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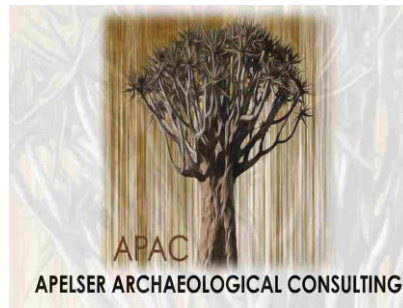
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**2022-03-18**

To: Mr. Shaun Macgregor:

Ecoleges Environmental Consultants

**RE: PLAN OF STUDY FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT RELATED TO THE 400 MW SOLAR PHOTO VOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY ON THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C AND PORTION 3 OF GOEDE HOOP 26C BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER, EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA**

APelsers Archaeological Consulting cc was appointed by Ecoleges Environmental Consultants to undertake an Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact assessment related to Phase 3 of the development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

### ***Description of Study Area***

The study and proposed development area is located on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C. It is situated between De Aar & Hanover in the Emthanjeni Local Municipality of the Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa.

The Upper Nama Karoo (Nku3) vegetation of the region is limited by the low annual rainfall (ca. 190 - 200 mm/a) and is dominated by flat plain areas and hills with rocky outcrops. The geology is mostly Dwyka / Ecca shales overlaid with shallow sandy soils that drain well. In general the topography of the study area is flat and open, with some rocky ridges/outcrops and low hills surrounding present. Tree cover is scarce, but fairly dense ground cover (grass/shrubs/bushes) in large sections did hamper visibility on the ground during the February 2021 assessment. The focus of the field assessment was therefore on large open patches of soil and erosion dongas, as well as the rocky ridges and outcrops.

In general the area has not been disturbed by modern developments, except for a railway line, existing 400Kv Eskom Powerline corridors that cuts through the areas and have had some impact, with the largest other type of impact being agricultural activities (sheep/cattle; grazing and limited crop growing and ploughing). Farmsteads and related infrastructure are also present, but these will not be directly impacted by the proposed development actions.

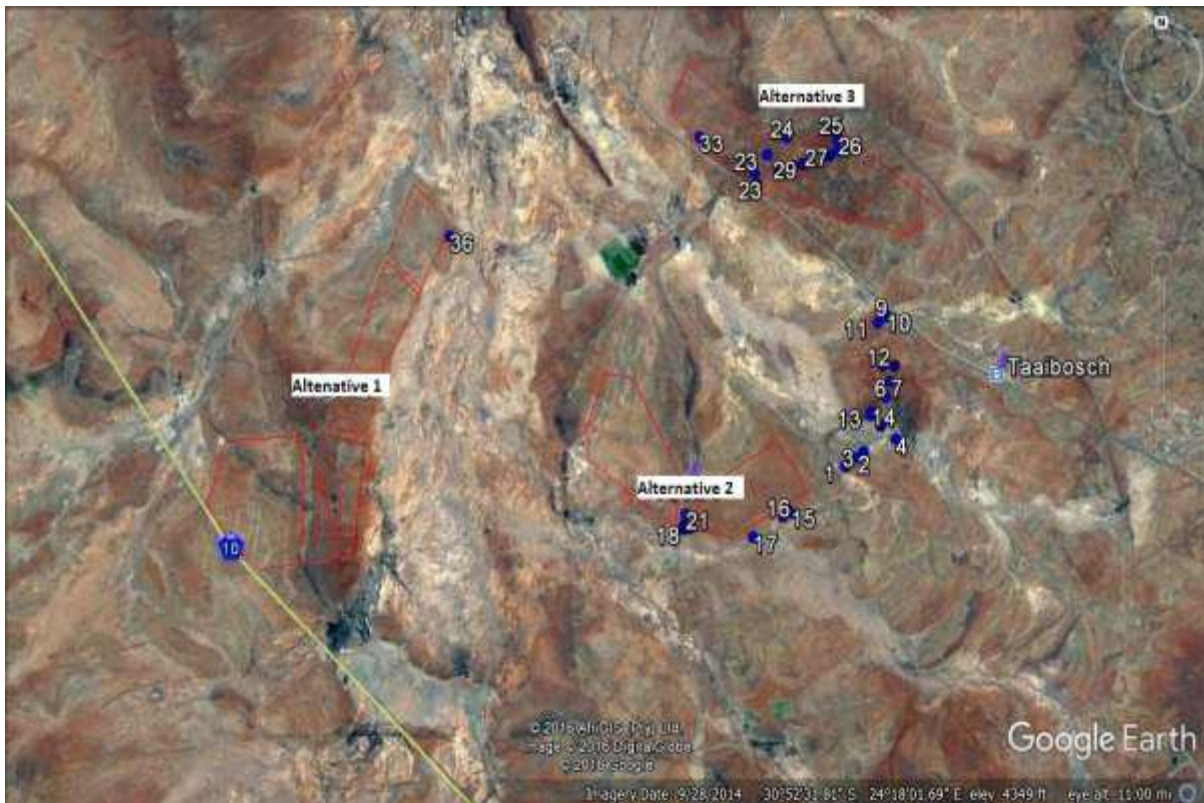
**AJ Pelsers BA (UNISA), BA (Hons) (Archaeology) [WITS], MA (Archaeology) [WITS]**

Beatrix Bed & Breakfast Trading as A Pelsers Archaeological Consulting

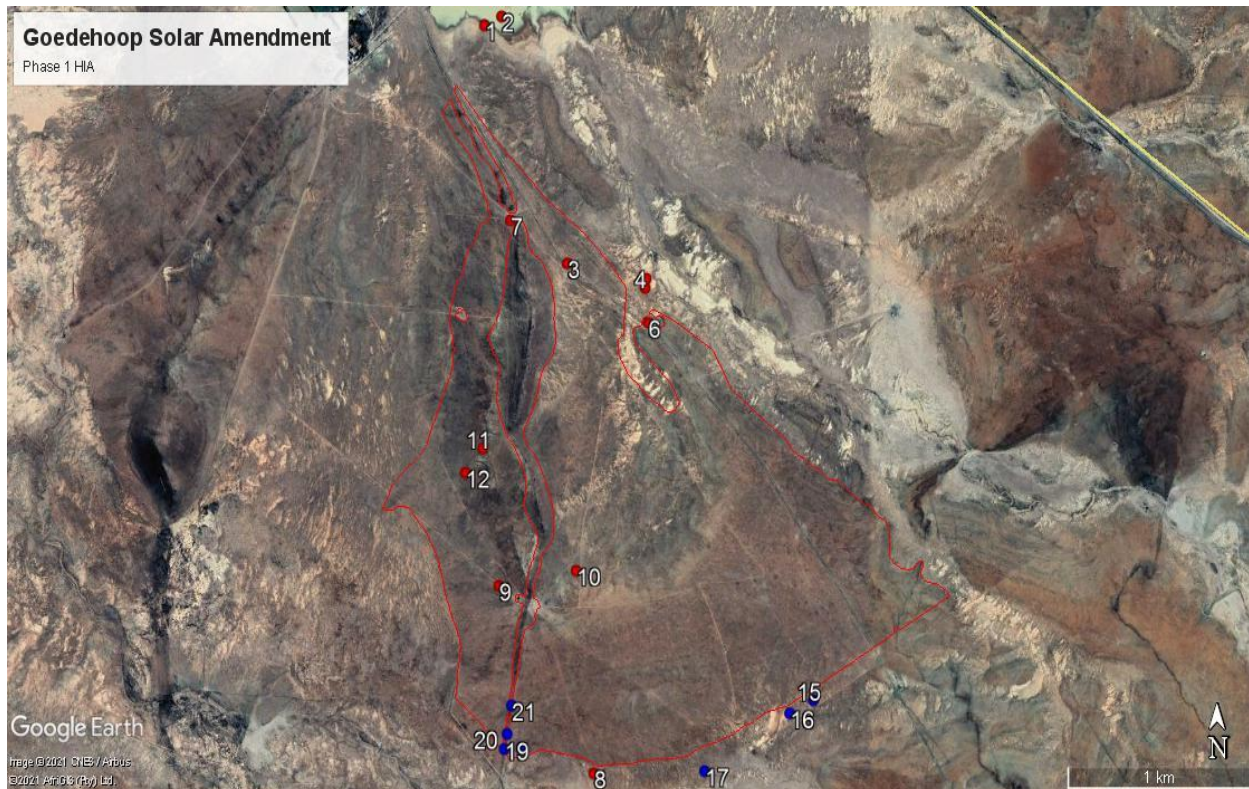
### **Assessment Objectives**

The objectives of the assessment would be to cover the areas where the proposed development activities will take place to determine if there are any possible cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites, feature or material located here and if these would be negatively impacted by the development. Should any be found and be deemed of significance then suitable measures to mitigate these impacts will be provided in the resultant Phase 1 HIA Report. These measures could include sampling of material and archaeological excavations that would require the obtaining of a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency. Numerous sites were identified in the area during earlier assessments (for Phase 1 and 2) and there is therefore a high likelihood that similar sites will be found during the assessment related to Phase 3.

Previous archaeological and heritage assessments for the Goedehoop Solar PV Project (Phases 1 & 3) recorded a fairly large number of cultural heritage (archaeological & historical) resources of varying extent and significance in the area. These include scatters of open-air surface Stone Age sites, rock engravings, later agro-pastoralist stone-walled sites, as well as historical Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) sites. These findings are clear evidence of the intrinsic heritage value of the area and the fact that further assessments would be required.



**Distribution of sites found during February 2017 (Google Earth 2016).**



**Location of sites found in the PV2 area. The blue colored pins are sites recorded in 2017 with the red ones recorded in February 2021 (Google Earth 2021).**

### ***Proposed Methodology***

The following methodology will be employed during the Archaeological & Heritage work related to the assessment:

1. Background research on the area where the development is planned, including information obtained during earlier (2016/17 and 2020) fieldwork for Phases 1 and 2
2. A detailed assessment of the Alternatives 1, 2 & 3 areas in order to try and identify and record any possible archaeological & historical (cultural heritage) sites, features and material that might be present in the 3 Alternative areas
3. Determining the possible impacts of the proposed development on any cultural heritage resources and recommending required mitigation measures if needed
4. The results of the background research and physical field assessment will be reported on in a Phase1 Report and will be submitted to SAHRA and the client for comments.

### ***Anticipated Time-frames***

It is anticipated that the physical fieldwork (field assessment) will take place during June/July of 2022, for a 5 day period. After the fieldwork has been completed the report will be submitted for comments approximately 1 week after completion of the field work.

### ***Critical Milestones***

The following critical milestones have been identified:

1. Completion of the desktop/background research for inclusion in the Final Phase 1 HIA Report
2. Scheduling and planning of fieldwork phase of the work
3. Physical fieldwork in June/July
4. Completion and submission of Phase 1 Report (draft version for commenting purposes) mid-July
5. Amending report and submission of Final Phase 1 HIA Report by end July 2022

### ***Optimum Times to undertake the assessment***

Although there is not really a specific season or time of year where archaeological and heritage assessments are undertaken, it is best that it is done during winter when vegetation growth is not so dense as to hamper visibility on the ground and limit accessibility to certain areas. It is also better to conduct the field assessments early morning to mid-afternoon as this assists with visibility as well and avoids work during extreme heat.

Should there be any further questions in this regard please contact the author of this document as soon as is possible.

Kind regards,

Anton Pelsler: 083 459 3091

