

# HERITAGE DESKTOP REPORT

**FOR THE PROPOSED ORION NO 5 PROSPECTING APPLICATION ON THE FARMS  
GRASPAN AND UITSPAN, COPPERTON AREA, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Site name and location:** The proposed Orion Exploration No.5 prospecting activities on the farms Graspan and Uitspan, located 15km South-West of Copperton and 67km South-West of Prieska in the Northern Cape Province.

**1: 50 000 Topographic Map:** 2922 CC & 3022 AA.

**EIA Consultant:** ABS Africa (Pty) Ltd.

**Developer:** Orion Exploration No.5

**Heritage Consultant:** Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting CC (HCAC).  
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**Date of Report:** 15 January 2019

### Findings of the Assessment:

The scope of work comprises a heritage desktop report for a large prospecting right area comprising approximately 8963 ha. Due to the geographical size of the exploration application and the fact that no intrusive activities will occur at this point of the application, it was deemed not feasible to conduct fieldwork at this point. Several large-scale heritage surveys were conducted for renewable energy and mining projects and the archaeological character of the area is now well described (e.g., Orton & Webley 2013 a and b, van der Walt 2012, 2013 & 2017) and this desktop study is informed by available data for the area. Based on these studies the following resources can be expected in the study area as indicated below.

Standing structures older than 60 years are protected by Section 34 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999) and the destruction or demolition of structures older than 60 years will require relevant permits. Although it is not foreseen that non-intrusive exploration activities will impact on standing structures, features older than 60 years can be expected in the study area in the form of farmsteads.

With regard to the archaeological component of Section 35 this brief background study indicates that the general area under investigation has a wealth of heritage sites and a cultural layering dating back to the Stone Age with scatters and sites dating to the ESA, MSA and LSA. Based on the SAHRA paleontological sensitivity map the area is of moderate sensitivity and an independent paleontological assessment was conducted (Bamford 2019). This study concluded that a Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the EMPr and no palaeontological site visit is required unless fossils are revealed once drilling has commenced. In terms of Section 36 no known graves occur in the study area. It should be noted that graves can occur anywhere on the landscape and precolonial graves are expected.

It is anticipated that any sites that occur within the project area will have a Generally Protected B (GP.B) or lower field rating and all sites should be mitigatable and no red flags have been identified. It is therefore recommended that non-invasive exploration can commence (based on approval from SAHRA) with the following conditions of authorisation incorporated:

- Before commencing invasive prospecting activities, the impact areas should be subjected to a heritage walk down.
- Inclusion of a chance find protocol (both archaeology and palaeontology) in the EMPr.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AIA: Archaeological Impact Assessment
ASAPA: Association of South African Professional Archaeologists
BIA: Basic Impact Assessment
CRM: Cultural Resource Management
EAP: Environmental Assessment Practitioner
ECO: Environmental Control Officer
EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment*
EIA: Early Iron Age*
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
SAHRIS: South African Heritage Resources Information System

*\*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 million to 300 000 years ago)

Middle Stone Age (300 000 to 30 000 years ago)

Late Stone Age (30 000 years ago until recent)

Historic (approximately AD 1840 to 1950)

Historic building (over 60 years old)

Lithics: Stone Age artefacts

## 1. INTRODUCTION

HCAC was contracted by ABS Africa (Pty) Ltd to conduct a heritage desktop study for the proposed Orion No 5-prospecting application. The proposed prospecting activities are located 15km South-West of Copperton and 67km South-West of Prieska in the Northern Cape Province on the farms Graspan and Uitspan (Figure 1).

The aim of the desktop report is to conduct a desktop study to identify possible heritage resources within the project site. The study furthermore aims to assess the impact of the proposed project on non-renewable heritage resources and to submit appropriate recommendations with regards 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, in order to protect, preserve and develop them within the framework provided by Heritage legislation.

This report outlines the approach and methodology utilised for the desktop report. The report includes information collected from various sources and consultations. Possible impacts are identified and mitigation measures are proposed in the following report. It is important to note that no field work was conducted, as this will be done when the localities of the invasive exploration is fixed.

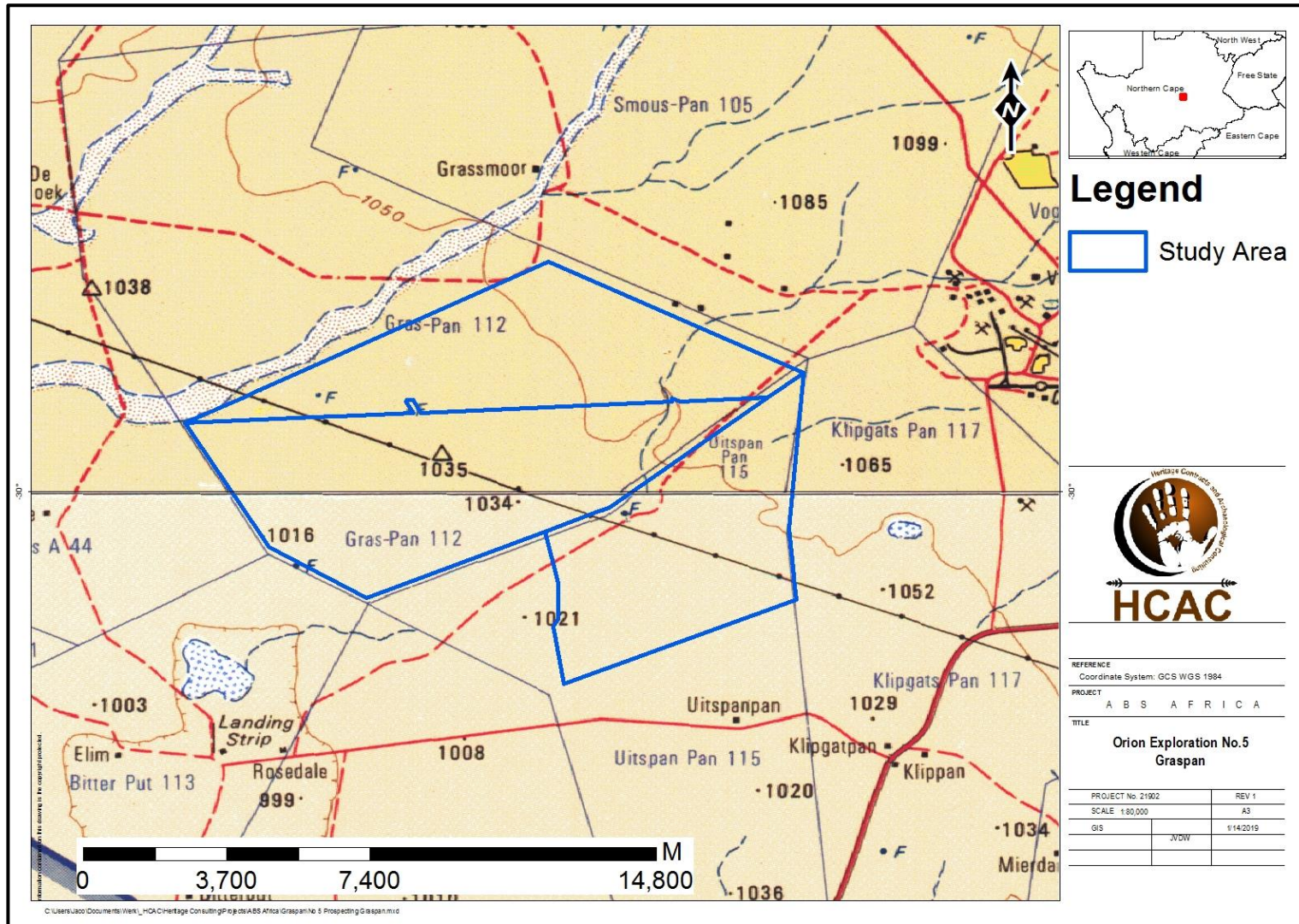


Figure 1. Regional Locality map of the site under investigation indicated in blue.

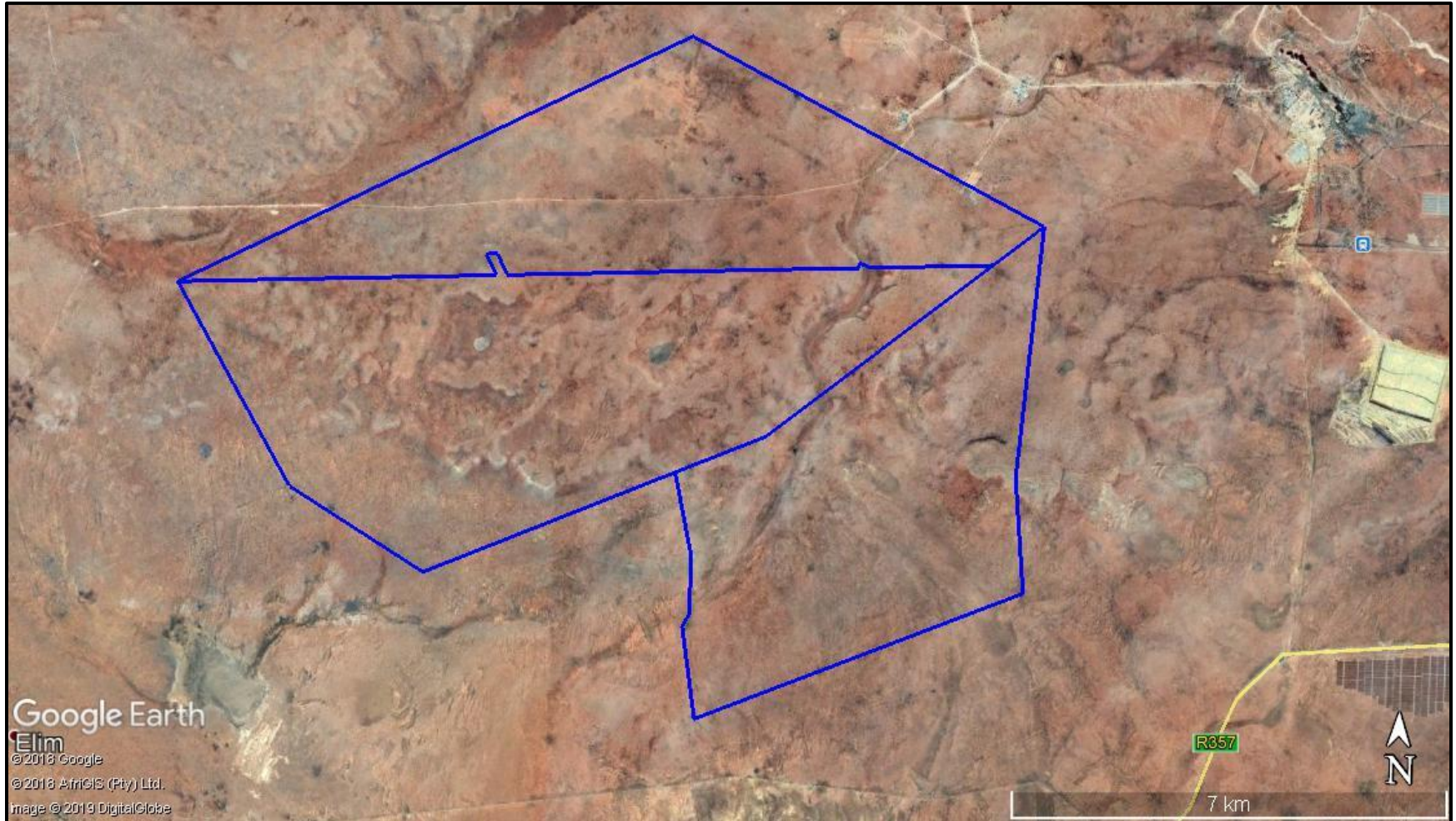


Figure 2. Google Earth image of the study area.

## 1.1 Terms of Reference

The main aim of this desktop report is to determine if any known heritage resources occur within the project site. The objectives of the desktop report were to:

- » Conduct a desktop study:
  - \* Review available literature, previous heritage studies and other relevant information sources to obtain a thorough understanding of the archaeological and cultural heritage conditions of the area;
  - \* Identify known and recorded archaeological and cultural sites; and
  - \* Determine whether the area is renowned for any cultural and heritage resources, such as Stone Age sites, informal graveyards or historical homesteads.
- » Compile a specialist Heritage Desktop Report in line with the requirements of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended on 07 April 2017.

The reporting is based on the results and findings of a desktop study, wherein potential issues associated with the proposed project will be identified. Reporting will aim to identify the anticipated impacts, as well as cumulative impacts, of the operational units of the proposed project activity on the identified heritage resources for all 3 development stages of the project, i.e. construction, operation and decommissioning. Reporting will also consider alternatives should any significant sites be impacted on by the proposed project. This is done to assist the developer in managing the discovered heritage resources in a responsible manner, in order to protect, preserve and develop them within the framework provided by Heritage Legislation.

When the localities of the invasive prospecting activities are fixed, the following terms will apply:

### Field study

Conduct a field study to: (a) locate, identify, record, photograph and describe sites of archaeological, historical or cultural interest; b) record GPS points of sites/areas identified as significant areas; c) determine the levels of significance of the various types of heritage resources affected by the proposed development

### Reporting

Report on the identification of anticipated and cumulative impacts 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 the relevant legislation, SAHRA minimum standards 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 No 25 of 1999).

## 1.2 Nature of the development

The following non-invasive prospecting methods are intended for this phase of the project:

### Non-Invasive Prospecting Methods

- Compile a working plan on a scale of 1: 10,000, which would integrate all geological, geophysical and geochemical data, as well as farm tracks, fences and drainages, to cover the relevant portion of the prospect area.
- Geological mapping of a zone covering the approximate position of the old "sea floor".
- Geophysical Surveys.
- Reconnaissance soil sampling traverses followed by more detailed and systematic soil sampling and trenches.
- Geochemical Surveys- It is expected that more than 1,000 soil samples may be collected on traverse lines and analyzed using a hand-held XRF. Trenches might also be dug to determine geological contacts

## 1.3. The receiving environment

The proposed prospecting activities are located on the following farms Graspan and Uitspan, located 15km South-West of Copperton and 67km South-West of Prieska in the Northern Cape Province. The vegetation is predominantly Bushmanland Arid Grassland vegetation in the Nama-Karoo biome (Mucina & Rutherford 2006) which consists of Karoo scrub and grass and a few isolated *Acacia Karoo* trees.

## 2. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

This desktop report was conducted as part of the first phase of the prospecting activities (non-invasive activities). The aim of the study is to cover available data regarding archaeological and cultural heritage to compile a background history of the study area in order to identify possible heritage issues or fatal flaws that could possibly be associated with the project and should be avoided during development.

This was accomplished by means of the following phases (the results are represented in section 4 of this report):

### 2.1 Literature review

A review was conducted utilising data for information gathering from a range of sources on the archaeology and history of the area. The aim of this is to extract data and information on the area in question, looking at archaeological sites, historical sites and graves of the area.

### 2.2 Information collection

The South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) was consulted to further collect data from CRM practitioners who undertook work in the area to provide the most comprehensive account of the history of the area where possible. In addition, the archaeological database housed at the University of the Witwatersrand was consulted.

### 2.3 Public consultation

No public consultation was conducted during this phase by the author.

## 2.4 Google Earth and mapping survey

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

## 2.5 Genealogical Society of South Africa

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

## 2.6. Restrictions

This study did not assess the impact on intangible resources of the project. Based on available data and resources as outlined in the report additional information that becomes available at a later stage might change the outcome of assessment. No field work was conducted.

## 3. LEGISLATION

For this project, the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA) is of importance and the following sites and features are protected:

- a. Archaeological artefacts, structures and sites older than 100 years;
- b. Ethnographic art objects (e.g. prehistoric rock art) and ethnography;
- c. Objects of decorative and visual arts;
- d. Military objects, structures and sites older than 75 years;
- e. Historical objects, structures and sites older than 60 years;
- f. Proclaimed heritage sites;
- g. Grave yards and graves older than 60 years;
- h. Meteorites and fossils; and
- i. Objects, structures and sites of scientific or technological value.

The national estate includes the following:

- a. Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- b. Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- c. Historical settlements and townscapes;
- d. Landscapes and features of cultural significance;
- e. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- f. Archaeological and palaeontological importance;
- g. Graves and burial grounds;
- h. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery; and
- i. Movable objects (e.g. archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, military, ethnographic, books etc.).

Section 34 (1) of the Act deals with structures that are older than 60 years. Section 35(4) of this Act deals with archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites. Section 36(3) of the Act, deals with human remains older than 60 years. Unidentified/unknown graves are also handled as older than 60 years until proven otherwise.

### 3.1 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. 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. National and Provincial Monuments are recognised for conservation purposes. The following interrelated criteria were used to establish site significance:

- » The unique nature of a site;
- » The integrity of the archaeological/cultural heritage deposit;
- » 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 or is known);
- » The preservation condition of the site; and
- » Potential to answer present research questions.

The criteria above will be used to place identified sites within the South African Heritage Resources Agency's (SAHRA's) (2006) system of grading of places and objects that form part of the national estate. This system is approved by the Association of South African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

<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



## 4. REGIONAL OVERVIEW

### 4.1 General Information

#### 4.1.1. Database search

According to SAHRIS several heritage studies were conducted in the greater study area (Van Ryneveld (2006); Orton (2011 & 2015), Orton & Webley (2013a & b), Kaplan and Wiltshire (2011). All the studies recorded ESA, MSA and LSA artefacts scattered over the landscape with MSA and LSA sites centred on pans and watercourses. Studies by Van der Walt (2012, 2013, 2017) concurred with these findings and also recorded widespread Stone Age scatters and some discreet MSA and LSA sites. Although the current area under investigation does not seem to have been covered by heritage surveys the wealth of recorded sites to the east of the area (Figure 3) indicates that a similar high frequency of sites can be expected in the study area.

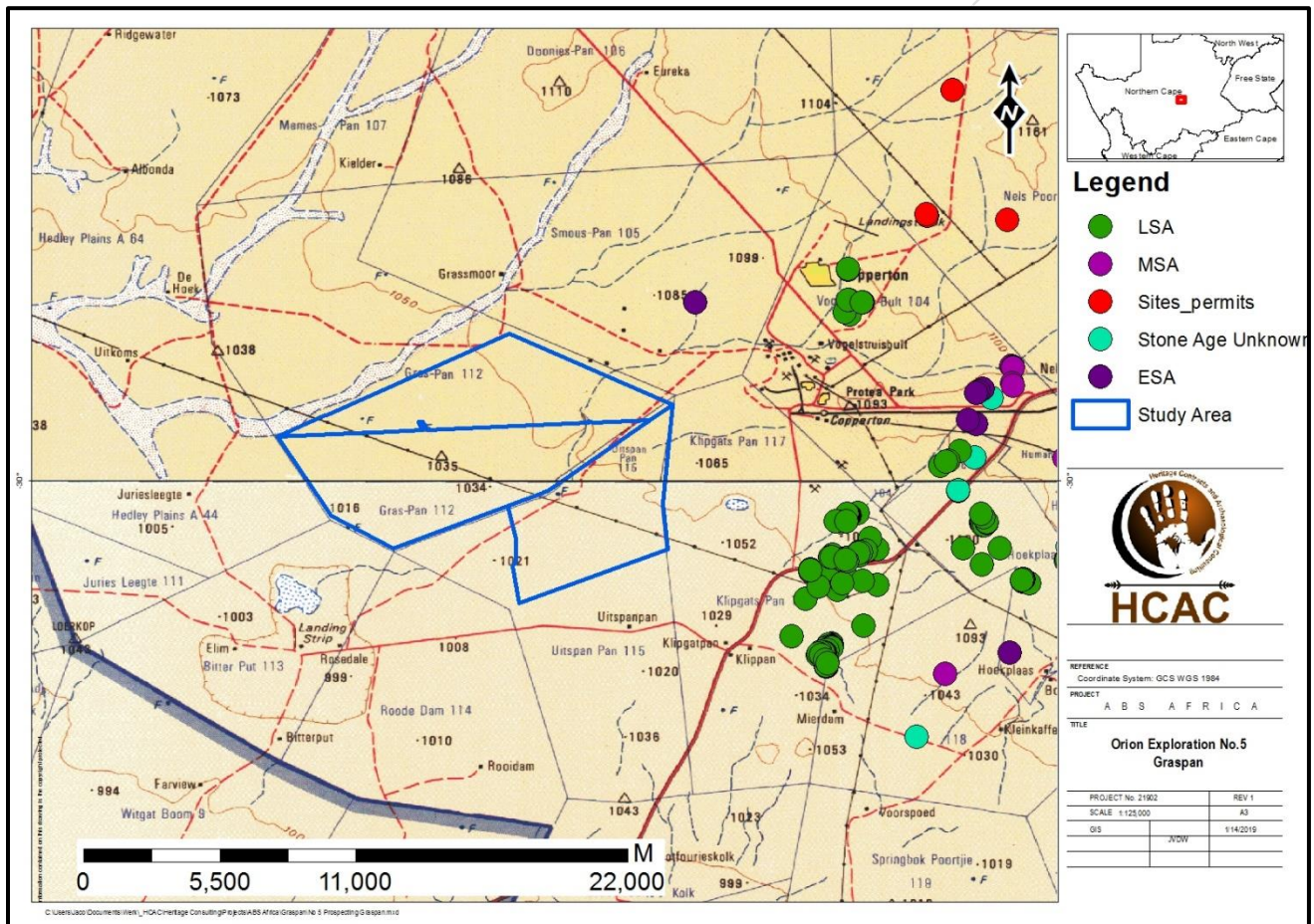


Figure 3. Known sites in relation to the study area.

#### 4.1.2. Public consultation

No public consultation was conducted by the heritage consultant.

#### **4.1.3. Google Earth and mapping survey**

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

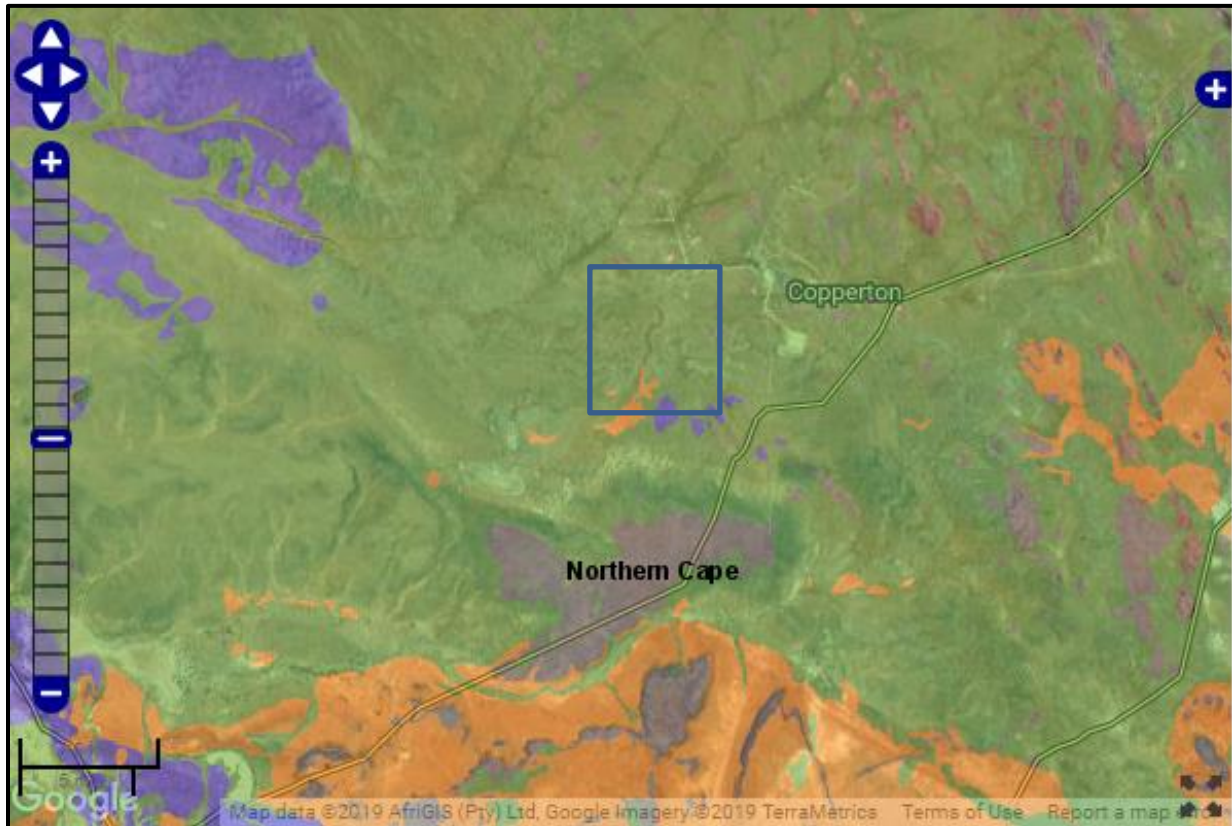
#### **4.1.4. Genealogical Society of South Africa**

No grave sites are on record for the study area.

### **5. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE STUDY AREA**

#### **5.1. Palaeontology of the study area**

The study area is indicated as of moderate and high significance on the SAHRA paleontological sensitivity map (Figure 4). An independent study was conducted by Prof Marion Bamford for this project (Bamford 2019).



Colour	Sensitivity	Required Action
RED	VERY HIGH	Field assessment and protocol for finds is required
ORANGE/YELLOW	HIGH	Desktop study is required and based on the outcome of the desktop study, a field assessment is likely
GREEN	MODERATE	Desktop study is required
BLUE	LOW	No palaeontological studies are required however a protocol for finds is required
GREY	INSIGNIFICANT/ZERO	No palaeontological studies are required
WHITE/CLEAR	UNKNOWN	These areas will require a minimum of a desktop study. As more information comes to light, SAHRA will continue to populate the map.

Figure 4. The approximate study area indicated on the SAHRIS Paleontological map as of moderate and high significance.

## 5.2. Archaeological Overview of the study area.

Beaumont *et al.* (1995: 240) observed that “thousands of square kilometres of Bushmanland are covered by a low-density lithic scatter”. These artefacts are generally very well weathered and mostly pertain to the ESA and MSA. Occasional LSA artefacts are also noted. What is noteworthy of the Northern Cape archaeological record is the presence of pans which frequently display associated archaeological material. Of interest, is the work of Kiberd (2001, 2005, 2006) who excavated Bundu Pan, some 25 to 30 km northwest of Copperton. The site yielded ESA, MSA and LSA horizons and the artefacts were accompanied by warthog and equid teeth to name a few (Beaumont *et al.* 1995).

Orton (2011) noted that to the northwest, west and southwest of Copperton sites have been investigated by Beaumont and colleagues (1995), Smith (1995) and Parsons (2003, 2004, 2007, 2008) yielding LSA deposits. Work on these sites led to a distinction between hunter-gatherer and herder sites, based on stone artefact assemblages (Beaumont *et al.* 1995). All these Later Stone Age sites have very few, if any, organic items on them. The only organic material found on sites like these is fragments of ostrich eggshell probably belonging to broken water containers. Such flasks have been widely recorded across the Northern Cape (Morris 1994).

The archaeological importance of pans in the area are now well documented (Kiberd 2006, Kaplan & Wiltshire 2011, Orton 2012) and if any occur in the study area they could be of significance. Van der Walt (2012) recorded low densities of ESA, MSA and LSA scatters and these occurrences were given a field rating of low archaeological significance. However, several discrete MSA and LSA sites were also documented.

Most of the material expected for the study area is MSA in nature consisting of large flakes, radial and bipolar cores, points, end scrapers, large utilized and retouched blade tools, and utilized and retouched flakes.

## 5.3. Historical Overview

In order to understand the historical context of a certain area, it is necessary to consider the geographic and climatic nature of the region in question. The town of Copperton is located in a region in South Africa known as the Upper Karoo. One gets a good idea of what the natural landscape in the Upper Karoo was like between the late 1700s and early 1800s when reading the transcripts of some of the early European travellers who passed through the area. One C. J. Skead compiled a book in which many of these texts are assembled. In November 1900, the traveller W. Somerville wrote about the Groot Riviers Poort, or Prieskapoort, 10km south of Prieska and therefore not very far from Copperton. He noted that grasslands and thorn trees covered the landscape, but that no tree was to be seen. When he neared the Orange River, he noted that the banks were covered with wood, but only along the margin of the river. These were mainly willow and karee trees. Along the tributary streams were thorn trees (Skead 2009: 87).

Exactly one year later, One P. B. Borchers wrote about the Grootrivierpoort at Prieska, making similar remarks about the flora as Somerville did. He also noted that the *poort* at the entrance to the Orange River was known by the “natives” under the name of t’Gariep. When this traveller passed along the banks of the Orange River near Prieska in the same year, he made notes on the Bushmen, who were still present in the area at that time.

Regarding the manufacturing of bows and arrows by the Bushmen, he noted that the wood of the bow was of a type of tree commonly known as *caree boomen*, which was very tough and pliable. The arrows were made of a type of reed fairly common along all springs and river flowing there, known as *fluitjies riet*.

The Bushmen apparently used the poison of venomous plants and poison extracted from the fangs of snakes to smear on their arrow points. These people also found sustenance in a type of small bulb, commonly called *mans uitjies* by the Khoikhoi, which were described to be the size of small marbles and not unpleasant in taste (Skead 2009: 87-88).

In September 1822, W. J. Burchell passed through Prieska, as well as the area to the south and southwest thereof. Some 50km southwest of Prieska, he found a large muddy dam, which was situated in a very extensive hollow flat. This would become a lake in the rainy season. There was apparently still some clean water to be found. The area around this was hard and dry, and plentifully strewn with stones and low shrubs. Burchell passed through Prieska to the Orange River in the same month. He noted that none of the bushes exceeded a foot in height. Nearer to the Orange River, the travelling party found a group of Khoikhoi camped in a grove.

By 1903, Copperton was located in an area in which the annual rainfall measured between 10 and 20 inches, and was therefore quite arid. The study area is located in a summer rainfall region. By the early 1900s, the Prieska district, in which Copperton would be located, could not be considered a very agriculturally active area. Only between 25 and 50 sheep were kept per square mile, and only between 2 and 5 heads of cattle. The area where Copperton was later founded would have been too dry and too far from the Orange River to allow for the growing of crops (Burton 1903: 40; 256).

In an article in the Patriot, dated December 1995, some background information is given on the history of the town of Copperton. This town is not very old, as it was only developed in 1972 with the establishment of a copper mine in the area. The mine closed in 1992, and Copperton was sold to a private person, on the condition that the houses in the town would be demolished. About 300 houses were broken down, when it was decided that some homes would be kept in order to develop a retirement town. These houses were apparently solidly built, with stone walls and corrugated roofs. It was noted that the area was very sparsely populated, and that the farmers in the area farmed with sheep. Next to the Orange River, maize and grapes were planted. It was noted that the closest hospitals were located at Prieska, some 35 to 40 minutes' drive from Copperton, and linked with a tarred road (Anon 1995: 4).

## 6. PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE OF SITES

Based on the above information, it is possible to determine the probability of finding archaeological and cultural heritage sites within the study area to a certain degree. For the purposes of this section of the report the following terms are used – low, medium and high probability. Low probability indicates that no known occurrences of sites have been found previously in the general study area. Medium probability indicates some known occurrences in the general study area are documented and can therefore be expected in the study area. A high probability indicates that occurrences have been documented close to or in the study area and that the environment of the study area has a high degree of probability for the occurrence of sites.

» Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Landscape

NOTE: *Archaeology is the study of human material and remains (by definition) and is not restricted in any formal way as being below the ground surface.*

Archaeological remains dating to the following periods can be expected within the study areas:

- » Stone Age finds
  - ESA: *High Probability*
  - MSA: *High Probability*
  - LSA: *High Probability*
  - LSA –Herder: *Medium to high Probability*
  
- » Iron Age finds
  - EIA: *Low Probability*
  - MIA: *Low Probability*
  - LIA: *Low Probability*
  
- » Historical finds
  - Historical period: *Low-Medium Probability*
  - Historical dumps: *Low Probability*
  - Structural remains: *Medium - High Probability*
  
- » Living Heritage
  - For example, rainmaking sites: *Low Probability*
  
- » Burial/Cemeteries
  - Burials over 100 years: *High Probability*
  - Burials younger than 60 years: *Medium to high Probability*

Subsurface excavations including prospecting, ground levelling, landscaping, and foundation preparation can expose any number of these resources.

## 7. ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

The study area was not subjected to a field survey at this stage in the environmental process, it is recommended that this will be done when the actual exploration localities are fixed. It is assumed that information obtained for the wider area is applicable to the study area. Additional information could become available in future that could change the results of this report. It is assumed that the EAP will upload all relevant documents to the SAHRIS.

## 8. FINDINGS

Based on previous studies conducted the area has a wealth of heritage sites and a cultural layering dating back to the Stone Age with scatters and sites dating to the ESA, MSA and LSA. Sites and artefacts dating to these periods are scattered over the landscape with MSA and LSA sites centred on pans and watercourses. Due to the importance of water sources on the landscape that attracted human activity in antiquity, this was used as the main criteria for generating a four-tier sensitivity map of the study area (Figure 5).

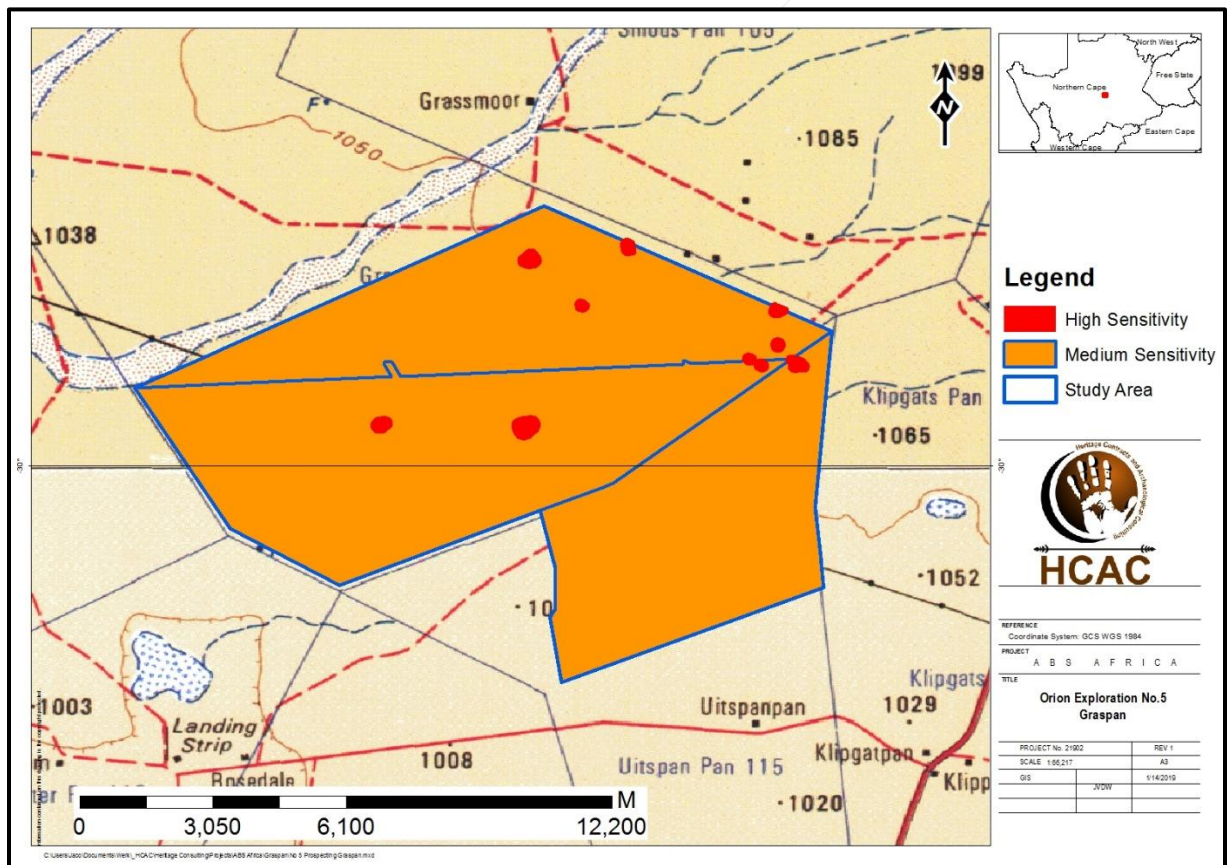


Figure 5. Heritage Sensitivity map.

## **8.1. Archaeology and Palaeontology**

### ***8.1.1 Archaeological finds***

Based on CRM studies conducted in the area ESA, MSA and LSA scatters as well as distinct sites can be expected. No Impacts to heritage resources is envisaged during the non-invasive prospecting activities but invasive activities can alter/ destroy heritage resources.

### ***8.1.2 Nature of Impact***

The invasive phase of the project could directly impact on surface and subsurface archaeological sites.

### ***8.1.3 Extent of impact***

The project could have a low to medium impact on a local scale.

### **8.1.4. Paleontological resources**

Bamford (2019) conducted an independent paleontological study and found that the proposed site lies on the Late Carboniferous-Early Permian Dwyka Group tillites, sands, shales, mudstones. Although fossils have not been reported from this site there is a small chance that typical (but very infrequent) early Glossopteris flora plants could occur in the sediments just below the surface. Surface exposures are likely to be very weathered. Therefore, a Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the EMP. Based on this information it is recommended that no palaeontological site visit is required unless fossils are revealed once excavations and drilling has commenced (Bamford 2019).

## **8.2. Historical period**

### ***8.2.1 Historical finds:***

Historical finds include middens, structural remains and the cultural landscape. Impacts to heritage resources will occur primarily during invasive activities and no impacts are expected during the initial non-invasive activities.

### ***8.2.2 Nature of Impact***

The non-invasive activities will not have an impact on heritage resources, but invasive activities could alter/ destroy non-renewable resources.

### ***8.2.3 Extent of impact***

The project could have a low impact on a local scale.



### 8.3. Burials and Cemeteries

#### 8.3.1 Burials and Cemeteries

There are no graves on record for the study area but graves and informal cemeteries can be expected anywhere on the landscape

#### 8.3.2 Nature of Impact

The invasive prospecting activities during later phases of the proposed project could directly impact on marked and unmarked graves.

#### 8.3.3 Extent of impact

The project could have a low to medium impact on a local scale.

<b>Impact on Heritage resources</b>			
During the non-invasive prospecting no impacts are foreseen on heritage resources. The future invasive prospecting activities of the proposed project could directly impact on graves, archaeological sites and historical sites.			
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Nature of Impact</b>	<b>Extent of Impact</b>	<b>No-Go Areas</b>
Disturbance and destruction of archaeological sites, historical sites and graves.	Invasive exploration activities could cause irreversible damage or destroy heritage resources and depletion of the archaeological record of the area.	Low to Medium on a local scale.	TBC after field work
<b>Description of expected significance of impact</b>			
Significance of sites, mitigation and significance of possible impact can only be determined after a field survey has been conducted, but based on previous work in the area Stone Age finds and graves can be expected.			
<b>Gaps in knowledge &amp; recommendations for further study</b>			
Based on information obtained from SAHRIs the study area has not been subjected to heritage resource surveys and it is assumed that information obtained for the wider region is applicable to the study area. It is recommended that prior to invasive prospecting, impact areas should subject to a field study to confirm the presence of heritage resources after which mitigation measures will be recommended (if needed).			

## 9. POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF HERITAGE RESOURCES

Based on the current information obtained for the area at a desktop level it is anticipated that any sites that occur within the proposed development area will have a Generally Protected B (GP. B) or lower field rating and all sites should be mitigatable. No red flags have been identified.

## 10. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The scope of work comprises a heritage desktop report for a large prospecting right area comprising approximately 8963 ha. Due to the geographical size of the exploration application and the fact that no intrusive activities will occur at this point of the application, it was deemed not feasible to conduct fieldwork at this point. Several large-scale heritage surveys were conducted for renewable energy and mining projects and the archaeological character of the larger study area is now well described (e.g., Orton & Webley 2013 a and b, van der Walt 2012, 2013 & 2017). This desktop study is informed by available data for the area highlighting the archaeological importance of watercourses and pans. Based on these studies the following heritage resources can be expected in the study area as indicated below.

### » Paleontological resources

The proposed site lies on the Late Carboniferous-Early Permian Dwyka Group tillites, sands, shales, mudstones. Although fossils have not been reported from this site there is a small chance that typical (but very infrequent) early *Glossopteris* flora plants could occur in the sediments just below the surface. Surface exposures are likely to be very weathered. Therefore, a Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the EMPr. Based on this information it is recommended that no palaeontological site visit is required unless fossils are revealed once excavations and drilling has commenced. As far as the palaeontology is concerned a prospecting right should be granted (Bamford 2019).

### » Widespread Stone Age scatters and sites (ESA; MSA and LSA)

Every site is relevant to the Heritage Landscape, but it is anticipated that few sites in the study area could have conservation value. The archaeological importance of pans in the area are now well documented (Kiberd 2006, Kaplan & Wiltshire 2011, Orton 2012) and pans should be avoided with a 100-meter buffer. The impact of non-invasive exploration on these features is considered negligible however pans should be avoided during planning stages for intrusive exploration.

### » Historical finds and Cultural landscape

Some structures could occur that are older than 60 years. No impact on structures older than 60 years is foreseen during prospecting activities, however if structures are to be impacted destruction/ alteration permits will have to be applied for.

### » Burials and cemeteries

Formal and informal cemeteries as well as pre-colonial graves occur widely across Southern Africa. It is generally recommended that these sites are preserved *in situ* and within a development. These sites can however be relocated if conservation is not possible, but this option must be seen as a last resort and is

not advisable. The presence of any grave sites must be confirmed during a field survey and the public consultation process when exploration localities are fixed.

» General

It is anticipated that any sites that occur within the project area will have a Generally Protected B (GP. B) or lower field rating, all sites should be mitigatable, and no red flags have been identified. It is therefore recommended that non-invasive exploration can commence (based on approval from SAHRA) with the following conditions of authorisation in the EMP:

- Before commencing invasive prospecting activities, the impact areas should be subjected to a heritage walk down.
- Inclusion of a chance find protocol (both archaeology and palaeontology) as outlined below.

### 10.1. Chance Find Procedure – Archaeology

The possibility of the occurrence of subsurface finds cannot be excluded. Therefore, if during construction any possible finds such as stone tool scatters, artefacts or bone and fossil remains are made, the operations must be stopped and a qualified archaeologist must be contacted for an assessment of the find and therefore chance find procedures should be put in place as part of the EMP. A short summary of chance find procedures is discussed below.

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.

**10.2. Monitoring Programme for Palaeontology – to commence once the drilling and prospecting begin.**

1. The following procedure is only required if fossils are seen on the surface and when drilling or excavations commence.
2. When drilling or excavations begin the rocks and must be given a cursory inspection by the environmental officer or designated person. Any fossiliferous material (plants, insects, wood, bone, coal) should be put aside in a suitably protected place. This way the prospecting activities will not be interrupted.
3. Photographs of similar fossil plants must be provided to the developer to assist in recognizing the fossil plants in the shales and mudstones (for example see Figure 5, 6). This information will be built into the EMP's training and awareness plan and procedures.
4. Photographs of the putative fossils can be sent to the palaeontologist for a preliminary assessment.
5. If there is any possible fossil material found by the developer/environmental officer/miners then the qualified palaeontologist sub-contracted for this project, should visit the site to inspect the selected material and check the dumps where feasible.
6. Fossil plants or vertebrates that are considered to be of good quality or scientific interest by the palaeontologist must be removed, catalogued and housed in a suitable institution where they can be made available for further study. Before the fossils are removed from the site a SAHRA permit must be obtained. Annual reports must be submitted to SAHRA as required by the relevant permits.
7. If no good fossil material is recovered then the site inspections by the palaeontologist will not be necessary. Annual reports by the palaeontologist must be sent to SAHRA.
8. If no fossils are found and the excavations have finished then no further monitoring is required.

## 11. PLAN OF STUDY

With cognisance of the recorded archaeological sites in the wider area as well as within the study area and in order to comply with the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) it is recommended that once the impact areas for invasive prospecting activities has been confirmed these areas should be subjected to a heritage walkdown. During this study sites of archaeological, historical or places of cultural interest must be located, identified, recorded, photographed and described. During this study, the levels of significance of recorded heritage resources must be determined and mitigation proposed should any significant sites be impacted upon, ensuring that all the requirements of the SAHRA are met.

### 11.1 Reasoned Opinion

If the above recommendations are adhered to, HCAC is of the opinion that the impact of non-invasive exploration on heritage resources is negligible. Once exploration sites are fixed the impacts resulting from this can be mitigated. This will be confirmed through the field visit in the next phase of the project.

If during the any stage of the project, 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.

## 12. LIST OF PREPARERS

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Liesl Bester (Archival Specialist)

## 13. STATEMENT OF COMPETENCY

The author of the report is a member of the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists and is also accredited in the following fields of the Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Section, member number 159: Iron Age Archaeology, Colonial Period Archaeology, Stone Age Archaeology and Grave Relocation. Jaco is also an accredited CRM Archaeologist with SAHRA and AMAFA.

Jaco has been involved in research and contract work in South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and the DRC and conducted well over 300 AIAs since he started his career in CRM in 2000. This involved several mining operations, Eskom transmission and distribution projects and infrastructure developments. The results of several of these projects were presented at international and local conferences.

## 14. STATEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE

I, Jaco van der Walt as duly authorised representative of Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting CC, hereby confirm my independence as a specialist and declare that neither I nor the Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting CC have any interest, be it business, financial, personal or other, in any proposed activity, application or appeal in respect of which the client was appointed as Environmental Assessment practitioner, other than fair remuneration for work performed on this project.



**SIGNATURE:**

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