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Beyond Heritage (Pty) Ltd

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28 June 2023

Attention: Riona Patak Govender

SLR Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd

Unit 14 Braehead Office Park

1 Old Main Road

Kloof

Durban, 3640

Reference: **HERITAGE STATEMENT – THE DAMLAAGTE AND ILIKWA OVERHEAD POWERLINE,
LOCATED IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE**

1. Background information

South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd (Mainstream) is proposing the construction of a 132kV Overhead Powerline (OHPL) to connect the two approved Solar PV Facilities i.e. the Ilikwa Solar PV Facility (14/12/16/3/3/2/2078) and the Damlaagte Solar PV Facility (14/12/16/3/3/1/2432) to the existing ESKOM Scafell Main Transmission Substation (MTS). The proposed project is located 19 km west of Sasolburg and 22 km north-east of Parys, within the Ngwathe Local Municipality of the Fezile Dabi District Municipality in the Free State Province.

The proposed project requires Environmental Authorisation (EA) subject to a Basic Assessment (BA) Process from the Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA). Mainstream appointed SLR Consulting (South Africa) Pty Ltd as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the required BA for the proposed project which was previously submitted to the DFFE in September 2021. In March 2022, the DFFE refused the Scafell Solar PV Project and associated Grid project based on, inter alia, issues with information presented in the reports, information contained in specialist studies and comments from Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs).

Due to the initial refusal of the Damlaagte and Ilikwa grid connections, Mainstream in collaboration with Eskom, undertook to find an alternative means to connect to the grid and have thus proposed a new approx. 2.1km overhead alignment. This alignment that will connect both Damlaagte and Ilikwa Solar PV Facilities to the existing Scafell MTS, by following an existing Eskom powerline servitude.

The project area (Figure 1) was assessed during a Heritage Impact Assessment for the Scafell PV cluster (van der walt 2021) and submitted to the South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) for statutory comment.

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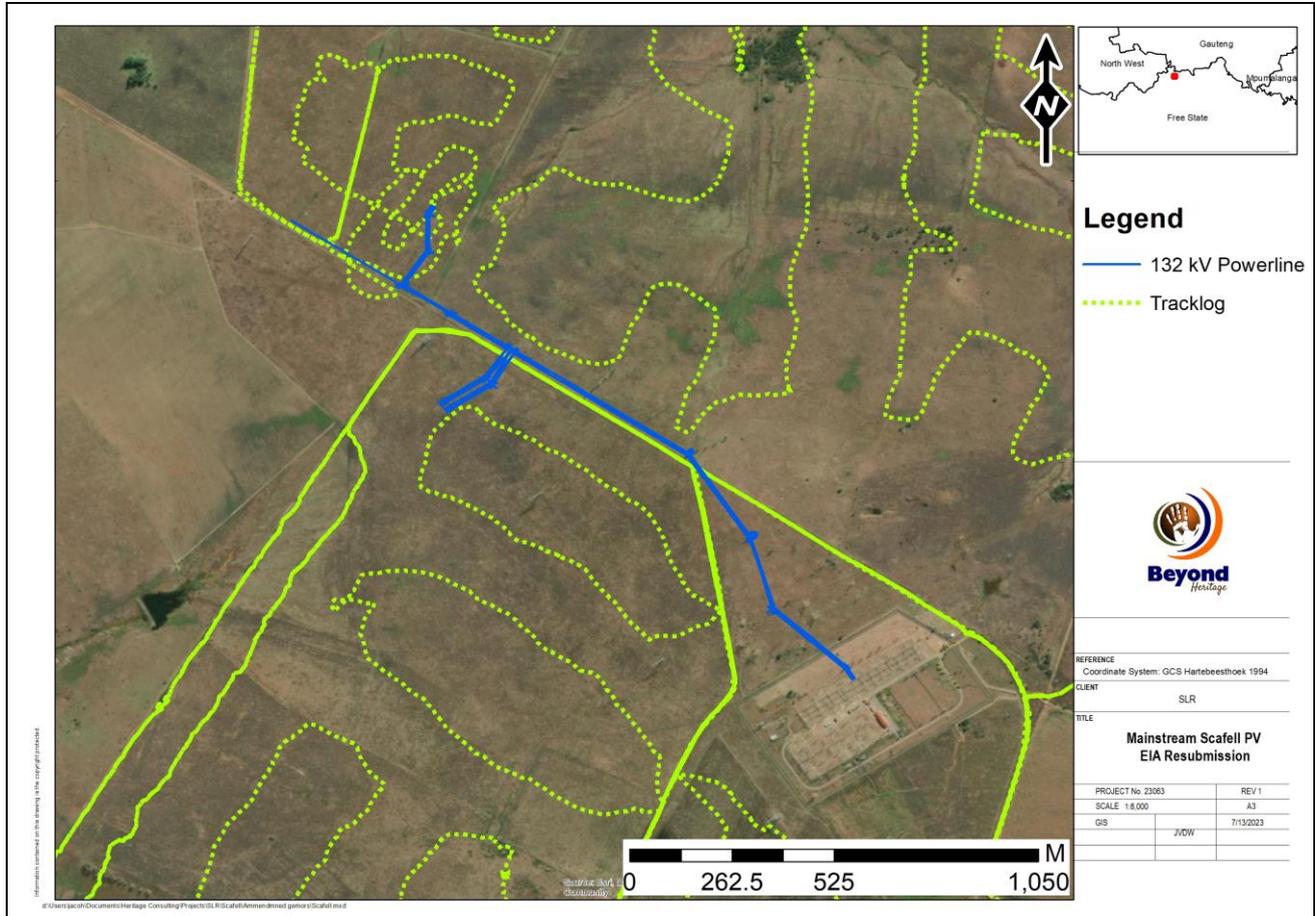


Figure 1. Tracklog of the survey in relation to the proposed powerline.

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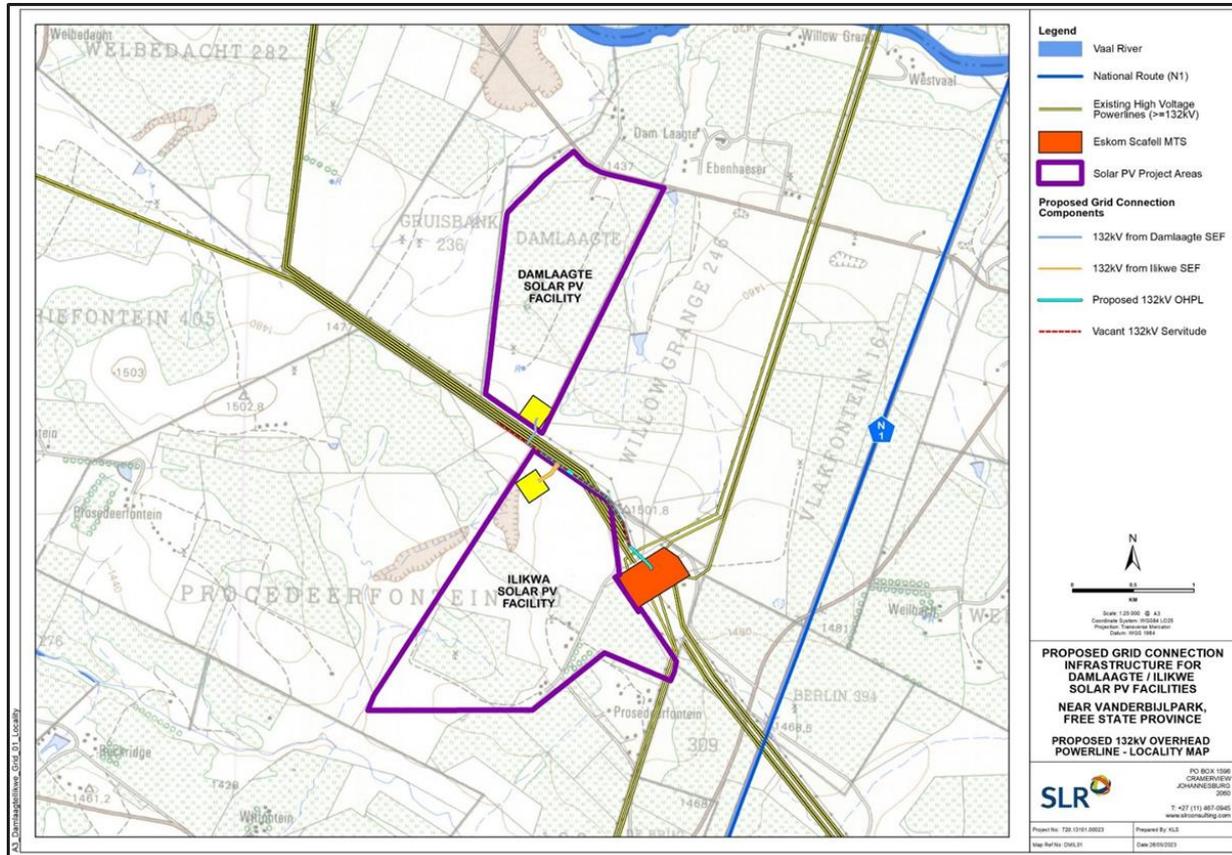


Figure 2. 1:50 000 map showing the proposed powerline following an existing but disused line.

2. Heritage Opinion

Based on the findings of the 2021 heritage assessment and the subsequent heritage field work in the area there is no objection to the approval of the proposed development for the following reasons:

- The proposed powerline follows an existing but disused powerline and impacts in these areas have already manifested.
- According to the Paleontological specialist report for the study area (Bamford 2021), no action is required for any of the grid connections.
- The proposed powerline will not change the nature or significance of the impacts assessed in the 2021 study and no heritage sites of significance were recorded that would be affected by the powerline.
- No additional management or mitigation measures over and above the recommendations made in the 2021 heritage and paleontological reports is applicable to the powerline, with the exclusion of a heritage walkdown as the Damlaagte and Ilikwa Overhead Powerline footprint was sufficiently covered.

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The proposed development remains subject to approval from SAHRA.

Kindly contact me with any queries or concerns.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jaco van der Walt'.

Jaco van der Walt

Archaeologist and heritage specialist

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References

Van der Walt, J. 2021. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Scafell Cluster Project , Free State Province.
Unpublished report.

Bamford, M.K. 2021. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Scafell Cluster Project, Free State
Province. Unpublished report.