

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

FOR THE PROPOSED BUFFELS SOLAR 2, SOLAR ENERGY  
FACILITY, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

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Project Reference:

216084

Report date:

Aug 2016

**DOCUMENT PROGRESS**  
**Archaeological Impact Assessment**

**Document status**

<b>Document Version</b>	<b>v1.0</b>
<b>Report Purpose</b>	<b>Draft Report for review</b>
<b>Report Ref. No.</b>	<b>216084</b>

**Distribution List**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Report Reference number</b>	<b>Document Distribution</b>	<b>Number of Copies</b>
2016/08/15	216084	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd	Electronic copy

**General**

The possibility of unmarked or informal graves and subsurface finds cannot be excluded. If any possible finds are made during construction, the operations must be stopped and a qualified archaeologist contacted for an assessment of the find/s.

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- The results of the project;
- The technology described in the report;
- Recommendations delivered to the Client.

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**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Site name and location:** The Proposed Buffels Solar 2 project will be located on Portion 57 of the farm Hartebeestfontein 422 IP close to Orkney and Stilfontein, North West Province. The land is owned by the Buffelsfontein Gold Mine Ltd.

**1: 50 000 Topographic Map:** 2626 DD.

**EIA Consultant:** Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

**Developer:** Kabi Solar (Pty) Ltd

**Heritage Consultant:** Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting CC (HCAC).

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**Date of Report:** 15 August 2016.

### Findings of the Assessment:

HCAC was appointed to assess the study area in terms of the archaeological component of Section 35 of the NHRA as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the project. No significant Stone Age sites were recorded in the study area and no ceramics or stone walls attributed to the Iron Age were recorded. Similarly no sites of archaeological significance were recorded by other studies in the area (e.g. Coetzee 2012). No further mitigation prior to construction is recommended in terms of the archaeological component of Section 35 for the proposed development to proceed. The palaeontological component was addressed separately (Milstead 2015) in the Scoping Phase of the project and accepted by SAHRA on 08 September 2015.

In terms of the built environment of the area (Section 34), no standing structures older than 60 years occur within the study area. The remnants of demolished mining infrastructure were noted.

In terms of Section 36 of the Act no burial sites were recorded in the study area. However if any graves are located in future they should ideally be preserved *in-situ* or alternatively relocated according to existing legislation. Due to the subsurface nature of archaeological remains and the fact that graves can occur anywhere on the landscape, it is recommended that a chance find procedure is implemented for the project as part of the EMPr.

The study area is surrounded by industrial and mining developments and no significant cultural landscapes or viewsapes were noted during the fieldwork. Due to the lack of significant heritage features in the study area there is from an archaeological point of view no reason why the development cannot commence based on approval from SAHRA.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AIA: Archaeological Impact Assessment
ASAPA: Association of South African Professional Archaeologists
BIA: Basic Impact Assessment
CRM: Cultural Resource Management
ECO: Environmental Control Officer
EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment*
EIA: Early Iron Age*
EIA Practitioner: Environmental Impact Assessment Practitioner
EMP: Environmental Management Plan
ESA: Early Stone Age
GPS: Global Positioning System
HIA: Heritage Impact Assessment
LIA: Late Iron Age
LSA: Late Stone Age
MEC: Member of the Executive Council
MIA: Middle Iron Age
MPRDA: Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act
MSA: Middle Stone Age
NEMA: National Environmental Management Act
PRHA: Provincial Heritage Resource Agency
SADC: Southern African Development Community
SAHRA: South African Heritage Resources Agency

*\*Although EIA refers to both Environmental Impact Assessment and the Early Iron Age both are internationally accepted abbreviations and must be read and interpreted in the context it is used.*

## GLOSSARY

Archaeological site (remains of human activity over 100 years old)

Early Stone Age (~ 2.6 million to 250 000 years ago)

Middle Stone Age (~ 250 000 to 40-25 000 years ago)

Later Stone Age (~ 40-25 000, to recently, 100 years ago)

The Iron Age (~ AD 400 to 1840)

Historic (~ AD 1840 to 1950)

Historic building (over 60 years old)

## 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting CC (**HCAC**) was appointed to conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed Buffels Solar 2 project as part of the EIA process.

The aim of the study is to identify cultural heritage sites, document, and assess their importance within local, provincial and national context. It serves to assess the impact of the proposed project on non-renewable heritage resources, and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the responsible cultural resources management measures that might be required to assist the developer in managing the discovered heritage resources in a responsible manner. It is also conducted to protect, preserve, and develop such resources within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (Act 25 of 1999).

The report outlines the approach and methodology utilised before and during the survey, which includes: Phase 1, a scoping study (Van der Walt 2015) that included collection from various sources and consultations; Phase 2, the physical surveying of the study area on foot and by vehicle; Phase 3, reporting the outcome of the study.

General site conditions were recorded by means of photographs, GPS locations, and site descriptions. Possible impacts were identified and mitigation measures are proposed in the following report.

This report must also be submitted to the SAHRA for review.

## 1.1. Terms of Reference

### Desktop study

Conduct a brief desktop study where information on the area is collected to provide a background setting of the archaeology that can be expected in the area.

### Field study

Conduct a field study to: a) systematically survey the proposed project area to locate, identify, record, photograph and describe sites of archaeological, historical or cultural interest; b) record GPS points identified as significant areas; c) determine the levels of significance of the various types of heritage resources recorded in the project area.

### Reporting

Report on the identification of anticipated and cumulative impacts that the operational units of the proposed project activity may have on the identified heritage resources for all 3 phases of the project; i.e., construction, operation and decommissioning phases. Consider alternatives, should any significant sites be impacted adversely by the proposed project. Ensure that all studies and results comply with Heritage legislation and the code of ethics and guidelines of ASAPA.

To assist the developer in managing the discovered heritage resources in a responsible manner, and to protect, preserve, and develop them within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (Act 25 of 1999).

## 1.2. Archaeological Legislation and Best Practice

Phase 1, an AIA or a HIA is a pre-requisite for development in South Africa as prescribed by SAHRA and stipulated by legislation. The overall purpose of heritage specialist input is to:

- » Identify any heritage resources, which may be affected;
- » Assess the nature and degree of significance of such resources;
- » Establish heritage informants/constraints to guide the development process through establishing thresholds of impact significance;
- » Assess the negative and positive impact of the development on these resources;
- » Make recommendations for the appropriate heritage management of these impacts.

The AIA or HIA, as a specialist sub-section of the EIA, is required under the National Heritage Resources Act NHRA of 1999 (Act 25 of 1999), Section 23(2) (b) of the NEMA and Section S. 39 (3) (b) (iii) of the MPRDA.

The AIA should be submitted, as part of the EIA, BIA or EMPr, to the PHRA if established in the province or to SAHRA. SAHRA will ultimately be responsible for the professional evaluation of Phase 1 AIA reports upon which review comments will be issued. 'Best practice' requires Phase 1 AIA reports and additional development information, as per the EIA, BIA/EMPr, to be submitted in duplicate to SAHRA after completion of the study. SAHRA accepts Phase 1 AIA reports authored by professional archaeologists, accredited with ASAPA or with a proven ability to do archaeological work.

Minimum accreditation requirements include an Honours degree in archaeology or related discipline and 3 years post-university CRM experience (field supervisor level). Minimum standards for reports, site documentation and descriptions are set by ASAPA in collaboration with SAHRA. ASAPA is based in South Africa, representing professional archaeology in the SADC region. ASAPA is primarily involved in the overseeing of ethical practice and standards regarding the archaeological profession. Membership is based on proposal and secondment by other professional members.

Phase 1 AIA's are primarily concerned with the location and identification of heritage sites situated within a proposed development area. Identified sites should be assessed according to their significance. Relevant conservation or Phase 2 mitigation recommendations should be made. Recommendations are subject to evaluation by SAHRA.

Conservation or Phase 2 mitigation recommendations, as approved by SAHRA, are to be used as guidelines in the developer's decision making process.

Phase 2 archaeological projects are primarily based on salvage/mitigation excavations preceding development destruction or impact on a site. Phase 2 excavations can only be conducted with a permit, issued by SAHRA to the appointed archaeologist. Permit conditions are prescribed by SAHRA and includes (as minimum requirements) reporting back strategies to SAHRA and deposition of excavated material at an accredited repository.

In the event of a site conservation option being preferred by the developer, a site management plan, prepared by a professional archaeologist and approved by SAHRA, will suffice as minimum requirement.

After mitigation of a site, a destruction permit must be applied for from SAHRA by the client before development may proceed.

Human remains older than 60 years are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act, with reference to Section 36. Graves older than 60 years, but younger than 100 years fall under Section 36 of Act 25 of 1999 (National Heritage Resources Act), as well as the Human

Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983), and are the jurisdiction of SAHRA. The procedure for Consultation Regarding Burial Grounds and Graves (Section 36[5]) of Act 25 of 1999) is applicable to graves older than 60 years that are situated outside a formal cemetery administrated by a local authority. Graves in this age category, located inside a formal cemetery administrated by a local authority, require the same authorisation as set out for graves younger than 60 years, in addition to SAHRA authorisation. If the grave is not situated inside a formal cemetery, but is to be relocated to one, permission from the local authority is required and all regulations, laws and by-laws, set by the cemetery authority, must be adhered to.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are protected under Section 2(1) of the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no. 7 of 1925), as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983), and are the jurisdiction of the National Department of Health and the relevant Provincial Department of Health and must be submitted for final approval to the office of the relevant Provincial Premier. This function is usually delegated to the Provincial MEC for Local Government and Planning; or in some cases, the MEC for Housing and Welfare. Authorisation for exhumation and reinternment must also be obtained from the relevant local or regional council where the grave is situated, as well as the relevant local or regional council to where the grave is being relocated. All local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws must also be adhered to. To handle and transport human remains, the institution conducting the relocation should be authorised under Section 24 of Act 65 of 1983 (Human Tissues Act).

### **1.3. Description of Study Area**

#### ***1.3.1 Location Data***

The Proposed Buffels Solar 2 project will be located on Portion 57 of the farm Hartebeestfontein 422 IP. The land is owned by the Buffelsfontein Gold Mine Ltd. The site is located approximately 20 km north east of Orkney in the North West Province. The proposed location falls under the jurisdiction of the City of Matlosana Local Municipality which is part of the greater Dr. Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality (Figure 1). The site is located at 26° 53' 31.6540" S, 26° 49' 32.4389" E.

The study area is classified as belonging to the Grassland Biome and to a lesser extent to the Savannah Biome. The vegetation and landscape is described by Mucina and Rutherford (2006) as moderately undulating and is restricted to the Vaal Reefs Dolomite Sinkhole Woodland vegetation type.



### 1.3.2. Location Map

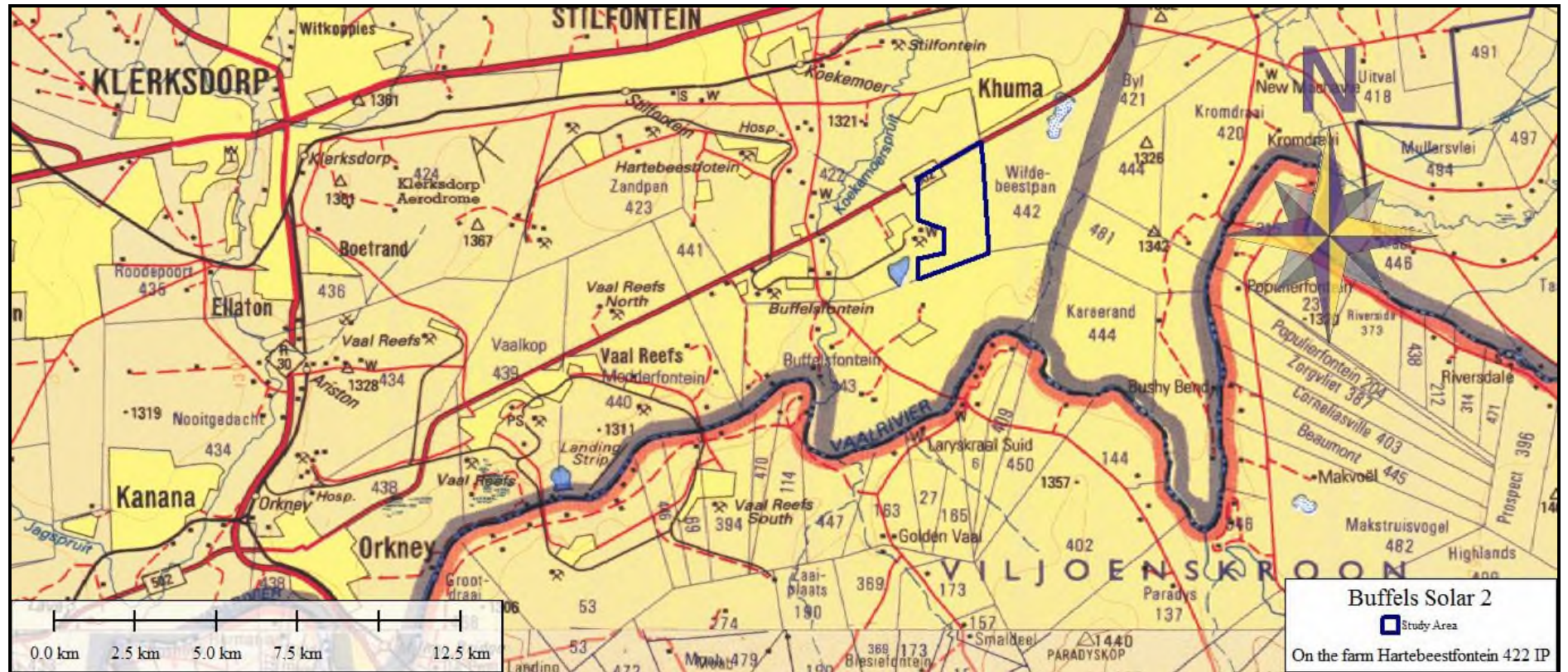


Figure 1. Regional context of the study area proposed for Buffels Solar 2.

## **2. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY**

The aim of the study is to cover archaeological databases to compile a background of the archaeology that can be expected in the study area followed by field verification; this was accomplished by means of the following phases.

### **2.1 Phase 1 - Scoping Study**

The first phase comprised of a desktop study, scanning existing records for archaeological sites, historical sites, graves, architecture (structures older than 60 years) of the area. The following approached was followed:

#### **2.1.1 Literature Search**

This was conducted by utilising data stored in the national archives and published reports relevant to the area. The aim of this is to extract data and information on the area in question.

#### **2.1.2 Information Collection**

SAHRIS was consulted to collect data from previously conducted CRM projects in the region to provide a comprehensive account of the history of the study area.

#### **2.1.3 Consultation**

No public consultation was done by the author as a separate public participation process is facilitated by the Environmental Consultant.

#### **2.1.4 Google Earth and Mapping Survey**

Google Earth and 1:50 000 maps of the area were utilised to identify possible places where sites of heritage significance might be located.

#### **2.1.5 Genealogical Society of South Africa**

The database of the Genealogical Society was consulted to collect data on any known graves in the area.



## **2.2 Phase 2 - Physical Surveying**

Due to the nature of cultural remains, the majority of which occurs below surface, a field survey of the proposed study area was conducted. The study area was surveyed by means of vehicle and extensive pedestrian surveys on the week of the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2016.

The survey was aimed at covering the proposed development footprint, focussing on specific areas on the landscape that would be more likely to contain archaeological and/or other heritage remains like drainage lines, rocky outcrops as well as slight elevations in the natural topography. These areas were searched more intensively, but many other areas were walked in order to confirm expectations in those areas. Track logs of the areas covered were taken (Figure 2).

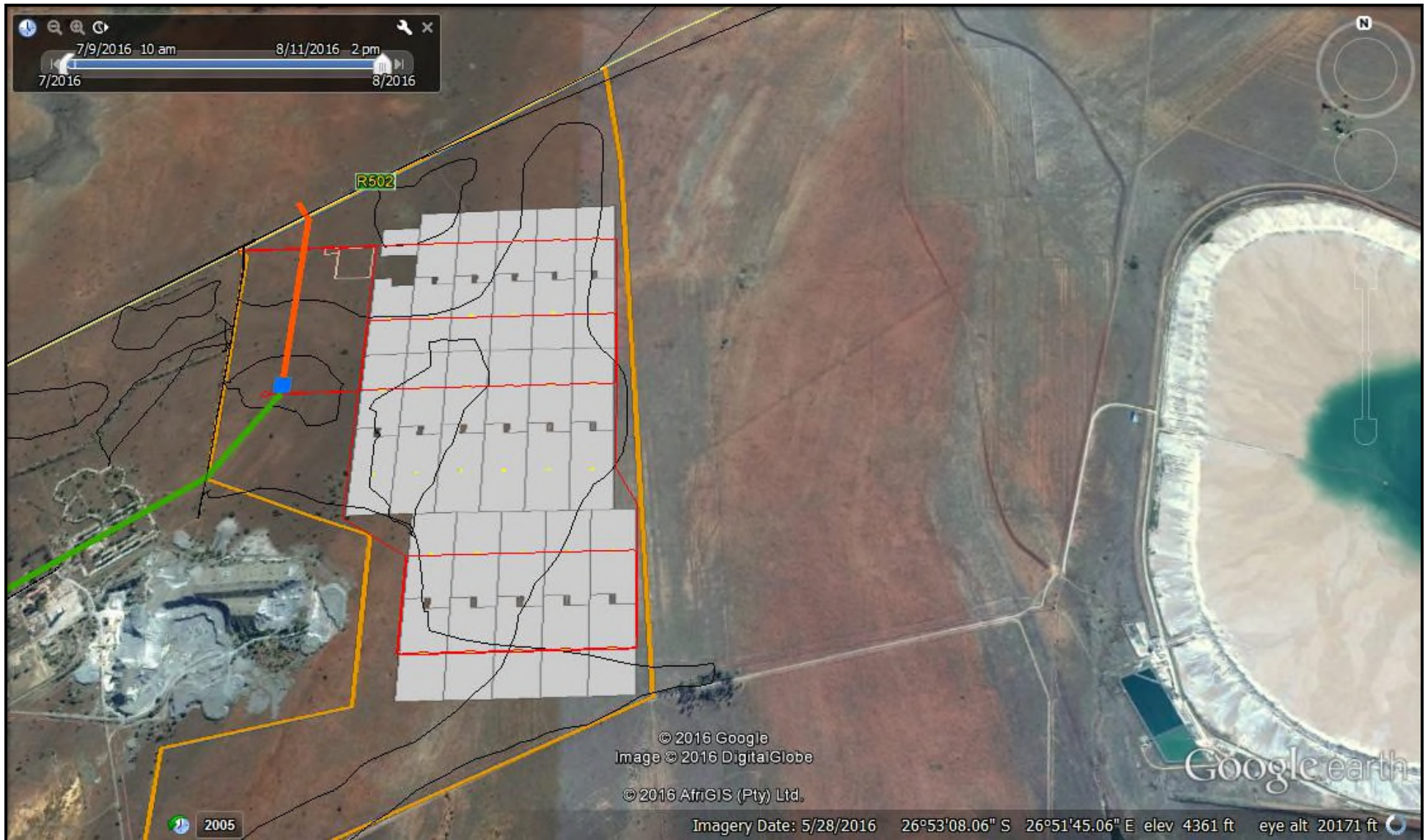


Figure 2. Track logs of the areas surveyed indicated in black with the development footprint indicated in grey and red.

### **2.3. Restrictions**

Due to the subsurface nature of archaeological artefacts, the possibility exists that some features or artefacts may not have been discovered/recorded during the survey and the possible occurrence of unmarked graves and other cultural material cannot be excluded. This report only deals with the footprint area of the proposed development as indicated in Figure 2. It should be noted that existing illegal mining activity occurs in the area and hampered the survey due to safety concerns.

The study area is covered in vegetation and this influenced archaeological visibility. Although HCAC surveyed the area as thoroughly as possible, it is incumbent upon the developer to stop operations and inform the relevant heritage agency should further cultural remains, such as graves, stone tool scatters, artefacts, bones or fossils, be exposed during the process of development.

### **3. NATURE OF THE DEVELOPMENT**

The purpose of the proposed PV facility will be to generate solar electricity and evacuate the generated power into the Eskom national electricity grid. The project is proposed to be bid into the Department of Energy's (DoE) Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement (REIPPP) Programme.

The proposed facility is envisaged to make use of photovoltaic (PV) technology with a maximum total generation capacity of 100MW and will include the following infrastructure:

- » Mounting structures to support the PV panels.
- » On-site inverters to step up the power and a substation to facilitate the connection between the solar energy facility and the Eskom electricity grid.
- » A new 132kV power line between the on-site substation and the Eskom grid connection point.
- » Cabling between the projects components, to be laid underground where practical.
- » Offices and workshop areas for maintenance and storage.
- » Temporary laydown areas.
- » Internal access roads and fencing around the development area.

## **4. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA**

### **4.1 Databases Consulted**

Several unpublished CRM projects were conducted in the general study area (Coetzee 2012, Miller 2015). Coetzee (2012) recorded demolished structures younger than 60 years and Miller (2015) also recorded structures. Most of these are younger than 60 years although some mining infrastructure older than 60 years was recorded.

### ***Genealogical Society and Google Earth Monuments***

No cemeteries are indicated for the farm (study area) under investigation.

### **4.2. Brief background to the study area**

The history of the surrounding area will be briefly discussed. Sources for the history of the area surrounding the study area include secondary source material, maps, electronic sources, and archival documents.

#### **4.2.1. Historical background of the area**

##### **4.2.1.1. Stone Age**

The Stone Age is divided in the Early; Middle and Late Stone Age. It refers to the earliest people of South Africa who mainly relied on stone for their tools.

**Early Stone Age:** The period from  $\pm$  2.5 million yrs. -  $\pm$  250 000 yrs. ago. Acheulean stone tools are dominant. No Acheulean sites are on record near the study area, but isolated finds may be possible. However, isolated finds have little value. Therefore, the project is unlikely to disturb a site of significance. The lack of any ESA sites was confirmed during the field investigation.

**Middle Stone Age:** The Middle Stone Age includes various lithic industries in SA dating from  $\pm$  250 000 yrs. – 25 000 yrs. before present. This period is first associated with archaic Homo sapiens and later Homo sapiens sapiens. Material culture includes stone tools with prepared platforms and stone tools attached to handles.

**Late Stone Age:** The period from  $\pm$  25 000-yrs before present to the period of contact with either Iron Age farmers or European colonists. This period is associated with Homo sapiens sapiens. Material culture from this period includes: microlithic stone tools; ostrich eggshell beads and rock art. Sites located in the open are usually poorly preserved and therefore have less value than sites in caves or rock shelters.

Since there are no caves in the study area no LSA sites of significance were recorded and no isolated finds or occurrences were recorded. The Matlwase LSA site is on record and is

located close to Wolmaransstad (Bergh 1999). According to Bergh there are no known Stone Age sites close to the study area, although a number of rock engraving sites are known to occur in the larger geographical area (Bergh 1999: 4-5).

#### **4.2.1.2. The Iron Age**

The Iron Age as a whole represents the spread of Bantu speaking people and includes both the pre-Historic and Historic periods. It can be divided into three distinct periods:

- The Early Iron Age: Most of the first millennium AD.
- The Middle Iron Age: 10th to 13th centuries AD
- The Late Iron Age: 14th century to colonial period.

The Iron Age is characterised by the ability of these early people to manipulate and work Iron ore into implements that assisted them in creating a favourable environment to make a better living. No Sites dating to the Early or Middle Iron Age have been recorded or is expected in the study area. The same goes for the Later Iron Age period where the study area is situated outside the southern periphery of distribution of Late Iron Age settlements in the North West Province. However to the north west of the study area towards Zeerust and towards Mafikeng, the area is well known for Later Iron Age stone walled settlements archaeologically referred to as Molokwane settlements (Pistorius 1992, Booyens 1998, Huffman 2007). Geskiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika (1999) recorded some 88 Late Iron Age sites towards Klerksdorp. No sites dating to this period was recorded in the study area.

There are some Late Iron Age sites in the larger geographical area north and west of the town of Klerksdorp (Bergh 1999: 6-7). Some well-known examples are Platberg (Wells 1933) and Buisfontein (Thabeng) (Maggs 1976). Another site Palmietfontein (30km north of Klerksdorp), excavated in 1975 by D.A. White. An article on this work also indicated that the area north of Klerksdorp is relatively rich in terms of Late Iron Age sites, and that the Rolong capital of Thabeng lies within this area (White 1977: 89). Based on the research by Huffman it is possible that sites are related to the Olifantspoort facies of the Urewe Tradition, dating to around AD 1500-1700, and the Thabeng facies of the same tradition (AD 1700-1840) could possibly be found in the area (Huffman 2007).

The well-known rock art site of Bosworth that also included Later Stone Age artefacts (Mason 1962) is located to the north of the study area.

#### **4.2.1.3. Battles close to the study area**

During the Second Boer War (1899-1902), there were many battles in the Klerksdorp area and the area also housed a large concentration camp. The most famous battle in the Klerksdorp area is the Battle of Ysterspruit. The Boer General, Koos de la Rey, achieved a great victory and this battle is one of the most celebrated of the general's career. It was this battle in which the Boer soldiers pioneered the art of firing from horseback.

On April 11, 1920, Rooiwal, near Klerksdorp, saw the battle of Rooiwal, the last major engagement of the war, where a Boer charge was beaten off by entrenched British troops. Just under a thousand graves of the victims of the concentration camps, namely Boer women and children can still be visited today in the old cemetery just outside of Klerksdorp.

Sites relating to the Anglo Boer War have been recorded and indicated by Meyer (1971), Breytenbach (1978), Van den Berg (1996) as well as Scheepers-Strydom (1970) for the greater study area.

#### ***4.2.1.4. Buffelsfontein Gold Mining History***

The Hartebeesfontein mine located on the farm Hartebeesfontein 422 IP, had been a gold mine since 1954 and in 1999 merged with the neighbouring Buffelsfontein gold and uranium mine owned by Gencor. Buffelsfontein was known as the south division and Hartebeesfontein was the north division. Placed into liquidation in 2005 and purchased by Simmer and Jack Mines, in 2011 the company was taken over by Village Main which operated the mines for 2 years. They eventually closed in 2013 and in 2014 the shafts were sealed. After the mine closure the buildings and infrastructure were routinely vandalised and stripped of anything of value, leaving useless shells that had to be destroyed as part of their mine closure and rehabilitation process (Financial Mail 2014).

## 5. HERITAGE SITE SIGNIFICANCE AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The presence and distribution of heritage resources define a 'heritage landscape'. In this landscape, every site is relevant. In addition, because heritage resources are non-renewable, heritage surveys need to investigate an entire project area, or a representative sample, depending on the nature of the project. In the case of the proposed project the local extent of its impact necessitates a representative sample and only the footprint of the areas demarcated for development were surveyed. In all initial investigations, however, the specialists are responsible only for the identification of resources visible on the surface. This section describes the evaluation criteria used for determining the significance of archaeological and heritage sites. The following criteria were used to establish site significance:

- » The unique nature of a site;
- » The integrity of the archaeological/cultural heritage deposits;
- » The wider historic, archaeological and geographic context of the site;
- » The location of the site in relation to other similar sites or features;
- » The depth of the archaeological deposit (when it can be determined/is known);
- » The preservation condition of the sites;
- » Potential to answer present research questions.

Furthermore, the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999, Sec 3) distinguishes nine criteria for places and objects to qualify as 'part of the national estate' if they have cultural significance or other special value. These criteria are:

- » Its importance in/to 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;
- » Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.



### 5.1. Field Rating of Sites

Site significance classification standards prescribed by SAHRA (2006), and acknowledged by ASAPA for the SADC region, were used for the purpose of this report. The recommendations for each site should be read in conjunction with section 7 of this report.

<b>FIELD RATING</b>	<b>GRADE</b>	<b>SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED MITIGATION</b>
National Significance (NS)	Grade 1	-	Conservation; national site nomination
Provincial Significance (PS)	Grade 2	-	Conservation; provincial site nomination
Local Significance (LS)	Grade 3A	High significance	Conservation; mitigation not advised
Local Significance (LS)	Grade 3B	High significance	Mitigation (part of site should be retained)
Generally Protected A (GP.A)	-	High/medium significance	Mitigation before destruction
Generally Protected B (GP.B)	-	Medium significance	Recording before destruction
Generally Protected C (GP.C)	-	Low significance	Destruction

Direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the issues identified through the scoping study, as well as all other issues identified in the EIA phase must be assessed in terms of the following criteria provided by the client:

- » The **nature**, which shall include a description of what causes the effect, what will be affected and how it will be affected.
- » The **extent**, wherein it will be indicated whether the impact will be local (limited to the immediate area or site of development) or regional, and a value between 1 and 5 will be assigned as appropriate (with 1 being low and 5 being high).
- » The **duration**, wherein it will be indicated whether:
  - \* the lifetime of the impact will be of a very short duration (0–1 years) – assigned a score of 1;
  - \* the lifetime of the impact will be of a short duration (2-5 years) - assigned a score of 2;
  - \* medium-term (5–15 years) – assigned a score of 3;
  - \* long term (> 15 years) - assigned a score of 4; or
  - \* permanent - assigned a score of 5.

- » The **consequences (magnitude)**, quantified on a scale from 0-10. 0 is small and will have no effect on the environment. 2 is minor and will not result in an impact on processes. 4 is low and will cause a slight impact on processes. 6 is moderate and will result in processes continuing but in a modified way. 8 is high (processes are altered to the extent that they temporarily cease). Lastly 10 is very high and results in complete destruction of patterns and permanent cessation of processes.
- » The **probability of occurrence**, which shall describe the likelihood of the impact actually occurring. Probability will be estimated on a scale of 1-5, where 1 is very improbable (probably will not happen), 2 is improbable (some possibility, but low likelihood), 3 is probable (distinct possibility), 4 is highly probable (most likely) and 5 is definite (impact will occur regardless of any prevention measures).
- » the **significance**, which shall be determined through a synthesis of the characteristics described above and can be assessed as low, medium or high; and
- » the **status**, which will be described as either positive, negative or neutral.
- » the degree to which the impact can be **reversed**.
- » the degree to which the impact may cause **irreplaceable loss** of resources.
- » the *degree* to which the impact can be **mitigated**.

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

$$S=(E+D+M)P$$

S = Significance weighting

E = Extent

D = Duration

M = Magnitude

P = Probability

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

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

## **6. BASELINE STUDY-DESCRIPTION OF SITES**

It is important to note that the entire farm was not surveyed but only the Buffels Solar 2 development footprint (Figure 2). The topography of the study area is relatively flat and covered by veld grass (Figure 3 & 4) without any major topographical features like pans, hills or rocky outcrops. Although archaeological visibility is high the coverage of the survey was hampered by zama zama activity (illegal mining) that was reported in the area.

The study area has been fallow for a number of years and locals use the area for grazing and agricultural activities (Figure 7). No traces of any archaeological remains were identified during the survey, a search on archaeological data bases also yielded no known sites within or adjacent to the study area and no heritage significant sites were identified during the desktop study. Studies adjacent to the study area also did not record any archaeological sites of significance (e.g. Coetzee 2012).

The surrounding area is characterised by mining and residential developments and no significant cultural landscapes or viewsapes were noted during the fieldwork.



Figure 3: General site conditions in the study area.



Figure 4. General site conditions in the study area.



Figure 5. General site conditions



Figure 6. General site conditions.



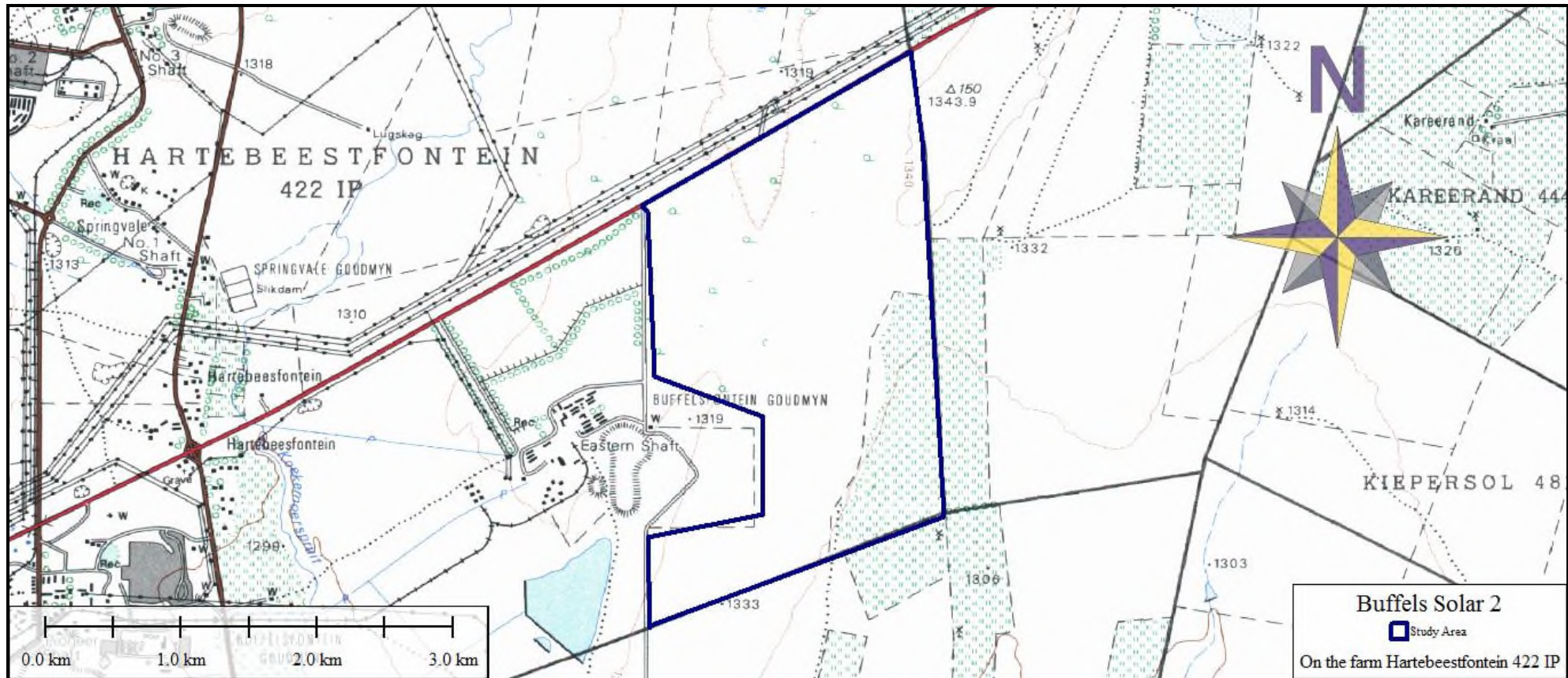


Figure 7. Extract of the 1996 topographical map. Note that the study area is fallow and no structures are indicated in the study area.

### 6.1. Impact evaluation of the proposed project on heritage resources

**Nature:** During the construction phase activities resulting in disturbance of surfaces and/or sub-surfaces may destroy, damage, alter, or remove from its original position archaeological and paleontological material or objects.

	<b>Without mitigation</b>	<b>With mitigation (Preservation/ excavation of site)</b>
<b>Extent</b>	Local (2)	Local (2)
<b>Duration</b>	Permanent (5)	Permanent (5)
<b>Magnitude</b>	Low (3)	Low (3)
<b>Probability</b>	Not Probable (2)	Not Probable (2)
<b>Significance</b>	<b>20 (Low)</b>	<b>20 (Low)</b>
<b>Status (positive or negative)</b>	Negative	Negative
<b>Reversibility</b>	Not reversible	Not reversible
<b>Irreplaceable loss of resources?</b>	Yes	Yes unless sites can be preserved.
<b>Can impacts be mitigated?</b>	Yes	Through preservation or excavation of sites.
<b>Mitigation:</b> Implementation of a chance finds procedure in the EMPr.		
<b>Cumulative impacts:</b> In any archaeological context the impacts are once-off permanent destructive events. However, the lack of significant archaeological sites within the study area and the surrounding areas will result in low cumulative impacts.		
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> N.A		

## Cumulative Assessment

Through CRM studies for developments in the area heritage sites are identified and protected from accidental damage, this can be regarded as a positive impact as it adds to the heritage database of the area.

The impact of the project on heritage resources can be mitigated.

## Cumulative Impact Assessment

<b>Nature:</b> Heritage impacts associated with the establishment of solar energy facilities on the archaeology of the greater area.		
	<b>Overall impact of the proposed project considered in isolation</b>	<b>Cumulative impact of the project and other projects within the area</b>
<b>Extent</b>	Local (2)	Local (2)
<b>Duration</b>	Permanent (5)	Permanent (5)
<b>Magnitude</b>	Low (4)	Low (4)
<b>Probability</b>	Not probable (2)	Not Probable (2)
<b>Significance</b>	<b>22 (Low)</b>	<b>22 (Low)</b>
<b>Status (positive or negative)</b>	Negative	Negative
<b>Reversibility</b>	Not reversible	Not reversible
<b>Irreplaceable loss of resources?</b>	Yes, if present.	Yes, unless sites can be preserved.
<b>Can impacts be mitigated?</b>	Yes	Through preservation or excavation of sites.
<b>Mitigation:</b> Identified resources are being recorded and mitigated for projects such as these that would have otherwise remained unidentified. In terms of the impact on the cultural landscape the impact is considered low, as currently it is characterised by industrial and mining developments.		
<b>Cumulative impacts:</b> If sites are destroyed this results in the depletion of archaeological record of the area. However if sites are preserved or recorded and mitigated this adds to the archaeological record of the area.		
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> In any archaeological contexts the impacts are once-off permanent destructive events.		

## 7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

HCAC was appointed to assess the study area proposed for the Buffels Solar 2 project in terms of the archaeological component of Section 35 of the NHRA. No significant Stone Age material occurs in the study area and no ceramics or stone walls attributed to the Iron Age were recorded within the study area. No further mitigation is recommended in terms of the archaeological component for Section 35 for the proposed development to proceed.

In terms of the built environment of the area (Section 34), no standing structures older than 60 years occur within the study area.

In terms of Section 36 of the Act no burial sites were recorded. However if any graves are located in future they should ideally be preserved *in-situ* or alternatively relocated according to existing legislation. Due to the subsurface nature of archaeological remains and the fact that graves can occur anywhere on the landscape, it is recommended that a chance find procedure is implemented for the project as part of the EMPr as detailed below (refer to Table 1).



Table 1: EMPR management measures

OBJECTIVE: To preserve and mitigate non-renewable heritage resources in the study area.	
<b>Project component/s</b>	Heritage resources can be impacted by the pre-construction and construction activities of the project.
<b>Potential Impact</b>	Irreplaceable loss of heritage resources in the study area and depletion of the archaeological database of the area.
<b>Activity/risk source</b>	Activities such as vegetation clearing and digging foundations could destroy archaeological resources.
<b>Mitigation: Target/Objective</b>	An environmental management plan that considers heritage resources in the event of any future extensions of infrastructure or identification of heritage resources. Mitigation is not considered to be necessary at this point. .

<b>Mitigation: Action/control</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Implement a Chance Finds Procedure to ensure that if any heritage resources are uncovered that these are reported and correctly mitigated.	ECO	Daily

<b>Performance Indicator</b>	Heritage impacts should be considered in any future development in the area. Implementation of a chance find procedure i.e. immediate reporting to relevant heritage authorities of any heritage feature discovered during any phase of development or operation of the facility.
<b>Monitoring</b>	The ECO should monitor the possible occurrence of heritage resources regularly.

### **Chance finds procedure**

This procedure applies to the developer's permanent employees, its subsidiaries, contractors and subcontractors, and service providers. The aim of this procedure is to establish monitoring and reporting procedures to ensure compliance with this policy and its associated procedures. Construction crews must be properly inducted to ensure they are fully aware of the procedures regarding chance finds as discussed below.

- If during the pre-construction phase, construction, operations or closure phases of this project, any person employed by the developer, one of its subsidiaries, contractors and subcontractors, or service provider, finds any artefact of cultural significance or heritage site, this person must cease work at the site of the find and report this find to their immediate supervisor, and through their supervisor to the senior on-site manager.
- It is the responsibility of the senior on-site Manager to make an initial assessment of the extent of the find, and confirm the extent of the work stoppage in that area.
- The senior on-site Manager will inform the ECO of the chance find and its immediate impact on operations. The ECO will then contact a professional archaeologist for an assessment of the finds who will notify the SAHRA.

The study area is surrounded by residential developments and no significant cultural landscapes or viewsapes were noted during the fieldwork.

### **7.1 Reasoned Opinion**

From a heritage perspective the proposed project is acceptable, if the above recommendations are adhered to and based on approval from SAHRA, HCAC is of the opinion that the development can continue as the development will not impact negatively on the archaeological record of the area. If during the pre-construction phase or during construction, any archaeological finds are made (e.g. graves, stone tools, and skeletal material), the operations must be stopped, and the archaeologist must be contacted for an assessment of the finds. Due to the subsurface nature of archaeological material and graves the possibility of the occurrence of unmarked or informal graves and subsurface finds cannot be excluded, but can be easily mitigated by preserving the sites *in-situ* within the development.

### **8. PROJECT TEAM**

Jaco van der Walt, Project Manager

### **9. STATEMENT OF COMPETENCY**

I (Jaco van der Walt) am a member of ASAPA (no 159), and accredited in the following fields of the CRM Section of the association: Iron Age Archaeology, Colonial Period Archaeology, Stone Age Archaeology and Grave Relocation. This accreditation is also acknowledged by SAHRA and AMAFA.

I have been involved in research and contract work in South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tanzania and the DRC; having conducted more than 300 AIA's since 2000.

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