



To whom it may concern,

**AMENDMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AND EMPr: CONSTRUCTION OF THE GUNSTFONTEIN SWITCHING STATION, 132KV OVERHEAD POWER LINE AND ANCILLARY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE PROPOSED GUNSTFONTEIN WIND FARM NEAR SUTHERLAND, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE (DEFF REF: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1619).**

Van der Walt (HCAC, 2016, SAHRIS Ref. 357422) conducted the heritage assessment for the original Grid Connection Infrastructure for the Gunstfontein Wind Farm (DEFF Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1619), which was authorised on 17 February 2017, and subsequently amended 23 March 2017 (DEFF Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1619).

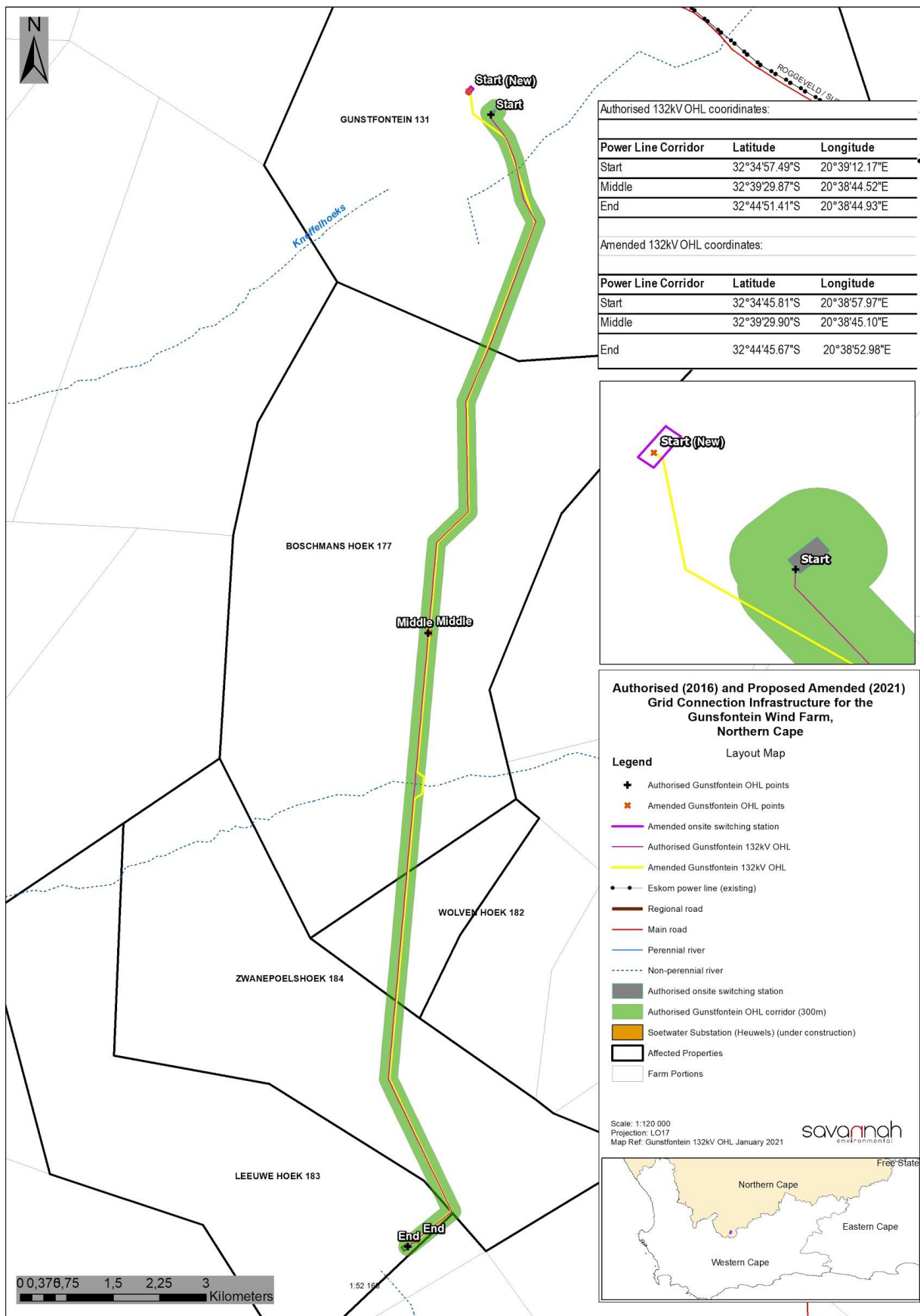
Following recent specialist walkthrough studies conducted by CTS Heritage for heritage impacts (including palaeontology) and minor refinements made to the layout of the wind farm (to which this switching station, power line and ancillary project relates), an amendment application is currently being submitted towards slight modification of the location and alignment of the original grid connection infrastructure, to ensure that the authorised positions of all infrastructure are in agreement between the Wind Farm, and the switching station, power line and ancillary infrastructure, and that any environmental sensitivities identified during the specialist walkthroughs have been avoided (as far as possible). As the specialist that conducted a walk-through of the affected areas from 19 to 26 November 2020 for impacts to heritage (including palaeontology), and therefore surveyed the areas most recently, I have reviewed this refined layout and have determined it a minor adjustment of location only (refer to Figure 1). This refined layout is also inserted into the revised EMPr (version 1 dated March 2021).

The following table addresses the information required to inform the amendment application, as derived from Section 32(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations (2014, as amended):

| Assessment                                                                                                                                   | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>All impacts related to the proposed change</i>                                                                                            | No new impacts to heritage resources are anticipated, including palaeontology                                                                                                                           |
| <i>Advantages and disadvantages associated with the proposed change</i>                                                                      | The amended grid alignment avoids impacts to heritage sites G002 (Grade IIIB) and G003                                                                                                                  |
| <i>Comparative assessment of the impacts before the change and after the change</i>                                                          | The amended grid alignment avoids impacts to heritage sites G002 (Grade IIIB) and G003                                                                                                                  |
| <i>Measures to ensure avoidance, management and mitigation of impacts associated with such proposed change, and any changes to the EMPr.</i> | No additional mitigation measures are necessary. The recommendations and findings of the original specialist assessment report (HCAC, 2016) therefore apply without modification to the refined layout. |



CTS HERITAGE



**Figure 1: Proposed amendments**



CTS HERITAGE

This letter thereby serves to confirm that the refined layout related to the grid connection infrastructure (dated December 2020) has no material change on the assessment, findings, impacts (including nature, significance and mitigation measures) and recommendations of the original specialist assessment report (HCAC, 2016). Therefore, the proposed changes to the EA will have a zero or negligible effect on the significance of impacts identified in the EIA report.

Four other amendments are proposed, namely:

1. Amendment to Condition 19 of the EA: This amendment related to the notification period that must be given to the Department should an update to the EMPr for the project be required. This is an administrative amendment and therefore has no influence or effect from a heritage perspective, and there is therefore no objection to the approval of this amendment from the heritage specialist perspective.
2. Amendment to the terminating substation: This amendment is related to ensuring the correct connecting substation is specified within the EA. This is an administrative amendment and therefore has no influence or effect from a heritage perspective, and there is therefore no objection to the approval of this amendment from the heritage specialist perspective.
3. Request to correct a typographical error in a property name: this amendment relates to a minor typographical correction of the Farm name Wolven Hoek (incorrectly spelled "Wolwenhoek" in the EA). This is an administrative amendment and therefore has no influence or effect from a heritage perspective, and there is therefore no objection to the approval of this amendment from the heritage specialist perspective.
4. Amendment to condition 14 of the EA by approval of the revised EMPr (Version 1, dated March 2021) which reflects the updated grid connection layout in accordance with amendment no. 1 of the amendment application. This is an administrative amendment and therefore has no influence or effect from a heritage perspective, and there is therefore no objection to the approval of this amendment from the heritage specialist Perspective.

From a heritage perspective (including palaeontology), the results are identical and the change in location has no material effect on the specialist assessment conducted for the project. The recommendations and findings of the original specialist assessment report (HCAC, 2016) therefore apply without modification to the refined layout.

Jenna Lavin and Dewald Wilken

[jenna.lavin@ctsheritage.com](mailto:jenna.lavin@ctsheritage.com)

083 619 0854