

# HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 38(8) OF THE NHRA (No. 25 OF 1999))

FOR THE ARISTIDA PV FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE,  
LICHTENBURG, NORTH WEST PROVINCE.

## Type of development:

Renewable Energy Development

## Applicant:

Aristida PV (Pty) Ltd

## Report Prepared by:



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### Project Reference:

Project number 22100

### Report date:

August 2022

**APPROVAL PAGE**

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<b>Report Title</b>	Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Aristida PV Facility and Associated Infrastructure, Lichtenburg, North West Province
<b>Authority Reference Number</b>	TBC
<b>Report Status</b>	Final Report
<b>Applicant Name</b>	Aristida PV (Pty) Ltd

<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Qualifications and Certifications</b>	<b>Date</b>
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**Amendments on Document**

Date	Report Reference Number	Description of Amendment

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## REPORT OUTLINE

Appendix 6 of the GNR 326 EIA Regulations published on 7 April 2017 provides the requirements for specialist reports undertaken as part of the environmental authorisation process. In line with this, Table 1 provides an overview of Appendix 6 together with information on how these requirements have been met.

**Table 1. Specialist Report Requirements.**

Requirement from Appendix 6 of GN 326 EIA Regulation 2017	Chapter
(a) Details of - (i) the specialist who prepared the report; and (ii) the expertise of that specialist to compile a specialist report including a curriculum vitae	Section a
(b) Declaration that the specialist is independent in a form as may be specified by the competent authority	<i>Declaration of Independence</i>
(c) Indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the report was prepared	Section 1
(cA) an indication of the quality and age of base data used for the specialist report	Section 3.4.
(cB) a description of existing impacts on the site, cumulative impacts of the proposed development and levels of acceptable change;	Section 9
(d) Duration, Date and season of the site investigation and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment	Section 3.4
(e) Description of the methodology adopted in preparing the report or carrying out the specialised process inclusive of equipment and modelling used	Section 3
(f) details of an assessment of the specific identified sensitivity of the site related to the proposed activity or activities and its associated structures and infrastructure, inclusive of site plan identifying site alternatives;	Section 8 and 9
(g) Identification of any areas to be avoided, including buffers	Section 8 and 9
(h) Map superimposing the activity including the associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the site including areas to be avoided, including buffers	Section 8
(I) Description of any assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge	Section 3.7
(j) a description of the findings and potential implications of such findings on the impact of the proposed activity including identified alternatives on the environment or activities;	Section 1.3
(k) Mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr	Section 10.1 and 10.5
(l) Conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation	Section 10. 1 and 10.5
(m) Monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or environmental authorisation	Section 10. 4.
(n) Reasoned opinion - (i) as to whether the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorised; (iA) regarding the acceptability of the proposed activity or activities; and (ii) if the opinion is that the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorised, any avoidance, management and mitigation measures that should be included in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan	Section 10.2
(o) Description of any consultation process that was undertaken during the course of preparing the specialist report	Section 5
(p) A summary and copies of any comments received during any consultation process and where applicable all responses thereto; and	Refer to EIA report
(q) Any other information requested by the competent authority	No other information requested at this time

## Executive Summary

Cape EA Prac (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as the independent environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) to apply for environmental authorization for the proposed construction of a photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facility (known as the Aristida PV facility). The facility is located on Portion 7 of the Farm Elandsfontein 34 approximately 5km northwest of the town of Lichtenburg in the North West Province and will have a contracted capacity of up to 120 MW. Beyond Heritage was appointed to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the project and the study area was assessed through a desktop assessment and by a non-intrusive pedestrian field survey. Key findings of the assessment include:


- The study area is characterised by agricultural activities, mainly grazing and limited cultivation from the 1970's;
- The project area was surveyed as part of the larger project for the Elandsfontein PV Cluster. Heritage finds were limited to a low-density Stone Age scatter mostly dating to the Middle Stone Age (MSA) with few formal tools and are considered as background scatter (Orton 2016) that is of low significance.
- An assessment of the paleontological significance of the area (Bamford 2022) concluded that the impact on palaeontological resources is low and the project should be authorised from a paleontological point of view.

The impact on heritage resources is low and the Project can be authorised provided that the recommendations in this report are adhered to, based on the South African Heritage Resource Authority (SAHRA) 's approval.

## Recommendations:

- Implementation of a Chance Find Procedure for the Project;
- Monitoring of the project area by the ECO.

**Declaration of Independence**

<b>Specialist Name</b>	Jaco van der Walt
<b>Declaration of Independence</b>	<p>I declare, as a specialist appointed in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No 107 of 1998) and the associated 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (as amended), that I:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I act as an independent specialist in this application;</li> <li>• I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;</li> <li>• I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;</li> <li>• I have expertise in conducting the specialist report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;</li> <li>• I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;</li> <li>• I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;</li> <li>• I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;</li> <li>• All the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and</li> <li>• I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 49 A of the Act.</li> </ul>
<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Date</b>	03/08/2022

**a) Expertise of the specialist**

Jaco van der Walt has been practising as a Cultural Resource Management (CRM) archaeologist for 15 years. He obtained an MA degree in Archaeology from the University of the Witwatersrand focussing on the Iron Age in 2012 and is a PhD candidate at the University of Johannesburg focussing on Stone Age Archaeology with specific interest in the Middle Stone Age (MSA) and Later Stone Age (LSA). Jaco is an accredited member of the Association of South African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) (#159) and have conducted more than 500 impact assessments in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West, Free State, Gauteng, Kwa Zulu Natal (KZN) as well as the Northern and Eastern Cape Provinces in South Africa.

Jaco has worked on various international projects in Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique, Lesotho, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Zambia, Guinea, Afghanistan, Nigeria and Tanzania. Through this, he has a sound understanding of the International Finance Corporations (IFC) Performance Standard requirements, with specific reference to Performance Standard 8 – Cultural Heritage

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**ABBREVIATIONS**

ASAPA: Association of South African Professional Archaeologists
BGG Burial Ground and Graves
CFPs: Chance Find Procedures
CMP: Conservation Management Plan
CRR: Comments and Response Report
CRM: Cultural Resource Management
DFFE: Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Environment,
EA: Environmental Authorisation
EAP: Environmental Assessment Practitioner
ECO: Environmental Control Officer
EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment*
EIA: Early Iron Age*
EAP Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EMPr: Environmental Management Programme
ESA: Early Stone Age
ESIA: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
GIS Geographical Information System
GPS: Global Positioning System
GRP Grave Relocation Plan
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, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002)
MSA: Middle Stone Age
NEMA National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)
NHRA National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999)
NID Notification of Intent to Develop
NoK Next-of-Kin
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 the historic period)

The Iron Age (~ AD 400 to ~ 1840)

Historic (~ AD 1840 to 1950)

Historic building (over 60 years old)

## 1 Introduction and Terms of Reference:

Beyond Heritage was appointed to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed construction of a photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facility (known as the Aristida PV facility) located on Portion 7 of the Farm Elandsfontein 34, close to Lichtenburg in the North West Province (Figure 1.1 to 1.3). The report forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the development.

The aim of the study is to survey the proposed development footprint 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 No 25 of 1999). The report outlines the approach and methodology utilized before and during the survey, which includes Phase 1, review of relevant literature; Phase 2, the physical surveying of the area on foot and by vehicle; Phase 3, reporting the outcome of the study.

During the survey, low density scatters of Stone Age artefacts were recorded. General site conditions and features on sites were recorded by means of photographs, GPS locations and site descriptions. Possible impacts were identified and mitigation measures are proposed in this report. The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) as a commenting authority under section 38(8) of NHRA require all environmental documents, compiled in support of an Environmental Authorisation application as defined by NEMA EIA Regulations section 40 (1) and (2), to be submitted to SAHRA for commenting. Upon submission to SAHRA the project will be automatically given a case number as reference. As such the EIA report and its appendices must be submitted to the case as well as the EMPr, once it's completed by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP).

### 1.1 Terms of Reference

#### 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 Project Description

Project components and the location of the proposed Themeda PV Project is outlined under Table 2 and 3.

**Table 2: Project Description**

<b>Farm and Magisterial District</b>	Ditsobotla Local Municipality within the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality on Portion 7 of Farm Elandsfontein 34.
<b>Central co-ordinate of the development</b>	26° 7'27.09"S 26° 4'47.34"E
<b>Topographic Map Number</b>	2626 AA

**Table 3: Infrastructure and project activities**

<b>Type of development</b>	PV Project
<b>Size of development</b>	251 ha
<p><b>Project Components</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» PV modules and mounting structures (monofacial or bifacial) with fixed, single or double axis tracking mounting structures;</li> <li>» Inverter-station, transformers and internal electrical reticulation (underground cabling where practical);</li> <li>» Battery Energy Storage System (BESS);</li> <li>» Site and internal access roads (up to 10 m wide);</li> <li>» Auxiliary buildings (MV switch room, gate-house and security, control centre, office, warehouse, canteen &amp; visitors centre, staff lockers etc.);</li> <li>» Temporary and permanent laydown area;</li> <li>» Perimeter fencing and security infrastructure;</li> <li>» Rainwater Tanks; and</li> <li>» Grid connection solution, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Medium-voltage cabling between the project components and the facility substation; and</li> <li>- Up to 132 kV facility substation;</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The Aristida PV facility intends to connect to the National Grid via the Watershed Main Transmission Substation (MTS) approximately 5.5 km east of the facility. The grid connection infrastructure associated with this grid solution (i.e. the Elandsfontein collector switching station and an up to 132kV overhead powerline) is being assessed as part of a separate Environmental Authorisation Application.</p>	

## 1.3 Alternatives

No alternatives were provided for assessment. The extent of the area assessed allows for siting of the development within this area to minimize impacts to heritage resources.



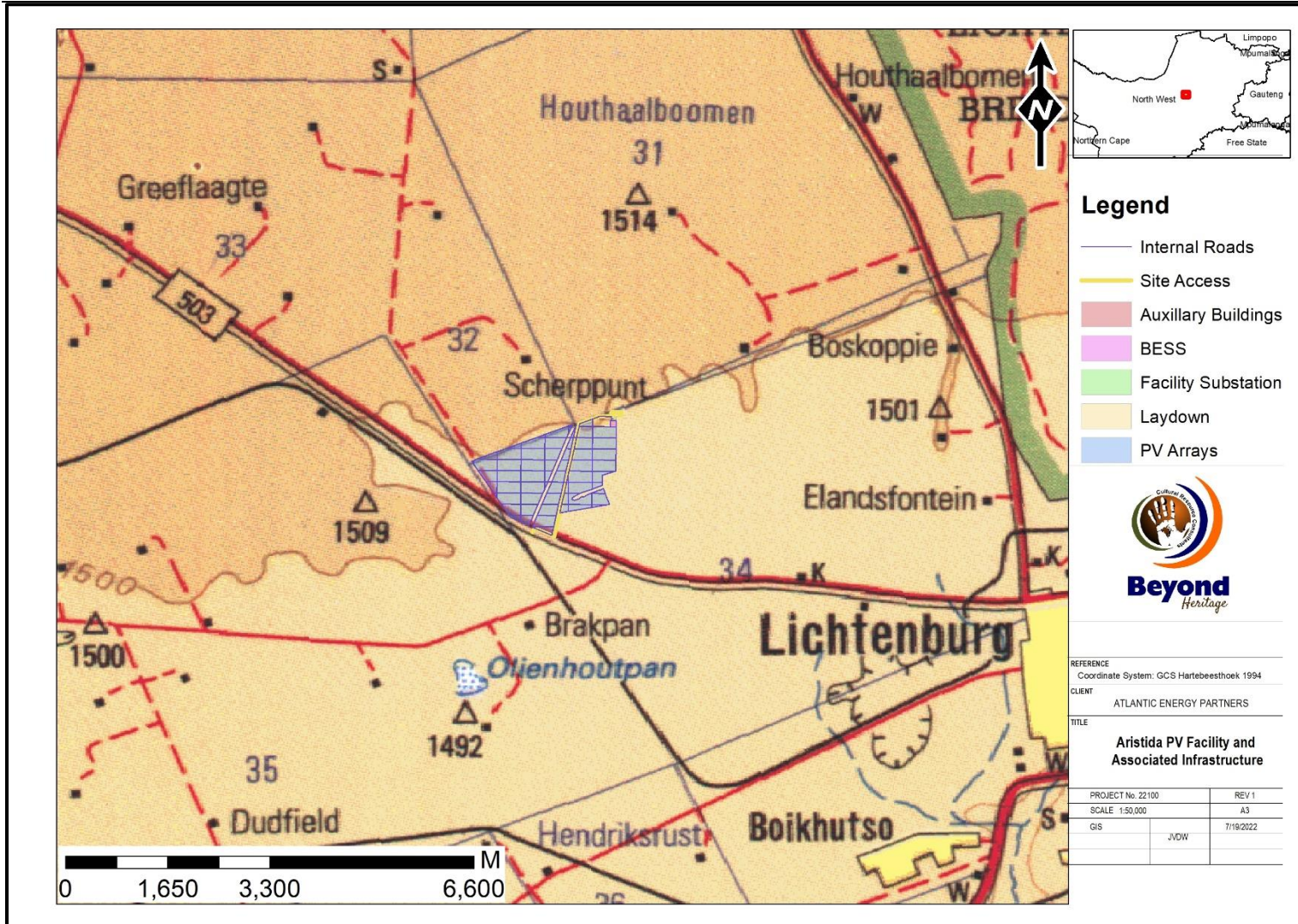


Figure 1.1. Regional setting of the Project (1: 250 000 topographical map).

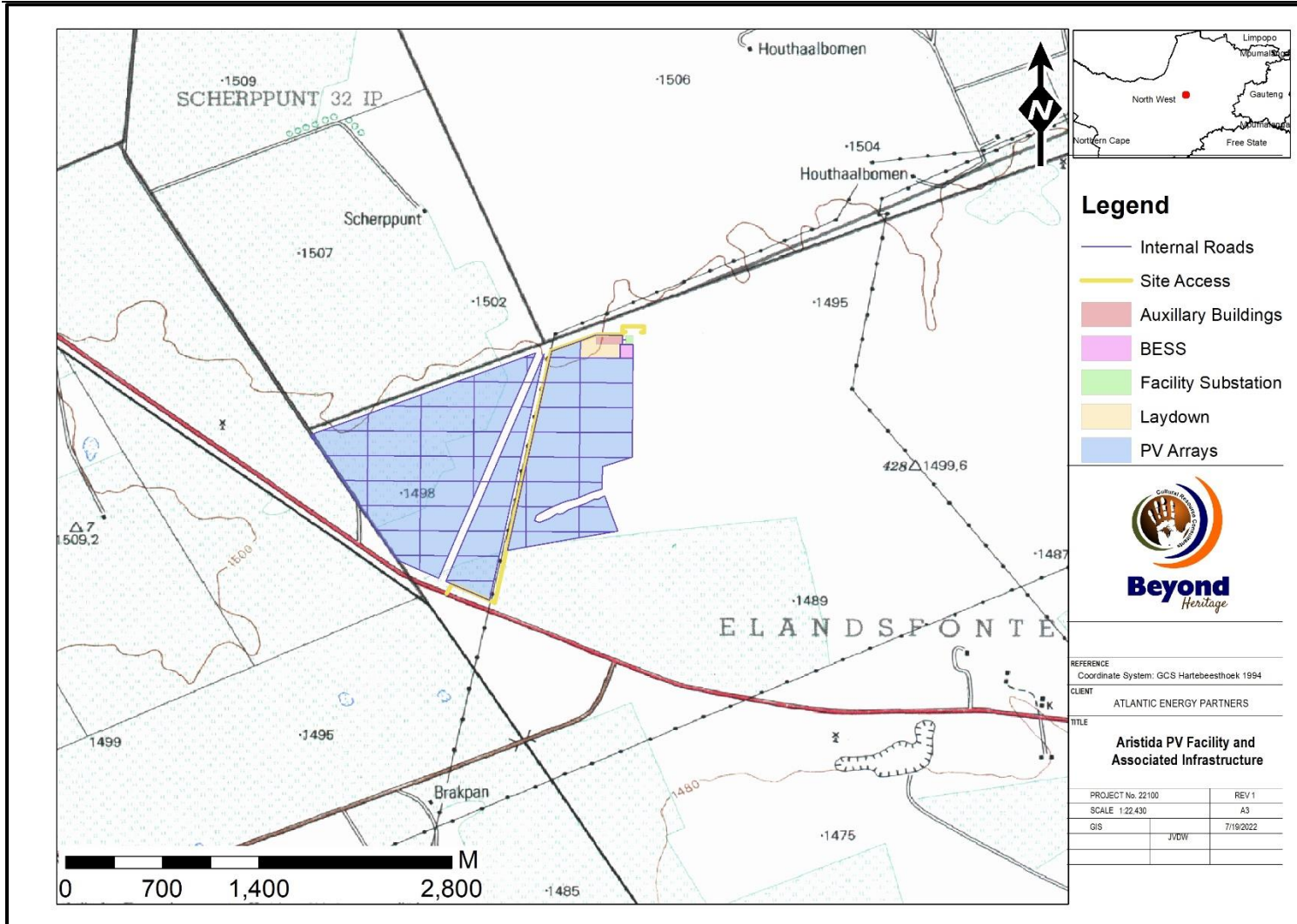


Figure 1.2. Local setting of the Project (1: 50 000 topographical map).



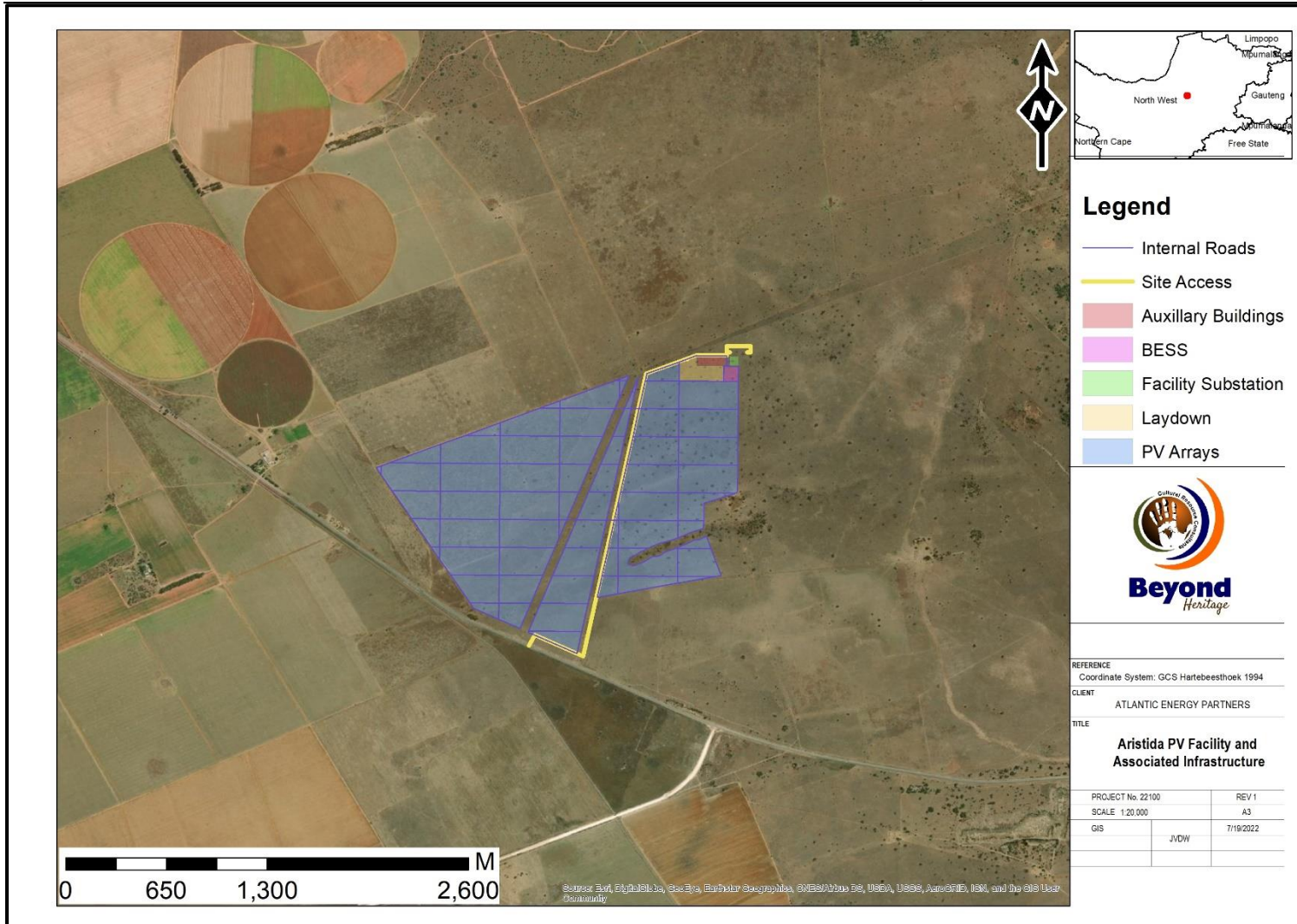


Figure 1.3. Aerial image of the Project area.

## 2 Legislative Requirements

The HIA, as a specialist sub-section of the EIA, is required under the following legislation:

- National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), Act No. 25 of 1999)
- National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Act No. 107 of 1998 - Section 23(2)(b)

A Phase 1 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; and
- Make recommendations for the appropriate heritage management (or avoidance) of these impacts.

The HIA should be submitted, as part of the impact assessment report or EMP, to the PHRA if established in the province or to SAHRA. SAHRA will ultimately be responsible for the evaluation of Phase 1 HIA reports upon which review comments will be issued. 'Best practice' requires Phase 1 HIA reports and additional development information, as per the impact assessment report and/or EMP, to be submitted in duplicate to SAHRA after completion of the study. SAHRA accepts Phase 1 HIA 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 HIA'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 with SAHRA by the applicant 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).

### 3 METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Literature Review

A brief survey of available literature was conducted to extract data and information on the area in question to provide general heritage context into which the development would be set. This literature search included published material, unpublished commercial reports and online material, including reports sourced from the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS).

#### 3.2 Genealogical Society and Google Earth Monuments

Google Earth and 1:50 000 maps of the area were utilised to identify possible places where sites of heritage significance might be located; these locations were marked and visited during the fieldwork phase. The database of the Genealogical Society was consulted to collect data on any known graves in the area.

#### 3.3 Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement:

Stakeholder engagement is a key component of any EIA process, it involves stakeholders interested in, or affected by the proposed development. Stakeholders are provided with an opportunity to raise issues of concern (for the purposes of this report only heritage related issues will be included). The aim of the public consultation process undertaken by the EAP was to capture and address any issues raised by community members and other stakeholders.

### 3.4 Site Investigation

The aim of the site visit was to:

- a) survey the proposed project area to understand the heritage character of the area and to 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 recorded in the project area.

**Table 4: Site Investigation Details**

	Site Investigation
Date	The week of 2 Feb 2022
Season	Summer – The time of year and season had an impact on the survey as dense vegetation had a bearing on archaeological visibility. The area was however sufficiently covered to understand the heritage character of the area (Figure 3.1).

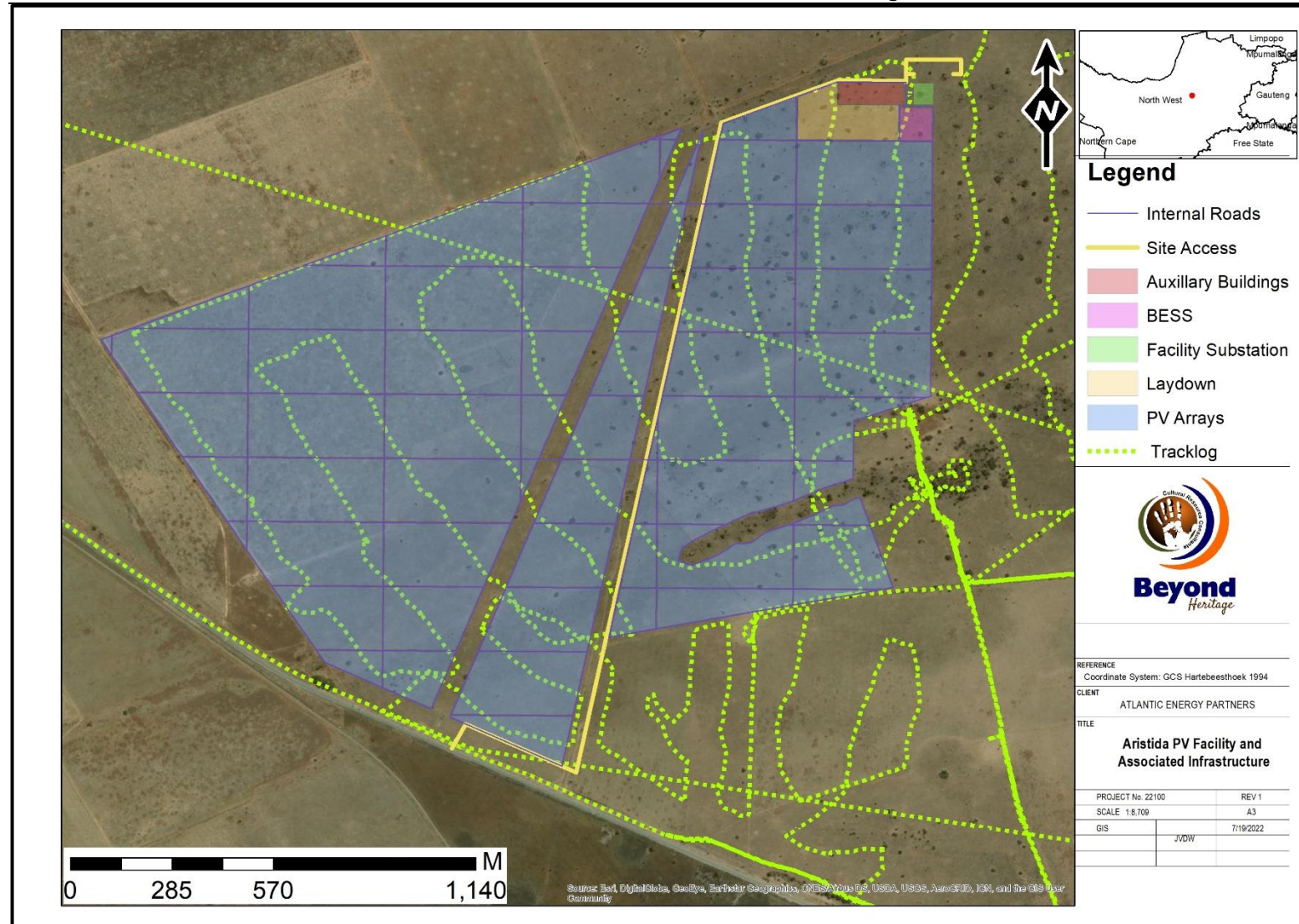


Figure 3.1. Tracklog of the survey path in green.

### 3.5 Site Significance and Field Rating

Section 3 of the NHRA 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.

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 with cognisance of Section 3 of the NHRA:

- 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; and
- Potential to answer present research questions.

In addition to this criteria field ratings prescribed by SAHRA (2007), 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 10 of this report.

**Table 5: Heritage significance and field ratings**

<b><i>FIELD RATING</i></b>	<b><i>GRADE</i></b>	<b><i>SIGNIFICANCE</i></b>	<b><i>RECOMMENDED MITIGATION</i></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

### 3.6 Impact Assessment Methodology

The criteria below are used to establish the impact rating on sites:

- 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 **magnitude**, quantified on a scale from 0-10 where; 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), and 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).

### **3.7 Limitations and Constraints of the study**

The authors acknowledge that the brief literature review is not exhaustive on the literature of the area. Due to the nature of heritage resources and pedestrian surveys, the possibility exists that some features or artefacts may not have been discovered/recorded and the possible occurrence of graves and other cultural material cannot be excluded. This limitation is successfully mitigated with the implementation of a Chance Find Procedure and monitoring of the study area by the Environmental Control Officer (ECO). This report only deals with the footprint area of the proposed development and consisted of non-intrusive surface surveys. This study did not assess the impact on medicinal plants and intangible heritage as it is assumed that these components will be highlighted through the public consultation process if relevant. It is possible that new information could come to light in future, which might change the results of this Impact Assessment.

## **4 Description of Socio-Economic Environment**

The total population in the Ditsobotla Local municipality is 168 902 people. Almost 89,1% of the population is black African, with the white population making up 8,2%. The other population groups make up the remaining 2,4%. The majority of the population is the youth (15–35 years), and the high unemployment rate leads to socio-economic problems such as substance abuse, crime and early pregnancy, to name a few. Of the 44 500 households in the municipality, 34,9% have piped water inside the dwelling. Only 6,2% of households have no access to piped water, and 74% of households have access to electricity for lighting.

## **5 Results of Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement:**

### **5.1.1 Stakeholder Identification**

Adjacent landowners and the public at large were informed of the proposed activity as part of the EIA process by the EAP. Site notices and advertisements notifying interested and affected parties were placed at strategic points and in local newspapers as part of the process. No heritage concerns have been raised thus far.

## 6 Literature / Background Study:

### 6.1 Literature Review (SAHRIS)

The area under investigation was not previously assessed and few HIA's was conducted in the immediate area. Studies conducted in the general area that were consulted is listed in Table 6.

**Table 6. Studies conducted in the greater area.**

Author	Year	Project	Findings
Küsel, U.S.	2008	Cultural Heritage Resources Impact Assessment of Portion 151 Of Lichtenburg Town And Townlands 27 Ip (Lichtenburg Extension 10) North West Province	None
van Schalkwyk, J.A.	2008	Proposed 88kv Power Line from Watershed Substation, Lichtenburg, to the Mmabatho Substation, North West Gauteng Province	Features dating to the historic period were identified as well as cemeteries.
van der Walt, J.	2013	Archaeological Impact Assessment Report, Watershed Solar facility	Low densities of MSA and LSA scatters. Single unmarked stone grave
van der Walt, J. & Almond, J.E.	2013	Archaeological Impact Assessment for the Proposed Hibernia Solar Project near the town of Lichtenburg in the North West Province of South Africa	MSA scatter and an informal cemetery
Levin, J.	2018	Heritage Impact Assessment for the development of the Lichtenburg 1PV Solar Energy Facility and Associated Infrastructure on a site near Lichtenburg, North West Province	Historic farmhouse
Miller, S.	2021	Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment of a 35 ha study area on portion 18 of the farm Dufield 35 IR, Lichtenburg district, North-western Province	None
van Schalkwyk, J.A.	2021	Phase 1 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: The Proposed Lerato Solar Power Plant Near Lichtenburg, North West Province.	Two informal burial sites, with 80 stone cairn graves in total.

#### 6.1.1 Google Earth and The Genealogical Society of South Africa (Graves and burial sites)

Google Earth and 1:50 000 maps of the area were utilised to identify possible places where archaeological and historical sites might be located. The database of the Genealogical Society of South Africa indicated no known grave sites within the study area



## 6.2 Archaeological Background

### 6.2.1 Stone Age

A brief summary of archaeological and historical events in South Africa is included in Figure 4.1 and the background to the study area is discussed below.

Published Stone Age and Iron Age archaeological sites are absent from the immediate study area. Stone Age lithic scatters occur near watercourses and some were exposed due to diamond mining in the wider area, suggesting that the landscape was used since the Early Stone Age. However, currently, published references only include Earlier Stone Age occurrences (Caruana et al 2020) at Barberspan and Later Stone Age sites such as Jubilee and Holkrans rock shelters, which are ~ 200 km south-east of Lichtenburg, as well as rock art occurring at Driekuil and Gestoptefontein (e.g., Wadley 1989, 1996; Bradfield & Sadr 2011; Hollmann 2013).

Early Iron Age farmers settled at Broederstroom ca. 500 CE (Mason 1981), the oldest Iron Age site in the North-West Province. Agropastoral communities preferred open woodland areas with readily available access to water and cultivatable soils. Due to their particular homestead economy, farmers did not occupy the central highveld area of Lichtenburg. During the Late Iron Age when climatic conditions became more favourable people started to occupy areas previously considered unsuitable (Maggs 1994; Huffman 2007). The earliest Iron Age farmers who moved into the North-West Province were Tswana-speakers such as the BaRolong probably from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards. According to traditional history BaRolong king Tau died in 1760 CE, he was succeeded by his son Nôto. During the reign of Nôto it is said that they settled in the region of Molopo, while others say it was only during the time of Morara's kingship, son of Nôto. However, during the early 1820s Methodist missionaries had contact with BaRolong communities as they fled from the chaos caused by the ongoing Mfecane, settling near Maquassi hills in modern-day Potchefstroom. Peace was short-lived and communities decided in 1833 to move towards Thaba Nchu under the protection of king Moshoshoe. The region was also a focal point for *Voortrekkers* such as Hendrik Potgieter and Sarel Cilliers, as they moved further towards the interior violent battles took place between local Sotho-Tswana, Ndebele and Zulu chiefdoms (Matthews 1945; Breutz 1957; Giliomee & Mbenga 2007).

The surrounding area of Lichtenburg was only occupied from the 1850s as resources were few and the town was established in 1873. During the South African War 1899-1902, a number of skirmishes took place in the larger region. The area included concentration camps and the famous battle of Mafikeng took place close-by. Lichtenburg is also home to the infamous General Koos de la Rey. The town was the seat of the local Senator, and he died in 1914 on his way home from a meeting in parliament about South Africa's participation in World War I. During the 1920s the town experienced a diamond rush that lasted 10 years. Today Lichtenburg is known for cattle and crop farming (e.g., Bergh 1998; Scholtz & Theron 2000; van der Walt 2013; Coetzee 2017). The project area nearby Lichtenburg was utilised for grazing or agricultural fields since the 1900s (van Schalkwyk 2021).

## South Africa: A short chronology

**Early Stone Age:** 2 million - 250 000 BP. Hominins producing core and pebble tools, later stages includes handaxes and blades.

**Middle Stone Age:** 250 000 - 40 000 / 25 000 BP. *Homo Sapiens*. Prepared core techniques, formal tools, points, scrapers and backed artefacts. Occasionally includes bone points and ostrich eggshell fragments and grindstones.

**Later Stone Age:** 40 000 - 100 BP. Wide range of formal microlithic tools. Ostrich eggshell fragments, beads, rock art.

**Ceramic Final Later Stone Age:** 2000 BP. Wide range of formal microlithic tools, with thin-walled pottery, with some sites having faunal remains of ovicaprids.

**Early Iron Age:** 200 - 900 CE. Arrival of Bantu-speaking farmers who lived in sedentary settlements often located next to rivers. They kept livestock, cultivated sorghum, beans and cowpeas. Introduced metallurgy to the region and manufactured thick-walled pottery.

**Middle Iron Age:** 900 - 1300 CE. Confined to the modern-day Limpopo Province, and associated with early state formation, such as Mapungubwe and associated sites.

**Late Iron Age:** 1300 - 1840 CE. Marks the arrival of ancestral Eastern Bantu-speaking Nguni and Sotho-Tswana communities. Settlements are often located on or near hilltops for defensive purposes. The Iron Age as an archaeological period ends with the Mfecane, 1820s to 1840s CE. An event that caused major socio-political upheaval.

### Historic events

1652: Dutch East India Company establishes refreshment station at modern-day Cape Town.

1658: First slave ships arrive at Table Bay.

1660 - 1793: Various armed conflicts between Khoisan and Europeans, several frontier wars between Europeans, Khoisan and Xhosa communities.

1795 - 1807: First British occupation of the Cape, the Dutch East India Company collapses, and slave trade is abolished.

1808 - 1820: Several frontier wars and first British Settlers arrive.

1820 - 1840: Onset of the Mfecane, abolishment of slavery and slaves are freed at the Cape. Dutch farmers started to migrate towards the interior of South Africa, what will become known as the 'Great Trek'.

1860 - 1880: Discovery of mineral wealth, diamonds and gold. Establishment of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR).

1899 - 1902: The South African War.

1910 - 1945: Unification of South Africa, formation of the ANC, World War I and World War II.

BP - Before Present  
CE - Common Era

Figure 6.1. Summary of archaeological and historical events in South Africa.

## 7 Description of the Physical Environment

The study area is situated approximately 6 km north of Lichtenburg and primarily used for cattle grazing with some camps having been cultivated in the past. These disused agricultural fields have been cleared of surface rocks. A series of existing powerlines traverse the project area and are accessible through the various small gravel roads that are found throughout the study area. Most of these farm roads are overgrown. Archaeological visibility is low due to dense grass cover while bushes and tall trees are sparse but scattered throughout the landscape. General site conditions are illustrated in Figures 7.1 to 7.2.



Figure 7.1. Thicket of trees on rocky ridge.



Figure 7.2. Powerline in the study area.



## 8 Findings of the Survey

### 8.1 Heritage Resources

During the survey heritage resources were limited to low-density background scatters (Orton 2016) of Middle Stone Age (MSA) and Later Stone Age (LSA) lithics. Scatters (between 3 - 5 artefacts per m<sup>2</sup>) was recorded as observation points of low significance. Scatters with densities less than 2 artefacts per m<sup>2</sup> were not recorded as they occur throughout the area. Individual occurrences were not point plotted within the recorded scatters however an attempt was made at determining site extent. GPS readings were taken roughly in the middle of each identified scatter. Recorded observations were labelled numerically with the Prefix EF for Elandsfontein, of which only one observation is located close to but not within the Aristida PV footprint and is briefly discussed below to provide context to the Stone Age occurrences in the area. The Stone Age artefacts date to the MSA and LSA and are made from fine grained material like chert and cryptocrystalline silica (CCS) and is exposed on rocky outcrops and cleared areas like the gravel roads. No formal tools that can be attributed to an industry level were noted and artefacts consist of flakes without retouch, MSA blades, chunks and cores (Figure 8.1). The project area was surveyed as part of the larger project for the Elandsfontein PV Cluster of which many sites were avoided after the scoping phase. General site conditions, site distribution and site conditions at (EF001) are illustrated in Figure 8.2. Recorded observations are briefly described in Table 7.

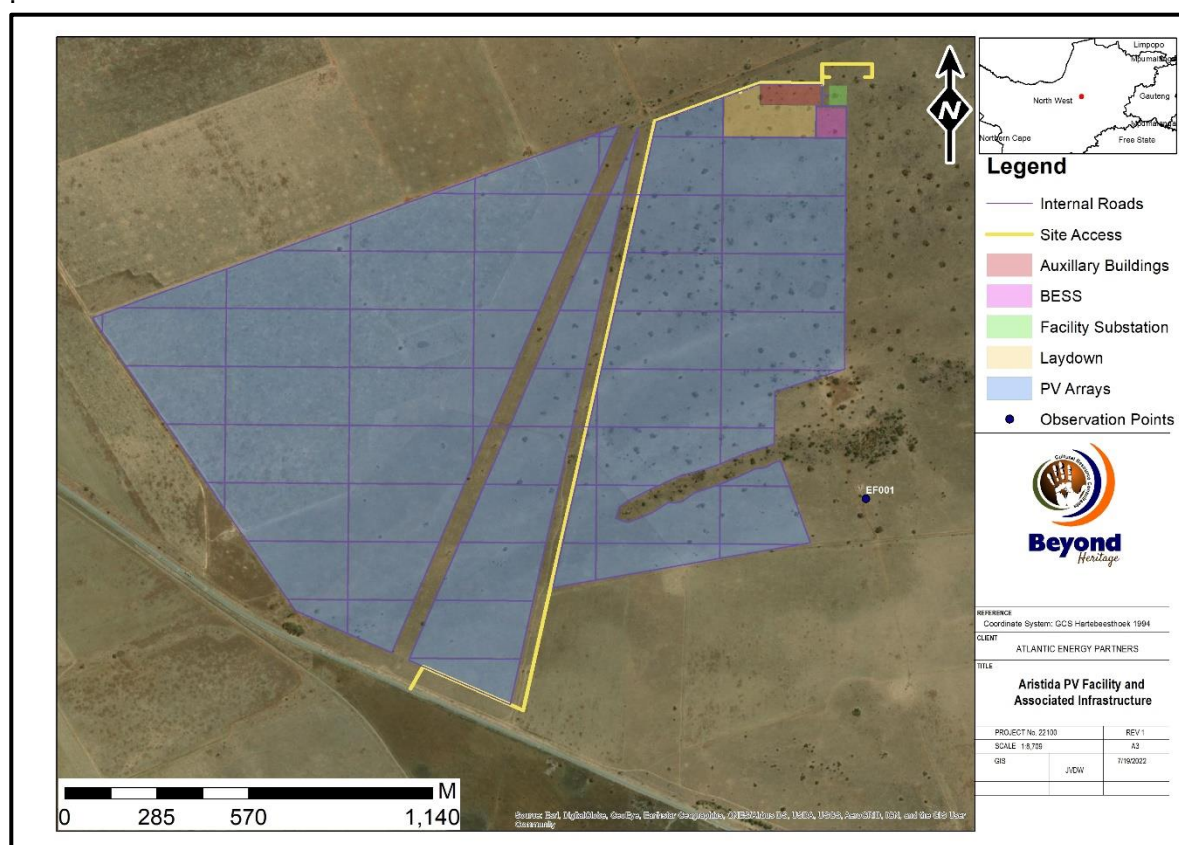


Figure 8.1. Site distribution in relation to the Project area.

Table 7. Sites recorded in the general study area.

Label	Longitude	Latitude	Description	Significance	Elevation
EF001	26° 05' 30.7823" E	26° 07' 42.2581" S	Low density scatter (less than 1 artefact per m <sup>2</sup> ) of presumably MSA lithics. The artefacts are recorded over an area of 6 x 8 meters and located on a small gravel road running from the entrance of the farm to a cement water reservoir.	Low Significance GP C	1502,568



Figure 8.2. Collection of artefacts at EF001. Scale is in cm intervals.

## 8.2 Cultural Landscape

The study area is located in a rural setting used for cultivation and grazing and remains largely undeveloped (Figure 8.3 and 8.4).

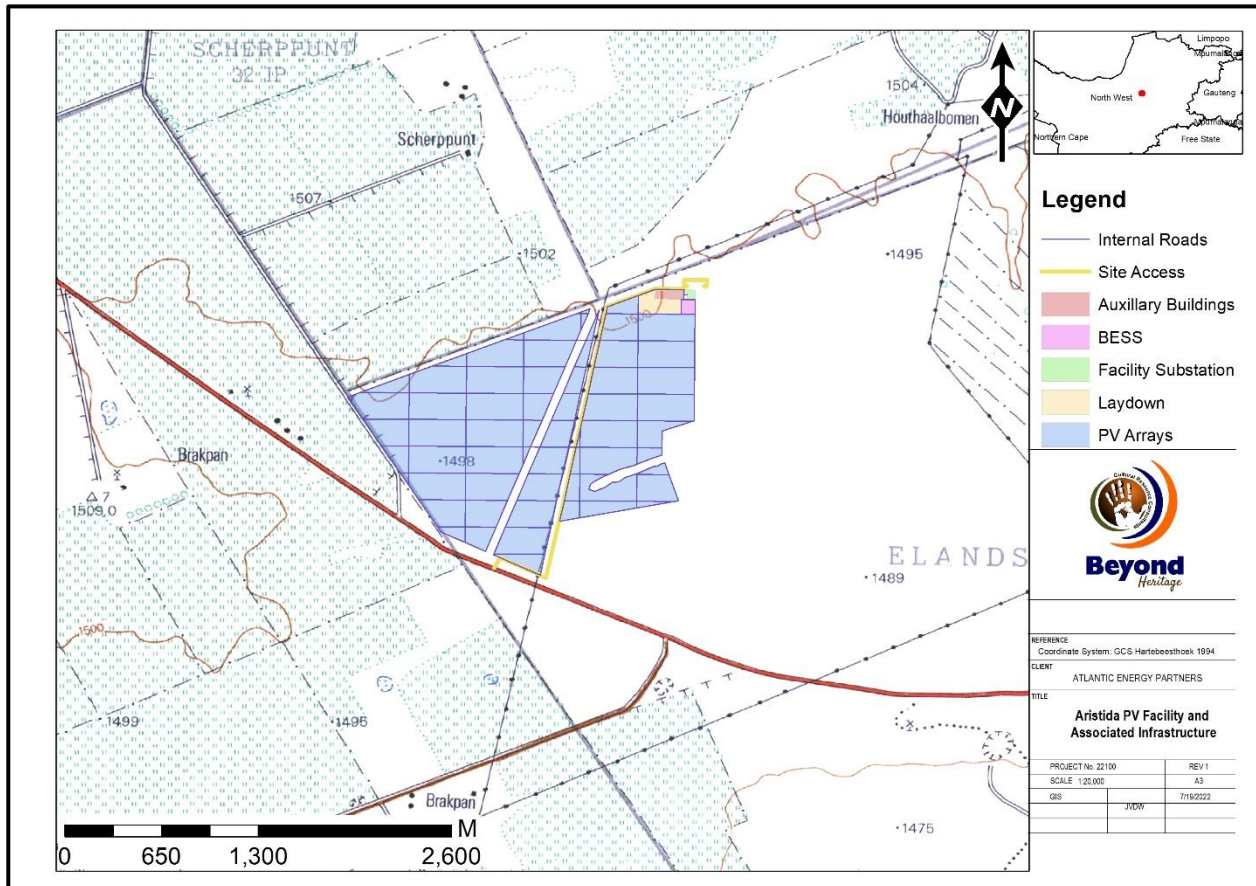


Figure 8.3. 1972 Topographic map of the area, no developments, apart from a powerline are indicated in the study area.

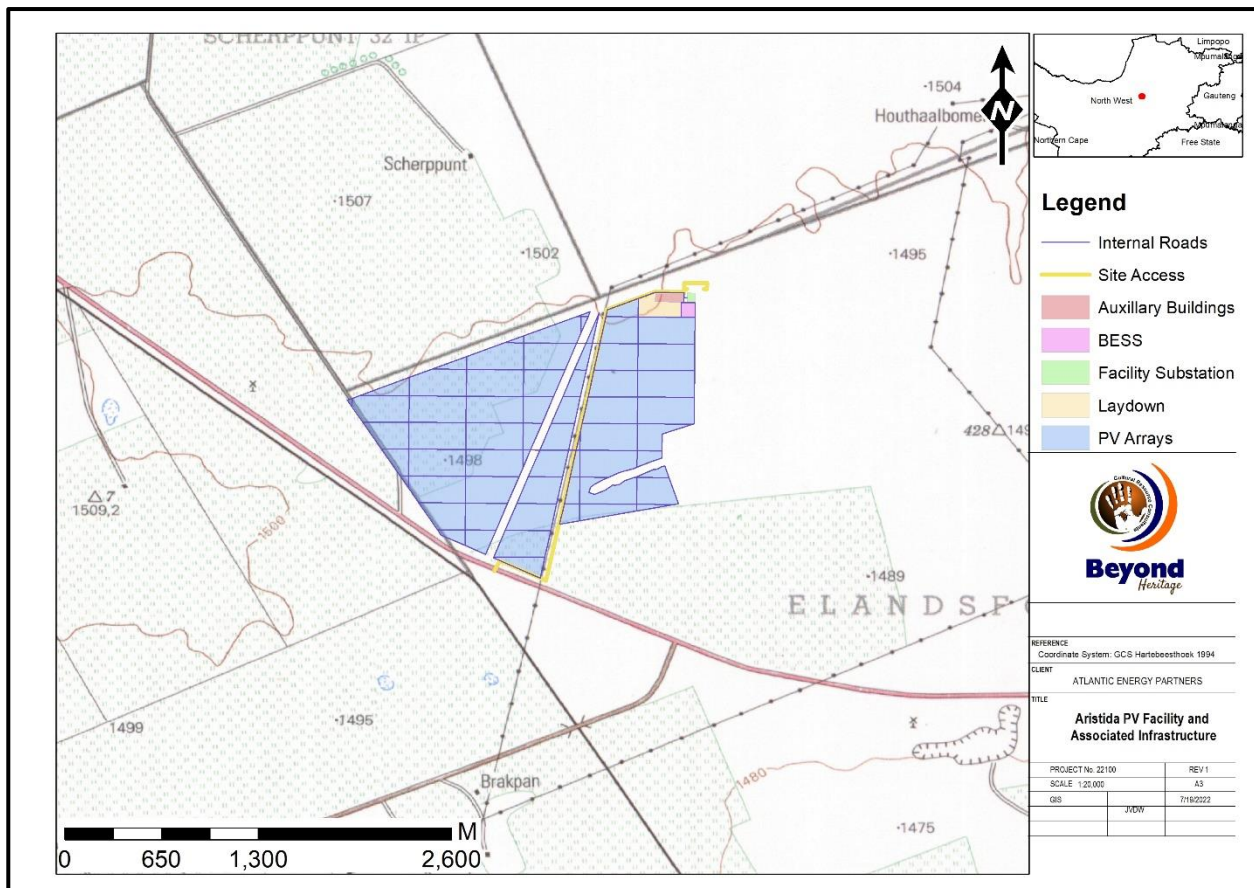
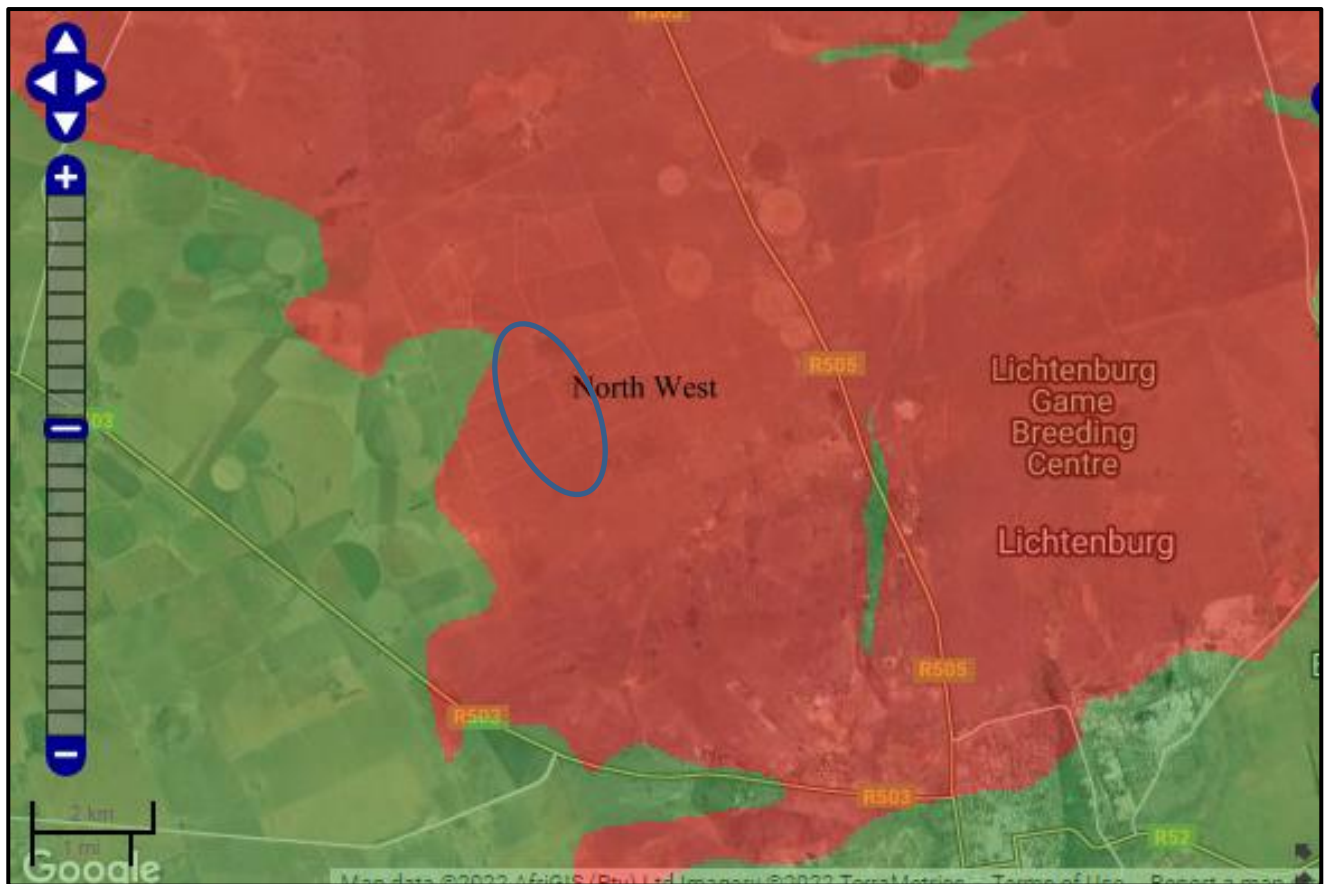


Figure 8.4.1992 Topographic map. No developments are indicated in the study area apart from a powerline and some cultivation in the south.

### 8.3 Paleontological Heritage

Based on the SAHRA sensitivity map the area is of high sensitivity, this concurs with the DEA Screening Tool that indicated the area of very high paleontological sensitivity. An independent study for this aspect was conducted by Prof Marion Bamford (2022) as appended. The study found that the proposed site lies on the potentially very highly fossiliferous rocks of the Malmani Subgroup, (Chuniespoort Group, Transvaal Supergroup), particularly the Oaktree Formation. The site visit and walkthrough found that there were good exposures of dolomite but no stromatolites were present. Nonetheless, a Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the EMP.





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 8.5. Paleontological sensitivity for the approximate study area (blue polygon) as indicated by SAHRA.



## **9 Potential Impact**

Impacts to heritage resources without mitigation within the project footprint will be permanent and negative and occur during the pre-construction and construction activities. The recorded Stone Age Scatter at EF 001 is scattered too sparsely to be of significance apart from mentioning it in this report and can be attributed to background scatter (Orton 2016) generally speaking of low significance. It is also located outside of the impact area but similar occurrences could occur in the study area.

Any additional effects to subsurface heritage resources can be successfully mitigated by implementing a chance find procedure. Mitigation measures for specific sites as outlined under Table 9 and additional recommendations in this report should be implemented during all phases of the project. With the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures impacts of the project on heritage resources is acceptable (Table 8).

Cumulative impacts considered as an effect caused by the proposed action that results from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions. (Cornell Law School Information Institute, 2020). Cumulative impacts occur from the combination of effects of various impacts on heritage resources. The importance of identifying and assessing cumulative impacts is that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. In the case of this project, impacts can be mitigated to an acceptable level. However, this and other projects in the area can have a negative impact on heritage sites in the area where these sites have been destroyed unknowingly.

### **9.1.1 Pre-Construction phase**

It is assumed that the pre-construction phase involves the removal of topsoil and vegetation as well as the establishment of infrastructure. These activities can have a negative and irreversible impact on heritage features if any occur. Impacts include destruction or partial destruction of non-renewable heritage resources.

### **9.1.2 Construction Phase**

During this phase, the impacts and effects are similar in nature but more extensive than the pre-construction phase. Potential impacts include destruction or partial destruction of non-renewable heritage resources.

### **9.1.3 Operation Phase**

No impacts are expected during the operation phase.

#### 9.1.4 Impact Assessment for the Project

**Table 8. Impact assessment for the project.**

<b>Nature:</b> 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>	Minor (2)	Minor (2)
<b>Probability</b>	Improbable (2)	Improbable (2)
<b>Significance</b>	<b>18 (Low)</b>	<b>18 (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
<b>Can impacts be mitigated?</b>	NA	NA
<b>Mitigation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the Chance Find Procedure for the project.</li> <li>• Monitoring of the project area by the ECO.</li> </ul>		
<b>Cumulative impacts:</b> Other authorised projects (e.g., residential developments) in the area could have a cumulative impact on the heritage landscape. The impact on physical heritage is low as no sites of significance will be impacted on by the new developments.		
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> Although surface sites can be avoided or mitigated, there is a chance that completely buried sites would still be impacted on, but this cannot be quantified.		

## 10 Conclusion and recommendations

The Project area is characterised by agricultural activities (mainly grazing) without any major focal points like pans or hills that would have attracted human occupation in antiquity. The project area was surveyed as part of the larger project for the Elandsfontein PV Cluster and heritage finds in the larger area were limited to Stone Age scatters in low densities in an open-air context. Raw material for tool manufacture is almost exclusively on chert that is readily available in the area and artefacts recorded in the area show typological traits associated with the MSA and LSA.

Examination of historical topographic maps and aerial images also showed no structures or stone walled settlements in the study area. According to the SAHRA Paleontological sensitivity map the study area is of very high paleontological significance, and this was addressed in an independent study by Bamford (2022). The study concludes that it is extremely unlikely that any fossils would be preserved in the overlying soils and sands of the Quaternary. There is a very small chance that fossils may occur below the ground surface in the dolomites of the Oaktree and Monte Christo Formation (Malmani Subgroup, Chuniespoort Group, Pretoria Supergroup) and may be disturbed, so a Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the EMP.

No adverse impact on heritage resources is expected by the project and it is recommended that the project can commence on the condition that the following recommendations (Section 10) are implemented as part of the EMP and based on approval from SAHRA.

### 10.1 Recommendations for condition of authorisation

The following recommendations for Environmental Authorisation apply and the project may only proceed based on approval from SAHRA:

#### **Recommendations:**

- Implementation of a chance find procedure for the project (as outlined in Section 10.2).
- The study area should be monitored by the ECO.

## 10.2 Chance Find Procedures

### 10.2.1 Heritage Resources

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 and monitoring guidelines for this procedure are provided in Section 10.5.

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.

### 10.2.2 Monitoring Programme for Palaeontology – to commence once the excavations / drilling activities begin.

1. The following procedure is only required if fossils are seen on the surface and when drilling/excavations commence.
2. When excavations begin the rocks and must be given a cursory inspection by the environmental officer or designated person. Any fossiliferous material (trace fossils, fossils of plants, insects, bone or coalified material) should be put aside in a suitably protected place. This way the project activities will not be interrupted.
3. Photographs of similar fossils must be provided to the developer to assist in recognizing the fossil plants, vertebrates, invertebrates or trace fossils in the shales and mudstones (for example see Figure 8). 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 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 no site inspections by the palaeontologist will be necessary. A final report by the palaeontologist must be sent to SAHRA once the project has been completed and only if there are fossils.
8. If no fossils are found and the excavations have finished, then no further monitoring is required.

### **10.3 Reasoned Opinion**

The overall impact of the project is considered to be low and residual impacts can be managed to an acceptable level through implementation of the recommendations made in this report. The socio-economic benefits also outweigh the possible impacts of the development if the correct mitigation measures are implemented for the project.

### **10.4 Potential risk**

Potential risks to the proposed project are the occurrence of intangible features and unrecorded cultural resources (of which graves and subsurface cultural material are the highest risk). This can cause delays during construction, as well as additional costs involved in mitigation and possible layout changes.

## 10.5 Monitoring Requirements

Day to day monitoring can be conducted by the Environmental Control Officers (ECO). The ECO or other responsible persons should be trained along the following lines:

- *Induction training:* Responsible staff identified by the developer should attend a short course on heritage management and identification of heritage resources.
- *Site monitoring and watching brief:* As most heritage resources occur below surface, all earth-moving activities need to be routinely monitored in case of accidental discoveries. The greatest potential impacts are from pre-construction and construction activities. The ECO should monitor all such activities. If any heritage resources are found, the chance finds procedure must be followed as outlined above.

**Table 9.** Monitoring requirements for the project

Heritage Monitoring					
Aspect	Area	Responsible for monitoring and measuring	Frequency	Proactive or reactive measurement	Method
Cultural Heritage Resources	Entire project area	EO & ECO	Weekly (Pre construction and construction phase)	Proactively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If risks are manifested (accidental discovery of heritage resources) the chance find procedure should be implemented:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cease all works immediately;</li> <li>2. Report incident to Site Manager</li> <li>3. EPC (Engineering Procurement and Construction) Contractor to contact an archaeologist/ palaeontologist to inspect the site;</li> <li>4. Report incident to SAHRA; as advised by specialist and</li> <li>5. Employ site specific mitigation measures recommended by the specialist after</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

Heritage Monitoring					
Aspect	Area	Responsible for monitoring and measuring	Frequency	Proactive or reactive measurement	Method
					<p>assessment in accordance with the requirements of the relevant authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Only recommence operations once impacts have been mitigated.</li></ul>

## 10.6 Management Measures for inclusion in the EMP

**Table 10. Heritage Management Plan for EMP implementation**

General project area	Implement chance find procedures in case possible heritage finds are uncovered	Construction	Throughout the construction phase	Applicant EAP	Ensure compliance with relevant legislation and recommendations from SAHRA under Section 35, 36 and 38 of NHRA	ECO Checklist/Report
General project area	Monitoring by the ECO.	Construction	Throughout the construction phase	Applicant EAP	Ensure compliance with relevant legislation and recommendations from SAHRA under Section 35, 36 and 38 of NHRA	ECO Checklist/Report



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