# HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT: PROPOSED GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT THE KOKERBOOM 4 WIND ENERGY FACILITY, CALVINIA MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, NORTHERN CAPE

Required under Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999) as part of a Heritage Impact Assessment.

SAHRA Case No.: TBC

Report for:

#### **ZUTARI (PTY) LTD**

PO Box 494, Cape Town, 8000 Tel: 021 526 6025 Email: Corlie Steyn@zutari.com

On behalf of:

Business Venture Investments No. 1733 (Pty) Ltd



# Dr Jayson Orton ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd

23 Dover Road, Muizenberg, 7945 Tel: (021) 788 1025 | 083 272 3225 Email: jayson@asha-consulting.co.za

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#### **SUMMARY**

ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Zutari (Pty) Ltd to assess the potential impacts to heritage resources that might occur through (1) the proposed construction of a powerline and switching station and (2) the proposed Khobab Switching Station, both some 59 km north of Loeriesfontein, Northern Cape. The project will be on the Remainder of Farm Aan de Karee Doorn Pan 213 and the Remainder of Sous 226. The powerline is to support the proposed Kokerboom 4 Wind Energy Facility and will serve to connect the facility to the national electricity grid. The northwestern end of the powerline will be at S30° 25′ 10.9″ E19° 32′ 38.9″, while the south-eastern end of the line would be at S30° 26′ 01.8″ E19° 33′ 18.3″. A 300m wide corridor was considered in this assessment.

Note that this specialist study is in support of two separate environmental authorisations as per (1) and (2) above.

The study area is largely flat with the surface being variably gravelly and slightly sandy. Vegetation tends to be low and scrubby. An existing wind energy facility, substation and switching station occurs at the southern end of the project area, while another wind energy facility, a large Eskom Substation and the Sishen Saldanha Railway also occur nearby.

The site was surveyed on 21 February 2017 and 10 June 2021. No archaeological materials were found within the footprint but several hundred meters away some Pleistocene-aged background scatter artefacts were seen. They are likely from the Middle Stone Age and due to their low density and poor context are of no further concern. The landscape has a low degree of cultural significance for its aesthetic value but has been compromised through the construction of two wind energy facilities, substations and the railway line. Impacts to the landscape are thus of low significance.

There are thus no heritage concerns for this project, and the placement of the proposed infrastructure within the 300m wide corridor is supported from a heritage perspective. No significant impacts are expected and there are no fatal flaws. There are no areas requiring avoidance and no mitigation requirements apply to either project.

It is recommended that both of the proposed projects should proceed with no further heritage involvement required. However, the following requirement must be included in the environmental authorisation, should one be issued:

 If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development then work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.

## Glossary

**Background scatter**: Artefacts whose spatial position is conditioned more by natural forces than by human agency.

**Holocene**: The geological period spanning the last approximately 10-12 000 years.

**Hominid**: a group consisting of all modern and extinct great apes (i.e. gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans and humans) and their ancestors.

**Later Stone Age**: Period of the Stone Age extending over the last approximately 20 000 years.

**Middle Stone Age**: Period of the Stone Age extending approximately between 200 000 and 20 000 years ago.

**Pleistocene**: The geological period beginning approximately 2.5 million years ago and preceding the Holocene.

#### **Abbreviations**

**APHP**: Association of Professional Heritage

Practitioners

ASAPA: Association of Southern African

**Professional Archaeologists** 

**BA**: Basic Assessment

**CRM**: Cultural Resources Management

**DEFF:** Department of Environment, Forestry

and Fisheries

**EA:** Environmental Authorisation

**ECO**: Environmental Control Officer

**EIA**: Environmental Impact Assessment

**GP:** General Protection

**GPS**: global positioning system

**HIA**: Heritage Impact Assessment

LSA: Later Stone Age

MSA: Middle Stone Age

NBKB: Ngwao-Boswa Ya Kapa Bokoni

**NEMA:** National Environmental Management

Act (No. 107 of 1998)

NHRA: National Heritage Resources Act (No.

25) of 1999

**PPP:** Public Participation Process

**SAHRA**: South African Heritage Resources

Agency

**SAHRIS**: South African Heritage Resources

Information System

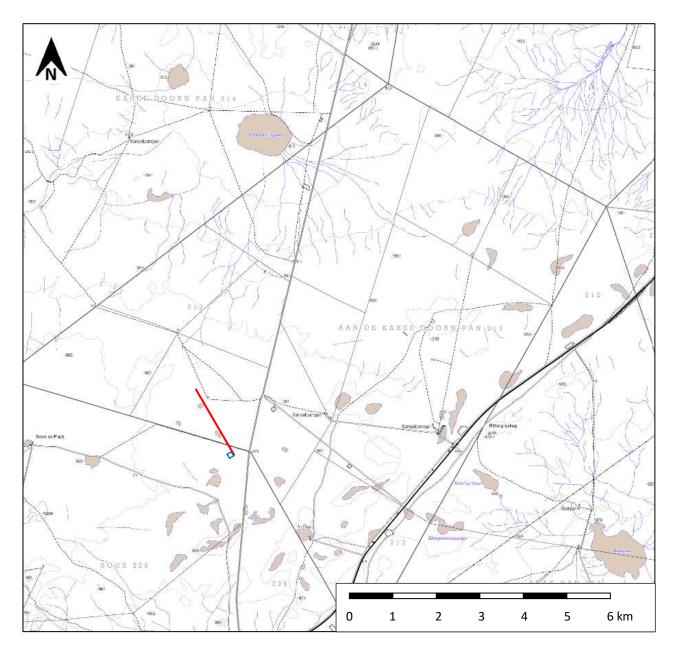
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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Zutari (Pty) Ltd to conduct an assessment of the potential impacts to heritage resources that might occur through (1) the proposed construction of a powerline and switching station and (2) the proposed expansion of the nearby Khobab Switching Station, both some 59 km north of Loeriesfontein, Northern Cape. The project will be on the Remainder of Farm Aan de Karee Doorn Pan 213 and the Remainder of Sous 226. The powerline is to support the proposed Kokerboom 4 Wind Energy Facility and will serve to connect the facility to the grid via the Khobab Switching Station. The north-western end of the powerline will be at S30° 25′ 10.9″ E19° 32′ 38.9″, while the south-eastern end of the line would be at S30° 26′ 01.8″ E19° 33′ 18.3″.



**Figure 1:** Extract from 1:50 000 topographic map 3019BC showing the location of the site. The red line indicates the powerline and the blue square is the Khobab Substation. Source of basemap: Chief Directorate: National Geo-Spatial Information. Website: www.ngi.gov.za.

It should be noted that this specialist study is written in support of two separate Basic Assessments (1 and 2 above) as described below.

#### 1.1. The proposed projects

#### 1.1.1. Project descriptions

The first of the two projects entails the construction of a 132 kV overhead powerline in a 32 m wide servitude (300 m wide corridor being assessed) on Farm 213/remainder and farm 226/remainder with a switching station (up to 80 m x 80 m) at its northern end on Farm 213/remainder. The switching station would be located within the 5 ha substation and building compound currently being assessed as part of the Kokerboom 4 WEF environmental impact assessment (EIA) and would only be constructed if required by Eskom. The powerline will make use of either monopoles or lattice towers and a servitude of 32 m width will be required. A temporary laydown area of some 50 x 50 m will be required at the Kokerboom 4 substation. No new roads will be developed, although a jeep track may be required under the powerline for construction and maintenance purposes.

The second project entails the expansion of the existing Khobab Switching Station on Farm 226/remainder by an area of some 50 x 50 m. Access will be taken via the existing access road.

#### 1.1.2. Identification of alternatives

There are no project alternatives for this development. The current alignment is the shortest possible one. Two possible pylon types (monopoles or lattice towers) have been identified for use but there is no meaningful difference from a heritage point of view. As such, only the No-Go option will be assessed against the development proposal.

#### 1.1.3. Aspects of the project relevant to the heritage study

All aspects of the proposed development are relevant, since excavations for foundations and/or services may impact on archaeological and/or palaeontological remains, while all above-ground aspects create potential visual (contextual) impacts to the cultural landscape and any significant heritage sites that might be visually sensitive.

#### 1.2. Terms of reference

ASHA Consulting was requested to conduct a field assessment of the study area for both proposed and compile a heritage impact assessment (HIA) report that assessed both of them independently. The report was to also include a desktop study and make us of the Zutari impact assessment methodology.

#### 1.3. Scope and purpose of the report

An HIA is a means of identifying any significant heritage resources before development begins so that these can be managed in such a way as to allow the development to proceed (if appropriate) without undue impacts to the fragile heritage of South Africa. This HIA report aims to fulfil the requirements of the heritage authorities such that a comment can be issued by them for

consideration by the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) who will review the Basic Assessment (BA) and grant or refuse authorisation. The HIA report will outline any management and/or mitigation requirements that will need to be complied with from a heritage point of view and that should be included in the conditions of authorisation should this be granted.

#### 1.4. The author

Dr Jayson Orton has an MA (UCT, 2004) and a D.Phil (Oxford, UK, 2013), both in archaeology, and has been conducting Heritage Impact Assessments and archaeological specialist studies in South Africa (primarily in the Western Cape and Northern Cape provinces) since 2004 (please see curriculum vitae included as Appendix 1). He has also conducted research on aspects of the Later Stone Age in these provinces and published widely on the topic. He is an accredited heritage practitioner with the Association of Professional Heritage Practitioners (APHP; Member #43) and also holds archaeological accreditation with the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) CRM section (Member #233) as follows:

Principal Investigator: Stone Age, Shell Middens & Grave Relocation; and

Field Director: Colonial Period & Rock Art.

#### 1.5. Declaration of independence

ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd and its consultants have no financial or other interest in the proposed development and will derive no benefits other than fair remuneration for consulting services provided.

#### 2. LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

#### 2.1. National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) No. 25 of 1999

The NHRA protects a variety of heritage resources as follows:

- Section 34: structures older than 60 years;
- Section 35: prehistoric and historical material (including ruins) more than 100 years old as well as military remains more than 75 years old, palaeontological material and meteorites;
- Section 36: graves and human remains older than 60 years and located outside of a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; and
- Section 37: public monuments and memorials.

Following Section 2, the definitions applicable to the above protections are as follows:

- Structures: "any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith";
- Palaeontological material: "any fossilised remains or fossil trace of animals or plants which lived in the geological past, other than fossil fuels or fossiliferous rock intended for industrial use, and any site which contains such fossilised remains or trace";
- Archaeological material: a) "material remains resulting from human activity which are in a state of disuse and are in or on land and which are older than 100 years, including artefacts, human and hominid remains and artificial features and structures"; b) "rock art, being any form of painting, engraving or other graphic representation on a fixed rock surface or loose

rock or stone, which was executed by human agency and which is older than 100 years, including any area within 10m of such representation"; c) "wrecks, being any vessel or aircraft, or any part thereof, which was wrecked in South Africa, whether on land, in the internal waters, the territorial waters or in the maritime culture zone of the Republic, as defined respectively in sections 3, 4 and 6 of the Maritime Zones Act, 1994 (Act No. 15 of 1994), and any cargo, debris or artefacts found or associated therewith, which is older than 60 years or which SAHRA considers to be worthy of conservation"; and d) "features, structures and artefacts associated with military history which are older than 75 years and the sites on which they are found";

- Grave: "means a place of interment and includes the contents, headstone or other marker of such a place and any other structure on or associated with such place"; and
- Public monuments and memorials: "all monuments and memorials a) "erected on land belonging to any branch of central, provincial or local government, or on land belonging to any organisation funded by or established in terms of the legislation of such a branch of government"; or b) "which were paid for by public subscription, government funds, or a public-spirited or military organisation, and are on land belonging to any private individual."

Section 3(3) describes the types of cultural significance that a place or object might have in order to be considered part of the national estate. These are as follows:

- a) its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- b) its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- c) its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- d) its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
- e) its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- f) its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- g) its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- h) its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa; and
- i) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.

While landscapes with cultural significance do not have a dedicated Section in the NHRA, they are protected under the definition of the National Estate (Section 3). Section 3(2)(c) and (d) list "historical settlements and townscapes" and "landscapes and natural features of cultural significance" as part of the National Estate. Furthermore, some of the points in Section 3(3) speak directly to cultural landscapes.

Section 38(8) of the NHRA states that if an impact assessment is required under any legislation other than the NHRA then it must include a heritage component that satisfies the requirements of S.38(3). Furthermore, the comments of the relevant heritage authority must be sought and considered by the consenting authority prior to the issuing of a decision. Under the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998; NEMA), as amended, the project is subject to a BA. The present

report provides the heritage component. Ngwao-Boswa Ya Kapa Bokoni (Heritage Northern Cape; for built environment and cultural landscapes) and the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA for archaeology and palaeontology) are required to provide comment on the proposed project in order to facilitate final decision making by the DFFE.

#### 3. METHODS

#### 3.1. Literature survey and information sources

A survey of available literature was carried out to assess the general heritage context into which the development would be set. The information sources used in this report are presented in Table 1. Data were also collected via a field survey.

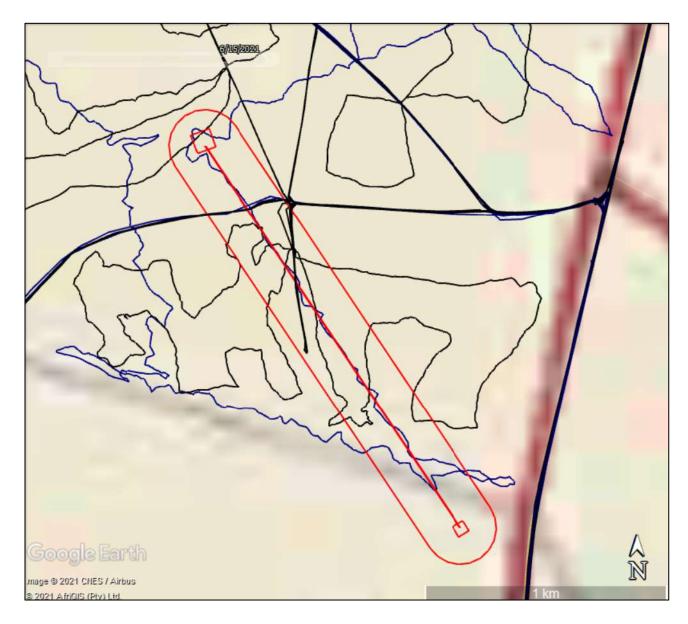
**Table 1:** Information sources used in this assessment.

| Data / Information | Source  | Date    | Туре                            | Description  |
|--------------------|---|---------|---------------------------------|--|
| Maps               | Chief Directorate:<br>National Geo-Spatial<br>Information             | Various | Spatial                         | Historical and current 1:50 000 topographic maps of the study area and immediate surrounds                 |
| Aerial photographs | Chief Directorate:<br>National Geo-Spatial<br>Information             | Various | Spatial                         | Historical aerial photography of the study area and immediate surrounds                                    |
| Aerial photographs | Google Earth  | Various | Spatial                         | Recent and historical aerial photography of the study area and immediate surrounds                         |
| Cadastral data     | Chief Directorate:<br>National Geo-Spatial<br>Information             | Various | Survey<br>diagrams              | Historical and current survey diagrams, property survey and registration dates                             |
| Background data    | South African<br>Heritage Resources<br>Information System<br>(SAHRIS) | Various | Reports                         | Previous impact assessments for any developments in the vicinity of the study area                         |
| Background data    | Books, journals,<br>websites  | Various | Books,<br>journals,<br>websites | Historical and current literature describing the study area and any relevant aspects of cultural heritage. |

#### 3.2. Field survey

The site was subjected to a detailed foot survey on 10 June 2021, but an earlier survey on 21 February 2017 also covered the general area (Figure 2). This was during winter but, in this very dry area, the season makes no meaningful difference to vegetation covering and hence the ground visibility for the archaeological survey. Other heritage resources are not affected by seasonality. During the survey the positions of finds and survey tracks were recorded on a hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver set to the WGS84 datum. Photographs were taken at times in order to capture representative samples of both the affected heritage and the landscape setting of the proposed development.

It should be noted that amount of time between the dates of the field inspection and final report do not materially affect the outcome of the report.



**Figure 2:** Map showing the proposed powerline (pink line within 300 m corridor) and survey tracks from 2017 (turquoise) and 2021 (dark blue).

#### 3.3. Specialist studies

No separate specialist study has been commissioned as part of this HIA but a study of the potential impacts to palaeontological heritage has been carried out and reported on in a separate report by Dr John Almond.

#### 3.4. Impact assessment

For consistency among specialist studies, the impact assessment was conducted through application of a scale supplied by Zutari.

#### 3.5. Grading

S.7(1) of the NHRA provides for the grading of heritage resources into those of National (Grade I), Provincial (Grade II) and Local (Grade III) significance. Grading is intended to allow for the identification of the appropriate level of management for any given heritage resource. Grade I and II resources are intended to be managed by the national and provincial heritage resources authorities respectively, while Grade III resources would be managed by the relevant local planning authority. These bodies are responsible for grading, but anyone may make recommendations for grading.

It is intended under S.7(2) that the various provincial authorities formulate a system for the further detailed grading of heritage resources of local significance but this is generally yet to happen. SAHRA (2007) has formulated its own system<sup>1</sup> for use in provinces where it has commenting authority. In this system sites of high local significance are given Grade IIIA (with the implication that the site should be preserved in its entirety) and Grade IIIB (with the implication that part of the site could be mitigated and part preserved as appropriate) while sites of lesser significance are referred to as having 'General Protection' (GP) and rated as GP A (high/medium significance, requires mitigation), GP B (medium significance, requires recording) or GP C (low significance, requires no further action).

#### 3.6. Consultation

The NHRA requires consultation as part of an HIA but, since the present study falls within the context of a BA which includes a public participation process (PPP), no dedicated consultation was undertaken as part of the HIA. Interested and affected parties would have the opportunity to provide comment on the heritage aspects of the project during the PPP.

#### 3.7. Assumptions and limitations

The field study was carried out at the surface only and hence any completely buried archaeological sites would not be readily located. Similarly, it is not always possible to determine the depth of archaeological material visible at the surface. The 300 m wide corridor was only communicated to specialists after the fieldwork for the present study was carried out and hence only the alignments initially provided were surveyed.

#### 4. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

#### 4.1. Site context

The site is in a very remote location on land that is used for livestock grazing. A precedent has already been set for the development of electrical infrastructure with two wind energy facilities already constructed to the south and east of the present study area and several wind energy facilities and a solar energy facility having been authorised nearby (see Appendix 2). A large Eskom Substation (Helios) lies 8 km south of the present study area, alongside the gravel road that leads northwards from Loeriesfontein. Between the Helios Substation and the study area, the Sishen-Saldanha Railway bisects the landscape.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The system is intended for use on archaeological and palaeontological sites only.

#### 4.2. Site description

The site is generally flat (Figure 3). There are some slightly sandy areas with low shrubs in places, while in other areas erosion has resulted in the surfaces being gravelled. A number of ephemeral pans were evident in the southern part of the study area, generally associated with calcrete gravel (Figure 4).



**Figure 3:** Panoramic view towards the west from the main road on the eastern edge of the site and showing the neighbouring Khobab WEF already operational (2021).



**Figure 4:** View towards the southwest across one of the ephemeral pans in the south-eastern part of the study area. The Khobab WEF was in the process of construction and the turbine bases are very faintly visible just below the skyline towards the left of the photograph (2017).

#### 5. FINDINGS OF THE HERITAGE STUDY

This section describes the heritage resources recorded in the study area during the course of the project.

#### 5.1. Archaeology

#### 5.1.1. Desktop study

Beaumont et al. (1995:240) have stated that "Thousands of square kilometres of Bushmanland are covered by a low density lithic scatter". Many impact assessments have found this to be true, although it can be stated that the scatter tends to be more noticeable in northern Bushmanland than in the south. The artefacts include material dating to the Early (ESA), Middle (MSA) and Late (LSA) Stone Ages.

In the general vicinity of the present study area Van Schalkwyk (2011) found Stone Age sites to be associated with hills – they were either located on the crests or at the foot of the hills and were from both the MSA and the LSA. In contrast, Orton (2017a, 2017b, 2017c) found MSA material to be more frequent on the lowlands and generally attributable to background scatter, while LSA sites were focused on hills. Orton (2013) found a few small LSA artefact scatters associated with both hill tops and the margins of the Klein Rooiberg River to the southeast. In addition to widespread but low density MSA artefacts forming part of the background scatter, Webley and Halkett (2012) also reported small LSA sites located on the crests of low hills a short distance to the south of the present study area. These sites revealed primarily stone artefacts and ostrich eggshell, although one had pottery and a bead on it. They found another site, located close to a stream bed, which had a number of grooved grindstones on it.

Beaumont and Morris (1985 in Morris 2013) found dense LSA sites around pans to the west of Brandvlei (well to the east of the present study area). The finds included scatters of stone artefacts, pottery and ostrich eggshell, the latter perhaps having originated from water containers. A later survey by Morris (1996) to the north of the present study area yielded further similar sites on dunes associated with pans; he also recorded ostrich eggshell beads and pottery there.

Also to the east, Rudner and Rudner (1968) recorded engravings on dolerite outcrops as well as occupation sites dating to the LSA. These sites included stone artefacts, pottery, ostrich eggshell beads and stone features that may have been the remnants of hut circles and/or kraals.

Fourie (2011), who found nothing during his survey, reports the oral testimony of a Loeriesfontein farmer regarding the presence of rock art and engravings in the area and also that a cache of ostrich eggshell flasks had been found on his farm. Such caches have been reported from various parts of western South Africa (Henderson 2002; Jerardino *et al.* 2009; Morris 1994; Morris & Von Bezing 1996; Parkington 2006) and date to the LSA. Similar flasks are on display in the Fred Turner Museum in Loeriesfontein along with several bored stones and soapstone pipes from farms in the general region.

Other surveys have yielded low density scatters of stone artefacts of varying age (Fourie 2017b, 2017c, 2017f; Kaplan 2008; Morris 2007, 2013), while some, despite large areas being surveyed, found nothing at all (Fourie 2011, 2017a, 2017d, 2017e; Van der Walt 2012, 2013).

The only historical archaeological material reported came from the farm Kleine Rooiberg, a short distance south of the present study area (see Figure 2). It consisted of ceramic, glass and metal fragments thought to date to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (Webley & Halkett 2012).

#### 5.1.2. Site visit

The new survey that focused on the powerline route did not locate any archaeological heritage resources. The 2017 survey did record one find in the general area (some 650 m southwest of the proposed powerline; Figure 5). This was an area with background scatter artefacts in cryptocrystalline silica (Figure 6). The artefacts were all well-weathered and patinated indicating a Pleistocene age. They are undoubtedly Middle Stone Age (MSA) materials. The artefacts were seen at S30°25'33.4" E19°32'26.5" Such finds are commonly reported in the vicinity and are of no concern.



**Figure 5:** Map of the study area showing the location of the background scatter artefacts recorded in 2017.



**Figure 6:** Artefacts relating to the background scatter at waypoint 657. All are in CCS. Scale in 10 mm intervals.

#### 5.2. Graves

No graves were seen in the study area and, due to the generally rocky substrate, the chance of finding graves is very limited.

#### 5.3. Historical aspects and the Built environment

#### 5.3.1. Desktop study

Van Schalkwyk (2011) reported an early 20<sup>th</sup> century farmstead constructed of stone and brick with corrugated iron roof. It is unlikely that many earlier farmsteads would be present because this harsh landscape was only permanently settled in relatively recent times. This is borne out by the fact that the two farms under study were only surveyed in 1898. Prior to this, Van Schalkwyk (2011) notes that Dutch-speaking trek boers would have used the area on a seasonal basis. It was only after the 1870s introduction of wind pumps that water was more readily available and the area became more amenable to farming (Webley & Halkett 2012).

Van Schalkwyk (2011) found an unusual house on the farm portion to the east of the study area that was built of clay and bricks and then cladded with corrugated iron sheeting. He thought it to date to approximately the 1920s. Another corrugated iron house nearby was visited by Orton (2013) who described a well-maintained stone livestock enclosure ('kraal'), a recent but traditionally-styled cooking shelter ('kookskerm') and another outbuilding. Van Schalkwyk (2011: fig. 8) also illustrates (but does not describe) another farmhouse from the region – it is far grander than that noted above and looks to be from the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

Loeriesfontein, the nearest town to the site, was first established in 1894 by Frederik Turner who built a shop, the first building in Loeriesfontein (Figure 7). Once the shop was established, the town slowly grew around it.



**Figure 7:** The first building in Loeriesfontein as photographed in 1895 (Source: Fred Turner Museum, Loeriesfontein).

Van Schalkwyk (2011) and Orton (2013) both described a small graveyard with two graves near the 1920s house mentioned above; one was dated to 1913. Van Schalkwyk (2011) also illustrated (but did not describe) an isolated grave.

#### 5.3.2. Site visit

No historical materials were seen in the study area.

#### 5.4. Cultural landscapes and scenic routes

The site has a very weakly developed cultural landscape since the majority of anthropogenic interventions relate to farm tracks and fences. The landscape is largely a natural one (although it does still have cultural significance for its aesthetic value), but has now been compromised by two neighbouring wind farm developments, the Helios Substation and associated power lines, and the Sishen-Saldanha railway line which create a new 'cultural' layer on the landscape. The adjacent gravel road is not considered a scenic route.

#### 5.5. Statement of significance and provisional grading

Section 38(3)(b) of the NHRA requires an assessment of the significance of all heritage resources. In terms of Section 2(vi), "cultural significance" means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance. The reasons that a place may have cultural significance are outlined in Section 3(3) of the NHRA (see Section 2 above).

The archaeological resources are deemed to have very low cultural significance for their scientific value.

Graves are deemed to have high cultural significance for their social value but none are known or expected to occur on the site.

The cultural landscape has low cultural significance for its aesthetic and social value.

#### 5.6. Summary of heritage indicators

The primary heritage resource of concern here would be archaeology. However, no archaeological sites are known in the study area and there are no further concerns. The cultural landscape is a secondary concern but since this area has been identified for electrical development through the construction of substations, renewable energy facilities and associated electrical infrastructure impacts to the landscape are also of very limited concern.

#### 6. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

The only aspects of heritage that require formal assessment are archaeology and the cultural landscape. Palaeontological impacts are considered in a separate specialist study.

#### 6.1. Impacts to archaeological resources

6.1.1. Proposed powerline and switching station AND proposed.

This assessment applies equally to both assessments considered by this specialist study. Direct impacts to archaeological resources would occur during the construction phase only. However, because no significant materials were found on the site, the extent and intensity are very limited and negligible, respectively. The overall impact calculates to **negligible negative** (Table 2). No mitigation measures are needed because there are no significant resources on the site. As such, the significance rating post-mitigation will remain **negligible negative**. There are no fatal flaws.

**Table 2:** Assessment of construction phase archaeological impacts.

| Project phase                | Construction  |   |                              |   |  |
|------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------|---|--|
| Impact                       | Destruction of archaeological resources   |   |                              |   |  |
| Description of impact        | Destruction of and damage to archaeological materials during earthmoving activities             |   |                              |   |  |
| Mitigatability               | High  | Mitigation exists and will conside  | rably reduce t               | he significance of impacts  |  |
| Potential mitigation         | - No mitigation   | <del>-</del>  | significant ard              | chaeological material occurs in the   |  |
| Assessment                   |   | Without mitigation  |                              | With mitigation   |  |
| Nature                       | Negative  |   | Negative                     |   |  |
| Duration                     | Permanent   | Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years   | Permanent                    | Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years   |  |
| Extent                       | Very limited  | Limited to specific isolated parts of the site  | Very<br>limited              | Limited to specific isolated parts of the site  |  |
| Intensity                    | Negligible  | Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are negligibly altered   | Negligible                   | Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are negligibly altered                   |  |
| Probability                  | Rare /<br>improbable  | Conceivable, but only in extreme circumstances, and/or might occur for this project although this has rarely been known to result elsewhere | Highly<br>unlikely /<br>none | Expected never to happen  |  |
| Confidence                   | High  | Substantive supportive data exists to verify the assessment   | High                         | Substantive supportive data exists to verify the assessment                                 |  |
| Reversibility                | Low   | The affected environment will not be able to recover from the impact - permanently modified   | Low                          | The affected environment will not be able to recover from the impact - permanently modified |  |
| Resource<br>irreplaceability | High  | The resource is irreparably damaged and is not represented elsewhere  | High                         | The resource is irreparably damaged and is not represented elsewhere                        |  |
| Significance                 |   | Negligible - negative   |                              | Negligible - negative   |  |
| Comment on significance      | The negligible impact is because no archaeological materials have been found in the study area. |   |                              |   |  |
| Cumulative impacts           | Cumulative impacts are expected to be of low significance.                                      |   |                              |   |  |

#### 6.2. Impacts to the cultural landscape

#### 6.2.1. Proposed powerline and switching station

Impacts to the cultural landscape would occur during the construction and operation phase due to the introduction of incompatible structures and construction machinery to the rural landscape. Construction would not last for long (short term), however, and the structures would not be visible from a very long way off (moderate intensity). Because of this the significance calculates to **minor negative**. The construction equipment would likely have the greatest impact. For this reason, once the powerline and switching station are established, the intensity drops. However, the duration increases to permanent and this is the main reason for the calculated operation phase impacts being

**moderate negative** (Table 4). Given the other electrical infrastructure already present in the landscape a rating of minor negative is probably more appropriate. There are no fatal flaws in terms of impacts to the cultural landscape.

**Table 3:** Assessment of construction phase impacts to the cultural landscape.

| Project phase             | Construction  |  |                       |  |  |
|---------------------------|---|--|-----------------------|--|--|
| Impact                    |   | Intrusion into the cultural landscape of incompatible structures   |                       |  |  |
| Description of impact     | Alteration o  | Alteration of the landscape through its transformation from a rural to an industrial nature and visual disturbance from construction vehicles. |                       |  |  |
| Mitigatability            | Low   | Low Mitigation does not exist; or mitigation will slightly reduce the significance of impacts  |                       |  |  |
| Potential mitigation      |   | - None   | feasible              |  |  |
| Assessment                |   | Without mitigation   |                       | With mitigation  |  |
| Nature                    | Negative  |  | Negative              |  |  |
| Duration                  | Short term  | Impact will last between 1 and 5 years   | Short term            | Impact will last between 1 and 5 years   |  |
| Extent                    | Local   | Extending across the site and to nearby settlements  | Local                 | Extending across the site and to nearby settlements                                |  |
| Intensity                 | Moderate  | Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered  | Moderate              | Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered          |  |
| Probability               | Certain /<br>definite   | There are sound scientific reasons to expect that the impact will definitely occur   | Certain /<br>definite | There are sound scientific reasons to expect that the impact will definitely occur |  |
| Confidence                | High  | Substantive supportive data exists to verify the assessment  | High                  | Substantive supportive data exists to verify the assessment                        |  |
| Reversibility             | High  | The affected environment will be able to recover from the impact   | High                  | The affected environment will be able to recover from the impact                   |  |
| Resource irreplaceability | Low   | The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce   | Low                   | The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce                           |  |
| Significance              |   | Minor - negative   |                       | Minor - negative   |  |
| Comment on significance   | The minor significance is largely due to the short term of construction impacts and the fact that other similar developments already exist in the area. |  |                       |  |  |
| Cumulative impacts        | Cumulative in   | Cumulative impacts are expected to be of low significance.   |                       |  |  |

**Table 4:** Assessment of operation phase impacts to the cultural landscape.

| Project phase             | Operation  |  |   |  |  |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|
| Impact                    | Intrusion into the cultural landscape of incompatible structures                             |  |   |  |  |
| Description of impact     | Alteration of the landscape through its transformation from a rural to an industrial nature. |  |   |  |  |
| Mitigatability            | Low  | Mitigation does not exist; or mitigation impacts                                   | Mitigation does not exist; or mitigation will slightly reduce the significance of impacts |  |  |
| Potential mitigation      |  | - None feas  | sible   |  |  |
| Assessment                |  | Without mitigation   | With  | mitigation   |  |
| Nature                    | Negative   |  | Negative  |  |  |
| Duration                  | Permanent  | Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years                                  | Permanent   | Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years                                  |  |
| Extent                    | Local  | Extending across the site and to nearby settlements                                | Local   | Extending across the site and to nearby settlements                                |  |
| Intensity                 | Low  | Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered            | Low   | Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered            |  |
| Probability               | Certain /<br>definite  | There are sound scientific reasons to expect that the impact will definitely occur | Certain / definite  | There are sound scientific reasons to expect that the impact will definitely occur |  |
| Confidence                | High   | Substantive supportive data exists to verify the assessment                        | High  | Substantive supportive data exists to verify the assessment                        |  |
| Reversibility             | High   | The affected environment will be able to recover from the impact                   | High  | The affected environment will be able to recover from the impact                   |  |
| Resource irreplaceability | Low  | The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce                           | Low   | The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce                           |  |
| Significance              |  | Moderate - negative  | Modera  | ate - negative   |  |
| Comment on significance   | The main drivaccurate.   | ver of significance is the long duration. A  | n impact of minor ne  | gative is probably more  |  |
| Cumulative impacts        | Cumulative ir  | npacts are expected to be of low signific  | ance.   |  |  |

#### 6.2.2. Proposed

Due to the fact that a substation already exists in this location and that periodic maintenance work already occurs, the construction and operation phase impacts for the proposed expansion are likely to be very similar with the exception of the duration. Construction will not last long and the intensity is very low due to the existing facility. Construction phase impacts calculate to **minor negative** (Table 5). There are no feasible mitigation measures so post-mitigation impacts will be the same. Due to the permanent nature of the development, the operation phase impacts are driven by the duration and calculate to **moderate negative** (Table 6). However, given the existing electrical infrastructure

in the area, an assessment of minor negative is probably more accurate for this. Once more, in the absence of feasible mitigation the post-mitigation impacts will remain the same.

**Table 5:** Assessment of construction phase impacts to the cultural landscape.

| Project phase             | Construction   |  |                       |  |  |
|---------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|--|--|
| Impact                    | Intrusion into the cultural landscape of incompatible structures and vehicles  |  |                       |  |  |
| Description of impact     | Alteration of the landscape through its transformation from a rural to an industrial nature.   |  |                       |  |  |
| Mitigatability            | Low  | Mitigation does not exist; or mitigati   | ion will slight       | ly reduce the significance of impacts  |  |
| Potential mitigation      |  | - None   | feasible              |  |  |
| Assessment                |  | Without mitigation   |                       | With mitigation  |  |
| Nature                    | Negative   |  | Negative              |  |  |
| Duration                  | Brief  | Impact will not last longer than 1 year  | Brief                 | Impact will not last longer than 1 year  |  |
| Extent                    | Limited  | Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings                                 | Limited               | Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings                                 |  |
| Intensity                 | Very low   | Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are slightly altered            | Very low              | Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are slightly altered            |  |
| Probability               | Certain /<br>definite  | There are sound scientific reasons to expect that the impact will definitely occur | Certain /<br>definite | There are sound scientific reasons to expect that the impact will definitely occur |  |
| Confidence                | High   | Substantive supportive data exists to verify the assessment                        | High                  | Substantive supportive data exists to verify the assessment                        |  |
| Reversibility             | High   | The affected environment will be able to recover from the impact                   | High                  | The affected environment will be able to recover from the impact                   |  |
| Resource irreplaceability | Low  | The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce                           | Low                   | The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce                           |  |
| Significance              | Minor - negative Minor - negative  |  |                       |  |  |
| Comment on significance   | The certainty with which the impact will occur drives the significance rating whereas the impact is more likely to be negligible due to the already existing substation that would be expanded as well as other electrical facilities in the area. |  |                       |  |  |
| Cumulative impacts        | Cumulative impacts are expected to be of low significance.   |  |                       |  |  |

**Table 6:** Assessment of operation phase impacts to the cultural landscape.

| Project phase             | Operation  |   |                       |  |  |  |
|---------------------------|--|---|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| Impact                    | Intrusion into the cultural landscape of incompatible structures and vehicles  |   |                       |  |  |  |
| Description of impact     | Alteration o   | Alteration of the landscape through its transformation from a rural to an industrial nature.  |                       |  |  |  |
| Mitigatability            | Low  | Low Mitigation does not exist; or mitigation will slightly reduce the significance of impacts |                       |  |  |  |
| Potential mitigation      |  | - None  | feasible              |  |  |  |
| Assessment                | •  | Without mitigation  |                       | With mitigation  |  |  |
| Nature                    | Negative   |   | Negative              |  |  |  |
| Duration                  | Permanent  | Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years   | Permanent             | Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years                                  |  |  |
| Extent                    | Limited  | Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings  | Limited               | Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings                                 |  |  |
| Intensity                 | Very low   | Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are slightly altered                       | Very low              | Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are slightly altered            |  |  |
| Probability               | Certain /<br>definite  | There are sound scientific reasons to expect that the impact will definitely occur            | Certain /<br>definite | There are sound scientific reasons to expect that the impact will definitely occur |  |  |
| Confidence                | High   | Substantive supportive data exists to verify the assessment                                   | High                  | Substantive supportive data exists to verify the assessment                        |  |  |
| Reversibility             | High   | The affected environment will be able to recover from the impact                              | High                  | The affected environment will be able to recover from the impact                   |  |  |
| Resource irreplaceability | Low  | The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce                                      | Low                   | The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce                           |  |  |
| Significance              | N  | Noderate - negative   |                       | Moderate - negative  |  |  |
| Comment on significance   | The certainty with which the impact will occur drives the significance rating whereas the impact is more likely to be negligible due to the already existing substation that would be expanded as well as other electrical facilities in the area. |   |                       |  |  |  |
| Cumulative impacts        | Cumulative impacts are expected to be of low significance.   |   |                       |  |  |  |

#### 6.3. Existing impacts to heritage resources

There are currently no obvious threats to archaeological heritage resources on the site aside from the natural degradation, weathering and erosion that will affect archaeological materials. Trampling from grazing animals and/or farm/other vehicles could also occur. These impacts would be of **negligible negative** significance. The cultural landscape is already heavily compromised through the addition of a new electrical layer. The site is quite remote and does not have a high degree of aesthetic significance which means the existing impacts to the cultural landscape are likely to be of **minor negative** significance.

#### 6.4. The No-Go alternative

The No-Go alternative would involve not constructing either of the two proposed projects. The effect would be that the associated Kokerboom 4 WEF, if authorised and constructed, would not be able to feed power into the national grid. While the impacts to heritage resources for the No-Go option would effectively be negligible to minor negative as per the existing impacts above, the loss of power to the grid would have socio-economic impacts for South Africa.

#### 6.5. Cumulative impacts

Electrical projects considered in this cumulative impact assessment are listed in Appendix 2. However, non-electrical projects also affect heritage resources.

Cumulative impacts to archaeological resources are very difficult to assess accurately since it is clear from the desktop study that (1) archaeological surveys are variable in quality and/or (2) archaeological resources are extremely variably distributed on the landscape. Professional experience suggests that sites of high significance are rare and usually occur in areas avoided by developments for environmental reasons. Cumulative impacts to archaeology are thus likely to be low, especially since the survey reported here found no significant archaeology.

The cultural landscape has already been compromised by the various other electrical facilities (substations, WEFs and the Transnet Railway Line) which have effectively established this area for power generation. The addition of this new powerline will thus not have a significant cumulative impact because its contribution to the impacts will be very small.

Construction of the project will result in a cumulative benefit to South Africa through the improvement of its electricity supply.

#### 6.6. Levels of acceptable change

Any impact to an archaeological or palaeontological resource or a grave is deemed unacceptable until such time as the resource has been inspected and studied further if necessary. Impacts to the landscape are difficult to quantify but in general a development that visually dominates the landscape from many vantage points is undesirable. Although the powerline and switching stations have tall components, they would be seen against the various other existing facilities in the area and would thus not add new dominating features. In this context the proposed developments are acceptable.

#### 7. INPUT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

There are no specific measures required for either of the two projects being considered here. However, the following best practice measures should be incorporated into their respective Environmental Management Programs (EMPrs):

- The environmental control officer (ECO) should ensure that all work occurs within the authorised footprints; and
- If any heritage materials (stone artefacts, pottery, fossils, human remains) are found during construction then they should be protected in place and reported to the heritage authorities and/or a heritage consultant for further action as may be required.

# 8. EVALUATION OF IMPACTS RELATIVE TO SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Section 38(3)(d) of the NHRA requires an evaluation of the impacts on heritage resources relative to the sustainable social and economic benefits to be derived from the development. The two proposed developments will assist with the provision of electricity for use in South Africa. This is deemed an important function because of the historical and ongoing problems associated with South Africa's electricity supply. The construction phase for the projects will also provide an increase in jobs for the local population. None of the heritage impacts (which are of generally low significance) is considered to be more important than these social and economic benefits.

#### 9. CONCLUSIONS

There are no heritage concerns for either of these projects. Despite the fact that a single line was considered on site rather than the full corridor, the obvious lack of heritage materials in the immediate area suggests that the entire corridor is of very low sensitivity. There were also no features to have attracted precolonial settlement (e.g. hills or proper pans). No significant impacts are expected and there are no fatal flaws. There are no areas requiring avoidance and no mitigation requirements apply to either project. For the powerline project either tower type may be used.

#### 9.1. Reasoned opinion of the specialist

Because the expected impacts to heritage resources are of low significance and there are social and economic benefits that would accrue through the implementation of these projects, it is the opinion of the heritage specialist that both projects may be authorised in full.

#### 10. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendation applies equally to <u>both</u> (1) the proposed powerline and switching station and (2) the proposed Khobab Substation upgrade.

It is recommended that the proposed project should proceed with no further heritage involvement required. However, the following requirement must be included in the environmental authorisation, should one be issued:

 If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development then work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.

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### **APPENDIX 1 – Curriculum Vitae**



Curriculum Vitae

#### Jayson David John Orton

ARCHAEOLOGIST AND HERITAGE CONSULTANT

#### **Contact Details and personal information:**

Address: 23 Dover Road, Muizenberg, 7945

**Telephone:** (021) 788 1025 **Cell Phone:** 083 272 3225

Email: jayson@asha-consulting.co.za

Birth date and place: 22 June 1976, Cape Town, South Africa

Citizenship: South African 1D no: 760622 522 4085

**Driver's License:** Code 08

Marital Status: Married to Carol Orton

Languages spoken: English and Afrikaans

#### Education:

| SA College High School  | Matric  | 1994 |
|-------------------------|---|------|
| University of Cape Town | B.A. (Archaeology, Environmental & Geographical Science) 1997 |      |
| University of Cape Town | B.A. (Honours) (Archaeology)*                                 | 1998 |
| University of Cape Town | M.A. (Archaeology)  | 2004 |
| University of Oxford    | D.Phil. (Archaeology)   | 2013 |

<sup>\*</sup>Frank Schweitzer memorial book prize for an outstanding student and the degree in the First Class.

#### **Employment History:**

| Spatial Archaeology Research Unit, UCT      | Research assistant                              | Jan 1996 – Dec 1998 |
|---|---|---------------------|
| Department of Archaeology, UCT              | Field archaeologist                             | Jan 1998 – Dec 1998 |
| UCT Archaeology Contracts Office            | Field archaeologist                             | Jan 1999 – May 2004 |
| UCT Archaeology Contracts Office            | Heritage & archaeological consultant            | Jun 2004 – May 2012 |
| School of Archaeology, University of Oxford | Undergraduate Tutor                             | Oct 2008 - Dec 2008 |
| ACO Associates cc                           | Associate, Heritage & archaeological consultant | Jan 2011 – Dec 2013 |
| ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd                   | Director, Heritage & archaeological consultant  | Jan 2014 –          |

#### **Professional Accreditation:**

Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) membership number: 233 CRM Section member with the following accreditation:

Principal Investigator: Coastal shell middens (awarded 2007)

Stone Age archaeology (awarded 2007) Grave relocation (awarded 2014)

Field Director: Rock art (awarded 2007)

Colonial period archaeology (awarded 2007)

Association of Professional Heritage Practitioners (APHP) membership number: 43

Accredited Professional Heritage Practitioner

#### Memberships and affiliations:

| South African Archaeological Society Council member                | 2004 – 2016 |
|--|-------------|
| Assoc. Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) member | 2006 –      |
| UCT Department of Archaeology Research Associate                   | 2013 –      |
| Heritage Western Cape APM Committee member                         | 2013 –      |
| UNISA Department of Archaeology and Anthropology Research Fellow   | 2014 –      |
| Fish Hoek Valley Historical Association                            | 2014 –      |
| Kalk Bay Historical Association                                    | 2016 –      |
| Association of Professional Heritage Practitioners member          | 2016 –      |

#### Fieldwork and project experience:

Extensive fieldwork and experience as both Field Director and Principle Investigator throughout the Western and Northern Cape, and also in the western parts of the Free State and Eastern Cape as follows:

#### Feasibility studies:

Heritage feasibility studies examining all aspects of heritage from the desktop

#### Phase 1 surveys and impact assessments:

- Project types
  - o Notification of Intent to Develop applications (for Heritage Western Cape)
  - Desktop-based Letter of Exemption (for the South African Heritage Resources Agency)
  - Heritage Impact Assessments (largely in the Environmental Impact Assessment or Basic Assessment context under NEMA and Section 38(8) of the NHRA, but also self-standing assessments under Section 38(1) of the NHRA)
  - Archaeological specialist studies
  - Phase 1 archaeological test excavations in historical and prehistoric sites
  - Archaeological research projects
- Development types
  - Mining and borrow pits
  - Roads (new and upgrades)
  - o Residential, commercial and industrial development
  - o Dams and pipe lines
  - Power lines and substations
  - o Renewable energy facilities (wind energy, solar energy and hydro-electric facilities)

#### Phase 2 mitigation and research excavations:

- > ESA open sites
  - Duinefontein, Gouda, Namaqualand
- MSA rock shelters
  - o Fish Hoek, Yzerfontein, Cederberg, Namaqualand
- MSA open sites
  - o Swartland, Bushmanland, Namaqualand
- LSA rock shelters
  - o Cederberg, Namaqualand, Bushmanland
- LSA open sites (inland)
  - o Swartland, Franschhoek, Namaqualand, Bushmanland
- LSA coastal shell middens
  - o Melkbosstrand, Yzerfontein, Saldanha Bay, Paternoster, Dwarskersbos, Infanta, Knysna, Namaqualand
- LSA burials
  - o Melkbosstrand, Saldanha Bay, Namaqualand, Knysna
- Historical sites
  - Franschhoek (farmstead and well), Waterfront (fort, dump and well), Noordhoek (cottage), variety of small excavations in central Cape Town and surrounding suburbs
- Historic burial grounds
  - o Green Point (Prestwich Street), V&A Waterfront (Marina Residential), Paarl

#### Awards:

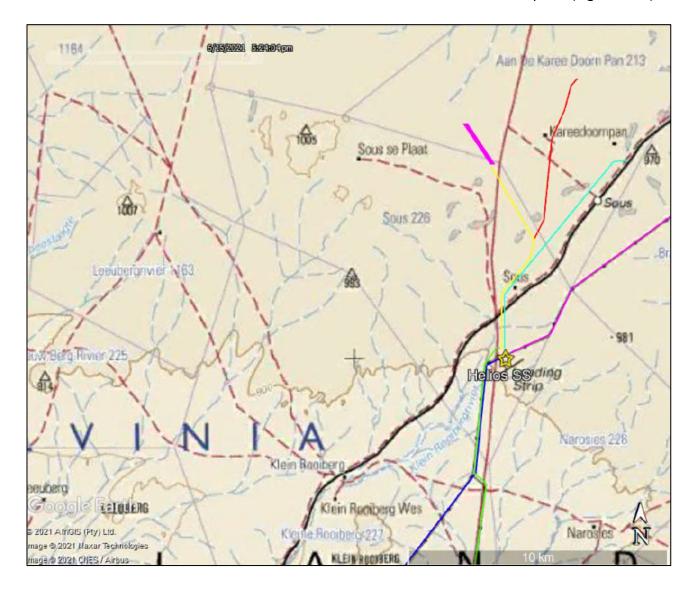
Western Cape Government Cultural Affairs Awards 2015/2016: Best Heritage Project.

# APPENDIX 2 – Projects considered in cumulative impact assessment

| Development                                    | Current status of EIA/development                       | Proponent   | Technology | Capacity       | Farm details  |
|--|---|---|------------|----------------|---|
| Dwarsrug Wind<br>Farm                          | EA issued   | Mainstream<br>Renewable Power                               | Wind       | 140MW          | Remainder of the Farm Brak Pan No<br>212  |
| Khobab Wind<br>Farm                            | Operational   | Mainstream<br>Renewable Power                               | Wind       | 140MW          | Portion 2 of the Farm Sous No 226   |
| Loeriesfontein 2 Wind Farm                     | Operational   | Mainstream<br>Renewable Power                               | Wind       | 140MW          | Portions 1 & 2 of the Farm Aan de<br>Karree Doorn Pan No 213  |
| Graskoppies<br>Wind Farm                       | EA Issued   | Mainstream<br>Renewable Power                               | Wind       | 235MW          | Portion 2 of the Farm Graskoppies No. 176; and Portion 1 of the Farm Hartebeest Leegte No. 216.                                       |
| Hartebeest<br>Leegte Wind<br>Farm              | EA issued   | Mainstream<br>Renewable Power                               | Wind       | 235MW          | Entire part of the Remainder of the Farm Hartebeest Leegte No. 216.   |
| Xha! Boom<br>Wind Farm                         | EA issued   | Mainstream<br>Renewable Power                               | Wind       | 235MW          | Entire part of Portion 2 of the Farm Georg's Vley No. 217.  |
| Ithemba Wind<br>Farm                           | EA issued   | Mainstream<br>Renewable Power                               | Wind       | 235MW          | Western portion of Portion 2 of the Farm Graskoppies No. 176; and Western portion of Portion 1 of the Farm Hartebeest Leegte No. 216. |
| Loeriesfontein<br>PV3 Solar<br>Energy Facility | EA issued   | Mainstream<br>Renewable Power                               | Solar      | 100MW          | Portion 2 of the Farm Aan de Karree<br>Doorn Pan No 213   |
| Hantam PV<br>Solar Energy<br>Facility          | EA issued   | Solar Capital (Pty)<br>Ltd                                  | Solar      | Up to<br>525MW | Remainder of the Farm Narosies No<br>228  |
| PV Solar Power<br>Plant                        | EA issued   | BioTherm Energy   | Solar      | 70MW           | Portion 5 of the Farm Kleine Rooiberg<br>No 227   |
| Kokerboom 4<br>Wind Farm                       | Environmental<br>Impact<br>Assessment (EIA)<br>underway | Business Venture<br>Investments No. 1788<br>(Pty) Ltd (BVI) | Wind       | 240MW          | Remainder of the Farm Leeuwbergrivier No. 1163; and Remainder of the Farm Kleine Rooiberg No. 227.                                    |
| Kokerboom 1<br>Wind Farm                       | Environmental<br>Impact<br>Assessment (EIA)<br>underway | Business Venture<br>Investments No. 1788<br>(Pty) Ltd (BVI) | Wind       | 240MW          | Remainder of the Farm Leeuwbergrivier No. 1163; and Remainder of the Farm Kleine Rooiberg No. 227.                                    |
| Kokerboom 2<br>Wind Farm                       | Environmental<br>Impact<br>Assessment (EIA)<br>underway | Business Venture<br>Investments No. 1788<br>(Pty) Ltd (BVI) | Wind       | 240MW          | Remainder of the Farm Leeuwbergrivier No. 1163; and Remainder of the Farm Kleine Rooiberg No. 227.                                    |

| Development              | Current status of EIA/development                       | Proponent   | Technology | Capacity | Farm details  |
|--------------------------|---|---|------------|----------|---|
| Kokerboom 3<br>Wind Farm | Environmental<br>Impact<br>Assessment (EIA)<br>underway | Business Venture<br>Investments No. 1788<br>(Pty) Ltd (BVI) | Wind       | 240MW    | Remainder of the Farm Aan De Karree<br>Doorn Pan No. 213;<br>Portion 1 of the Farm Karree Doorn<br>Pan No. 214; and<br>Portion 2 of the Farm Karree Doorn<br>Pan No. 214. |

In addition to the above renewable energy facilities, six existing powerlines connecting to the Helios Substation have also been identified for consideration of cumulative impacts (Figure A2.1).



**Figure A2.1:** Map showing existing powerlines in the vicinity of the study area. The red and yellow lines belong to the operational WEFs listed above. The proposed powerline is indicated in bold pink.

## **APPENDIX 3 – Site Sensitivity Verification**

A site sensitivity verification was undertaken in order to confirm the current land use and environmental sensitivity of the proposed project area. The details of the site sensitivity verification are noted below:

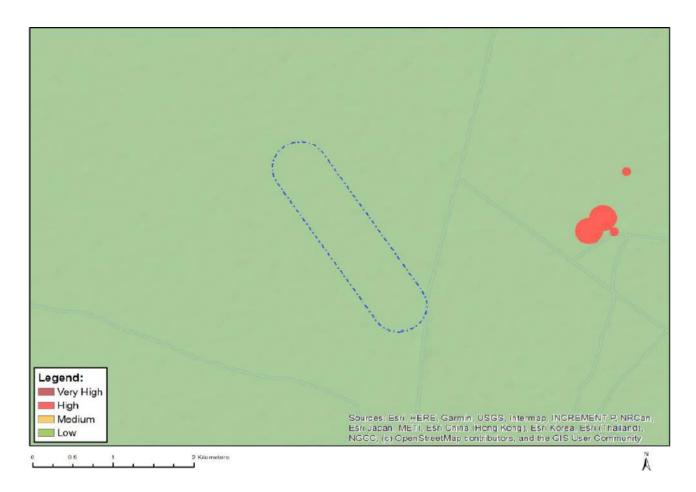
| Date of Site Visit               | 21 February 2017 and 10 June 2021 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Specialist Name                  | Dr Jayson Orton                   |
| Professional Registration        | ASAPA: 233; APHP: 043             |
| Number                           |                                   |
| Specialist Affiliation / Company | ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd         |

- Provide a description on how the site sensitivity verification was undertaken using the following means:
- (a) desk top analysis, using satellite imagery;
- (b) preliminary on -site inspection; and
- (c) any other available and relevant information.

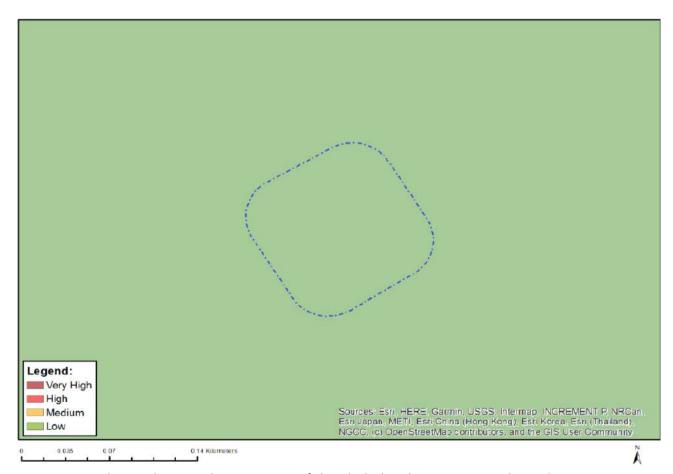
Initial work was carried out using satellite aerial photography in combination with the author's accumulated knowledge of the local landscape. This was used to identify areas likely to be sensitive and which needed to be targeted for survey on site. Subsequent fieldwork served to ground truth the site, including areas identified as potentially sensitive. Desktop research was also used to inform on the heritage context of the area. This information is presented in the report (Sections 5.1.1 and 5.3.1).

- Provide a description of the outcome of the site sensitivity verification in order to:
- (a) confirm or dispute the current use of the land and the environmental sensitivity as identified by the screening tool, such as new developments or infrastructure, the change in vegetation cover or status etc.; and
- (b) include a motivation and evidence (e.g. photographs) of either the verified or different use of the land and environmental sensitivity.

The maps below are extracted from the screening tool reports for the two projects and show the archaeological and heritage sensitivity to be low in each case. The site visit showed that study area is of very low sensitivity with only some background scatter artefacts having been found in the general vicinity. A photographic record and description of the relevant heritage resource is contained within the impact assessment report. The specialist thus confirms the screening tool sensitivity as low for both projects.



Screening tool map showing the sensitivity of the powerline study area.



Screening tool map showing the sensitivity of the Khobab Substation upgrade study area.



#### 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**

- Kokerboom 4 wind energy facility transmission line and switching station- Basic Environmental Assessment
- Kokerboom 4 substation expansion Basic Environmental Assessment

#### Kindly note the following:

- 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.
- 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.
- A copy of this form containing original signatures must be appended to all Draft and Final Reports submitted to the department for consideration.
- 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.
- 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:   | ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd  |   |                                 |            |     |
|----------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|------------|-----|
| B-BBEE                     | Contribution level (indicate 1 to 8 or non-compliant)                          | 4 | Percenta<br>Procure<br>recognit | ment       | 0   |
| Specialist name:           | Dr Jayson Orton  |   |                                 |            |     |
| Specialist Qualifications: | cialist Qualifications: D.Phil (Archaeology, Oxford, UK) MA (Archaeology, UCT) |   |                                 |            |     |
| Professional               |  |   |                                 |            |     |
| affiliation/registration:  | n: APHP member No. 043   |   |                                 |            |     |
| Physical address:          | 23 Dover Road, Muizenberg, 7945  |   |                                 |            |     |
| Postal address:            | 23 Dover Road, Muizenberg  |   |                                 |            |     |
| Postal code:               | 7945   | ( | Cell:                           | 083 272 32 | 225 |
| Telephone:                 | 021 788 1025   |   | =ax:                            | n/a        |     |
| E-mail:                    | jayson@asha-consulting.co.za   | 3 |                                 |            |     |

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|      | 111-11 | VMVIRIM   | MY IME          | CHELIVICI    |
| 2.   |        | AIVAIIVIN | DITTL           | SPECIALIST   |

| ١, | JALSON | ORTON | , 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.

|              | 1997                      |  |
|--------------|---------------------------|--|
| Cianatura of | of the Creatists          |  |
| oignature of | of the Specialist         |  |
|              | ASHA CONSULTING (PTY) LTD |  |
| Name of Co   | Company:                  |  |
|              | 22 JULY 2021              |  |
| Date         |                           |  |

| 3. UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH/ AFFIRMATION   |
|--|
| I, JAYON OF TON, swear under oath / affirm that all the information submitted or to be submitted for the purposes of this application is true and correct. |
| Signature of the Specialist  |
| Name of Company  |
| Name of Company  |
| 22-06-12021  |
| Chelin and Co.   |
| Signature of the Commissioner of Oaths   |
| 2021-06-22-<br>Date  |
| SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE  KIRSTENHOF SAPS  |
| 2021 -06- 22   |
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