

SEELO SOLAR PV – CHARLIE

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 Seelo Charlie Solar PV 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.

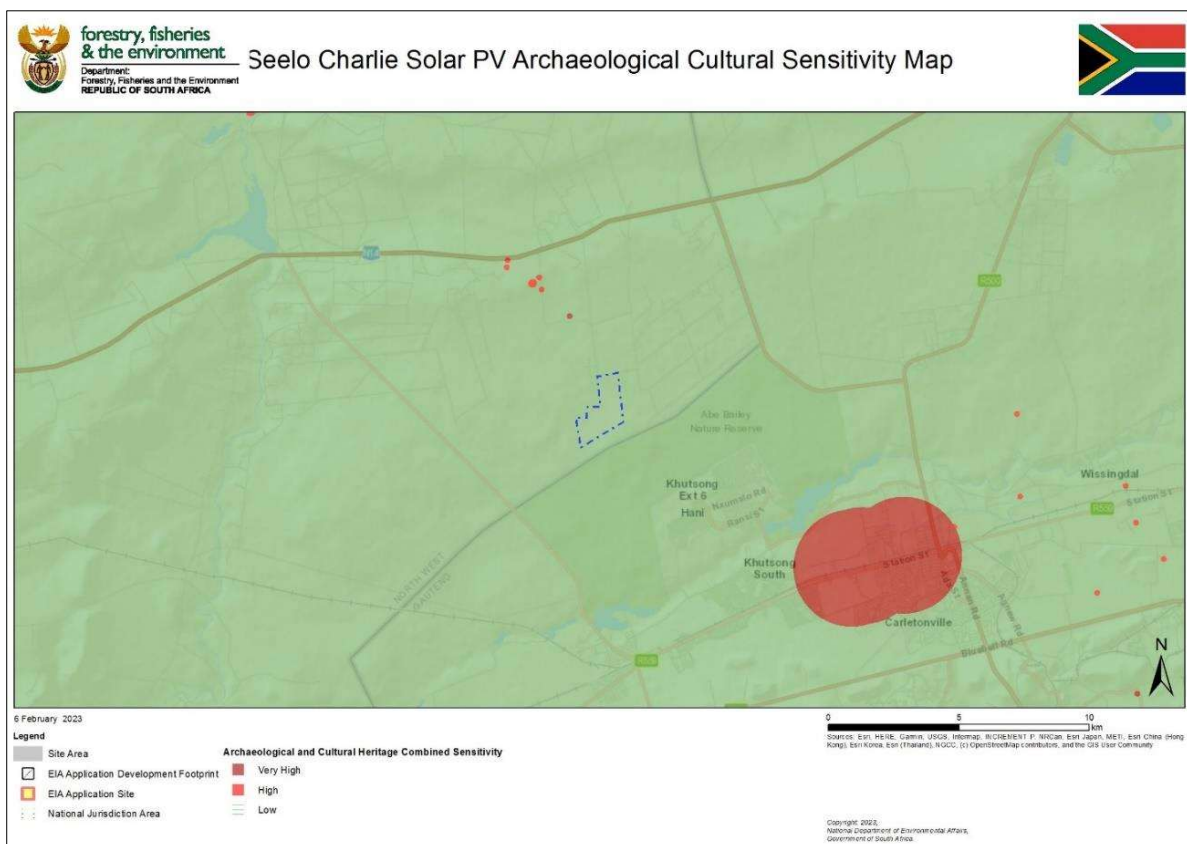


Figure 1: Archaeological Cultural Sensitivity map indicating that the Seelo Charlie Solar PV project footprint is located within a region of low archaeological and cultural heritage sensitivity (DFE Screening Tool).

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: Enlarged view of topographic map 2627AD Ed 1 1958**, depicting no heritage features within the

Seelo Charlie Solar PV footprint. However, two heritage features are depicted outside the project footprint. A small homestead (1 hut) and a ruin are depicted just outside (west) of the north-west corner of the footprint area and two homesteads and a ruin are depicted a short distance north of the southwest corner (red polygons). As the first edition of this sheet dates to 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 1958 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 Seelo Charlie Solar PV footprint: 2627AD Carletonville Edition 1 1958. The 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**, the 1958 edition map depicts no heritage features inside the project footprint. However, two heritage features are depicted outside the project footprint. A small homestead (1 hut) and a ruin are depicted just outside (west) of the north-west corner of the footprint area and two homesteads and a ruin are depicted a short distance north of the southwest corner (red polygons).

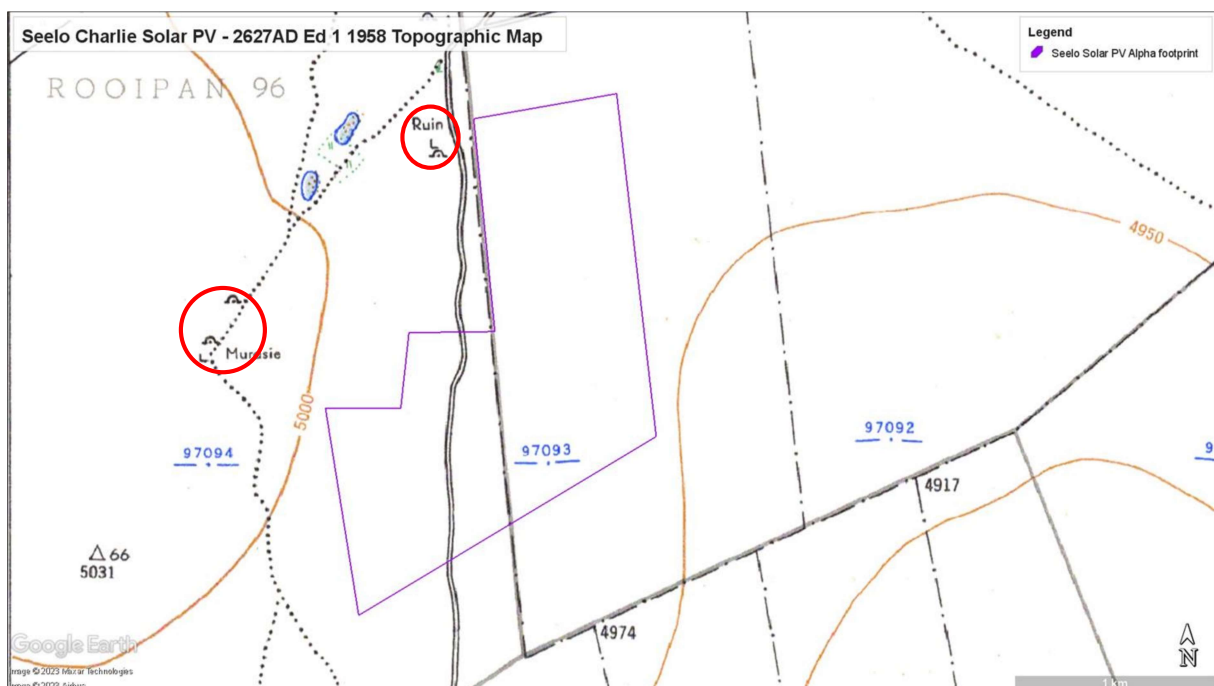


Figure 2: Enlarged view of topographic map 2627AD Ed 1 1958, depicting no heritage features within the Seelo Charlie Solar PV footprint. However, two heritage features are depicted outside the project footprint. A small homestead (1 hut) and a ruin are depicted just outside (west) of the north-west corner of the footprint area and two homesteads and a ruin are depicted a short distance north of the southwest corner (red polygons).

On-site Inspection

The project area terrain is situated on the central-east section of Portion 1 of Farm 96 (Rooipan) and the south-western section of Portion 2 of the Farm 58 (Leeuwpan). The general area is covered mostly

with grassland which varies from shorter to long and dense. The terrain is mostly flat. The current use of the property is cattle farming (grazing). The surrounding area contains dolomite outcrops as well as quartzite/sandstone outcrops.

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 Charlie Solar PV footprint area. However, the long and dense grass cover in some areas increases the possibility that not all heritage resources were identified, especially possible informal graves. A cluster of ruined buildings was identified approximately 817m to the south-east, outside the project area footprint; but these are unlikely to be 60 years or older and have no heritage value.

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 Charlie Solar PV project footprint, since the extent of the study area is larger than 5000m², 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, other vegetation and occasional acacia trees or shrubs



Figure 4: General View of vegetation covering most of the project footprint