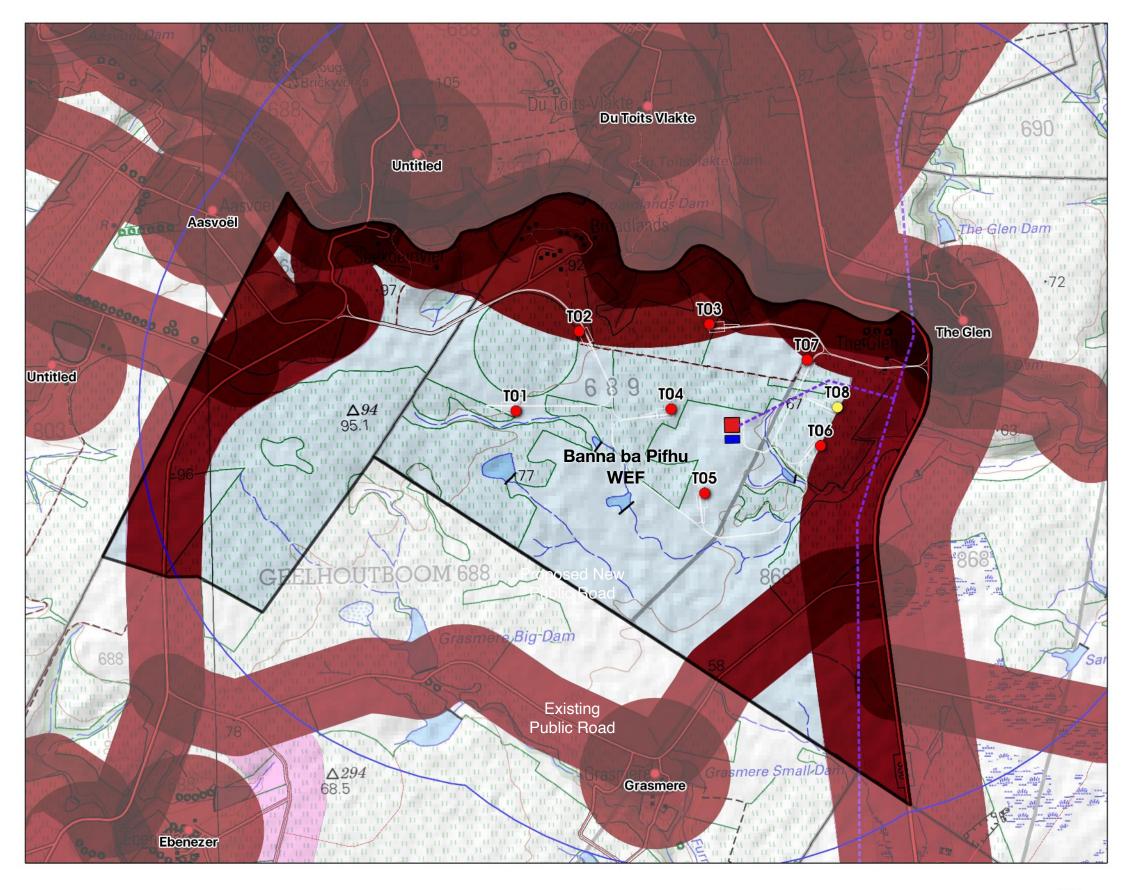


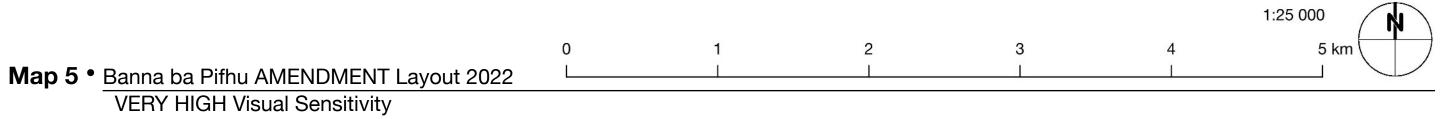




# **Visual Sensitivity**

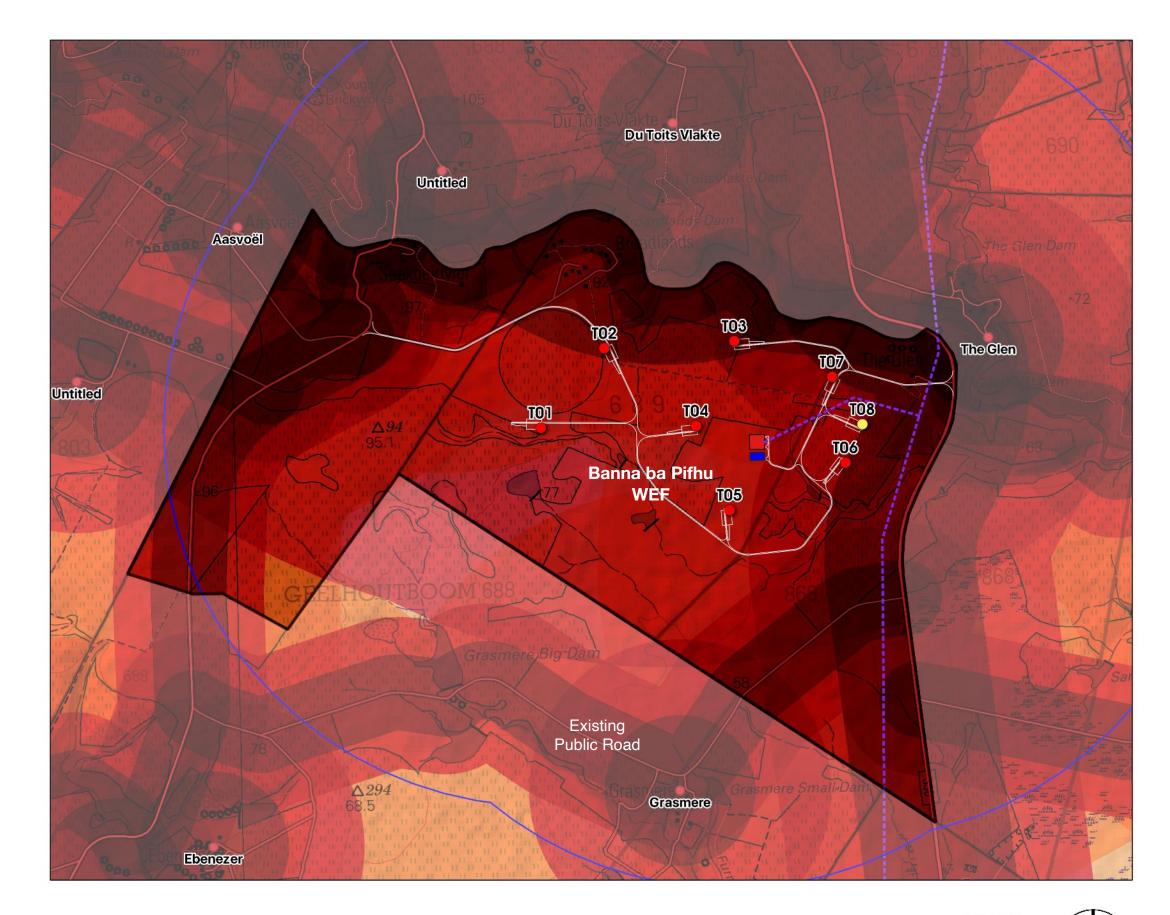


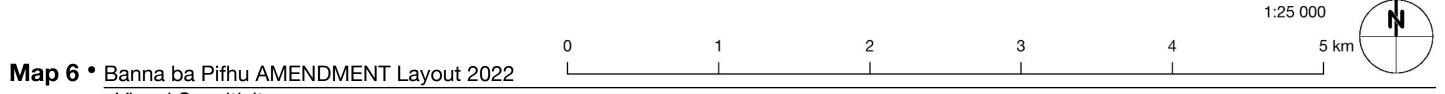




# Visual Sensitivity VERY HIGH HIGH MEDIUM

LOW





Visual Sensitivity



**VP1** • Looking South from the outskirts of Humansdorp

Coordinates: 34.039877 S, 24.786903 E Distance: 2.4km



**VP2** • Looking North from the R330 opposite Grasmere Farm

Coordinates: 34.091874 S, 24.799484 E Distance: 2.4km



**VP3** • Looking North-West from the R330 at road intersection

Coordinates: 34.078669 S, 24.797718 E Distance: 980m



**VP4** • Looking West from R330 South of the Seekoei River

Coordinates: 34.070276 S, 24.800050 E Distance: 590m



**VP5** • Looking West from the R330 Seekoei River road bridge

Coordinates: 34.062765 S, 24.799842 E Distance: 720m



**VP6** • Looking South-West from R330 North of the Seekoei River

Coordinates: 34.059670 S, 24.794489 E Distance: 660m

# Appendix A: CV of Visual Specialists for Amendment Report

Quinton Lawson, Architect SACAP Reg. no. 3686 8 Blackwood Drive, Hout Bay 7806 Email: quinton@openmail.co.za

Bernard Oberholzer, Landscape Architect SACLAP Reg. no. 8701 PO Box 471, Stanford, Western Cape, 7210 Email: bernard.bola@gmail.com

#### Expertise

Quinton Lawson has a Bachelor of Architecture Degree (Natal) and has more than 12 years of experience in visual assessments, specializing in 3D modelling and visual simulations. He has previously lectured on visual simulation techniques in the Master of Landscape Architecture Programme at UCT.

Bernard Oberholzer has a Bachelor of Architecture (UCT) and Master of Landscape Architecture (U. of Pennsylvania), and has more than 20 years of experience in visual assessments. He has presented papers on Visual and Aesthetic Assessment Techniques, and is the author of Guideline for Involving Visual and Aesthetic Specialists in EIA Processes, prepared for the Dept. of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Provincial Government of the Western Cape.

Both authors worked on the Landscape Specialist Study of the National Wind and Solar PV Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), in association with the CSIR for the Department of Environmental Affairs (now DEFF).

#### Appendix B:

#### Site Verification Report for the Visual Assessment

Government Notice No. 645, dated 10 May 2019, includes the requirement that an Initial Site Sensitivity Verification Report be produced for a development footprint in order to:

- (a) Confirm or dispute the current use of the land and environmental sensitivity as identified by the national web based environmental screening tool;
- (b) Contains a motivation and evidence of either the verified or different use of the land and environmental sensitivity;
- (c) Is submitted together with the relevant reports prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.

This report has been produced specifically to consider the Visual and Scenic Resources.

A perusal of the national DFFE Screening Tool indicates there is no data relating to visual or landscape for the Banna ba Pifhu site and surroundings.

The visual specialist **confirms** the visual sensitivities identified in the original Visual Impact Assessment Report. Detailed sensitivity mapping for the site, including buffers, is indicated on Maps 4 to 6, attached.