

## Archaeology-Heritage Impact Assessment – Alternative Routes for the Swellendam Link Road

**Title:** Swellendam Link Road.

Proposal to upgrade the eastern access road to the N2 at Swellendam, Western Cape.

**Author** of this report:

Prof H.J. Deacon, 49 Van Riebeeck Street, Stellenbosch 7600.

Tel/Fax 021 887 1540, Cell 082 682 7300, Email: [hjdeacon@iafrica.co.za](mailto:hjdeacon@iafrica.co.za)

**Commissioned by**

Cape Lowlands Environmental Services. Mr M Duckitt (Contact person) and Mr N Hanekom (Environmental Impact Assessor), PO Box 70, Darling 7345. Tel: 022 492 3435, Fax: 022 492 3435, Cell: 076 851 0476. Email: [mduckitt@cles.co.za](mailto:mduckitt@cles.co.za), [nhanekom@cles.co.za](mailto:nhanekom@cles.co.za)

**Project Consultant**

WEC-Consult (Pty) Ltd, Contact person: Mr Theo Portwig, PO Box 6353, Uniedal 7612.

Tel: 0861 111441, Fax: 021 882 8207. Email: [theo@wec-consult.co.za](mailto:theo@wec-consult.co.za)

**Landowner**

Swellendam Municipality, Contact person: Mr W Hendricks, PB X11, Swellendam 6740.

Tel: 028 514 1100, Fax: 028 514 2694. Email : [info@swellendam.co.za](mailto:info@swellendam.co.za)

**Municipal Jurisdiction**

Swellendam 'B' Municipality, Overberg District Municipality, Contact person: Mr W Hendricks as above.

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**Figure 1. Location of possible eastern access routes to the N2 from Swellendam (1:50 000 3420 AB, GPS 34° 01'10.913\" S; 20°27'39.126\" E)**

## Executive Summary

Two alternative routes for the eastern access link road connecting to the N2 in Swellendam were assessed. The most easterly route, alternative 1, is the preferred route because it is further from the historic core of the town. This route runs past a formal cemetery but will not negatively impact on it. The other route, alternative 2, follows a line that is close to the historic core and this is assessed as a strongly negative feature. It is recommended that the alternative route 1 be used to upgrade the eastern access between the town and the N2.

## Background information on the routes

**Route 1**, the preferred route (Fig. 2), follows an existing road for most of its path. The initial short section will be a new road across what has been cultivated land and will not be a negative factor. The route skirts a fenced-off formal cemetery but will not endanger it.



**Fig. 2.** Route 1 option follows an existing road for most of its path. It leads past the cemetery

**Route 2**, the second alternative route (Fig. 3), starts close to the historic core of Swellendam that includes important buildings and is a focus for tourism. This route is not preferred for that reason. Heritage conservation is based on minimising and avoiding impacts on significant resources and this would include directing traffic away from such resources. Route 2 would also entail construction of a greater length of new road in contrast to Route 1.



**Fig. 3. The Route 2 option passes close to a number of historically significant properties, marked by blue squares on the satellite view**

### **Observations**

The only archaeological material observed was a Later Stone Age silcrete core in the surface drift of a plough line between and near the start of the two routes. The significance is rated as low because no clustering of materials that would constitute a site was observed. There is no indication of preserved palaeontological materials.

### **Sources of Risk**

The proximity of the less preferred alternative Route 2 to the historically significant core increases risks of impacts on heritage resources in construction. Route 1 poses a lower risk.

**Recommended Mitigations**

It is recommended that Route 1 be preferred over the alternative Route 2.

It is recommended that should any construction work by chance uncover buried palaeontological or archaeological materials including human remains that Heritage Western Cape is notified (Mr N Wiltshire, Heritage Resource Management Services, HWC, Private Bag X9067, Cape Town 8000, Tel:021 483 9743, Fax:021 483 9842, [nwiltshire@pgwc.gov.za](mailto:nwiltshire@pgwc.gov.za)).