

**Heritage impact assessment for the
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANTS ON FIVE
DIFFERENT LOCATIONS IN NORTH WEST AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES**

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANTS ON FIVE DIFFERENT LOCATIONS IN NORTH WEST AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES

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Declaration:

I, J.A. van Schalkwyk, declare that I do not have any financial or personal interest in the proposed development, nor its developers or any of their subsidiaries, apart from the provision of heritage assessment and management services.



J A van Schalkwyk (D Litt et Phil)
Heritage Consultant
December 2011

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANTS ON FIVE DIFFERENT LOCATIONS IN NORTH WEST AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES

Subsolar Energy proposes the construction, installation and operation of five Photovoltaic (Solar) Power Projects, four of which are located in North West Province and one in Northern Cape Province

In accordance with Section 38 of the NHRA, an independent heritage consultant was therefore appointed by **Subsolar** to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to determine if any sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance occur within the boundaries of the areas where it is planned to develop the photovoltaic power plants.

The cultural landscape qualities of the larger region essentially consist of two components. The first is a rural area in which the human occupation is made up of a pre-colonial element (Stone Age and Iron Age) as well as a much later colonial (farmer and industrial/mining) component. The second component is an urban landscape (small towns) dating to the colonial period and is linked to the rural colonial landscape. Due to a lack of suitable resources, such as surface water and stone for building, this has always been a region of low population density, accounting for few heritage resources occurring in the region.

Five different areas were investigated for the construction of PV power plants. In none of these any sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance were identified. Therefore, from a heritage point of view it is recommended that the proposed development be allowed to continue. However, this is subject to the following conditions:

- It is requested that should archaeological sites or graves be exposed during construction work, it must immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.



J A van Schalkwyk
Heritage Consultant
December 2011

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

TERMS

Study area: Refers to the entire study area as indicated by the client in the accompanying Fig. 1 & 2.

Stone Age: The first and longest part of human history is the Stone Age, which began with the appearance of early humans between 3-2 million years ago. Stone Age people were hunters, gatherers and scavengers who did not live in permanently settled communities. Their stone tools preserve well and are found in most places in South Africa and elsewhere.

Early Stone Age	2 000 000 - 150 000 Before Present
Middle Stone Age	150 000 - 30 000 BP
Late Stone Age	30 000 - until c. AD 200

Iron Age: Period covering the last 1800 years, when new people brought a new way of life to southern Africa. They established settled villages, cultivated domestic crops such as sorghum, millet and beans, and they herded cattle as well as sheep and goats. These people, according to archaeological evidence, spoke early variations of the Bantu Language. Because they produced their own iron tools, archaeologists call this the Iron Age.

Early Iron Age	AD 200 - AD 900
Middle Iron Age	AD 900 - AD 1300
Late Iron Age	AD 1300 - AD 1830

Historical Period: Since the arrival of the white settlers - c. AD 1840 - in this part of the country.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADRC	Archaeological Data Recording Centre
ASAPA	Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists
BP	Before Present
CS-G	Chief Surveyor-General
EIA	Early Iron Age
ESA	Early Stone Age
LIA	Late Iron Age
LSA	Later Stone Age
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
MSA	Middle Stone Age
NASA	National Archives of South Africa
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act
PHRA	Provincial Heritage Resources Agency
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANTS ON FIVE DIFFERENT LOCATIONS IN NORTH WEST AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES

1. INTRODUCTION

Subsolar Energy proposes the construction, installation and operation of five Photovoltaic (Solar) Power Projects, four of which are located in North West Province and one in Northern Cape Province. For two of the sites alternatives have been identified.

South Africa's heritage resources, also described as the 'national estate', comprise a wide range of sites, features, objects and beliefs. According to Section 27(18) of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), No. 25 of 1999, no person may destroy, damage, deface, excavate, alter, remove from its original position, subdivide or change the planning status of any heritage site without a permit issued by the heritage resources authority responsible for the protection of such site.

In accordance with Section 38 of the NHRA, an independent heritage consultant was therefore appointed by **Subsolar** to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to determine if any sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance occur within the boundaries of the areas where it is planned to develop the photovoltaic power plants.

This HIA report forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as required by the EIA Regulations in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and is intended for submission to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

2.1 Scope of work

The scope of work for this study consisted of:

- Conducting of a desk-top investigation of the area, in which all available literature, reports, databases and maps were studied.
- A visit to the proposed development area.

The objectives were to:

- Identify possible archaeological, cultural and historic sites within the proposed development area;
- Evaluate the potential impacts of construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed development on archaeological, cultural and historical resources;
- Recommend mitigation measures to ameliorate any negative impacts on areas of archaeological, cultural or historical importance.

2.2 Limitations

The investigation has been influenced by the following factors:

- No information regarding the location of access roads, site offices and constructions camps were available during the initial survey. Therefore this report only deals with the sites where the solar plants will be developed.
- The unpredictability of buried archaeological remains.

Table 1: Applicable category of heritage impact assessment study and report

Type of study	Aim	SAHRA involved	SAHRA response
Heritage Impact Assessment	<p>The aim of a full HIA investigation is to provide an informed heritage-related opinion about the proposed development by an appropriate heritage specialist. The objectives are to identify heritage resources (involving site inspections, existing heritage data and additional heritage specialists if necessary); assess their significances; assess alternatives in order to promote heritage conservation issues; and to assess the acceptability of the proposed development from a heritage perspective.</p> <p>The result of this investigation is a heritage impact assessment report indicating the presence/ absence of heritage resources and how to manage them in the context of the proposed development.</p> <p>Depending on SAHRA's acceptance of this report, the developer will receive permission to proceed with the proposed development, on condition of successful implementation of proposed mitigation measures.</p>	Provincial Heritage Resources Authority	Comments on built environment and decision to approve or not
		SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit	Comments and decision to approve or not

3. HERITAGE RESOURCES

3.1 The National Estate

The NHRA (No. 25 of 1999) defines the heritage resources of South Africa which are of cultural significance or other special value for the present community and for future generations that must be considered part of the national estate to include:

- places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- historical settlements and townscapes;
- landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- archaeological and palaeontological sites;
- graves and burial grounds, including-
 - ancestral graves;
 - royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
 - graves of victims of conflict;
 - graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;
 - historical graves and cemeteries; and

- other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);
- sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
- movable objects, including-
 - objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
 - objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
 - ethnographic art and objects;
 - military objects;
 - objects of decorative or fine art;
 - objects of scientific or technological interest; and
 - books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996).

3.2 Cultural significance

In the NHRA, Section 2 (vi), it is stated that “cultural significance” means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance. This is determined in relation to a site or feature’s uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential.

According to Section 3(3) of the NHRA, a place or object is to be considered part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value because of

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

A matrix was developed whereby the above criteria were applied for the determination of the significance of each identified site (see Appendix 1). This allowed some form of control over the application of similar values for similar sites.

4. STUDY APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

4.1 Extent of the Study

This survey and impact assessment covers the five different areas as presented in Section 5 and as illustrated in the various Figures.

4.2 Methodology

4.2.1 Preliminary investigation

4.2.1.1 Survey of the literature

A survey of the relevant literature was conducted with the aim of reviewing the previous research done and determining the potential of the area. In this regard, various anthropological, archaeological, historical sources and heritage impact assessment reports were consulted, e.g. Breutz 1957, 1959, 1968; Cloete 2000; Couzens 2004; Lye 1975; Lye & Murray 1980; Richardson 2001; Wilson & Anhaeusser 1998.

- Information on events, sites and features in the larger region were obtained from these sources.

4.2.1.2 Data bases

The *Heritage Atlas Database*, the *Environmental Potential Atlas*, the *Chief Surveyor General (CS-G)* and the *National Archives of South Africa (NASA)* were consulted.

- Database surveys produced a number of sites located in the larger region of the proposed development. The original Title Deed for the farms could not be traced.

4.2.1.3 Other sources

Aerial photographs and topocadastral and other maps were also studied - see the list of references below.

- Information of a very general nature was obtained from these sources.

4.2.2 Field survey

The areas that had to be investigated were identified by **Subsolar** by means of maps. The sites were surveyed by walking four parallel transects over each. In principle, an area slightly larger than the development site was investigated to accommodate possible construction overruns.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

5.1 Delareyville sites

5.1.1 Site location and description

The study areas are located on the western outskirts of the town of Delareyville (Fig. 1). It consists of three irregular shaped sections of land, each approximately 20 ha in extent. For more detail, please see the Technical Summary presented below.

Property details						
Province	North West Province					
Magisterial district	Delareyville					
Topo-cadastral map	2625CB					
Closest town	Delareyville					
Farm name	Zoutpan of Bospan 203IO; Boschkopje 198IO; Driekant 204IO					
Portions/Holdings	-					
Coordinates	Polygon (approximate)					
	No	Latitude	Longitude	No	Latitude	Longitude
	1	-26.68802	25.43934	2	-26.68873	25.44420
	3	-26.69025	25.44420	4	-26.69041	25.44294
	5	-26.69264	25.44333	6	-26.69367	25.44061
	No	Latitude	Longitude	No	Latitude	Longitude
	1	-26.69378	25.44043	2	-26.69459	25.43810
	3	-26.68984	25.43522	4	-26.68769	25.43664
	5	-26.68826	25.43907			
	No	Latitude	Longitude	No	Latitude	Longitude
	1	-26.67827	25.43820	2	-26.67997	25.44067
	3	-26.68485	25.43732	4	-26.68316	25.43492

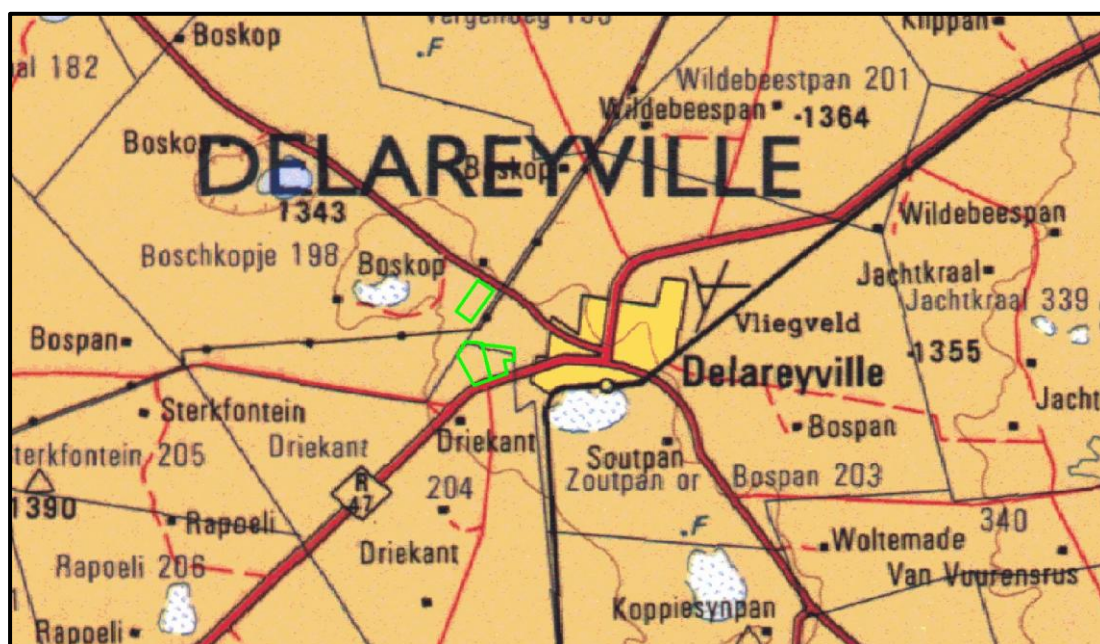


Fig. 1. Location of the study area in regional context.
(Map 2624: Chief Surveyor-General)



Fig. 2. Aerial view of the sites showing a lack of natural as well as manmade features.
(Photo: Google Earth)

The geology of the areas is made up of andesite and the original vegetation is classified as Dry Sandy Highveld Grassland. The topography is described as plains and pans. No hills or rivers occur in the study area or immediate surrounding area. Some large pans that were exploited for salt are found in the larger region.

All three of the study areas were used for agricultural fields, although some sections are now used for grazing purposes (Fig. 2).



Fig. 3. Views over the study areas (northern, western and eastern blocks).

5.1.2 Regional overview

Stone Age settlement took place in the larger region and is evidenced for example by the occurrence of sites with rock engravings found all over. Two such sites are located some distance outside the study area (see Fig. 4 below). These are located on the rims of large pans where outcrops occur.

No settlement of the immediate region took place during the Iron Age, although some sites dating to the Late Iron Age are known to occur some distance to the north and southwest of the town.

The town of Delareyville was laid out in 1914 and in 1968, in line with the policy of separate development, it was declared a border industry area. Up until that time it served a largely rural farming community. It was named after the famous Boer General Koos de la Rey. A number of buildings, such as churches enjoy provincial heritage protection. In addition, a number of cemeteries occur sporadically all over.

5.1.3 Identified heritage sites

The following sites, features and objects of cultural significance have been identified to exist in the study region and their location is presented in Fig. 8 below:

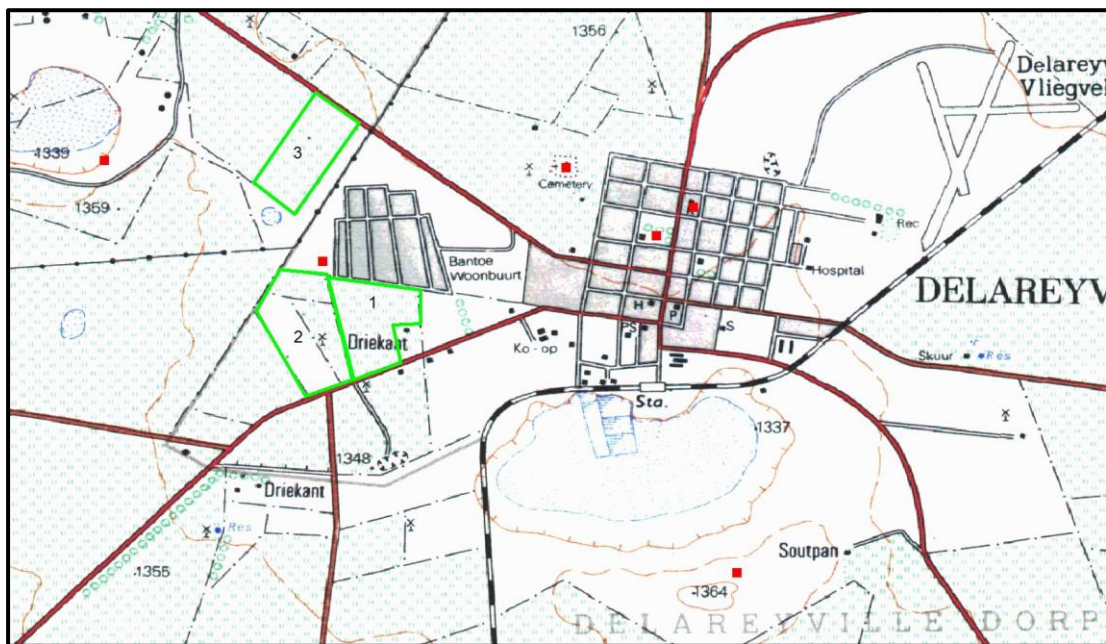


Fig. 4. Location of identified sites in relation to the development areas.

5.4.1 Stone Age

- No sites, features or objects dating to the Stone Age were identified in the study areas.

5.4.2 Iron Age

- No sites, features or objects dating to the Iron Age were identified in the study areas.

5.4.3 Historic period

- No sites, features or objects dating to the historic period were identified in the study areas.

5.1.4 Impact assessment

As no sites, features or objects of cultural significance were found in the study area, there would be no impact as a result of the proposed development.

5.2 Lykso site

5.2.1 Site location and description

This study area is located at the junction of the R371 with the N14, approximately 20 km south-east of the town of Dithakong (Fig. 5 & 6). It consists of a rectangular section of land approximately 20 ha in extent. For more detail, please see the Technical Summary presented below.

The geology of the area is made up of dolomite and the original vegetation is classified as Kalahari Plateau Bushveld. The topography is described as plains and pans and no hills, outcrops or rivers occur in the study area or immediate surrounding area.

The study area is currently used for grazing purposes, although, based on the vegetation and slope of the land, it seems as if it served as agricultural fields in the past.

Property details						
Province	North West Province					
Magisterial district	Vryburg					
Topo-cadastral map	2724AA					
Closest town	Dithakong					
Farm name	Holpan 645					
Portions/Holdings	-					
Coordinates	Polygon (approximate)					
	No	Latitude	Longitude	No	Latitude	Longitude
	1	-27.20999	24.11869	2	-27.21044	24.12209
	3	-27.21517	24.12563	4	-27.21465	24.12175



Fig. 5. Location of the study area in regional context.
(Map 2722, 2724: Chief Surveyor-General)



Fig. 6. Aerial view of the site showing a lack of natural as well as manmade features.
(Photo: Google Earth)



Fig. 7. View over the study area looking north.

5.2.2 Regional overview

Probably as a result of a lack of open water and hills or outcrops to shelter in, this has always been a region of very low human occupation. However, as soon as one move into the areas where there are rivers or hills, occupation numbers increase.

Tools dating to all phases of the Stone Age are mostly found in the vicinity of larger watercourses, e.g. the Vaal River or the Harts River and near pans. During the Late Iron Age farmers started to occupy the larger region. The famous Late Iron Age site of Dithakong is located about 20 km to the northwest of the development site. These settlers who moved into the North West Province region were Tswana-speakers such as the Tlhaping, Hurutshe, Fokeng, Kgatla and Rolong (Breutz 1959).

By the early 19th century white missionaries, hunters and traders started to access the region. They were soon followed by farmers who either negotiated with local chiefs for land and set up a few short-lived republics, or later got granted farms in areas that were perceived to have been vacant.

5.2.3 Identified sites

The following sites, features and objects of cultural significance have been identified to exist in the study region and their location is presented in Fig. 8 below:

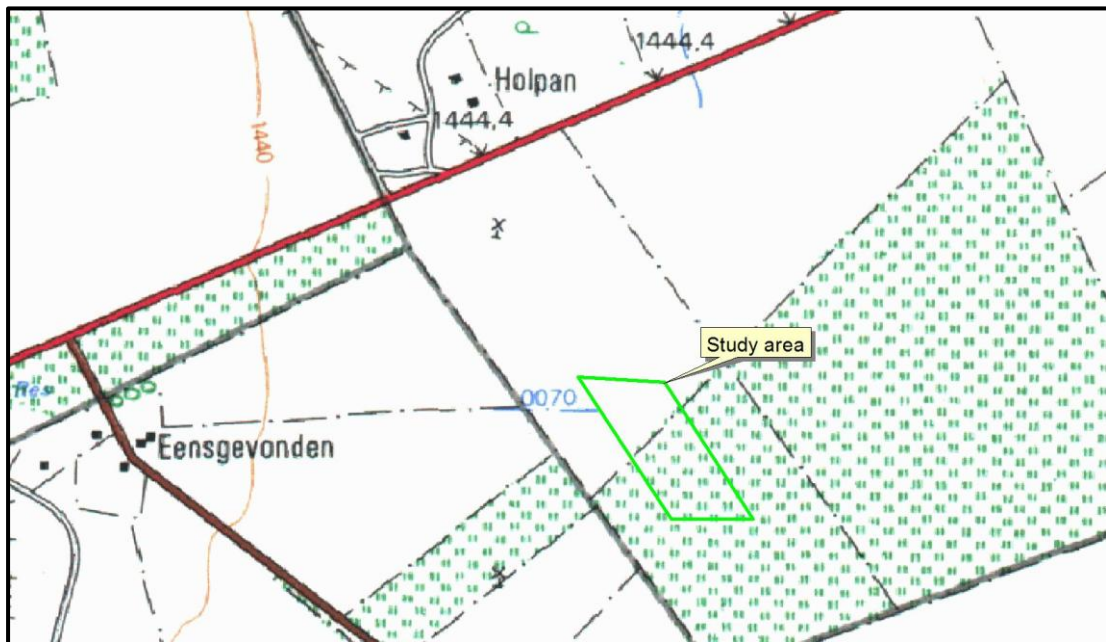


Fig. 8. Layout of the study area.
(Map 2724AA: Chief Surveyor-General)

5.2.3.1 Stone Age

- No sites, features or objects dating to the Stone Age were identified in the study area.

5.2.3.2 Iron Age

- No sites, features or objects dating to the Iron Age were identified in the study area.

5.2.3.3 Historic period

- No sites, features or objects dating to the historic period were identified in the study area.

5.2.4 *Impact assessment*

As no sites, features or objects of cultural significance were found in the study area, there would be no impact as a result of the proposed development.

5.3 Pering site

5.3.1 Site location and description

This study area is located approximately 18 km north-north-east of the town of Reivilo (Fig. 9 & 10). It consists of a triangular section of land approximately 20 ha in extent. For more detail, please see the Technical Summary presented below.

The geology of the area is made up of dolomite and the original vegetation is classified as Kalahari Plateau Bushveld. The topography is described as plains and pans and no hills, outcrops or rivers occur in the study area or immediate surrounding area.

The study area can be described as greenfield veld and is currently used for agricultural (grazing) purposes.

Property details						
Province	North West Province					
Magisterial district	Vryburg					
Topo-cadastral map	2724AD					
Closest town	Reivilo					
Farm name	Secutsanning 786					
Portions/Holdings	-					
Coordinates	Polygon (approximate)					
	No	Latitude	Longitude	No	Latitude	Longitude
	1	-27.41736	24.25894	2	-27.41805	24.26465
	3	-27.42265	24.25796			

5.3.2 Regional overview

Probably as a result of a lack of open water and hills or outcrops to shelter in, this has always been a region of very low human occupation. However, as soon as one move into the areas where there are rivers or hills, occupation numbers seems to increase.

Tools dating to all phases of the Stone Age are mostly found in the vicinity of larger watercourses, e.g. the Vaal River or the Harts River and near pans. During the Late Iron Age farmers started to occupy the larger region. These settlers who moved into the North West Province region were Tswana-speakers such as the Tlhaping, Hurutshe, Fokeng, Kgatla and Rolong (Breutz 1959).

By the early 19th century white missionaries, hunters and traders started to access the region. They were soon followed by farmers who either negotiated with local chiefs for land and set up a few short-lived republics, or later got granted farms in areas that were perceived to have been vacant.

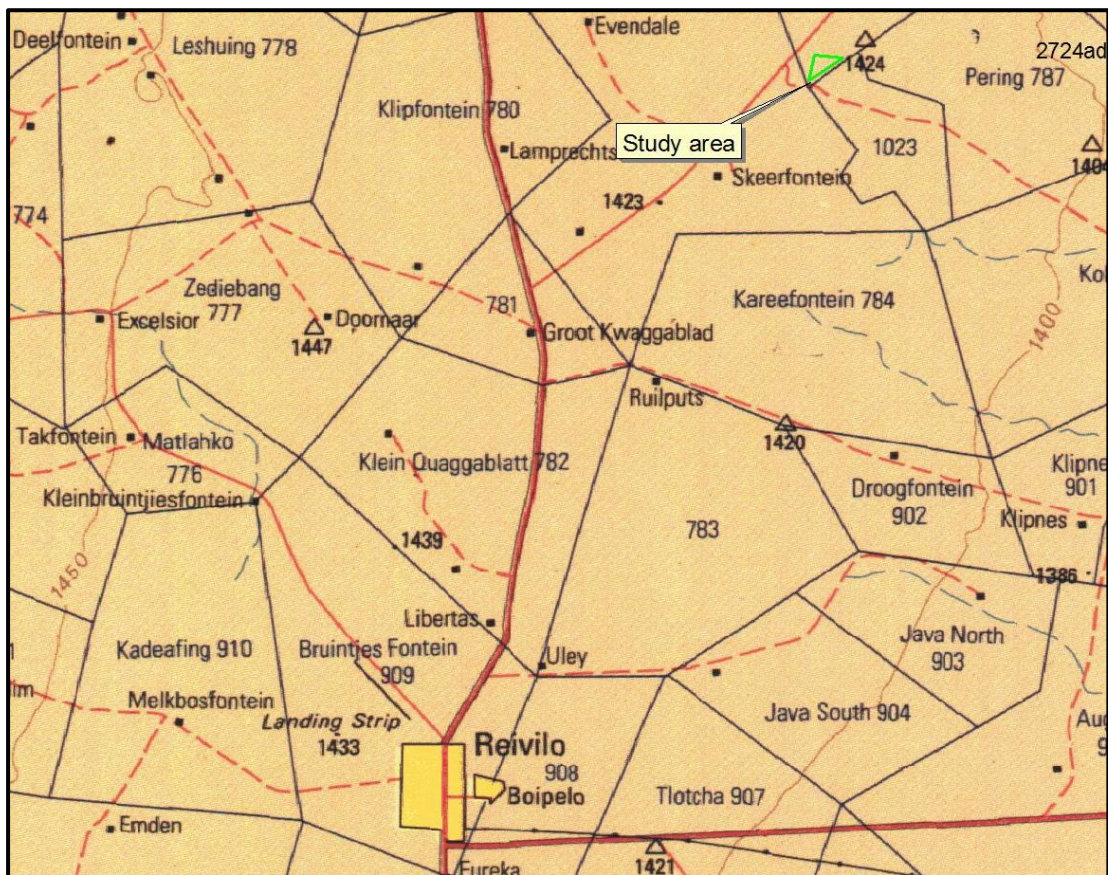


Fig. 9. Location of the study area in regional context.
(Map 2724: Chief Surveyor-General)



Fig. 10. Aerial view of the site showing a lack of natural as well as manmade features.
(Photo: Google Earth)



Fig. 11. Views over the study area looking south and west.

5.3.3 Identified sites

The following sites, features and objects of cultural significance have been identified to exist in the study region and their location is presented in Fig. 12 below:

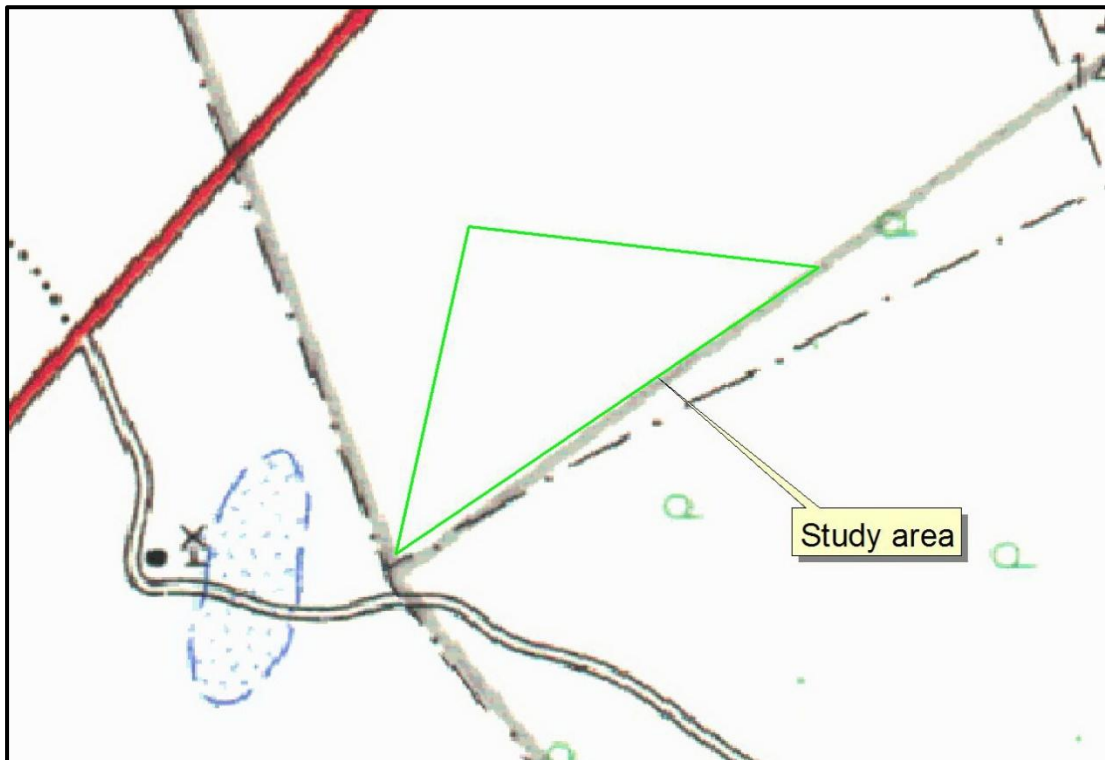


Fig. 12. Layout of the study area.
(Map 2724AD: Chief Surveyor-General)

5.3.3.1 *Stone Age*

- No sites, features or objects dating to the Stone Age were identified in the study area.

5.3.3.2 *Iron Age*

- No sites, features or objects dating to the Iron Age were identified in the study area.

5.3.3.3 *Historic period*

- No sites, features or objects dating to the historic period were identified in the study area.

5.3.4 **Impact assessment**

As no sites, features or objects of cultural significance were found in the study area, there would be no impact as a result of the proposed development.

5.4 Reivilo site

5.4.1 Site location and description

This study area is located on the south-eastern outskirts of the town of Reivilo (Fig. 13 & 14). It consists of a rectangular section of land approximately 20 ha in extent. For more detail, please see the Technical Summary presented below.

As with the previous two sites, the geology of the area is made up of dolomite and the original vegetation is classified as Kalahari Plateau Bushveld. The topography is described as plains and pans and no hills, outcrops or rivers occur in the study area or immediate surrounding area.

Based on the current vegetation, the study area was used for agricultural activities in the past. At present it is vacant, but in recent time informal settlement, as part of Boipelo township have started to expand southwards – this is not reflected in the current (2003) aerial photographs.

Property details						
Province	North West Province					
Magisterial district	Vryburg					
Topo-cadastral map	2724AD					
Closest town	Reivilo					
Farm name	Bismark 808					
Portions/Holdings	-					
Coordinates	Polygon (approximate)					
	No	Latitude	Longitude	No	Latitude	Longitude
	1	-27.57077	24.19208	2	-27.57075	24.19694
	3	-27.57458	24.19639	4	-27.57445	24.19217

5.4.2 Regional overview

Probably as a result of a lack of open water and hills or outcrops to shelter in, this has always been a region of very low human occupation. However, as soon as one move into the areas where there are rivers or hills, occupation numbers seems to increase.

Tools dating to all phases of the Stone Age are mostly found in the vicinity of larger watercourses, e.g. the Vaal River or the Harts River and near pans. During the Late Iron Age farmers started to occupy the larger region. These settlers who moved into the North West Province region were Tswana-speakers such as the Tlhaping, Hurutshe, Fokeng, Kgatla and Rolong (Breutz 1959).

By the early 19th century white missionaries, hunters and traders started to access the region. They were soon followed by farmers who either negotiated with local chiefs for land and set up a few short-lived republics, or later got granted farms in areas that were perceived to have been vacant.

The town of Reivilo was laid out in 1917 and named Klein Boetsap. This was changed to Reivilo in 1927, which was an inversion of the name of the local minister, Rev. A J Olivier. The original church in town is regarded as having provincial heritage status. In addition a number of cemeteries are located around town.

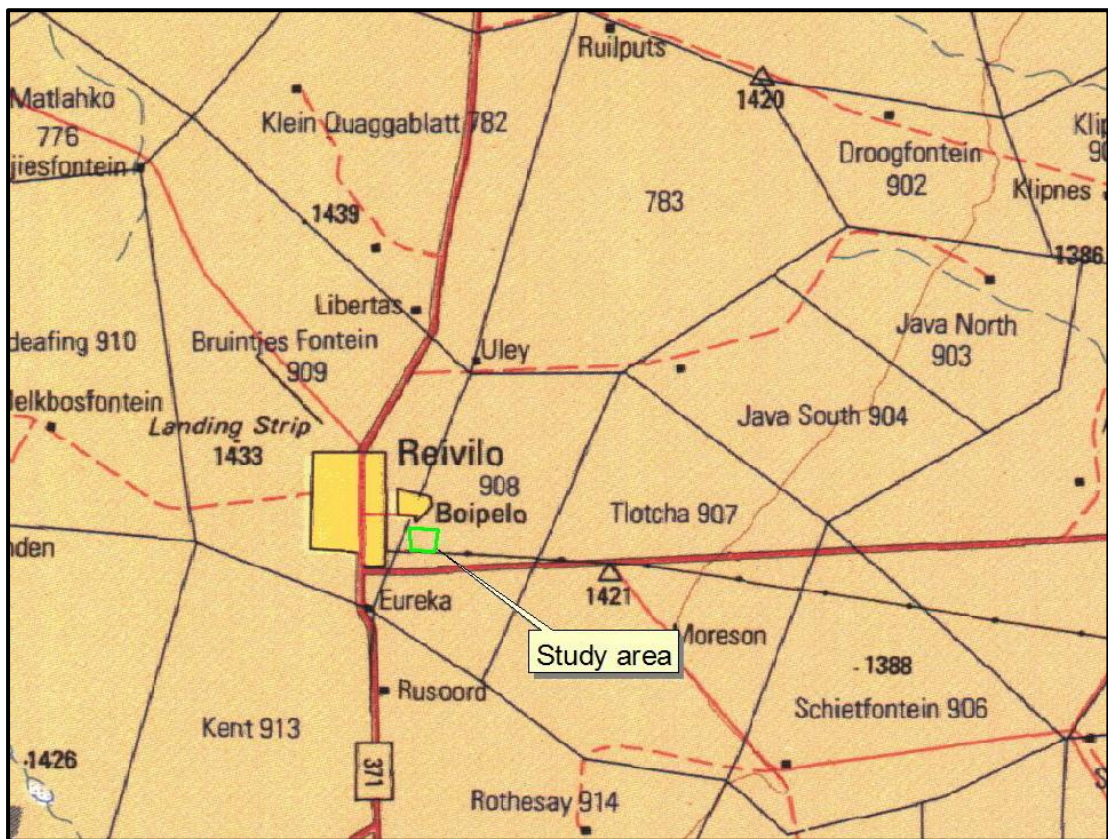


Fig. 13. Location of the study area in regional context.
(Map 2724: Chief Surveyor-General)



Fig. 14. Aerial view of the site showing a lack of natural as well as manmade features.
(Photo: Google Earth)



Fig. 15. View over the study area looking north.

5.4.3 Identified sites

The following sites, features and objects of cultural significance have been identified to exist in the study region and their location is presented in Fig. 16 below:

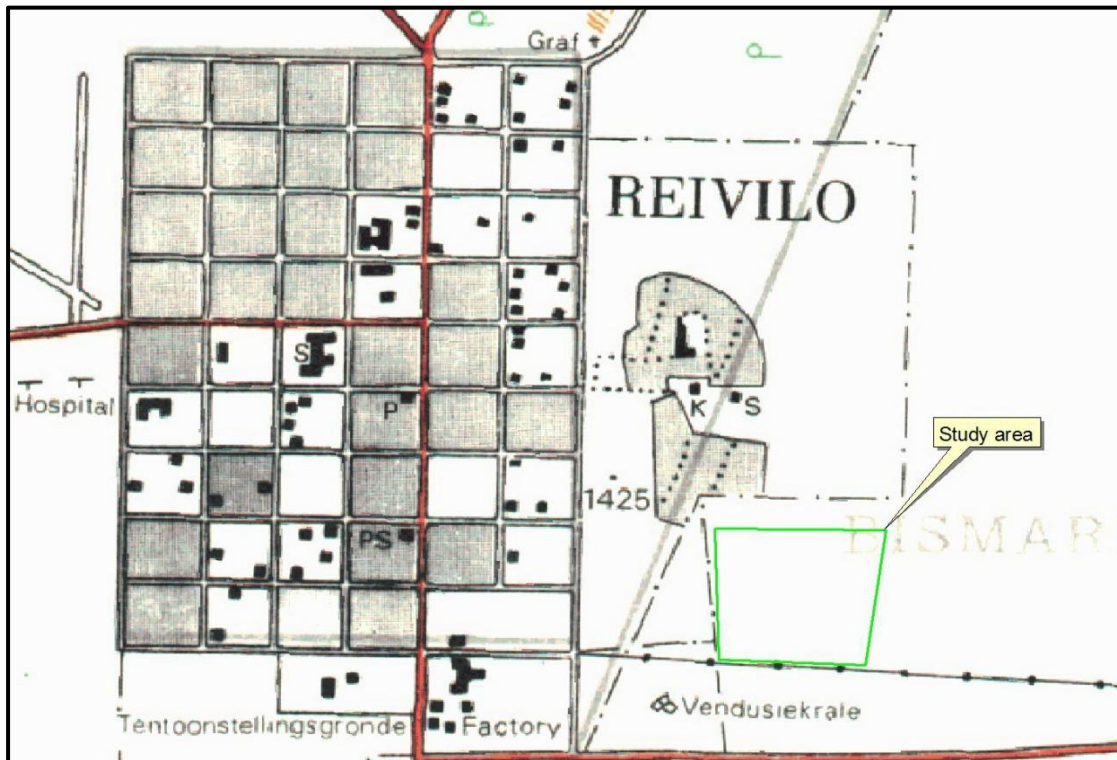


Fig. 16. Layout of the study area.
(Map 2724CA: Chief Surveyor-General)

5.4.1 Stone Age

- No sites, features or objects dating to the Stone Age were identified in the study area.

5.4.2 Iron Age

- No sites, features or objects dating to the Iron Age were identified in the study area.

5.4.3 Historic period

- No sites, features or objects dating to the historic period were identified in the study area.

5.4.4 Impact assessment

As no sites, features or objects of cultural significance were found in the study area, there would be no impact as a result of the proposed development.

5.5 Riverton sites

5.5.1 Site location and description

The study areas are located about 25 km north of the town of Kimberley (Fig. 17 & 18). It consists of two rectangular shaped sections of land, each approximately 20 ha in extent. For more detail, please see the Technical Summary presented below.

Property details						
Province	Northern Cape Province					
Magisterial district	Kimberley					
Topo-cadastral map	2824BD					
Closest town	Reivilo					
Farm name	Zoutpansfontein 34; Hanskop Fontein 40					
Portions/Holdings	-					
Coordinates	Polygon (approximate)					
	No	Latitude	Longitude	No	Latitude	Longitude
	1	-28.49043	24.81190	2	-28.49293	24.80980
	3	-28.49299	24.80405	4	-28.49046	24.80638
	No	Latitude	Longitude	No	Latitude	Longitude
	1	-28.48652	24.79662	2	-28.48899	24.80007
	3	-28.49355	24.79952	4	-28.49094	24.79507

The geology of the area is made up of shale and the original vegetation is classified as Kimberley Thorn Bushveld. The topography is described as slightly irregular plains and pans and no hills or rivers occur in the study area or immediate surrounding area.

The study area can be described as greenfield veld and is currently used for agricultural (grazing) purposes.

5.5.2 Regional overview

Stone tools dating to the various phases of the Stone Age are reported to occur all over the larger region. Stone Age tools associated with the Early and Middle Stone Age are apparently common in the area, especially along the Vaal River. These are viewed as find spots rather than sites per se. That means that as most of these are surface finds, they are viewed to be out of context and do not have any significance. No stratified sites are known from the region.

A number of rock engraving sites dating to the Later Stone Age are known to exist in the larger region, especially in the region on the northern side of the Vaal River.

The town of Kimberley developed as a diamond-mining camp originally known as Colesberg Kopje. In 1873 it was declared a township and in 1877 attained municipal status. It was renamed after the British Colonial Secretary, the Earl of Kimberley. However, diamond mining was not only limited to the Kimberley area, but took place on a large scale all along the banks of the Vaal River, although in the latter region it was mostly alluvial mining activities.

During the Anglo Boer War (1899-1902), with the railway line passing through the region as well as the Vaal River, it was an important region and a number of blockhouses were erected by the British to protect the railway line and bridges across the river. The blockhouses were built Royal Engineers from masonry (Tomlinson 1997).

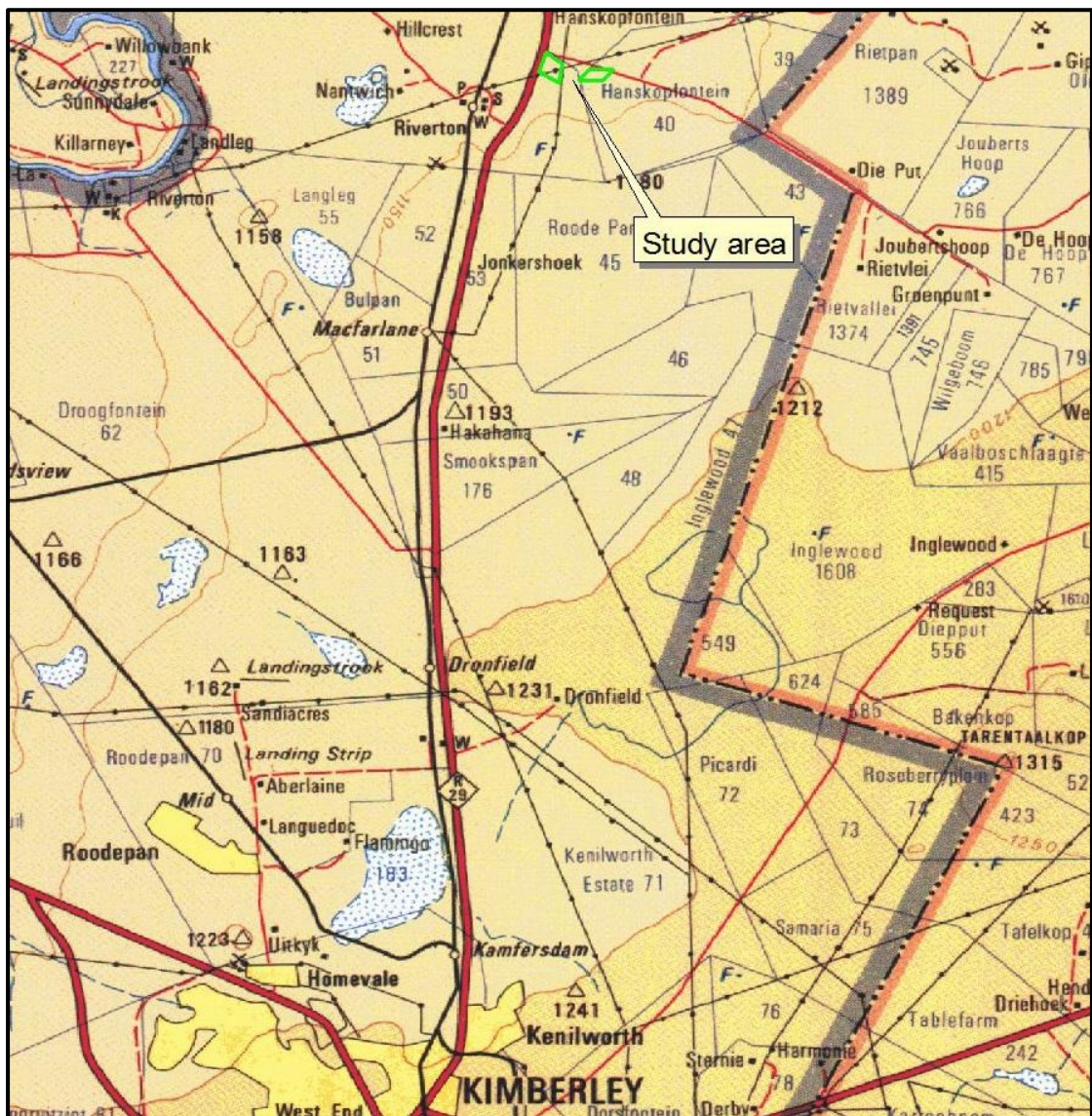


Fig. 17. Location of the study area in regional context.



Fig. 18. Aerial view of the sites showing a lack of natural as well as manmade features.
(Photo: Google Earth)



Fig. 19. View over the study areas (left = western block; right = eastern block)

5.5.3 Identified sites

The following sites, features and objects of cultural significance have been identified to exist in the study region and their location is presented in Fig. 20 below:

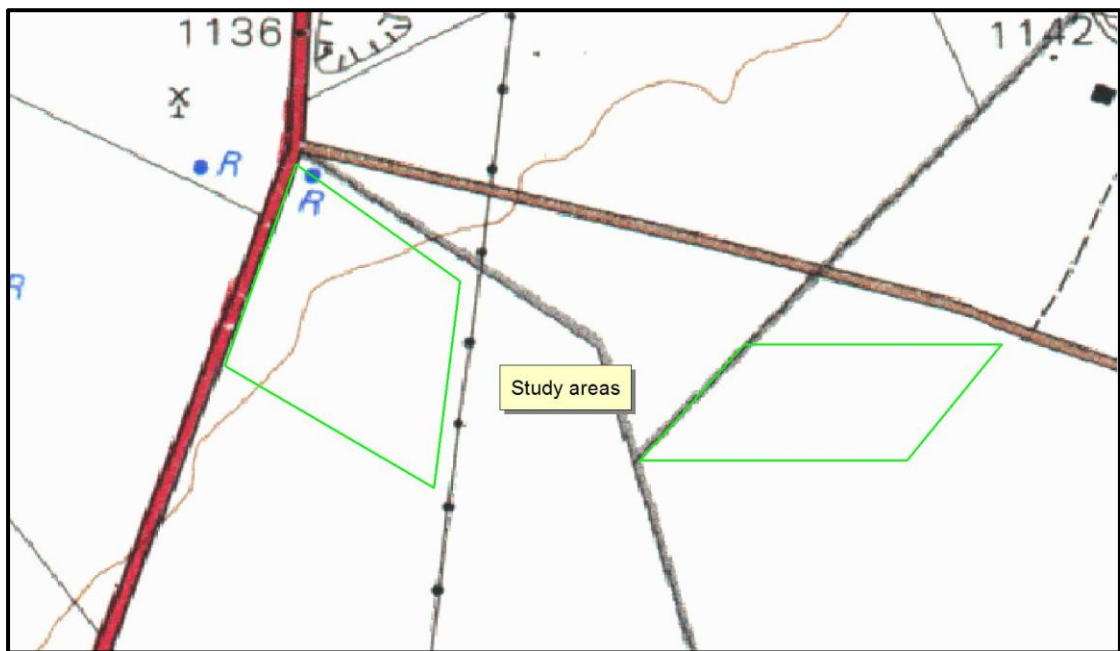


Fig. 20. Layout of the study areas.
(Map 2824BD: Chief Surveyor-General)

5.5.3.1 Stone Age

- No sites, features or objects dating to the Stone Age were identified in the study area.

5.5.3.2 Iron Age

- No sites, features or objects dating to the Iron Age were identified in the study area.

5.5.3.3 Historic period

- No sites, features or objects dating to the historic period were identified in the study area.

5.1.4 Impact assessment

As no sites, features or objects of cultural significance were found in the study area, there would be no impact as a result of the proposed development.

6. SITE SIGNIFICANCE AND ASSESSMENT

6.1 Heritage assessment criteria and grading

The NHRA stipulates the assessment criteria and grading of archaeological sites. The following categories are distinguished in Section 7 of the Act:

- **Grade I:** Heritage resources with qualities so exceptional that they are of special national significance;
- **Grade II:** Heritage resources which, although forming part of the national estate, can be considered to have special qualities which make them significant within the context of a province or a region; and
- **Grade III:** Other heritage resources worthy of conservation on a local authority level.

The occurrence of sites with a Grade I significance will demand that the development activities be drastically altered in order to retain these sites in their original state. For Grade II and Grade III sites, the applicable of mitigation measures would allow the development activities to continue.

6.2 Statement of significance

A matrix was developed whereby the above criteria, as set out in Sections 3(3) and 7 of the NHRA, No. 25 of 1999, were applied for each identified site (see Appendix 1). This allowed some form of control over the application of similar values for similar sites. Three categories of significance are recognized: low, medium and high. In terms of Section 7 of the NHRA, all the sites currently known or which are expected to occur in the study area are evaluated to have a grading as identified in the table below.

Based on current information regarding sites in the surrounding area, all sites that might have occurred in the study region would have been judged to have Grade III significance.

Table 2. Summary of identified heritage resources in the study area.

Identified heritage resources	
<i>Category, according to NHRA</i>	<i>Identification/Description</i>
Formal protections (NHRA)	
National heritage site (Section 27)	None
Provincial heritage site (Section 27)	None
Provisional protection (Section 29)	None
Place listed in heritage register (Section 30)	None
General protections (NHRA)	
structures older than 60 years (Section 34)	None
archaeological site or material (Section 35)	None
palaeontological site or material (Section 35)	None
graves or burial grounds (Section 36)	None
public monuments or memorials (Section 37)	None

Other	
Any other heritage resources (describe)	None

6.3 Impact assessment

Impact analysis of cultural heritage resources under threat of the proposed development, are based on the present understanding of the development.

- **Objective: Protection of heritage resources**

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.

Project Component/s	Excavation activities, construction of access roads and establishment of water supply pipeline and transmission pylons and staff accommodation.
Potential Impact	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.
Activity/Risk Source	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.
Mitigation: Target/Objective	A facility EMP that takes cognisance of heritage resources in the event of any future extensions of roads or other infrastructure.

Mitigation: Action/control	Responsibility	Timeframe
Provision for on-going heritage monitoring which provides guidelines on what to do in the event of any major heritage feature being encountered during any phase of development or operation.	ECO	Before commencement of development

Performance Indicator	Inclusion of further heritage impact consideration in any future extension of infrastructural elements. Immediate reporting to relevant heritage authorities of any heritage feature discovered during any phase of development or operation of the facility.
Monitoring	Officials from relevant heritage authorities (National and Provincial) to be permitted to inspect the operation on agreement with the contractor relating to the heritage component of the EMP.

7. CONCLUSIONS

The aim of this survey was to locate, identify, evaluate and document sites, objects and structures of cultural significance found within the areas of the proposed developments, to assess the significance thereof and to consider alternatives and plans for the mitigation of any adverse impacts.

The cultural landscape qualities of the larger region essentially consist of two components. The first is a rural area in which the human occupation is made up of a pre-colonial element (Stone Age and Iron Age) as well as a much later colonial (farmer and industrial/mining)

component. The second component is an urban landscape (small towns) dating to the colonial period and is linked to the rural colonial landscape. Due to a lack of suitable resources, such as surface water and stone for building, this has always been a region of low population density, accounting for few heritage resources occurring in the region.

Five different areas were investigated for the construction of PV power plants. In none of these any sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance were identified. Therefore, from a heritage point of view it is recommended that the proposed development be allowed to continue. However, this is subject to the following conditions:

- It is requested that should archaeological sites or graves be exposed during construction work, it must immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

8. REFERENCES

8.1 Data bases

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8.2 Literature

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8.3 Maps and aerial photographs

1: 50 000 Topocadastral maps
Google Earth

8.4 Interview

Mr Leon Weenink, owner of the farm at Riverton.

APPENDIX 1: CONVENTIONS USED TO ASSESS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES

Significance

According to the NHRA, Section 2(vi) the **significance** of heritage sites and artefacts is determined by its aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technical value in relation to the uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. It must be kept in mind that the various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and that the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these.

Matrix used for assessing the significance of each identified site/feature

1. Historic value				
Is it important in the community, or pattern of history				
Does it have strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in history				
Does it have significance relating to the history of slavery				
2. Aesthetic value				
It is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group				
3. Scientific value				
Does it have potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural heritage				
Is it important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period				
4. Social value				
Does it have strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons				
5. Rarity				
Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage				
6. Representivity				
Is it important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or objects				
Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a range of landscapes or environments, the attributes of which identify it as being characteristic of its class				
Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, province, region or locality.				
7. Sphere of Significance		High	Medium	Low
International				
National				
Provincial				
Regional				
Local				
Specific community				
8. Significance rating of feature				
1.	Low			
2.	Medium			
3.	High			

APPENDIX 2: RELEVANT LEGISLATION

All archaeological and palaeontological sites, and meteorites are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (Act no 25 of 1999) as stated in Section 35:

(1) Subject to the provisions of section 8, the protection of archaeological and palaeontological sites and material and meteorites is the responsibility of a provincial heritage resources authority: Provided that the protection of any wreck in the territorial waters and the maritime cultural zone shall be the responsibility of SAHRA.

(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (8)(a), all archaeological objects, palaeontological material and meteorites are the property of the State. The responsible heritage authority must, on behalf of the State, at its discretion ensure that such objects are lodged with a museum or other public institution that has a collection policy acceptable to the heritage resources authority and may in so doing establish such terms and conditions as it sees fit for the conservation of such objects.

(3) Any person who discovers archaeological or palaeontological objects or material or a meteorite in the course of development or agricultural activity must immediately report the find to the responsible heritage resources authority, or to the nearest local authority offices or museum, which must immediately notify such heritage resources authority.

(4) No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority-

- (a) destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;
- (b) destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological material or object or any meteorite;
- (c) trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- (d) bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment which assist in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

In terms of cemeteries and graves the following (Section 36):

(1) Where it is not the responsibility of any other authority, SAHRA must conserve and generally care for burial grounds and graves protected in terms of this section, and it may make such arrangements for their conservation as it sees fit.

(2) SAHRA must identify and record the graves of victims of conflict and any other graves which it deems to be of cultural significance and may erect memorials associated with the grave referred to in subsection (1), and must maintain such memorials.

(3) No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority-

- (a) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;
- (b) destroy, damage, alter, exhume, remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or
- (c) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

(4) SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority may not issue a permit for the destruction or damage of any burial ground or grave referred to in subsection (3)(a) unless it is satisfied that the applicant has made satisfactory arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the contents of such graves, at the cost of the applicant and in accordance with any regulations made by the responsible heritage resources authority.