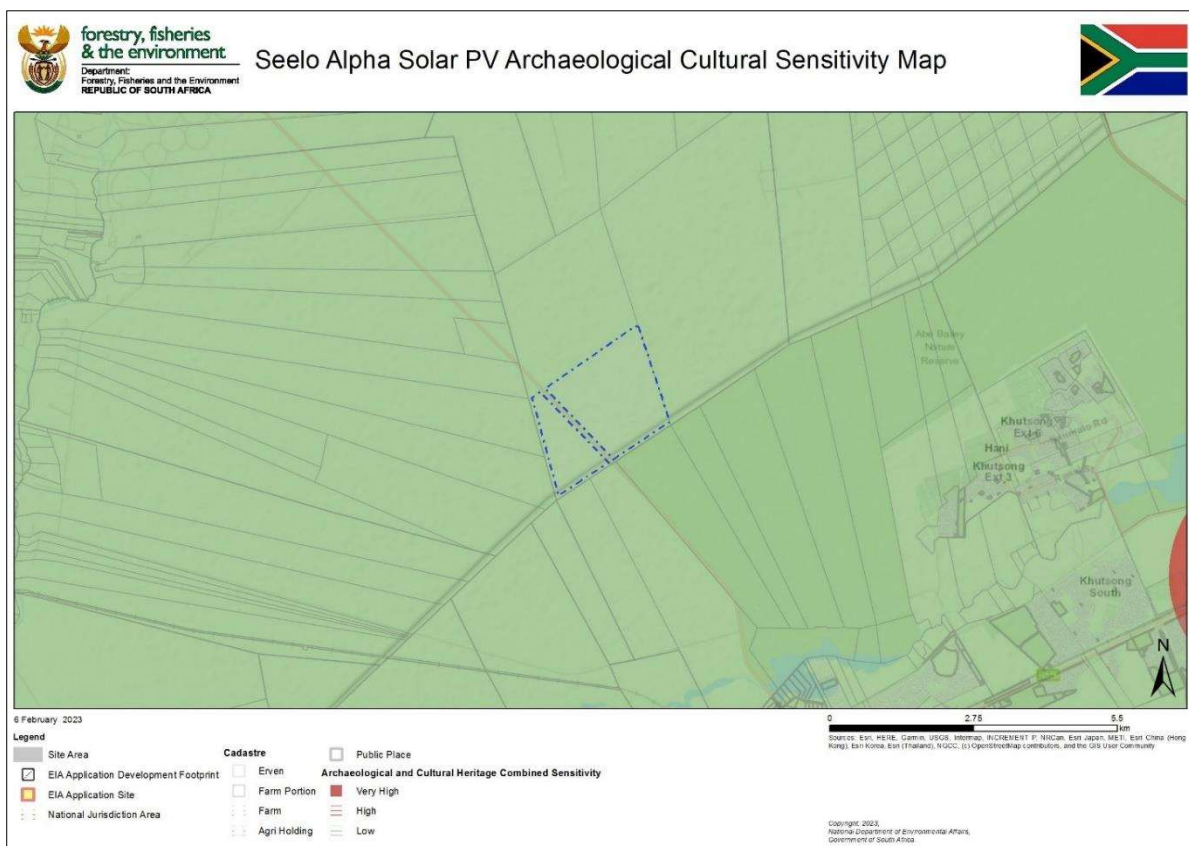


## SEELO SOLAR PV – ALPHA

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE THEME: SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION REPORT

The National Web-based Environmental Screening Tool identified a Site Environmental sensitivity of **Low** for Archaeological Cultural Sensitivity for the proposed development site (see **Figure 1**, below). The proposed project site was first examined at a desktop level using early edition historical topographic maps (for the Archaeological Cultural heritage theme). This was followed by an on-site inspection.



**Figure 1: Archaeological Cultural Sensitivity map indicating that the project footprint is located within a region of low archaeological and cultural heritage sensitivity (DFE Screening Tool).**

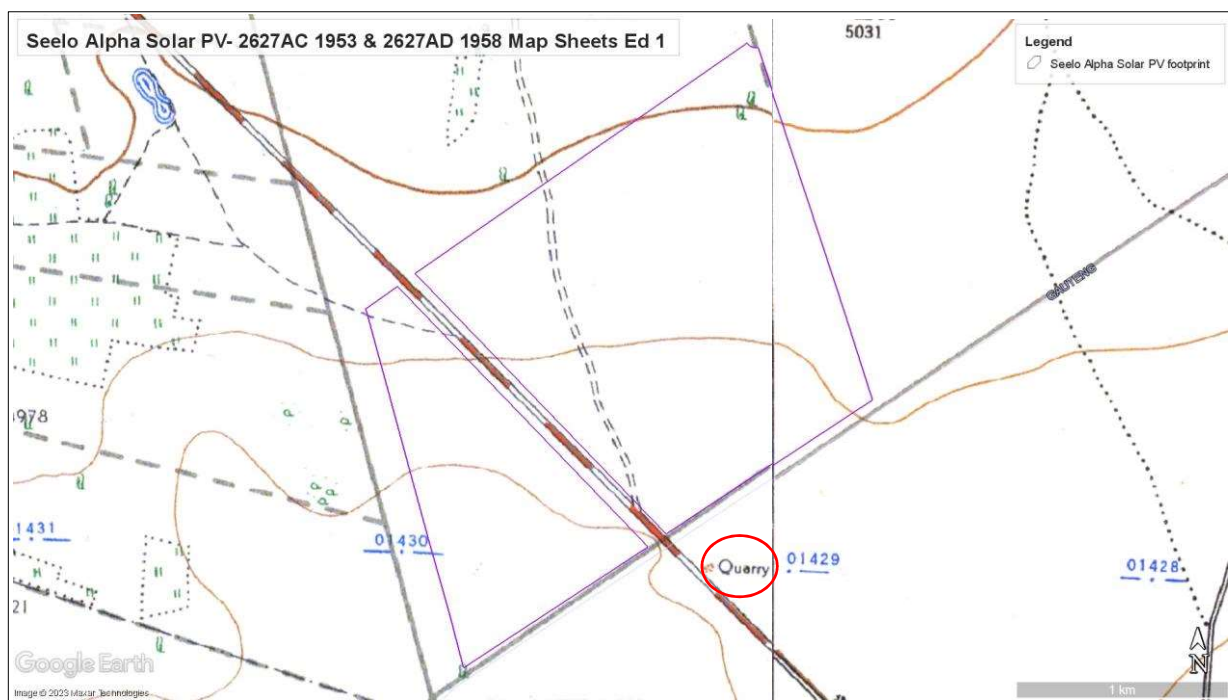
#### Desktop Assessment

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 the 1950s (see **Figure 2** Error! Reference source not found.below). As the first edition of the two sheets utilised dates to 1953

and 1958, 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 1953 and 1958 edition sheets. 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 sheets were assessed for the Seelo Alpha Solar PV footprint: 2627AC Rysmierbult Edition 1 1953 and 2627AD Carletonville Edition 1 1958. The 2627AC map was surveyed in 1953 and drawn in 1955 by the Trigonometrical Survey Office of the Union of South Africa from aerial photographs taken in 1948. The 2627AD map was surveyed in 1958 and drawn in 1959 by the Trigonometrical Survey Office of the Union of South Africa from aerial photographs taken in 1948.

As can be seen in **Figure 2**, which is a composite of the 1953 and 1958 1<sup>st</sup> edition maps, no heritage features are depicted within the Seelo Alpha Solar PV footprint. The only man-made feature depicted is a quarry located just outside (south) of the southern boundary of the footprint area.



**Figure 2: Enlarged view of Ed 1 topographic map sheets 2627AC 1953 and 2627AD 1958, depicting no heritage features within the Seelo Alpha Solar PV footprint. The only man-made feature depicted is a quarry located just outside (south) of the southern boundary of the footprint area (red polygon)**

### *On-site Inspection*

The project area terrain is situated on the southern section of Portion 2 of Farm 96 (Roopan). The general area is covered mostly with a grassland which varies from shorter to long and dense. The terrain is mostly flat, however, there are signs of previous and recent disturbance, e.g. several dumps

of soil and rock were scattered all over the property, and there was a minor sinkhole which contained an animal burrow. The current use of the property is cattle and game farming (grazing).

The on-site inspection (conducted on 19 January 2023) of the study area identified no visible archaeological or cultural heritage resources within or close to the Seelo Alpha Solar PV footprint area.

It was noted that the project area is dominated by dolomite outcrops as well as quartzite/sandstone outcrops. Several sinkholes and subsidences were also noted in the area.

### *Conclusion/Recommendations*

1. Based on the Site Sensitivity Verification, the environmental sensitivity of Low for the Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme is confirmed.
2. However, although no visible archaeological or cultural heritage resources were identified within or close to the Seelo Alpha Solar PV project footprint, since the extent of the study area is larger than 5000m<sup>2</sup>, a Heritage Impact Assessment is required in terms of section 38(1)(a) of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999).

### *Status Quo/Baseline Receiving Environment photographs*



*Figure 3: View of the footprint area, showing the short dense grass and isolated acacia bushes, as well as one of the soil dumps*



*Figure 4: View showing excavation for livestock waterhole on the west section of the project footprint*



*Figure 5: View of sinkhole with animal burrow in the west section of the project footprint*



*Figure 6: View of a few of the soil and rock dumps in the east section of the project footprint*



*Figure 7: : View of the grass cover and a large soil and rock dump in the east section of the project footprint*