

**McGregor Museum**  
**Department of Archaeology**



**PAULPUTS CSP PROJECT AND ROAD REALIGNMENT OF THE MN73  
NEAR POFADDER, NORTHERN CAPE**

**SPECIALIST INPUT FOR THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASE OF THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
ARCHAEOLOGY**

David Morris  
June 2016

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### **SPECIALIST INPUT FOR THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ARCHAEOLOGY**

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22 June 2016

#### **1. Background**

This report provides an Impact Assessment phase evaluation of the footprint of a proposed 200 MW Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) Tower facility, and associated infrastructure immediately north of an existing solar thermal facility on the farm Scuit-Klip 92 near Pofadder in the Northern Cape. It includes an assessment of the impact of the road re-alignment of the MN73 around the facility.

The CSP Tower facility is proposed to make use of molten salt technology and include the following infrastructure: CSP Tower up to 300m in height with heliostat field; on-site project substation, switching station, 132 kV power line to Paulputs Substation; Water supply abstraction point located at the Gariiep river; filter and booster station; water supply pipeline; on-site water storage reservoir and tanks; lined evaporation ponds; packaged water treatment plant; auxiliary wet cooled tower/chiller plant; power island including salt storage tanks, steam turbine generator, heat exchanger, and dry cooled condenser, plant substation and power line to evacuate the power from the facility into the Eskom grid; internal access roads and fencing; workshop area for maintenance, storage, and offices.

The MN73 Road is to be re-aligned within Portion 4 of the farm Scuitklip 92. The newly constructed section of the road will be approximately 7m wide and ~4km in length, with a road reserve of 20m. The facility and re-alignment route are to be finalised and considered in separate EIA processes.

#### **1.1. Specialist details**

The author of this report is an archaeologist accredited as a Principal Investigator by the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists, employed as Head of Archaeology at the McGregor Museum in Kimberley and is an Extraordinary Professor in the School of Humanities (Heritage) at Sol Plaatje University. Work has previously been carried by the author in the vicinity of the proposed activity (Morris 1999a-b, 2000a-c, 2001, 2010, 2012, 2014).

The author works independently of the organization commissioning this specialist input, and provide these preliminary scoping observations within the framework of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999).

The National Heritage Resources Act no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA) protects heritage resources which include archaeological and palaeontological objects/sites older than 100 years, graves older than 60 years, structures older than 60 years, as well as intangible values attached to places. The Act requires that anyone intending to disturb, destroy or damage such sites, objects and/or structures may not do so without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. This is the context for this Heritage Impact Assessment and specialist report, required by the relevant heritage resources authority/ies to assess whether authorisation may be granted for the disturbance or alteration, or destruction of heritage resources.

## **1.2. Content of the Heritage Impact Report**

This specialist study is a stand-alone report (as per the EIA Regulations, 2014) and incorporates the following information:

- (a) details of the specialist who prepared the report; and the expertise of that specialist to compile a specialist
- (c) an indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the report was prepared;
- (d) the date and season of the site investigation and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment;
- (e) a description of the methodology adopted in preparing the report or carrying out the specialised process;
- (f) the specific identified sensitivity of the site related to the activity and its associated structures and infrastructure;
- (g) an identification of any areas to be avoided, including buffers;
- (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;
- (i) a description of any assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge;
- (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;
- (k) any mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr;
- (l) any conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation;
- (m) any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or environmental authorisation;
- (n) a reasoned opinion—
  - (i) as to whether the proposed activity or portions thereof should be authorised; and

- (ii) if the opinion is that the proposed activity or portions thereof should be authorised, any avoidance, management and mitigation measures that should be included in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan;
- (o) a description of any consultation process that was undertaken during the course of preparing the specialist report;
- (p) a summary and copies of any comments received during any consultation process and where applicable all responses thereto; and
- (q) any other information requested by the competent authority.

## 2. Description of the receiving environment and potential impacts

The environment is arid, comprising relatively flat drainage plains with dunes to the west of the proposed development and several outcropping rocky features in the north eastern part of the development footprint. A water pipeline is to be situated westwards to the Gariep River. The landscape is sparsely vegetated, hence any surface archaeological traces are likely to be highly visible.



Figure 1. Google Earth image of the terrain prior to the initial development of the Kaxu and Xina solar thermal facilities, in which physical landscape features mentioned are clearly visible.

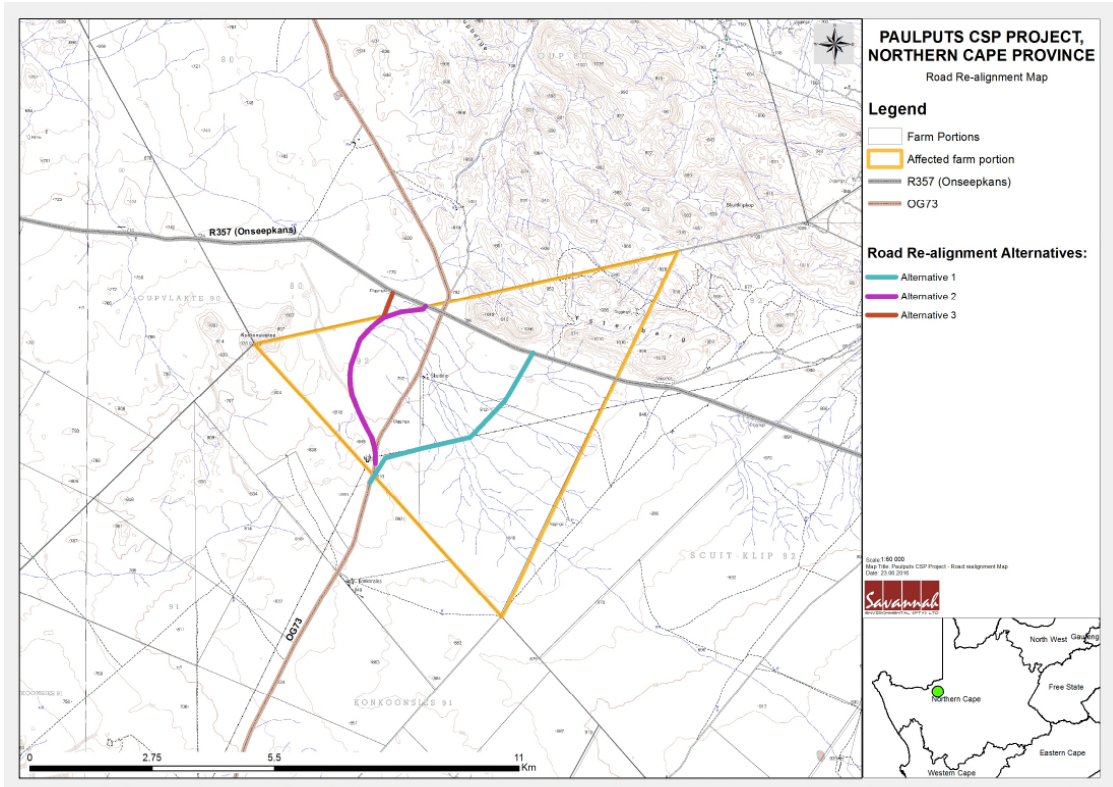


Figure 2. Map showing re-routing of the MN73 road

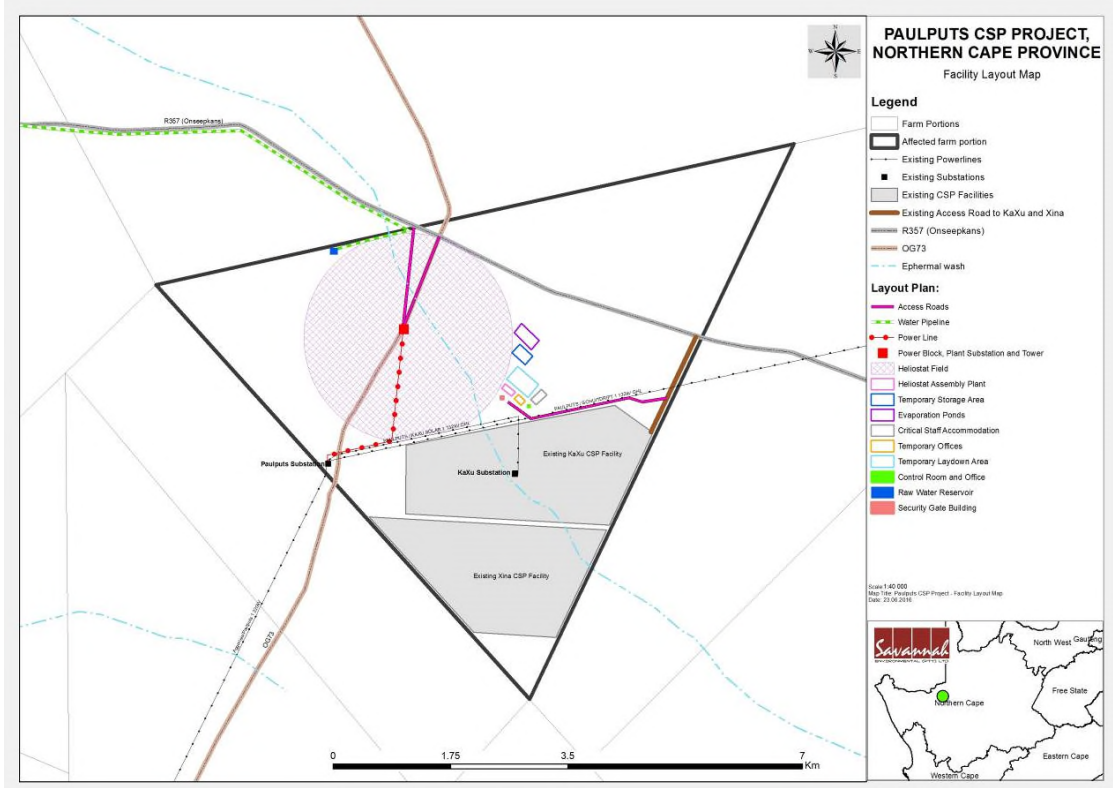


Figure 3. Finalized layout map for the Paulputs CSP Project.



## 2.1 Description of Heritage features of the region

### 2.1.1 Colonial frontier

This report repeats details provided by the author in earlier studies of the same property.

The eighteenth- and nineteenth-century records for this region (Penn 2005) include the travelogues of George Thompson (1827) and E.J. Dunn (1931, Robinson 1978), who visited the area in 1824 and 1872 respectively. Place names were becoming fixed in this colonial frontier period (in a cadastral sense, on maps and in farm names), many such names having Khoekhoegowab origins encapsulating vestiges of precolonial/indigenous social geography. Genocide against the indigenous people is documented in this area (Anthing 1863; de Prada Samper 2012), with certain mountainous areas (like Gamsberg near Aggeneys and Namies) being the likely settings of massacre sites, referred to by Dunn in 1872 (Robinson 1978) and, more obliquely, by Anthing (1863; Jose Manuel de Prada-Samper pers. comm. 2009). Dunn refers to conflict at Zwart Modder, the farm adjoining Scuit-Klip, where he recorded an isolated grave of a member of the Northern Border Police, which has yet to be relocated. Immediately below the Ysterberg ridge, located on the Farm Scuit-Klip, there is a road-side twentieth century grave (Morris 1999a).

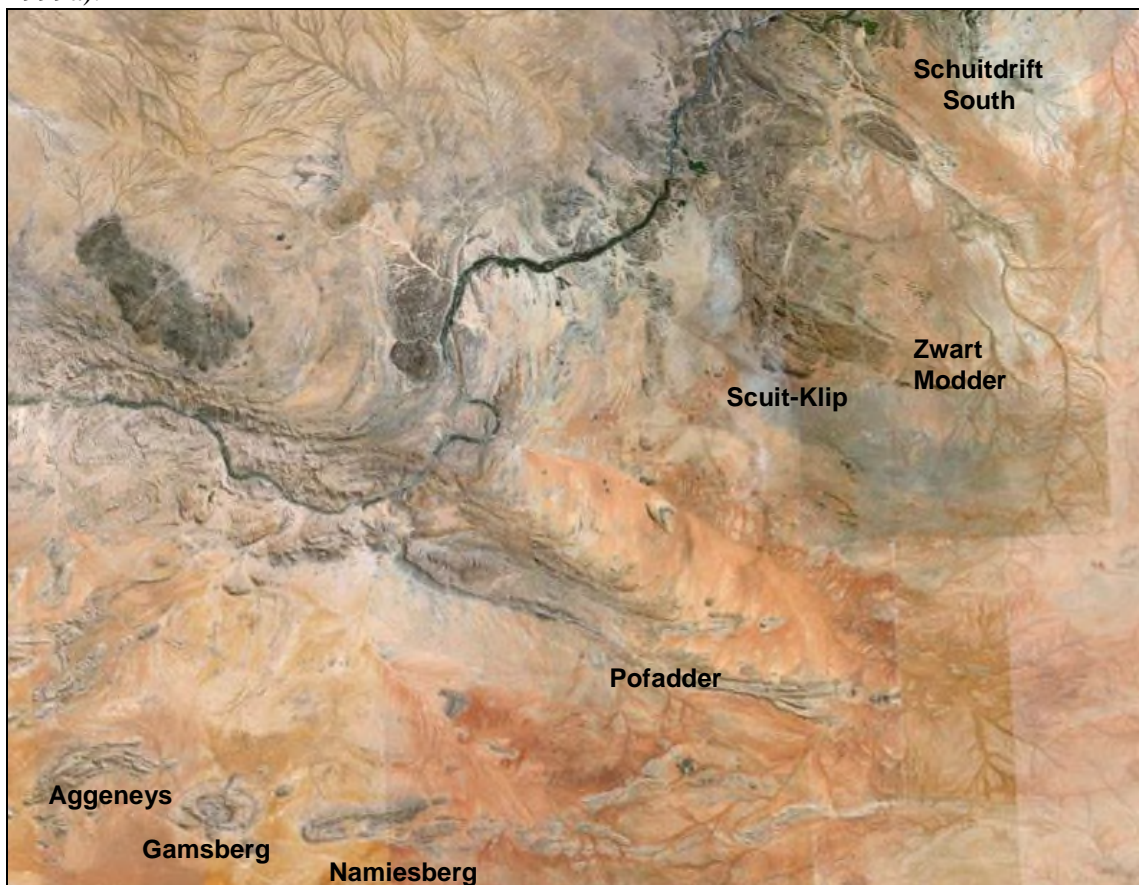


Figure 4. Regional focus: the study area relative to Aggeneys and some other places mentioned.

### 2.1.2 Later Stone Age

Late Holocene Later Stone Age (LSA) sites are the predominant archaeological trace noted in surveys in the Aggeneys-Pofadder region (Morris 1999a-b, 2000a-c, 2001, 2010). Beaumont *et al.* (1995) have shown, with reference to the LSA, that “virtually all the Bushmanland sites so far located appear to be ephemeral occupations by small groups in the hinterland on both sides of the [Orange] river” (1995:263). This was in sharp contrast to the substantial herder encampments along the Orange River floodplain itself (Morris & Beaumont 1990), which reflected the “much higher productivity and carrying capacity of these bottom lands.” “Given choice, the optimal exploitation zone for foragers would have been the Orange River.” The appearance of herders in the Orange River Basin, Beaumont *et al.* argue, led to competition over resources and ultimately to marginalisation of hunter-gatherers, some of whom then occupied Bushmanland, probably mainly in the last millennium, and focused their hunting and gathering activities around the limited number of water sources in the region. Surveys have located signs of human occupation mainly in the shelter of granite inselbergs, on red dunes which provided clean sand for sleeping, or around the seasonal pans (Beaumont *et al.* 1995:264). Possibly following good rains, herders moved into the Orange River hinterland, as attested archaeologically at sites with ample pottery near Aggeneys and, east of Pofadder, at Schuitdrift South – Morris 1999a). However, Thompson (1824) refers to herder groups settled at the stronger springs such as Pella dispersing during periods of drought to smaller springs in the region, which could equally well account for the traces referred to here. Dunn, in 1872, refers to a place at Schuit Klip (i.e. Scuit-Klip) where water collected following rains and was still available after a year of no rain in the vicinity (Robinson 1978:60-61). At such times competition between groups over resources and stress within an already marginalised hunter-gatherer society, must have intensified.

Fairly minimal traces of LSA have been found on dunes immediately west of the KaXu project (e.g. Morris 2012, 2014).

### 2.1.3 Pleistocene: Middle and Earlier Stone Age

As indicated previously, Beaumont *et al.* (1995:240-1) have noted a widespread low density stone artefact scatter of Pleistocene age across areas of Bushmanland to the south where raw materials, mainly quartzite cobbles, were derived from extensive surface spreads of Dwyka tillite. Systematic collections of this material made at Olyvenkolk, south west of Kenhardt and Maans Pannen, and east of Gamoep, could be separated out by abrasion state into a fresh component of Middle Stone Age (MSA) with prepared cores, blades and points, and a large aggregate of moderately to heavily weathered Earlier Stone Age (ESA).

Beaumont *et al.* have shown that “substantial MSA sites are uncommon in Bushmanland” (1995:241); and those that have been documented thus far have generally yielded only small samples (Morris & Beaumont 1991; Smith 1995).

The ESA included Victoria West cores on dolerite, long blades, and a very low incidence of handaxes and cleavers. The Middle (and perhaps in some instances Lower) Pleistocene occupation of the region that these artefacts reflect must have occurred at times when the environment was more hospitable than today. This is suggested by the known greater reliance of people in Acheulean times on quite restricted ecological ranges, with proximity to water being a recurrent factor in the distribution of sites.

A handaxe and isolated large flakes were previously found near a rocky outcrop in the KaXu footprint.

## **2.2 Description and evaluation of environmental issues and potential impacts identified in the scoping phase**

Heritage resources including archaeological sites are in each instance unique and non-renewable resources. Area and linear developments such as those envisaged can have a permanent destructive impact on these resources. The objective of an EIA would be to assess the sensitivity of such resources where present to assess the significance of potential impacts on these resources and to recommend no-go areas and measures to mitigate or manage said impacts.

Area impacts are possible in the case of the Paulputs CSP Facility itself; the proposed substation; the power lines, water supply lines, access roads and the re-routing of the MN73 would represent linear impacts. Potentially associated with roads are borrow pits (although none is indicated) which – in the event of their use – could have a major impact if heritage resources are present.

### **2.2.2. Direct, indirect and cumulative impacts (in terms of nature, magnitude and extent)**

The destructive impacts that are possible in terms of heritage resources would tend to be direct, once-off events occurring during the initial construction period. In the long term, the proximity of operations in a given area could result in secondary indirect impacts resulting from the movement of people or vehicles in the immediate or surrounding vicinity.

With respect to the magnitude and extent of potential impacts, it has been noted that the erection of power lines would have a relatively small impact on Stone Age sites, in light of Sampson’s (1985) observations during surveys beneath power lines in the Karoo (actual modification of the landscape tends to be limited to the footprint of each pylon), whereas a road or a water supply pipeline would tend to be far more destructive (modification of the landscape surface would be within a continuous strip), albeit relatively limited in spatial extent, i.e. width (Sampson compares such destruction to the



pulling out of a thread from an ancient tapestry). A water pipeline, if sourcing water at the river, could traverse more sensitive terrain, i.e. impacting a potentially greater density of archaeological sites.

### **3. Methodology**

A site visit was necessary to inspect various parts of the terrain on foot, focusing on areas of expected impact (construction of plant, sub-station, and secondary infrastructure such as roads, pipelines and power lines). Heritage traces would be evaluated in terms of their archaeological significance (see tables below). A set of Scoping phase predictions were made which the study would test with observations made in the field.

#### **3.1 Assumptions and limitations**

It was assumed that, by and large in this landscape, with its sparse vegetation and shallow soil profiles, some sense of the archaeological traces to be found in the area would be readily apparent from surface observations (including assessment of places of erosion or past excavations that expose erstwhile below-surface features). It was not considered necessary to conduct excavations as part of the EIA to establish the potential of sub-surface archaeology.

A proviso is routinely given, that should sites or features of significance be encountered during construction (this could include an unmarked burial, an ostrich eggshell water flask cache, or a high density of stone tools, for instance), specified steps are necessary (cease work, report to heritage authority).

With regard to fossils, an assessment of the likelihood of their occurring here should be obtained from a palaeontologist.

#### **3.2. Scoping phase predictions**

##### **3.2.1. Potential areas of sensitivity**

During the Scoping phase (Morris 2015) it was predicted that based on previous experience in the area, it is estimated that the terrain close to hills or rocky features, particularly sandy spots near sheltering rocks, may tend to have traces of precolonial Stone Age occupation/activity. Such a site was previously documented on the adjoining farm Zwart Modder (Morris 1999a), while rather minimal evidence of LSA occupation has been noted on a dune between the KaXu Solar One development and the MN73 road (Morris 2012, 2014). A handaxe and a few large ESA/MSA flakes (illustrated below) were found adjacent to a rock outcrop north of the KaXu Solar One development (Morris 2012).



Figure 5. Stone artefacts found downslope from this rocky outcrop shown in Figure 5. (Morris 2012).



Figure 6. Rocky outcrop and location where Earlier Stone Age artefacts were located.

While places in the open plains have been found to have sparsely scattered artefacts (such as at Konkonsies near the Paulputs Substation site – Morris 1999a), these areas are expected to be less significant. An exception to this is where rocky outcrops at the surface on the plains provide places where water pools exist after rains. Such places often attracted people in the past with traces of this including artificial grinding grooves in the bedrock and ample evidence of stone artefacts and pottery. A very good example of this is at Schuifdrift South. The name Scuit-Klip may refer to such a locale on this property, though not necessarily in that portion selected for the present project. It is in fact described in some detail by Dunn (Robinson 1978:60-61): “Two holes occur in the gneiss at the crest of a ridge when heavy thunder rains sweep over this arid country the water runs into and sometimes fills these most useful reservoirs, in which it is stored up and lasts many months.”

The sand dunes in the north western part of the area may also have been a focus for past human occupation.

Colonial era sites or features within the study area include the known road-side grave below Ysterberg, a presently unknown grave recorded by Dunn (see above) of a member of the Northern Border Police (near Zwart Modder), and a farm cemetery and homestead/kraal ruins at the old Skuit-Klip farm between the study area and Zwart Modder. Strauss and Esterhuizen family graves in the cemetery date between 1914 and 1974.

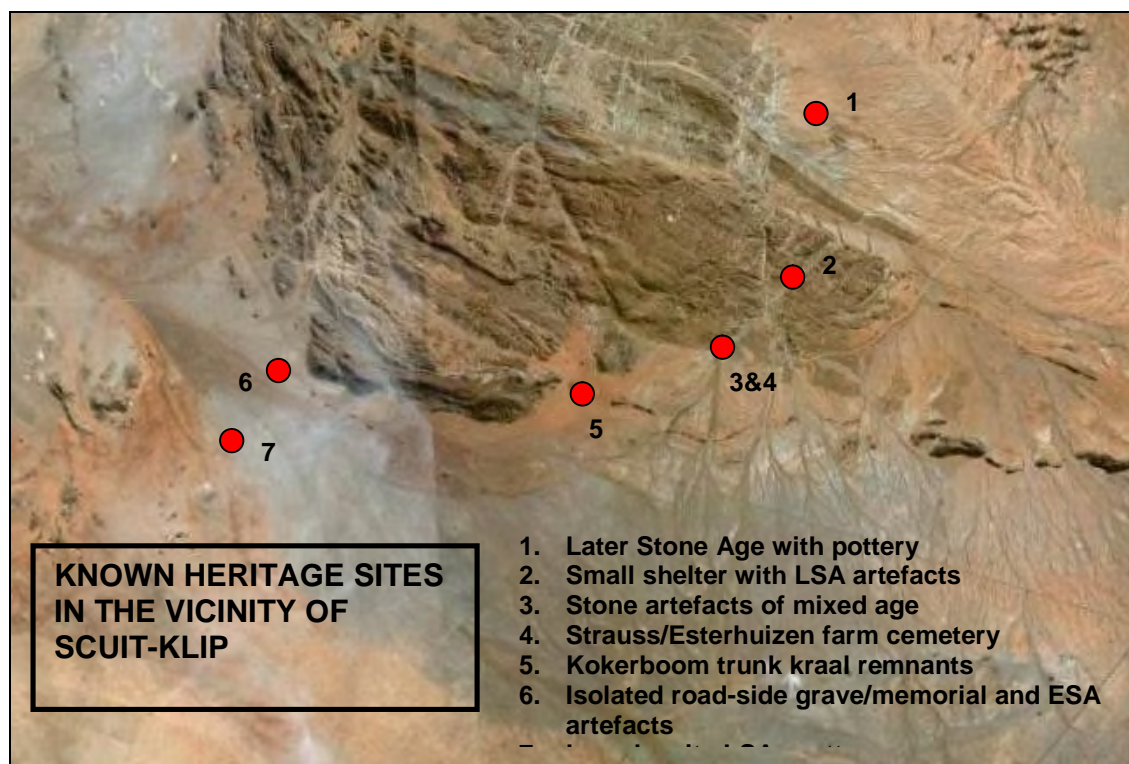


Figure 7. Previously known heritage sites.

### **3.3. Potentially significant impacts to be assessed in the EIA process**

In view of the above, anticipated locations for both area and linear, primary and secondary, developments should be examined on foot, particularly on dunes and around rocky outcrops – both of which features occur in the area of proposed development. Any disturbance of surfaces in the development area could have a destructive impact on heritage resources. In the event that such resources are found, they are likely to be of a nature that potential impacts could be mitigated by documentation and/or salvage following approval and permitting by the South African Heritage Resources Agency and, in the case of any built environment features, the Northern Cape Heritage Resources Authority. Should exceptional heritage features be found (not considered likely), some could require preservation *in situ* and hence modification of intended placement of development components.

Disturbance of any surface includes any construction: of a road, a pipeline, erection of a pylon, or preparation of a site for a sub-station, or plant, or building, or any other *clearance* of, or *excavation* into, a land surface. In the event of archaeological materials being present such activity would alter or destroy their context (even if the artefacts themselves are not destroyed, which is also obviously possible). Without context, archaeological traces are of much reduced significance. It is the contexts as much as the individual items that are protected by the heritage legislation.

Some of the activities indicated here have a generally lower impact than others. For example, Sampson (1985) has shown that powerlines tend to be less destructive on Stone Age sites than roads since access along the route of the line during construction and maintenance tends to be by way of a ‘twee-spoor’ temporary roadway (not scraped, the surface not significantly modified). This does not mean that the route of the line should not be checked in the EIA process, as individual tower positions might be of high archaeological significance (e.g. a grave, or an engraving). The impact of a ‘twee-spoor’ could be far greater on Iron Age sites in other parts of South Africa, where stone walling might need to be breached.

### **3.4. Determining Archaeological Significance**

In addition to guidelines provided by the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999), a set of criteria based on Deacon (nd) and Whitelaw (1997) for assessing archaeological significance has been developed for Northern Cape settings (Morris 2000a). These criteria include estimation of landform potential (in terms of its capacity to contain archaeological traces) and assessing the value to any archaeological traces (in terms of their attributes or their capacity to be construed as evidence, given that evidence is not given but constructed by the investigator).

*Estimating site potential*

Table 1 (below) is a classification of landforms and visible archaeological traces used for estimating the potential of archaeological sites (after J. Deacon nd, National Monuments Council). Type 3 sites tend to be those with higher archaeological potential, but there are notable exceptions to this rule, for example the renowned rock engravings site Driekopseiland near Kimberley which is on landform L1 Type 1 – normally a setting of lowest expected potential. It should also be noted that, generally, the older a site the poorer the preservation, so that sometimes *any* trace, even of only Type 1 quality, can be of exceptional significance. In light of this, estimation of potential will always be a matter for archaeological observation and interpretation.

*Assessing site value by attribute*

Table 2 (below) is adapted from Whitelaw (1997), who developed an approach for selecting sites meriting heritage recognition status in KwaZulu-Natal. It is a means of judging a site’s archaeological value by ranking the relative strengths of a range of attributes (given in the second column of the table). While aspects of this matrix remain qualitative, attribute assessment is a good indicator of the general archaeological significance of a site, with Type 3 attributes being those of highest significance.

**Table 1. Classification of landforms and visible archaeological traces for estimating the potential for archaeological sites (after J. Deacon, National Monuments Council).**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Landform</b>	<b>Type 1</b>	<b>Type 2</b>	<b>Type 3</b>
L1	Rocky surface	Bedrock exposed	Some soil patches	Sandy/grassy patches
L2	Ploughed land	Far from water	In floodplain	On old river terrace
L3	Sandy ground, inland	Far from water	In floodplain or near feature such as hill	On old river terrace
L4	Sandy ground, Coastal	>1 km from sea	Inland of dune cordon	Near rocky shore
L5	Water-logged deposit	Heavily vegetated	Running water	Sedimentary basin
L6	Developed urban	Heavily built-up with no known record of early settlement	Known early settlement, but buildings have basements	Buildings without extensive basements over known historical sites
L7	Lime/dolomite	>5 myrs	<5000 yrs	Between 5000 yrs and 5 myrs
L8	Rock shelter	Rocky floor	Sloping floor or small area	Flat floor, high ceiling
<b>Class</b>	<b>Archaeological traces</b>	<b>Type 1</b>	<b>Type 2</b>	<b>Type 3</b>



<b>Class</b>	<b>Landform</b>	<b>Type 1</b>	<b>Type 2</b>	<b>Type 3</b>
A1	Area previously excavated	Little deposit remaining	More than half deposit remaining	High profile site
A2	Shell or bones visible	Dispersed scatter	Deposit <0.5 m thick	Deposit >0.5 m thick; shell and bone dense
A3	Stone artefacts or stone walling or other feature visible	Dispersed scatter	Deposit <0.5 m thick	Deposit >0.5 m thick

**Table 2. Site attributes and value assessment (adapted from Whitelaw 1997)**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Attribute</b>	<b>Type 1</b>	<b>Type 2</b>	<b>Type 3</b>
1	Length of sequence/context	No sequence Poor context Dispersed distribution	Limited sequence	Long sequence Favourable context High density of arte/ecofacts
2	Presence of exceptional items (incl regional rarity)	Absent	Present	Major element
3	Organic preservation	Absent	Present	Major element
4	Potential for future archaeological investigation	Low	Medium	High
5	Potential for public display	Low	Medium	High
6	Aesthetic appeal	Low	Medium	High
7	Potential for implementation of a long-term management plan	Low	Medium	High

## **4. Observations and Assessment of Impacts**

The manner in which archaeological and other heritage traces or values might be affected by the proposed development may be summed up in the following terms: it would be any act or activity that would result immediately or in the future in the destruction, damage, excavation, alteration, removal or collection from its original position, any archaeological material or object (as indicated in the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999)). The most obvious impact in this case would be land surface disturbance associated with infrastructure construction.

### **4.1 Fieldwork observations**

The study area was visited on two separate occasions 11 July 2012 and 14 February 2014 to survey the proposed development footprint area and ancillary infrastructure locales for KaXu Solar One and XiNa Solar One respectively; and on 14-15 June 2016 to assess impacts in relation to the CSP Tower and heliostat field proposed to be built immediately north of the KaXu Solar one development as well as the road realignment. The findings can be reported in relation to predictions made in the scoping report (see 3.2 above):

#### 4.2.1 Richness of archaeological traces:

*That the development footprint is not likely to be rich in archaeological traces of major significance, but that rocky outcrops and dunes may include locales where Stone Age activities were focused, generating material (archaeological) remains.*

This prediction was proven to be correct in terms of the observations tabulated below.

The rocky outcrops and hills all had some trace of human activity from Stone Age to colonial times, with (from the Later Stone Age) small scatters of ostrich eggshell, quartz flakes and an upper grindstone adjacent to a bedrock grinding surface; a large core (Earlier Stone Age); and two instances of rectangular dry-packed stone walling (colonial). These are represented by observations 1-16 in the table below. By and large these are reckoned in themselves to be of low sensitivity, but their cumulative significance is higher in that they represent particularly focused behaviours at these landscape features. The landscape features are identified as sensitive and a buffer of 60 m is recommended around each.

The sandy plains were found to have zero to extremely low density occurrences of Stone Age material, found in the form of isolated instances of ostrich eggshell pieces, widely

scattered isolated quartz flakes, predominantly of Later Stone Age character, and three completely isolated Earlier Stone Age pieces, namely a core and two handaxes, kilometres apart. These are represented by observations 17-22 in the table below.

Observation No	Latitude	Longitude	Description	Sensitivity
2016/1	28°51'16.8"	19°35'21.2"	Later Stone Age: Small scatter of ostrich eggshell pieces and quartz flakes.	LOW
2016/2	28°51'25.0"	19°35'29.6"	Colonial era: Rectangular packed-stone feature, small kraal or dwelling, possible pastoralist stock post.	LOW
2016/3	28°51'25.2"	19°35'28.3"	Colonial era: rusted enamel cup.	LOW
2016/4	28°51'27.6"	19°35'29.5"	Later Stone Age: quartz flakes adjacent to large boulder.	LOW
2016/5	28°51'29.6"	19°35'32.7"	Later Stone Age: isolated quartz flake.	LOW
2016/6	28°51'34.8"	19°35'49.7"	Later Stone Age: Ostrich eggshell pieces on side of hill.	LOW
2016/7	28°51'35.2"	19°35'52.3"	Later Stone Age: Ostrich eggshell pieces and quartz flakes in small clearing at top of hill.	MEDIUM
2016/8	28°51'43.5"	19°36'05.6"	Later Stone Age: Ostrich eggshell pieces in small clearing at top of hill.	MEDIUM
2016/9	28°51'44.0"	19°36'06.5"	Later Stone Age: Ostrich eggshell pieces and quartz flakes in small clearing at top of hill.	MEDIUM
2016/10	28°51'44.8"	19°36'08.2"	Later Stone Age: Ostrich eggshell pieces in small clearing at top of hill.	MEDIUM
2016/11	28°51'46.3"	19°36'06.3"	Later Stone Age: quartz flake; and Earlier Stone Age: core.	LOW
2016/12	28°51'53.4"	19°36'15.5"	Later Stone Age: quartz flake.	LOW
2016/13	28°51'53.1"	19°36'15.5"	Later Stone Age: grinding area on bedrock and	MEDIUM

Observation No	Latitude	Longitude	Description	Sensitivity
			adjacent upper grindstone.	
2016/14	28°51'54.3"	19°36'21.0"	Later Stone Age: Ostrich eggshell pieces in deflated area.	LOW
2016/15	28°51'55.6"	19°36'25.3"	Cf. Middle Stone Age: flakes in deflated area	LOW
2016/16	28°51'56.7"	19°36'32.4"	Colonial era: Rectangular packed stone walling at base of hill. Possible pastoralist stock post.	LOW
2016/17	28°52'16.8"	19°34'00.5"	Later Stone Age: small scatter of flakes.	LOW
2016/18	28°52'16.5"	19°33'59.9"	Earlier Stone Age: isolated handaxe.	LOW
2016/19	28°51'33.7"	19°33'26.5"	Later Stone Age: Ostrich eggshell pieces below dune.	LOW
2016/20	28°51'02.0"	19°33'56.3"	Earlier Stone Age: isolated broken handaxe.	LOW
2016/21	28°51'06.8"	19°34'49.0"	Later Stone Age: Ostrich eggshell pieces.	LOW
2016/22	28°51'13.1"	19°34'46.0"	Cf. Later Stone Age: quartz flakes adjacent to drainage line.	LOW

Observations 17-20 are within the area identified for the realignment of the MN73 road and indicate an extremely low incidence of archaeological or cultural heritage traces within that corridor.

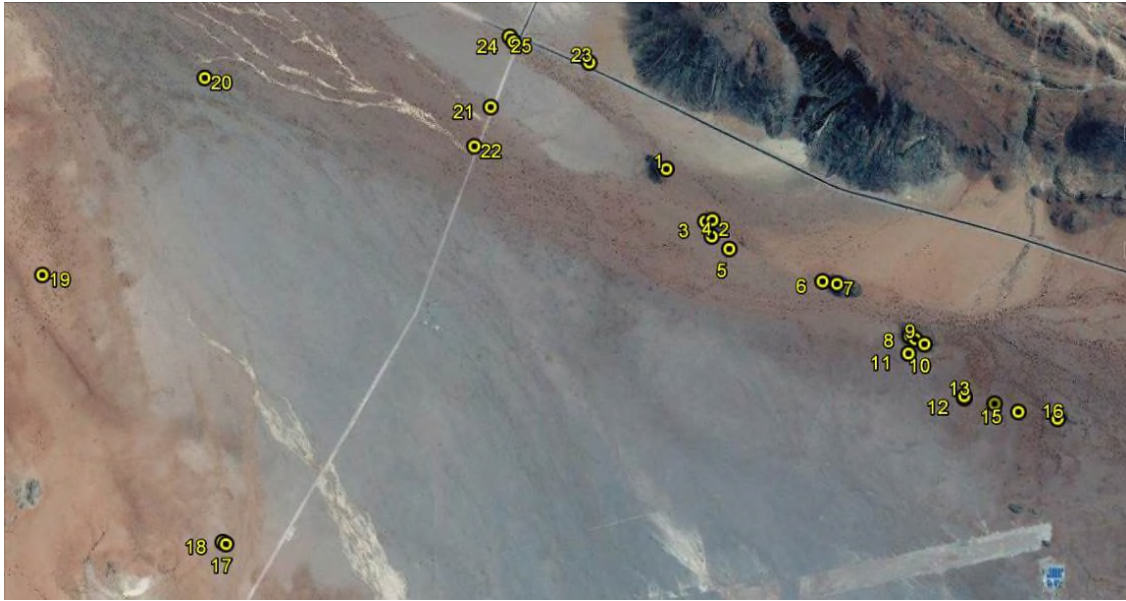


Figure 8. Google Earth map showing distribution of observations 1-23.

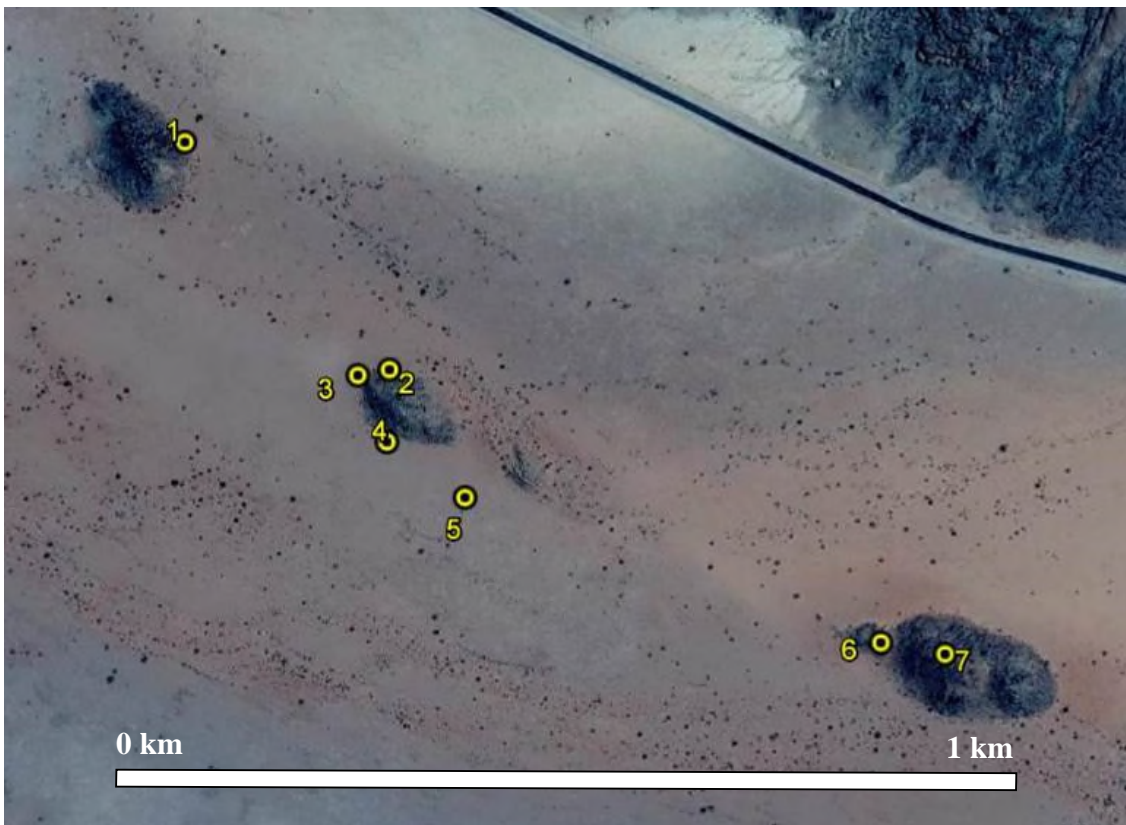


Figure 9. Observations 1-7



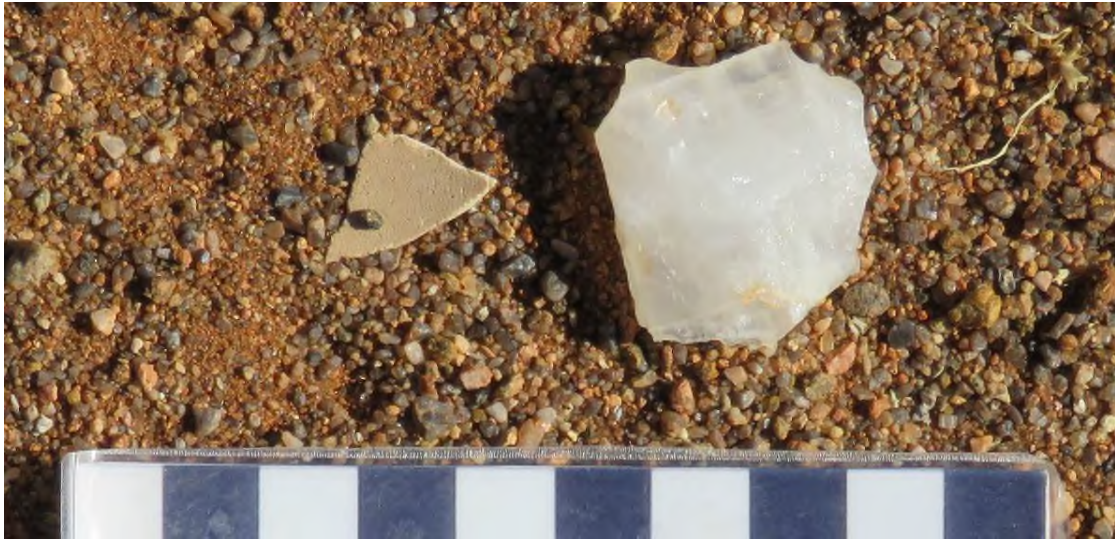


Figure 10. Observation 1: Ostrich eggshell piece and quartz flake.



Figure 11. Observations 2 and 3: Colonial era packed stone feature and rusted metal cup.





Figure 12. Observation 4: boulder beside which a small scatter of LSA quartz flakes was found.



Figure 13. Observations 6 and 7: LSA scatters of ostrich eggshell and flakes on rocky hills.

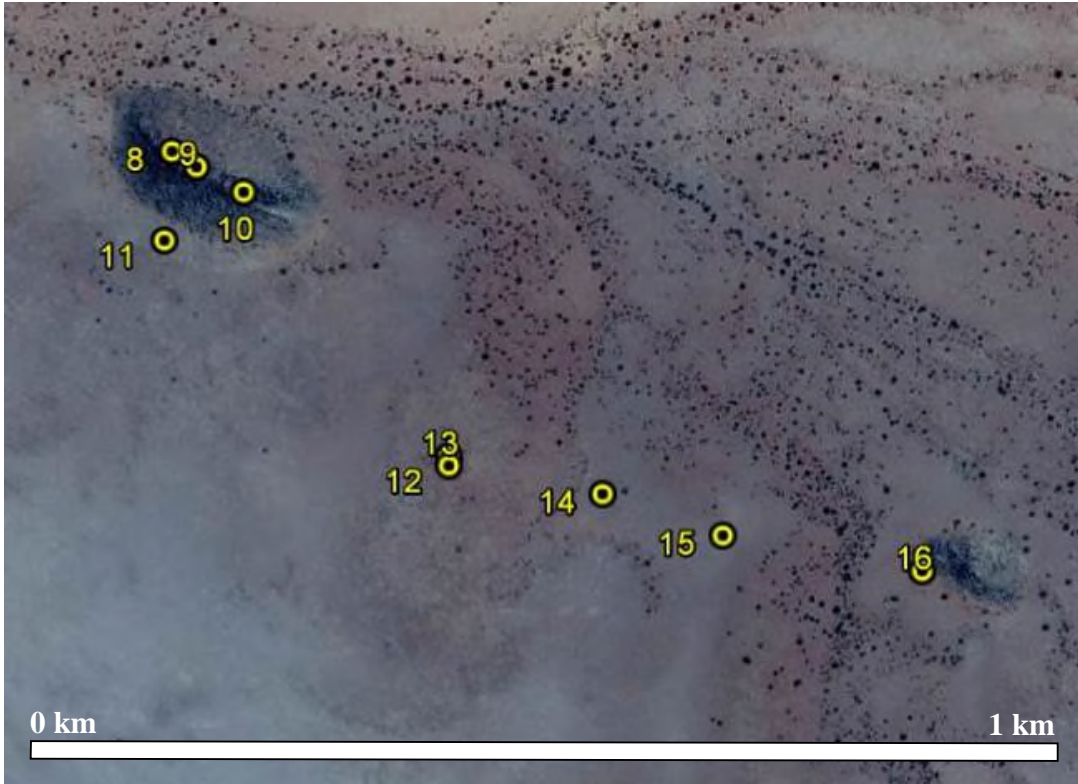


Figure 14. Observations 8 to 16.



Figure 15. Observations 8 to 10 are along the ridge, comprising small LSA scatters with ostrich eggshell pieces and quartz flakes.





Figure 16. Observation 11: Earlier Stone Age core.



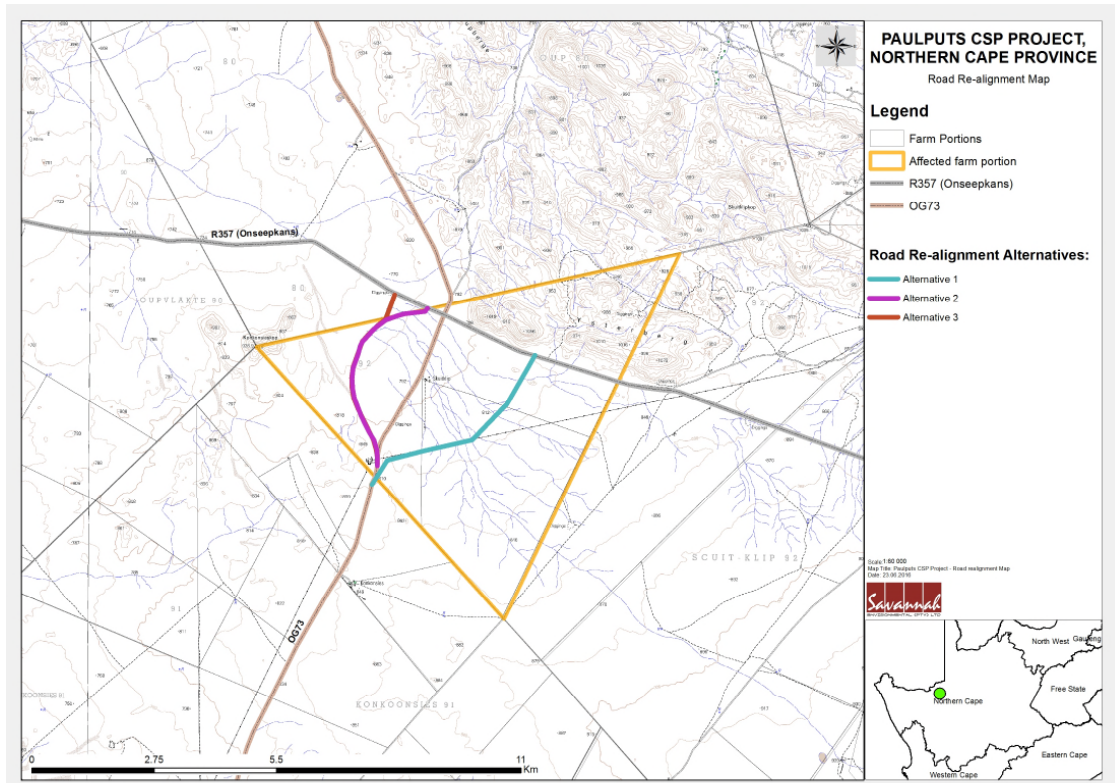
Figure 17. Observation 13: Grinding surface and upper grindstone.



Figure 18. Observation 16: Packed stone feature, probably stock post.



Observations 17-20 are within the area identified for the realignment Alternatives 2 and 3 (western routes) of the MN73 road. They indicate an extremely low incidence of archaeological or cultural heritage traces within that corridor – see Figure 19. The same conclusion based on earlier surveys, e.g. Morris 2012, applies for Alternative 1 – eastern route.



(Figure 19a - See Figure 2 above): Alternative proposed routes for MN73 road realignment.

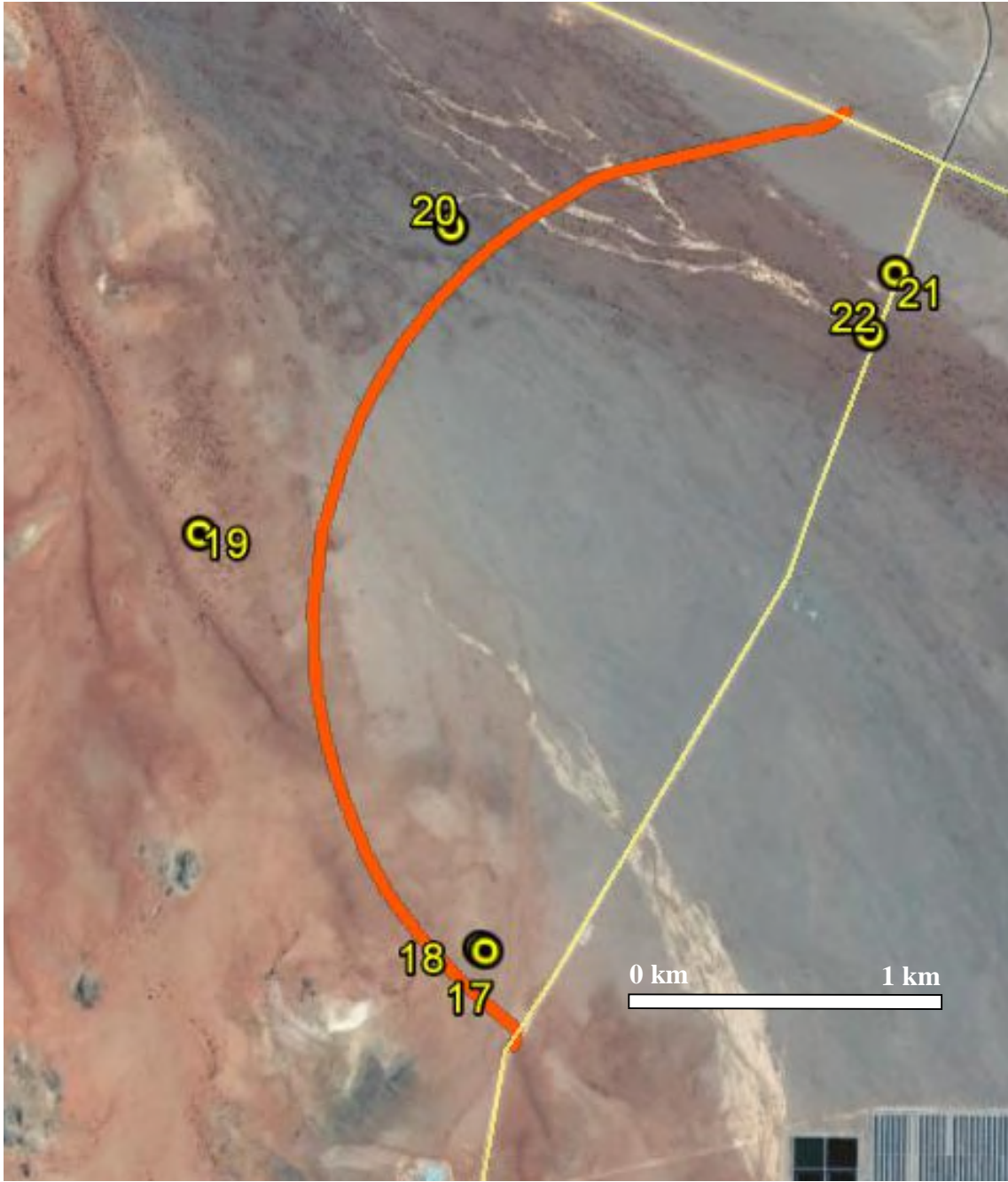


Figure 19b. Road realignment corridor Alternatives 2 with observations 17-20 shown relative to the proposed realignment.





Figure 20. Observations 18 and 20: Earlier Stone Age handaxes, widely separated isolated finds.



Figure 21. Observation 19: Isolated occurrence of a few pieces of ostrich eggshell.



Figure 22. Landscape through which the MN73 is to be re-aligned. Minimal heritage traces were observed.

#### 4.2.2 Colonial to recent

*Graves/memorials of the colonial era might exist.*

The known “Site 6” previously noted (Figure 7) documented in 1999 (Morris 1999a & 1999b) was inspected. This is a memorial rather than a grave, documenting the death of one Susanna Francina Lötz who had died at the spot on Christmas Day 1969. Two further memorial markers post-dating the Morris 1999 survey were located at the Raap en Skraap intersection, commemorating Karel van den Heever (1965-2004) and Elna (nee Rudolph) van den Heever (1974-2004), and Daniel Erasmus Conradie, who lost their lives there on 18 July 2004. The van den Heever couple were buried in the Pofadder cemetery. Susanna Francina Lötz (1900-1969) was buried in the Onseepkans Toekennings Gebied 2, Lötz Farm Cemetery.

It is recommended that these memorial markers be respected by way of a 10 m buffer zone, or if this is not possible, an agreed-upon protective measure, with family members also being consulted in this connection. If not possible to avoid, these memorials should be relocated in consultation with the affected families, following the correct procedures. Mr Fanie van den Heever of the farm Konkoonsies, adjacent to Paul Puts, is the brother



of the late Karel van den Heever and has expressed a desire that the memorials not be moved as they mark the spot where the tragedy occurred (pers. comm. 26 June 2016).

Note that observations 2, 3 and 16 above also date from the Colonial to recent era and appear to relate to stock farming, most likely as stock posts.

Observation No	Lattitude	Longitude	Description	Sensitivity
2016/23 “Site 6” in 1999 survey	28°51’03.0”	19°35’14.9”	Memorial stone with inscription “Ter ere aan my geliefde eggenote Susanna Francina Lötz wat op Kersdag 1969 hier sag heen gegaan het. Ek was stom maar God het dit gedoen. Kolie Lötz”	HIGH
2016/24	28°50’56.3”	19°34’53.2”	Memorial structure with inscription: “Karel Elna van den Heever. 18 Julie 2004.”	HIGH
2016/25	28°50’55.5”	19°34’52.5”	Memorial cross with inscription: “Daniel Erasmus Conradie. Danie Daan. 27-11-1978 – 18-07-2004. In ons harte sal hy voortleef.”	HIGH



Figure 23a (above) & b (below). Observation 23 “Site 6”: Susanna Francina Lötz memorial.



Figure 23c. The grave of Susanna Francina Lötz (nee Ras) (5 Nov 1900 – 25 Dec 1969), alongside that of her husband, in the Onseepkans Toekennings Gebied 2, Lötz Farm Cemetery. (Source: [http://www.eggza.org/library/main.php?g2\\_itemId=2574740](http://www.eggza.org/library/main.php?g2_itemId=2574740)).





Figure 24a (above) and b (below). Observations 24 & 25: Van den Heever and Conradie memorials.





Figure 24c. The grave of Karel van den Heever and Elna van den Heever (nee Rudolph), in the Pofadder Main Cemetery.

(Source: [http://www.eggsa.org/library/main.php?g2\\_itemId=1889118](http://www.eggsa.org/library/main.php?g2_itemId=1889118))





Figure 25. Location of the memorials (Observations 23-25). Red rings indicate the SAHRA recommended 30 m radius buffer zones around each, however since these are not actual graves a 10m buffer is recommended.

### Characterising the significance of impacts

The following criteria are used in this Environmental Impact Assessment to characterise the significance of direct, indirect and cumulative impacts (Jodas 2010):

- » The **nature**, which shall include a description of what causes the effect, what will be affected, and how it will be affected.
- » The **extent**, wherein it will be indicated whether the impact will be local (limited to the immediate area or site of development) or regional:
  - \* local extending only as far as the development site area – assigned a score of 1;
  - \* limited to the site and its immediate surroundings (up to 10 km) – assigned a score of 2;
  - \* will have an impact on the region – assigned a score of 3;
  - \* will have an impact on a national scale – assigned a score of 4; or
  - \* will have an impact across international borders – assigned a score of 5.
- » The **duration**, wherein it will be indicated whether:
  - \* the lifetime of the impact will be of a very short duration (0–1 years) – assigned a score of 1;
  - \* the lifetime of the impact will be of a short duration (2-5 years) - assigned a score of 2;
  - \* medium-term (5–15 years) – assigned a score of 3;
  - \* long term (> 15 years) - assigned a score of 4; or
  - \* permanent - assigned a score of 5.
- » The **magnitude**, quantified on a scale from 0-10, where a score is assigned:
  - \* 0 is small and will have no effect on the environment;
  - \* 2 is minor and will not result in an impact on processes;
  - \* 4 is low and will cause a slight impact on processes;

- \* 6 is moderate and will result in processes continuing but in a modified way;
  - \* 8 is high (processes are altered to the extent that they temporarily cease); and
  - \* 10 is very high and results in complete destruction of patterns and permanent cessation of processes.
- » The **probability of occurrence**, which shall describe the likelihood of the impact actually occurring. Probability will be estimated on a scale, and a score assigned:
- \* Assigned a score of 1–5, where 1 is very improbable (probably will not happen);
  - \* Assigned a score of 2 is improbable (some possibility, but low likelihood);
  - \* Assigned a score of 3 is probable (distinct possibility);
  - \* Assigned a score of 4 is highly probable (most likely); and
  - \* Assigned a score of 5 is definite (impact will occur regardless of any prevention measures).
- » the **significance**, which shall be determined through a synthesis of the characteristics described above (refer formula below) and can be assessed as low, medium or high.
- » the **status**, which will be described as either positive, negative or neutral.
- » the degree to which the impact can be reversed.
- » the degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources.
- » the *degree* to which the impact can be *mitigated*.

The **significance** is determined by combining the criteria in the following formula:

**S= (E+D+M) P**; where

S = Significance weighting

E = Extent

D = Duration

M = Magnitude

P = Probability

The **significance weightings** for each potential impact are as follows:

- » < 30 points: Low (i.e. where this impact would not have a direct influence on the decision to develop in the area),
- » 30-60 points: Medium (i.e. where the impact could influence the decision to develop in the area unless it is effectively mitigated),
- » > 60 points: High (i.e. where the impact must have an influence on the decision process to develop in the area).

**Impact table summarising the evaluation of Potential Impacts Associated with the Construction of the Facility and realignment of the MN73 road**

***Nature:***

Acts or activities resulting in disturbance of surfaces and/or sub-surfaces containing artefacts (causes) resulting in the destruction, damage, excavation, alteration, removal or collection from its original position (consequences), of any archaeological material or object (what affected).

These potential impacts would tend to be direct, once-off events occurring during the initial construction period. In the long term, the proximity of operations in a given area could result in secondary indirect impacts resulting from the movement of people or vehicles in the immediate or surrounding vicinity. Certain activities would generally have a lower impact than others (i.e. power lines tend to be less destructive on Stone Age sites than access roads).

	<b>Without mitigation</b>	<b>With mitigation</b>
<b>Extent</b>	Local (1)	Local (1)
<b>Duration</b>	Permanent (5)	Short (1)
<b>Magnitude</b>	High (8)	Low (4)
<b>Probability</b>	Improbable (2)	Very improbable (1)
<b>Significance</b>	<b>Low (28)</b>	<b>Low (6)</b>
<b>Status (positive or negative)</b>	Negative	Negative
<b>Reversibility</b>	No	No
<b>Irreplaceable loss of resources?</b>	Yes, if and where present – but occurrence is between zero and extremely low density, no or low significance. Sensitive areas at and around rocky outcrops have been excluded from the development because of sensitivity. Memorials marking the sites where four individuals died in 1969 and 2004, designated Observations 23-25 in this report, are to be treated also as having high sensitivity and, as far as possible, protected in their current positions.	
<b>Can impacts be mitigated?</b>	Yes but not considered necessary.	
<b>Mitigation:</b> Artefact densities are zero to extremely low over the development footprint, along the pipeline route, and along the MN73 road re-alignment corridor. Unlike biological processes, heritage destruction generally has a once-off permanent impact and in view of this the figures given in the “Without mitigation” column err on the side of caution. Even so, the criteria for significance indicated in this matrix give a Low significance weighting (<30 points). Mitigation measures are not considered necessary.		

### Assessment of Cumulative Impacts

“Cumulative Impact”, in relation to an activity, means the past, current and reasonably foreseeable future impact of an activity, considered together with the impact of activities associated with that activity that in itself may not be significant, but may become significant when added to existing and reasonably foreseeable impacts eventuating from similar or diverse activities<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise stated, all definitions are from the 2014 EIA Regulations, GNR 982

The role of the cumulative assessment is to test if such impacts are relevant to the proposed project in the proposed location (i.e. whether the addition of the proposed project in the area will increase the impact). This section should address whether the proposed development will result in:

- » Unacceptable risk
- » Unacceptable loss
- » Complete or wholesale changes to the environment or sense of place
- » Unacceptable increase in impact

***Cumulative impact table:***

<b><i>Nature:</i></b> Complete or wholesale changes to the environment or sense of place (example text only)		
	<b>Overall impact of the proposed project considered in isolation</b>	<b>Cumulative Impact of the project and other projects in the area</b>
<b><i>Extent</i></b>	Site only (1)	Local to Regional (3)
<b><i>Duration</i></b>	Permanent (5)	Permanent (5)
<b><i>Magnitude</i></b>	High (8)	High (8)
<b><i>Probability</i></b>	Improbable (2)	Probable (3)
<b><i>Significance</i></b>	<b>Low (28)</b>	<b>Medium (39)</b>
<b><i>Status (positive/negative)</i></b>	Negative	Negative
<b><i>Reversibility</i></b>	No	No
<b><i>Loss of resources?</i></b>	Yes	Yes
<b><i>Can impacts be mitigated?</i></b>	Yes.	Yes
<b><i>Confidence in findings:</i></b> High.		
<b><i>Mitigation:</i></b> No-go areas have been recommended in this study in order to mitigate impacts on sensitive elements in the landscape that provided shelter and resources for people in Stone Age times. In this way cumulative impacts on sense of place are also addressed.		

**5. Measures for Inclusion in the Draft Environmental Management Plan**

**OBJECTIVE:** Archaeological or other heritage materials occurring in the path of any surface or sub-surface disturbances associated with any aspect of the development are highly likely to be subject to destruction, damage, excavation, alteration, or removal. The objective should be to limit such impacts to the primary activities associated with the development and hence to limit secondary impacts during the medium and longer term working life of the facility.



<b>Project component/s</b>	Any road construction over and above what is necessary and any extension of other components addressed in this EIA.
<b>Potential Impact</b>	The potential impact if this objective is not met is that wider areas or extended linear developments may result in further destruction, damage, excavation, alteration, removal or collection of heritage objects from their current context on the site.
<b>Activity/risk source</b>	Activities which could impact on achieving this objective include deviation from the planned lay-out of road/s and infrastructure without taking heritage impacts into consideration.
<b>Mitigation: Target/Objective</b>	<p>A facility environmental management plan that takes cognizance of heritage resources in the event of any future extensions of roads or other infrastructure.</p> <p>It is not regarded as necessary that any mitigation should take place for the areas identified for development.</p>

<b>Mitigation: Action/control</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Provision for on-going heritage monitoring in a facility environmental management plan which also provides guidelines on what to do in the event of any major heritage feature being encountered during any phase of development or operation.	Environmental management provider with on-going monitoring role set up by the developer.	Environmental management plan to be in place before commencement of development.
No Phase 2 (mitigation) regarded as necessary in terms of present development layout.	-	-

<b>Performance Indicator</b>	<p>Inclusion of further heritage impact consideration in any future extension of infrastructural elements.</p> <p>Immediate reporting to relevant heritage authorities of any heritage feature discovered during any phase of development or operation of the facility.</p>
<b>Monitoring</b>	Officials from relevant heritage authorities (National and Provincial) to be permitted to inspect the operation at any time in relation to the heritage component of the management plan.

## Findings and recommendations

The study which has been conducted on this landscape over some years has identified sensitive locales with respect to heritage. For the present phase the sensitive sites that should be avoided are identified in Figure 8. These are the rocky outcrops that occur at the north eastern side of the proposed project footprint. These sites and others like them in the broader landscape provided shelter and variety of resources that attracted human activity through Stone Age times.

The memorial markers identified in this report as Observations 23 to 25 indicate places where four individuals died in 1969 and 2004, and are to be treated as high sensitivity locales. While not actual graves and the SAHRA-recommended 30m buffer may not apply, a 10 m buffer is recommended and every effort should be made to preserve these memorials in their current position.

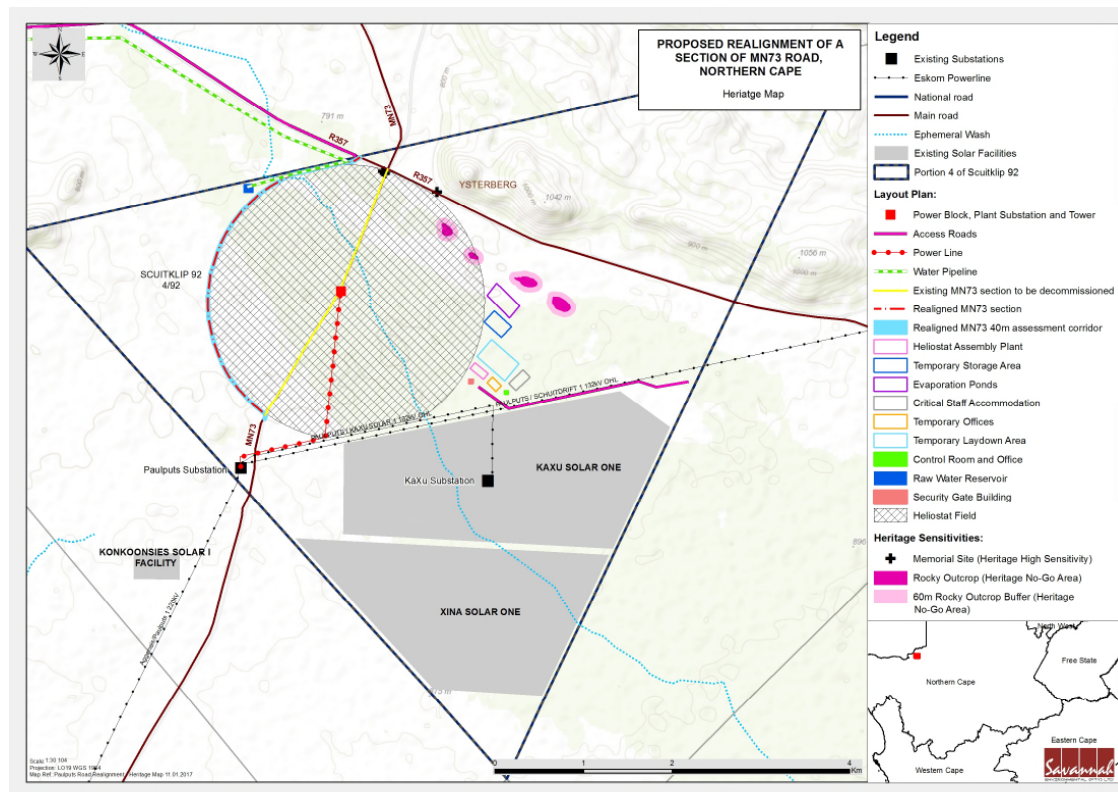


Figure 26. Rocky outcrops identified as sensitive from a heritage point of view are defined as no-go areas in this study.

## **Pipeline**

This study reiterates the findings of the study in 2014 on the Xina Solar Thermal Facility (Morris 2014), which included an archaeological impact assessment of the pipeline route from the extraction point at Onseepkans. It follows an already disturbed route mostly within the road reserve.

## **MN73 re-alignment**

This study finds that archaeological traces within the proposed re-alignment corridor of the MN73 (Alternatives 2 and 3) are of extremely low density, being isolated finds of low significance (See Figs. 19-22). This study together with previous work (e.g. Morris 2012) reaches the same conclusion for Alternative 1.

## **Conclusion**

With the isolation of the sensitive rocky outcrop sites at the eastern end of the presently proposed development, and stipulations in place for a 10m-buffer or agreed-upon protective measure around the memorial sites, and with the pipeline route already assessed, and the MN73 proposed alignment being through an area of low archaeological significance, the overall significance of impact is as reported previously for the site (Morris, 1999) and the same measures for inclusion in the Draft Environmental Management Plan pertain.

From an archaeological perspective the majority of observed heritage resources either fall well outside of the proposed development footprint or are of low significance. Excepting the sensitive features identified above, criteria used here for impact significance assessment rate the impacts as Low.

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