ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED KLOOFSIG 2 SOLAR PV ENERGY FACILITY ON THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM KALK POORT 18, PETRUSVILLE AREA, RENOSTERBERG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE

Prepared for:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Natura Viva cc was appointed by SRK Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for the proposed development of a 225 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) energy facility (consisting of three phases) on the farm Kloofsig (Kalk Poort 18) some 10km to the northwest of Petrusville, Renosterberg Local Municipality, Northern Cape. Petrusville lies to the west of the Vanderkloof Dam on the Orange River. Kloofsig 2 is the northern-most part of the proposed three phase development on privately owned agricultural land and includes the on-site substation and a one kilometre connection line to a proposed Eskom Switch substation (to be constructed during the proposed first phase). The total footprint of Kloofsig 2 is about 200 ha. Kloofsig 1 and 3 lie to the south of the second phase and are the subjects of two separate AIAs. The assessments were conducted under Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999).

The survey of the affected area was undertaken as part of the baseline study conducted on Kloofsig farm between 17 and 19 June 2015 (Tusenius 2015). The farm was covered by vehicle on existing tracks and short walked loops in the veld. Visibility of archaeological material on the ground was generally good.

Most of the farm features dispersed Stone Age archaeological material in the form of an ubiquitous background scatter of weathered and patinated, typologically mixed Middle Stone Age (MSA) / Later Stone Age (LSA) artefacts, with the former being more common. The artefacts occur dispersed within the surface gravels, rather than as discrete concentrations, and are in a secondary, rather than a stratified, context in areas affected by sheet erosion. There is no preservation of organic remains. These archaeological heritages resources are therefore considered to be of relatively low archaeological sensitivity.

The proposed development of the Kloofsig 2 solar energy facility will result in the damage, destruction and permanent loss of archaeological heritage resources. However, the impact of this development on such resources is expected to be of low significance due to the low archaeological sensitivity of the dispersed material. In addition, there will be no impact on the sensitive archaeological resources identified on Kloofsig farm during the baseline study (Tusenius 2015). Therefore, no loss of unique archaeological heritage resources is anticipated. This assessment applies to the construction phase of the proposed development, since no further significant impacts on archaeological heritage resources are anticipated during the operational and decommissioning phases.

The cumulative impact of the proposed Kloofsig 2 development in the broader area is considered to be low as impact studies for several other projects in this area, as well as research publications, have revealed that comparable, low sensitivity Stone Age material is scattered over the surface throughout the wider region.

No further specialist archaeological work or mitigation is recommended for Kloofsig 2.

There are no objections on archaeological grounds to the authorisation of the proposed solar facility. However, if any human remains, graves or stone burial cairns are found during the construction of the proposed development, work in that area must cease and the Environmental Control Officer must immediately notify SAHRA.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Natura Viva cc was appointed by SRK Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for the proposed development of a 225 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) energy facility (consisting of three phases) on the farm Kloofsig (Kalk Poort 18) some 10km to the northwest of Petrusville, Renosterberg Local Municipality, Northern Cape (Figure 1). Petrusville lies to the west of the Vanderkloof Dam on the Orange River. The site of the proposed development extends over privately owned agricultural land with an area of approximately 970 ha. This report deals with the second phase of the proposed project, namely Kloofsig 2. The three areas identified for Phases 1 to 3 were originally part of a proposed larger 6 phase development (Figures 1 and 2).

Kloofsig 2 is the northern-most part of the proposed three phase development (Figure 2) and includes the on-site substation (with office, ablution and store room facilities) and a one kilometre connection line to a proposed Eskom Switch substation. The main components of the proposed three phase project include solar panels, underground cables and power lines, a laydown area and construction camp. The Switch substation and connection to the 400 kV power line crossing the site are part of the proposed Phase 1 construction. Associated infrastructure includes access roads (the existing gravel road to the north-east of the site, as well as a proposed second access road to the south), internal roads, water supply via existing or new boreholes, wastewater treatment and solid waste management. The total footprint of Kloofsig 2 is about 200 ha. Kloofsig 1 and 3 lie to the south of the second phase (Figures 2 and 3) and are the subjects of two separate AIAs (Tusenius 2016a, b).



Figure 1: Google earth image showing the location of the proposed Kloofsig Solar PV Energy Facility (outline of the original larger project indicated in white, the present three phase project indicated in yellow) on the farm Kloofsig to the northwest of Petrusville and the Vanderkloof Dam. The relevant 1:50 000 topographical maps are 2924DC Havengabrug and 3024BA Petrusville.

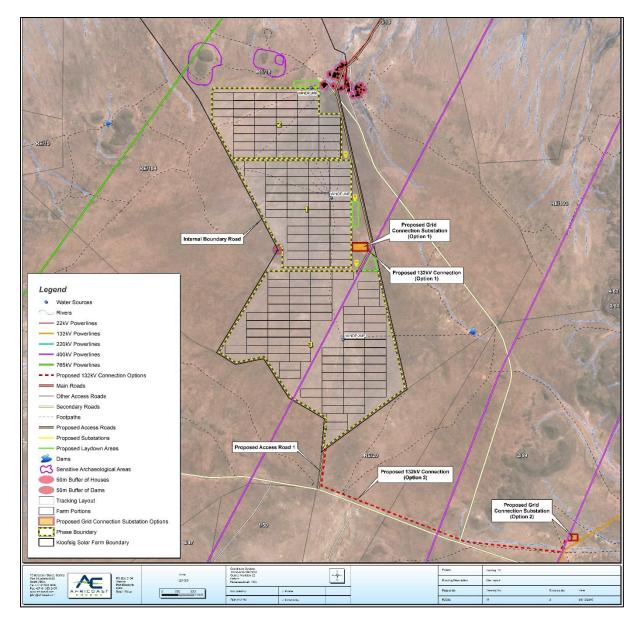


Figure 2: The layout of the proposed three phase Kloofsig Solar PV Energy Facility (Image courtesy of SRK Consulting). Archaeologically sensitive areas identified in the baseline report (Tusenius 2015) - dolerite 'koppies' with LSA remains and a cemetery - are outlined in purple to the north of the proposed development. Farm buildings, encircled by red, lie to the north-east of the affected area.

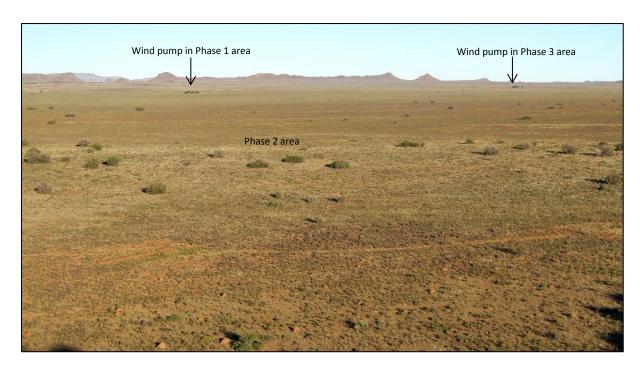


Figure 3: View towards the southeast from the dolerite hills to the north of the proposed Kloofsig Solar PV Energy Facility development. The position of wind pumps in Phases 1 and 3 is indicated.

2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) protection is provided for heritage resources such as archaeological and palaeontological sites (Section 35 (4)), structures older than 60 years (Section 34) and graves older than 60 years (Section 36 (3)). Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act is triggered by certain types of development, including changes of character to an area exceeding 5 000m², and makes provision for compulsory Heritage Impact Assessments to assess the potential impacts of such proposed developments on heritage resources. Such heritage assessments are conducted under Section 38 (8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, and as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirements of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA).

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the study were to:

- Conduct a literature review of known archaeological resources within the area with a view to determining which of these resources are likely to occur within the development footprint
- Assess the area of the proposed solar PV energy facility
- Describe and map any sensitive or no-go areas to inform the final layout
- Comment on potential impacts on these resources resulting from the development
- Make recommendations regarding the mitigation of any damage to archaeological resources identified, or that may be identified during the construction phase.

4. STUDY APPROACH

4.1 Methods

A field survey of Kloofsig farm was undertaken on 17 to 19 June 2015 as part of a baseline study (Tusenius 2015) for a proposed six phase solar development. This project has subsequently been reduced to the present proposed three phase development. During the baseline survey, the farm was covered by vehicle on existing tracks and short walked loops in the veld to gain a general impression of the layout of the farm and the archaeological potential of different areas. Members of the Havenga family (in particular Rensa, John and Jenny Havenga) were also consulted about features of archaeological and historical interest on the property. The farm has belonged to the family of Mrs Rensa Havenga for at least 3 generations.

Tracks and archaeological occurrences observed during the survey were recorded by a Garmin GPSMAP 62s set on the WGS84 datum. The general area and archaeological material were extensively photographed. The visibility of archaeological material on the ground was generally good due to relatively sparse vegetation cover, although some areas of denser bush do occur. The survey took place during winter, the dry season.

A summary of aspects of the literature review undertaken of known archaeological resources in the area is given in the archaeological background section below.

4.2 Limiting factors

During the survey for the baseline study (Tusenius 2015), the areas of the present three phase study were identified as being of low archaeological significance so less attention was paid to these than to the areas of medium to high significance described in the relevant report, and given in the archaeological background section below. However, the author feels confident that the conclusions reached about the study area are reasonable and in line with what was observed in other parts of the farm, as well as in accordance with what has been recorded in other AIA and academic studies in the area.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

5.1 Archaeological background:

Within the broader region surrounding the study area the most important reference sources for data on the archaeology are Garth Sampson's Orange River Scheme study (Sampson 1968, 1970, 1972) and his work in the Seacow Valley (Sampson 1985). The former study was conducted prior to the construction of the Gariep and Vanderkloof dams, formerly the H.F. Verwoerd and P.K. le Roux dams respectively, and consisted of a survey of the floodbasins of the two dams. The location of the two dams is indicated on Figure 1. The surface archaeology was mapped and 942 Stone Age occurrences, most of which were found along stream banks, were recorded (Sampson 1972). Twelve buried sites were excavated. A sequence of six industries covering the Early Stone Age (ESA), Middle Stone Age (MSA) and Later Stone Age (LSA), including LSA with ceramics, was recognised. His second study (Sampson 1985) concerns the area surrounding the Seacow River, a minor

tributary of the Orange River, which flows to the south of the Vanderkloof Dam (Figure 1). The same six successive industries, with an additional one, were recognised during the mapping of over 16 000 surface stone artefact concentrations. These concentrations reflect the residues of activities carried out by successive populations of Stone Age hunter-foragers, as well as a temporary incursion of stock-herders in the southwest corner of the survey area. San hunter-foragers in this area first came into contact with European Trek boers in the late 1700's.

Archaeological impact studies have been undertaken in the general area indicated in Figure 1 - Petrusville, the Vanderkloof Dam, Hopetown and De Aar, as well as the Hanover area some 120 km south of Kloofsig - and include those by Dreyer (2008a, b), Morris (1997, 2011a, b, c, 2012), Nel (2008), Tusenius (2015), Van Jaarsveld (2006), Van Ryneveld (2013), Van Schalkwyk (2015), Van Vollenhoven (2013) and Webley & Orton (2011). A variable density of stone artefacts, especially MSA material, has been observed over the surface of most of the areas surveyed, with fewer LSA occurrences and very rare ESA material. One Later Iron Age homestead and a shelter with rock paintings has been recorded close to the Vanderkloof Dam (Van Ryneveld 2013). Other archaeological material which has been noted is rock engravings on dolerite boulders (Nel 2008, Webley & Orton 2011), stone kraal complexes and historical farmsteads (Webley & Orton 2011), stone burial mounds (Morris 2012, Van Vollenhoven 2013), plus ration tins and the remains of a block house related to the Anglo-Boer War (Dreyer 2008b, Morris 2012). The last is a reminder that there was an Anglo-Boer War presence in the area which includes a battlefield and concentration camp in the Hopetown district (Dreyer 2008b).

The baseline report for the original, larger proposed Solar PV development (Tusenius 2015) is of direct relevance to the present three phase project – Kloofsig 1, 2 and 3. Besides the typical background scatter of stone artefacts on the entire farm, three areas of particular archaeological interest and sensitivity were recorded outside and to the north of the present study area. One is an area where *in situ* stone artefacts, mostly MSA, were seen eroding out of older calcretised, white, alluvium in the river banks in the vicinity of an old spring, as well as the nearby remains of a demolished old farmhouse ('ou opstal') with fragments of porcelain, glass, metal and animal bones in the vicinity. Clusters of dolerite 'koppies' were another area of interest - small patches cleared of stones, some of which formed low walls, were noted in association with small scatters of mainly LSA artefacts. A cemetery with 13 definite graves and 1 possible grave of packed dolerite boulders, some dating to the last 20 years but others much older, was recorded.

5.2 Area of proposed Kloofsig 2:

Kloofsig 2, the second phase of the proposed three phase development, lies to the north of Phases 1 and 3 (Figures 2 and 3). Farm buildings lie to the northeast of the proposed development (Figure 5) and several dolerite 'koppies' are situated to the north of the site (Figures 2 and 6). The proposed one kilometre connection line will join the substation, constructed during Phase 1, to the southeast of the study area. (See the introduction for further information about the associated infrastructure, also indicated in Figures 2 and 4.) The study area, currently used primarily for sheep farming, is underlain by Ecca Group rocks and consists of flat-lying 'vlaktes' (plains) covered by calcrete hardpan and thin red soils with calcrete and hornfels gravels (Figures 3, 5 to 9). The Nama Karoo vegetation is dominated by scattered small shrubs and bushes, most below 50 cm high. Grass cover is limited.

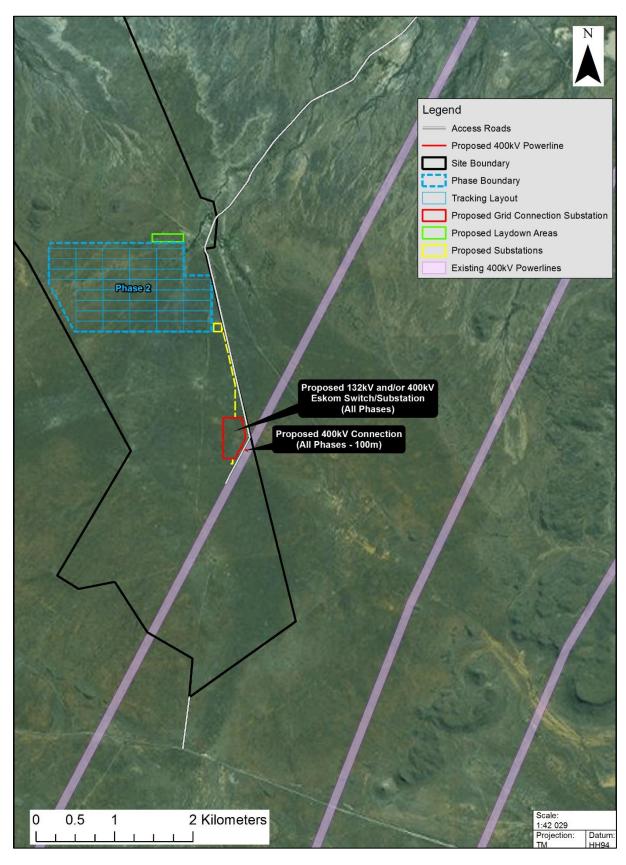


Figure 4: Layout of Phase 2 of the Kloofsig Solar PV Energy Facility (Image courtesy of SRK Consulting).



Figure 5: View towards the southeast showing the approximate position of the eastern part of Phase 2 in relation to the farm buildings on the left of the image. The photo was taken from one of the dolerite 'koppies' to the north of the study area.



Figure 6: View towards the south/southeast showing the area of Phase 2 in the middle ground. The lower slope of a dolerite 'koppie' is visible in the foreground.



Figure 7: View towards the south following the access track through the Phase 2 area to the rest of the proposed development. The trees on the right indicate the position of the wind pump in the Phase 1 area, to the south. Calcrete gravels and hardpan, typical of the study area, are exposed on the track.

6. RESULTS

Most of the Kloofsig farm features dispersed Stone Age archaeological material in the form of an ubiquitous background scatter of stone artefacts within the surface gravels, rather than discrete concentrations of artefacts (Figures 8 to 13). The distribution of the material is patchy – sometimes there are several artefacts within a metre of each other, other times there is a gap of many metres between them – but there appear to be no areas where they are completely absent. Visibility of this material is best where there are deflated areas as the artefacts probably originate from the soils, are then down-wasted onto the calcrete hardpan and concentrated amongst the gravels when the soils are removed by water erosion. There are many signs of sheet wash throughout the study area so there has been transport of the material both horizontally and vertically. In other parts of Kloofsig farm, to the north of the dolerite 'koppies', sub-surface gravels with *in situ* artefacts were seen in thick alluvial deposits (Tusenius 2015).

The surface background scatter consists mainly of very weathered and patinated flakes, blades, chunks, cores and scrapers which appear to be of mixed Middle Stone Age (MSA) and Later Stone Age (LSA) origin, with the former being more common. Diagnostic MSA artefacts include blades and points. Less patinated artefacts may indicate a younger age or less transport by alluvial and sheet wash processes. Hornfels of varying grain sizes was the preferred raw material used but some local dolerite and sandstone, as well as occasional cryptocrystalline silica (CCS) including chert, agate and banded ironstone (probably from the Orange River gravels) for LSA artefacts were also noted. Retouch is evident on some of the flakes, adzes and scrapers. No organic material such as ostrich eggshell or bone was observed in the background surface scatters of the study area. No rock engravings, cultural or structural remains of Anglo-Boer War or other historical significance were seen here either.

The only archaeological resources recorded in the study area are thus the dispersed, typologically-mixed Stone Age artefacts. The fact that there appears to be no stratigraphic context and no organic remains are preserved would suggest that the proposed development area is of limited research value. The affected area is therefore considered to be of relatively low archaeological sensitivity.





Figure 8: View towards the east showing the sparse surface gravels amongst which the down-wasted stone artefacts occur. The ruler is about 15cm in length. Figure 9: Detail of the calcrete gravels with a single weathered and patinated flake, probably made of hornfels. The scale is in cm.





Figures 10 and 11: Examples of a mixture of weathered and fresher-looking artefacts, mostly made of hornfels. The most diagnostic artefacts are the MSA blade (middle of Figure 11) and blade fragments (bottom row of Figure 10). The scale is in cm.





Figures 12 and 13: Examples of typical hornfels artefacts, probably mostly MSA, found throughout Kloofsig farm. The scale is in cm.

7. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT AND SIGNIFICANCE

Following the impact rating methodology used by SRK Consulting, the assessment of impact of the development, the significance rating of the anticipated impact on archaeological resources and recommendations regarding management (mitigation) are given in Table 1 and expanded upon in the text below. The cumulative impact assessment, taking Kloofsig Phases 1 and 3 as well as other developments into account, is discussed towards the end of this section. This assessment applies to the construction phase of the proposed development, since no further significant impacts on archaeological heritage resources are anticipated during the operational and decommissioning phases.

Table 1: Significance rating of impact of the proposed Kloofsig 2 development on archaeological heritage resources during the construction phase and recommended mitigation measures

	Spatial Extent	Intensity	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+-	Confidence	
Before Management	Local	Low	Long term	Low	Definite	Low	-	Medium	
Management Measures									
 No mitigation is recommended in the case of the background scatter of stone artefacts. If dense concentrations of stone artefacts are uncovered during construction, the ECO should notify SAHRA. If any human remains, graves or stone burial cairns are found during construction, work in that area must cease and the ECO must immediately notify SAHRA. 									
After Management	Local	Low	Long term	Low	Probable	Low		Medium	

The proposed development of the solar facility will result in the damage, destruction and long term (permanent) loss of archaeological heritage resources due to earthmoving, construction and installation activities. This is a negative impact. The impact of the proposed surface clearance will be local, i.e. restricted to the areas where the solar panels, roads and associated infrastructure will be located in the three-phase development and will not affect the entire farm. Given the low archaeological sensitivity of the study area (see the previous section), the intensity of the impact is regarded as being low. Similar surface Stone Age

material is found throughout the broader region and this suggests that the overall impact of the development will be of low significance in terms of local archaeological heritage.

The degree of confidence in the rating is indicated as medium, given that it was not possible to determine if there is stratified sub-surface material. This would only become apparent once construction activities are under way. If dense concentrations of stone artefacts are uncovered, the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) should notify SAHRA to comment on possible mitigation.

If any human remains, graves or stone burial cairns are found during the development of the proposed solar facility, work in that area must cease, it should be cordoned off with security tape and the ECO must immediately notify SAHRA (Telephone number 021 462 4502). Avoidance, rather than mitigation, would be the best option. The latter will involve exhumation by a suitably qualified professional archaeologist with appropriate accreditation from the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA), under a permit issued by SAHRA. Mitigation would be at the cost of the developer.

The cumulative impact of the three phases of the proposed Kloofsig development, as well as two other solar projects have been assessed. The last projects consist of Swartwater Solar PV Power Facility, close to Petrusville (Van Vollenhoven 2013), and Grootpoort PV Solar Energy Facility, near Luckhoff, Free State (Van Schalkwyk 2015). Information in the baseline study for Kloofsig (Tusenius 2015) has also been taken into account. Other developments close to the general Kloofsig area for which archaeological impact assessments have been done are the Hydra-Perseus and Beta-Perseus 765kv transmission power lines (Van Jaarsveld 2006) and the upgrade of the Transnet railway line between Hotazel and Coega (Nel 2008). These studies, as well as those also mentioned in the background section of this report, have revealed that comparable Stone Age material is scattered over the surface throughout the wider region. The cumulative impact of the proposed Kloofsig 2 development in the broader area is thus considered to be low.

8. CONCLUSIONS

Due to the relatively low archaeological sensitivity of the study area no further specialist archaeological work or mitigation is recommended as it is expected that a representative sample of the background scatter of material will be left after construction activities. There will be no impact on sensitive archaeological resources identified on Kloofsig farm during the baseline study (Tusenius 2015) and thus no loss of unique archaeological heritage resources is anticipated. There are therefore no objections, on archaeological grounds, to the authorisation of the proposed solar facility. However, if any human remains, graves or stone burial cairns are found during the during the construction of the proposed development, work in that area must cease and the ECO must immediately notify SAHRA.

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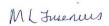
10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Ms Nicola Rump and Ms Karien Kilian, SRK Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd, who commissioned this study and provided some background information; the Havenga family of Kloofsig for information on various aspects of the farm and Dr John Almond, Natura Viva cc, for geological insights on the area and comments on the draft of this report.

11. SPECIALIST DECLARATION AND EXPERTISE

11.1 Declaration of Independence

I, Madelon Louise Tusenius, declare that I am an independent consultant and have no business, financial, personal or other interest in the proposed development project, application or appeal in respect of which I was appointed other than fair remuneration for work performed in connection with the activity, application or appeal. There are no circumstances that compromise the objectivity of my performing such work.



M.L. Tusenius Archaeologist, Natura Viva cc

11.2 Expertise of the specialist

Madelon Tusenius (MA in Archaeology, Stellenbosch) has been an accredited member of ASAPA (Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists), formerly South African Association of Archaeologists, since 1983 and accredited as Field Director for the Stone Age with the Cultural Resources Management (CRM) Section of ASAPA since 2012. The author has been involved in a range of archaeological research projects and impact assessments, mostly as a freelance archaeologist, but also as a researcher based at the former Dept. of Archaeology, University of Stellenbosch, and at Iziko:South African Museum, Cape Town. Research project participations include Klasies River, Ysterfontein 1, Soutpansklipheuvel and a project in Southwest Ecuador. Particular research interests concern charcoal remains from Stone Age archaeological sites, as well as the expansion of comparative modern wood collections. She has mostly worked independently on Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessments in the Western and Northern Cape, and has assisted ACO Associates with several Phase 2 projects. She has also been a field assistant for numerous Palaeontological Impact Assessments for developments and conservation areas in the Western, Eastern and Northern Cape undertaken by Dr JE Almond, Natura Viva cc.