

## ***Cultural / Heritage Resources<sup>1</sup>***

The National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) presents guidelines as to the areas of heritage that need to be addressed in Heritage Impact Assessments or as the heritage components of Environmental Impact Assessments. Mr Cobus Dreyer was appointed to undertake the Heritage Impact Assessment for the Solafrica CSP plant project.

### Scope of work

According to the guidelines the areas of heritage that need to be addressed in a Heritage Impact Assessment include:

- Cultural landscapes;
- Palaeontology;
- Archaeology;
- Built environments;
- Graves and burial grounds;
- Places and objects of historical significance, and
- Intangible aspects of heritage such as visual impacts, place and tradition.

This study evaluated the potential effects that the proposed CSP plant development would have on heritage resources at the preferred development site by obtaining knowledge of the background history of the area, the state of existing information, as well as a physical site survey.

The context of the affected areas was assessed in terms of its landscape qualities. Built structures, human made landscapes were recorded and assessed for significance in terms of the protections and provisions of the National Heritage Resources Act.

### Methodology

The area was examined for possible archaeological and historical material and to establish the potential impact on any cultural material that might be found. The study was undertaken during 2006 in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) (Act 25 of 1999), as part of the EIA undertaken for the Eskom CSP project. The site investigation was undertaken from 13 to 16 February 2006.

### Regional Context

The !Kheis Municipal Area was initially inhabited by the Khoi-San people. The San, who lived a nomadic life, migrated through the area. The Korannas (Khoi group) arrived in the area during the 18th century. They were widely spread over the "Benede Oranje" area and consisted of various tribes, each with its own captain (leader). The groups who lived in the !Kheis area, was under leadership of Captain Willem Bostander and Klaas Springbok. Many of their descendants still live in the area today.

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<sup>1</sup> Bohlweki Environmental. 2006. *Environmental Impact Assessment for the establishment of a New Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) plant and associated infrastructure in the Northern Cape Province.*

Other Khoi-groups, such as the Griekwas, also migrated through the area and intermarried with the Korannas. Later Coloured stock farmers, as well as white hunters and farmers arrived.

#### Site Specific Findings

The investigation at Bokpoort produced a small collection of stone flakes (Figure 1) mainly towards the power line. The material used was also meta-quartzite and chalcedony from the local lithic sources.



**Figure 1: Stone flakes from Bokpoort (site 2) made out of Chalcedony, banded ironstone and meta-quartzite (Pocket knife = 83 mm)**

The lithic assemblages found during the whole investigation seem to be in the form of a general distribution of flakes cores. The impact on the cultural heritage remains located on the Farm Bokpoort will be of minor significance.

The stone flakes are sparsely distributed on the surface with the intensity of the distribution the same at both sites.

No other cultural, historical or palaeontological components were found during the investigation, nor were there any buildings, graves or burial grounds in the area.

#### ***Tourism***<sup>2</sup>

The tourism Impact Assessment was undertaken and compiled by Zengeziwe Msimang in her capacity as a consultant for Grant Thornton Tourism Hospitality and Leisure during 2006 as a specialist component to the Eskom CSP EIA project.

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<sup>2</sup> Bohlweki Environmental. 2006. *Environmental Impact Assessment for the establishment of a New Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) plant and associated infrastructure in the Northern Cape Province.*

Tourism has been prioritised by government as a key development sector and plays a large role in the creation of jobs in the South African economy. In 2004 over 6.7 million tourists visited South Africa contributing 93.6 billion to the domestic economy. As the fastest growing industry in the country that is estimated to employ over 3% of South Africa's work force, the impact of the CSP plant on tourism is of vital importance.

#### Methodology

- A detailed assessment of all existing and potential tourism products that may be affected by the CSP project. This included interviews with product owners/operators, an assessment of the current tourism business demand and operations (current revenue, rates, patronage levels, occupancy, etc) as well as a testing of their views on the potential impact of the CSP on their businesses. The assessment has identified which areas and what types of tourism businesses will be most and least affected;
- An assessment of the future tourism appeal and/or prospects for the tourism assessment area through the interviews with the product owners/operators as well as interviews with relevant tourism organisations (public and private sector), and
- Through interviews with local estate agents, an assessment of the current land/property prices (average values for all types of land/properties as well as values for land/properties with a tourism appeal) in the region and their opinion with regard to the impact of the transmission line and/or substation on land values.

Through reference to previous research (conducted by Grant Thornton and others), the current and projected future average demand for tourism products in the tourism assessment area was determined.