HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

In terms of Section 38(8) of the NHRA for the

Proposed Development of the Hoodia PV Facility and Associated Infrastructure on Remaining Extent (Portion 0) of Farm 423 near Beaufort West, Western Cape

Prepared by CTS Heritage



For Hoodia PV (Pty) Ltd

November 2021



1. Site Name:

Hoodia PV Facility

2. Location:

Remaining Extent of Farm 423

3. Locality Plan:

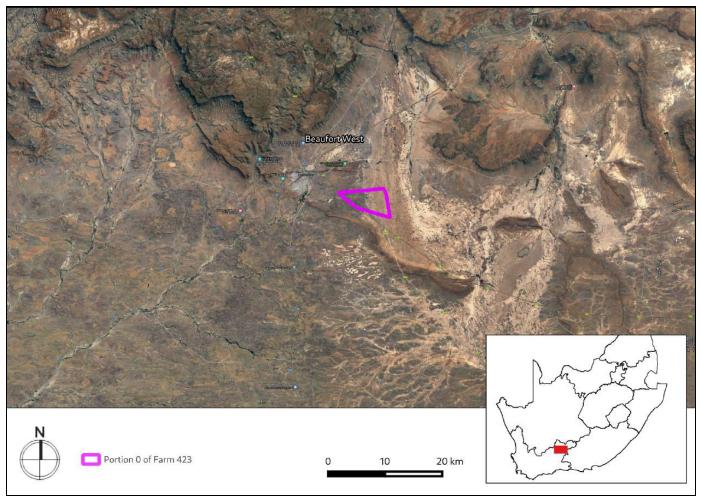


Figure 1: Location of the proposed development area

4. Description of Proposed Development:

Hoodia PV (Pty) Ltd, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), the Applicant, proposes the development of a 100 MW (AC) solar photovoltaic (PV) facility, as well as associated infrastructure on the Remaining Extent (Portion 0) of Farm 423 near the town of Beaufort West in the Western Cape Province. The solar PV facility will be known as Hoodia PV (hereafter referred to as "the facility"). The study area falls within the jurisdiction of the Beaufort West



Municipality and the greater Central Karoo District Municipality, as well as the Beaufort West Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ) (REDZ11).

Five additional 100 MW PV facilities are concurrently being considered on the property and are assessed through separate Basic Assessment processes, namely:

- Bulskop PV;
- Hardeveld PV;
- Rosenia PV:
- Salsola PV; and
- Gamka PV.

The facility will comprise of solar PV technology with fixed, single or double axis tracking mounting structures, with a net generation (contracted) capacity of 100 MW_{AC} (MegaWatts), as well as associated infrastructure, which will include:

- On-site substation / collector switching station;
- Auxiliary buildings (gate-house and security, control centre, office, warehouse, canteen & visitors centre, staff lockers etc.);
- Inverter-stations, transformers and internal electrical reticulation (underground cabling);
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS);
- Access and internal road network;
- Temporary and permanent laydown areas;
- Rainwater tanks; and
- Perimeter fencing and security infrastructure.

The facility intends to connect to the National Grid via the Droerivier Main Transmission Substation (MTS) (approximately 15 km west of the facility), however, the grid connection infrastructure associated with this grid solution is being assessed as part of a separate application.

5. Heritage Resources Identified:

The findings of this assessment largely correlate with the findings of other assessments completed in the vicinity such as the findings of the ACO (2013, SAHRIS NID 503074) who note that "Because of the scarcity of caves and shelters, more than 90% of Karoo archaeological sites are open sites of stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments and occasionally, pottery. Bone remains are rarely preserved. Artefacts of both the Early and Middle Stone Age are widespread and may generally be described as an ancient litter that occurs at a low frequency across the landscape." This same archaeological signature has been identified within the development footprint.

It is noted that high numbers of quarried stone artefacts predominantly from the Middle Stone Age period were

found on this property which is consistent with observations on neighbouring farms through impact assessments

and research surveys. These artefacts are particularly visible in deflated open sites where the top soil has washed

away onto a harder gravel surface. No shelters were found on the property and no rock paintings, graves or

engravings were located.

Given the very sparse occurrence of recorded fossils in the region, and their unpredictable occurrence, it is

concluded that the Hoodia PV facility is of LOW palaeosensitivity. No further specialist palaeontological studies or

mitigation are recommended for this electrical infrastructure project. The Chance Fossil Finds Protocol appended

to this report should be included in the EMPr for the developments.

No mitigation measures are recommended from a cultural landscape perspective given the low heritage

significance of the landscape directly affected by the project and the low impact on the broader landscape

context.

Based on the assessments completed, few sensitive heritage resources of low local cultural value have been

identified within or in proximity to the proposed development footprint. These include the R61, Hansrivier

Farmhouse Complex, an MSA artefact scatter and a small fossil exposure.

6. Anticipated Impacts on Heritage Resources:

No impact to the identified heritage resources is anticipated from the proposed development of the Hoodia PV

Facility. As such, the proposed development is acceptable from a heritage perspective and there is no objection to

its authorisation from a heritage perspective.

7. Recommendations:

Based on the outcomes of this report, it is not anticipated that the proposed development of the solar PV facility

will negatively impact on significant heritage resources. The following recommendations are made:

The HWC Chance Fossil Finds Procedure must be implemented for the duration of construction activities

Although all possible care has been taken to identify sites of cultural importance during the investigation

of the study area, it is always possible that hidden or subsurface sites could be overlooked during the

assessment. If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures,

indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash

concentrations), fossils, burials or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed

development, work must cease in the vicinity of the find and HWC must be alerted immediately to

determine an appropriate way forward.

Cedar Tower Services (Pty) Ltd t/a CTS Heritage

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8. Author/s and Date:Jenna LavinOctober 2021



Details of Specialist who prepared the HIA

Jenna Lavin, an archaeologist with an MSc in Archaeology and Palaeoenvironments, and currently completing an MPhil in Conservation Management, heads up the heritage division of the organisation, and has a wealth of experience in the heritage management sector. Jenna's previous position as the Assistant Director for Policy, Research and Planning at Heritage Western Cape has provided her with an in-depth understanding of national and international heritage legislation. Her 8 years of experience at various heritage authorities in South Africa means that she has dealt extensively with permitting, policy formulation, compliance and heritage management at national and provincial level and has also been heavily involved in rolling out training on SAHRIS to the Provincial Heritage Resources Authorities and local authorities.

Jenna is on the Executive Committee of the Association of Professional Heritage Practitioners (APHP), and is also an active member of the International Committee on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) as well as the International Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM). In addition, Jenna has been a member of the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) since 2009. Recently, Jenna has been responsible for conducting training in how to write Wikipedia articles for the Africa Centre's WikiAfrica project.

Since 2016, Jenna has drafted over 250 Screening and Heritage Impact Assessments throughout South Africa.



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Information on Project

Hoodia PV (Pty) Ltd, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), the Applicant, proposes the development of a 100 MW (AC) solar photovoltaic (PV) facility, as well as associated infrastructure on the Remaining Extent (Portion 0) of Farm 423 near the town of Beaufort West in the Western Cape Province. The solar PV facility will be known as Hoodia PV (hereafter referred to as "the facility"). The study area falls within the jurisdiction of the Beaufort West Municipality and the greater Central Karoo District Municipality, as well as the Beaufort West Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ) (REDZ11).

Five additional 100 MW PV facilities are concurrently being considered on the property and are assessed through separate Basic Assessment processes, namely:

- Bulskop PV;
- Hardeveld PV;
- Rosenia PV;
- Salsola PV; and
- Gamka PV.

The facility will comprise of solar PV technology with fixed, single or double axis tracking mounting structures, with a net generation (contracted) capacity of 100 MW_{AC} (MegaWatts), as well as associated infrastructure, which will include:

- On-site substation / collector switching station;
- Auxiliary buildings (gate-house and security, control centre, office, warehouse, canteen & visitors centre, staff lockers etc.);
- Inverter-stations, transformers and internal electrical reticulation (underground cabling);
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS);
- Access and internal road network;
- Temporary and permanent laydown areas;
- Rainwater tanks; and
- Perimeter fencing and security infrastructure.

The facility intends to connect to the National Grid via the Droerivier Main Transmission Substation (MTS) (approximately 15 km west of the facility), however, the grid connection infrastructure associated with this grid solution is being assessed as part of a separate application.



Table 1.1: Project Details - Applicant Details

| Applicant Details | Description |
|------------------------------|--|
| Applicant Name: | Hoodia PV (Pty) Ltd |
| | Hoodia PV (Pty) Ltd is a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) incorporated for the sole purpose of developing, constructing, and operating a proposed 100 MW solar PV facility located on the Farm 423 Portion 0. |
| Company Registration Number: | 2021/860718/07 |
| BBBEE Status: | n/a |
| Project Name: | Hoodia PV |

Table 1.2: Project Details - Site Details

| Site Details | Description | Size |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Size of the property: | Description and Size in hectares of the affected property. | Farm 423 Portion 0. Total Property Size: 2667.0374 ha |
| Size of the study area | This includes the total footprint of PV panels, auxiliary buildings, onsite substation, BESS, inverter stations and internal roads | 2667.0374 ha |
| Development Footprint | This includes the total footprint of PV panels, auxiliary buildings, onsite substation, BESS, inverter stations and internal roads | Approximately 241ha |

Table 1.3: Project Details - Technology Details

| TECHNOLOGY DETAILS | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Capacity of the facility | Capacity of facility (in MW) | Net generation (contracted) capacity of up to100MWac |



| Solar Technology selection | Type of technology | Solar photovoltaic (PV) technology (monofacial or bifacial) with fixed, single or double axis tracking mounting structures, as well as associated infrastructure, which will include: • Laydown area. • Access and Internal Road network. • Auxiliary buildings (33kV switch room, gatehouse and security, control centre, office, warehouse, canteen & visitors centre, staff lockers etc.). • Facility substation. • Inverter-station, transformers and internal electrical reticulation (underground cabling). • Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). • Rainwater Tanks; and • Perimeter fencing and security infrastructure. |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| | Structure height | Solar panels with a maximum height of ± 5.5m above the ground |
| | Surface area to be covered | Approximately 241 ha (including associated infrastructure such as all buildings and internal roads) |
| | Structure orientation | Fixed-tilt: north-facing at a defined angle of tilt, or Single or double axis tracking: mounted in a north-south orientation, tracking from east to west. |
| | Laydown area dimensions | Approximately 2-5 ha laydown area will be required for each PV facility (the laydown areas will not exceed 5ha and will be situated within the assessed footprint). |
| | BESS | A technical report will be sent which includes the details of the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). • Area: up to ± 4 ha • Capacity: Unspecified (we would prefer to only limit the physical size) • Technology: Solid-state/ non-liquid type batteries, |

Table 1.4: Project Details - Technology Details

| Own-Build Gri | d Connection | |
|---------------|--|---|
| | Size and capacity of on-site substation | It is estimated that the maximum size of each facility substation will not exceed 1ha. The facility substation will collect the power from the facility and transform it from medium voltage (up to 33kV) to high voltage (132 kV). |
| | Length and capacity of on-site powerlines / cabling. | Each facility will require inverter-stations, transformers, switchgear and internal electrical reticulation (underground cabling). |



| Auxiliary Infrastru | octure | |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Other infrastructure | Additional Infrastructure | Auxiliary buildings of approximately 1 ha, including (but not limited to) a 33kV switch room, a gate house, ablutions, workshops, storage and warehousing areas, site offices and a control centre. Rainwater tanks; and Electrified perimeter fencing not exceeding 5 m in height. |
| | Details of access roads | The main access roads will not exceed 10m in width. The access road will comprise of a new road, as well as the expansion of sections of the existing farm road. |
| | Details of internal roads | A network of gravel internal access roads and perimeter roads with a width of up to ± 5 m, will be constructed to provide access to the various components of each facility. |
| | Extent of areas required for laydown of materials and equipment | Approximately 2-5 ha of laydown areas will be required during construction (laydown areas will not exceed 5 ha). A permanent laydown area of a maximum of 1 ha will remain. |

Table 1.5: Project Details - Component Details

| COMPONENT DETAILS | Description/ Dimensions |
|--|---|
| Location of the site | Approximately 13 km south east of Beaufort West town along the R61 road. |
| Respective surface areas to be covered by different components of the project (including associated infrastructure such as roads, buildings, etc.) which when combined make up the full development footprint. | PV structures/ modules area: Approximately 218 ha. Laydown area: 2 - 5 ha Access Road: Approximately 4 ha Internal roads Approximately 8 ha Onsite Facility substation: Up to 1 ha Ancillary Buildings: Up to 1 ha Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): Up to 4 ha |
| SG Codes | C0090000000042300000 |
| Preferred Site access | The main site access point will be via a new access point off the R61 as indicated in the KMZ as the preferred alternative. |
| | A 10m wide and approximately 5 km long main gravel/hard surfaced access road will be constructed to provide direct access to the Hoodia PV facility. The road will be tarred if necessary. |
| | A network of gravel internal access roads, each with a width of up to ± 5 m, will be constructed to provide access to the various components of the Hoodia PV development. |



| Export capacity | Up to 100 MWac |
|--|---|
| Proposed technology | Monofacial or Bifacial PV panels, mounted on either fixed-tilt, single-axis tracking, and/or double-axis tracking systems |
| Height of installed panels from ground level | Solar panels with a maximum height of ± 5.5 m from above the ground. |

1.2 Description of Property and Affected Environment

The Remaining Extent (Portion 0) of Farm 423 (hereafter referred to as "the study area") holds the area envisaged for the solar PV facility (hereafter referred to as the "development footprint"). The study area lies south and southeast of Beaufort West and is abutted by the R61 main road to Graaff-Reinet along the western boundary. The Hansrivier farm, currently abandoned, lies to the west of the study area. The entire study area was surveyed in order to inform the layouts of the solar PV facility.

The site is located in the Karoo Region of the Western Cape. It is within the arid zone of South Africa where the rainfall is low and erratic, and where the main farming activity is sheep and goat production. Crop production in general only takes place where there is irrigation water available. Occasionally, opportunistic cropping is practiced and then only after rainwater has been stored in the soil profile do the crops have a regional chance to mature. Remaining Extent (Portion 0) of Farm 423 is currently used for small livestock grazing. According to the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) the land falls into Class vii. It is considered as low potential land suitable for livestock and conservation.

The landscape on the eastern side of Farm 423 is almost entirely flat besides one or two areas closer to the farmhouse where the slope gradient changes ever so slightly by a few metres. This area is denoted in the "Lower Plaat Doorns" area of the Council for Geosciences Map 3222 and mainly consists of hard baked Quaternary sands in a long dune cordon that extends north, south and eastwards of this property.

The vegetation has all but completely died off due to an extremely long period of drought in the Beaufort West area (approximately 5 years). We did not see many grazing animals during the survey and even reptiles and small antelope were scarce. A few meerkats and hares were observed as well as birdlife. The ground was easy to cover and visibility was excellent. Naturally occurring hornfels, greywacke and siltstones are abundant and litter the level plain. A high game fence forms the eastern boundary of the property and a few water tanks, mainly abandoned or demolished, were found dotted across the farm.

According to the Cultural Landscape Assessment (2021, Appendix 3), the site is characterised by the following:



- Regional location within the Great Karoo which is a vast arid area with a dispersed pattern of settlement, extensive stock farms, more recent game farms and irrigation based agriculture along the rivers; the vegetation cover is low, consistent with the Nama Karoo Biome.
- Location to the south of the regional centre of Beaufort West which dates to the late 18th century; town is framed by the Nuweveld escarpment to the north, lies between the Gamka and Kuils Rivers (normally dry) and on the outskirts lies the 75 000 hectare Karoo National Park; urban fringe activities to the south-east of the town, namely new cemetery and waste water treatment works.
- Site bordered by the R61.
- No significant landscape or built environment features are located on the site.
- Steenbokkie Private Nature Reserve abuts the study area to the north
- Long views towards the Nuweveld escarpment add scenic value.
- Eskom power lines traverse the site and the Steenbokkie Private Nature Reserve.
- Located within the Beaufort West REDZ and in close proximity to other proposed solar power facilities.



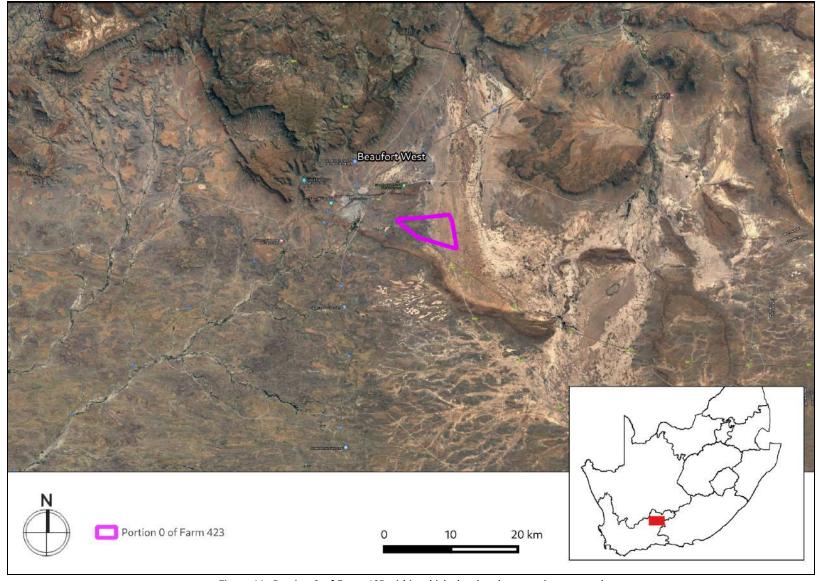


Figure 1.1: Portion 0 of Farm 423 within which the development is proposed





Figure 1.2: The proposed development layout of Hoodia PV facility in relation to other PV facilities associated with the Bulskop PV cluster (subject to separate HIAs)



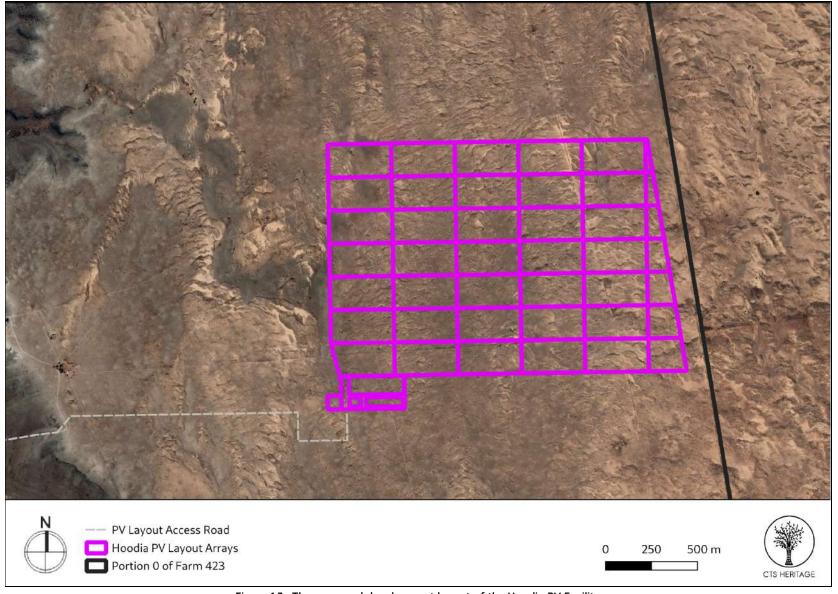


Figure 1.3: The proposed development layout of the Hoodia PV Facility

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Purpose of HIA

The purpose of this Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is to satisfy the requirements of section 38(8), and therefore section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999), as well as Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014.

2.2 Summary of steps followed

- A Desktop Study was conducted of relevant reports previously written (please see the reference list for the age and nature of the reports used)
- An archaeologist conducted an assessment of archaeological resources likely to be disturbed by the proposed development. The archaeologist conducted his site visit from 6 to 9 September 2021
- A palaeontologist conducted an assessment of palaeontological resources likely to be disturbed by the proposed development. The archaeologist conducted his site visit from 4 to 5 September 2021
- A cultural landscape assessment was conducted that covers the proposed development area with fieldwork completed on 10 and 11 October 2021 The results of this assessment were incorporated into this HIA.
- The identified resources were assessed to evaluate their heritage significance
- Anticipated impacts to these resources were identified and assessed.
- Alternatives and mitigation options were discussed with the Environmental Assessment Practitioner

2.3 Assumptions and uncertainties

- The *significance* of the sites and artefacts is determined by means of their historical, social, aesthetic, technological and scientific value in relation to their uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. It must be kept in mind that the various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and that the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these.
- It should be noted that archaeological and palaeontological deposits often occur below ground level. Should artefacts or skeletal material be revealed at the site during construction, such activities should be halted, and it would be required that the heritage consultants are notified for an investigation and evaluation of the find(s) to take place.

However, despite this, sufficient time and expertise was allocated to provide an accurate assessment of the heritage sensitivity of the area.

2.4 Constraints & Limitations

Although the entire study area (inclusive of the development area) was surveyed, at the time of the survey the

final layouts of the solar PV facilities were not yet finalised. However, based on preliminary layout proposals, the

ground was intensively surveyed in the eastern section in anticipation of the location of solar PV installations with

two long traverses made across the entire length of the study area from east to west.

The prolonged drought in the area has resulted in large areas of denuded vegetation and this greatly contributed

to the excellent visibility of Stone Age and historical material scattered on the ground. We were therefore able to

achieve a high degree of coverage during the survey which accurately characterises the level of heritage

sensitivities encountered in the study area.

The experience of the heritage practitioner, and observations made during the study, allow us to predict with

some accuracy the archaeological sensitivity of the receiving environment.

HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF THE SITE AND CONTEXT

3.1 Desktop Assessment

Background:

The area proposed for the Hoodia PV facility is located approximately 6km south of Beaufort West, east of the

R61, and within the identified Beaufort West REDZ. Beaufort West was the first town to be established in the

central Karoo.

Archaeology

A number of heritage assessments have been completed within close proximity to the area proposed for

development (Figure 2). According to Nilssen (2014, SAHRIS NID 504763), "The Karoo houses a long and rich

archaeological record dating from the earliest stages of Stone Age technology that are over a million years old,

to the historic period that consists of the last few hundred years of human occupation (see Nilssen 2011 and

references therein). Archaeological sites include caves and rock shelters, open air artefact scatters, rock

engravings and historic structures with their associated cultural materials." According to ACO (2013, SAHRIS NID

503074), "Because of the scarcity of caves and shelters, more than 90% of Karoo archaeological sites are open

sites of stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments and occasionally, pottery. Bone remains are rarely preserved.

Artefacts of both the Early and Middle Stone Age are widespread and may generally be described as an ancient

litter that occurs at a low frequency across the landscape. Where definable scatters of Early and Middle Stone

Age material occur, they are considered to be significant heritage sites. More intensive occupation of the Karoo

started around 13 000 years ago during the Later Stone Age, which is essentially the heritage of Khoisan groups

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who lived throughout the region. The legacy of the San includes numerous open sites while traces of their presence can also be found in most large rock shelters, often in the form of rock art. They frequently settled a short distance from permanent water sources (springs or waterholes) and made use of natural shelters such as rock outcrops or large boulders or even large bushes. In the Great Karoo natural elevated features such as dolerite dykes and ridges played a significant role in San settlement patterns."

Palaeontology

According to the SAHRIS Palaeosensitivity Map (Figure 4a), the area proposed for development is underlain by sediments of very high paleontological sensitivity. According to the extract from the Council for GeoSciences Map 3222 for Beaufort West, the development area is underlain by the Abrahamskraal and Teekloof Formations, both of the Adelaide Subgroup of the Beaufort Group of sediments. According to the SAHRIS Fossil Heritage Browser and the Palaeotechnic Report for the Western Cape (Almond and Pether, 2008), the Beaufort Group sediments are known to preserve diverse terrestrial and freshwater tetrapods of *Tapinocephalus* to *Lystrosaurus* Biozones (amphibians, true reptiles, synapsids – especially therapsids), palaeoniscoid fish, freshwater bivalves, trace fossils (including tetrapod trackways) and sparse vascular plants (*Glossopteris* Flora, including petrified wood). According to a map included in Almond (2011, SAHRIS NID 503273), the area proposed for development is located within the Pristerognathus Assemblage Zone of the Beaufort Group and a number of significant fossils have been identified in the immediate context of the proposed development in the academic literature (Figure 4c, Appendix 2). Based on the known paleontological sensitivity of this area, it is very likely that activities associated with the development of the proposed grid connection will negatively impact on significant fossil heritage.



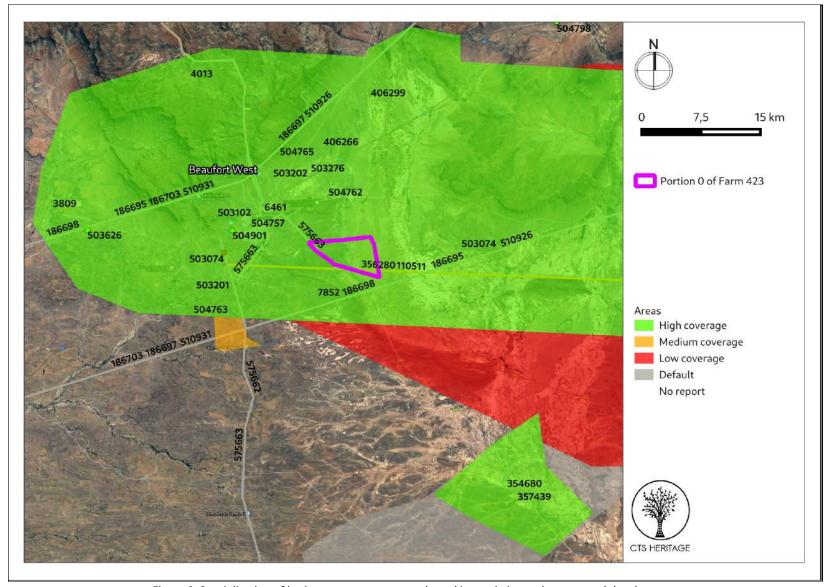


Figure 2: Spatialisation of heritage assessments conducted in proximity to the proposed development

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Historic settlement and the Cultural Landscape (Winter et al. 2021)

The name 'Karoo' has its roots in the Khoisan word meaning 'place of great dryness'. It once supported large grassy flatlands and the San and Khoekhoen migrated across the region for hunting and gazing purposes. Less than two hundred years ago large herds of antelope still roamed the grass plains. With the occupation of the area by stock farmers the sheep gradually replaced the game and the grass receded along with changing grazing and weather patterns (Winter et al 2009; Winter & Oberholzer 2013). By the late 17th century, the Khoenhoen had moved from the region into the more water-rich southern Karoo and the coastal plains. During the early colonial period, the harshness of the Karoo region formed an almost impenetrable barrier from the Cape to the interior for colonial explorers, hunters and travellers. The 18th century was characterized by a marked increase in the rate of expansion of the boundaries of the settlement at the Cape. This was associated with the emergence of the migrant stock farmer (trekboer) (Guelke 1982 In Winter et al 2009). Early routes into the interior largely followed the tracks initially used by migrating herds of game or the cattle herds and sheep flocks of the Khoekhoen on their seasonal route between coastal and inland grazing grounds. These routes were later reinforced by generations of trek farmers moving between the markets at the Cape and their farms (Winter et al 2009).

Permanent settlement of the region only really occurred in the 19th century with towns being established near permanent water sources. It was during this period that Beaufort West was established as a drostdy in 1818 on the farm Hooyvlakte. In the same year, a mission station was established at Kookfontein, just outside Beaufort West (Winter et al 2009) but was disbanded within three years. With the occupation of the area by stock farmers, sheep replaced game, the grass receded, and farmers became suppliers of fresh meat to the refreshment station in place of Khoe (Guelke 1982 In Winter et al 2009). Expansion was fiercely opposed by the San, who resisted alienation from water sources until forcibly suppressed by the 1790s. Other new arrivals to the Central Karoo include Xhosa, alienated from their grazing lands in the eastern Cape (Anderson 1985).

British colonial rule from 1806 brought a new land ownership policy that transferred loan farms to perpetual quitrent. This imposed "settled agriculture", unsustainable without large land parcels and sure access to water, which further dispossessed Khoe, Xhosa and many of the poorer trekboers unable to fit the legal system. They were pushed beyond the escarpment or subjugated to a life of labour, and were replaced by wealthy farming burghers, merchants and officials (Anderson 1985, Guelke Shell 1992).

Beaufort West became the first municipality in South Africa on 3 February 1837 and had the country's first town hall. When the railroad reached the town in 1880 it became a marshalling yard and locomotive depot and today it is the largest town in the Karoo. A number of the significant heritage resources located in close proximity to the proposed development are located within Beaufort West and are associated with the early colonial history of the town (Figure 3a and Appendix 1).



The proposed development is located only 10km to 15km from the N1 and almost immediately adjacent to the R61 which is identified as a secondary scenic route in the Western Cape PSDF (2014). Furthermore, the proposed development is located within a scenic corridor on the approach to Beaufort West from Cape Town within an area that has limited topography (Figure 4).



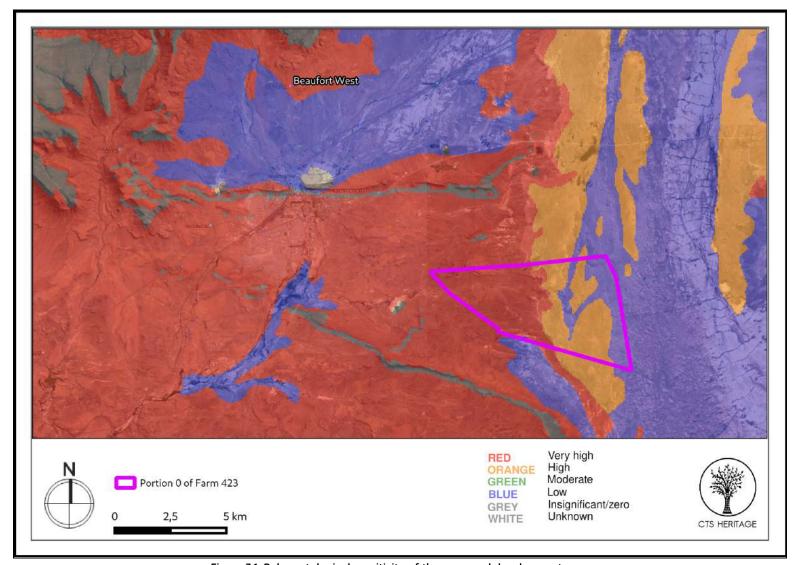


Figure 3.1: Palaeontological sensitivity of the proposed development area



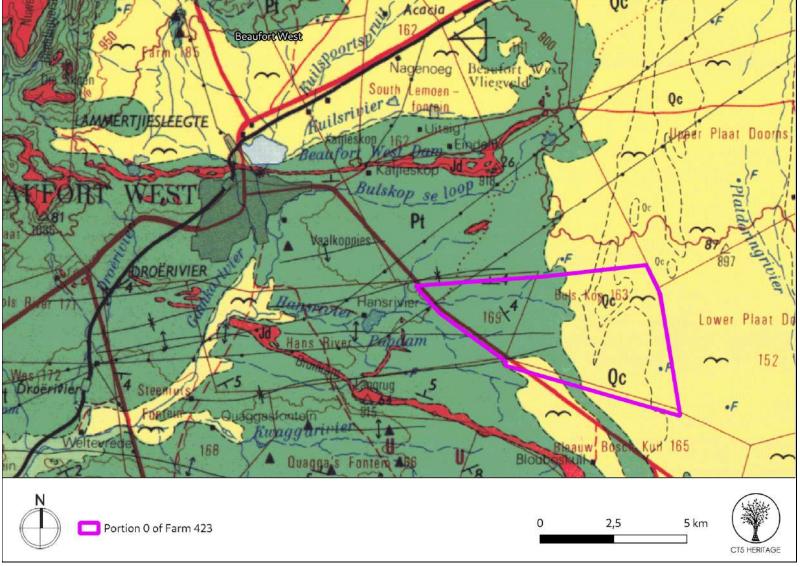


Figure 3.2: Geology Map. Extracted from the Council for GeoSciences Map 3222 for Beaufort West indicating that the development area is underlain by Pa: Abrahamskraal Formation and Pt: Teekloof Formation, both of the Adelaide Subgroup of the Beaufort Group of sediments



Table 2: Explanation of symbols for the geological map and approximate ages

| Symbol | Group/Formation | Description |
|--------|---|--|
| Pt | Teekloof Formation, mainly Poortjie Member | The age of the upper Poortjie beds as determined from volcanogenic tuff marker beds is c. 260 – 258 Ma (i.e. latest Capitanian to earliest Wuchiapingian), spanning the key stratigraphic boundary between the Middle and Late Permian Period (Day & Smith 2020). The sedimentology of the Abrahamskraal – Teekloof transition has been addressed recently by Paiva (2015) |
| Jd | Karoo Dolerite Suite | The prominent-weathering dyke ridge, with a steeper SW scarp and gentler NE slopes mantled by doleritic colluvial gravels, stands out clearly as a rusty-brown strip on satellite images and is associated with local baking of the country rocks to pale quartzite and darker hornfels |
| Qc | Late caenozoic calcrete and alluvium | Sandstone gravels here are ultimately derived from a broad belt of coarse alluvial deposits related to ancient Caenozoic drainage systems draining the Great Escarpment, as reflected in the deep notch in the Escarpment due north of the site and the relict Platdoringrivier drainage line further to the east. |

4. IDENTIFICATION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES

4.1 Summary of findings of Specialist Reports

Cultural Landscape and the Built Environment (Winter et al. 2021, Appendix 3)

Cultural landscape assessments typically require assessments at various scales including regional, site and individual elements scales. The context of this particular study area is different in that there are very few features

or structuring elements that create variations across the landscape.

As a general statement the landscape of the study area is an open, barren, featureless and homogenous

landscape with little variation in topography, land use and vegetation. It compromises very few productive

elements in terms of agriculture and built form. The only distinctive features are long distance views towards the

Nuweveld escarpment to the north. The primary structuring element at the broader landscape scale is the

escarpment immediately to the north above the N1. Embedded within this landscape is the Karoo National Park

and historic/scenic routes and passes. The secondary structuring element is the route network and settlement

pattern centred on Beaufort West which is at the confluence of the N1, N12 and R61.

The R61 borders the site to the west. The R61 could be considered to have some significance as an important

linkage route and in traversing a representative karoo landscape of what is colloquially known as 'Die Vlakte' - a

vast, open, flat landscape with a dispersed pattern of settlement. This landscape does not constitute a heritage

resource from a cultural landscape perspective and the R61 does not warrant scenic drive status. There are no

landscape and built features worthy of formal protection from a cultural landscape perspective. There are a

series of koppies located immediately to the east of the R61 which provide a degree of visual interest. The

proposed PV facility is located beyond these koppies at a lower level on a flat, featureless, sandy plain which

provides a degree of visual screening.

The Steenbokkie Private Nature Reserve is located immediately to the north of the site but does not constitute a

heritage resource from a cultural landscape perspective with power lines running through the landscape. The site

is located some 10km away from the historic core of Beaufort West but bares no visual-spatial relationship. The

site is separated from the town by an existing infrastructural corridor and urban fringe activities located

immediately to the south-east of Beaufort West.

In summary, the site cannot be regarded as a cultural landscape worthy of formal protection.

No structures were identified within the development footprint. The nearest known structure is the Hansrivier

farmhouse complex (BLK055) (approximately 8 km to the west of the development footprint) which is currently

abandoned and consists of the main farmhouse, painted yellow with a green corrugated roof and outbuildings as

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well as vandalised/ruined labourers cottages (see Table 2). The farm was recently advertised for tourism proposals through a tender on the Beaufort West Municipality's website. Most of the buildings seen at the farms incorporated in the study area are modern and are not older than 60 years. This structure is located some distance from the proposed development and no impact is anticipated (see Figure 7 in the Archaeology Impact Assessment, Appendix 1).

Archaeology (Appendix 1)

Middle Stone Age artefacts are dominant with a smaller amount of Later Stone Age material. The MSA artefacts also appeared to hold two different subsets - an early MSA, or possibly a late ESA assemblage and a typical later MSA assemblage likely dating to the last 100 000 years. The artefacts were found on the surface in deflated areas and it is difficult to determine the date range purely based on the typology of the material found, however, further studies may find a continuous occupation record throughout the MSA.

The artefactual material was rarely retouched and volumes at each assessed location were low as no significant source outcrops of raw stone materials were found. It appears that hunter-gatherers moved through this part of the landscape, sampling the smaller cobbles and leaving a couple of struck flakes at a time over a widely dispersed area which can be attributed to the long period over which this pattern of behaviour took place. Higher concentrations of material will no doubt be found closer to the main water sources and natural shelters formed in kloofs surrounding the area. Most of the cobbles were extremely weathered, patinated by desert varnish and submersion in mud and dust over millennia. 79 locations spread across the study area were assessed with most (75) holding MSA or LSA open-site materials dominated by greywacke, siltstones and hornfels. Besides various small farm dams and windmills spread evenly throughout the farms, historical layering is concentrated at the Hansrivier farmhouse complex which is situated approximately 7 km to the west of the development footprint.

When moving closer to the river courses, thicker fluvial sands seemed to obscure the amount of artefacts seen and it is likely that previous flooding events have shifted the position of MSA material in these areas. Artefact visibility increased as one moved about 100-200m away from the river courses. Small dolerite outcrops east of the Hansrivier farm dam were also assessed but no engravings were found. The proposed Hoodia PV site is not located in proximity to any dolerite outcrops or river courses.

Palaeontology (Appendix 2)

The development footprint is situated on the margins of the Aberdeen Vlaktes, an ancient land surface of possible Miocene age. The Lower Beaufort Group (Permian) bedrocks here are entirely covered by a thick calcrete hardpan and reworked sandy to gravelly alluvial deposits of low palaeosensitivity.

The provisional palaeosensitivity mapping for the Bulskop PV Cluster, based on the DFFE Screening Tool and SAHRIS website, is *contested* in the palaeontological report. Potentially-fossiliferous Lower Beaufort Group sediments are not exposed in the PV cluster project area while the surface cover of Late Caenozoic calcretes, surface gravels and finer-grained soils are generally of low palaeosensitivity in the Great Karoo region. An overall LOW palaeosensitivity for the combined PV cluster areas is inferred here, although the potential for isolated vertebrate fossil finds of high scientific interest – as recorded elsewhere in the Beaufort West region - cannot be completely discounted.

4.2 Heritage Resources identified

The Cultural Landscape Assessment identified low levels of significance of the study area and its landscape context. Only one aspect of the broader study area was identified to have some cultural significance - it was noted that the R61 could be considered as an important linkage route and in traversing a representative karoo landscape of what is colloquially known as 'Die Vlakte' The proposed development of the Hoodia PV Facility may negatively impact on how this linkage route is experienced (Figure 4). While considered a heritage resource, the Karoo National Park is located sufficiently far from the proposed development to warrant no further analysis in this assessment.

There are two broad heritage related indicators that have been identified in the Cultural Landscape Assessment in terms of the siting and layout of the PV cluster that would mitigate negative impact to the cultural landscape significance of the study area and its landscape context:

- The siting of the PV facility to be set back from the R61 by a minimum of 800m and to make use of the slight change in topography to the east as the preferred location for the facility. This area is referred to as the 'sand pan area' on the cultural landscape elements diagram.

- To avoid slightly elevated topographical features within the scenic corridor of the R61.

The significant heritage resources identified in the archaeology field assessment are detailed in Table 3. Only one heritage resource (BLK030) of significance was identified approximately 1.6 km to the south west of the Hoodia PV development area during the field assessments conducted for the proposed PV facility. The remaining heritage resources were determined to be Not Conservation-Worthy and are discussed in more detail in Appendix 1 (Archaeology Impact Assessment).

A very sparse scatter of fossil sites of the Middle to Late Permian *Endothiodon* Assemblage Zone was recorded from the Lower Beaufort Group (Permian) bedrocks located in the broader study area during the site visit, comprising a few small dicynodont skulls within calcrete concretions weathering out from overbank mudrock facies, occasional robust fragments of rolled bone among ferruginous carbonate surface gravels and low

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diversity invertebrate trace fossil assemblages within channel sandstones. The only fossils recorded within the Late Caenozoic alluvial deposits are occasional calcretised termaria of possible Pleistocene or Holocene age. The Palaeozoic and Caenozoic fossil sites all lie approximately 1.5 km west of development area (See satellite map A1 in Appendix 1 of the PIA), most are of modest scientific or conservation value and no mitigation in their regard is recommended here (Table 4).

All the heritage resources identified and mentioned above are mapped relative to the proposed development footprint in section 4.3 below.



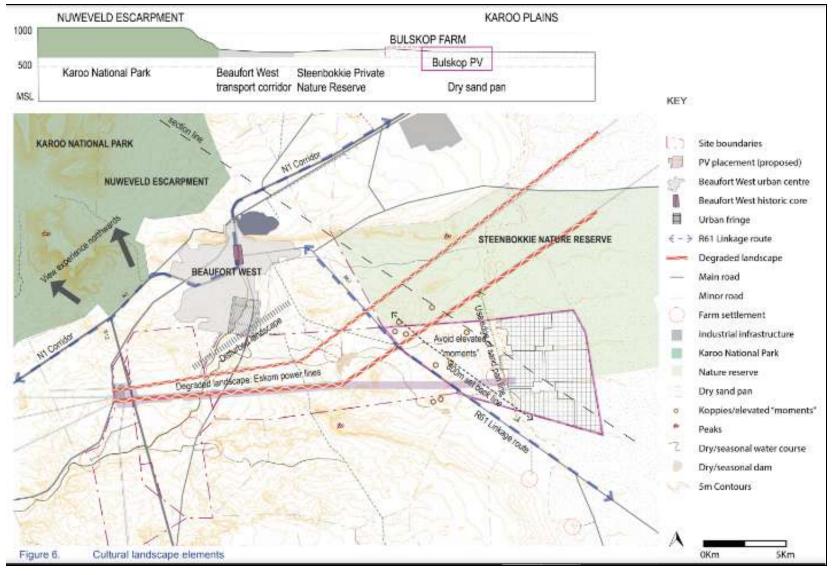


Figure 4: Cultural Landscape Elements Map from Winter et al. 2021 (Appendix 3)

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Table 3: Artefacts identified during the field assessment development area

| POINT ID | Site Name | Period | Description | Co-ordinates | | Grading | Mitigation |
|----------|-------------|----------|--|--------------|----------|---------|------------|
| | | | Open site with mixed raw materials, flakes, | | | | |
| | | | cores, siltstone, hornfels. Floodplain, vegetation | | | | |
| | | | slightly better condition here due to | | | | None |
| BLK 030 | Bulskop 030 | MSA | groundwater | -32.40809 | 22.69982 | IIIC | required |
| | | | Hansrivier farmhouse complex. Currently | | | | |
| | | | abandoned – consists of main farmhouse | | | | |
| | | | painted yellow with green corrugated roof and | | | | |
| | | Modern, | outbuildings as well as vandalised/ruined | | | | |
| BLK 055 | Bulskop 055 | Historic | labourers cottages. | -32.39148 | 22.62556 | IIIC | 50m Buffer |





Figure 5. Observation BLK030 (Grade IIIC)

Table 4: Palaeontological observations made during the field assessment for the proposed PV Facility

| POINT ID | Site Name | Description | Co-ordinates | | Grading | Mitigation |
|----------------|-----------------------|---|--------------|-----------|---------|------------|
| PAL_BLK 001 | Palaeo Bulskop 001 | Remaining Extent of Farm 423. Lower Beaufort Group ripple cross-laminated channel sandstones with small scale invertebrate burrows (Scoyenia ichnofacies), perhaps accompanied by reedy plant stem casts. Proposed Field Rating IIIC Local Resource. No mitigation necessary since fossil site lies outside project footprint. | -32.39218611 | 22.697825 | IIIC | None |



4.3 Mapping and spatialisation of heritage resources

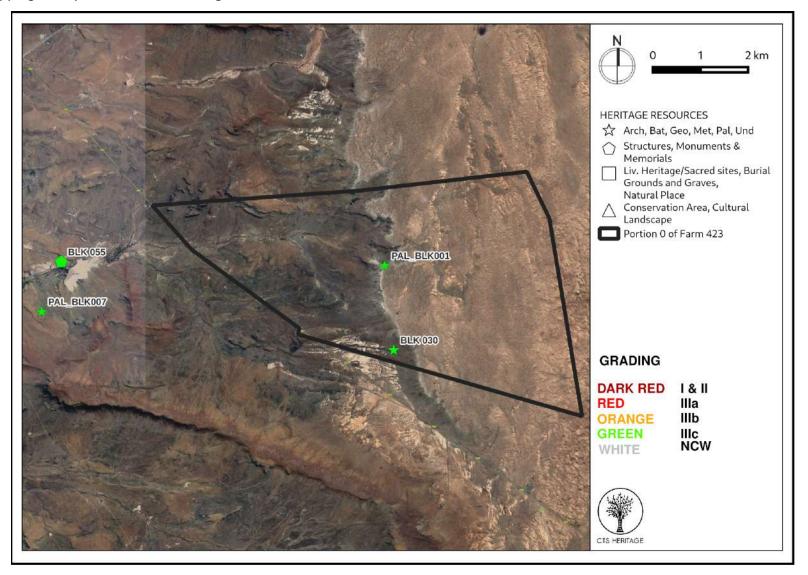


Figure 6.1: Map of significant heritage resources relative to the broader proposed development area



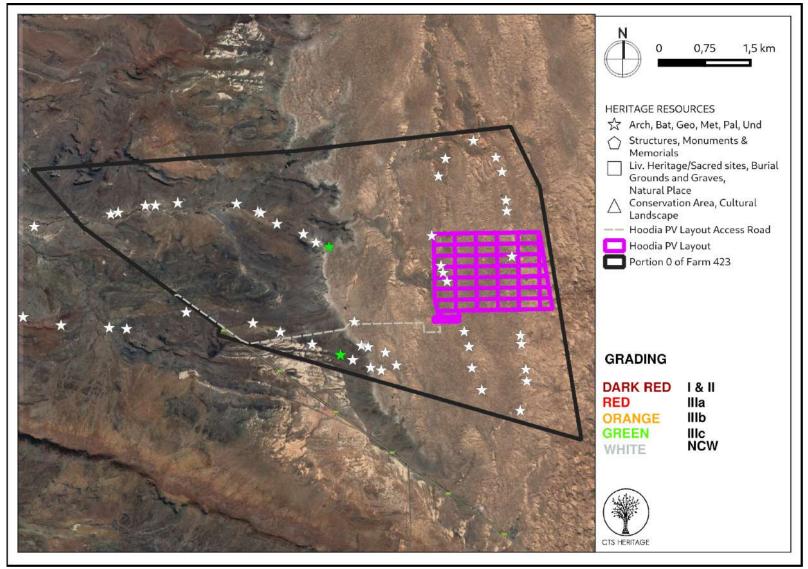


Figure 6.2: Map of heritage resources within the proposed development area

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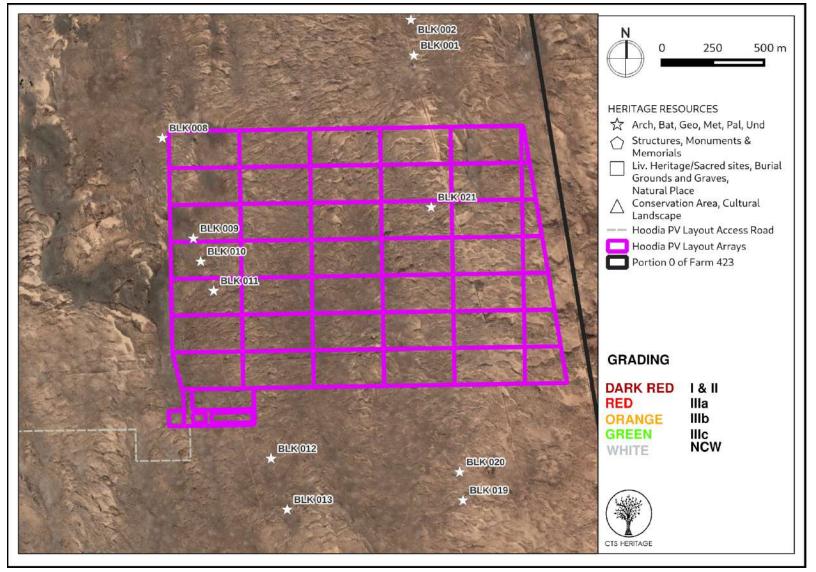


Figure 6.3: Map of heritage resources within the proposed development area

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ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Assessment of impact to Heritage Resources

Cultural Landscape

The Cultural Landscape Assessment identified the R61 as having some cultural value as a linking route through the flat Karoo landscape. The proposed location of the development footprint complies with the broad heritage indicators outlined in Section 4.2 (and repeated below) in terms of mitigating potential negative impacts:

- The PV facility is located 2 km to the east of the R61 at the nearest point and is located within a 'sand pan area' where a slight change in topography will provide visual screening.
- The project will have minimal impact on the Karoo National Park and associated escarpment due to distance, the location of the Beaufort West in between the project and Park and the existing infrastructural corridor as a dominant visual component in this immediate landscape.

No negative impact to any cultural landscape resources of heritage value are anticipated and no mitigation measures are recommended from a cultural landscape perspective given the low heritage significance of the landscape directly affected by the project and the low impact on the broader landscape context.

Archaeology

The proposed development will not have a negative impact on the heritage resources identified within the proposed development area for the PV facility. The majority of the lithic material identified is of low significance (not conservation-worthy), and even though the resources may be destroyed during construction, the impact is insignificant.

No mitigation is required for archaeological material recorded in the footprint areas of the proposed development. Despite the very high numbers of observations made, the archaeological material is ubiquitous across the entire area and in general, the results of this assessment indicate that the archaeological sensitivity of the development area is low.

Only one archaeological resource of contextual significance was identified (BLK030). This site has been sufficiently recorded and no further mitigation is recommended. Furthermore, based on the available layout, no impact to this site is anticipated as it is located well away from the Hoodia PV development footprint.



Palaeontology

Lower Beaufort Group sedimentary bedrocks are not exposed at all within the project areas for the PV facilities due to the thick capping of Late Caenozoic calcrete and overlying sandy to gravelly deposits associated with the ancient (possibly Miocene) land surface of the Aberdeen *Vlaktes*. No fossils of any sort- including the most likely candidates, blocks or resistant-weathering silicified wood reworked into surface gravels - were recorded within the PV footprint. Vertical sections through the calcrete hard pan along the escarpment edge to the west of the PV project area also yielded no fossil remains. Fossils which might be anticipated here include calcretised termitaria, rhizoliths (plant root casts) and gastropod shells. Cross-bedded Lower Beaufort Group channel sandstone exposed intermittently along the escarpment edge contain low-diversity trace fossil assemblages (horizontal and oblique burrows) of the *Scoyenia* Ichnofacies – possibly attributable to burrowing insects in damp substrates – and possible vertical casts of reedy plant stems (unconfirmed). None of these fossils are of high scientific or conservation value (Proposed Field Rating IIIC Local Resource) and the known fossil site lies just outside the project area so no mitigation is required here.

It is concluded that the Hoodia PV facility is of LOW palaeosensitivity and no impact to significant palaeontological heritage resources is anticipated. There are no fatal flaws or objections to authorisation of the proposed projects on palaeontological heritage grounds. No further specialist palaeontological studies or mitigation are recommended for these renewable energy projects. The Chance Fossil Finds Protocol appended to this report should be included in the EMPr for the developments.

5.2 Sustainable Social and Economic Benefit

According to the developer, the anticipated sustainable socio-economic benefits to be derived from the proposed development of the PV facilities include:

- Creation of employment and business opportunities, and the opportunity for skills development and on-site training.
- The establishment of infrastructure to generate renewable energy;
- Creation of employment and business opportunities. The operational phase will also create opportunities for skills development and training;
- Benefits associated with the establishment of a Community Trust; and
- Generation of income for affected landowner/s.

Based on the outcome of this assessment, the proposed development is not anticipated to have a significant negative impact on heritage resources and as such, the anticipated socio-economic benefits to be derived from this project outweigh the anticipated negative impacts to heritage resources.

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5.3 Proposed development alternatives

At this stage there are no site alternatives or technology alternatives that were considered, The siting of the initial

facilities within the broader development area considered various critical criteria including the sensitivity of the

broader site in order to inform the positioning of these facilities as well as provincial and local planning in terms of

renewable energy development.

The areas within which these authorised facilities are planned do not infringe on any identified areas of high

sensitivity. In addition, the broader site is located within the identified Solar Development Corridor as defined by

the PSDF, as well as within a proposed REDZ for solar development. The siting of these facilities is considered to

be acceptable from an environmental perspective.

5.4 Cumulative Impacts

At this stage, there is the potential for the cumulative impact of proposed renewable energy facilities to negatively

impact the cultural landscape due to a change in the landscape character from natural wilderness to

semi-industrial. Based on the available information, a number of renewable energy facilities have been approved

in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development, as well as presently proposed for this immediate

environment.

While the cumulative impacts to heritage resources associated with this proposed development are

predominantly visual and we therefore refer to the findings of the VIA for cumulative impacts:

"Negative cumulative effects are mainly related to the degradation of the surrounding landscapes due to higher

visual contrast generated by structural intrusion and visual massing where large areas of PV panels are viewed

and where multiple PV projects with their semi-industrial landscape character are visible from a single location. In

these instances, the sense of place in the landscape can be dominating, degrading the surrounding visual

resources. If these visual resources are utilised for eco-tourism activities, land use conflict can occur.

Within the proposed project zone of visual influence, the landscape character is mainly dominated by flat rural

agricultural landscape with limited visual resources. The Cumulative visual risk to scenic resources was rated

medium negative with little opportunity for mitigation. The combined views of the multiple solar facilities, once

constructed, are likely to create a strong, local visual massing effect within the agriculturally zoned area. However,

site visual resources are low and with the proposed site located on low lying ground, the zone of visual influence

will be contained by some elevated terrain to the north. The project is located within the REDZ11 area, where

renewable energy projects of scale would be acceptable. With successful rehabilitation of the area back to an

agricultural land use on closure, the cumulative visual risk could be reduced to negligible in the long term." It is

noted that it is preferable to have renewable energy facility development focussed in an area such as a REDZ.

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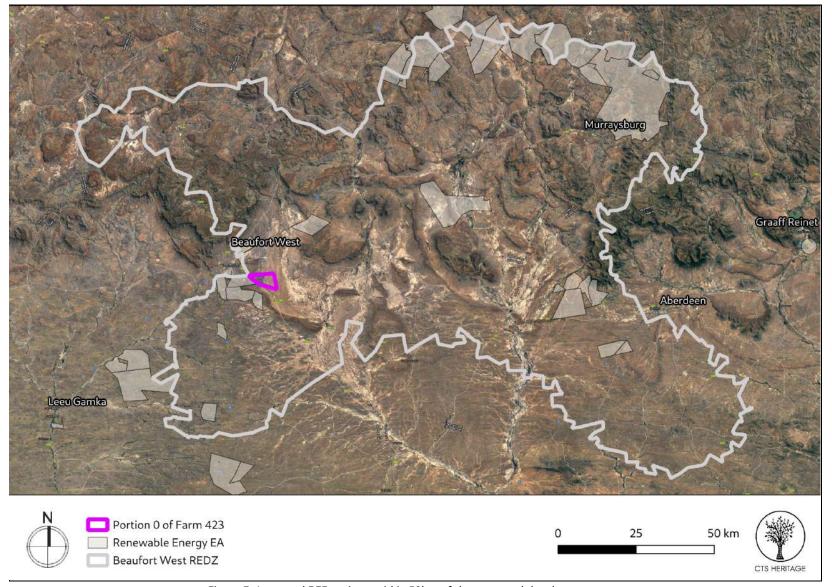


Figure 7: Approved REF projects within 50km of the proposed development area

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6. RESULTS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

There is one Heritage Conservation Body registered on the HWC database for the area proposed for

development - Simon van der Stel Foundation, Southern Cape. As such, in terms of the HWC Guidelines for

Heritage Impact Assessments which apply to this application, the relevant Local Authorities - Beaufort West in the

Western Cape - and the Simon van der Stel Foundation are provided with 30 days in which to comment on the

DRAFT HIA. Evidence of this consultation is provided in Appendix 5.

As this application is made in terms of NEMA, the public consultation on the HIA will take place with the broader

public consultation process required for the Basic Assessment process and will be managed by the lead

environmental consultants on the project.

7. CONCLUSION

The findings of this assessment largely correlate with the findings of other assessments completed in the vicinity

such as the findings of the ACO (2013, SAHRIS NID 503074) who note that "Because of the scarcity of caves and

shelters, more than 90% of Karoo archaeological sites are open sites of stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell

fragments and occasionally, pottery. Bone remains are rarely preserved. Artefacts of both the Early and Middle

Stone Age are widespread and may generally be described as an ancient litter that occurs at a low frequency

across the landscape." This same archaeological signature has been identified within the development footprint.

It is noted that high numbers of quarried stone artefacts predominantly from the Middle Stone Age period were

found on this property which is consistent with observations on neighbouring farms through impact assessments

and research surveys. These artefacts are particularly visible in deflated open sites where the top soil has washed

away onto a harder gravel surface. No shelters were found on the property and no rock paintings, graves or

engravings were located.

Given the very sparse occurrence of recorded fossils in the region, and their unpredictable occurrence, it is

concluded that the Hoodia PV facility is of LOW palaeosensitivity. No further specialist palaeontological studies or

mitigation are recommended for this electrical infrastructure project. The Chance Fossil Finds Protocol appended

to this report should be included in the EMPr for the developments.

No mitigation measures are recommended from a cultural landscape perspective given the low heritage

significance of the landscape directly affected by the project and the low impact on the broader landscape

context.

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Based on the assessments completed, few sensitive heritage resources of low local cultural value have been identified in close proximity to the proposed development footprint. These include the R61, the Hansrivier Farmhouse Complex, an MSA artefact scatter and a small fossil exposure.

No impact to these resources is anticipated from the proposed development of the Hoodia PV Facility. As such, the proposed development is acceptable from a heritage perspective and there is no objection to its authorisation from a heritage perspective.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the outcomes of this report, it is not anticipated that the proposed development of the Hoodia PV facility will negatively impact on significant heritage resources. The following recommendations are made:

- The HWC Chance Fossil Finds Procedure must be implemented for the duration of construction activities
- Although all possible care has been taken to identify sites of cultural importance during the investigation of the study area, it is always possible that hidden or subsurface sites could be overlooked during the assessment. If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils, burials or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, work must cease in the vicinity of the find and HWC must be alerted immediately to determine an appropriate way forward.

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9. **REFERENCES**

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|--------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|---|
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APPENDIX 1: Archaeological Assessment (2021)



APPENDIX 2: Palaeontological Assessment (2021)



APPENDIX 3: Cultural Landscape Assessment (2021)



APPENDIX 4: Heritage Screening Assessment, NID and NID Response



APPENDIX 5: Results of PPP