

OSLAAGTE SOLAR 1 (PTY) LTD

**PROPOSED 240MW OSLAAGTE SOLAR 1 PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT SOUTH EAST OF KROONSTAD,
FREE STATE PROVINCE**

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

26 MAY 2023

Submitted to : Nemaï Consulting

Prepared by:

Jennifer Kitto

Nitai Consulting (PTY) Ltd

147 Bram Fischer Drive

Ferndale

2194



The heritage impact assessment report has been compiled considering the NEMA Appendix 6 requirements for specialist reports as indicated in the table below.

Requirements of Appendix 6 – GN R326 EIAs Regulations (2014, amended 2017)	Relevant section in report
1.(1) (a) (i) Details of the specialist who prepared the report	Section 1.1.3 of Report
(ii) The expertise of that person to compile a specialist report including a curriculum vita	Section 1.1.3 and of Report and Appendix 2
(b) A declaration that the person is independent in a form as may be specified by the competent authority	Page iii of the report
(c) An indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the report was prepared	Section 1.1
(cA) An indication of the quality and age of base data used for the specialist report	N/A
(cB) a description of existing impacts on the site, cumulative impacts of the proposed development and levels of acceptable change;	Section 5
(d) The duration, date and season of the site investigation and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment	Section 6
(e) a description of the methodology adopted in preparing the report or carrying out the specialised process inclusive of equipment and modelling used	Section 7
(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 a site plan identifying site alternatives;	Section 5.2 and 5.4, Section 6
(g) An identification of any areas to be avoided, including buffers	Section 6, Section 12
(h) A map superimposing the activity including the associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the site including areas to be avoided, including buffers;	Appendix 1
(i) A description of any assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge;	Section 3
(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	Sections 6, 8
(k) Any mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr	Sections 11, 12
(l) Any conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation	N/A
(m) Any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or environmental authorisation	N/A
(n)(i) A reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorised and	Section 12
(n)(iA) A reasoned opinion regarding the acceptability of the proposed activity or activities; and	
(n)(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 11, 12
(o) A description of any consultation process that was undertaken during the course of carrying out the study	Not applicable. A public consultation process will be handled as part of the EIAs and EMPr process.

Requirements of Appendix 6 – GN R326 EIAs Regulations (2014, amended 2017)	Relevant section in report
(p) A summary and copies if any comments that were received during any consultation process	Not applicable. To date no comments have been raised regarding heritage resources that require input from a specialist.
(q) Any other information requested by the competent authority.	Not applicable.
(2) Where a government notice by the Minister provides for any protocol or minimum information requirement to be applied to a specialist report, the requirements as indicated in such notice will apply.	Section 38(3) of the NHRA

Declaration of Independence

The report has been compiled by Nitai Consulting (Pty) Ltd, an appointed Heritage Specialist for Nema Consulting for the Proposed 240MW Oslaagte Solar 1 Photovoltaic Project Southeast Of Kroonstad, Free State Province. The views contained in this report are purely objective and no other interests are displayed during the Heritage Impact Assessment Process.

I, Jennifer Kitto, declare that –

General declaration:

- I act as the independent heritage specialist for this project*
- I will perform the work relating to the project in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant*
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;*
- I have expertise in conducting heritage impact assessments, including knowledge of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), Associated Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;*
- I will comply with the NHRA, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;*
- I will take into account, to the extent possible, the matters listed in section 38 of the NHRA when preparing the application and any report relating to the application;*
- I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;*
- 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;*
- I will ensure that information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application is distributed or made available to interested and affected parties and the public and that participation by interested and affected parties is facilitated in such a manner that all interested and affected parties will be provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and to provide comments on documents that are produced to support the application;*
- I will provide the competent authority with access to all information at my disposal regarding the application, whether such information is favourable to the applicant or not*
- All the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct;*
- I will perform all other obligations as expected of a heritage specialist in terms of the Act and the constitutions of my affiliated professional bodies; and*
- I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 71 of the NEMA Regulations and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the NEMA.*

Disclosure of Vested Interest

I do not have and will not have any vested interest (either business, financial, personal or other) in the proposed activity proceeding other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the NEMA Regulations;

HERITAGE CONSULTANT - Nitai Consulting (Pty) Ltd

PRINCIPAL HERITAGE PRACTITIONER – Jennifer Kitto

CONTACT PERSON -

Jennifer Kitto

Tel - +27 (0) 633316606

Email – jenniferK@nitaiconsulting.co.za

SIGNATURE -



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT

CLIENT -

Nemai Consulting

CONTACT PERSON -

Donavan Henning

Tel - +27 (0) 11 781 1730

Fax - +27 (0) 11 781 1731

Email - donavanH@nemai.co.za

SIGNATURE -

Executive Summary

The Applicant has proposed the development of the Oslaagte 1 240MW/240MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) project southeast of Kroonstad, in the Free State Province. The electricity generated by the Project will be transferred via 132kV powerlines from the facility substation to a new 132/400 kV Main Transmission Substation (MTS). The Applicant intends to bid for the current and future Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) bid windows and/or other renewable energy markets within SA.

The Project is located approximately 16.5km to the south east of Kroonstad's central business district (CBD) and falls within Ward 1 of the Moqhaka Local Municipality (MLM), in the Free State Province. The R76 runs along the eastern boundary of the site.

Methodology/ Significance Assessment

The Site Survey fieldwork provided confirmation of the existence of heritage resources occurring adjacent to the project footprint. The site survey identified a total of four heritage resources, all of which comprise either extant or demolished structures. Two of these sites, which are modern recent structures (Os1-02 and Os1-03), are located outside the project footprint for both the Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 layout, while the remaining two sites, comprising historical structures or remains (Os1-01 and Os1-04) are located immediately adjacent to the Alternative 1 footprint layout and fall outside the Alternative 2 layout. One site (Os1-01) contains the demolished remains of several historical railway buildings and the other site (Os1-04) contains the extant dilapidated structures of four historical farm buildings.

Identification of Activities, Aspect and Impacts

The proposed project footprint consists of areas which are currently disturbed by cattle and game farming activities.

The impact significance of the project on graves and cemeteries is low as no definite grave sites were identified. However, there is a possibility that potential infant burials could be located at Site Os1-02.

The impact significance of the proposed project on protected historical structures is low as two sites with historical structures were identified which are both located outside the project footprint (Alternative 1 and Alternative 2). These are an historical farmstead (Site Os1-04 and the demolished remains of several railway structures (Os1-01), From the survey, it is very likely that the farmhouse and associated buildings, as well as the railway structures, are over 60 years of age and therefore the sites are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

The impact significance of the project on archaeological sites and materials is low as no definite archaeological resources were identified. However, there is a possibility that such material could be uncovered as it often occurs sub-surface.

Alternatives

The project applicant adopted a comprehensive iterative design process to inform the Oslaagte Solar 1 PV layout/design. By integrating the screening and assessment of environmental (including heritage) and social constraints alongside the technical components of the project, allowed for the reduction in risks to the project.

All the identified heritage resources are located outside of the development footprint within the Alternative 2 layout, however there may be some indirect impacts associated with the construction related activities such as site clearance etc. Therefore, the mitigation measures set out below remain applicable.

In terms of the impact on the identified heritage resources, Alternative 2 is preferred as the layout has been revised to avoid the two sites containing historical structures or structure remains (Os1-01 and Os1-04).

Mitigation Measures

The proposed Oslaagte Solar 1 PV project (Alternative 1 and Alternative 2) could potentially impact the four heritage resources identified which are located outside but adjacent to the project footprint. The heritage resources identified include four historical structure sites (from the site survey fieldwork) and two possible homesteads (from the topographic map). The recommendations below are provided to mitigate the potential impact of the Solar PV project on the identified heritage resources:

- All heritage sites identified and in close proximity to the project footprint must be protected with at least a 30m buffer (Os1-01, Os1-02, Os1-03, Os1-04).
- The Historical structures and demolished structure remains at Os1-01 and Os1-04 are protected by section 34 of the National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999 (NHRA) and should be fenced and avoided as “no go” areas to prevent any indirect impact.
- For Site Os1-02, no mitigation measures are required, provided that the site is avoided and protected with a 30m buffer.
- A separate desktop palaeontological assessment is being undertaken by a palaeontologist as the project area falls into an area of Very High fossil sensitivity. The desktop assessment will indicate if significant/sensitive fossils will be impacted by the proposed project and provide mitigation measures and the way forward.

Conclusion

No fatal flaws were identified during this study, therefore, it is the considered opinion of the heritage specialist that the construction of the proposed Oslaagte Solar 1 PV project within the project footprint can proceed. There are no objections from a heritage perspective if the recommendations and mitigation measures contained in this report and/or in the desktop palaeontological assessment are implemented before the commencement of construction. In terms of the impact on the identified heritage resources, Alternative 2 is preferred as the layout has been revised to avoid the two sites containing historical structures or structure remains (Os1-01 and Os1-04).

Table of Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Scope & Terms of Reference for the HIA report	1
1.1.1	Summary of Key Issues & Triggers Identified During Scoping	1
1.1.2	Approach	1
1.1.3	Nominated Specialist Details	2
1.2	Project Description	2
2	LEGISLATION	2
2.1	National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999 (NHRA)	3
2.2	National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA)	3
2.3	The National Health Act, No. 61 of 2003 (NHA), Regulations 2013	3
3	ASSUMPTIONS AND CONSTRAINTS	4
4	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	4
4.1	Project Location	4
4.2	Project Technical Details	6
4.2.1	Solar Technology	6
4.2.2	PV Technology Overview	6
4.2.3	Overview of Technical Details: Oslaagte Solar 1 PV project	7
4.2.4	Project Layout	8
4.2.5	Components of the Proposed Solar PV Plant	8
5	STATUS QUO ANALYSIS	8
5.1	General Existing Condition of Receiving Environment	9
5.2	Cultural-Heritage Receiving Environment	13
5.2.1	DFFE Environmental Screening Tool	13
5.2.2	Historical Background of Surrounding Region (archaeological and historical literature survey)	14
5.2.3	Cartographic findings	18
5.3	Previous HIA reports in the area	22
5.4	Palaeontological sensitivity	22
5.5	Findings of the Historical Desktop Study	24
6	SITE SURVEY/FIELDWORK RESULTS	24

7	SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT	38
7.1	Methodology for Assessing Heritage Site Significance	38
8	IDENTIFICATION OF IMPACTS	43
8.1	Impacts and Mitigation Framework	43
8.2	Identification of Activities and Aspects	44
8.3	Impact and Mitigation Assessment	45
8.4	Impacts During the Planning, Operation and Construction Phases	45
8.5	Cumulative impacts	47
9	ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES	48
9.1	Introduction	48
9.2	Site Alternatives	48
9.3	Layout / Design Alternatives	48
9.4	Technology Alternatives	Error! Bookmark not defined.
9.4.1	PV Technology	Error! Bookmark not defined.
9.4.2	BESS Technology	Error! Bookmark not defined.
9.5	No-Go Option	48
10	STATEMENT OF IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE	49
11	HERITAGE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES	49
11.1	General Management Guidelines	49
12	RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION	50
13	REFERENCES	51
APPENDIX 1: HERITAGE SENSITIVITY MAP/S		54
APPENDIX 2: CURRICULUM VITAE OF HERITAGE SPECIALIST		58

List of Tables

Table 1: Technical details of the proposed PV Plant	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Table 2: SAHRIS Fossil Map Palaeontological Sensitivity Ratings and Required Actions	23
Table 3: Literature sources accessed	38
Table 4: Rating system for archaeological resources	39
Table 5: Rating system for built environment resources	40
Table 6: Site significance classification standards as prescribed by SAHRA.	42

Table 7: Impact and Mitigation Quantification Framework	43
Table 8: Impact Methodology Table	44
Table 9: Activity, Aspects and Impacts of the Project	45
Table 10: Heritage Resources – Historical graves Mitigation Table	45
Table 11: Heritage Resources – Historical Structures Mitigation Table	46

List of Figures

Figure 1: Project Locality south of Kroonstad (Nemai 2023).....	5
Figure 2: Oslaagte Solar 1 PV Project Layout – Alternative 1 (Nemai 2023)	5
Figure 3: Oslaagte Solar 1 PV Project Layout – Alternative 2	6
Figure 4: Overview of Solar PV Power Plant (International Finance Corporation, 2015. Utility-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Power Plan.).....	7
Figure 5: View looking north from the south-east corner of the project footprint area, adjacent to the railway line	9
Figure 6: View of stand of eucalyptus trees adjacent to the railway line (which contains Site Os1-01)	10
Figure 7: View of the existing electrical substation situated on the northern section of the Oslaagte Solar 1 footprint, note the dense acacia thicket surrounding the substation	10
Figure 8: View of a heavily eroded farm road in the north-western section of the project footprint. 11	
Figure 9: View of the vegetation in the north-western section of the project footprint	11
Figure 10: View of the landscape and vegetation in the south-western section of the project footprint	12
Figure 11: View of a section of flooded road in the southern section of the project footprint.....	12
Figure 12: Archaeological Cultural Heritage Sensitivity map indicating that the project footprint is located within a region of low archaeological and cultural heritage sensitivity (DFFE Environmental Screening Tool).....	13
Figure 13: Palaeontological Heritage Sensitivity map indicating that the project footprint is located within a region with Very High palaeontological sensitivity (DFFE Environmental Screening Tool).	14
Figure 14: Enlarged view of topographic map 2727CD Ed 1 1960, depicting three heritage features within the Oslaagte Solar 1 footprint – Alternative 1. One site contains four structures located next to the railway line and there are also two homesteads located in the northernmost section of the footprint area (red polygons)	20
Figure 15: Enlarged view of topographic map 2727CD Ed 1 1960, depicting three heritage features within or close to the Oslaagte Solar 1 footprint – Alternative 2. One site contains four structures located next to the railway line and there are also two homesteads located in the northernmost section of the footprint area (red polygons).....	21

Figure 16: SAHRIS Palaeo-sensitivity map overlain on the Oslaagte Solar 1 PV project footprint (blue polygon). The underlying geology is shown as having Very High fossil sensitivity (red).	23
Figure 18: View of demolished building remains (Os1-01A)	26
Figure 19: View of concrete foundation in the area of Os1-01)	26
Figure 20: View of concrete foundations of multi-roomed building at Os1-01B	27
Figure 21: View of concrete feature remains around waypoint Os1-01B	27
Figure 22: View of foundations of multi-roomed house with steps at the entrance, Os1-01-C	28
Figure 23: View of the two house structures at Os1-02. Note the dense surrounding vegetation	30
Figure 24: View of old metal animal feeding trough at Os1-02.....	30
Figure 25: View of site Os1-03, showing the extent and the number of buildings (Google Earth satellite imagery)	31
Figure 26: View of the rear elevation of the main farmhouse, showing the sandstone construction material	32
Figure 27: View of the front elevation of the main farmhouse, showing the overgrown and dense vegetation	33
Figure 28: View of historical structure that is likely to be the original farmhouse	33
Figure 29: View of the historical barn, showing the surrounding overgrown and dense vegetation ..	34
Figure 30: View of the historical structure adjacent to the barn, showing the old bricks and alterations	34
Figure 31: Heritage resources identified during the site survey and overlain on the Oslaagte Solar 1 PV project footprint – Alternative 1 Layout	35
Figure 32: Heritage resources identified during the site survey and overlain on the Oslaagte Solar 1 PV project footprint – Alternative 2 Layout	36
Figure 33: Site Survey Tracklog overlain on the project footprint –General Site Area.....	37
Figure 37: Heritage Sensitivity overlain on Oslaagte Solar 1 Layout Alternative 1	56
Figure 38: Heritage Sensitivity overlain on Oslaagte Solar 1 Layout Alternative 1	57

List of Abbreviations

APHP	Association of Professional Heritage Practitioners
ASAPA	Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
CRM	Cultural Resources Management
DALRRD	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Early Iron Age
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
ESA	Early Stone Age
GIS	Geographic Information System
ha	Hectare
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
IAP	Interested and Affected Party
IAIAsa	International Association for Impact Assessment South Africa
km	Kilometre (1 000m)
LIA	Late Iron Age
kV	Kilo Volt
LSA	Later Stone Age
MSA	Middle Stone Age
MTS	Main Transmission Station
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998)
NHA	National Health Act, (No. 61 of 2003)
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999)
NHS	National Heritage Site
PHRA	Provincial Heritage Resources Authority
PV	Photo Voltaic
FSHRA	Free State Heritage Resources Authority
REIPPPP	Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency

1 INTRODUCTION

Oslaagte Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd, proposes the development of a 240MW solar photovoltaic (PV) facility, as well as associated infrastructure, on a site located approx. 16.5km south east of Kroonstad in the Free State Province. The solar PV facility will be known as Oslaagte Solar 1. The study area falls within the jurisdiction of the Moqhaka Local Municipality within the Fezile Dabi District Municipality. The Oslaagte Solar 1 PV project will be located on the Farm Oslaagte 2564. The project footprint covers a combined area of approximately 334ha. The electricity generated by the Project will be transferred via 132kV powerlines from the facility substation to a new 132/400 kV Main Transmission Substation (MTS). The 132kV powerline is approximately 7.30 kilometres (km) in length.

At this stage it is envisaged for the project to be bid into the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP).

Nemai Consulting has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to conduct the Environmental Authorisation (EA) process for Proposed Solar PV Project. Nitai Consulting has been appointed by Nemai Consulting to conduct the specialist studies, one of which is the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA).

1.1 Scope & Terms of Reference for the HIA report

1.1.1 Summary of Key Issues & Triggers Identified During Scoping

In terms of the NHRA, the following proposed activities trigger the need for a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA):

- Potential occurrence of heritage resources, graves and structures older than 60 years within the Project's footprint.
- Proposed development that is more than 5000m²
- Proposed linear development that is longer than 300m
- Proposed development where an impact assessment is triggered in terms of NEMA.

1.1.2 Approach

- Undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment in accordance with the NHRA.
- Identify and map all heritage resources in the area affected, as defined in Section 2 of the NHRA, including archaeological sites on or near (within 100m of) the proposed developments.
- Assess the significance of such resources in terms of the heritage assessment criteria as set out in the regulations.
- Assess the impacts of the Project on such heritage resources.
- Prepare a heritage sensitivity map (GIS-based), based on the findings of the study.

- Identify heritage resources to be monitored.
- Comply with specific requirements and guidelines of FSHRA and SAHRA.

1.1.3 Nominated Specialist Details

Organisation:	Nitai Consulting
Name:	Jennifer Kitto
Qualifications:	BA Archaeology and Social Anthropology; BA (Hons) Social Anthropology
No. of years' experience:	24
Affiliation (if applicable):	Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) - Technical member No.444 International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIAsa) - Member No 7151.

1.2 Project Description

The Applicant has proposed the development of the Oslaagte Solar 1 240MWSolar Photo Voltaic (PV) Facility with a generating capacity of up to 240MW. The site is located approximately 16.5km to the south east of Kroonstad within the Fezile Dabi District Municipality, in the Free State Province.

The Oslaagte Solar 1 PV facility is located on the Farm Oslaagte No. 2564 Portion 0 and is accessible via the R76 road, adjacent to the project development area. The development footprint covers a combined area of approximately 334ha. The electricity generated by the Project will be transferred via 132 kV powerlines, 7.30km long, from the facility substation to a new 132/400 kV Main Transmission Substation (MTS) or to the Existing Eskom Kroonstad Switching Station located adjacent to the proposed facility substation.

2 LEGISLATION

The identification, evaluation and assessment of any cultural heritage site, artefact or find in the South African context is required and governed by various pieces of legislation, including the National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999 (NHRA) and associated Regulations, National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and associated Regulations and, as well as the National Health Act, Act No. 61 of 2003 (NHA), specific Regulations governing human remains.

2.1 National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999 (NHRA)

The NHRA is the defines cultural heritage resources (section 3), provides protection to specific types of heritage resources (sections 34, 35, 36) and also requires an impact assessment of such resources for specific development activities (section 38(1)). Section 38(8) further allows for cooperation and integration of the management of such impact assessment between the national or provincial heritage authority (SAHRA or a PHRA) and the national environmental authority (DFFE).

In terms of section 38(1)(a) of the NHRA, the specific types of development activity that may require a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) include: the construction of a road, wall, powerline, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300 m in length. As the proposed PV project covers an area larger than 5000m², this study falls under s38(8) and requires comment from the relevant heritage resources authority. (South African Heritage Resources Authority-SAHRA and/or the Free State Provincial Heritage Authority).

Sections 34-36 of the NHRA further stipulate the protections afforded to specific types of heritage resources, i.e. structures older than 60 years (s34); archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites (s35); graves and burial grounds (s36), as well as the mitigation process to be followed if these resources need to be disturbed. The construction of the solar PV project and powerline may result in impacts to any of these types of heritage resources.

2.2 National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA)

NEMA states that an Environment Management Programme (EMPr) should, (23 -2 (b)) "...identify, predict and evaluate the actual and potential impact on the environment, socio-economic conditions and cultural heritage". In addition, the NEMA and associated Regulations GNR 982 (Government Gazette 38282, 14 December 2014, amended 2017) state that, "the objective of an environmental impact assessment process is to, ... identify the location of the development footprint within the preferred site ... focussing on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, *cultural and heritage aspects* of the environment" (GNR 982, Appendix 3(2)(c), emphasis added).

The EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended 2017), published in GNR 982 of 2014 (Government Gazette 38282) promulgated under the (NEMA) contain specific requirements to be addressed in the different types or impact assessment reports (Regulations 19, 21 and 23) as well as requirements for Specialist Reports (Appendix 6).

2.3 The National Health Act, No. 61 of 2003 (NHA), Regulations 2013

In the case of graves and/or burial grounds that could be impacted by a proposed development, and which are identified through an impact assessment, specific Regulations relating to the Management of Human Remains (GNR 363 of 2013 in Government Gazette 36473) address the exhumation and reburial of human remains: Regulations 26, 27 and 28.

3 ASSUMPTIONS AND CONSTRAINTS

This assessment assumes that all the information provided by the applicant and Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) regarding the project footprint (Including the powerline) is correct and current.

The project area traverses various properties separated by fences, and access was often restricted by heavily eroded farm roads, localised flooding due to the rainy (summer) season and extremely dense vegetation (grassland and acacia thicket) in some areas. It should be noted that the extremely dense acacia thicket surrounding the existing substation prevented access in this area.

The large area of the project footprint meant that it was not feasible to undertake a pedestrian survey of the whole area and the fieldwork therefore comprised a combination of vehicle and pedestrian investigation. The extremely dense and long vegetation in several areas meant that archaeological and heritage visibility was low in those areas. Therefore, there is a possibility that some heritage resources were not identified, specifically, graves or burial sites.

4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

4.1 Project Location

The Project is located approximately 16.5 km to the south east of Kroonstad's CBD. The study area falls within Ward 1 of the Moqhaka Local Municipality (MLM), in the Fezile Dabi District Municipality in the Free State Province. The project is located on Portion 0 of the Farm Oslaagte 2564 and will cover up to approximately 334ha. The R76 runs along the eastern boundary of the site.

The areas affected by the proposed Project footprint are rural in nature. The Project's PV Site is vacant and was historically used for agricultural purposes. Grazing is the dominant land use in the Project area.

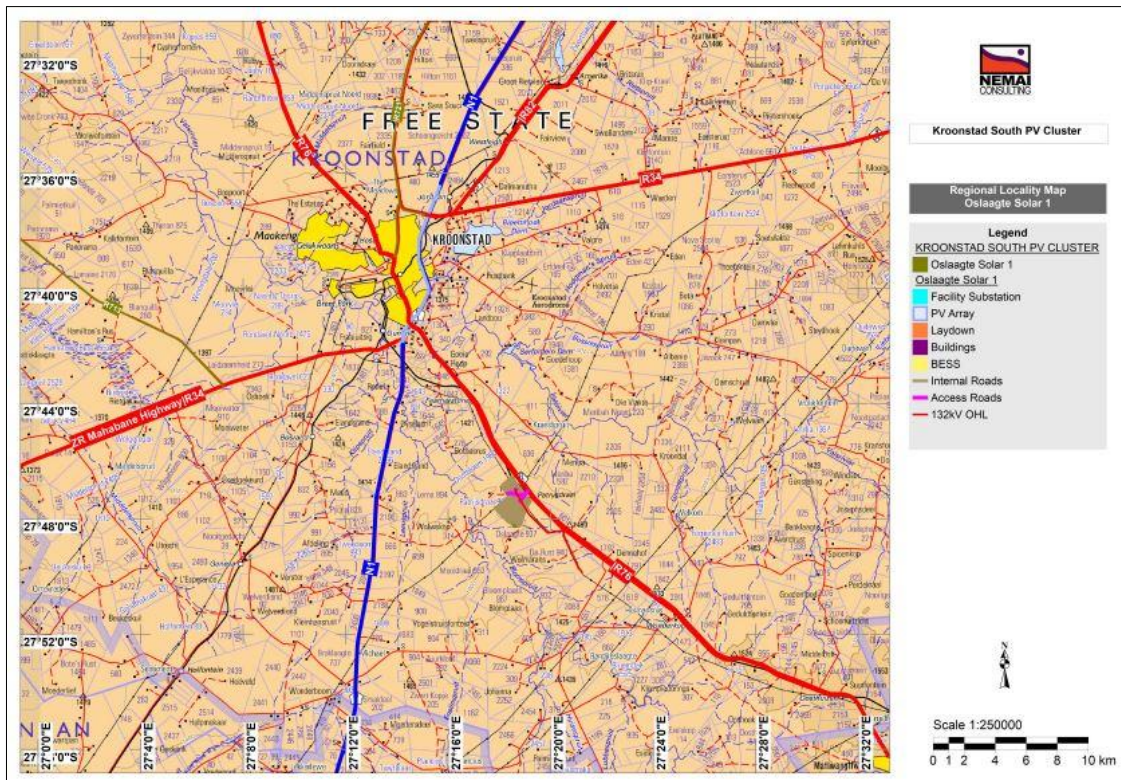


Figure 1: Project Locality south of Kroonstad (Nemai 2023)

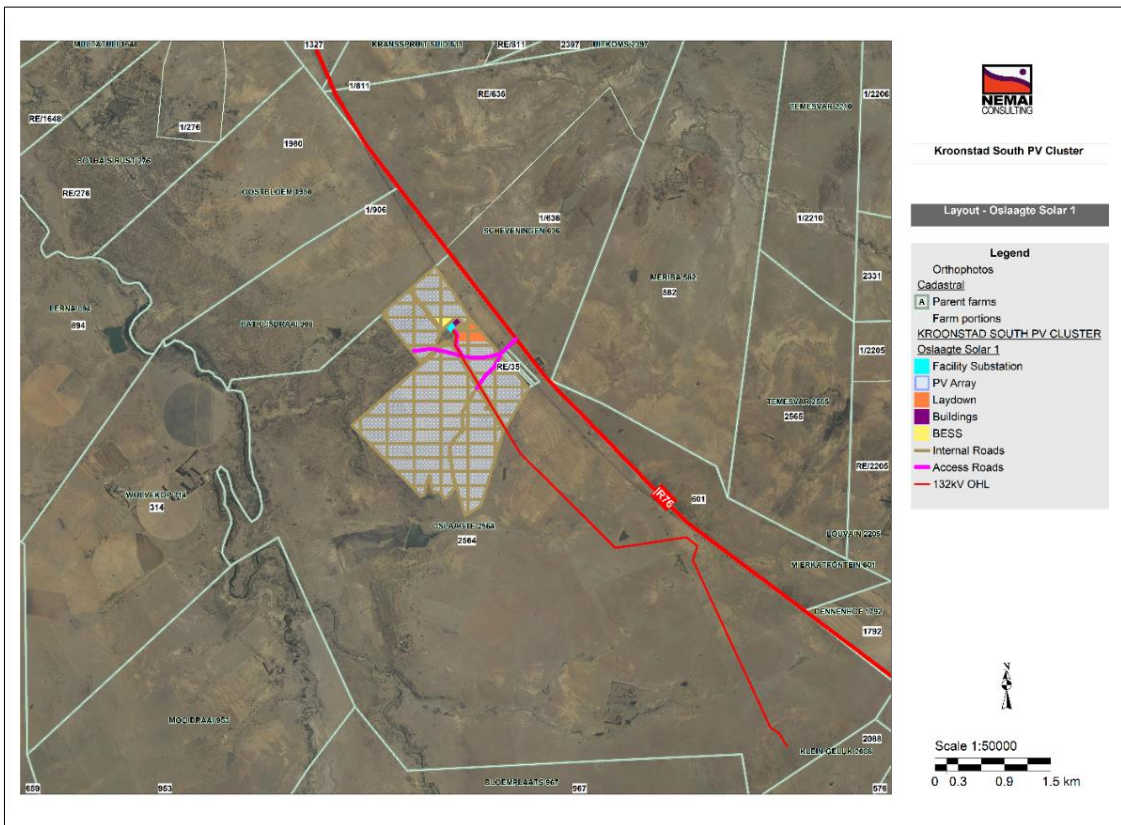


Figure 2: Oslaagte Solar 1 PV Project Layout – Alternative 1 (Nemai 2023)

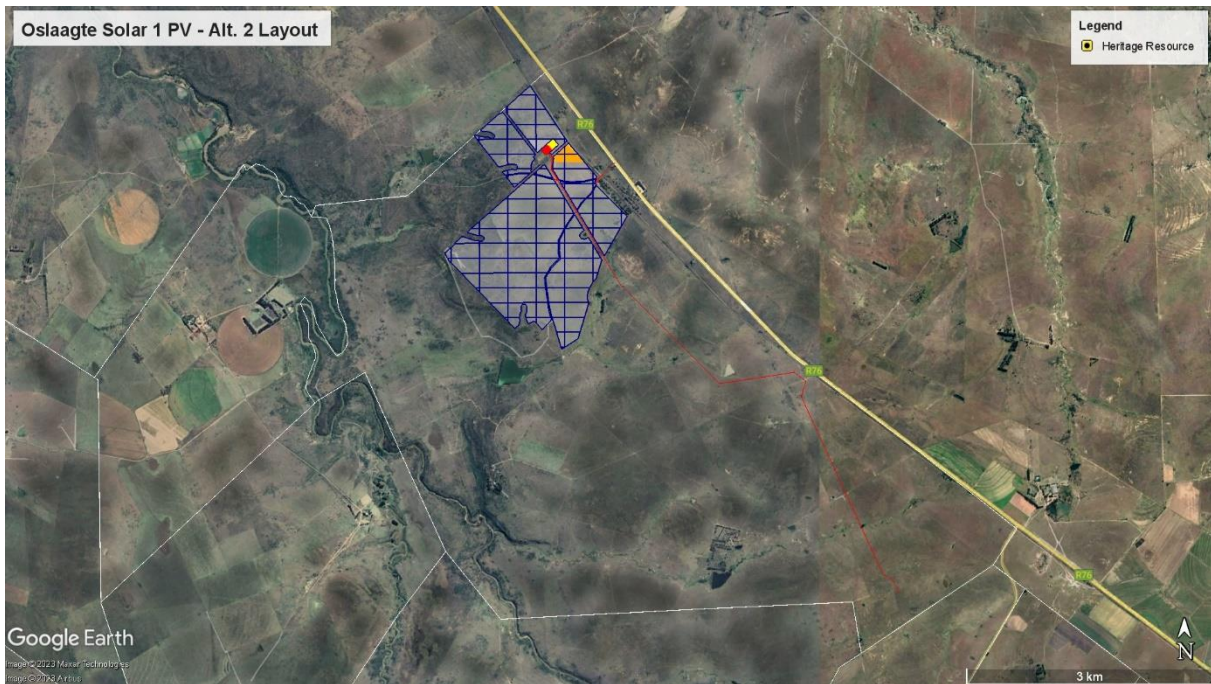


Figure 3: Oslaagte Solar 1 PV Project Layout – Alternative 2

4.2 Project Technical Details

4.2.1 Solar Technology

Solar energy facilities operate by converting solar energy into a useful form (i.e. electricity). The use of solar energy for electricity generation is a non-consumptive use of a natural resource and consumes no fuel for continuing operation. Solar power produces an insignificant quantity of greenhouse gases over its lifecycle as compared to conventional coal-fired power stations. The operational phase of a solar facility does not produce carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, mercury, particulates, or any other type of air pollution, as fossil fuel power generation technologies do.

4.2.2 PV Technology Overview

PV technology produces direct current (DC) which is then converted to alternating current (AC) via power electronic inverters. The main technology categories are crystalline modules (mono or poly), thin film, and concentrated photovoltaics (CPV). **Figure 4** below provides an overview of a typical Solar PV Power Plant.

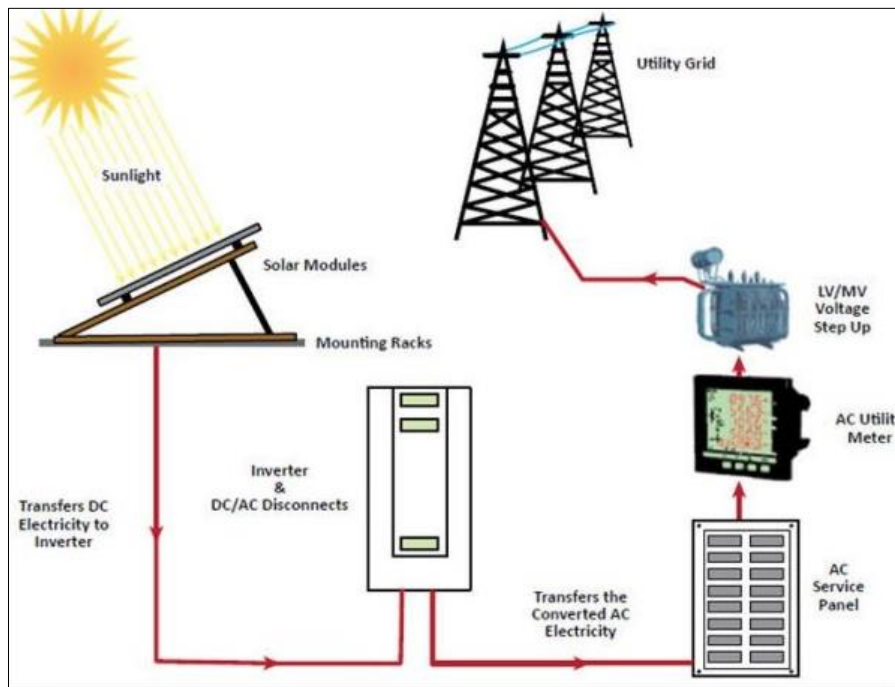


Figure 4: Overview of Solar PV Power Plant (International Finance Corporation, 2015. Utility-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Power Plan.)

4.2.3 Overview of Technical Details: Oslaagte Solar 1 PV project

Table 1: Technical details of the proposed PV Plant

No.	Component	Alternative 1 - Description / Dimensions	Alternative 2 - Description / Dimensions
1.	Height of PV panels	Up to 5 m	Up to 5.5 m
2.	Facility generation capacity (MW)	120 MW	Up to 240 MW
3.	Area of PV Array	Up to approximately 218,8 ha	Monofacial or Bifacial PV panels, mounted on either fixed-tilt, single-axis tracking, and/or double-axis tracking systems. Up to 325 ha
4.	Area occupied by substations	Up to 1 ha	Up to 1 ha
5.	Capacity of on-site substation	High voltage (132 kV)	The facility substation will collect the power from the facility and transform it from medium voltage (up to 33kV) to high voltage (132 kV).
6.	BESS	Area up to ± 4ha	Area up to ± 4ha

No.	Component	Alternative 1 - Description / Dimensions	Alternative 2 - Description / Dimensions
7.	Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas	Temporary: Up to 5ha Permanent: Up to 1 ha (located within the area demarcated for temporary construction laydown)	Temporary: Up to 5ha Permanent: Up to 1 ha (located within the area demarcated for temporary construction laydown)
8.	Area occupied by buildings	Up to 1 ha	Up to 1 ha
9.	Length of internal roads	Up to 17 km	Up to 17 km
10.	Width of internal roads	The internal roads will be up to 6 m wide. The access roads will be up to 8 m wide.	The internal roads will be up to 6 m wide. The access roads will be up to 8 m wide.
11.	Proximity to grid connection	±7.30 km	±7.30 km
12.	Height of fencing	Up to 3.5m	Up to 3.5m
13.	Type of fencing	Type will vary around the site, welded mesh, palisade and electric fencing	Type will vary around the site, welded mesh, palisade and electric fencing

4.2.4 Project Layout

The general layout of the Solar PV Plant is shown in **Figure 2** and **Figure 3** above. The desirability of the earmarked site for the development of the proposed Solar PV Plant is due to the following key characteristics:

- Solar Irradiation: The feasibility of a solar facility is dependent on the direct solar irradiation levels.
- Topography: The suitability of the surface area is an important characteristic for the construction and operation of solar facilities. Most of the site has a low gradient slope and is suitable for this development.
- Grid connection: The Project will transfer the electricity via 132 kV powerlines from the facility substation to a new 132/400 kV Main Transmission Substation (MTS) or to the Existing Eskom Kroonstad Switching Station located adjacent to the proposed facility substation. The 132 kV powerline is approximately 7.30 km long, with a 100 m wide assessment corridor.
- Extent of site: The overall extent of the site is sufficient for the installation of the PV facility.
- Site access: The site can be accessed via the R76, which runs along the eastern boundary of the site.

4.2.5 Components of the Proposed Solar PV Plant

The Project consists of the following systems, sub-systems or components (amongst others):

- PV modules and mounting structures which will consist of either Monofacial or Bifacial PV panels, mounted on either fixed-tilt, single-axis tracking, and/or double-axis tracking systems.
- Inverters and transformers.
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) area up to 4ha.

- Operation and Maintenance buildings including a gate house and security building, control centre, offices, warehouses and workshops for storage and maintenance.
- Facility grid connection infrastructure, including:
 - 33kV cabling between the project components and the facility substation
 - A 132kV facility substation
 - 33kV or 132kV cabling or powerline between the facility substation and the proposed Main Transmission Substation or the Kroonstad Switching Station.
- Temporary construction laydown area up to 5 ha.
- Permanent laydown area up to 1 ha (to be located within the area demarcated for the temporary construction laydown).
- Internal roads will be up to 6 m wide, to allow access to the Solar PV modules for operations and maintenance activities.
- Main access road is up to 8 m wide. The site is accessible via the R76.

5 STATUS QUO ANALYSIS

5.1 General Existing Condition of Receiving Environment

The project area terrain is situated on the northern portion of the farm Oslaagte 2564, Portion RE/35. The R76 road and a railway line both run along the eastern boundary of the site. The terrain is generally flat with some areas of undulation and is covered with a combination of acacia thickets and grassland which varies from shorter to long and dense. Several farm dams occur and there are outcrops of sandstone. The northernmost section of the project area contains an electricity substation which is surrounded by extremely dense acacia thicket (which limited access to this area).



Figure 5: View looking north from the south-east corner of the project footprint area, adjacent to the railway line



Figure 6: View of stand of eucalyptus trees adjacent to the railway line (which contains Site Os1-01)



Figure 7: View of the existing electrical substation situated on the northern section of the Oslaagte Solar 1 footprint, note the dense acacia thicket surrounding the substation



Figure 8: View of a heavily eroded farm road in the north-western section of the project footprint



Figure 9: View of the vegetation in the north-western section of the project footprint



Figure 10: View of the landscape and vegetation in the south-western section of the project footprint



Figure 11: View of a section of flooded road in the southern section of the project footprint

5.2 Cultural-Heritage Receiving Environment

5.2.1 DFFE Environmental Screening Tool

The DFFE Environmental Screening Tool was accessed for information on the cultural-heritage sensitivity of the general region. According to this tool the Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Sensitivity of the general region is Low (**Figure 12**). However, the Screening Tool indicated that the project footprint is located within a region with Very High palaeontological sensitivity (**Figure 13**).

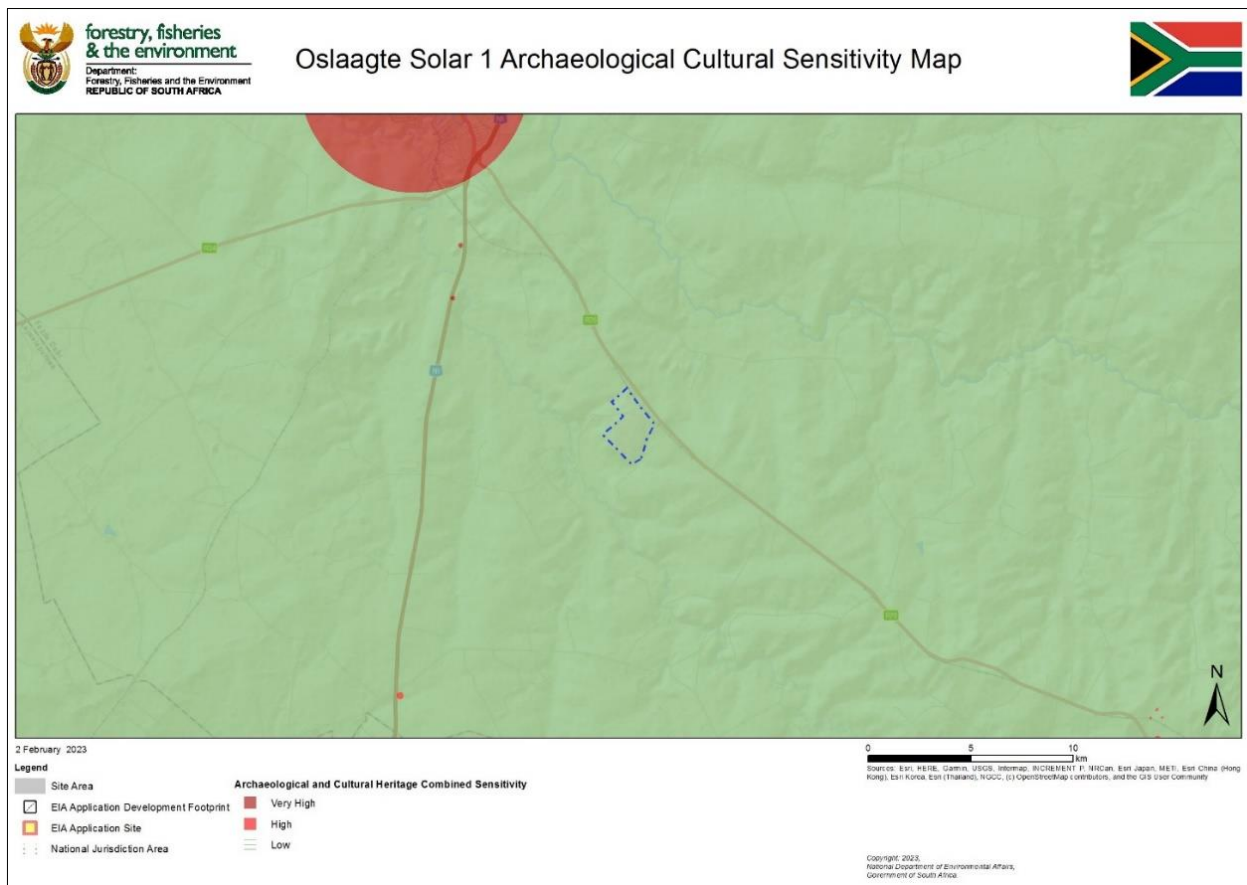


Figure 12: Archaeological Cultural Heritage Sensitivity map indicating that the project footprint is located within a region of low archaeological and cultural heritage sensitivity (DFFE Environmental Screening Tool).

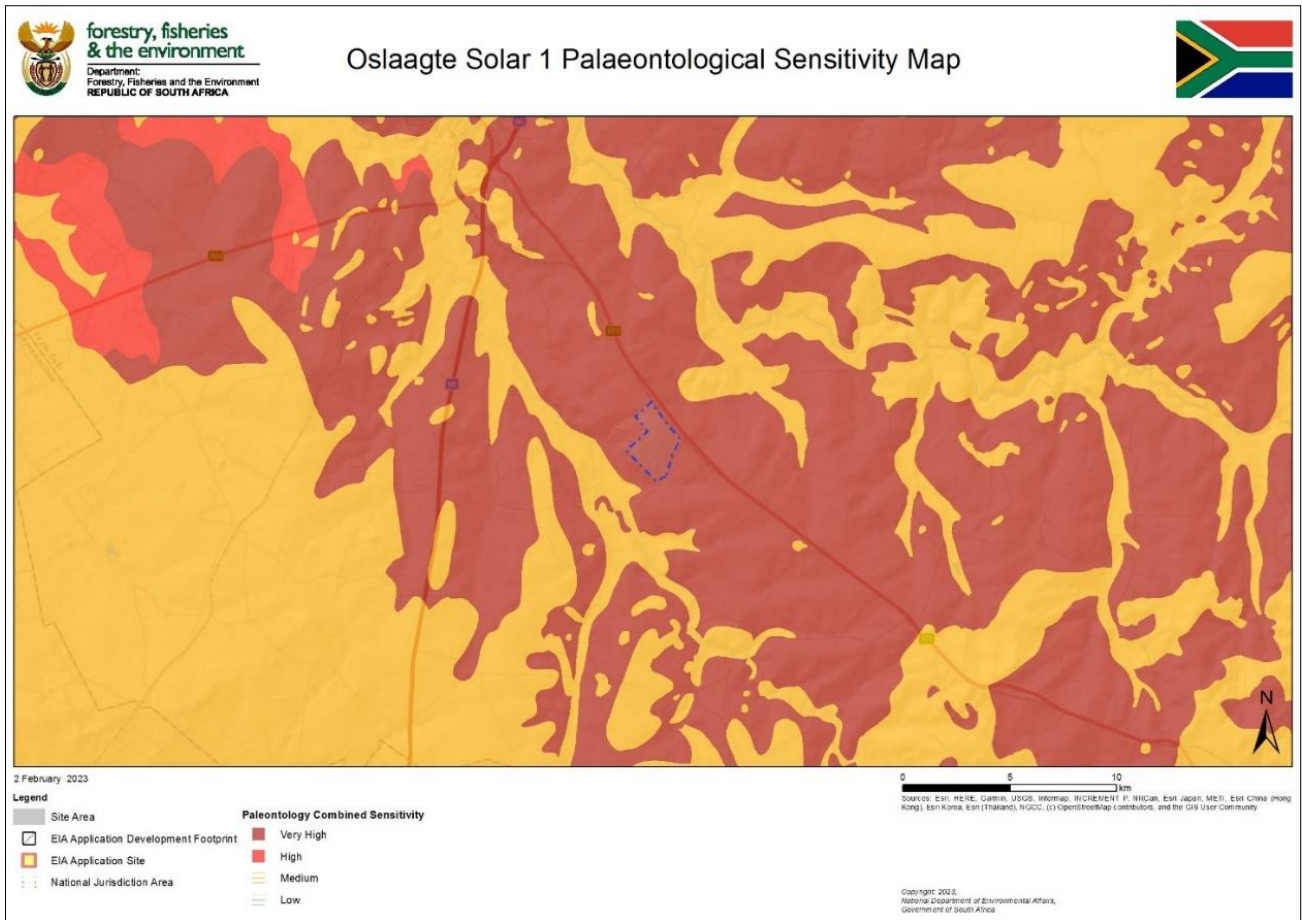


Figure 13: Palaeontological Heritage Sensitivity map indicating that the project footprint is located within a region with Very High palaeontological sensitivity (DFFE Environmental Screening Tool).

5.2.2 Historical Background of Surrounding Region (archaeological and historical literature survey)

The Free State is rich in archaeological and historical resources and includes significant aspects such as Later Stone Age rock art, Battlefields and Iron Age stonewalled enclosures. The general region of the project area was one of many frontiers where San hunter-gatherers, Nguni and Sotho-Tswana agro-pastoralists, Dutch Voortrekkers and British Colonists all interacted.

Accordingly, the archaeological history of the area can broadly be divided into a Stone Age, Iron Age and Historic or Colonial Period. An overview of the general region is presented below.

The Stone Age

The Earlier Stone Age (ESA) is the first and oldest phase identified in South Africa’s archaeological history and comprises two technological phases. The earliest of these is known as Oldowan and is associated with crude flakes and hammer stones. It dates to approximately 2 million years ago. The second technological phase is the Acheulian and comprises more refined and better made stone artefacts such as the cleaver and bifacial hand axe. The Acheulian dates to approximately 1.5 million years ago. No ESA sites are known from the surrounding region (Fourie 2021; Angel and Kitto 2018).

The Middle Stone Age (MSA) is associated with flakes, points and blades manufactured by means of the prepared core technique. This phase is furthermore associated with modern humans and complex cognition (Wadley, 2013). Not many sites are known in the immediate area of the project footprint, however, research fieldwork by the National Museum in Bloemfontein, recorded ten sites where MSA and/or Later Stone Age lithics were identified in association with mammal fossil remains from erosion channels along the Sand, Vet and Doring Rivers (De Ruiter *et. al.* 2011).

The Later Stone Age (LSA) is the third archaeological phase identified and is characterised by the production of very small stone tools known as microliths. This period is associated with hunter-gatherers (San) as well as early pastoralists (Khoekhoe) and lasted until the arrival of Iron Age and European communities (and in some areas for some time after). Apart from the occurrence of Later Stone Age lithics along the Sand, Vet and Doring Rivers (see above), no other Later Stone Age sites are known from the surroundings of the study area.

The Later Stone Age is also associated with rock engravings and rock paintings. Rock engravings are known from the wider vicinity of the study area (Bergh, 1999). The closest rock art site in the general area is Spitskop. Spitskop is located 12 km west of Verkeerdevlei on the link road to the N1 in the Brandfort District. The Spitskop site consists of three San or 'Bushman', as well as Khoe or 'Khoi' rock-engraving sites located on adjacent farm which are all relatively close to a sandstone mountain known as Spitskop. There are images of eland, geometric forms, human figures, and ostrich (Ouzman, S. 2001; <http://www.nasmus.co.za/departments/rock-art/public-rock-art-sites>).

The Iron Age

The Iron Age in South Africa (c.AD 1600 – c.AD 1840) is associated with pre-colonial farming communities and includes both agricultural and pastoralist farming activities, metal working and stone-walled settlements known as the 'Central Cattle Pattern' (Huffman, 2007), as well as cultural customs such as lobola. According to the distribution map for Iron Age settlements on the Southern Highveld as published in Maggs (1976:38-39), the project area is located within the western boundary of the known distribution of such Late Iron Age sites. The distribution maps as published by Huffman (2007) also indicate that the project area is located very close to the periphery of two Iron Age ceramic typological sub-groups known as facies. These two Iron Age facies are known as Thabeng and Makgwareng.

The Thabeng facies of the Moloko Branch of the Urewe Tradition is one of the facies identified within the study area. The decoration on the ceramics associated with this facies is characterised by incised triangles, coloured chevrons and arcades. The Tlhaping people at Dithakong, Rolong people at Platberg and the Kubung people from the Free State form a Southwestern Sotho-Tswana community cluster that is associated with this Thabeng facies pottery and so-called 'Type Z' settlement layouts (Huffman 2007). The Type Z settlements are one of the Late Iron Age stonewalled settlement types identified by Tim Maggs during his extensive archaeological research project on the Iron Age of the southern Highveld (Maggs 1976), which includes the region of the current project area.

These Type Z sites are characterised by large primary enclosures surrounded by characteristic dwellings, the layout of which comprises two sections or lobes, one being larger than the other. Each of these 'bilobial'

dwelling comprises a hut at its front with a semi-circular courtyard at the back. While a number of Type Z sites are located within the general region of the project area, one of the more well-known ones is OXF1, a short distance north-west of the town of Ventersburg. This site was excavated by Tim Maggs during the 1970s as part of his overall research project referred to above (Maggs, 1976).

The next known Iron Age period within the surroundings of the study area is represented by the Makgwareng facies of the Blackburn Branch of the Urewe Ceramic Tradition. The decoration on the ceramics from this sub-group is characterised by finely stamped triangles, rim notching and appliqué (Huffman, 2007). This sub-group developed from Ntsuanatsatsi south of the Vaal River and can be associated with the so-called 'Type V' stone walling settlement type (Huffman, 2007). Dreyer (1990) conducted excavations on Type V Late Iron Age stonewalled settlements located a short distance south-west of Winburg, which is approx. 100km south of Kroonstad. The Type V settlements comprise a core of cattle enclosures surrounded by beehive huts. Corbelled stone huts are associated with this walling type. They are low stone huts located at the edge of the cattle enclosures (Huffman 2007).

The best-known site of this type found within the surroundings of the study area, comprises a site known as "Early Sotho Settlement, Waterval, Sandrivierhoogte" that was originally declared a National Monument and which is now registered as a Provincial Heritage Site in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999). The site is located roughly 42km south-east of the present study area. The original declaration as a national monument was published on 17 December 1982 (Govt. Gazette No. 8481, 1982).

Historical/Colonial Period

From approximately the 1820s, there was a period characterised by conflict across the Southern Highveld. This resulted from the migration of three Nguni groups from the current Kwazulu-Natal province into the present-day Free State province which was a result of the expansion of the Zulu kingdom under King Shaka. The three Nguni groups were the Hlubi of Mpangazitha, the Ngwane of Matiwane and the Khumalo Ndebele (Matabele) of Mzilikazi. The migrations of all three groups would have had a definite impact on what is now the northern Free State region (Fourie 2021).

During the early Colonial Period (early 1800s) the wider region where the project area is located became known as Transorangia. The people called the Griqua had moved into the area in the years prior to 1804. Then a few white Trekboers started moving across the Orange River from the Cape Colony in search of better grazing for their livestock during times of drought. At first the farmers requested permission from the Cape authorities before crossing the river. However, later groups moved into the Transorangia region without permission (Fourie 2021, citing Schoeman, 1980). During the 1830s, this occasional movement developed into a mass migration of Afrikaner families from the Cape Colony to the interior. This mass migration became known as the 'Great Trek' and the families were known as Voortrekkers (Fourie 2021, citing Visagie, 2011). The first Voortrekker party of some 70 wagons crossed over the Orange River during early 1836. More groups followed and established themselves along the Vet River (Fourie 2018, citing Schoeman, 1980).

In 1841 the town of Winburg was established on the banks of the Vet River. It was laid out on the farm Waaifontein in 1841 and became a municipality in 1872. Raper (2014) notes that the name, originally spelt

Wenburg, which means 'town of winning'. He considered that this original spelling may refer to a military victory over the Matabele at Mosega on 17 January 1837, or to the triumph of those residents of the town who were in favour of Waaifontein as the site of the town (Raper 2014). After the annexation of Natal by the British in 1843 and the subsequent dissolution of the Voortrekker Republic of Natalia, Winburg became the capital of the Voortrekkers in what is today known as the Free State (Erasmus, 2014). Winburg is located nearly 83km south-west of the project area

In 1846, Major H.D. Warden was appointed British Resident of the area between the Orange and the Vaal rivers, to maintain peace between the various population groups. In 1848, General Harry Smith annexed the area between the Orange and Vaal rivers as British territory and named it the Orange River Sovereignty. However, due to ongoing conflict between the Boers, the Griqua and the Basotho people, the British government subsequently withdrew from the Orange River Sovereignty in 1854 and the area became an Afrikaner republic, the Orange Free State, with J.P. Hoffman as first Afrikaner State President and Bloemfontein as the state capital ([Afrikaans community 1820-1899 | South African History Online \(sahistory.org.za\)](https://sahistory.org.za)).

On 16 January 1852, the Sand River Convention was signed between the British Government and the Transvaal Boers. This convention formally recognised the existence and independence of a Boer Republic north of the Vaal River by the British Government, namely the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (South African Republic). The site where the signing of the convention took place, was declared a monument and for many years was marked by a stone cairn and plaque (Fourie 2021, citing Oberholster, 1972). The site is located near the bridge where the N1 highway passes over the Sand River and is located approximately 53.36 km south- west of the present project area.

The Town of Kroonstad was laid out on the farm Klipplaatsdrift in 1855. Generally accepted to have been named after Kroondrift, a ford on the Vals / Valsch River, apparently so-called because a horse named Kroon broke its leg there (Raper 2014).

After the end of the Anglo-Transvaal War (also referred to the First South African War) which ended the two-year British annexation of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR), the Pretoria Convention of 1881 redefined the western boundary of the ZAR which was moved from the Makwassie Spruit to roughly the Harts River. In 1884, the western boundary of the ZAR was again moved further west following the recommendations of the London Convention (Bergh, 1999).

The railway line between Bloemfontein and Johannesburg was built during the early 1890s, and eventually reached Johannesburg during September 1891 and Pretoria in January 1892 (Fourie 2021, citing Schoeman, 1980).

The Second South African War (1899 – 1902) was fought between the Boer Republics of the Transvaal and Free State against Great Britain, but the victims and participants of the war were not excluded to British or Boer citizens alone.

During this war, a concentration camp was located at Kroonstad, somewhere in the vicinity of the Valsch Rivier. This was at first divided into two sections, with people from the Lindley district on the south side of

the river and those from other districts on the north side. However, flooding of the river cut off the Lindley people completely and made it impossible to provide them with rations, so the Lindley people were transferred to the main section south of the river. The camp at Kroonstad seems to have been formed between September and November 1900. Quite a few farms had been burnt by 1900, resulting in a substantial influx of homeless families into the town. A camp for black people was also established but information on the location and other details is lacking (British Concentration Camps of the South African War 1900-1902 (uct.ac.za).

At the beginning of the First World War (1914-1918) when the South African Government of General Louis Botha notified Great Britain of their willingness to support that country against Germany, several former Boer Generals who disagreed strongly with this position, such as Christiaan de Wet, JCG Kemp and General Christiaan Frederik Beyers, led an armed rebellion. An incident which occurred close to Kroonstad was an attempt by De Wet with about 1500 or more men to capture the railway station at Virginia, roughly 55km southwest of Kroonstad, which was held by about 250 government troops. The troops held off the rebels until government reinforcements and a train arrived ([The-Boer-Rebellion-in-South-Africa-pdf.pdf \(moltenofamily.net\)](#)). Several casualties of the Rebellion are buried in the old Kroonstad Cemetery ([SJ de Klerk 2021, Battlefields Route – Koppies to Kroonstad | The Heritage Portal](#)).

In 1975, Winnie Mandela was incarcerated at the Kroonstad Prison. In February 1975, her husband, the late Nelson Mandela, wrote her a letter where he was encouraging her not to let Prison break her down ([www.sahistoryonline](#)).

In 2014 the Kroonstad Correctional Centre was officially renamed to the 'Bizzah Makhate Correctional Centre". This name pays tribute to the late Comrade; Wilfred Sefularo 'Bizzah' Makhate who was incarcerated at this facility in the eighties (<https://www.gov.za/kroonstad-correctional-centre-officially-renamed-bizzah-makhate-correctional-centre>).

Reverend Zaccheus Richard "ZR" Mahabane, lived and worked in Kroonstad for most of his long career, and is buried in Seeisoville Cemetery in Maokeng, although he was born in Thaba Nchu. Rev. Mahabane was one of the Founding Fathers of the ANC, and was elected ANC President in 1924. He constantly strove for black unity and together with Mr A Abdurahman established the non-European Unity Movement (NEUM) between 1927 and 1934. In 1935 he served as an executive committee member of the All Africa Convention (AAC), a federal body that gave expression to the aspirations of black people and fought against the Native trust and Land Act promulgated in 1936. He was elected as ANC President for the second time from 1936 – 1940. He also played a prominent role in the development of the Methodist Church in South Africa and helped draft the church's constitution and define the equal status of all in the church (Verwey 1995, SA History Online). His grave in Seeisoville Cemetery was recently declared as a National Heritage Site (Govt Gazette Notice No.380 2019).

5.2.3 Cartographic findings

An assessment of available historical topographical maps was undertaken to establish a historic layering for the study area. Overlays of the maps were made on Google Earth. These historic maps are valuable resources in identifying possible heritage sites and features located within the study area. It should be noted

that the earliest edition of the map sheets for this area dates to 1960 (see **Figure 14** below). Therefore, it was not considered necessary to examine the later edition map sheets. Any heritage resources that are 60 years or older would be depicted on the 1960 edition sheet.

The topographical maps were obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) in Cape Town

The following 1:50 000 map sheet was assessed for the Oslaagte Solar 1 footprint: 2727CD Wonderhoek Edition 1 1960. The map was surveyed in 1960 and drawn in 1962 by the Trigonometrical Survey Office of the Republic of South Africa from aerial photographs taken in 1951.

As can be seen in **Figure 14** and **Figure 15**, the 1960s edition map depicts three heritage features within or adjacent to the Oslaagte Solar 1 footprint. One site contains four structures located next to the railway line and there are also two homesteads located in the northernmost section of the footprint area.

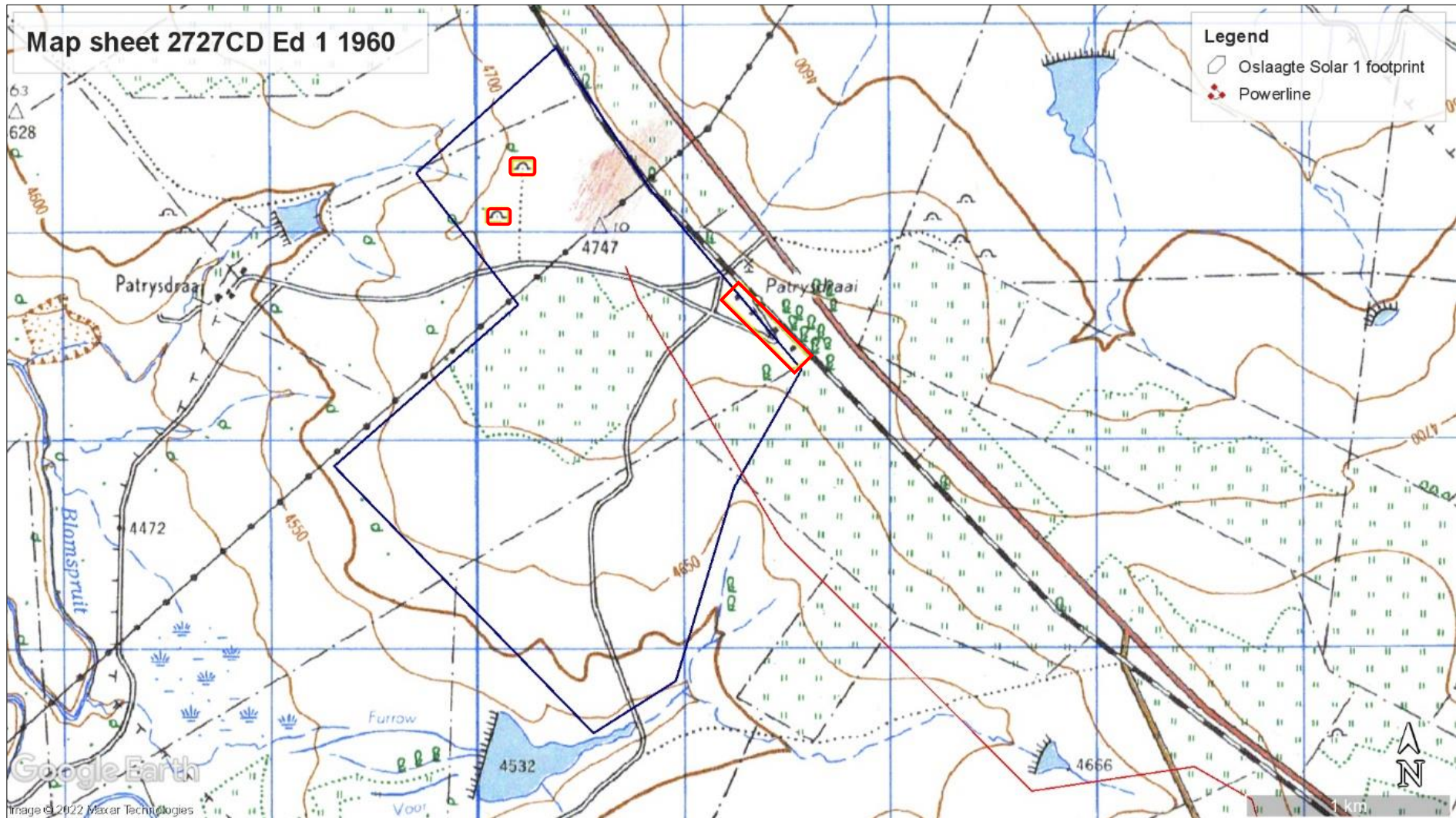


Figure 14: Enlarged view of topographic map 2727CD Ed 1 1960, depicting three heritage features within the Oslaagte Solar 1 footprint – Alternative 1. One site contains four structures located next to the railway line and there are also two homesteads located in the northernmost section of the footprint area (red polygons)

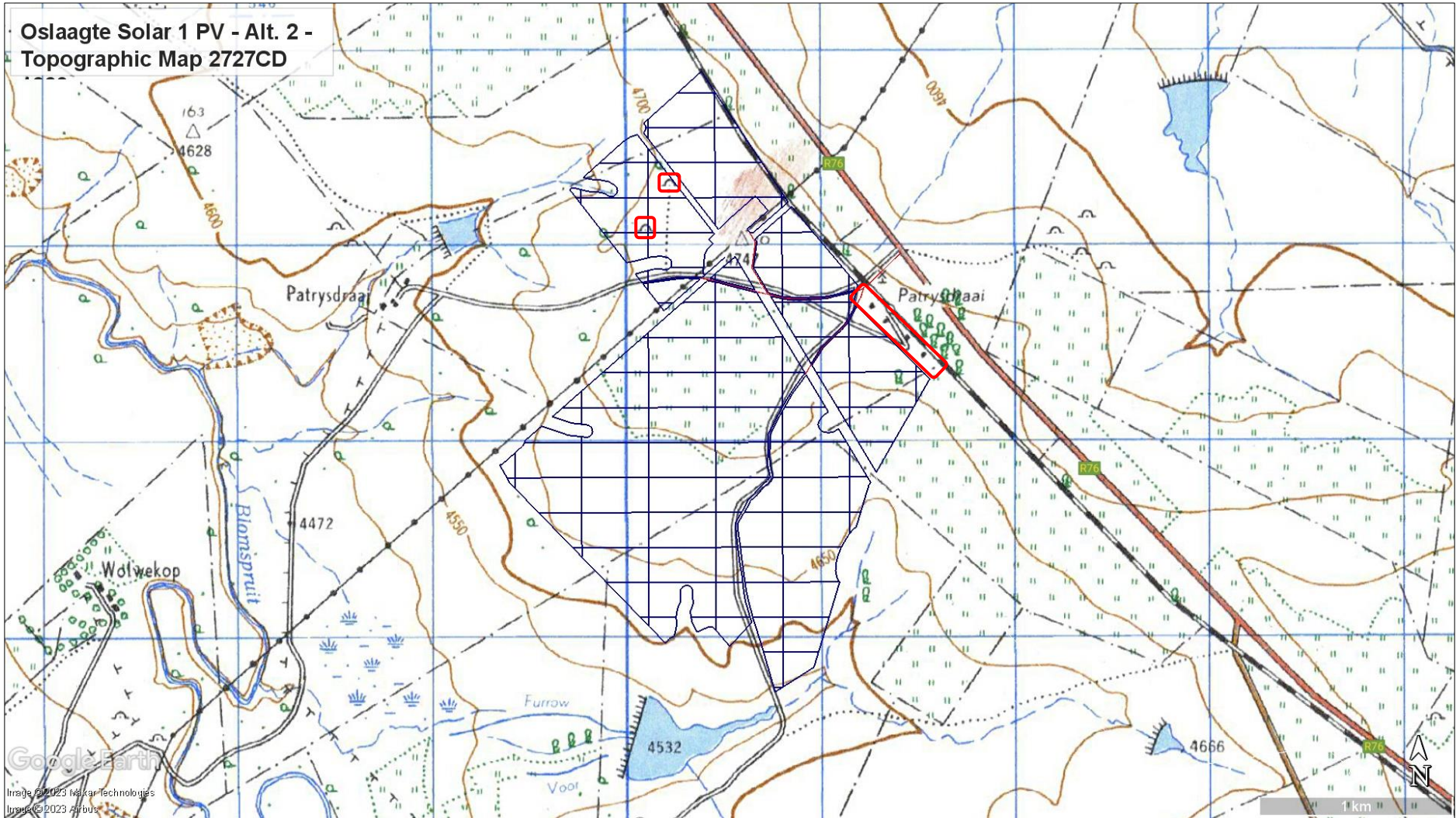


Figure 15: Enlarged view of topographic map 2727CD Ed 1 1960, depicting three heritage features within or close to the Oslaagte Solar 1 footprint – Alternative 2. One site contains four structures located next to the railway line and there are also two homesteads located in the northernmost section of the footprint area (red polygons)

5.3 Previous HIA reports in the area

A search on the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) has identified several Heritage Impact Assessments conducted in and around the study area.

Fourie, W. 2021. HIA for *The Proposed Harmony FSS6 Reclamation Pipeline, Welkom, Free State Province*. During the survey, no heritage sites were identified. This includes historical structures and burial ground and graves.

Lavin, J. 2020. *Archaeological Specialist Study In terms of Section 38(8) of the NHRA for a Proposed development of the Vrede and Rondavel Solar Energy Facilities near Kroonstad, Free State Province*. Two Later Stone Age scatters and one isolated flake (RDW003) were identified within the area proposed for the Rondavel SEF. A series of four stone piles were also identified.

Van der Walt, J. 2019. *Heritage Desktop Report Lengana Health SA Prospecting Application, Koppies, Free State Province*. The proposed prospecting activities were located on Felix 318, Goedgunst 315, Kronenbloem 51, Ventersbloem 163, Oseaan 64, Oseaan 99, Broodkop 304, Enkelsbosch 31, Hooge Bult 542, Geluk 237, Verdeel 278, Goudlaagte 238, Ongegund 507. The desktop study noted that structures of unknown age occur within the prospecting right area, no stone walled settlements were visible on aerial images consulted and no known graves occur in the study area, although informal graves could be expected in the study area.

Angel, J and J Kitto. 2018. *Kophia Diamonds (Pty) Ltd Catherine's Fancy 831, which forms part of the Blaauwbosch Mine, Boshof District, Free State Province Heritage Impact Assessment*. The HIA was necessitated by the discovery of skeletal material during the course of mining activities on the farm Catherine's Fancy. Seven heritage resources were located, not including the accidentally discovered burial ground. These included three Middle Stone Age sites and four historical structures.

De Bruyn, C. 2018. *Basic Assessment Report for the Prospecting Right and Environmental Authorisation Application for Kroonstad South situated in the Free State Province*. A cemetery with several marked and unmarked graves as well as two historical farmhouses were found within the project area.

De Jong, RC. 2011. *Specialist Study: Heritage Impact Assessment for the Installation of the Sirius Fibre Optic Cable between Johannesburg and Yzerfontein, Gauteng, Free State, Eastern And Western Cape Provinces*. The cable corridor included the section of the N1 roads between northern Johannesburg and Bloemfontein via Kroonstad, Ventersburg and Winburg. No significant heritage resources were identified along the N1 in the Kroonstad area.

5.4 Palaeontological sensitivity

Note that this section was compiled by the author and not by a palaeontological specialist. A basic palaeontological sensitivity was determined using the SAHRIS database South African Palaeontological Sensitivity Map (<http://www.sahra.org.za/sahris/map/palaeo>). This map confirms the Screening Tool information as it indicates that the project footprint falls within an area of Very High (red colour) fossil

sensitivity (see **Figure 16** below). A separate desktop palaeontological assessment has been undertaken by a professional palaeontologist. The recommendations and mitigation measures provided in the desktop assessment must be implemented and adhered to where necessary.

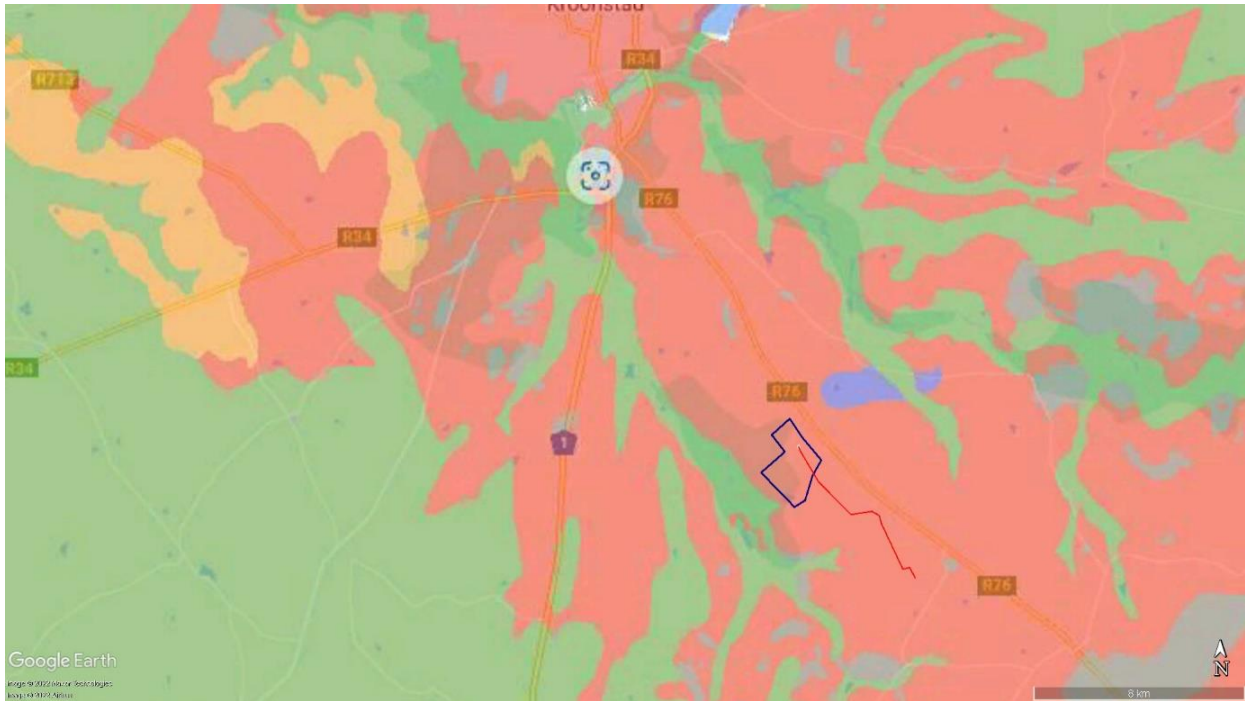


Figure 16: SAHRIS Palaeo-sensitivity map overlain on the Oslaagte Solar 1 PV project footprint (blue polygon). The underlying geology is shown as having Very High fossil sensitivity (red).

Table 2: SAHRIS Fossil Map Palaeontological Sensitivity Ratings and Required Actions

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 to be requested.
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 becomes known, SAHRA will continue to populate the map.

5.5 Findings of the Historical Desktop Study

The general overview from the historical desktop study has shown that various archaeological and historical resources can be expected to occur in the project area. Furthermore, the examination of the earliest edition (1960) of the 1:50 000 topographical maps produced by overlying the maps with satellite Imagery (Google Earth) has shown that at least three specific heritage features could be present within the project footprint.

The Site Survey fieldwork provided confirmation of the heritage resources occurring within and adjacent to the project area footprint.

6 SITE SURVEY/FIELDWORK RESULTS

The survey of the Oslaagte Solar 1 PV project footprint took place over one day (22 December 2022) by the author (heritage specialist) and an assistant. A vehicle was used to access the project footprint area and the survey was conducted by both vehicle and on foot (at selected areas). The survey covered as much of the project footprint area as was feasibly accessible, given the long grass and dense acacia thicket in several areas, as well as certain sections of farm roads which were severely eroded or flooded due to rain. The area surrounding the existing substation on the northern section of the footprint was not accessible due to extremely dense acacia thicket.

The author used a Global Positioning System (GPS) application to navigate access roads in the study area and for recording the tracklog of the survey and waypoints of the identified heritage resources. A Sony digital camera was used for photographic recording of identified heritage resources and general images of the project study area.

The survey aimed to find and identify archaeological and other heritage resources such as burial grounds and graves, archaeological material or sites, historic built environment and landscape features of cultural heritage significance. The inspection identified a total of four heritage resources, all of which comprise either extant or demolished structures. The four sites are located outside the boundary of the project footprint (Alternative 1 and Alternative 2), however, two sites are located directly adjacent to the Alternative 1 project footprint (Os1-01 and Os1-04). One site (Os1-01) contains the demolished remains of several historical railway buildings and the other site (Os1-04) contains the extant remains of four historical farm buildings.

Identified Heritage Sites

Site Name	Os1-01 _Demolished structures (waypoints Os1-01A, Os1-01B, Os1-01C)
GPS Coordinates	-27.789260°; 27.320141° (01A);27.786171°; 27.316612° (01-C)
Site Description	The demolished remains of several historical buildings, located adjacent to the railway. Approximate extent 4.3 ha.
Approximate Age	More than 60 years old as it is depicted on the 1960 topographic map.
NHRA, No. 25	Section 34 of the Act. A permit is required for any destruction (from FS PHFRA).
Field Grading and Ratings	
Site context and description	There are four structures depicted in this location on the 1960 topographic map 2727CD. The remains include foundations and building materials such as concrete and old bricks. It is likely that these are the remains of historical railway structures, which are older than 60 years.
Site Density	The foundation remains of three or four demolished structures were identified. However, the area is several hundred meters square and was covered in relatively dense vegetation. More building foundations and remains could be present.
Uniqueness	Medium-Low (railway structures)
Heritage Significance	IIIC / GP.C - Low (demolished buildings)
Mitigation	The heritage site is situated outside of the project development footprint. For the Alternative 2 layout the site is avoided with a 30m buffer; however, the Alternative 1 layout encroaches on the 30m buffer zone. Therefore, it is possible that there could be an indirect impact from construction-related activities. The site should be fenced and avoided as a “no go” area to ensure no impact occurs. The structure remains are protected under s34 of the NHRA and no damage or destruction can occur without a permit from the FS PHRA.



Figure 17: View of demolished building remains (Os1-01A)



Figure 18: View of concrete foundation in the area of Os1-01)



Figure 19: View of concrete foundations of multi-roomed building at Os1-01B



Figure 20: View of concrete feature remains around waypoint Os1-01B



Figure 21: View of foundations of multi-roomed house with steps at the entrance, Os1-01

Site Name	Os1-02_Structure remains
GPS Coordinates	-27.792661°; 27.297453°
Site Description	The site comprises two dilapidated rectangular buildings that are likely to be farmworker housing. Extent approx. 18,431m ² .
Approximate Age	Modern/ recent. Not depicted on the 1960 topographic map. The building materials are typical of the last 50 years.
NHRA, No. 25	Possibly section 36, due to potential infant graves
Field Grading and Ratings	
Site context	The structures are located just outside the north-western corner of the project area (for both Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 layouts). Several heaps of demolished building material were also identified to the south of the site, but it was not clear if there was any association. No graves were identified.
Site Density	The site includes two houses, an animal trough and a metal feedbin.
Uniqueness	Low
Heritage Significance	NCW – Low (Structures); IIIA / GP.A - High (potential for infant graves)
Mitigation	No graves were located in the immediate vicinity. However, potential infant burials could be situated immediately adjacent to the two houses. No mitigation is required unless the site will be impacted. It should be avoided as a “no go” area.



Figure 22: View of the two house structures at Os1-02. Note the dense surrounding vegetation



Figure 23: View of old metal animal feeding trough at Os1-02

Site Name	Os1-03_Modern/recent structures
GPS Coordinates	-27.794862°, 27.297652°
Site Description	A large house and associated outbuildings that seem to be of recent/modern date.
Approximate Age	Estimated to be younger than 60 years. Not depicted on the 1960 topographical map.
NHRA, No. 25	N/A.
Field Grading and Ratings	
Site context	The site consists of a large house and several outbuildings. It is located just outside the north-western boundary of the project footprint (Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 layouts), which is situated on a sandstone plateau. Therefore, the site is situated lower than the project area.
Site Density	The dense vegetation (trees and shrubs) in this area obscured the visibility of the site during the survey. On satellite imagery, at least four structures are visible. Note that the vegetation also prevented a clear photograph. A view of the site taken from satellite imagery has been used.
Uniqueness	Low
Heritage Significance	NCW - Low
Mitigation	No mitigation is necessary as no direct impact is anticipated.



Figure 24: View of site Os1-03, showing the extent and the number of buildings (Google Earth satellite imagery)

Site Name	Os1-04_Historical Structures
GPS Coordinates	-27.802149°, 27.308490°
Site Description	The site is an historical farmstead containing the abandoned remains of two farmhouses and two associated outbuildings. Approximate extent 2.24 ha.
Approximate Age	Older than 60 years
NHRA, No. 25	Section 34 of the Act
Field Grading and Ratings	
Site context	The site comprises two historical and dilapidated farmhouses, one of which may be the original farmhouse. The later house shows various additions and alterations over time. Two outbuildings are also extant, one is a large barn/shed. The site extent is approx. 2.24 ha. The site is located immediately adjacent to the south-western edge of the project footprint (Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 layouts), and south of a large farm dam. Sandstone outcrops occur close to the two houses. No graveyard was identified.
Site Density	At least four historical buildings
Uniqueness	Medium
Heritage Significance	IIIB / GP.B - Medium
Mitigation	The structures are protected and should be avoided with a buffer of 30m and fenced as a “no go” area to prevent any indirect impact. The structures are protected under s34 of the NHRA and no alteration, damage or destruction can occur without a permit from the FS PHRA.



Figure 25: View of the rear elevation of the main farmhouse, showing the sandstone construction material



Figure 26: View of the front elevation of the main farmhouse, showing the overgrown and dense vegetation



Figure 27: View of historical structure that is likely to be the original farmhouse



Figure 28: View of the historical barn, showing the surrounding overgrown and dense vegetation



Figure 29: View of the historical structure adjacent to the barn, showing the old bricks and alterations

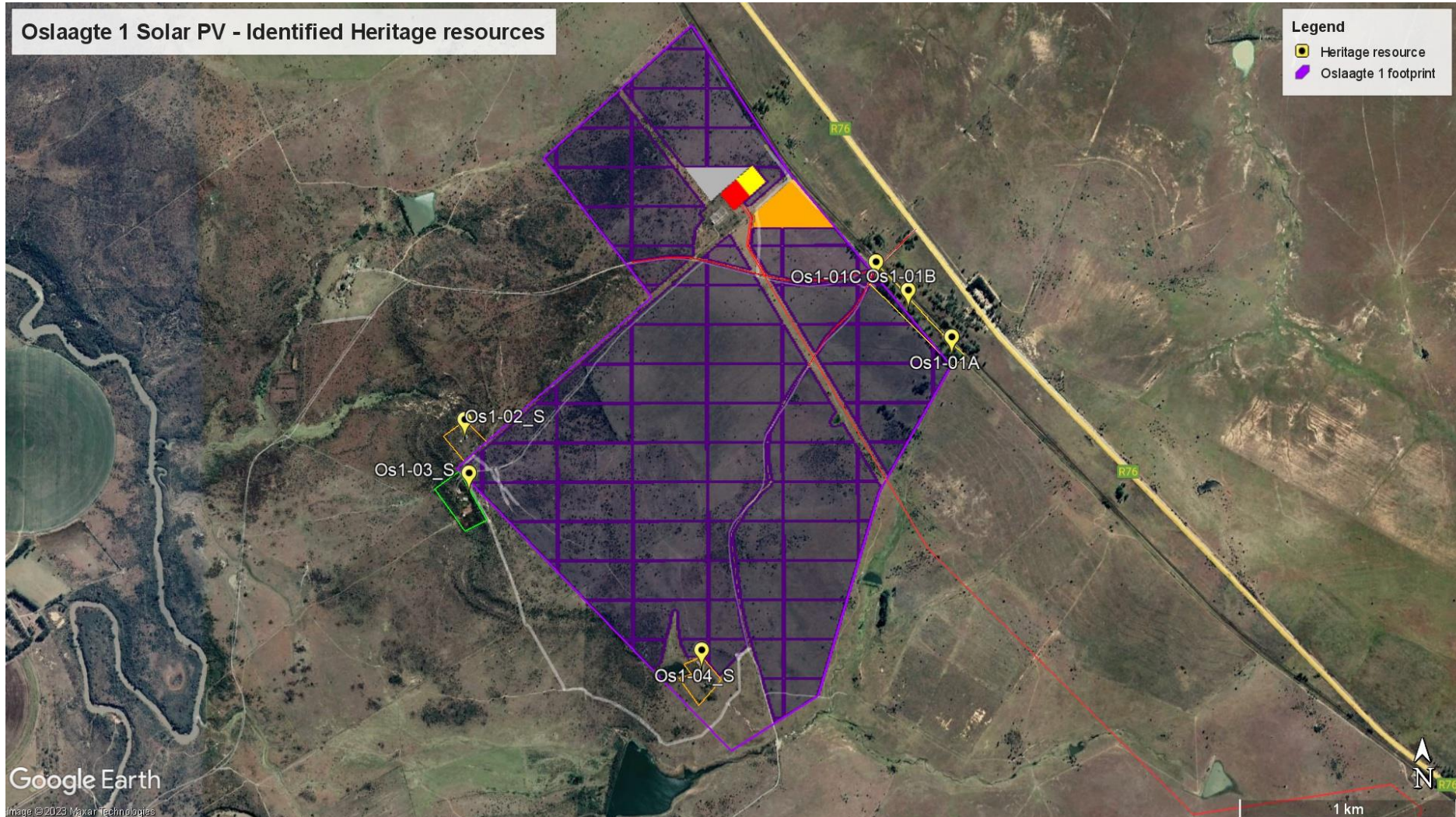


Figure 30: Heritage resources identified during the site survey and overlain on the Oslaagte Solar 1 PV project footprint – Alternative 1 Layout

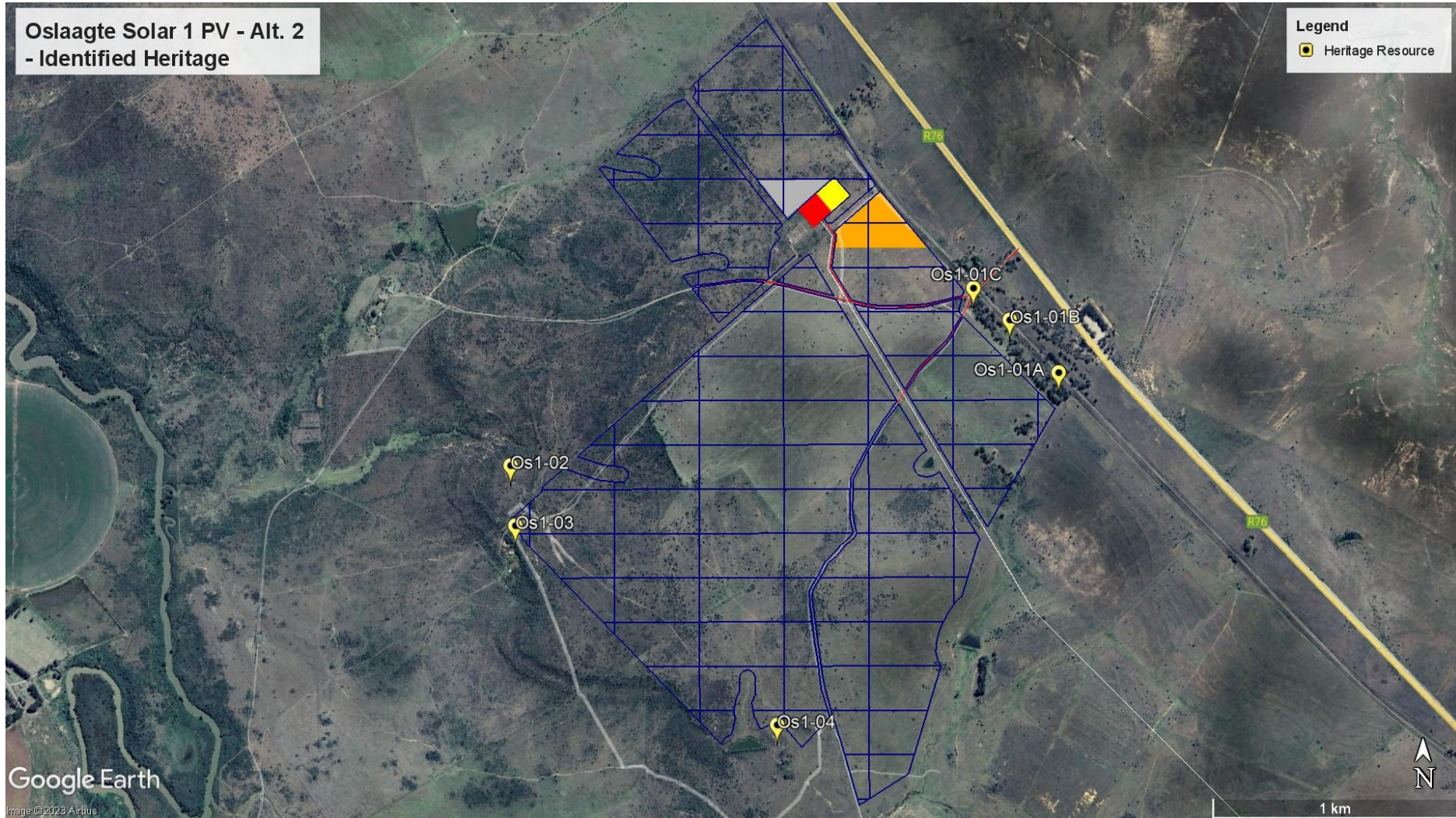


Figure 31: Heritage resources identified during the site survey and overlain on the Oslaagte Solar 1 PV project footprint – Alternative 2 Layout

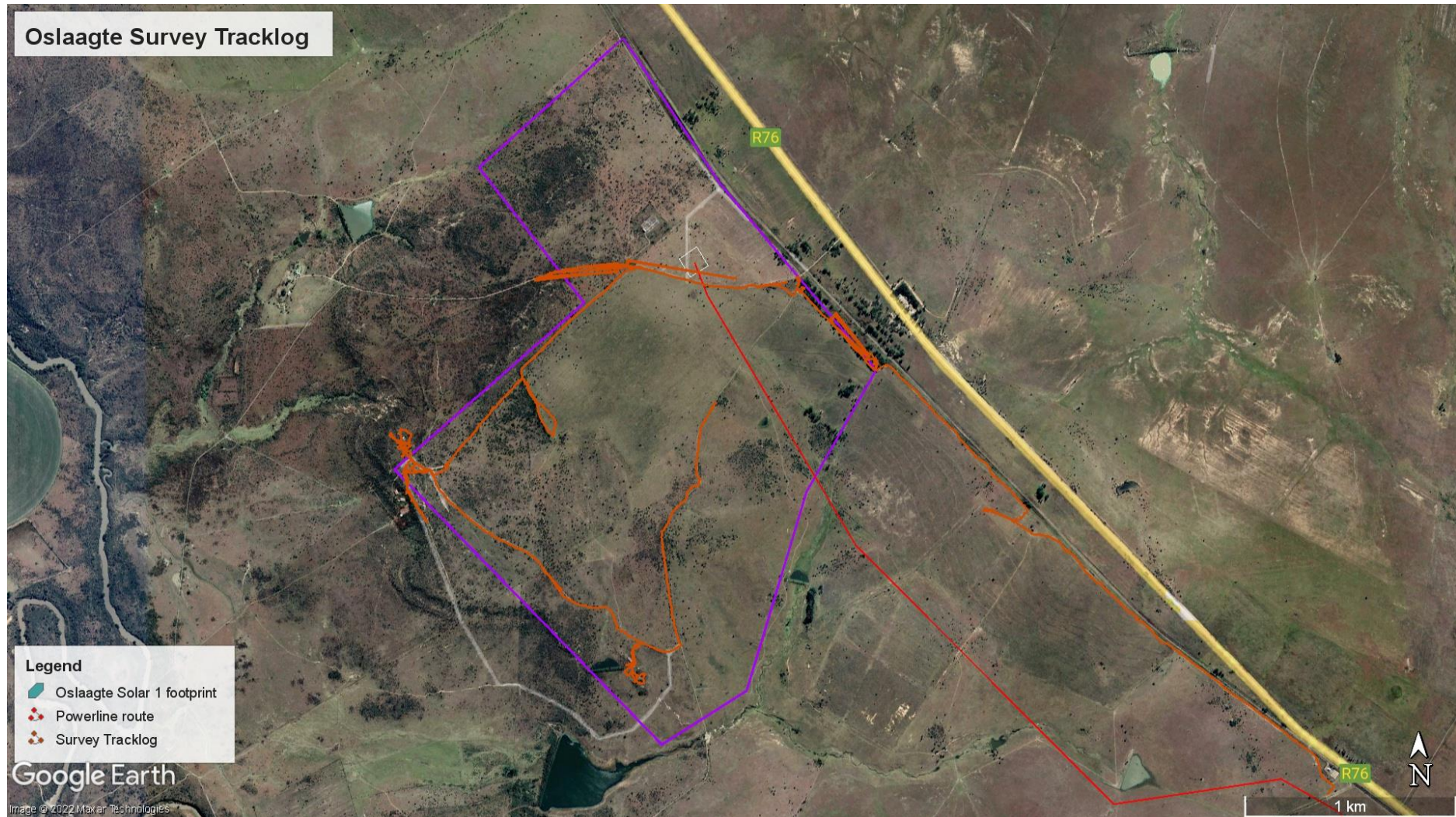


Figure 32: Site Survey Tracklog overlain on the project footprint –General Site Area

7 SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

7.1 Methodology for Assessing Heritage Site Significance

The applicable maps, tables and figures are included, as stipulated in NHRA and NEMA. The HIA process consists of three steps:

A desktop Literature Review provided information on the Heritage Background of the general region and project area. This includes examining historical topographical maps and/or archival maps (if available) as well as past HIA studies conducted for the project area and surrounding region. A number of internet sites were also accessed for information.

The relevant early editions of the 2727CD topographical map sheets were obtained from the Department of Rural Development & Land Reform, Cape Town.

Several internet sites were also accessed for information including ,amongst others, the website of SA History Online (<https://www.sahistory.org.za>), and the concentration camp database website of the University of Cape Town ([British Concentration Camps of the South African War 1900-1902 \(uct.ac.za\)](http://British Concentration Camps of the South African War 1900-1902 (uct.ac.za)))

Literature Review

The desktop literature review provided information on the Heritage Background of the general region and project area. This included, investigating published sources as well as past HIA studies conducted for the project area and surrounding region. A number of internet sites were also accessed for information. An examination of historical 1:50 000 topographical maps and/or archival maps (if available) was also undertaken. Literature resources accessed are listed in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Literature sources accessed

Source	Information
Background Information Document - Nemaï	Project location and description details
Published sources and Past HIAs	Historical and archaeological background on Kroonstad and surrounding region
Directorate: National Geo-spatial Information of the Department of Rural Development & Land Reform, Cape Town	Historical topographic map 1:50 000 2727CD Wonderhoek Edition 1 1960

Field Survey

A physical Site Inspection or Field Survey was then conducted predominantly by vehicle and on foot through the project area by an experienced heritage specialist and assistant. This focused on

identifying and documenting heritage resources situated within and immediately adjacent to the proposed project area footprint.

HIA Report

The final step involved the recording and documentation of the identified heritage resources, the assessment of such resources in terms of heritage significance and impact assessment criteria, producing a heritage sensitivity map and compiling the heritage impact assessment report with constructive recommendations for mitigation, if required.

Impacts on these sites by the development will be evaluated as follows:

Site Significance

Site significance classification standards use is based on the heritage classification of s3 in the NHRA and developed for implementation keeping in mind the grading system approved by SAHRA for archaeological impact assessments. The update classification and rating system as developed by Heritage Western Cape (2021) is implemented in this report.

Site significance classification standards prescribed by the Heritage Western Cape Guideline (2016), was used for the purpose of this report **Table 4** and **Table 5**).

Table 4: Rating system for archaeological resources

Grading	Description of Resource	Examples of Possible Management Strategies	Heritage Significance
I	Heritage resources with qualities so exceptional that they are of special national significance. Current examples: Langebaanweg (West Coast Fossil Park), Cradle of Humankind	May be declared as a National Heritage Site managed by SAHRA. Specific mitigation and scientific investigation can be permitted in certain circumstances with sufficient motivation.	Highest Significance
II	Heritage resources with special qualities which make them significant, but do not fulfil the criteria for Grade I status. Current examples: Blombos, Paternoster Midden.	May be declared as a Provincial Heritage Site managed by Provincial Heritage Authority. Specific mitigation and scientific investigation can be permitted in certain circumstances with sufficient motivation.	Exceptionally High Significance
III	Heritage resources that contribute to the environmental quality or cultural significance of a larger area and fulfils one of the criteria set out in section 3(3) of the Act but that does not fulfil the criteria for Grade II status. Grade III sites may be formally protected by placement on the Heritage Register.		
IIIA	Such a resource must be an excellent example of its kind or must be sufficiently rare.	Resource must be retained. Specific mitigation and scientific investigation can be permitted in certain	High Significance

Grading	Description of Resource	Examples of Possible Management Strategies	Heritage Significance
	Current examples: Varschedrift; Peers Cave; Brobartia Road Midden at Bettys Bay	circumstances with sufficient motivation.	
IIIB	Such a resource might have similar significances to those of a Grade III A resource, but to a lesser degree.	Resource must be retained where possible where not possible it must be fully investigated and/or mitigated.	Medium Significance
IIIC	Such a resource is of contributing significance.	Resource must be satisfactorily studied before impact. If the recording already done (such as in an HIA or permit application) is not sufficient, further recording or even mitigation may be required.	Low Significance
NCW	A resource that, after appropriate investigation, has been determined to not have enough heritage significance to be retained as part of the National Estate.	No further actions under the NHRA are required. This must be motivated by the applicant or the consultant and approved by the authority.	No research potential or other cultural significance

Table 5: Rating system for built environment resources

Grading	Description of Resource	Examples of Possible Management Strategies	Heritage Significance
I	Heritage resources with qualities so exceptional that they are of special national significance. Current examples: Robben Island	May be declared as a National Heritage Site managed by SAHRA.	Highest Significance
II	Heritage resources with special qualities which make them significant in the context of a province or region, but do not fulfil the criteria for Grade I status. Current examples: St George's Cathedral, Community House	May be declared as a Provincial Heritage Site managed by Provincial Heritage Authority.	Exceptionally High Significance
II	Such a resource contributes to the environmental quality or cultural significance of a larger area and fulfils one of the criteria set out in section 3(3) of the Act but that does not fulfil the		

Grading	Description of Resource	Examples of Possible Management Strategies	Heritage Significance
	criteria for Grade II status. Grade III sites may be formally protected by placement on the Heritage Register.		
IIIA	<p>Such a resource must be an excellent example of its kind or must be sufficiently rare.</p> <p>These are heritage resources which are significant in the context of an area.</p>	<p>This grading is applied to buildings and sites that have sufficient intrinsic significance to be regarded as local heritage resources; and are significant enough to warrant that any alteration, both internal and external, is regulated. Such buildings and sites may be representative, being excellent examples of their kind, or may be rare. In either case, they should receive maximum protection at local level.</p>	High Significance
IIIB	<p>Such a resource might have similar significances to those of a Grade III A resource, but to a lesser degree.</p> <p>These are heritage resources which are significant in the context of a townscape, neighbourhood, settlement or community.</p>	<p>Like Grade IIIA buildings and sites, such buildings and sites may be representative, being excellent examples of their kind, or may be rare, but less so than Grade IIIA examples. They would receive less stringent protection than Grade IIIA buildings and sites at local level.</p>	Medium Significance
IIIC	<p>Such a resource is of contributing significance to the environs</p> <p>These are heritage resources which are significant in the context of a streetscape or direct neighbourhood.</p>	<p>This grading is applied to buildings and/or sites whose significance is contextual, i.e., in large part due to its contribution to the character or significance of the environs.</p> <p>These buildings and sites should, as a consequence, only be regulated if the significance of the environs is sufficient to warrant protective measures, regardless of whether the site falls within a Conservation or Heritage Area. Internal alterations should not necessarily be regulated.</p>	Low Significance

Grading	Description of Resource	Examples of Possible Management Strategies	Heritage Significance
NCW	A resource that, after appropriate investigation, has been determined to not have enough heritage significance to be retained as part of the National Estate.	No further actions under the NHRA are required. This must be motivated by the applicant and approved by the authority. Section 34 can even be lifted by the PHRA for structures in this category if they are older than 60 years.	Not Conservation worthy – no research potential or other cultural significance

Table 6: Site significance classification standards as prescribed by SAHRA.

FIELD RATING	GRADE	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED MITIGATION
National Significance (NS)	Grade 1	Very High - of National Significance	Conservation; National Site nomination
Provincial Significance (PS)	Grade 2	Very High – of Provincial Significance	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.A)		Low Significance	Destruction

8 IDENTIFICATION OF IMPACTS

8.1 Impacts and Mitigation Framework

All impacts are analysed in the section to follow with regard to their nature, extent, magnitude, duration, probability and significance.

ISO 14001-2004 defines impacts as “any change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organization’s environmental aspects”.

When considering an assessment of the impacts and their mitigation, the following definitions as per **Table 7** apply.

Table 7: Impact and Mitigation Quantification Framework

Nature	The project could have a positive, negative or neutral impact on the environment.
Extent	<p>Local – extend to the site and its immediate surroundings.</p> <p>Regional – impact on the region but within the province.</p> <p>National – impact on an interprovincial scale.</p> <p>International – impact outside of South Africa.</p>
Magnitude	<p>Degree to which impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:</p> <p>Low – natural and socio-economic functions and processes are not affected or minimally affected.</p> <p>Medium – affected environment is notably altered; natural and socio-economic functions and processes continue albeit in a modified way.</p> <p>High – natural or socio-economic functions or processes could be substantially affected or altered to the extent that they could temporarily or permanently cease.</p>
Duration	<p>Short term – 0-5 years.</p> <p>Medium term – 5-11 years.</p> <p>Long term – impact ceases after the operational life cycle of the activity either because of natural processes or by human intervention.</p> <p>Permanent – mitigation either by natural process or by human intervention will not occur in such a way or in such a time span that the impact can be considered transient.</p>
Probability	<p>Almost certain – the event is expected to occur in most circumstances.</p> <p>Likely – the event will probably occur in most circumstances.</p> <p>Moderate – the event should occur at some time.</p> <p>Unlikely – the event could occur at some time.</p> <p>Rare/Remote – the event may occur only in exceptional circumstances.</p>
Significance	<p>Provides an overall impression of an impact’s importance, and the degree to which it can be mitigated. The range for significance ratings is as follows-</p> <p>0 – Impact will not affect the environment. No mitigation necessary.</p> <p>1 – No impact after mitigation.</p> <p>2 – Residual impact after mitigation.</p> <p>3 – Impact cannot be mitigated.</p>

Mitigation	Information on the impacts together with literature from socio-economic science journals, case studies and field work will be used to provide mitigation recommendations to ensure that any negative impacts are decreased and positive benefits are enhanced.
Monitoring	Monitoring usually involves developing and implementing a monitoring programme to identify deviations from the proposed action and to manage any negative impacts. The recommended mitigation measures will also include monitoring measures.

Table 8: Impact Methodology Table

Nature				
Negative		Neutral		Positive
-1		0		+1
Extent				
Local	Regional		National	International
1	2		3	4
Magnitude				
Low		Medium		High
1		2		3
Duration				
Short Term (0-5yrs)	Medium Term (5-11yrs)		Long Term	Permanent
1	2		3	4
Probability				
Rare/Remote	Unlikely	Moderate	Likely	Almost Certain
1	2	3	4	5
Significance				
No Impact/None	No Impact After Mitigation/Low	Residual Impact After Mitigation/Medium	Impact Cannot be Mitigated/High	be
0	1	2	3	

8.2 Identification of Activities and Aspects

An “Activity” is defined as a distinct process or risks undertaken by an organisation for which a responsibility can be assigned. Activities also include facilities or pieces of infrastructure that are possessed by an organisation (International Organization for Standardization, 2011).

An aspect is defined as elements of an organisation’s activities, products, or services that can interact with the environment.

In order to capture the impacts associated with the proposed infrastructure, an activity – aspect – impact table was created refer to **Table 9** below.

Table 9: Activity, Aspects and Impacts of the Project

Activity	Aspect	Potential Impact – Positive	Potential Impact – Negative
Site clearance/ construction camp	Heritage		Damage to existing historical structures or unidentified graves
Construction	Heritage	Positive - if historical structures are reused	Damage to existing historical structures
Operation	Heritage	Positive – if historical structures are reused	Damage to existing historical structures

8.3 Impact and Mitigation Assessment

The project area that will be impacted by the proposed Oslaagte Solar 1 PV project contains some areas that are currently disturbed by grazing activities (cattle and game) and other animal activity (e.g., termite mounds). Four heritage resource sites were identified in total, all of which comprise either extant or demolished structures, two containing historical structures. One of the heritage sites (Os1-01) comprises the demolished remains of several historical railway buildings and the other site (Os1-04) contains the extant remains of four historical farm buildings. The other two heritage sites each comprise modern/recent buildings or structure remains (Os1-02, Os1-03).

The impact significance of the project on graves and cemeteries is Low as no graves or cemeteries were identified. However, there is a possibility that unidentified graves could be uncovered.

The impact significance of the proposed project on protected historical structures is Low as the two identified historical structure sites (Os1-04 and Os1-01) are situated outside the project footprint. However, both sites lie within the 30m buffer for the Alternative 1 layout but outside the 30m buffer for the Alternative 2 layout. The buildings and structure remains at both sites are 60 years or older and protected by section 34 of the NHRA.

8.4 Impacts During the Planning, Operation and Construction Phases

As a result of the analysis above, **Error! Reference source not found.** the following impact/mitigation tables have been generated.

Table 10: Heritage Resources – Historical graves Mitigation Table

Environmental Feature	Heritage resources –unidentified graves or potential infant graves (Os1-02)
Project life cycle	Planning, Construction and Operation
Potential Impact	Proposed Management Objectives / Mitigation Measures
Possible damage to or destruction of unidentified historical graves (due to dense vegetation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If any changes are made to the final design footprint prior to construction, site clearance activities must be monitored by a heritage specialist to identify any unidentified graves or burial grounds.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If any graves or human remains are uncovered, a buffer of at least 30m must be placed around the area to prevent any damage • The materials demarcating the 30 m buffer must be highly visible and made of durable material • If, for any reason, such graves are required to be removed, then a Phase 2 mitigation process will need to be undertaken. During this process, the family and relevant communities will have to be engaged with to obtain their permission and to discuss where the remains are to be moved to. In addition, application will have to be made to the SAHRA and provincial Health Department for the necessary permits. • Sub-sections (4) and (5) of section 36 of the NHRA regarding the removal of graves must be adhered to. The exhumation and removal of graves is strongly discouraged as graves are highly significant to many people and there are many traditional, cultural and personal sensitivities concerning the removal of graves. 					
Potential infant burials (Site Os1-02)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A buffer of at least 30m must be placed around the site to ensure that during construction, these sites are not damaged • Consultation with local community is required to confirm the presence or absence of potential infant graves at this site • If infant burials are confirmed then a Phase 2 mitigation process for grave removal will be required, as above. 					
Alternative 1	Nature	Extent	Magnitude	Duration	Probability	Significance
Before Mitigation	Negative	Local	High	Permanent	Unlikely	2
After Mitigation	Negative	Local	Medium	Long- term	Rare/Remote	1
Significance of Impact and Preferred Alternatives	The site with potential infant burials is located outside the north-western boundary of the project footprint (for Alternative 1 layout). Therefore, no direct impact is anticipated, unless the project footprint is altered.					
Alternative 2	Nature	Extent	Magnitude	Duration	Probability	Significance
Before Mitigation	Negative	Local	High	Permanent	Unlikely	2
After Mitigation	Negative	Local	Medium	Long- term	Rare/Remote	1
Significance of Impact and Preferred Alternatives	The site with potential infant burials is located outside the north-western boundary of the project footprint (for Alternative 2 layout). Therefore, no direct impact is anticipated, unless the project footprint is altered.					

Table 11: Heritage Resources – Historical Structures Mitigation Table

Environmental Feature	Heritage Resources – Historical Structures (Sites Os1-01 and Os1-04)
Project life cycle	Planning, Construction and Operation
Potential Impact	Proposed Management Objectives / Mitigation Measures
Possible damage to or destruction of extant historical structures (Site Os1-04)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A buffer of at least 30m must be implemented around this site and demarcated by a fence to ensure that the structures are protected

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If any alteration, damage or destruction of any the structures is anticipated, a permit will be required (from FS PHRA) • If any impact is anticipated, then it is recommended that the buildings should be recorded photographically by an architectural historian 					
Possible damage to or destruction of demolished remains of historical structures (Site Os1-01)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A buffer of at least 30m must be implemented around site Os1-01 and demarcated by a fence to prevent any indirect impact • If any impact to Os1-01 is anticipated, a permit (from FS PHRA) will be required for any destruction of the building remains • If any changes are made to the final design footprint prior to construction, monitoring of site clearance activities must be undertaken by a heritage specialist to identify any additional demolished remains 					
Alternative 1	Nature	Extent	Magnitude	Duration	Probability	Significance
Before Mitigation	Negative	Local	High	Permanent	Moderate	2
After Mitigation	Positive	Local	Low	Long- term	Unlikely	1
Significance of Impact and Preferred Alternatives	Site O1s-04 has higher significance than site Os1-01 as the structures are extant and can be recorded. Site Os1-01 has low significance as the buildings are all demolished. It is recommended that Site Os1-04 be avoided in the design planning and consideration be given to possible re-use of some of the buildings. Both sites should be fenced and avoided as “no go” areas.					
Alternative 2	Nature	Extent	Magnitude	Duration	Probability	Significance
Before Mitigation	Negative	Local	High	Permanent	Unlikely	2
After Mitigation	Positive	Local	Low	Long- term	Rare/Remote	1
Significance of Impact and Preferred Alternatives	Site O1s-04 has higher significance than site Os1-01 as the structures are extant and can be recorded. Site Os1-01 has low significance as the buildings are all demolished. It is recommended that Site Os1-04 be avoided in the design planning and consideration be given to possible re-use of some of the buildings. Both sites should be fenced and avoided as “no go” areas.					

8.5 Cumulative impacts

The project area and surrounding region has been affected by impacts of activities occurring in the past, current activities and proposed future developments. These will be discussed below.

Past impacts: The past HIA reports recovered from the SAHRIS database indicated that the Oslaagte Solar 1 PV project footprint and surrounding region has been affected by several development and other activities that would have disturbed the heritage resources which occur in the area. These include other solar PV projects, prospecting and mining projects, pipeline and fibre optic cable construction and the construction of the N1 national road and R76 regional road, in addition to historical farming activities around Kroonstad and the development of Kroonstad town.

Current impacts: the immediate area of the Oslaagte Solar 1 PV footprint is affected by farming activities (cattle and game) and the R76 regional road is currently being upgraded with roadworks in progress along the eastern boundary of the project area.

The baseline impacts are considered to be Low for Heritage resources, and additional project impacts (if no mitigation measures are implemented) will increase the significance of the existing baseline impacts, where the cumulative unmitigated impact will probably be of a moderate significance. The impact is going to happen and will be long-term in nature, therefore the impact risk class will be Moderate. However, with the implementation of the recommended management and mitigation measures this risk class can be minimized to a Low rating.

9 ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

9.1 Introduction

Alternatives are the different ways in which the Project can be executed to ultimately achieve its objectives. Examples could include carrying out a different type of action, choosing an alternative location or adopting a different technology or design for a project.

9.2 Site Alternatives

No site alternatives are proposed for this Project. Favourable location factors for the PV Site include suitable solar irradiation levels, short distance to grid connection point, flat topography, suitable site access and availability of land.

9.3 Layout / Design Alternatives

In terms of the impact on the identified heritage resources, the original layout (Alternative 1) was revised to ensure that all the identified heritage resources are located outside of the development footprint (Alternative 2 layout). However, there may be some indirect impacts associated with the construction related activities such as site clearance, etc. In terms of the impact on the identified heritage resources, Alternative 2 is the preferred layout.

9.4 No-Go Option

As standard practice and to satisfy regulatory requirements, the option of not proceeding with the Project is included in the evaluation of the alternatives.

The no-go alternative can be regarded as the baseline scenario against which the impacts of the Project are evaluated. This implies that the current status and conditions associated with the proposed

Project footprint will be used as the benchmark against which to assess the possible changes (impacts) associated with the Project.

In contrast, should the proposed Project not go ahead, any potentially significant environmental issues would be irrelevant, and the status quo of the local receiving environment would not be affected by the project-related activities. The objectives of the Project, including the benefits (such as the exploitation of SA's renewable energy resources, potential economic development and related job creation, and increased security of electricity supply), will not materialise.

10 STATEMENT OF IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE

The project area that will be impacted by the proposed Oslaagte Solar 1 PV project contains some areas that are currently disturbed by farming (cattle and game) activities. The impact significance of the project on graves and cemeteries is low as no definite grave sites were identified. However, there is a possibility that potential infant burials could be located at Site Os1-02. There is also potential for unidentified graves to be uncovered.

The impact significance of the proposed project on protected historical structures is Low as two sites with historical structures were identified which are both located outside the project footprint (Alternative 1 and Alternative 2). These are an historical farmstead (Site Os1-04 and the demolished remains of several railway structures (Os1-01), From the survey, it is very likely that the farmhouse and associated buildings, as well as the railway structures, are over 60 years of age and therefore the sites are protected by Section 34 of the National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

The impact significance of the project on archaeological sites and materials is low as no definite archaeological resources were identified. However, there is a possibility that such material could be uncovered as it often occurs sub-surface.

11 HERITAGE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

11.1 General Management Guidelines

The following General Heritage Management Guidelines are recommended:

1. It is advisable that an information section on cultural resources be included in the SHEQ training given to contractors involved in surface earthmoving activities. These sections must include basic information on:

- a. Heritage;
 - b. Graves;
 - c. Archaeological finds; and
 - d. Historical Structures.
2. This module must be tailor made to include all possible finds that could be expected in that area of construction.
 - a. Possible finds include:
 - b. Unidentified graves or cemeteries.
 - c. Historical structure remains.
 - d. Palaeontological deposits such as bones and teeth or plant fossils.
 3. In the event that a possible find is discovered during construction, all activities must be halted in the area of the discovery and a qualified archaeologist/heritage specialist contacted.
 4. The archaeologist/heritage specialist needs to evaluate the finds on site and make recommendations towards possible mitigation measures.
 5. If mitigation is necessary, an application for a rescue excavation permit must be lodged with SAHRA by a qualified archaeologist.
 6. After mitigation, an application must be lodged with SAHRA for a destruction permit. This application must be supported by the mitigation report generated during the rescue excavation. Only after the permit is issued may such a site be destroyed.
 7. If during the initial survey sites of cultural significance are discovered, it will be necessary to develop a management plan for the preservation, documentation or destruction of such a site. Such a program must include an archaeological/palaeontological monitoring programme, timeframe and agreed upon schedule of actions between the company and the archaeologist.
 8. In the event that human remains are uncovered, or previously unknown graves are discovered, a qualified forensic anthropologist or archaeologist needs to be contacted to undertake an evaluation of the finds.
 9. If the remains are to be exhumed and relocated, the relocation procedures as accepted by SAHRA need to be followed. This includes an extensive social consultation process and requires permits from both SAHRA and the provincial and local Health authorities.

12 RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

The proposed Oslaagte Solar 1 PV project (Alternative 1 and Alternative 2) could impact on heritage resources identified adjacent to the project footprint. Heritage resources that occur adjacent to the project footprint include four historical structure sites (from the site survey fieldwork) and two possible homesteads (from the topographic map). It was not possible to verify the two possible

homesteads due to the presence of a fenced Eskom substation as well as extremely dense acacia thicket in that area.

In terms of the impact on the identified heritage resources, Alternative 2 is preferred as the layout has been revised to avoid the two sites containing historical structures or structure remains (Os1-01 and Os1-04). However, both sites are still located in close proximity to development footprint, and could be subject to indirect impact, specifically during site clearance or construction activities. Therefore, the mitigation measures below will still apply.

The recommendations below are provided to mitigate the potential impact of the PV project on the identified heritage resources:

- All heritage sites identified within and close to the project footprint must be protected with at least a 30m buffer (Os1-01, Os1-02, Os1-03, Os1-04);
- The Historical structures and demolished structure remains at Os1-01 and Os1-04 are protected by section 34 of the National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999 (NHRA) and should be fenced and avoided as “no go” areas to prevent any indirect impact.
- For Site Os1-02, no mitigation measures are required, provided that the site is avoided and protected with a 30m buffer.
- A separate desktop palaeontological assessment is being undertaken by a palaeontologist as the project area falls into an area of Very High fossil sensitivity. The desktop assessment will indicate if significant/sensitive fossils will be impacted by the proposed project and provide mitigation measures and the way forward.

No fatal flaws were identified during this study, therefore, it is the considered opinion of the heritage specialist that the construction of the proposed Oslaagte Solar 1 PV project within the footprint can proceed. There are no objections from a heritage perspective provided that the recommendations and mitigation measures contained in this report and in the palaeontological assessment are implemented before any site clearance or construction commences. In terms of the impact on the identified heritage resources, Alternative 2 is preferred as the layout has been revised to avoid the two sites containing historical structures or structure remains (Os1-01 and Os1-04).

13 REFERENCES

- Angel, J and J Kitto. 2018. *Kophia Diamonds (Pty) Ltd Catherine’s Fancy 831, which forms part of the Blaauwbosch Mine, Boshof District, Free State Province Heritage Impact Assessment*.
- Bergh, J.S 1999. *Geskiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika: die Vier Noordelike Provinsies*. Van Schaik, Pretoria.
- De Bruyn, C. 2018. *Basic Assessment Report for the Prospecting Right and Environmental Authorisation Application for Kroonstad South Situated in the Free State Province*.

- De Jong, RC. 2011. *Specialist Study: Heritage Impact Assessment for the Installation of the Sirius Fibre Optic Cable between Johannesburg and Yzerfontein, Gauteng, Free State, Eastern and Western Cape Provinces*
- De Ruiter, DJ., SE Churchill, JK Brophy and LR Berger. 2011. *Regional Survey of Middle Stone Age Fossil Vertebrate Deposits in the Virginia-Theunissen area of the Free State, South Africa* in Navorsing van die Nasionale Museum, vol. 27, part 1.
- Dreyer, JJB. 1990. *The Iron Age Prehistory of the Winburg Area, Orange Free State*. Unpublished MA Dissertation, University of the Witwatersrand.
- Erasmus, BPJ. 2014. *On Route in South Africa*. Third edition. Jonathan Ball Publishers: Johannesburg
- Fourie, W. 2021. HIA for *The Proposed Harmony FSS6 Reclamation Pipeline, Welkom, Free State Province*.
- Huffman, T.N. 2007. *Handbook to the Iron Age*. University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, Scottsville.
- Maggs, TMO'C. 1976. *Iron Age Communities of the Southern Highveld*. Natal Museum
- Notice No. 380. 2019. South African Heritage Resources Agency Declaration of the Grave of Reverend Zaccheus Richard Mahabane; Maokeng; Free State as a National Heritage Site in *Government Gazette Republic of South Africa Vol. 645 15 March 2019 No. 42304*
- Lavin, J. 2020. *Archaeological Specialist Study In terms of Section 38(8) of the NHRA for a Proposed development of the Vrede and Rondavel Solar Energy Facilities near Kroonstad, Free State Province*
- Oberholster, J.J. 1972. *The Historical Monuments of South Africa*. The Rembrandt van Rijn Foundation for Culture, Cape Town. Cited in Fourie 2021.
- Ouzman, S. 2001. *Spitskop rock-engraving site complex*. National Museum Rock Art Department internal publication.
- Raper, PE. 2014. *Dictionary of Southern African Place Names*. Jonathan Ball Publishers
- Schoeman, K. *Bloemfontein: die ontstaan van 'n stad 1846 – 1946*. Human & Rousseau, Cape Town. Cited in Fourie 2021.
- Van der Walt, J. 2019. *Heritage Desktop Report Lengana Health SA Prospecting Application, Koppies, Free State Province*.
- Wadley, L. 2013. *Recognizing complex cognition through innovative technology in Stone Age and Palaeolithic sites* in Cambridge Archaeological Journal, 23: 163-183. doi:10.1017/S0959774313000309
- Verwey EJ (Ed). 1995. *New Dictionary Of South African Biography Volume 1*

[Battlefields Route – Koppies to Kroonstad | The Heritage Portal](#)

[British Concentration Camps of the South African War 1900-1902 \(uct.ac.za\)](#)

<https://www.gov.za/kroonstad-correctional-centre-officially-renamed-bizzah-makhate-correctional-centre>

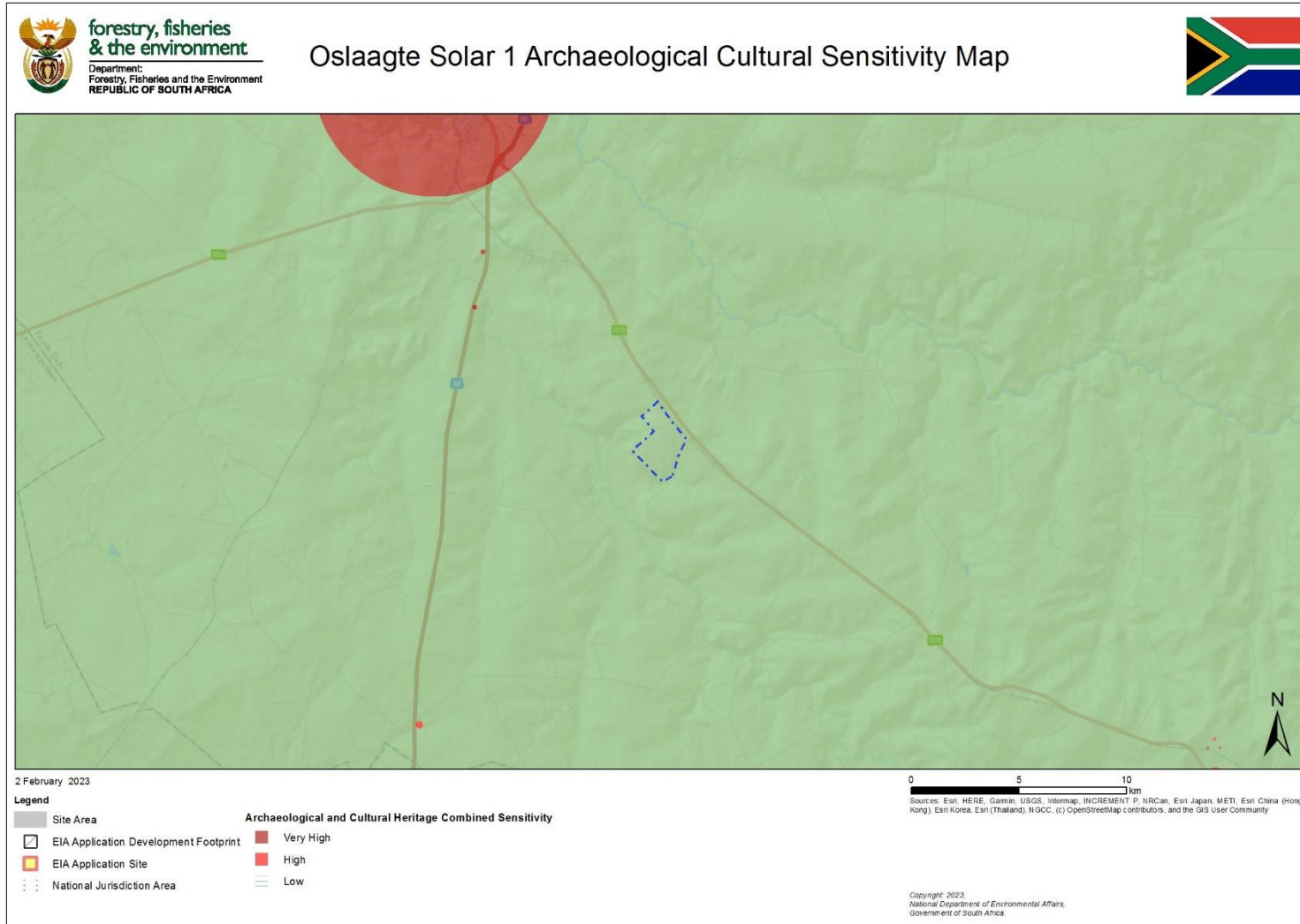
de Klerk SJ. 2021. [Battlefields Route – Koppies to Kroonstad | The Heritage Portal](#)

[The-Boer-Rebellion-in-South-Africa-pdf.pdf \(moltenofamily.net\)](#)

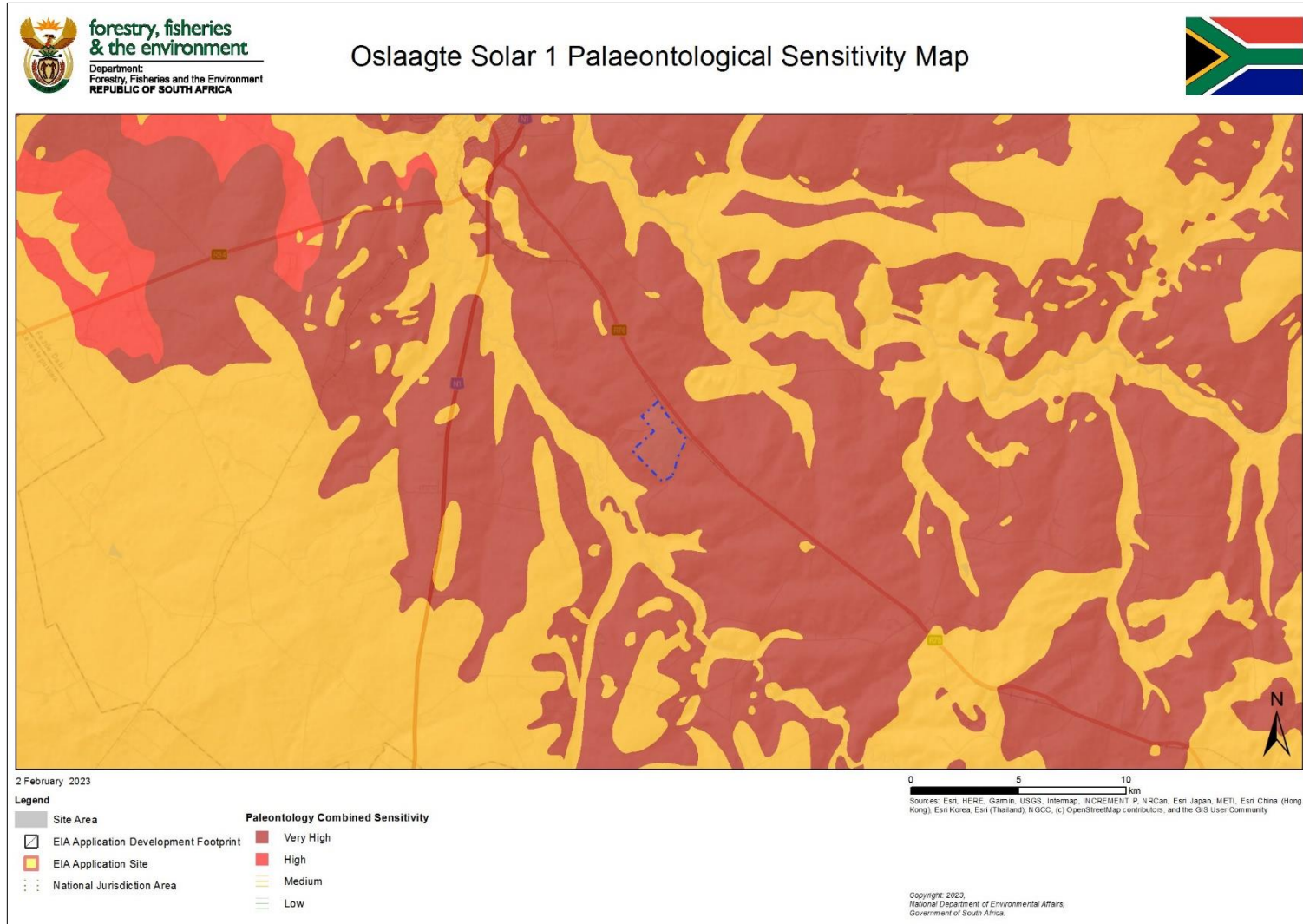
[Kroonstad | South African History Online \(sahistory.org.za\)](#)

APPENDIX 1: HERITAGE SENSITIVITY MAP/S

1. Archaeological Cultural Heritage Sensitivity Map from DFFE Environmental Screening Tool



2. Palaeontological Sensitivity map from DFFE Environmental Screening tool



3. Heritage Sensitivity Maps based on the Site Inspection / Field survey and topographical map sheet

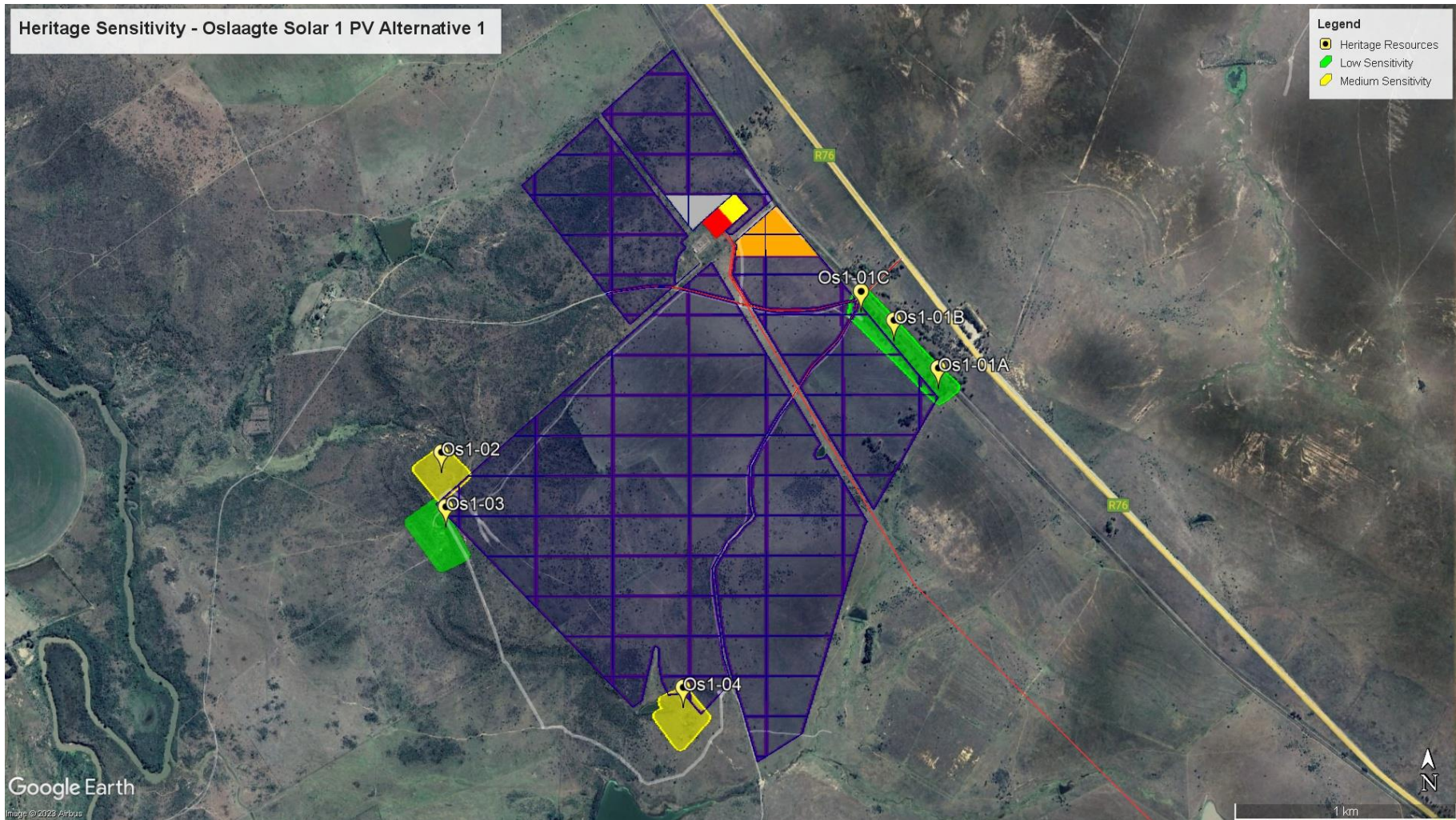


Figure 33: Heritage Sensitivity overlain on Oslaagte Solar 1 Layout Alternative 1

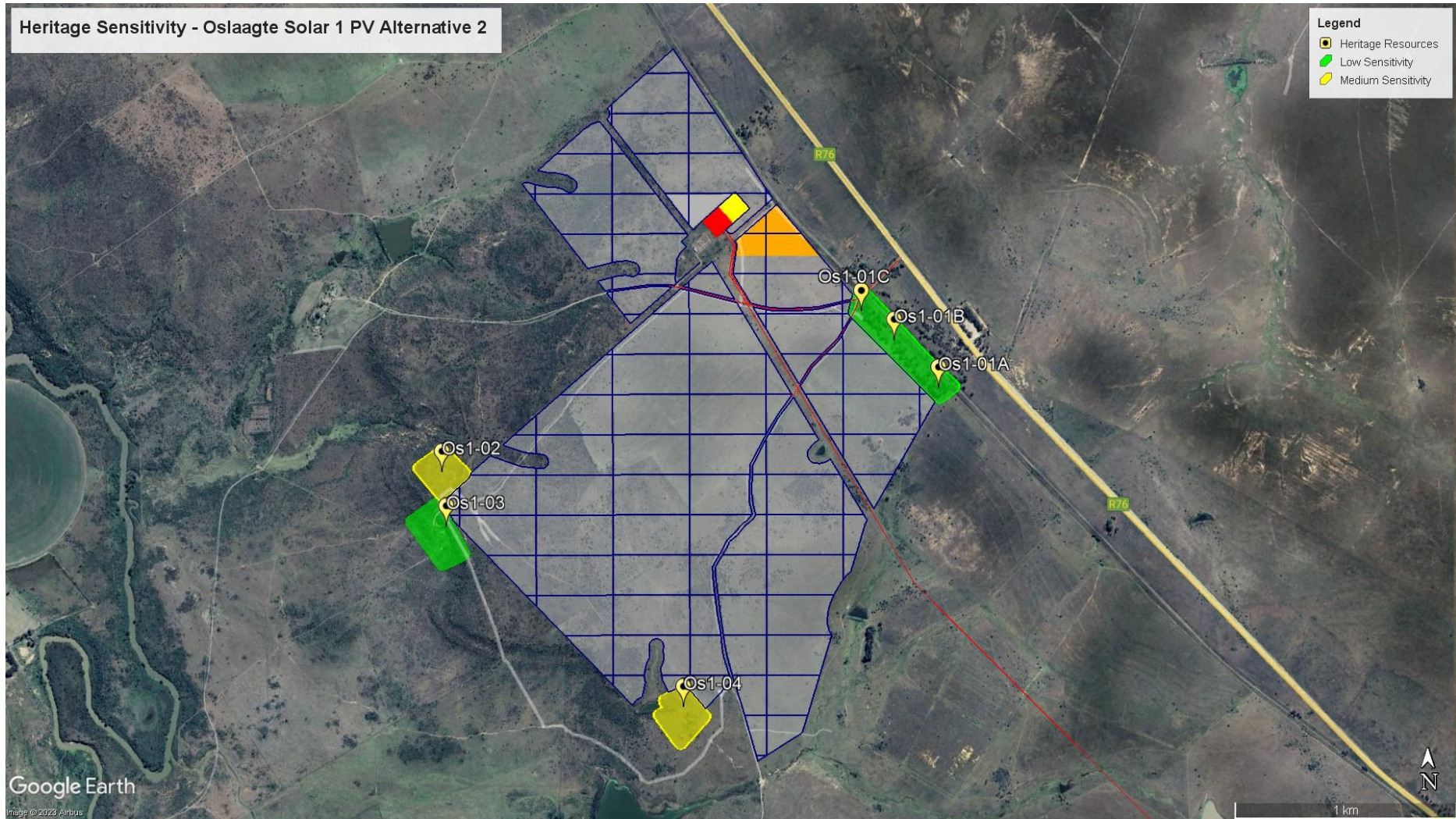


Figure 34: Heritage Sensitivity overlain on Oslaagte Solar 1 Layout Alternative 1

APPENDIX 2: CURRICULUM VITAE OF HERITAGE SPECIALIST

1 Personal Particulars

Profession:	Heritage Specialist
Date of Birth:	11 September 1966
Name of Firm:	Nitai Consulting
Name of Staff:	Jennifer Kitto
Nationality:	RSA
Membership of Professional Societies	Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (444); International Association for Impact Assessment South Africa (7151)

2 Education:

BA Hons Social Anthropology, WITS, South Africa, 1994

BA. Archaeology and Social Anthropology, WITS, South Africa, 1993

Higher National Diploma, Practical Archaeology, Dorset Institute for Higher Education (now Bournemouth University), UK, 1989

3 Employment Record:

2022 – Present Heritage Specialist, Nitai Consulting

Conduct Heritage Impact Assessments;

2012 – 2021 Heritage Specialist, PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd

Conduct Heritage Impact Assessments

Compile Desktop Historical Research

Compile Heritage Audit and Management Plans

Compile and submit permit applications to National and Provincial Heritage Authorities for Section 34 building alterations and demolitions (under National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999)

Compile and submit permit applications to Provincial and Municipal Health Authorities for Section 36 relocations of graves and burial grounds (under National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999 and National Health Act, No 61 of 2003)

2008 – 2011 *Cultural Heritage Officer (National), Burial Grounds and Graves Unit: South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)*

Review and assessing permit applications for relocation of historical graves and burial grounds

1998 – 2008 *Cultural Heritage Officer (Provincial), Provincial Office – Gauteng: SAHRA*

Review and comment on heritage and archaeological impact reports

Research for the nomination and grading process for related to the declaration of specific heritage resources as National Heritage Sites

Monitoring of certain archaeological and built environment National Heritage Sites (e.g. The Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site)

4 Selected Consultancies

4.1 GDID East Corridor, OHS Implementation, Tambo Memorial Regional Hospital (as sub-contractor to PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd

2022 Independent Heritage Specialist. Compile Historical Archival Report of Tambo Hospital Boksburg, Gauteng for PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd, Finalise HIA Report and submit HIA report to Gauteng Provincial Heritage Resources Authority

4.2 GDID East Corridor, OHS Implementation, Tembisa Regional Hospital (as sub-contractor to PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd

2022 Independent Heritage Specialist. Compile Historical Archival Report of Tembisa Hospital, Ekurhuleni, Gauteng for PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd, Finalise HIA Report and submit HIA report to Gauteng Provincial Heritage Resources Authority.

4.3 Kroonstad Cluster Solar PV Facilities

2022/2023 Heritage Specialist, Development of three Solar PV facilities west of Kroonstad, Free State Province, South Africa, Undertake Heritage Impact Assessment of all heritage resources associated with the three solar PV facilities

4.4 Rustenburg Solar PV Facilities

2022/2023 Heritage Specialist, Development of three Solar PV facilities near Raisimone, Rustenburg, North West Province, South Africa, Undertake Heritage Impact Assessment of all heritage resources associated with the three solar PV facilities

4.5 Seelo Solar PV Cluster

2022/2023 Heritage Specialist, Development of three Solar PV facilities near Carletonville, North West Province, South Africa, Undertake Heritage Impact Assessment all heritage resources associated with the three solar PV facilities

4.6 Decommissioning of Komati Power Station

2023, Heritage Specialist, Proposed Decommissioning of the Komati Power Station, Middelburg, Mpumalanga, Undertake Heritage Impact Assessment of all heritage structures within the power station

4.7 Carbon Capture Utilisation & Storage Pilot Project

2023 Heritage Specialist, Proposed pilot project for the capture and storage of CO₂, in Mpumalanga, comprising a 3D seismic survey and test drilling for the purpose of geological characterisation of the project area. Undertake Heritage Impact Assessment all heritage resources associated with the CCUS Pilot Project.

5 Languages:

English - excellent speaking, reading, and writing

Afrikaans –fair speaking, reading and writing