# HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 38(8) OF THE NHRA (No. 25 OF 1999)

# FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING APPLICATION ON 66 107.1283 ha HECTARES IN THE NORTHERN CAPE

# Type of development:

**Prospecting Application** 

#### Client:

Greenmined Environmental (Pty) Ltd

# Applicant:

Strata Africa Exploration (Pty) Ltd

# **Report Prepared by:**



Report Author:

Ms. L. Kraljević

<u>Project Reference:</u>

Project number 24230

Report date:

April 2024

# **Beyond Heritage**

Private Bag X 1049 Suite 34

Modimolle 0510

Tel: 082 373 8491 Fax: 086 691 6461

E-Mail: jaco@heritageconsultants.co.za

# APPROVAL PAGE

1

Project Name	Prospecting Application
Report Title	Heritage Impact Assessment for the Prospecting Application on 66 107.1283 Hectares in the Northern Cape
Authority Reference Number	TBC
Report Status	Draft Report
Applicant Name	Strata Africa Exploration (Pty) Ltd

Responsibility	Name	Qualifications and Certifications	Date
Report writing and archaeological support	Lara Kraljević - Archaeologist	MA Archaeology ASAPA #661	April 2024
Palaeontological Report	Prof Marion Bamford	PhD Palaeobotany	April 2024

# **DOCUMENT PROGRESS**

# **Distribution List**

Date	Report Reference Number	Document Distribution	Number of Copies
29 April 2024	24230	Greenmined Environmental (Pty) Ltd	Electronic Copy
2 May 2024	24230	Greenmined Environmental (Pty) Ltd	Electronic Copy

# **Amendments on Document**

Date	Report Reference Number	Description of Amendment

#### INDEMNITY AND CONDITIONS RELATING TO THIS REPORT

3

The findings, results, observations, conclusions and recommendations given in this report are based on the author's best scientific and professional knowledge as well as available information. The report is based on survey and assessment techniques which are limited by time and budgetary constraints relevant to the type and level of investigation undertaken. Beyond Heritage reserves the right to modify aspects of the report including the recommendations if and when new information becomes available from ongoing research or further work in this field or pertaining to this investigation.

Although Beyond Heritage exercises due care and diligence in rendering services and preparing documents Beyond Heritage accepts no liability, and the client, by receiving this document, indemnifies Beyond Heritage against all actions, claims, demands, losses, liabilities, costs, damages and expenses arising from or in connection with services rendered, directly or indirectly by Beyond Heritage and by the use of the information contained in this document.

This report must not be altered or added to without the prior written consent of the author. This also refers to electronic copies of this report which are supplied for the purposes of inclusion as part of other reports, including main reports. Similarly, any recommendations, statements or conclusions drawn from or based on this report must make reference to this report. If these form part of a main report relating to this investigation or report, this report must be included in its entirety as an appendix or separate section to the main report.

#### **COPYRIGHT**

Copyright on all documents, drawings and records, whether manually or electronically produced, which form part of the submission and any subsequent report or project document, shall vest in Beyond Heritage.

The client, on acceptance of any submission by Beyond Heritage and on condition that the client pays to Beyond Heritage the full price for the work as agreed, shall be entitled to use for its own benefit:

- The results of the project;
- The technology described in any report; and
- Recommendations delivered to the client.

Should the applicant wish to utilise any part of, or the entire report, for a project other than the subject project, permission must be obtained from Beyond Heritage to do so. This will ensure validation of the suitability and relevance of this report on an alternative project.



#### **REPORT OUTLINE**

Appendix 6 of the GNR 326 EIA Regulations published on 7 April 2017 provides the requirements for specialist reports undertaken as part of the Environmental Authorisation process. In line with this, Table 1 provides an overview of Appendix 6 together with information on how these requirements have been met.

4

Table 1. Specialist Report Requirements.

Requirement from Appendix 6 of GN 326 EIA Regulation 2017	Chapter
(a) Details of -	Section a
(i) the specialist who prepared the report; and	
(ii) the expertise of that specialist to compile a specialist report including a	
curriculum vitae.	
(b) Declaration that the specialist is independent in a form as may be specified by the	Declaration of
competent authority.	Independence
(c) Indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the report was prepared.	Section 1
(cA) An indication of the quality and age of base data used for the specialist report.	Section 3.4.
(cB) A description of existing impacts on the site, cumulative impacts of the proposed	Section 9
development and levels of acceptable change.	
(d) Duration, Date and season of the site investigation and the relevance of the season	Section 3.4
to the outcome of the assessment.	
(e) Description of the methodology adopted in preparing the report or carrying out the	Section 3
specialised process inclusive of equipment and modelling used.	
(f) Details of an assessment of the specific identified sensitivity of the site related to	Section 7, 8 and 9
the proposed activity or activities and its associated structures and infrastructure,	
inclusive of site plan identifying site alternatives.	
(g) Identification of any areas to be avoided, including buffers.	Section 7,8 and 9
(h) Map superimposing the activity including the associated structures and	Section 8
infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the site including areas to be	
avoided, including buffers.	
(I) Description of any assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge.	Section 3.7
(j) A description of the findings and potential implications of such findings on the impact	Section 1.3
of the proposed activity including identified alternatives on the environment or	
activities.	
(k) Mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr.	Section 9.1 and 9.5
(I) Conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation.	Section 9. 1 and 9.5
(m) Monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or environmental authorisation.	Section 9.6
(n) Reasoned opinion -	Section 9.3
(i) As to whether the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should	
be authorised;	
(iA) Regarding the acceptability of the proposed activity or activities; and	
(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.	
(o) Description of any consultation process that was undertaken during the course of	Section 5
preparing the specialist report.	
(p) A summary and copies of any comments received during any consultation process	Refer to the BAR
and where applicable all responses thereto.	report
(q) Any other information requested by the competent authority.	No other information
	requested at this time



# **Executive Summary**

The proposed prospecting application is located on a Portion of Lower Kuruman Native Reserve No 219, Remaining Extent of the farm Edgehill No 194, Remaining Extent of the farm Alphen No 442, Remaining Extent of the farm Boland No 133, Farm Boland 133, Remaining Extent of the farm Seduall 124, Remaining Extent of the farm Mora Schuba 201, Remaining Extent of the farm Kungkung No 123, Remaining Extent of the farm Mahura Muthla No 198, Remaining Extent of Farm No 123, Farm Brandziekfontein No 124, Farm Helvetia No 126, Remaining Extent of the farm Hartebeesdale No 564, Remaining Extent of the farm Kogelbeen No 44, and Remaining Extent of the farm Banghoek No 17.

5

The Project areas are situated in Joe Morolong Local Municipality, Ga-Segonyana Local Municipality, Dikgatlong Local Municipality, Tsantsabane Local Municipality, and Siyancuma Local Municipality, Northern Cape. Greenmined Environmental has been appointed as the independent environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) to apply for the environmental authorisation for the Project. Beyond Heritage was appointed to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the project and the study area was assessed through a desktop assessment. Key findings of the assessment include:

- The scope of work is to conduct a heritage desktop report for a large prospecting right area comprising approximately 66 107.1283 ha;
- It was deemed not feasible to conduct fieldwork at this stage of the process due to the following reasons:
  - The extensive geographical size of the exploration application and the fact that the exact locations of drill sites or number of drill holes to be dug is not available at this point;
  - No intrusive activities will occur at this point of the application;
  - Limited site access;
- This desktop study is informed by available data for the proposed project area derived from several large-scale heritage surveys conducted for mining projects in the area as well as extensive archaeological studies at Kathu Complex and Kuruman, and including the fact that the archaeological character of the region is now well described (e.g., Beaumont 1990; 2007; 2008, Morris 2005; 2008, Huffman 2001, Fourie and van der Walt 2006, Webley and Halkett 2008);
- The prospecting areas are within an archaeologically rich landscape especially in relation to the Stone Age with significant sites such as the Kathu Complex and the National heritage sites of Wonderwerk Cave, and Kathu Townlands and the natural heritage site, the Kogelbeen Caves, found in this region;
- Stone Age artefacts can be expected throughout the landscape ranging from low-density scatters
  to significant sites which are more focal to topographical features such as rocky outcrops, hills,
  drainage lines, pans, and confluences of rivers and streams;
- Burial sites can occur anywhere on the landscape. A memorial site occurs at 27°33'32.4"S; 23°29'39.3"E, at Edgehill 194/5.
- According to the SAHRA Paleontological sensitivity map the study areas are of low, moderate, high, and very high sensitivity and an independent study was commissioned for this aspect.



The impact on heritage resources is expected to be low, and the Project can be authorised provided that the recommendations in this report are adhered to and based on the SAHRA's approval.

6

#### **Recommendations:**

The following recommendations for Environmental Authorisation apply and the Project may only proceed after receiving comment from SAHRA:

- Once the drill sites have been confirmed these areas have to be subjected to a heritage walk down, this should be conducted prior to the commencement of invasive prospecting activities;
- Drill sites must be kept as close as possible to existing roads in order to minimise the impact on the landscape;
- Focal points on the landscape like rocky outcrops, caves (including the Kogelbeen caves) or pans
  must be avoided as far as possible as these areas could be sensitive from a heritage point of
  view:
- Burial sites, memorials and graves should be avoided with a 30 m buffer zone;
- Monitoring of the Project area by the ECO during the exploration phase for heritage and palaeontology chance finds, if chance finds are encountered to implement the Chance Find Procedure for the Project as outlined in Section 9.

# **Declaration of Independence**

Specialist Name	Lara Lucija Kraljević	
Declaration of Independence  Signature	I declare, as a specialist appointed in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No 107 of 1998) and the associated 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (as amended), that I:  I act as an independent specialist in this application; I will perform the work relating to the application 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 the specialist report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity; I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation; 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; All the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 49 A of the Act.	
	25/04/2024	

7

#### a) **Expertise of the specialist**

Lara Kraljević completed her masters in archaeology at the University of Pretoria specialising in chemical and mineralogical studies of Iron Age ceramics. Lara is an accredited member of the Association of South African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) (#661). She has co-authored over 100 impact assessments in Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, and North West Provinces in South Africa.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

R	EPOR	T OUTLINE	4
E	XECU	TIVE SUMMARY	5
D	ECLA	RATION OF INDEPENDENCE	7
	A)	EXPERTISE OF THE SPECIALIST	7
Α	BBRE	VIATIONS	11
G	LOSS	SARY	11
1	INT	RODUCTION	12
	1.1	TERMS OF REFERENCE	18
	1.2	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	19
	1.3	ALTERNATIVES	23
2	LE	GISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	24
3	ME	THODOLOGY	26
	3.1	LITERATURE REVIEW AND BACKGROUND STUDY	26
	3.2	GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY AND GOOGLE EARTH MONUMENTS	26
	3.3	PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:	26
	3.4	SITE SIGNIFICANCE AND FIELD RATING	26
	3.5	IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY	28
	3.6	ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY	29
4	DE	SCRIPTION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT	29
5	RE	SULTS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:	30
6	СО	NTEXTUALISING THE STUDY AREA	30
	6.1	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	30
	6.1	.1 Stone Age	30
	6.1.	.2 Iron Age	31
	6.1.	3 Historical Background	32
	6.1.	.4 Historical Mining	33
	6.2	LITERATURE REVIEW (SAHRIS)	34
	6.3	GOOGLE EARTH AND THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA (GRAVES AND BURIAL SITES)	35
7	HE	RITAGE BASELINE	35
	7.1	DESCRIPTION OF THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	35

8



7.	2	HERITAGE RESOURCES	.35
7.	3	CULTURAL LANDSCAPE	38
7.	4	PALEONTOLOGICAL HERITAGE	.38
8	ASS	SESSMENT OF IMPACTS	39
8.	1	IMPACTS ON TANGIBLE HERITAGE RESOURCES	.39
	8.1.	1 Cumulative impacts	.39
8.	2	IMPACT ASSESSMENT TABLES	.39
9	CON	NCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	40
9.	1	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONDITION OF AUTHORISATION	.40
9.	2	CHANCE FIND PROCEDURE	41
	9.2.1	Heritage Resources	41
	9.2.2	2 Monitoring Programme for Palaeontology – to commence once the excavations / drilling	
	activ	vities begin	41
9.	3	REASONED OPINION	42
9.	4	POTENTIAL RISK	42
9.	5	Monitoring Requirements	.43
9.	7	MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR INCLUSION IN THE EMPR	44
10	RI	EFERENCES	45
LIST	OF FI	GURES	
Figu	RE 1.1	. REGIONAL SETTING OF THE PROJECT (EXTRACT OF THE 2723, 2724, 2923, 2823 1: 250 000 TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP)	.13
Figu	RE 1.2	. LOCAL SETTING OF THE SOUTHERN SECTION OF THE PROJECT AREA	. 14
Figu	RE 1.3	. LOCAL SETTING OF THE SOUTHERN SECTION OF THE PROJECT AREA	.15
Figu	RE <b>1.4</b>	. AERIAL IMAGE OF THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE PROJECT AREA AND SURROUNDS.	16
Figu	RE 1.5	. AERIAL IMAGE OF THE NORTHERN PART OF THE OF THE PROJECT AREA.	. 17
Figu	RE <b>7.1</b>	. KNOWN SITE DISTRIBUTION IN RELATION TO THE STUDY AREA.	.36
Figu	RE 7.2	. STONE AGE SCATTERS RECORDED IN RELATION TO THE LOWER KURUMAN NATIVE RESERVE.	.37
Figu	RE 7.3	. MEMORIAL SITE AT EDGEHILL 194/5 (PHOTOGRAPH PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT)	.37
Figu	RE <b>7.4</b>	. PALEONTOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY OF THE APPROXIMATE STUDY AREA (YELLOW POLYGON) AS INDICATED ON THE SAHRA	
	PALA	EONTOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY MAP.	.38

# LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Specialist Report Requirements	4
TABLE 2: PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Table 3: Infrastructure and project activities	21
Table 4. Heritage significance and field ratings	27
Table 5. Studies consulted for the project.	34
TABLE 6. IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR INVASIVE ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT	39
Table 7. Monitoring requirements for the Project	43
TABLE 8. HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR EMPRIMPLEMENTATION	44





# **ABBREVIATIONS**

ASAPA	Association of South African Professional Archaeologists	
BGG	Burial Ground and Graves	
CFPs	Chance Find Procedures	
CMP	Conservation Management Plan	
CoGHSTA	Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs	
CRR		
CRM	Comments and Response Report	
	Cultural Resource Management	
DFFE	Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Environment,	
EA	Environmental Authorisation	
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	
ECO	Environmental Control Officer	
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment*	
EIA	Early Iron Age*	
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme	
ESA	Early Stone Age	
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment	
GIS	Geographical Information System	
GPS	Global Positioning System	
GRP	Grave Relocation Plan	
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment	
LIA	Late Iron Age	
LSA	Late Stone Age	
MEC	Member of the Executive Council	
MIA	Middle Iron Age	
MPRDA	Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002)	
MSA	Middle Stone Age	
NCHM	National Cultural History Museum	
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)	
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999)	
NID	Notification of Intent to Develop	
NoK	Next-of-Kin	
PRHA	Provincial Heritage Resource Agency	
SADC	Southern African Development Community	
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency	
	10 minutes to both Considerated Language According to the Control language According to	

11

# **GLOSSARY**

Archaeological site	Remains of human activity over 100 years old
Earlier Stone Age	~ 2.6 million to 250 000 years ago
Middle Stone Age	~ 250 000 to 40-25 000 years ago
Later Stone Age	~ 40-25 000, to the historic period
The Iron Age	~ AD 400 to 1840
Historic	~ AD 1840 to 1950
Historic building	Over 60 years old



<sup>\*</sup>Although EIA refers to both Environmental Impact Assessment and the Early Iron Age both are internationally accepted abbreviations and must be read and interpreted in the context it is used.

#### 1 Introduction

Beyond Heritage was appointed to conduct a desk based Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed prospecting application that is located on Portion of Lower Kuruman Native Reserve No 219, Remaining Extent of the farm Edgehill No 194, Remaining Extent of the farm Alphen No 442, Remaining Extent of the farm Boland No 133, Remaining Extent of the farm Seduall 124, Remaining Extent of the farm Mora Schuba 201, Remaining Extent of the farm Kungkung No 123, Remaining Extent of the farm Mahura Muthla No 198, Remaining Extent of Farm No 123, Farm Brandziekfontein No 124, Farm Helvetia No 126, Remaining Extent of the farm Hartebeesdale No 564, Remaining Extent of the farm Kogelbeen No 44, and Remaining Extent of the farm Banghoek No 17. The Project areas are situated in Joe Morolong Local Municipality, Ga-Segonyana Local Municipality, Dikgatlong Local Municipality, Tsantsabane Local Municipality, and Siyancuma Local Municipality, Northern Cape (Figure 1.1 to 1.3). The report forms part of the Basic Assessment environmental authorisation process for the project.

The aim of the study is to assess the proposed development footprint on a desktop level to understand the cultural layering of the study area. It serves to assess the potential impact of the proposed project on non-renewable heritage resources, and to submit appropriate recommendations about the responsible cultural resources management measures required. It is also conducted to protect such resources within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) (NHRA). The report outlines the approach and methodology utilized, which includes review of relevant literature; desktop assessment of the study area; reporting the outcome of the study.

At this stage of the project, it is impossible to define the exact locations of drill sites or number of drill holes to be dug and a heritage walk down can be conducted once this is confirmed. Possible impacts were identified, and mitigation measures are proposed in this report. The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) as a commenting authority under section 38(8) of NHRA requires all environmental documents, compiled in support of an Environmental Authorisation application as defined by National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations section 40 (1) and (2), to be submitted to SAHRA for commenting. Upon submission to SAHRA the project will be automatically given a case number as reference. As such the Basic Assessment (BA) report and its appendices must be submitted to the case as well as the EMPr, once it's completed by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP).

.



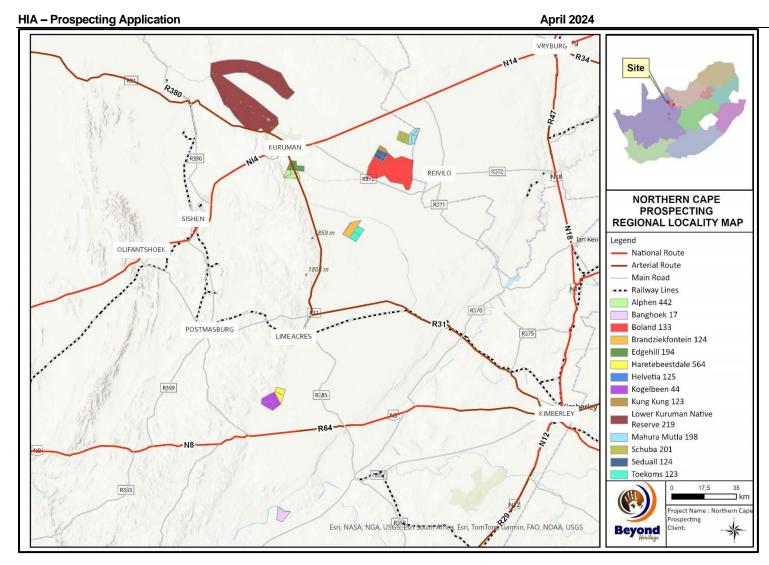


Figure 1.1. Regional setting of the Project (Extract of the 2723, 2724, 2923, 2823 1: 250 000 topographical map).



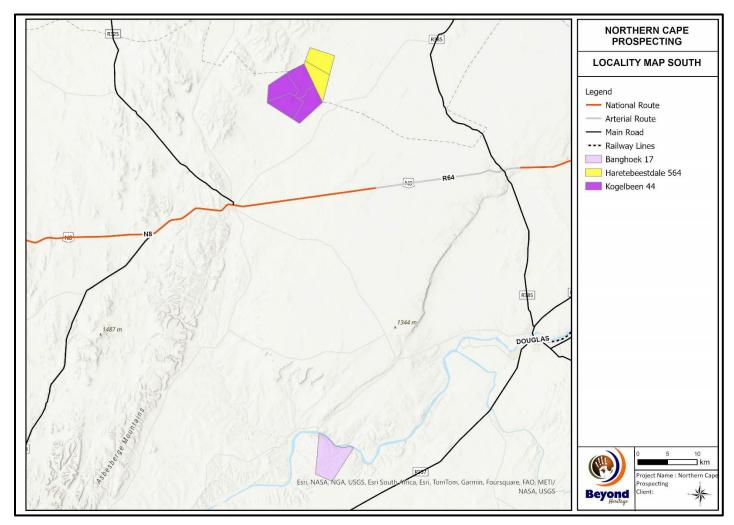


Figure 1.2. Local setting of the southern section of the Project area.



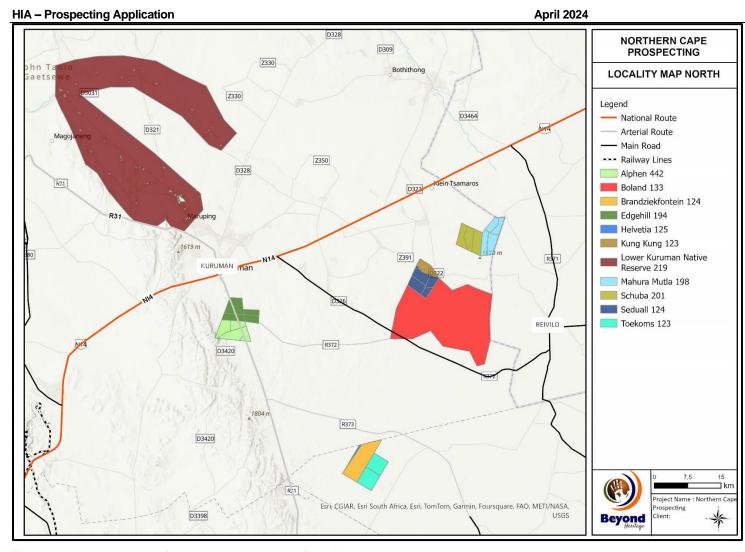


Figure 1.3. Local setting of the southern section of the Project area.





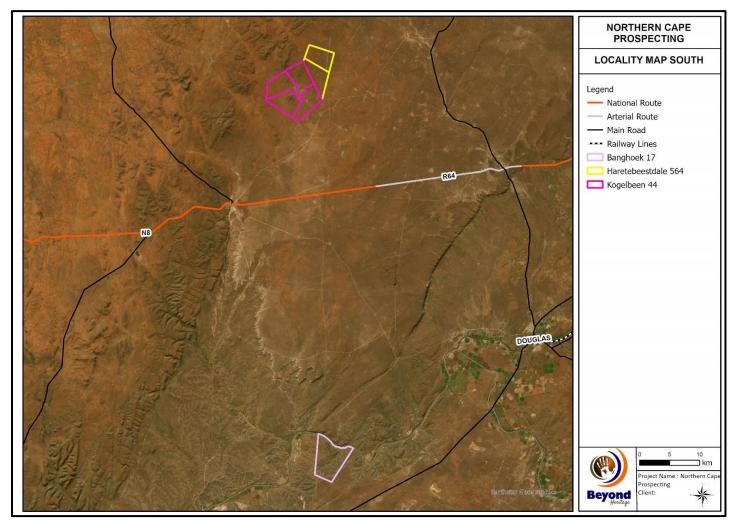


Figure 1.4. Aerial image of the southern part of the Project area and surrounds.



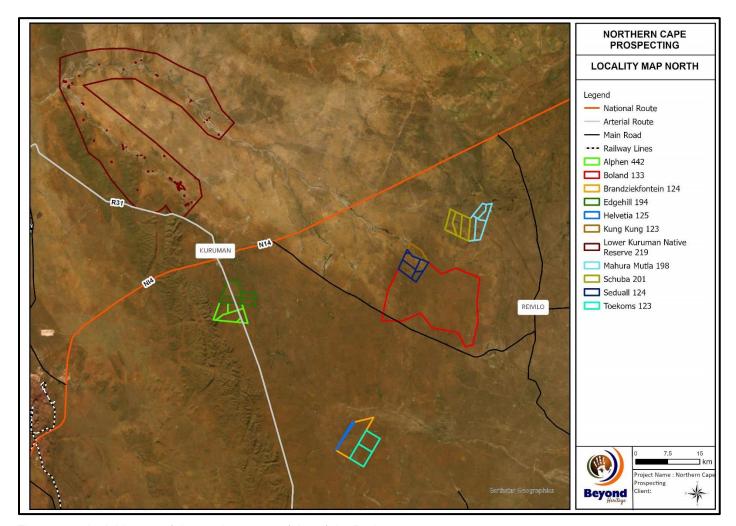


Figure 1.5. Aerial image of the northern part of the of the Project area.



#### **HIA - Prospecting Application**

April 2024

#### 1.1 Terms of Reference

The main aim of this desktop report is to determine if any known heritage resources occur within the project site. The objectives of the desktop report were to:

- » Conduct a desktop study:
  - \* Review available literature, previous heritage studies and other relevant information sources to obtain a thorough understanding of the archaeological and cultural heritage conditions of the area;
  - \* Identify known and recorded archaeological and cultural sites; and
  - \* Determine whether the area is renowned for any cultural and heritage resources, such as Stone Age sites, informal graveyards or historical homesteads.
- » Compile a specialist Heritage Desktop Report in line with the requirements of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended on 07 April 2017.

The reporting is based on the results and findings of a desktop study, wherein potential issues associated with the proposed project will be identified. Reporting will aim to identify the anticipated impacts, as well as cumulative impacts, of the operational units of the proposed project activity on the identified heritage resources for all 3 development stages of the project, i.e. construction, operation and decommissioning. Reporting will also consider alternatives should any significant sites be impacted on by the proposed project. This is done to assist the developer in managing the discovered heritage resources in a responsible manner, in order to protect, preserve and develop them within the framework provided by Heritage Legislation.

When the localities of the invasive prospecting activities are fixed, the following terms will apply:

#### Field study (Walkdown)

Conduct a field study to: (a) locate, identify, record, photograph and describe sites of archaeological, historical or cultural interest; b) record GPS points of sites/areas identified as significant areas; c) determine the levels of significance of the various types of heritage resources affected by the proposed development

# Reporting

Report on the identification of anticipated and cumulative impacts the operational units of the proposed project activity may have on the identified heritage resources for all 3 phases of the project; i.e., construction, operation and decommissioning phases. Consider alternatives, should any significant sites be impacted adversely by the proposed project. Ensure that all studies and results comply with the relevant legislation, SAHRA minimum standards and the code of ethics and guidelines of ASAPA.

To assist the developer in managing the discovered heritage resources in a responsible manner, and to protect, preserve, and develop them within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999).



# 1.2 Project Description

Project components and the location of the Project are outlined in Tables 2 and 3.

**Table 2: Project Description** 

Table 2: Project Description	
Magisterial Districts  Central co-ordinates of the development	Joe Morolong Local Municipality, Ga-Segonyana Local Municipality, within the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality; Dikgatlong Local Municipality within the Frances Baard District Municipality; Tsantsabane Local Municipality within the Z F Mgcawu District Municipality; and Siyancuma Local Municipality within the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality  27° 4'28.60"S; 23° 7'34.53"E  27°33'59.74"S; 23°27'39.00"E
	27°24'5.46"S; 24° 1'39.76"E
	27°33'13.19"S; 23°57'49.66"E
	27°51'25.16"S; 23°45'43.26"E 28°40'34.38"S; 23°22'20.37"E
	29°14'18.05"S; 23°24'47.82"E
1:50 000 Topographic Map Number	2723 AA, AB, AC, AD, CB, DA, BD, DB, DC, DD
1.00 000 Topograpino map itamber	2724 AC, CA
	2923AB, AD
	2823 CB
Farm Name:	Portion of Lower Kuruman Native Reserve No 219
	(Farm No 219)
	Remaining Extent of the farm Edgehill No 194
	3. Portion 1 of the farm Edgehill No 194
	4. Portion 2 of the farm Edgehill No 194
	5. Portion 5 of the farm Edgehill No 194
	6. Remaining Extent of the farm Alphen No 442
	7. Portion 3 of the farm Alphen No 442
	8. Portion 4 of the farm Alphen No 442
	9. Portion 5 of the farm Alphen No 442
	10. Portion 6 of the farm Alphen No 442
	11. Portion 7 of the farm Alphen No 442
	12. Remaining Extent of the farm Boland No 133
	13. Portion 1 of the farm Boland No 133
	14. Portion 2 of the farm Boland No 133
	15. Portion 3 of the farm Boland No 133
	16. Portion 4 of the farm Boland No 133
	17. Portion 5 of the farm Boland No 133
	18. Portion 6 of the farm Boland No 133
	19. Portion 7 of the farm Boland No 133
	20. Portion 8 of the farm Boland No 133
	21. Portion 9 of the farm Boland No 133
	22. Portion 10 of the farm Boland No 133
	23. Portion 11 of the farm Boland No 133
	24. Portion 12 of the farm Boland No 133
	25. Portion 13 of the farm Boland No 133
	26. Portion 14 of the farm Boland No 133

	07 B ( 45 (
	27. Portion 15 of the farm Boland No 133
	28. Portion 16 of the farm Boland No 133
	29. Portion 17 of the farm Boland No 133
	30. Portion 20 of the farm Boland No 133
	31. Portion 21 of the farm Boland No 133
	32. Portion 23 of the farm Boland No 133
	33. Portion 24 of the farm Boland No 133
	34. Portion 25 of the farm Boland No 133
	35. Portion 26 of the farm Boland No 133
	36. Remaining Extent of the farm Seduall 124
	37. Portion 1 of the farm Seduall 124
	38. Portion 2 of the farm Seduall 124
	39. Portion 3 of the farm Seduall 124
	40 D
	40. Remaining Extent of the farm Mora Schuba 201
	41. Portion 1 of the farm Mora Schuba 201
	42. Portion 2 of the farm Mora Schuba 201
	43. Remaining Extent of the farm Kungkung No 123
	44. Portion 1 of the farm Kungkung No 123
	45. Portion 2 of the farm Kungkung No 123
	46. Portion 3 of the farm Kungkung No 123
	47. Remaining Extent of the farm Mahura Muthla No
	48. Portion 1 of the farm Mahura Muthla No 198
	49. Portion 2 of the farm Mahura Muthla No 198
	50. Portion 3 of the farm Mahura Muthla No 198
	51. Remaining Extent of Farm No 123
	52. Portion 1 of the Farm No 123
	53. Brandziekfontein No 124
	54. Helvetia No 126
	55. Remaining Extent of the farm Hartebeesdale No 564
	56. Portion 1 of the farm Hartebeesdale No 564
	57. Remaining Extent of the farm Kogelbeen No 44
	57. Remaining Extent of the farm Rogelbeen No 44  58. Portion 1 of the farm Kogelbeen No 44
	59. Portion 2 of the farm Kogelbeen No 44
	_
	60. Portion 3 of the farm Kogelbeen No 44
	61. Remaining Extent of the farm Banghoek No 17
Distance and direction from	The earmarked portion on the Lower Kuruman Native
nearest town	Reserve No 219 is ±23 km north of Kuruman along the R31.
	Farms Edgehill No 194 and Alphen No 442 are ±6 km south
	of Kuruman when travelling along the R31.

Farms Mora Schuba No 201, Mahura Muthla No 198, Kungkung No 123, Seduall No 124, and Boland No 133 lays ±50 km east of Kuruman when travelling on the R372.

Farms Helvetia No 126, Brandziekfontein No 124, and Farm No 123 are ±60 km south-east of Kuruman when travelling along the R31.

Farms Hartebeesdale No 564 and Kogelbeen No 44 are ±23 km north-east of Griekwastad.

The farm Banghoek No 17 is ±47 km south-west of Douglas when travelling along the R357.

Table 3: Infrastructure and project activities

Type of development	Prospecting Application				
Description of the overall activity.	Strata Africa Exploration (Pty) Ltd (the "Applicant") applies for environment authorisation and a prospecting right (without bulk sampling) for Lithium (L Lead (Pb), Copper (Cu), Zinc (Zn), and Sulphides over 66 107.1283 ha of the above-mentioned properties.				
	Should the relevant authorisations be granted, and the project commence the principal prospecting activities will entail the following:				
	❖ Non-Invasive Prospecting:				
	<ul> <li>Desktop geological studies (Phase 1),</li> <li>Geological field mapping (Phase 2),</li> <li>Ground geophysical survey and ground magnetic survey (Phase 3),</li> <li>Feasibility studies and target selection (Phase 5),</li> <li>Metallurgical testing and analysis (Phase 5),</li> <li>Analytical desktop pre-feasibility study (Phase 7).</li> </ul>				
	❖ Invasive Prospecting:				
	<ul> <li>Exploration boreholes (Phase 4 &amp; 6),</li> <li>Sloping, landscaping, and rehabilitation the affected areas (Phase 4 &amp; 6).</li> </ul>				
	Once the target areas were identified (during non-invasive prospecting) and the invasive prospecting commences (phase 4 & 6), site establishment will entail discussions with the landowners regarding access to the properties, the clearance of vegetation (where necessary) from the areas to be prospected, the stripping and stockpiling of the topsoil, and the introduction of the prospecting equipment.				
	The prospecting activities does not entail bulk sampling and do not require the use of any permanent equipment/infrastructure. A central site camp will be established at an area agreed to by the landowner where mobile containers will be used as office space and for storage. Chemical ablutions will be established, and the site camp will be fenced to control access. All chemicals/hydrocarbons				

will be kept in the storage containers or bunded areas with impermeable surfaces.

#### **Drilling:**

The targeting of all drilling activities will be dependent on the results obtained during the preceding phases of prospecting, namely the geological mapping and geophysical surveying and as such it is currently not possible to include a finalized surface plan showing the intended location, extent, and depth of boreholes to be completed.

Diamond drilling will be of the standard BQ (60 mm outside diameter) or NQ (75.7 mm outside diameter) size. Down hole surveys will be done every 50 m in each hole. Core will be marked, logged, photographed, and sampled according to the standard of the applicant's logging and sampling procedures. Down the hole geophysical surveying will take place upon completion of the exploratory boreholes along with Ground EM surveys to determine positions of conductors.

Rehabilitation of drill sites will be done according to an approved Environmental Management Plan.

Percussion Rotary Air Blast (RAB) or Reverse Circulation (RC) drilling may be carried out for pre-collaring of diamond drill boreholes or for obtaining samples if significant depth of cover is encountered over particular targets.

#### Assaying:

Rock chip / soil samples will be sent to an off-site laboratory to be crushed, split, pulverized, and assayed.

## **Metallurgical Test Work:**

Metallurgical test work will start during Phase 5 of the prospecting activities. These tests will be done off-site by and in consultation with an accredited Laboratory.

#### **Electricity Need:**

The prospecting activities do not require electricity as all equipment will be powered with generators.

#### Water Use:

Water will also be used for drilling, and dust suppression at the prospecting sites and access roads. Potable water will be transported to site daily, while the process water will be bought from a local source (to be identified) in the vicinity of the prospecting activities.

#### Waste Handling:

The general waste generated at the prospecting sites will be transported to the site camp where it will be contained in refuse bins. Once full the refuse bins will

be emptied, and the waste will be disposed of at a registered landfill site in the vicinity of the project.

Hazardous waste will be contained in designated hazardous waste containers to be removed daily to the hazardous waste storage area at the site camp. A registered contractor will be appointed to collect and dispose of the hazardous waste at a registered hazardous waste handling facility and the site will file the proof of safe disposal for auditing purposes.

The chemical toilets will weekly be serviced by an appropriately qualified sewerage handling contractor who will furnish the site with proof of safe disposal.

# **Servicing and Maintenance:**

No workshop, wash bay or service areas will be established at the prospecting sites and/or site camp. When needed maintenance/servicing of the equipment will be performed at the contractor's off-site workshop.

#### 1.3 Alternatives

Presently, the project proposal entails the prospecting of 66 107.1283 ha area over the above listed properties. The proposed footprint was based on the available geological information which is of interest to the minerals applied for.

#### 2 Legislative Requirements

The HIA, as a specialist study to the BA, is required under the following legislation:

- National Heritage Resources Act ((NHRA), Act No. 25 of 1999)
- National Environmental Management Act ((NEMA), Act No. 107 of 1998 Section 23(2)(b))

A Phase 1 HIA is a pre-requisite for development in South Africa as prescribed by SAHRA and stipulated by legislation. The overall purpose of heritage specialist input is to:

- Identify any heritage resources, which may be affected;
- Assess the nature and degree of significance of such resources;
- Assess the negative and positive impact of the development on these resources; and
- Make recommendations for the appropriate heritage management (or avoidance) of these impacts.

The HIA should be submitted, as part of the impact assessment report or EMPr, to the Provincial Heritage Resource Agency (PHRA) or to The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). SAHRA will ultimately be responsible for the evaluation of Phase 1 HIA reports upon which review comments will be issued. 'Best practice' requires Phase 1 HIA reports and additional development information, as per the impact assessment report and/or EMPr, to be submitted in duplicate to SAHRA after completion of the study. SAHRA accepts Phase 1 HIA reports authored by professional archaeologists, accredited with ASAPA or with a proven ability to do archaeological work.

SAHRA as a commenting authority under section 38(8) of the NHRA require all environmental documents, compiled in support of an EA application as defined by the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No 107 of 1998) to be submitted to SAHRA for commenting. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations section 40 (1) and (2). The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, Government Notice Regulation (GN) R.982 were published on 04 December 2014 and promulgated on 08 December 2014. Together with the EIA Regulations, the Minister also published GN R.983 (Listing Notice No. 1), GN R.984 (Listing Notice No. 2) and GN R.985 (Listing Notice No. 3) in terms of Sections 24(2) and 24D of the NEMA, as amended) Upon submission to SAHRA the project will be automatically given a case number as reference. As such the EIA report and its appendices must be submitted to the case as well as the EMPr, once it's completed by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP).

Minimum accreditation requirements include an Honours degree in archaeology or related discipline and 3 years post-university CRM experience (field supervisor level). Minimum standards for reports, site documentation and descriptions are set by ASAPA in collaboration with SAHRA. ASAPA is based in South Africa, representing professional archaeology in the SADC region. ASAPA is primarily involved in the overseeing of ethical practice and standards regarding the archaeological profession. Membership is based on proposal and secondment by other professional members.

Phase 1 HIAs are primarily concerned with the location and identification of heritage sites situated within a proposed development area. Identified sites should be assessed according to their significance (refer to Section 3.5). Relevant conservation or mitigation recommendations should be made. Recommendations are subject to evaluation by SAHRA.

Section 3 of the NHRA distinguishes nine criteria for places and objects to qualify as 'part of the national estate' if they have cultural significance or other special value. These criteria are:

- Its importance in/to the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- Its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- Its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- Its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
- Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- Its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- Its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa;
- Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa

Conservation or mitigation recommendations, as approved by SAHRA, are to be used as guidelines in the developer's decision-making process.

Phase 2 archaeological projects are primarily based on salvage/mitigation excavations preceding development destruction or impact on a site. Phase 2 excavations can only be conducted with a permit, issued by SAHRA to the appointed archaeologist. Permit conditions are prescribed by SAHRA and includes (as minimum requirements) reporting back strategies to SAHRA and deposition of excavated material at an accredited repository.

In the event of a site conservation option being preferred by the developer, a site management plan, prepared by a professional archaeologist and approved by SAHRA, will suffice as minimum requirement. After mitigation of a site, a destruction permit must be applied for with SAHRA by the applicant before development may proceed.

Human remains older than 60 years are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act, with reference to Section 36 and GNR 548 as well as the SAHRA BGG Policy 2020. Graves older than 60 years, but younger than 100 years fall under Section 36 of Act 25 of 1999 of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), as well as the National Health Act of 2003 and are the jurisdiction of SAHRA. The procedure for Consultation Regarding Burial Grounds and Graves (Section 36[5]) of Act 25 of 1999) is applicable to graves older than 60 years that are situated outside a formal cemetery administrated by a local authority. Graves in this age category, located inside a formal cemetery administrated by a local authority, require the same authorisation as set out for graves younger than 60 years, in addition to SAHRA authorisation. If the grave is not situated inside a formal cemetery, but is to be relocated to one, permission from the local authority is required and all regulations, laws and by-laws, set by the cemetery authority, must be adhered to.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are protected under Section 2(1) of the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance No. 7 of 1925) re-instituted by Proclamation 109 of 17 June 1994 and implemented by CoGHSTA as well as the National Health Act 2003 and are the jurisdiction of the National Department of Health and the relevant Provincial Department of Health and must be submitted for final approval to the office of the relevant Provincial Premier. Authorisation for exhumation and reinternment must also be obtained from the relevant local or regional council where the grave is situated, as well as the relevant local or regional council to where the grave is being relocated. All local and regional provisions,

laws and by-laws must also be adhered to. To handle and transport human remains, the institution conducting the relocation should be authorised under the National Health Act of 2003

#### 3 METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Literature Review and background study

A brief survey of available literature was conducted to extract data and information on the area in question to provide general heritage context into which the development would be set. This literature search included published material, unpublished commercial reports and online material, including reports sourced from the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS). Findings are included in Section 6.1 and 6.2.

#### 3.2 Genealogical Society and Google Earth Monuments

Google Earth and 1:50 000 topographic maps of the area were utilised to identify possible places of heritage sensitivity might be located. The database of the Genealogical Society of South Africa (GSSA) was consulted to collect data on any known graves in the area. Results are included in Section 6.3.

#### 3.3 Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement:

Stakeholder engagement is a key component of any BA process, it involves stakeholders interested in, or affected by the proposed development. Stakeholders are provided with an opportunity to raise issues of concern (for the purposes of this report only heritage related issues will be included). The aim of the public consultation process to be undertaken by the EAP was to capture and address any issues raised by community members and other stakeholders. Results will be included in Section 5 and the final BA report.

#### 3.4 Site Significance and Field Rating

The presence and distribution of heritage resources define a 'heritage landscape'. In this landscape, every site is relevant. In addition, because heritage resources are non-renewable, heritage surveys need to investigate an entire Project area, or a representative sample, depending on the nature of the project. In the case of the proposed Project the local extent of its impact necessitates a representative sample and only the footprint of the areas demarcated for development were surveyed. In all initial investigations, however, the specialists are responsible only for the identification of resources visible on the surface. This section describes the evaluation criteria used for determining the significance of archaeological and heritage sites. The following criteria were used to establish site significance with cognisance of Section 3 of the NHRA:

- The unique nature of a site;
- The integrity of the archaeological/cultural heritage deposits;
- The wider historic, archaeological and geographic context of the site;
- The location of the site in relation to other similar sites or features;
- The depth of the archaeological deposit (when it can be determined/is known);
- The preservation condition of the sites; and
- Potential to answer present research questions.

In addition to this criteria field ratings prescribed by SAHRA (2006), and acknowledged by ASAPA for the SADC region, were used for the purpose of this report. The recommendations for each site should be read in conjunction with section 9 of this report.

Table 4. Heritage significance and field ratings

FIELD RATING	GRADE	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED MITIGATION
National Significance (NS)	Grade 1	-	Conservation; national site nomination
Provincial Significance (PS)	Grade 2	-	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.C)	-	Low significance	Destruction

#### 3.5 Impact Assessment Methodology

The criteria below are used to establish the impact rating on sites:

- The nature, which shall include a description of what causes the effect, what will be affected and how it will be affected.
- The extent, wherein it will be indicated whether the impact will be local (limited to the immediate area
  or site of development) or regional, and a value between 1 and 5 will be assigned as appropriate
  (with 1 being low and 5 being high):
- The duration, wherein it will be indicated whether:
  - \* the lifetime of the impact will be of a very short duration (0-1 years), assigned a score of 1;
  - \* the lifetime of the impact will be of a short duration (2-5 years), assigned a score of 2;
  - medium-term (5-15 years), assigned a score of 3;
  - long term (> 15 years), assigned a score of 4; or
  - permanent, assigned a score of 5;
  - The **magnitude**, quantified on a scale from 0-10 where; 0 is small and will have no effect on the environment, 2 is minor and will not result in an impact on processes, 4 is low and will cause a slight impact on processes, 6 is moderate and will result in processes continuing but in a modified way, 8 is high (processes are altered to the extent that they temporarily cease), and 10 is very high and results in complete destruction of patterns and permanent cessation of processes.
  - The **probability of occurrence**, which shall describe the likelihood of the impact actually occurring. Probability will be estimated on a scale of 1-5 where; 1 is very improbable (probably will not happen), 2 is improbable (some possibility, but low likelihood), 3 is probable (distinct possibility), 4 is highly probable (most likely) and 5 is definite (impact will occur regardless of any prevention measures).
  - The **significance**, which shall be determined through a synthesis of the characteristics described above and can be assessed as low, medium or high; and
  - the status, which will be described as either positive, negative or neutral.
  - the degree to which the impact can be reversed.
  - the degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources.
  - the degree to which the impact can be mitigated.

The **significance** is calculated by combining the criteria in the following formula:

S= (E+D+M) P

S = Significance weighting

E = Extent

D = Duration

M = Magnitude

P = Probability

The **significance weightings** for each potential impact are as follows:

- < 30 points: Low (i.e., where this impact would not have a direct influence on the decision to develop in the area),
- 30-60 points: Medium (i.e., where the impact could influence the decision to develop in the area unless it is effectively mitigated),
- 60 points: High (i.e., where the impact must have an influence on the decision process to develop in the area).

#### 3.6 Assumptions and limitations of the study

The authors acknowledge that the brief literature review is not exhaustive on the literature of the area The study area was not subjected to a field survey at this stage in the environmental process, it is recommended that this will be done when the actual exploration localities are fixed. It is assumed that information obtained for the wider area is applicable to the study area. It is possible that new information could come to light in future, which might change the results of this Impact Assessment.

#### 4 Description of Socio-Economic Environment

According to the 2011 Census, Joe Morolong Local Municipality has a total population of 89 530 people. The majority of the population in the municipality are black African (96,4%), 2,0% are coloured, with the other population groups making up the remaining 1,6%. Of those aged 20 years and older, 5,2% have completed primary school, 27,8% have some secondary education, 13,4% have completed matric and 4,1% have some form of higher education. Of the mentioned age group, 22,9% have no form of schooling. There are 12 740 people that are economically active (employed or unemployed but looking for work), and of these, 38,6% are unemployed. Of the 6 323 economically active youth (15–34 years) in the area, 49,5% are unemployed.

According to Census 2011, Ga-Segonyana Municipality has a total population of 93 651 of which 87,0% are black African, 7,6% are coloured, 4,6% are white, and 0,4% are Indian/Asian. Other groups make up 0,4% of the population. Of those aged 20 years and older, 4,9% completed primary school, 34,3% completed secondary school, 23,7% completed Grade 12, 10,0% have some form of higher education and only 9,7% have no schooling. A total of 19 940 persons are employed, 10 154 are unemployed, and 3 895 are classified discouraged work-seekers.

According to Census 2011, Dikgatlong Local Municipality has a population of 46 841, of whom 58,5% are black African, 28,5% are coloured, 3,6% are white, with other population groups making up the remaining 9,4%. Setswana is the most widely spoken language (24 549 people), followed by Afrikaans (18 250 people). There are 97 males for every 100 females. 63,1% of the population is aged between 15 and 64 years, while 31,7% of the population is younger than 15 years. In 2011, 20,3% of the population aged 20 years and older had attained matric. Livestock, irrigation farming and commercial mining drive the municipality's economy. The unemployment rate in Dikgatlong is 39,7%, with the youth unemployment rate standing at 49,0%. The main contributing factor to the low levels of employment in Dikgatlong is the high percentage (86,2%) of the labour force that has not obtained a Grade 12 Senior Certificate and/or higher qualification, resulting in a primarily unskilled labour force.

According to census 2011, there are 35 093 people in the municipality. Of these, 52,8% are African black, 37,6% are coloured, and 8,4% are white. Other population groups make up the remaining 1,2% of the population. Of those aged 20 years and older, 13,9% had some primary schooling, 5,3% had completed primary, 35,4% had some secondary, and 25,4 had matric. Only 6,4% had a higher qualification, and 13,7% had no form of schooling. Economically Tsantsabane is known for being rich in minerals, and for its mining, agriculture, manufacturing and farming sectors. Tsantsabane has reinvented itself over the years as one of the leading investment hot spots in the Northern Cape. The construction of the Anglo American Kumba Iron Ore's Kolomela mine has brought an implosion of development to the area.

According to the 2011 Census, Siyancuma Local Municipality has a total population of 37 076 people. The majority of the population in the municipality are coloured at 57,5%,33,3% are black African,7,5% are White, 0,7% are Indian/Asian, with the other population groups making up the remaining 1,4%.

Of those aged 20 years and older,7,2% have completed primary school, 30,3% have some secondary education, 16,9% have completed matric and 5,4% have some form of higher education. Of the mentioned

age group, 16,8% have no form of schooling. There are 11 064 people that are economically active (employed or unemployed but looking for work), and of these,28,2% are unemployed. Of the 5 800 economically active youth (15–34 years) in the area, 35,2% are unemployed (statssa.gov.za).

#### 5 Results of Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement:

In line with the NHRA, stakeholder engagement is a key component of any EA process, it involves stakeholders interested in, or affected by the proposed development. At the time of writing no heritage concerns have been raised. Advertisements will be placed in relevant newspaper/s (such as the Noordkaap Bulletin), and on-site notices will be placed.

#### 6 Contextualising the study area

#### 6.1 Archaeological Background

#### 6.1.1 Stone Age

South Africa has a long and complex Stone Age sequence of more than 2 million years. The broad sequence includes the Later Stone Age, the Middle Stone Age and the Earlier Stone Age. Each of these phases contains sub-phases or industrial complexes, and within these we can expect regional variation regarding characteristics and time ranges. For (CRM) purposes it is often only expected/ possible to identify the presence of the three main phases. Yet sometimes the recognition of cultural groups, affinities or trends in technology and/or subsistence practices, as represented by the sub-phases or industrial complexes, is achievable. The three main phases can be divided as follows;

- » Later Stone Age (LSA); associated with Khoi and San societies and their immediate predecessors. - Recently to ~30 thousand years ago.
- » Middle Stone Age (MSA); associated with Homo sapiens and archaic modern human . 30-300 thousand years ago.
- » Earlier Stone Age (ESA); associated with early Homo groups such as Homo habilis and Homo erectus. 400 000-> 2 million years ago.

The area in and surrounding Kathu is referred to as the Kathu Complex which is comprised of several Stone Age sites of varying heritage significance. A series of 11 localities which have been exposed due to sinkhole formations belong to the Kathu Complex (Beaumont 1990, Lukich et al 2019). The Kathu Pans form an important aspect of the study of human evolution due to the expansive occupation within the region. Evidence of the oldest lithic assemblage of the Fauresmith industry, dating back 500 thousand years can be found at the site of Kathu Pan 1 (Wilkins and Chazan 2012). Lithic assemblages found at Kathu Pan 1 show continued hominin occupation throughout the ESA, MA and LSA. Lithic technology at Kathu Pan 1 suggests one of the earliest evidence for the use of spears for hunting and blade production (Wilkens and Chazan 2012). On the farm Sims 462 Kathu Pan 6, 8,9,10, and 11 are found within a sinkhole that was caused by sediment collapse. Artefacts found on the farm Sims are associated with the Middle and Late Stone Age. Excavations on farm Sacha recovered Acheulean to Late Stone Age material from Kathu Pan 1. Stone tools recovered from the excavations are stored at the McGregor Museum (Beaumont 2000).

To the east of the town of Kathu, a site called the Townlands was discovered in 1980 by the land owner. Excavations and analysis of the site discovered the densest Stone Age scatter with over a million artefacts being recovered therefrom (Chazan 2021). An in-situ quarry is speculated to have been made use of at Kathu Townlands, indicating the local procurement of materials as well as the local production of stone tools within the area (Walker et al 2014). The site itself spans roughly 12 hectares in size and is an important archaeological site pertaining to early human activity within the country. In 2013, the Kathu Townlands was declared a Grade 1 National Heritage site (Walker et al 2014).

Excavations at the Wonderwerk Cave situated in the Kuruman Hills yielded a deep deposit rich with Stone Age materials. The cave shows a long period of hominin occupation as the cave was used throughout the

Stone Age. Rock engravings can also be found within the cave (Beaumont and Vogel 2006). Due to the importance of the finds, the cave has been registered as a National Heritage Site by SAHRA. Closer to Kuruman two shelters on the northern and southern faces of GaMohaan (in the Kuruman Hills north west of the town) contain Later Stone Age remains and rock paintings. Archaeological surveys have shown rocky outcrops and hills, drainage lines, riverbanks and confluences to be prime localities for archaeological finds and specifically Stone Age sites, as these areas were utilized for settlement of base camps close to water and hunting ranges.

Sotho-Tswana and Nguni societies, the descendants of the LIA mixed farming communities, found the region already sparsely inhabited by the Late Stone Age (LSA) Khoisan groups, the so-called 'first people'. Most of them were eventually assimilated by LIA communities and only a few managed to survive, such as the Korana and Griqua. This period of contact is referred to as the Ceramic Late Stone Age (De Jong 2010) and is represented by the Blinkklipkop specularite mine near Postmasburg and a cluster of important finds at Kathu Pan. Kathu Pan has been the subject of numerous heritage studies and is a notable heritage site (Beaumont 2004, Wilkins et al 2012). Additional specularite workings with associated Ceramic Later Stone Age material and older Fauresmith sites (early Middle Stone Age) are known from Lylyfeld, Demaneng, Mashwening, King, Rust & Vrede, Paling, Gloucester and Mount Huxley (Morris 2005).

#### 6.1.2 Iron Age

Bantu-speaking people moved into Eastern and Southern Africa about 2,000 years ago (Mitchell 2002). These people cultivated sorghum and millets, herded cattle and small stock and manufactured iron tools and copper ornaments. Because metalworking represents a new technology, archaeologists call this period the Iron Age. Characteristic ceramic styles help archaeologists to separate the sites into different groups and time periods. The Iron Age as a whole represents the spread of Bantu speaking people and includes both the Pre-Historic and Historic periods. It can be divided into three distinct periods:

- The Early Iron Age (EIA): Most of the first millennium AD.
- The Middle Iron Age (MIA): 10th to 13th centuries AD.
- The Late Iron Age (LSA): 14th century to colonial period.

Iron Age expansion southwards past Kuruman into the Ghaap Plateau and towards Postmasburg dates to the 1600's (Humphreys, 1976 and Thackeray, 1983). Definite dates for Tswana presence in the Postmasburg area are around 1805 when Lichtenstein visited the area and noted the mining activities of the Tswana (probably the Thlaping) tribes in the area. The Thlaro and Thlaping settled the area from Campbell in the east to Postmasburg and towards the Langeberg close to Olifantshoek in the north west before 1770 (Snyman, 1988). The Korana expansion after 1770 started to drive the Thlaro and Thlaping further north towards Kuruman (Shillington, 1985). Morris (2005) indicated that 3 Iron Age sites are on record within the area (Demaneng, Lylyveld and Kathu).

#### 6.1.3 Historical Background

The 'Eye' and the water course springing from it have been a focus of utilization and settlement and it was in its immediate vicinity that Kuruman, as town, evolved from the late nineteenth century. Kuruman's name is thought to be derived from the name of an 18th century San leader Kudumane.

The earliest documented exploration of this region by European explorers occurred in 1801 when P.J. Truter and Dr. W. Somerville crossed the Orange River near Prieska and traversing through Blinkklip en route to what is now Kuruman (Bergh 1999). In the same period, William Anderson and Cornelius Kramer, representing the London Missionary Society, founded a mission station called Leeuwenkuil. Their primary focus was on a community referred to as 'the Bastards', a group characterized by a mix of cultural backgrounds stemming from various racial and cultural unions, including European and Khoi ancestry, as well as remnants of Khoi and San groups and liberated slaves. This diverse group eventually came to be known as the Griqua (Erasmus, 2004). Due to the persistent threat posed by lions in the vicinity of Leeuwenkuil, the mission station was relocated in 1805 to Klaarwater. In 1813, the settlement that had developed there was officially renamed Griquatown. This change was proposed by Reverend John Campbell, Director of the London Missionary Society, during his visit to the area (Raper 2004).

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of December 1820, Andries Waterboer was elected to replace Berend Berends as leader of Griquatown. This would lead to tensions between Waterboer and the Griqua and during the 1820s, a group of Griqua left Griquatown and settled along the Modder River and became known as the Bergenaars. The Bergenaars would often attack the Thlaro, Thlaphing, and Griqua. They also undertook various attacks on Griquatown and the mission station in Kuruman which Robert Moffat had established in 1824.

A treaty was signed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 1842 between Griqua leader Andries Waterboer and Thlaping leader Mahura at Mahura's settlement near Taungs. This agreement was comprehensive, encompassing an allocation of the boundary between the two groups. However, it is essential to recognize that this boundary line was subject to change and negotiation. This demarcation closely resembled an earlier boundary, believed to have been established during the 1820s, marking the division between the Griqua and the Thlaping (Legassick, 2010).

Following the passing of Andries Waterboer, his son, Nicolaas Waterboer, assumed leadership in Griquatown. Nicolaas governed Griquatown until the British annexed the area in 1871 (Legassick 2010). It was under Nicolaas Waterboer's leadership that diamonds were uncovered in the region, sparking a contentious period of competing claims involving the Griqua, the Orange Free State, and the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR). The area claimed as British territory became known as Griqualand West. Tensions rose in Griqualand West which sparked a rebellion amongst Tswana communities against the British and spread as far as the Langberg mountains.

The British territory grew as the whole area between Griqualand West and the Modder River was proclaimed the Crown Colony of British Bechuanaland. This included various areas which had been occupied by Tswana communities. This led to various 'native reserves' being established in Deben, Gatlhose, Langberg, and Kathu (Snyman 1986). In 1895, the Crown Colony of British Bechuanaland was annexed by the Cape Colony.

In the late 1890s, Rinderpest became widespread, and the residents were unable to stop the spread of the viral disease in cattle. The Rinderpest epidemic also sparked the Langberg Rebellion of 1897 whereby conflicts rose between authorities and Galeshiwe, a Thlaping leader from Taung. The conflict erupted when government representatives destroyed infected cattle belonging to Galishewe as a measure to halt the spread of disease. In retaliation, Galishewe killed an officer and fled to seek refuge with the Thlaro leader Toto of the Langberg. This incident triggered a widespread rebellion (Breutz 1963). The British authorities responded by assembling a military force, which included units from the Cape Mounted Rifles and Bechuanaland Field Force. By March 14, 1897, this force numbered approximately 1,000 men. In contrast,

the Tswana rebels, facing serious shortages of provisions and ammunition from the outset of the rebellion, fielded an army of around 1,500 men (Snyman 1986). Despite their numerical advantage, the rebels faced a formidable and well-equipped British force supported by artillery. The rebellion was quelled and concluded when rebel leader Toto, along with his son Robanyane and their Thlaro followers, surrendered on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 1897 (Snyman 1986).

#### 6.1.4 Historical Mining

The South African Railways Administration's intention to extend the railway line from Postmasburg to Kapstewel and Lohatla, transformed the entire manganese industry north of Postmasburg. This marked a significant milestone as Postmasburg became one of the select towns in the Northern Cape with a direct rail connection. While the railway extension to Beeshoek was constructed by the Manganese Corporation, subsequent extensions to Lohatla and Manganore, Sishen, and Hotazel were undertaken by the South African Railways (Snyman 1983). The prospect of railway extensions to this region also spurred other mining ventures, such as the establishment of Gloucester Manganese, a mining company formed to exploit manganese deposits on the farm Gloucester. Shortly thereafter, Gloucester Manganese merged with the Manganese Corporation to create the Associated Manganese Mines of South Africa Limited (Ammosal). Ammosal reconstructed the old ore handling plant from Beeshoek on the farm Gloucester, with operations here contributing significantly to the overall manganese production of 250,000 tons (S.A. Manganese, 1977).

In 1930, an Englishman named Pringle-Smith was appointed by S.A. Manganese to develop and implement a comprehensive prospecting program for the company's properties (S.A. Manganese 1977:46). This initiative aimed to resume prospecting work that had been initiated in 1927 but had been halted due to unfavourable financial conditions and the absence of a railway connection. Pringle-Smith swiftly commenced opening up the mineral beds on the farms Kapstewel and Doornput. However, despite these efforts, S.A. Manganese lacked the market presence enjoyed by entities like the Manganese Corporation at that time. Consequently, the ore extracted was stockpiled at these two farms. Pringle-Smith departed from the Postmasburg area in 1932, driven by the intensified financial challenges of the Great Depression. His departure was prompted by S.A. Manganese's need to adjust his salary significantly downward (S.A. Manganese 1977). The economic repercussions of the Great Depression led to the closure of several smaller manganese mining companies. This period of economic hardship prompted a wave of merging and amalgamation within the industry. As a result, South African Manganese Limited and Associated Manganese Miners of South Africa Limited emerged as the dominant players in the manganese mining sector (Snyman 1983).

In the 1930s, the South African Geological Survey conducted a geological assessment of the minerals and ore deposits in the Postmasburg District. Among the team members was Dr. Leslie Gray Boardman, tasked with investigating manganese and hematite deposits in the district. In addition to identifying manganese deposits near Postmasburg, Dr. Boardman also discovered substantial iron ore deposits on farms situated along the northern extent of their study area, including Sishen, Bruce, and King (S.A. Manganese 1977).

From 1937, S.A. Manganese began acquisitions of various farms for mining. They would also establish a staff village to supplement for labour needed for the mining. In the 1940s, S.A. Manganese and the African Metals Corporation (Amcor), established a new company called Manganore Iron Mining Lt in order to mine iron ore. Dr Boardman had later convinced S.A. Manganese to acquire the farm Lilyveld as his geological survey had uncovered large amounts of haematite iron ore there.

In 1953, Iscor began with iron production at Sishen. The railway line from Postmasburg to Sishen had also been extended in this year in order to send ore to various Iscor plants in Pretoria, Vanderbijlpark, and Newcastle. By 1973, a second mine was established at Sishen and iron ore was exported to Saldanha Bay. This growth in the mining industry led to the establishment of the town of Kathu in order to house mine workers. By 1977, the Sishen-Saldanha railway line was completed.

# 6.2 Literature Review (SAHRIS)

Several Cultural Resource Management (CRM) surveys are on record for the general area and the relevant results of these studies are briefly discussed below and outlined in Table 6.

Table 5. Studies consulted for the project.

Author	Year	Project	Findings	
Morris, D.	2005	Archaeological Impact assessment of mining areas on the farms Bruce, King, Mokaning and Parson between Postmasburg and Kathu in the Northern Cape.	Cemeteries, Stone Age sites.	
Morris, D.	2008	Archaeological and Heritage Phase 1 Impact Assessment for Proposed Upgrading of Sishen Mine Diesel Depot Storage Capacity at Kathu, Northern Cape.	MSA scatters.	
Beaumont, P.	2005	Heritage Assessment for an EMPR amendment relating to a proposed crusher at Sishen Iron Ore Mine near Kathu in the Northern Cape province.	No sites were identified.	
Beaumont, P.	2007	Supplementary Archaeological Impact Assessment Report on Sites near or on the Farm Hartnolls 458, Kgalagadi District Municipality, Northern Cape Province.	Widespread ESA scatters	
Beaumont, P.	2008a	Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment Report on Portion 463/8 of the Farm Uitkoms 463, near Kathu, Kgalagadi Municipality, Northern Cape Province.	Stone Age scatters	
Beaumont, P.	2008b	Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report on Areas at Hotazhel Mine on the Farm Hotazhel 280, Kgalagadi District Municipality, Northern Cape Province.	No sites were identified.	
Huffman, T.N.	2001	Draft Archaeological Survey of the Smartt/Rissik Mine, Northern Cape.	An isolated MSA lithic.	
Fourie, W., van der Walt, J.	2006	Kalahari Manganese Mines: Heritage Assessment on Umtu 281, Olive Pan 282, Gama 283.	A cemetery, Stone Age scatter.	
Van der Walt, J.	2012	Aia Report for the Proposed Extension of An Abandoned Gravel Pit on the Farm Harvard 171 in the Kudumane Magisterial District 13km East of Kuruman.	No sites were identified.	
Van der Walt, J.	2013	Archaeological Impact Assessment for the Proposed Prospecting Right of a Quarry on the Farm Gamohaan 438 Portion 1 in the Kuruman Magisterial District.	No sites were identified.	
Van der Walt, J.	2016	Archaeological Impact Assessment Report for the Proposed  Metals Industrial Cluster near Kuruman, Northern Cape Province.  No sites were identified to the Proposed of the Pro		
Van der Walt, J.	2017	Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Khumani Iron Ore Mine Project, Sishen, Northern Cape.	No sites were identified.	
Pistorius, J.C.C.	2006	A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) Study for the Proposed New United Manganese of Kalahari (Umk) Mine on the Farms Botha 313, Smartt 314 and Rissik 330 near Hotazhel in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa.		
Pistorius, J.C.C.	2008	A Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) Study for a Proposed New Power Line for the United Manganese of Kalahari (UMK) Mine near Hotazel in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa.		
Webley, L., Halkett, D.	2008	Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Prospecting on the Farms Adams 328 and Erin 316, Kuruman, Ga-Segonyana Historical structures and Municipality in the Northern Cape.		
Kaplan, J.	2008	An Archaeological Assessment of Three Borrow Pits Alongside  D300 Mothibistad, Northern Cape Province.  Stone Age scatter.		
Dreyer, C.	2007	First Phase Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Proposed Garona-Mercury Transmission Power Line, Northern Cape, North-West Province & Free State.	ESA scatters, a cemetery, and traditional settlements.	

Angel, J., Fourie, W.	2016	Upgrading of the 66kv Network to a 132kv Network in the Hotazel,	Cemeteries, historic structure, Stone
		Kuruman and Kathu Area, Northern Cape Province – Post	Age site.
		Authorisation Walkdown from Mothibistad Substation to Sekgame	
		Switching Station. Heritage Walk Down and Management Plan.	
Birkholtz, P.	2019	Proposed Extension of Mining Activities and the Widening of a	No sites were identified.
		Haul Road on the Farm Lylyveld 545, near Kathu, Northern Cape	
		Province	

#### 6.3 Google Earth and the Genealogical Society of South Africa (Graves and Burial Sites)

Google Earth and 1:50 000 maps of the area were utilised to identify possible places where archaeological and historical sites might be located. The database of the Genealogical Society of South Africa indicated no known grave sites within the study area.

#### 7 Heritage Baseline

## 7.1 Description of the Physical Environment

The Project area traverses various vegetation types including Kuruman Vaalbosveld, Kuruman Thornveld, Ghaap Plateau Vaalbosveld, Olifantshoek Plains Thornveld, and Northern Upper Karoo. The Kuruman Vaalbosveld is described as open tree layer characterised by Acacia erioloba, A. karro, Rhus lancea and Ziziphus mucronate. Shrub layer poorly developed, with Grewia flava and Tarchonanthus camphoratus and grass layer open, with much bare soil in places. The Kuruman Thornveld is described as flat rocky plains and sloping hills with very-developed, closed shrub layer and well-developed open tree stratum consisting of Acacia erioloba. The Ghaap Plateau Vaalbosveld is described as flat plateau with well-developed shrub layer with Tarchonanthus camphoratus and Acacia karroo. Open tree layer has Olea europaea subsp. Africana, A. tortilis, Ziziphus mucronate and Rhus lancea. Olea is more important in the southern parts of the unit, while A. tortilis, A. hebeclada and A. mellifera are more important in the north and part of the west of the unit. Much of the south-central part of this unit has remarkably low cover of Acacia species for an arid savanna and is dominated by the nonthorny T. camphoratus, R. lancea and O. europaea subsp. Africana. The Olifantshoek Plains Thornveld is described as a very wide and diverse unit on plains with usually open tree and shrub layers with, for example, Acacia luederitzii, Boscia albitrunca and Rhus tenuinervis and with a usually sparse grass layer. The Northern Upper Karoo is described as shrubland dominated by dwarf karoo shrubs, grasses and Acacia mellifera subsp. detinens and some other low trees (especially on the sandy soils in the northern parts and vicinity of the Orange River). Flat to generally sloping, with isolated hills of Upper Karoo Hardeveld in the south and Vaalbos Rocky Shrubland in the northeast and with many interspersed pans (Mucina and Rutherford 2006).

The various farms which will undergo non-invasive prospecting and invasive prospecting activities cover an area of 66 107.1283 hectares and covers a wide region from north of Kuruman to Higgs' Hope towards Prieska.

The Kuruman and Asbestos Hills consist of banded iron formation, with jaspilite, chert and riebeckite-asbestos (Mucina and Rutherford 2006). Many stone tools found in the region of Kuruman have been seen to be made from jaspilite. Aeolian red sand can be found across much of the landscape in which the study areas lie.

# 7.2 Heritage Resources

The various farms earmarked for prospecting are situated within a larger sphere of significant archaeological sites. Stone Age sites and artefacts can be expected across the entirety of the landscape with more significant sites clustered and expected on rocky outcrops, hills, and watercourses. Low density scatters relating to the ESA, MSA, and MSA can also be expected in flat plains. The northern farms which will be prospected are situated closer to Kuruman, Kathu Townlands, and the Kathu Complex and

significant sites could be more prominent and expected within these farms. Known sites include Grade IIIC Stone Age scatters recorded around topographical focal points, only on the Lower Kuruman Native Reserve 219 (Figure 7.1 and 7.2).

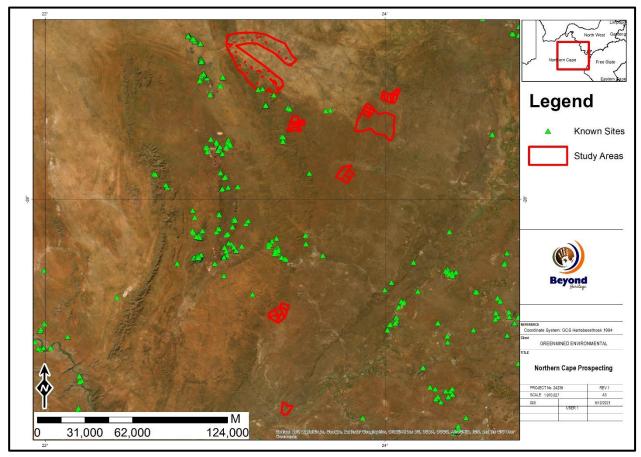


Figure 7.1. Known site distribution in relation to the study area.

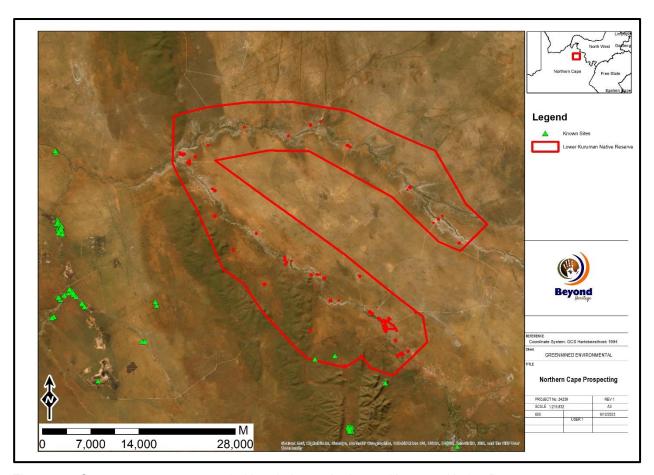


Figure 7.2. Stone age scatters recorded in relation to the Lower Kuruman Native Reserve.

Burial sites can occur anywhere on the landscape. A memorial site occurs at 27°33'32.4"S; 23°29'39.3"E at Edgehill 194/5 (Figure 7.3).



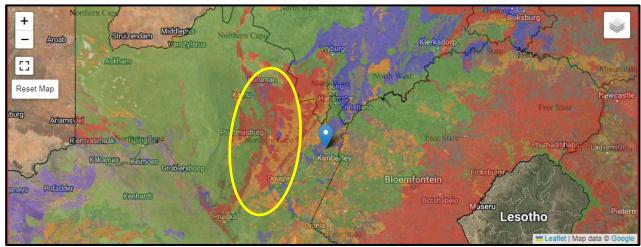
Figure 7.3. Memorial site at Edgehill 194/5 (Photograph provided by the client).

# 7.3 Cultural Landscape

The landscape has been mined since the contact period known as the Ceramic Later Stone Age whereby evidence of specularite mining and workings have been documented. The region is rich in minerals, and mining is a great driving force of the local economy. The project areas are situated within a landscape which is known for its extensive cultural layering spanning from the Early Stone Age to the Historic Period.

#### 7.4 Paleontological Heritage

According to the SAHRA palaeontological sensitivity map, the various study areas are indicated as varying sensitivities of low, moderate, high, and very high palaeontological sensitivity (Figure 7.4), and an independent study was commissioned for this aspect (Bamford 2024).



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
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 comes to light, SAHRA will continue to populate the map

Figure 7.4. Paleontological sensitivity of the approximate study area (yellow polygon) as indicated on the SAHRA Palaeontological sensitivity map.

# 8 Assessment of impacts

#### 8.1 Impacts on tangible heritage resources.

It is assumed that the prospecting phase involves the removal of topsoil and vegetation drilling activities and creating new roads to get to the drill points. These activities can result in impacts that include destruction or partial destruction of previously unknown and non-renewable heritage resources.

Any additional effects to subsurface heritage resources can be successfully mitigated by implementing a chance find procedure. Mitigation measures as recommended in this report should be implemented during all phases of the project. Impacts of the project on heritage resources is expected to be low during all phases of the development if mitigation measures are followed.

#### 8.1.1 Cumulative impacts

Cumulative impacts considered as an effect caused by the proposed action that results from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions. (Cornell Law School Information Institute, 2020). Cumulative impacts occur from the combination of effects of various impacts on heritage resources. The importance of identifying and assessing cumulative impacts is that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. In the case of this project, impacts can be mitigated to an acceptable level. However, when this project proceeds to actual mining this and other projects in the area can have a negative impact on heritage sites, the cultural landscape, and the sense of place.

#### 8.2 Impact Assessment Tables

Table 6. Impact assessment for invasive activities of the project

or remove from its original position archaeological material or objects.					
	Without mitigation	With mitigation (Preservation/ excavation of site)			
Extent	Site specific (1)	Site specific (1)			
Duration	Permanent (5)	Permanent (5)			
Magnitude	Low (3)	Low (3)			
Probability	Probable (3)	Improbable (2)			
Significance	27 (Low)	18 (Low)			
Status (positive or negative)	Negative	Negative			
Reversibility	Not reversible	Not reversible			
Irreplaceable loss of resources?	Yes	Yes			
Can impacts be mitigated?	Yes	Yes			

Nature: Activities resulting in disturbance of surfaces and/or sub-surfaces may destroy, damage, alter,

#### Mitigation:

- Once the drill sites have been confirmed these areas have to be subjected to a heritage walk down, this should be conducted prior to the commencement of invasive prospecting activities;
- Drill sites must be kept as close as possible to existing roads to minimise the impact on the landscape;
- Focal points on the landscape like rocky outcrops or pans must be avoided as far as possible as these areas could be sensitive from a heritage point of view;
- Further palaeontological studies should be conducted once the impact areas are confirmed;
- Monitoring of the project area by the ECO during the exploration phase for heritage chance finds, and if chance finds are encountered to implement the Chance Find Procedure for the project.

# Residual Impacts:

If sites are destroyed this results in the depletion of the archaeological record of the area and even though surface features can be avoided or mitigated, there is a chance that completely buried sites would still be impacted but this cannot be quantified.

#### 9 Conclusion and recommendations

The scope of work comprises a heritage desktop report for a large prospecting right area comprising approximately 66 107.1283 ha across various farms. Due to the geographical size of the exploration application and the fact that no intrusive activities will occur at this point of the application, it was deemed not feasible to conduct fieldwork at this point. Several large-scale heritage surveys were conducted for mining projects in the area and the archaeological character of the area is now well described (e.g., Beaumont 2007; 2008, Morris 2005; 2008, Huffman 2001, Fourie and van der Walt 2006, Webley and Halkett 2008). Extensive archaeological research has also been conducted at the Kathu Complex and Kuruman (Beaumont 2000). This provides the opportunity to establish an overview of potential heritage resources that could be affected in the area by the proposed prospecting activity.

National Heritage sites of Kathu Townlands and Wonderwerk Cave in the Kuruman Hills are situated near farms which will undergo prospecting and the Kogelbeen Caves are located in the study area. The Kathu Complex comprised of 11 Stone Age sites of great significance are also situated in the landscape (Beaumont 1990). It is clear from the studies conducted that the general area has a wealth of heritage sites and a cultural layering dating back to the Stone Age with scatters and sites dating to the ESA, MSA and LSA. Sites and artefacts dating to these periods are scattered over the landscape with MSA and LSA sites centred on rocky outcrops, pans and watercourses and similar sites are expected to occur in the project areas. Due to the considerable archaeological significance of the landscape, especially relating to the Stone Age, rocky outcrops, hills, and watercourses such as drainage lines and pans should be avoided as significant Middle and Late Stone Age sites are more likely to be found within these topographical features.

Burial sites can occur anywhere on the landscape. A memorial site occurs at 27°33'32.4"S; 23°29'39.3"E at Edgehill 194/5.

According to the South African Heritage Resource Authority (SAHRA) Paleontological sensitivity map the study areas are of varying sensitivities of low, moderate, high, and very high palaeontological sensitivity an independent study was commissioned for this aspect (Bamford 2024).

No intrusive activities will occur at this point of the application and the potential impact on heritage resources is expected to be very low.

The impact to heritage resources is expected to be low provided that the recommendations in this report are adhered to, based on the South African Heritage Resource Authority (SAHRA) 's approval.

#### 9.1 Recommendations for condition of authorisation

The following recommendations for Environmental Authorisation apply and the Project may only proceed based on approval from SAHRA:

- Once the drill sites have been confirmed these areas have to be subjected to a heritage walk down, this should be conducted prior to the commencement of invasive prospecting activities;
- Drill sites must be kept as close as possible to existing roads in order to minimise the impact on the landscape;
- Focal points on the landscape like rocky outcrops, caves (including the Kogelbeen Caves) or pans must be avoided as far as possible as these areas could be sensitive from a heritage point of view;
- Monitoring of the Project area by the ECO during the exploration phase for heritage and palaeontology chance finds, if chance finds are encountered to implement the Chance Find Procedure for the Project as outlined in Section 9.

#### 9.2 Chance Find Procedure

# 9.2.1 Heritage Resources

The possibility of the occurrence of subsurface finds cannot be excluded. Therefore, if during invasive activities any possible finds such as stone tool scatters, artefacts or bone and fossil remains are made, the operations must be stopped, and a qualified archaeologist must be contacted for an assessment of the find and therefor chance find procedures should be put in place as part of the EMP. A short summary of chance find procedures is discussed below and monitoring guidelines applicable to the Chance Find procedure is discussed below and monitoring guidelines for this procedure are provided in Section 9.5.

This procedure applies to the developer's permanent employees, its subsidiaries, contractors and subcontractors, and service providers. The aim of this procedure is to establish monitoring and reporting procedures to ensure compliance with this policy and its associated procedures. Crews must be properly inducted to ensure they are fully aware of the procedures regarding chance finds as discussed below.

- If during the invasive phases of this Project, any person employed by the developer, one of its subsidiaries, contractors and subcontractors, or service provider, finds any artefact of cultural significance or heritage site, this person must cease work at the site of the find and report this find to their immediate supervisor, and through their supervisor to the senior on-site manager.
- It is the responsibility of the senior on-site Manager to make an initial assessment of the extent of the find and confirm the extent of the work stoppage in that area.
- The senior on-site Manager will inform the ECO of the chance find and its immediate impact on operations. The ECO will then contact a professional archaeologist for an assessment of the finds who will notify the SAHRA.

# 9.2.2 Monitoring Programme for Palaeontology – to commence once the excavations / drilling activities begin.

- 1. The following procedure is only required if fossils are seen on the surface and when drilling/excavations commence.
- When excavations begin the rocks and discard must be given a cursory inspection by the environmental officer or designated person. Any fossiliferous material (trace fossils, fossils of plants, insects, bone or coalified material) should be put aside in a suitably protected place. This way the Project activities will not be interrupted.
- 3. Photographs of similar fossils must be provided to the developer to assist in recognizing the fossil plants, vertebrates, invertebrates or trace fossils in the shales and mudstones. This information will be built into the EMP's training and awareness plan and procedures.
- 4. Photographs of the putative fossils can be sent to the palaeontologist for a preliminary assessment.
- 5. If there is any possible fossil material found by the developer/environmental officer then the qualified palaeontologist sub-contracted for this Project, should visit the site to inspect the selected material and check the dumps where feasible.
- 6. Fossil plants or vertebrates that are considered to be of good quality or scientific interest by the palaeontologist must be removed, catalogued and housed in a suitable institution where they can be made available for further study. Before the fossils are removed from the site a SAHRA permit must be obtained. Annual reports must be submitted to SAHRA as required by the relevant permits.
- 7. If no good fossil material is recovered, then no site inspections by the palaeontologist will be necessary. A final report by the palaeontologist must be sent to SAHRA once the Project has been completed and only if there are fossils.
- 8. If no fossils are found and the excavations have finished, then no further monitoring is required.

#### 9.3 Reasoned Opinion

The overall impact of the Project with the recommended mitigation measures is acceptable and residual impacts can be managed to an acceptable level through implementation of the recommendations made in this report. The socio-economic benefits also outweigh the possible impacts of the development if the correct mitigation measures are implemented for the Project.

#### 9.4 Potential risk

Potential risks to the proposed Project are the occurrence of intangible features and unrecorded cultural resources (of which graves, and subsurface cultural material are the highest risk). This can cause delays during construction, as well as additional costs involved in mitigation and possible layout changes. The stakeholder engagement process will assess intangible heritage resources further if this is listed as a concern.

# 9.5 Monitoring Requirements

Day to day monitoring during invasive prospecting activities can be conducted by the ECO. The ECO or other responsible persons should be trained along the following lines:

- Induction training:
- o Responsible staff identified by the developer should attend a short course on heritage management and identification of heritage resources.
- o Staff should also receive training on the CFP.
- Site monitoring and watching brief: As most heritage resources occur below surface, all earth-moving activities need to be routinely monitored in case of accidental discoveries. The greatest potential impacts are expected by clearing activities and invasive activities. The ECO should monitor all such activities. If any heritage resources are found, the chance finds procedure must be followed as outlined above.

Table 7. Monitoring requirements for the Project

Heritage Monitoring							
Aspect	Area	Responsible for monitoring and measuring	Frequency	Proactive or reactive measurement	Method		
Cultural Heritage Resource Chance Find	Entire Project area	ECO	Weekly (during invasive activities)	Proactively	If risks are manifested (accidental discovery of heritage resources) the chance find procedure should be implemented:  1. Cease all works immediately; 2. Report incident to the Sustainability Manager; 3. Contact an archaeologist to inspect the site; 4. Report incident to the competent authority; and 5. Employ reasonable mitigation measures in accordance with the requirements of the relevant authorities.  Only recommence operations once impacts have been mitigated.		

# 9.7 Management Measures for inclusion in the EMPr

# **Table 8. Heritage Management Plan for EMPr implementation**

Area	Mitigation measures	Phase	Timeframe	Responsible party for implementation	Target	Performance indicators (Monitoring tool)
General project area	<ul> <li>Once the drill sites have been confirmed these areas have to be subjected to a heritage walk down, this should be conducted prior to the commencement of invasive prospecting activities;</li> <li>Drill sites must be kept as close as possible to existing roads in order to minimise the impact on the landscape;</li> <li>Focal points on the landscape like rocky outcrops or pans must be avoided as far as possible as these areas could be sensitive from a heritage point of view;</li> </ul>	Prior to exploration	Once off	Project Archaeologist Applicant EPC Contractor	Ensure compliance with relevant legislation and recommendations from SAHRA under Sections 35, 36 and 38 of NHRA	General project area
General project area	Monitoring of the project area by the ECO during invasive phases for chance finds, if chance finds are encountered to implement the Chance Find Procedure for the project	During any invasive activities	Weekly	Applicant EPC Contractor	Ensure compliance with relevant legislation and recommendations from SAHRA under Sections 35, 36 and 38 of NHRA	General project area

#### 10 References

- Angel, J. & Fourie, W. 2016. Upgrading of the 66kv Network to a 132kv Network in the Hotazel, Kuruman and Kathu Area, Northern Cape Province Post Authorisation Walkdown from Mothibistad Substation to Sekgame Switching Station. Heritage Walk Down and Management Plan.
- Beaumont, P.B. 1990. Kathu Pan. In: Beaumont, P., Morris, D. (Eds.), Guide to Archaeological Sites in the Northern Cape, Chapter Kathu. McGregor Museum, Kimberley.
- Beaumont, P.B. 2000. Archaeological Scoping Survey for the Purpose of an EMPR for the Sishen Iron Ore Mine.
- Beaumont, P. 2005. Heritage Assessment for an EMPR amendment relating to a proposed crusher at Sishen Iron Ore Mine near Kathu in the Northern Cape province.
- Beaumont, P.B. & Vogel, J.C. 2006. On a timescale for the past million years of human history in central South Africa.
- Beaumont, P. 2007. Supplementary Archaeological Impact Assessment Report on Sites near or on the Farm Hartnolls 458, Kgalagadi District Municipality, Northern Cape Province.
- Beaumont, P. 2008a. Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment Report on Portion 463/8 of the Farm Uitkoms 463, near Kathu, Kgalagadi Municipality, Northern Cape Province.
- Beaumont, P. 2008b. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report on Areas at Hotazhel Mine on the Farm Hotazhel 280, Kgalagadi District Municipality, Northern Cape Province.
- Beaumont, P.B. & Vogel, J.C. 2006. On a timescale for the past million years of human history in central South Africa.
- Bergh, J.S. 1999. Geskiedenisatlas van die Vier Noordelike Provinsies. Pretoria: Van Schaik.
- Birkholtz, P. 2019. Proposed Extension of Mining Activities and the Widening of a Haul Road on the Farm Lylyveld 545, near Kathu, Northern Cape Province
- Breutz, P.J. 1963. The Tribes of the Districts of Kuruman and Postmasburg. Department of Bantu Administration and Development, Ethnological Publication No. 49.
- Chazan, M. & Horwitz, L.K. 2015. An overview of recent research at Wonderwerk Cave, South Africa. *Preserving African Cultural Heritage* 253-261.
- Chazan M., Wilkins J., Morris D., & Berna F. 2012. Bestwood 1: a newly discovered Earlier Stone Age living surface near Kathu, Northern Cape Province, South Africa. *Antiquity* 86: 331.
- Chazan, M. 2021. Early hominin group size: A perspective from Bestwood 1, Northern Cape Province, South Africa. *Quaternary International*.
- Dreyer, C. 2007. First Phase Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Proposed Garona-Mercury Transmission Power Line, Northern Cape, North-West Province & Free State.
- Fourie, W. & van der Walt, J. 2006. Kalahari Manganese Mines: Heritage Assessment on Umtu 281, Olive Pan 282, Gama 283.
- Huffman, T.N. 2001. Draft Archaeological Survey of the Smartt/Rissik Mine, Northern Cape.
- Kaplan, J. 2008. An Archaeological Assessment of Three Borrow Pits Alongside D300 Mothibistad, Northern Cape Province.
- Legassick, M.C. 1989. The northern frontier to c. 1840: the rise and decline of the Griqua people. In Elphick, R. & Giliomee, H. (Eds) *The shaping of South African society*, 1652-1840. Middletown: Wesleyan University Press.
- Legassick, M. 2010. The politics of a South African frontier: The Griqua, the Sotho-Tswana and the missionaries, 1780 1840. Basle: Basler Afrika Bibliographien.
- Lukich, V., Porat, N., Faershtein, G., Cowling, S. & Chazan, M. 2019. New chronology and stratigraphy for Kathu Pan 6, South Africa. *Journal of Paleolithic Archaeology*, 2(3): 235-257.
- Morris, D. 2005. Archaeological Impact assessment of mining areas on the farms Bruce, King, Mokaning and Parson between Postmasburg and Kathu in the Northern Cape.
- Morris, D. 2008. Archaeological and Heritage Phase 1 Impact Assessment for Proposed Upgrading of Sishen Mine Diesel Depot Storage Capacity at Kathu, Northern Cape.
- Mucina, L. & Rutherford, M.C. 2006. The vegetation map of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. SANBI, Pretoria.
- National Heritage Resources Act NHRA of 1999 (Act 25 of 1999)

- Pistorius, J.C.C. 2006. A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) Study for the Proposed New United Manganese of Kalahari (Umk) Mine on the Farms Botha 313, Smartt 314 and Rissik 330 near Hotazhel in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa.
- Pistorius, J.C.C. 2008. A Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) Study for a Proposed New Power Line for the United Manganese of Kalahari (UMK) Mine near Hotazel in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa.
- S.A. Manganese. 1977. Kalahari wealth: The story of manganese 1926 -1976. Cape Town: Purnell. Sahra Report Mapping Project Version 1.0, 2009
- Snyman, P.H.R. 1983. Die ontstaan en groei van Postmasburg. Contree 13: 4-26.
- Thackeray, A.I., Thackeray, J.F. & Beaumont, P.B. 1983. Excavations at the Blinkklipkop Specularite Mine near Postmasburg, Northern Cape. *The South African Archaeological Bulletin* 38 (137): 17-25.
- Van der Walt, J. 2012. AlA Report for the Proposed Extension of An Abandoned Gravel Pit on the Farm Harvard 171 in the Kudumane Magisterial District 13km East of Kuruman.
- Van der Walt, J. 2013. Archaeological Impact Assessment for the Proposed Prospecting Right of a Quarry on the Farm Gamohaan 438 Portion 1 in the Kuruman Magisterial District.
- Van der Walt, J. 2016. Archaeological Impact Assessment Report for the Proposed Metals Industrial Cluster near Kuruman, Northern Cape Province.
- Van der Walt, J. 2017. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Khumani Iron Ore Mine Project, Sishen, Northern Cape.
- Walker, S.J., Lukich, V. & Chazan, M. 2014. Kathu Townlands: a high density Earlier Stone Age locality in the interior of South Africa. *PLoS One*, 9(7): p.e103436.
- Webley, L. & Halkett, D. 2008. Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Prospecting on the Farms Adams 328 and Erin 316, Kuruman, Ga-Segonyana Municipality in the Northern Cape.
- Wilkins, J. & Chazan, M. 2012. Blade production 500 thousand years ago at Kathu Pan 1, South Africa: support for a multiple origins hypothesis for early Middle Pleistocene blade technologies. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 39:1883-1900

#### **Electronic sources:**

www.statssa.gov.za Cited April 2024