SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION
(IN TERMS OF PART A OF THE ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS PUBLISHED IN GN 320 ON 20 MARCH 2020

1 INTRODUCTION

JUWI is proposing to develop 2 x PV facilities and associated infrastructure on Farm No. 692 adjacent to the R75 approximately 13km southwest of Kirkwood. The site is located in the Sundays River Valley Municipality in the Sarah Baartman District Municipality of the Eastern Cape.

Farm No. 692 (hereafter referred to as the property) is located adjacent to the R75 approximately 13km south-west of Kirkwood, Easter Cape Province. The Skilpad Substation is located within the property. The intention is to develop one or more PV facilities and associated infrastructure on the property, depending on site sensitivities. The associated infrastructure would include a BESS, site camp, substation and OHL, and O&M building. Based on the site visit and desktop analysis, the focus area for PV development is the northern section of the property.

In accordance with Appendix 6 of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014, a site sensitivity verification has been undertaken in order to confirm the current land use and environmental sensitivity of the proposed project area as identified by the National Web-Based Environmental Screening Tool (Screening Tool).

According to the DFFE Screening Tool analysis, the development area has Very High levels of sensitivity for impacts to palaeontological heritage and Low levels of sensitivity for impacts to archaeological and cultural heritage resources.

2 SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION

- A Desktop Study was conducted of relevant reports previously written (please see the reference list for the age and nature of the reports used)
- An archaeologist conducted an assessment of archaeological resources likely to be disturbed by the proposed development. The archaeologists conducted their site visit from 15 to 16 November 2022
- A palaeontologist conducted a field assessment of palaeontological resources likely to be disturbed by the proposed development on 20 January 2023.
- The identified resources were assessed to evaluate their heritage significance and impacts to these resources were assessed.

- Alternatives and mitigation options were discussed with the Environmental Assessment Practitioner

3 OUTCOME OF SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION

The previous heritage studies that have been conducted in the broader area have identified isolated and scattered artefacts of the Early, Middle and Later Stone Age (Binneman, 2010; NID 7159). The findings of this assessment corroborate the characterisation of the area made by other specialists. The field survey identified a number of isolated artefacts, none of which are dense enough to be considered an archaeological site. None of the archaeological observations made have sufficient scientific value to warrant their retention and as such, have been graded as Not Conservation-Worthy. The recording of their presence in this report is considered sufficient. A Low archaeological significance is allocated to this area.

A Medium Palaeontological Significance has been allocated to the Mayogi PV development. It is therefore considered that the proposed development will not lead to damaging impacts on the palaeontological resources of the area. The construction of the development may thus be permitted in its whole extent, as the development footprint is not considered sensitive in terms of palaeontological resources.

Based on the outcomes of this assessment, it is unlikely that the proposed development will negatively impact on significant archaeological, palaeontological or cultural heritage resources. There is no objection to the proposed development.

4 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING TOOL

The results of this assessment in terms of site sensitivity are summarised below:

- The cultural value of the broader area has some significance in terms of its sense of place and scenic qualities (Moderate)
- No significant archaeological resources were identified within the study area (Low)
- No highly significant palaeontological resources were identified within the development area however the sediments underlying the development area have very high palaeontological sensitivity (Moderate)

As per the findings of this assessment, and its supporting documentation, the outcome of the sensitivity verification disputes the results of the DFFE Screening Tool for Cultural Heritage and Palaeontology.

5 CONCLUSION

The site sensitivities identified in the specialist study have been verified.