



SiVEST SA (PTY) LTD

**PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE KRAALTJIES WIND
ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE,
NEAR BEAUFORT WEST, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE,
SOUTH AFRICA**

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

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|----------------------------|---------------------|
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Hearth Heritage was appointed by SiVEST on behalf of South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Cultural Landscape Assessment (CLA) which would form part of the Heritage Impact Assessment (Undertaken by PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd). This report will serve to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment Process for the proposed construction of up to 240MW Kraaltjies Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and associated infrastructure near Beaufort West in the Western Cape Province.

Description

The proposed Kraaltjies Wind Energy Facility is located approximately 50km south of the town of Beaufort West in the Western Cape Province. The area is characterised by low relief, gently rolling to hilly terrain between 1000 to 1100 m amsl. The highest points are koppies that lie along low, rocky, west-east trending ridges. Dramatic blue and grey vistas of the Nieuweveld Mountains to the north and Swartberg Mountains to the south are visible from these ridges and frame the lower lying regional area giving it an expansive but contained sense of place. Most of the landscape is clothed in karroid bossieveld vegetation, with trees mainly confined to shallow, intermittent-flowing, dendritic drainage lines, and shallow, gravelly soils. Historic farmsteads are characteristically located on the northern slopes of these ridges and are often associated with complex configurations of impressive stone packed stock kraals. The site is accessed via the regional N12 scenic route, a historic route linking Beaufort West with the towns of De Rust and Outdshoorn via scenic Meiringspoort Pass, and the coastal town of George further south. The north-south orientated N12 intersects the characteristic east west ridges with shallow poorts, culminating in the Meiringspoort Pass that winds through the Groot Swartberg mountain range located within the Swartberg Nature Reserve. This road carried inhabitants and travellers between historic towns, farmsteads and further regional destinations since at least the late C18th. Views and vistas of the distant mountains and destinations give significance to

the experience of the landscape. The history of the area is one of contact, conflict and survival and is an example of a long history of symbiotic relationship between man and nature.

The Koup region is a significant cultural landscape that reflects the relationship between man and nature over a period of time. This relationship has generally been sustainable, where biodiversity and ecological systems have been maintained in the utilisation of the landscape expressed in specific land use patterns. The surrounding land use indicates a social appreciation of the natural environment with low impact stock farming with limited farmstead crop cultivation. The vastness and relative homogenous nature of the cultural landscape is, however, often undervalued. If careful contextual planning is not followed, it will rapidly result in a cluttered wasteland¹. This does not mean that development is discouraged, but rather that the implementation of wind and solar energy farms should be planned holistically. It is the duty of the planning department to consider this application in terms of other renewable energy developments that are planned/proposed for the Koup area, notably the proposed RE developments included in the cumulative impact section of this report.

Conservation: to protect the natural resources (water, air, land, sand, fishes, etc.), ecosystems (reefs, fynbos), biological abundance (flora and fauna), landscapes and the local culture.

Development: to protect social and economic progress, without damaging or depleting the natural resources (sustainable development).

The findings of this report, coupled with the proposed layout for development of wind turbines, which considers appropriate placement in terms of wind energy capacity, concludes that the development can be permitted within the site if the report's recommendations are followed. The mitigating recommendations in this report consider the ecological, aesthetic, historic and socio-economic value lines that underpin the layers of significance that combine to create the character of the place and the cultural landscape of the Koup region. These recommendations include road and farmstead complex buffers which incorporate cultivated areas, graves and steep slope no-go areas, and ridgeline high sensitivity areas as well as consideration of the unique land form of the site, CBA and ESA no-go areas, as well as mechanisms to support the non-landowner residents that live on the site in being able to continue their indigenous land use patterns, knowledge and social systems. These mitigations will reduce the impact on the surrounding landscape and heritage resources but due to the high visual impact of the turbines, largely a result of their height, the negative impact to the cultural landscape cannot be removed, only reduced from very high to moderate.

¹ *Wasteland- "barren or uncultivated land"*

Heritage Indicators

The conclusion of this CLA study has culminated in the map (Figure 64) showing location of proposed buildable area of WEF infrastructure with the following heritage indicators and development buffers:

- A 1000m high sensitivity buffer to either side of the N12 for turbines and vertical infrastructure placement (pink buffer). Note that 800m is a no-go turbine buffer and 200m high sensitivity buffer where turbine placement is subject to specialist approval – roads are permissible;
- 300m buffer to either side of identified significant historic farm roads (yellow) for turbine placement, substation and laydown area (200m no-go turbine buffer and 100m high sensitivity buffer where turbine placement is subject to specialist approval);
- 1000m buffer around Amospoortjie historic farmstead, 800m buffer around Trakaskuilen farmstead and 500m around Dankbaar farmstead (orange circles) for turbine placements (single turbines currently proposed for the edges of some of these buffers are acceptable); and
- existing roads to be used with minimal upgrade as far as possible;
- high sensitivity areas on mountain ridges and steep slopes (over 10%) for all infrastructure (orange shading) – any development of roads or infrastructure to be refined to specialist approval;
- prior to construction when detailed survey information is available and micro-siting takes place, the placement of T1 on the high sensitivity ridgeline buffer must be placed below the 1040m asl line;
- riverine corridors 100m buffer to either side;
- ECO to geo-id location of identified medicinal plant species and relocate these plants where threatened by the development.

Further, the following is recommended:

- Substation Option 1 is preferred in terms of cultural landscape assessment as it avoids any steep slopes, the ridgeline and the CL buffers of the farm road and N12 scenic route.
- Substation Option 2 is acceptable if all permanent infrastructure, other than roads, can be kept out of the N12 800m no-go buffer on final construction.

Further heritage indicators and recommendations for construction/ decommissioning and operational phases unsuitable for mapping have been made in the CLA (Section 12 on page 53) and are necessary for the identified negative impacts to be reduced from very high to medium negative impact of the proposed Kraaltjies WEF and associated infrastructure on the cultural landscape.

Conclusion and Impact Statement

- Prior to construction when detailed survey information is available and micro-siting takes place, the placement of T1 on the high sensitivity ridgeline buffer must be placed below the 1040m asl line;

With the recommended CLA buffers in place and all other recommendations followed, the overall impact to the cultural landscape for the proposed Kraaltjies WEF and associated infrastructure can be reduced from very high to moderate.

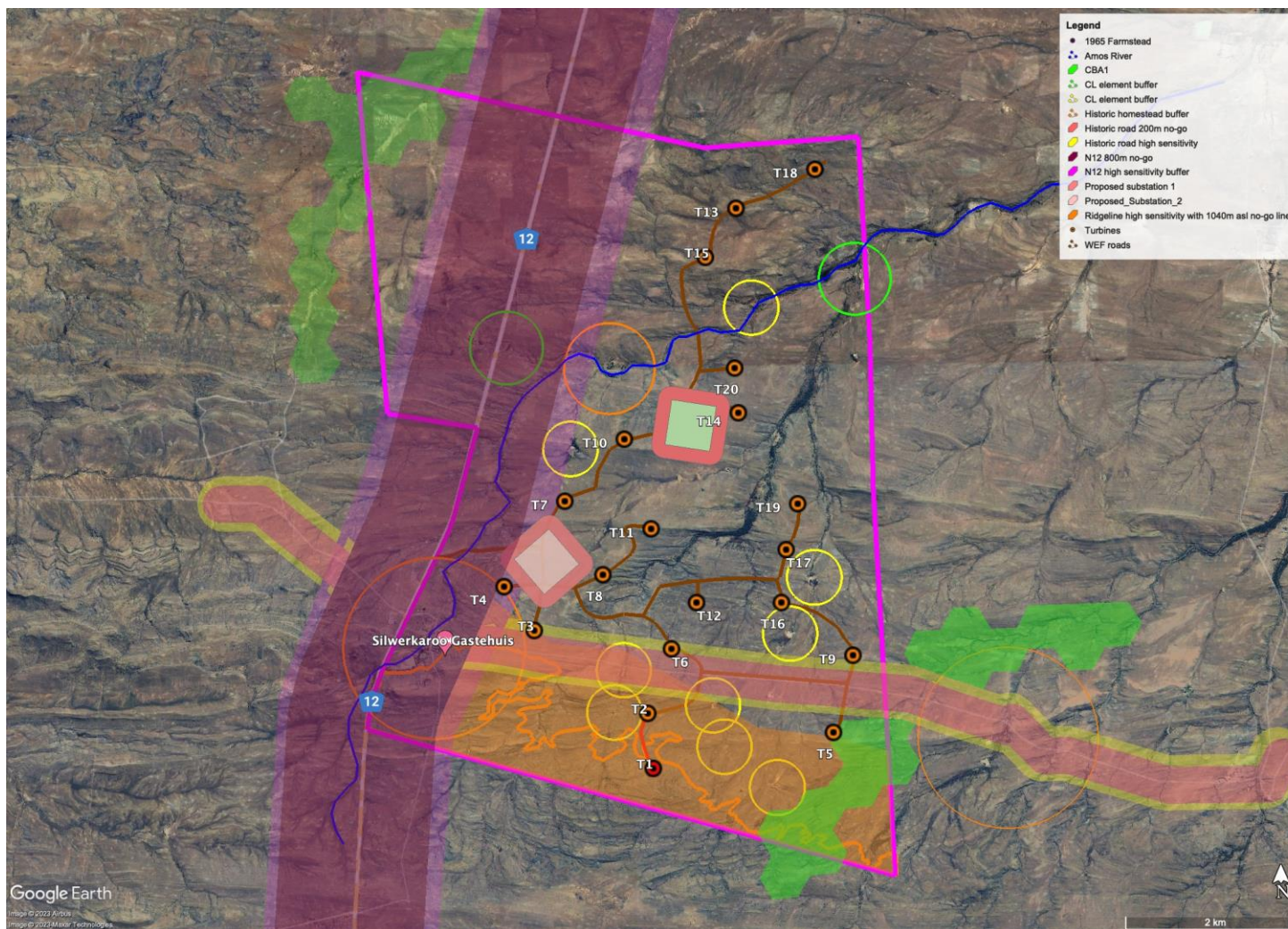


Figure 1 Cultural Landscapes Assessment heritage indicators and buffers map for proposed Kraaltjies WEF development (Note: 100m/ flood line riverine corridor not indicated).

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) AND
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED) - REQUIREMENTS
FOR SPECIALIST REPORTS (APPENDIX 6)**

| Regulation GNR 326 of 4 December 2014, as amended 7 April 2017, Appendix 6 | Section of Report |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. (1) A specialist report prepared in terms of these Regulations must contain- | 1.2 |
| a) details of- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the specialist who prepared the report; and ii. the expertise of that specialist to compile a specialist report including a curriculum vitae; | |
| b) a declaration that the specialist is independent in a form as may be specified by the competent authority; | |
| c) an indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the report was prepared; | 1.1 |
| (cA) an indication of the quality and age of base data used for the specialist report; | 1.3 |
| (cB) a description of existing impacts on the site, cumulative impacts of the proposed development and levels of acceptable change; | 12 |
| d) the date and season of the site investigation and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment; | 1.3.2 |
| e) a description of the methodology adopted in preparing the report or carrying out the specialised process inclusive of equipment and modelling used; | 1.3 |
| f) details of an assessment of the specific identified sensitivity of the site related to the proposed activity or activities and its associated structures and infrastructure, inclusive of a site plan identifying site alternatives; | 10 |
| g) an identification of any areas to be avoided, including buffers; | 12;15; Figure 64 |
| h) a map superimposing the activity including the associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the site including areas to be avoided, including buffers; | Figure 61; Figure 64 |
| i) a description of any assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge; | 2 |
| j) a description of the findings and potential implications of such findings on the impact of the proposed activity, (including identified alternatives on the environment) or activities; | 10;12 |
| k) any mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr; | 12;15 |
| l) any conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation; | 12;15 |
| m) any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or environmental authorisation; | 12;15 |
| n) a reasoned opinion- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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; | 15 |

| | |
|--|-------|
| o) a description of any consultation process that was undertaken during the course of preparing the specialist report; | 1.3.6 |
| p) a summary and copies of any comments received during any consultation process and where applicable all responses thereto; and | 1.3.6 |
| q) any other information requested by the competent authority. | |
| 2) Where a government notice <i>gazetted</i> by the Minister provides for any protocol or minimum information requirement to be applied to a specialist report, the requirements as indicated in such notice will apply. | |

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CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

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Glossary of Terms

Cultural Landscapes Terminology

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| “perceptual qualities” | Aspects of a landscape which are perceived through the senses, specifically views and aesthetics. |
| “cultural landscape” | A representation of the combined worlds of nature and of man illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both external and internal (World Heritage Committee, 1992). Includes and extends beyond the study site boundaries. |
| “cultural landscape area” | These are single unique areas which are the discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape type. Each will have its own individual character and identity, even though it shares the same generic characteristics with other areas of the same type. |
| “study site” | The study site is assumed to include the area within the boundaries of the proposed development |
| “characteristics” | elements, or combination of elements, which make a particular contribution to distinctive character. |
| “elements” | individual components which make up the landscape, such as trees and fences. |
| “landscape character” | A distinct, and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse. |
| “landscape character assessment” | This is the process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features (characteristics) that make landscapes distinctive. This process results in the production of a Landscape Character Assessment. |
| “sense of place” | The unique quality or character of a place, whether natural, rural or urban. It relates to uniqueness, distinctiveness or strong identity. |
| “scenic route” | A public street designated as a <u>scenic drive</u> by a governing body in recognition of the high visual amenity alongside that public street, including background vistas of a mountain, open country, a coastline or a town; usually in the form of a scenic drive, but which could also be a railway, hiking trail, horse-riding trail or 4x4 trail. |
| “cultural significance” | Aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance |
| “development” | Any physical intervention, excavation or action, other than that caused by natural forces, which may result in a change in the appearance or physical nature of a site or influence its stability and future well-being, including (a) the construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of a site or a structure on the site; |

- (b) the carrying out of any works on, over or under the site;
- (c) the construction or putting up for display of signs or notice boards;
- (d) any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land; or
- (e) any removal, physical disturbance, clearing or destruction of trees or vegetation or the removal of topsoil;

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| “heritage resource” | Heritage resource as defined in section 1 of the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) |
| “cultural heritage resource” | Places, objects and practices of cultural significance |
| “drift” | a watercourse crossing often associated with shallower areas that may be dry at times of the year |
| “tangible cultural heritage” | Physical heritage, such as buildings and objects, as opposed to intangible heritage |
| “intangible cultural heritage” | The practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills, as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith, that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage; – something considered to be a part of heritage that is not a physical object or place, such as a memory, tradition, language, belief or a cultural practice, (as opposed to tangible heritage) |
| “ <i>kraal</i> ” | Livestock enclosure common throughout the area. |
| “ <i>kran</i> s” | Cliff |
| “ <i>legplaats</i> ” | Stock post |
| “ <i>matjieshuis</i> ” | Mat or reed house |
| “ <i>poort</i> ” | portal usually associated with a gap between two higher elevations which separates two distinct landscapes, often related to a pass |
| “ <i>skerm</i> ” | Circular enclosures constructed out of dried bushes |
| “ <i>trekboer</i> ” | Semi-nomadic subsistence farmers who moved out of the Cape Colony |
| “ <i>werf</i> ” | Farmyard |
| “ <i>koup</i> ” | tail fat (<i>stertvet</i>) - referring to the fat-tailed sheep of the khoekhoen pastoralists who occupied the area before and during the arrival of the <i>trekboere</i> |

List of Abbreviations

| | |
|--------|---|
| AIA | Archaeological Impact Assessment |
| BA | Basic Assessment |
| BAR | Basic Assessment Report |
| CHG | Cultural Heritage Survey Guidelines and Assessment Tools for Protected Areas in South Africa (May 2017) |
| CL | Cultural Landscape |
| CLA | Cultural landscape area |
| CSIR | Council for Scientific and Industrial Research |
| DFFE | Department of Forestry, Fishing and Environmental Affairs |
| ECO | Environmental Control Officer |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| EMPr | Environmental Management Programme |
| GPS | Global Positioning System |
| HIA | Heritage Impact Assessment |
| HWC | Heritage Western Cape |
| IKS | Indigenous Knowledge Systems |
| MW | Mega Watts |
| NCW | Not Conservation Worthy |
| NEMA | National Environmental Management Act |
| NHRA | National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) |
| PHRA | Provincial Heritage Resources Authority |
| PPP | Public Participation Process |
| PV | Photovoltaic |
| REDZ | Renewable Energy Development Zone |
| SAHRA | South African Heritage Resources Agency |
| SAHRIS | South African Heritage Resources Information System |
| SEA | Strategic Environmental Assessment |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation |
| VIA | Visual Impact Assessment |
| WEF | Wind Energy Facility |
| WHC | World Heritage Convention |

SiVEST SA (PTY) LTD

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE KRAALTJIES WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR BEAUFORT WEST, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as “Mainstream”), has appointed SiVEST SA (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as “SiVEST”) to undertake the required EIA Process for the proposed construction of the 240MW Kraaltjies Wind Energy Facility (WEF) associated infrastructure near Beaufort West in the Western Cape Province.

The overall objective of the development is to generate electricity by means of renewable energy technology capturing wind energy to feed into the National Grid.

At this stage it is anticipated that the proposed Kraaltjies WEF will comprise of up to twenty (20) wind turbines with a maximum total energy generation capacity of up to approximately 240MW. The electricity generated by the proposed WEF development will be fed into the national grid via a 132kV overhead power line. The 132kV overhead power line and Eskom Substation component will however require a separate EA subject to a BA process.

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, which were published on 04 December 2014 [GNR 982, 983, 984 and 985] and amended on 07 April 2017 [promulgated in Government Gazette 40772 and Government Notice (GN) R326, R327, R325 and R324 on 7 April 2017 (as amended), various aspects of the proposed development are considered listed activities under GNR 327 and GNR 324 which may have an impact on the environment and therefore require authorisation from the National Competent Authority (CA), namely the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DFFE), prior to the commencement of such activities. Specialist studies have been commissioned to assess and verify the project under the new Gazetted specialist protocols.

1.1 Terms of Reference

The aim of the study is to identify the cultural landscape (CL) elements of the proposed development area and to assess the impact of the proposed development on those elements. This report aims to assist the developer, South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as “Mainstream”), in managing the identified cultural landscape elements in a responsible manner, to protect, conserve, and develop them within the framework provided for by the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) (NHRA).

1.2 Specialist Credentials

Emmylou Rabe Bailey, director of Hearth Heritage consultancy (est 2009), has over 15 years of experience in the heritage field, in the public and private sectors. Emmylou holds an MA in Archaeology and Heritage Conservation from the University of Leicester, UK (2008), specialising in the assessment, conservation and representation of archaeological resources and cultural landscapes. Emmylou is an Accredited Professional Heritage Practitioner and Executive Committee member with the Association of Professional Heritage Practitioners (APHP) and registered with the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) as a Professional Archaeologist. She also sits on ICOMOS International Scientific Committees for Archaeological Heritage Management and Cultural Landscape as an Expert Member.

1.3 Assessment Methodology

1.3.1 *Desktop analysis and literature review.*

- DFFE Screening Tool.
- Review of Desktop Beaufort West Heritage Survey and Beaufort West Municipal SDF.
- Review of Central Karoo District Spatial Development Framework.
- Review of relevant Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA), Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) and Socio-economic Impact Assessment reports (SEIA) on the proposed Koup 1 and adjacent Koup 2 proposed WEF's as well as other relevant assessment reports from the surrounding area;
- Review of relevant academic literature and articles on cultural landscape assessment;
- Review of relevant academic literature and articles on the cultural heritage of the regional study area;
- Review of relevant policies and legislation on cultural landscapes assessment, scenic drives and route assessment and heritage assessment in EIA process;
- Review of historic and current maps of the study area and surrounds;
- Review of REDZs Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) reports (DEA, 2015); and
- Review of relevant international cultural landscapes best practice.

1.3.2 Preliminary field survey

The field survey of cultural landscape elements was conducted by a cultural landscapes specialist (archaeologist / anthropologist / heritage specialist) over 4 days from 25-28 November 2021 (summer). Survey was conducted in a vehicle on existing farm access roads and on foot where no vehicle access was possible. Cultural heritage resources and cultural landscape elements falling within and adjacent to the proposed development footprint were identified, mapped and photographed where appropriate. The season for fieldwork did not impact the research for this study.

1.3.3 Recording

Recording and documentation of relevant cultural heritage and cultural landscape elements included the assessment of resources in terms of the specialist requirements for CLA criteria, report writing, mapping and recommendations.

The significance of the cultural landscape is based on the examination of the:

- processes (spatial pattern, land uses, response to natural features and cultural traditions);
- components (circulation, boundaries, vegetation, structural types, cluster arrangements, archaeological types, small-scale elements); and
- perceptual qualities (views and aesthetics), which are then utilized to identify and assess the relationships between the patterns of human use, the natural environment and cultural beliefs and attitudes.

Evaluation of provisionally identified heritage elements' significance according to World Heritage Convention Operational Guidelines (2017) and National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) (Act 25 of 1999) as is required as part of the EIA process.

1.3.4 Grading

S.7(1) of the NHRA provides for the grading of heritage resources into those of National (Grade I), Provincial (Grade II) and Local (Grade III) significance. Grading is intended to allow for the identification of the appropriate level of management for any given heritage resource. Grade I and II resources are intended to be managed by the national and provincial heritage resources authorities respectively, while Grade III resources would be managed by the relevant local planning authority. These bodies are responsible for grading, but anyone may make recommendations for grading.

Heritage Western Cape (2016), uses a system in which resources of local significance are divided into Grade IIIA – high significance, Grade IIIB – medium significance and Grade IIIC - low local or contextual

significance, with a Not Conservation Worthy (NCW) grading for sites of very low or no significance and generally not requiring mitigation or other interventions).

It should be noted that without further research and investigation of the intangible and living heritage found at the Kraaltjies study site or surrounding area, a valuable and true assessment of the significance of the heritage resources and elements is not possible, and any grading assigned is subject to further work to confirm the proposed gradings. Notwithstanding, this report has drawn from other research to inform gradings and is confident that the proposed gradings herein have considered the most common significance assignments.

1.3.5 Sensitivity mapping for cultural landscapes (SEA, 2015)

Landscape sensitivity was determined as part of this study through the identification of natural, scenic and cultural resources which have aesthetic, social and economic value to the local community, the region, and society as a whole. The resources considered include features of topographic, geological or cultural interest, together with landscape grain or complexity. Protected landscapes, such as national parks, nature reserves, game parks or game farms, as well as heritage sites, add to the cultural value of an area and were thus considered as essential criteria in the determination of landscape sensitivities. Landscape sensitivity was further determined by taking into account existing receptors in the area including settlements, national roads, arterial roads, scenic routes, and tourist destinations such as guest farms and resorts.

1.3.6 Community engagement

Limited interviews with tenants and labourers on the properties proposed for development and land owners around the proposed development were done as part of the cultural landscape assessment to identify any values associated with identified heritage resources and to ascertain whether any meaningful intangible heritage resources are associated with any of the built structures or natural features. Further research/ other studies beyond the brief of this BA would be required to determine the significance of the intangible or living heritage of the Koup cultural landscape. The findings of this report must be shared with identified interested and affected parties in the EIA public participation process in order to further ascertain any intangible cultural resources that may exist on the landscape that have not been identified. Notably it is critical that the non-landowner residents on and surrounding the properties proposed for development also be included as I&APs in the process.

2. ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Not detracting in any way from the comprehensiveness of the fieldwork and study undertaken, it is necessary to realise that the cultural landscape elements identified during fieldwork do not necessarily

represent all the possible elements present in the area. Various factors account for this, including the layered histories associated with the area, specifically in terms of intangible and living heritage resources associated to the cultural landscape. Fieldwork was thorough enough for the purpose of this study, to pick up on the sense of place and character of the area, in order to assess impact of the development on the cultural landscape and propose mitigation measures.

The following identified assumptions should be noted:

- That the reports and information provided to Hearth Heritage by the client and EAP are true and correct at the time of submission.
- That the development infrastructure will be removed and rehabilitation of the landscape completed as per the EMPr for these developments in the decommissioning phase and not recommissioned.
- That the status quo of the landscape was 'as usual' during the fieldwork period and that residents or labourers, stock or other relevant cultural elements were not altered for the survey period.

The following identified limitations should be noted:

- Limited cultural landscapes research for the immediate area was available for the proposed Heuweltjies and Kraaltjies WEF's, however HIA studies in the area have been done and were consulted for information. Similarities to landscape character and elements in the region to other areas where CLA studies have been done, allowed for use of these studies in analysis and recommendations for development in this report (Jansen and Franklin, 2020).
- No stakeholder participation was conducted to determine intangible or living heritage resources for the purposes of the cultural landscape assessment.
- Due to the historical layering of the landscape and associated history and memory of conflict, dispossession and disempowerment, the values attributed to the landscape and heritage resources are varied and do not necessarily align to give a definitive single significance to the site. Perceptions of sense of place vary over time and place and from one individual to the next depending on their relationship to the landscape and the proposed development. Without a detailed and extensive consultation process with all potential stakeholders, including non-landowners (labourers, tourists, youth), the full significance of the cultural landscape and impact of the proposed development on it, cannot be accurately determined. The depth and complexity of values assigned to heritage resources in this landscape is beyond the scope of this report for the Scoping Phase of the EIA, but should be further developed in the EIA process through stakeholder engagement by qualified heritage specialists to determine the full impact of the proposed development on the cultural landscape and inform mitigation accordingly.
- At the time of undertaking the visual study no information was available regarding the type and intensity of lighting that will be required for the proposed WEF and therefore the potential impact of lighting at night was not assessed at a detailed level. However, lighting requirements are relatively similar for all WEF's and as such, general measures to mitigate the impact of additional light sources on the ambience of the nightscape were provided in the VIA (Schwartz, 2022).

3. TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

3.1 Project Location

The proposed WEF and associated infrastructure is located approximately 52km south of Beaufort West in the Western Cape Province and is within the Beaufort West and Prince Albert Local Municipalities, in the Central Karoo District Municipality (**Figure 2**).

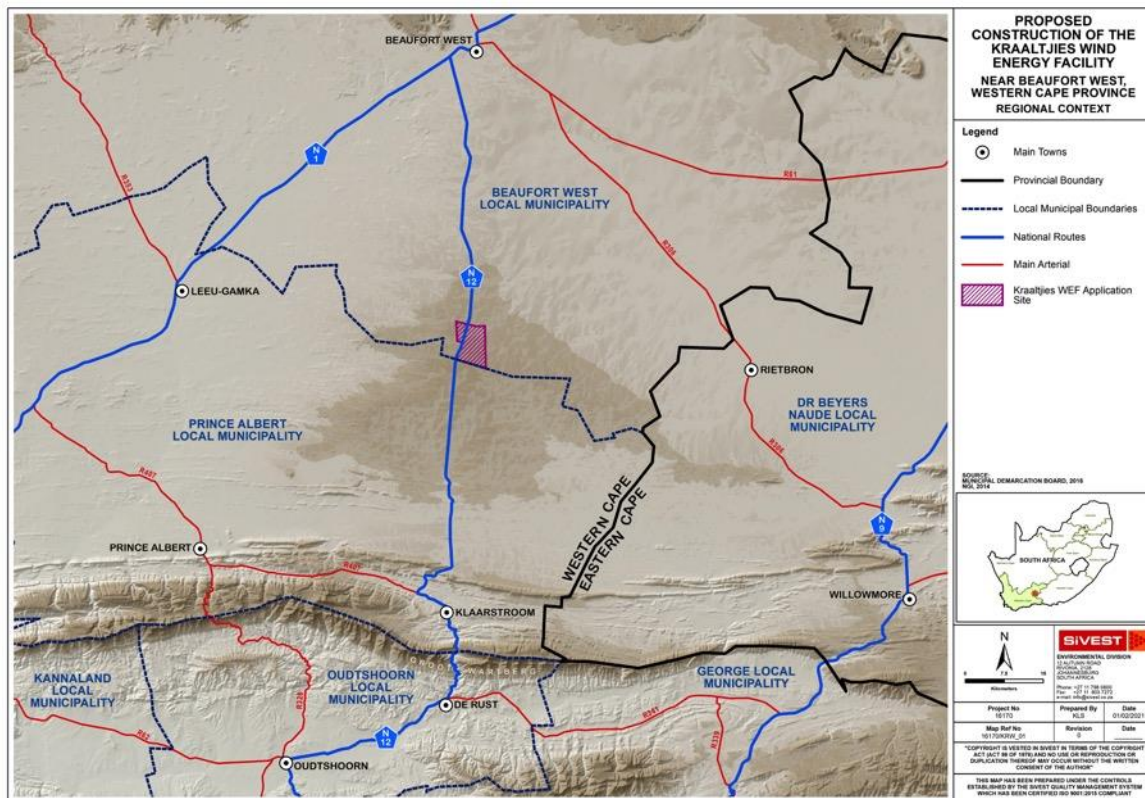


Figure 2: Regional context map for Kraaltjies project site.

3.1.1 WEF

The WEF application site as shown on the locality map below (**Figure 3**) is approximately 3960.29 hectares (ha) in extent and incorporates the following farm portions:

- Portion 10 of the Farm Brits Eigendom No 374; and
- Portion 25 of the Farm Brits Eigendom No 374.

At this stage, it is proposed that a 132kV power line will connect the Kraaltjies WEF on-site substation to the national grid either by way of Eskom Galenia MTS, or via the Beaufort West/Trakas WEF On-site Substation to the south of the Kraaltjies WEF project site (**Figure 3**).

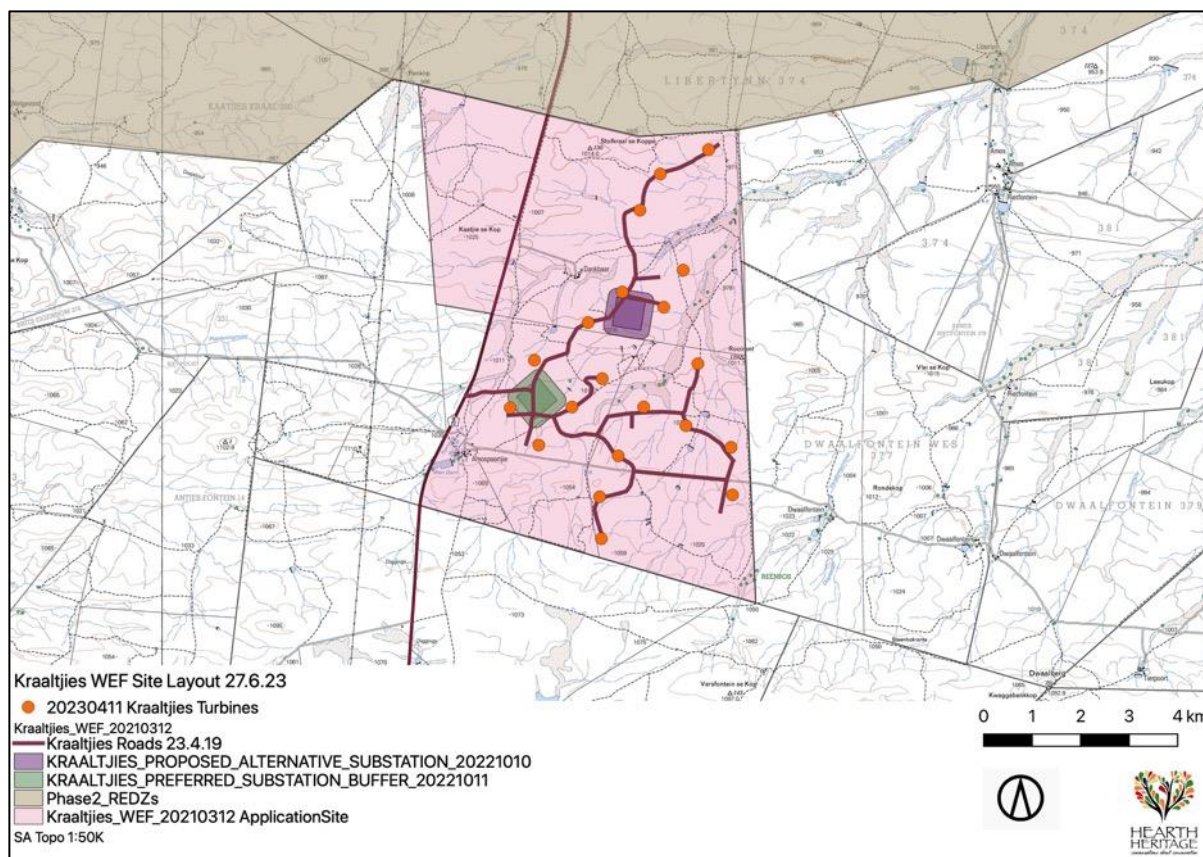


Figure 3: Kraaltjies WEF Site Locality

3.2 Project Description

3.2.1 Wind Farm Components

The WEF will include the following infrastructure:

- Up to twenty (20) wind turbines, with a maximum export capacity of approximately 240MW (subject to allowable limits in terms of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme - “REIPPPP”).;
- Each wind turbine will have a hub height of up to 120m to 200m and rotor diameter of up to approximately 200m.
- Permanent compacted hardstanding areas / platforms (also known as crane pads) of approximately 90m x 50m (total footprint of approx. 4 500m²) per turbine during construction and for on-going maintenance purposes for the lifetime of the proposed development; Each wind turbine will consist of a foundation of up to approximately 15m x 15m in diameter. In addition, the foundations will be up to approximately 3m in depth;
- Electrical transformers (690V/11-33kV) adjacent to each wind turbine (typical footprint of up to approximately 2m x 2m) to step up the voltage to 11-33kV;

Associated infrastructure will include:

- One (1) new 11kV - 33/132kV on-site substation consisting of independent Power Producer (IPP) portion (11-33kv portion to form part of this environmental authorisation application form) and an Eskom portion (132kV portion of the shared 11-33kV/132kV portion) including associated equipment and infrastructure, within a total assessment area of approximately 25ha (i.e. 250 000m²). The Eskom portion, which will be applied for under a separate environmental authorisation application, will be ceded over to Eskom once the IPP has constructed the Eskom switchyard. The necessary Transfer of Rights will be lodged with DFFE when required at a later stage
- A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) will be located next to the IPP portion / yard of the shared onsite 11-33kV/132kV substation and will be included as part of the 25ha assessment area;
- The wind turbines will be connected to the proposed substation via medium voltage (11-33kV) underground cabling and / or overhead power lines.
- Road servitude of 8m and a 20m underground cable or overhead line servitude.
- The main access road will be approximately 8 - 12 m wide. During construction the internal and access roads will be up to 13.5m in some parts (i.e. for bringing in transformers etc), after construction they will be rehabilitated back down to 8m or less. Turns will have a radius of up to 50m for abnormal loads (especially turbine blades) to access the various wind turbine positions. It should be noted that the proposed application site will be accessed via the N12 National Route; During operation, internal roads with a width of up to approximately 5m (excluding reserves) wide will provide access to each wind turbine. Existing site roads will be used wherever possible, although new site roads will be constructed where necessary;
- One (1) construction laydown / staging area of up to approximately 3ha. It should be noted that no construction camps will be required in order to house workers overnight as all workers will be accommodated in the nearby town;
- Operation and Maintenance (O&M) buildings, including offices, a guard house, operational control centre, O&M area / warehouse / workshop and ablution facilities to be located on the site identified for the substation. This will be included in the 11-33kV portion/yard of the on-site substation area 25 ha of the IPP portion of the onsite substation;
- A wind measuring lattice (approximately 140m in height) mast has already been strategically placed within the wind farm application site in order to collect data on wind conditions;
- No new fencing is envisaged at this stage. Current fencing is standard farm fence approximately 1-1.5m in height. Fencing might be upgraded (if required) to be up to approximately 2m in height; and
- Water will either be sourced from existing boreholes located within the application site or will be trucked in, should the boreholes located within the application site be limited.

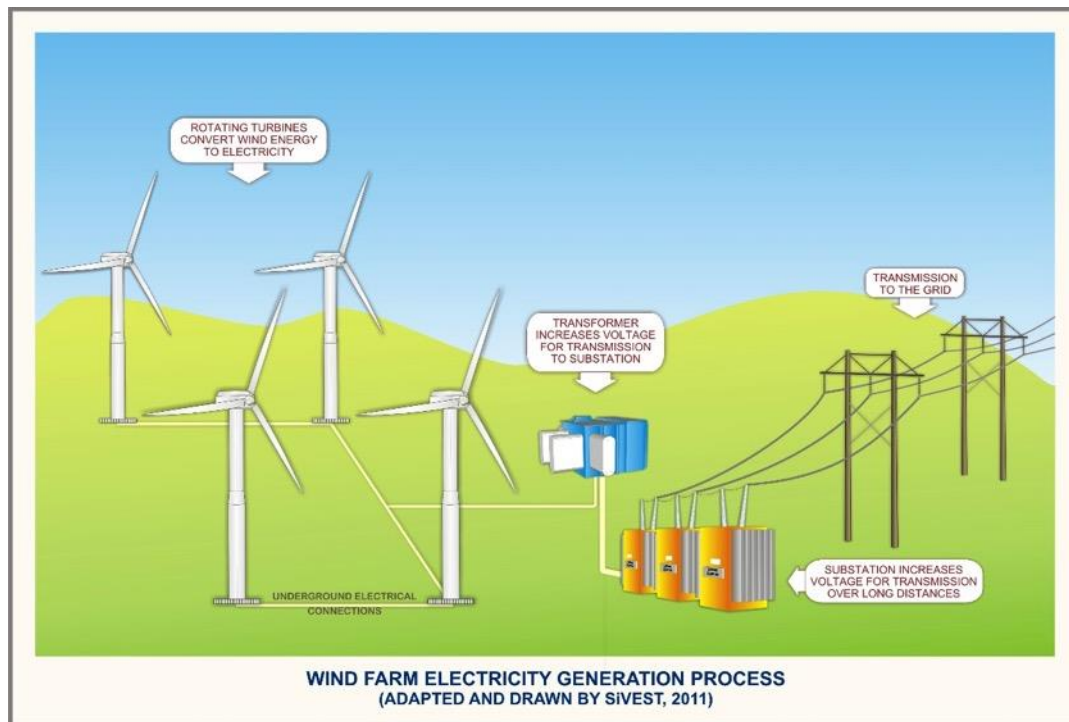


Figure 4: Conceptual WEF electricity generation process showing electrical connections (VIA, 2021)

3.3 EIA alternatives

3.3.1 Location alternatives

No other activity alternatives are being considered. Renewable Energy development in South Africa is highly desirable from a social, environmental and development point of view and a wind energy facility is considered suitable for this site due to the high wind resource in this area.

3.3.2 Technology alternatives

The choice of technology selected for the Kraaltjies WEF is based on environmental constraints and technical and economic considerations. No other technology alternatives are being considered as wind energy facilities are more suitable for the site than other forms of renewable energy due to the high wind resource.

The size of the wind turbines will depend on the development area and the total generation capacity that can be produced as a result. The choice of turbine to be used will ultimately be determined by technological and economic factors at a later stage.

3.3.3 Layout Alternative

Design and layout alternatives will be considered and assessed as part of the EIA. These include alternatives for the Substation locations and also for the construction / laydown area.

3.3.4 No-go Alternative

The 'no-go' alternative is the option of not undertaking the proposed WEF and connection infrastructure projects. Hence, if the 'no-go' option is implemented, there would be no development. This alternative would result in no environmental impacts from the proposed project on the site or surrounding local area. It provides the baseline against which other alternatives are compared and will be considered throughout the report.

4. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

4.1 STATUTORY FRAMEWORK: National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999)

The NHRA is utilised as the basis for the identification, evaluation and management of heritage resources and in the case of Cultural Resources Management those resources specifically impacted on by development as stipulated in Section 38 of NHRA. This study falls under s38(8) and requires comment from the relevant heritage resources authority, Heritage Western Cape Provincial Heritage Authority.

The identification and evaluation of cultural landscapes for this Environmental Impact Assessment process has been conducted according to the NHRA. While landscapes with cultural significance do not have a dedicated Section in the NHRA, they are protected under the definition of the National Estate (Section 3). Section 3(2)(c) and (d) list "historical settlements and townscapes" and "landscapes and natural features of cultural significance" as part of the National Estate. Furthermore, some of the points in Section 3(3) speak directly to cultural landscapes.

Section 38(8) of the NHRA states that if an impact assessment is required under any legislation other than the NHRA then it must include a heritage component that satisfies the requirements of S.38(3). Furthermore, the comments of the relevant heritage authority must be sought and considered by the consenting authority prior to the issuing of a decision. Under the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998), as amended (NEMA), the project is subject to a BA. The present report provides the cultural landscapes assessment component. Heritage Western Cape is required to provide comment on the proposed project in order to facilitate final decision making by the DEA. The relevant sections of legislation are included here to emphasize the detail and definitions on what qualifies as cultural landscapes, intangible heritage and living heritage.

4.1.1 NHRA definitions of terms applicable to assessment of cultural landscape:

Heritage resources are protected under the NHRA. As part of this assessment, resources were, as far as possible, assigned sensitivity ratings according to Section 3(3) of this act, which provides a guideline for evaluating the cultural significance of heritage resources according to the following criteria:

- (a) its importance in the community or pattern of South Africa's history;
- (b) its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (c) its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (d) its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
- (e) its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- (f) its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- (g) its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social cultural or spiritual reasons;
- (h) its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa; and
- (i) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.

Cultural heritage values (significance) as outlined in the NHRA, refers to qualities and attributes possessed by places or objects: these values can be aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance; for the past, present and future generations. These values may manifest themselves in places and physical features but can also be associated with intangible qualities such as people's associations with or feelings for a place or item or other elements such as cultural practices, knowledge, songs, legends and stories.

4.1.2 Cultural Heritage Survey Guidelines and Assessment Tools for Protected Areas in South Africa, May 2017 (Gazetted Dec 2017)

This guide is meant for those who work in Protected Areas and manage cultural heritage resources. The guide should be used together with the National Heritage Resource Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) (NHRA), the National Environmental Management Act: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003), the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (PHRA) Guidelines on Norms and Standards. In lieu of minimum standards guidelines for cultural landscapes assessment specifically in South African legislation, the CHG offers cultural heritage survey guidelines and assessment tools that can be used for the purposes of CLA's in the EIA process.

Tools for inventories of different categories of cultural heritage resources:

- Intangible Cultural Heritage
 - Types: a) Elements of folklore and traditional crafts
 - b) Elements of oral tradition
- Cultural Landscapes Characteristics:

- a) processes – spatial pattern, land uses, response to natural features and cultural traditions
- b) components – circulation, boundaries, vegetation, structural types, cluster arrangements, archaeological types, small-scale elements
- c) perceptual qualities – views and aesthetics

4.2 Spatial Development Frameworks and Heritage Surveys

The Western Cape Provincial Government: Heritage and Scenic resources: Inventory and Policy Framework for the Western Cape, September 2014 Version 5 by Winter & Oberholzer, identifies and grades the scenic resources within the Western Cape. The aim of the framework study was so that cultural and scenic resources of significance could be identified and rated so that they could be included in all Spatial Development Frameworks (SDF's) in order to avoid inappropriate planning applications. The Winter & Oberholzer (2014) study focuses on the regional level. The Central Karoo District Municipal Spatial Development Framework (2019) recognises the landscape character, scenic assets and built environment heritage resources of the region as “excellent scenic” and “sense of place, heritage and tourism assets... in its landscape quality”. Further it emphasizes the need to protect the sensitive biodiversity and water catchment conservation areas in the region. The Beaufort West Municipal Spatial Development Framework (2013, CNdV Africa) recognises the need for sensitivity in scale for wind farm developments on the local area and does a rudimentary inclusion of the Desktop Beaufort West Heritage Survey by Abrahamse with Bridgman (2013), which considered the built environment and cultural landscape of the Beaufort West municipality.

4.3 Scenic Routes

A scenic route is usually a public street designated as a scenic drive by a governing body in recognition of the high visual amenity alongside that public street, including background vistas of a mountain, open country, a coastline or a town; usually in the form of a scenic drive, but which could also be a railway, hiking trail, horse-riding trail or 4x4 trail. Although not directly stipulated in the NHRA, “scenic routes” are considered as a category of heritage resource in the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guidelines for involving heritage specialists in the EIA process, and Baumann and Winter (2005) comment that the visual intrusion of development on a scenic route should be considered a heritage issue. The Central Karoo SDF and the Beaufort West SDF recognise the N12 as an important scenic route with significant viewsheds that need to be protected from insensitively-scaled development.

4.4 World Heritage Convention

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Operational Guidelines for the World Heritage Convention (2017) define Cultural Landscapes as:

Cultural properties that represent the "combined works of nature and of man". They are illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both external and internal. Cultural landscapes should be selected based on their representation in terms of a clearly defined geo-cultural region and also for their capacity to illustrate the essential and distinct elements of such regions. Cultural landscapes often reflect the specific techniques of sustainable land use, considering the characteristics and limits of the natural environment they are established in, and a specific spiritual relation to nature.

Cultural landscapes fall into three main categories, namely:

- (i) The most easily identifiable is the clearly defined landscape designed and created intentionally by man. This embraces garden and parkland landscapes constructed for aesthetic reasons which are often (but not always) associated with religious or other monumental buildings and ensembles.
- (ii) The second category is the organically evolved landscape. This results from an initial social, economic, administrative, and/or religious imperative and has developed its present form by association with and in response to its natural environment. Such landscapes reflect that process of evolution in their form and component features. They fall into two sub-categories:
 - a relict (or fossil) landscape is one in which an evolutionary process came to an end at some time in the past, either abruptly or over a period. Its significant distinguishing features are, however, still visible in material form.
 - a continuing landscape is one which retains an active social role in contemporary society closely associated with the traditional way of life, and in which the evolutionary process is still in progress. At the same time, it exhibits significant material evidence of its evolution over time.
- (iii) The final category is the associative cultural landscape. The inscription of such landscapes on the World Heritage List is justifiable by the powerful religious, artistic or cultural associations of the natural element rather than material cultural evidence, which may be insignificant or even absent.

5. RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

While it is recognised that renewable energy is required to address the effects of climate change and has the potential to contribute to socio-economic development in rural areas, wind and solar photovoltaic (PV) facilities must be sited and designed in a manner that minimises the impact on South Africa's rich cultural resources and landscapes. Renewable energy facilities, including supporting infrastructure such as power lines, can be perceived as industrial structures, which have the potential to impact negatively on sensitive landscapes. The natural and cultural landscape characteristics generally encompass visual, scenic, aesthetic and amenity values, which contribute to the overall 'sense of place' of an area. Wind turbines in particular are tall structures that can be visible from long distances and have a high potential to impact on

landscapes and visual resources. According to the Scottish Natural Heritage Guideline² the visual impact of a wind farm depends on the distance from which it is viewed, weather conditions, turbine siting and the landscape context. Several guidance documents have provided generic categories for the degrees of visibility and visual impact related to distance. Table 1 was adapted from the Scottish Planning Advice Note 452 and offers general guidance on the effect of distance on the perception of a wind farm in an open landscape. Although the document does not clearly specify the turbine size this table refers to, the document mentions turbines with tower heights of more than 70 metres (m) and rotor diameters of more than 80m. Turbines have since increased in size and can now reach hub heights of 150m and rotor diameters of up to 200m, resulting in a wind farm in some conditions being visible from a distance of over 50 kilometres (km) away. Even though the below table considers smaller turbines than what is generally proposed in South Africa, it still places the potential visual impacts of wind farms into perspective. The cumulative impacts of renewable energy development on the landscape are of specific concern. According to the Scottish Natural Heritage Guideline, cumulative impacts may be perceived when more than one facility is visible from one viewpoint, when several facilities are seen during a single journey, and when there is a gradual increase in the number or size of facilities over time.

The Landscape Specialist Assessment (Oberholzer, 2016) done for the SEA REDZ has identified development density limits guidelines. These guidelines are related to the size and spacing of the wind or solar PV facilities and determined by the type of terrain as well as viewsheds from sensitive receptors. These together determine the acceptable development density limits in terms of mitigating cumulative impacts on the cultural landscape.

² Scottish Natural Heritage (2014) Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape. Available from: http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/strategy/renewables/Guidance_Siting_Designing_wind_farms.pdf

Table 1: Wind development density limit guidelines (SEA REDZ Landscape Report)

| Colour | Sensitivity | Cluster* size guide | Buffer** between clusters | Indicative overall development density*** | |
|----------|-------------|--|---|---|--------|
| | | | | ha/Turbine | MW/km² |
| Dark red | Very High | Further assessment required before development can be considered | | | |
| Red | High | 30 turbines | 6 km if within same viewshed as another cluster | 302 | 0.8 |
| Orange | Medium | 60 turbines | | 208 | 1.1 |
| Green | Low | 120 turbines | | 160 | 1.4 |

* All turbines within 6 km of each other and within the same viewshed are considered as being in the same cluster. Clusters include all turbines having a valid environmental authorisation or for which an environmental application has already been lodged and the assessment process is underway. Proposed turbines for which the environmental application was lodged subsequent to the development under investigation do not need to be taken into account when considering cluster limits.

** Buffers are only applicable once the total number of turbines in a cluster, including those of new proposed developments, will exceed the defined cluster limit.

*** Development densities include the buffers between clusters and are based on the following assumptions:

- 2.3 MW turbines;
- 130 m rotor diameter (D);
- spacing of 650 m (5×D) between turbines and 910 m (7×D) between rows;
- 30 turbines in 5×6 (number of units × number of rows) layout;
- 60 turbines in 10×6 layout; and
- 120 turbines in 20×6 layout.

Table 2: Turbine height and scale comparison (Winter and Wilson, 2021) – The Kraaltjies turbines are proposed to exceed the heights shown here.

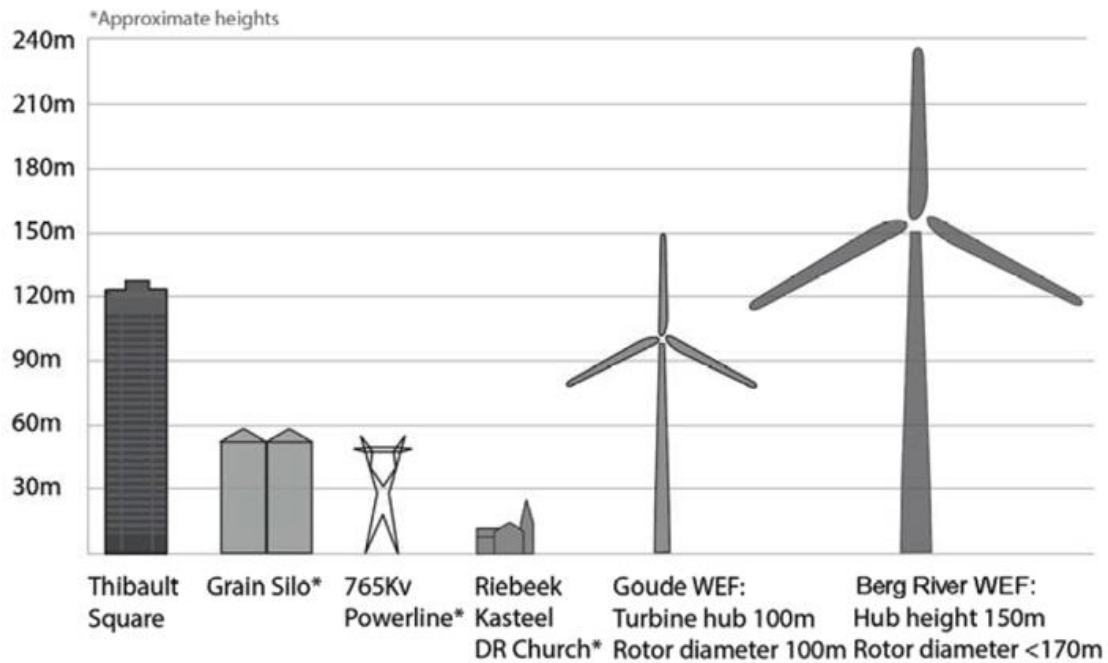


Table 3: General perception of wind farm in an open landscape (Scottish Planning Advice Note 45: Renewable Energy Technologies)

| Distance from turbine | Perception |
|-----------------------|--|
| <2 km | Likely to be a prominent feature |
| 2 – 5 km | Relative prominence |
| 5 – 10 km | Only prominent in clear visibility – seen as part of the wider landscape |
| 15 – 30 km | Only seen in very clear visibility – a minor element in the landscape |

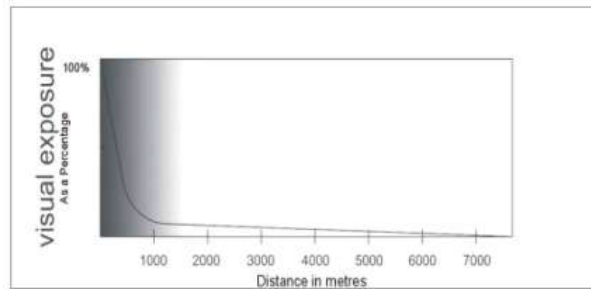


Figure 5: The rate at which the visual impact of an object diminishes over distance

6. CULTURAL LANDSCAPES AS CONCEPT

At its core the concept of cultural landscapes unites the products of ‘natural’ ecological processes and the products emerging from the processes of transformation of the ‘natural’ site by people in constructing their ‘built’ world (Jansen and Franklin, 2020). Cultural landscapes can be interpreted as complex and rich extended historical records conceptualised as organisations of space, time, meaning, and communication moulded through cultural process. The connections between landscape and identity and, hence, memory are fundamental to the understanding of landscape and human sense of place. Cultural landscapes are the interface of culture and nature, tangible and intangible heritage, and biological and cultural diversity. They represent a closely woven net of relationships, the essence of culture and people’s identity. They are symbolic of the growing recognition of the fundamental links between local communities and their heritage, human kind, and its natural environment. In contemporary society, particular landscapes can be understood by taking into consideration the way in which they have been settled and modified including overall spatial organisation, settlement patterns, land uses, circulation networks, field layout, fencing, buildings, topography, vegetation, and structures. The dynamic and complex nature of cultural landscapes can be regarded as text, written and read by individuals and groups for very different purposes and with very many interpretations. The messages embedded in the landscape can be read as signs about values, beliefs, and practices from various perspectives. Most cultural landscapes are living landscapes where changes over time result in a montage effect or series of layers, each layer able to tell the human story and relationships between people and the natural processes.

The significance of the landscape reflects not just the sum of the individual parts, but rather landscapes as an integral whole. It is the nature of the relationship between features, and between these features and the broader landscape setting (context) that is important. What is also important is an understanding about how these landscapes have been produced. In other words, it is essential that the physical informants and historical events that have given structure and form to the landscape features are understood and appropriately interpreted with regard to heritage significance (Jansen and Franklin, 2020).

7. DESCRIPTION OF THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

7.1 THE REGIONAL KOUP CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

The proposed Kraaltjies Wind Energy Facility is located approximately 52km south of the town of Beaufort West in the lower Karoo bioregion of the Western Cape Province. The area is characterised by low relief, gently undulating terrain between 1000 to 1100m amsl. The highest points are koppies that lie along low, rocky, east-west trending ridges. Dramatic blue and grey vistas of the Nieuweveld Mountains to the north and Swartberg Mountains to the south are visible from these ridges and frame the lower lying regional area giving it an expansive but contained sense of place. Most of the landscape is clothed in Gamka Karoo (NKI 1) type karroid bossieveld vegetation of the Nama Karoo biome, with trees mainly confined to shallow, intermittent-flowing, dendritic drainage lines, and shallow, gravelly soils overlaying the Abrahamskraal and Middleton geological formations. The area is described by Winter and Oberholzer in their Heritage and Scenic Resources: Inventory and Policy Framework for the Western Cape (2013) as follows:

Between the Swartberg Mountain range in the south of the Great Karoo and the Nuweveld Mountains forming part of the “Great Escarpment” to the north, lies an extensive plain known as “Die Vlake”. This vast semi-desert area is composed of the Beaufort Group rocks consisting of shales, mudstone, sandstone and tillite. The only relief is provided by the ridges of dolerite, and the koppies capped by dolerite cills. This is a sparsely populated area with settlements far apart, including the towns of Laingsburg, Merweville, Prince Albert, Beaufort West and Murraysburg. Agriculture is restricted to sheep and game farming. Given the pre-historic nature of the Central Karoo, the area is of great palaeontological interest (fossils), as well as archaeological sites, such as at Nelspoort, near Beaufort West. During early colonial times much of the game, and consequently the San inhabitants, had all but been eliminated by the stock farmers expanding their grazing areas. Evidence of the Anglo-Boer War in the early 1900s still remains in the form of gravesites and blockhouses along the railway line, and places such as Matjiesfontein and Prince Albert were used as garrisons by the British. Matjiesfontein and the isolated Gamkaskloof have Provincial Heritage Site status. Mountain passes and “poorts” of scenic and heritage significance include the Swartberg Pass (Provincial Heritage Site), Gamkaskloof Pass, Meiringspoort, Seweweekspoort (all in the Swartberg range), as well as Molteno Pass in the Nuweveld range. The Karoo National Park near Beaufort West is a protected landscape incorporating the Great Escarpment.

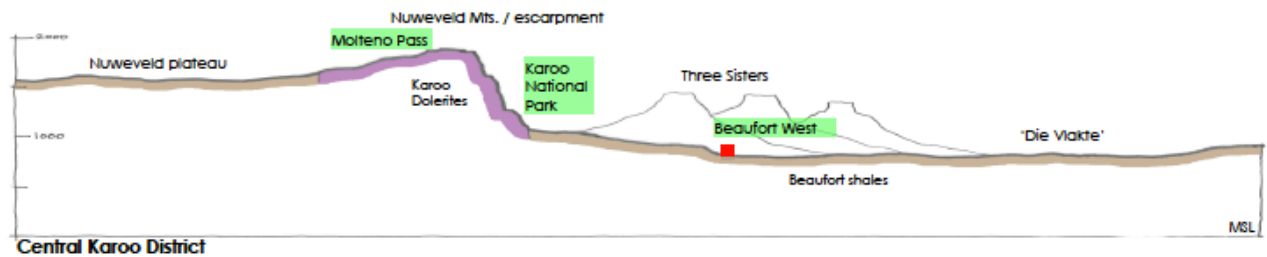


Figure 6: Winter and Oberholzer (2013) section of the Central Karoo District showing “Die Vlakke” in which the proposed Kraaltjies WEF site is located.

The CSIR assessment report on risks and opportunities for Shale Gas Development in the Central Karoo (2016) described the effects of the arid nature of the area as follows:

The Karoo is an arid ecosystem characterised by low, unpredictable rainfall and episodic drought events (Hoffman & Cowling, 1990). This has important implications for the dynamics of vegetation within the region. Concepts such as succession and gradual, stepwise and predictable changes in vegetation composition do not apply well in arid ecosystems, and instead ecologists have recognised the event-driven, non-linear dynamics of arid systems such as the Karoo (Milton & Hoffman, 1994; Wiegand & Milton, 1996). Recognition is given under this concept to the unpredictable nature of such systems and their ability to switch quickly from one state to another in response to climatic or biotic events, without the need to pass gradually through intermediate stages. This has important implications for physical disturbance in the Karoo and the ability of humans to repair these impacts (Visser et al., 2004). Many of the shrub species present are long-lived (hundreds of years) and recruitment occurs infrequently in response to rare sequences of rainfall and climate conditions (Wiegand & Milton, 1996). As such, it can be very difficult to re-establish the dominant shrub species in disturbed areas as recovery does not occur spontaneously and active rehabilitation is often met with poor success (Carrick & Kruger, 2007; Visser et al., 2004).

Historic farmsteads are characteristically located near water sources, confluences or springs, on the northern slopes of the ridges and are often associated with complex configurations of impressive stone packed stock kraals, some of which are higher and larger than the usual sheep kraals in the area (it has been suggested that the location of these large kraals adjacent to known historic routes could indicate that they were for horses used for transport rather than sheep), and the quintessential karoo landmark, the windpump. Adjacent to the farmsteads there are often subsistence crop gardens with small orchards. The names of places and farms are testament to the relationship between man and nature, with illustrative Afrikaans and Dutch names describing the interpretation and representation of the area by the first European settlers to the region. Given the form of the indigenous vegetation, clusters of tall trees are indicative of human transformation and usually habitation. A lack of tall woody species and therefore suitable timber products in the area, pre-necessitated the use of stone, which can be found in abundance,

for the construction of buildings and kraals. Stone is also used in other elements such as road markers and fence anchors. Many farm buildings and their associated agricultural structures in the area contain elements greater than 60 years of age and fall with the general protection of the NHRA. The history of the area is one of contact, conflict and survival and is an example of a long history of symbiotic relationship between man and nature.

The site is accessed via the national N12 road, a historic route linking Beaufort West with the towns of De Rust and Outdshoorn via scenic Meiringspoort Pass, and the coastal town of George further south. The north-south orientated N12 intersects the characteristic east west ridges with shallow poorts, often the location of historic farmsteads, such as Amospoortjie, Trakaskuilen and Amandelhoogte, culminating in the Meiringspoort Pass that winds through the Groot Swartberg mountain range located within the Swartberg Nature Reserve. This road has carried inhabitants and travellers between historic towns, farmsteads and further regional destinations since at least the late C18th. Views and vistas of the distant mountains and destinations give significance to the experience of the landscape.

Sheep, cattle and other livestock farms exist alongside game farms and other game reserve areas populated with game species. The reintroduction of wildlife into the landscape through nature and game reserves echoes place names like *Zeekoe gat* (Hippopotamus hole) on historic maps which testify to these species dominating the landscape in the past. Previous agricultural activities have been replaced and/ or supported by conservation and game initiatives aimed at the tourist market, relying on the wilderness sense of place. The result is a landscape with an overwhelmingly rural and natural sense of place, wide open spaces and distant vistas of surrounding mountain horizons, recalling the historic landscape of conflict, survival and conquest, criss-crossed with wire fencing demarcating parcels of custodianship of people over the land and its inhabitants. This scenic beauty and natural sense of place has been celebrated in no less than three national parks being proclaimed in the Koup region, the Karoo National Park, the Gamkapoort Nature Reserve and the Swartberg Nature Reserve, not to mention the various private nature reserves in the area.

Recent industrial development in the area has started altering the largely historic cultural landscape by introducing new linear power line elements and their associated infrastructure. Although their height surpasses any natural or cultural elements, the linear orientation of these lines, in most part adjacent to the road, do not cross the viewshed as one travels along the N12. Together with their light form and static nature, this reduces their visual impact. The associated infrastructure is more intrusive as the height, scale and angular form is more in conflict with the natural undulating horizontal lines of the surrounding landscape. These elements are currently relatively low scale and do not overwhelm the sense of place, but should be considered as part of the cumulative impact of the new renewable energy developments in the region.



Figure 7: Regional Koup landscape with Nieuweveld Mountain range on the horizon and typical farmstead landscape planting and fencing in foreground.

7.2 REGIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

The Kraaltjies project site is **NOT located within a SEA identified REDZ zone or in one of the SEA strategic transmission corridors**. Currently there are no operational renewable energy projects in the Koup region, however there are applications for both wind and solar energy developments within a 35km radius from the Kraaltjies WEF application site. Various electric grid connections and transmission lines are currently in operation along the N1 and the N12. Although their height surpasses any natural or cultural elements, the linear orientation of these lines, in most part adjacent to the road, do not cross the viewshed as one travels along the N12. Together with their light form and static nature, this reduces their visual impact. The associated infrastructure is more intrusive as the height, scale and angular form is more in conflict with the natural undulating horizontal lines of the surrounding landscape. These elements are currently relatively low scale and do not overwhelm the sense of place, but should be considered as part of the cumulative impact of the new renewable energy developments in the region.

Table 4: Existing and Proposed Renewable Energy Projects within 35km of Site

| Project | DEA Reference No | Technology | Capacity | Max number of turbines | Land parcel area km ² | Status of Application / Development |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------|----------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Proposed Beaufort West Wind Farm | 12/12/20/1784/1 | Wind | 140 MW | 70 | 43 | Approved |
| Proposed Trakas Wind Farm | 12/12/20/1784/2 | Wind | 140 MW | 70 | 54 | Approved |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|-------|----------|-----|-----|----------------|
| Proposed Leeu Gamka Solar Power Plant | 12/12/20/2296 | Solar | - | n/a | 199 | EIA in Process |
| Proposed Koup 1 WEF | TBA | Wind | 140 MW | 32 | 28 | EIA in Process |
| Proposed Koup 2 WEF | TBA | Wind | 140 MW | 32 | 24 | EIA in Process |
| Proposed Kwagga WEF 1 | TBA | Wind | 279 MW | 45 | 51 | EIA in Process |
| Proposed Kwagga WEF 2 | TBA | Wind | 341 MW | 55 | 91 | EIA in Process |
| Proposed Kwagga WEF 3 | TBA | Wind | 204.6 MW | 33 | 94 | EIA in Process |
| Proposed Heuweltjies WEF | TBA | Wind | 240 MW | 38 | 40 | EIA in Process |

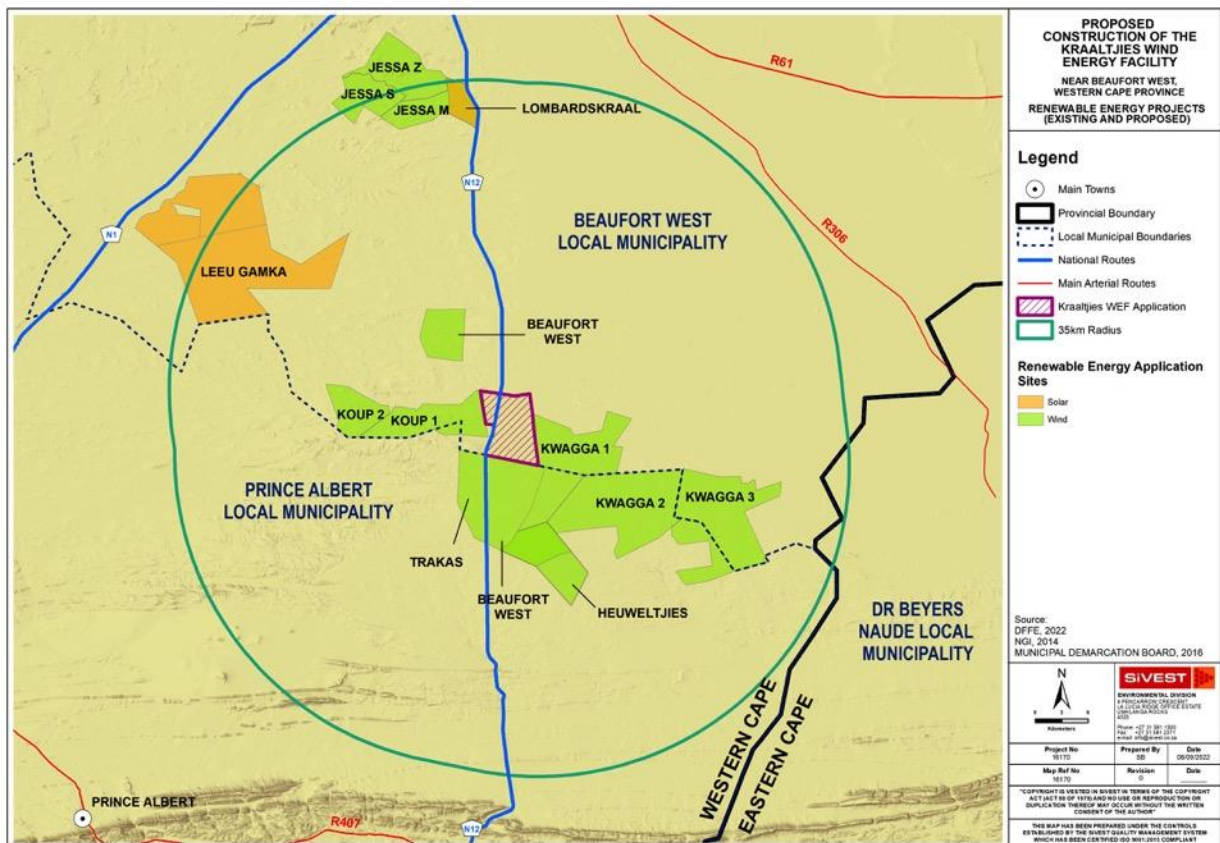


Figure 8: Renewable energy application sites in process in the surrounding area.

It must be noted that the focus of heritage studies in the area has been on the material and tangible aspects of the landscape as identified in the NHRA. Cultural landscape assessments would ideally include consideration of intangible heritage associated to the tangible resources identified and a public participation process dealing with issues regarding inter alia intangible heritage, indigenous knowledge systems, oral histories, language and lifeways of the people who inhabit and use the landscape.

8. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND TO THE REGION

Information from the desktop Heritage Survey for the Beaufort West Municipality (Abrahamse, 2013) and research on the history of the area by Schulz (2014) is included in this section.

Despite the low rainfall and paucity of water typical of this region, the Koup area once supported large grassy flatlands, and indigenous pastoralist and hunter-gatherer groups migrated across the region in a transhumant pattern according to seasonal climate changes in order to hunt game or to graze their livestock. The Koup was one of the last refuges of the hunter-gatherer San/ Bushmen groups with the expansion of the Cape colony; the name of the region attesting to this in its origins. The Koup³ and Nieuweveld were regional names given to the Karoo interior prior to the establishment of towns Graaff Reinet and Beaufort West. The first European settlers, the trekboers, moved inland from the Cape in the early 1700s, as arable land closer to Cape Town became scarce and to escape the perceived overbearing control of the Dutch landdrosts (Figure 9). The first official land grants had to be large enough to support stock farming (mostly sheep) within this semi-arid region, and thus the first farmers were given loan farms of 300 morgen each. As a result, the area remained sparsely populated, although it hosted parties of hunters who moved through the region periodically in search of big game. In these conditions, the farmers had to be completely self-sufficient due to their distance from any towns or law officials.

³ Also spelt 'Coup', 'Ghaup' and 'Gouph' in early written records. 'Koup' has been suggested to mean tail fat or 'stertvet' most likely related to the local fat-tailed sheep, the livestock of indigenous pastoralists.

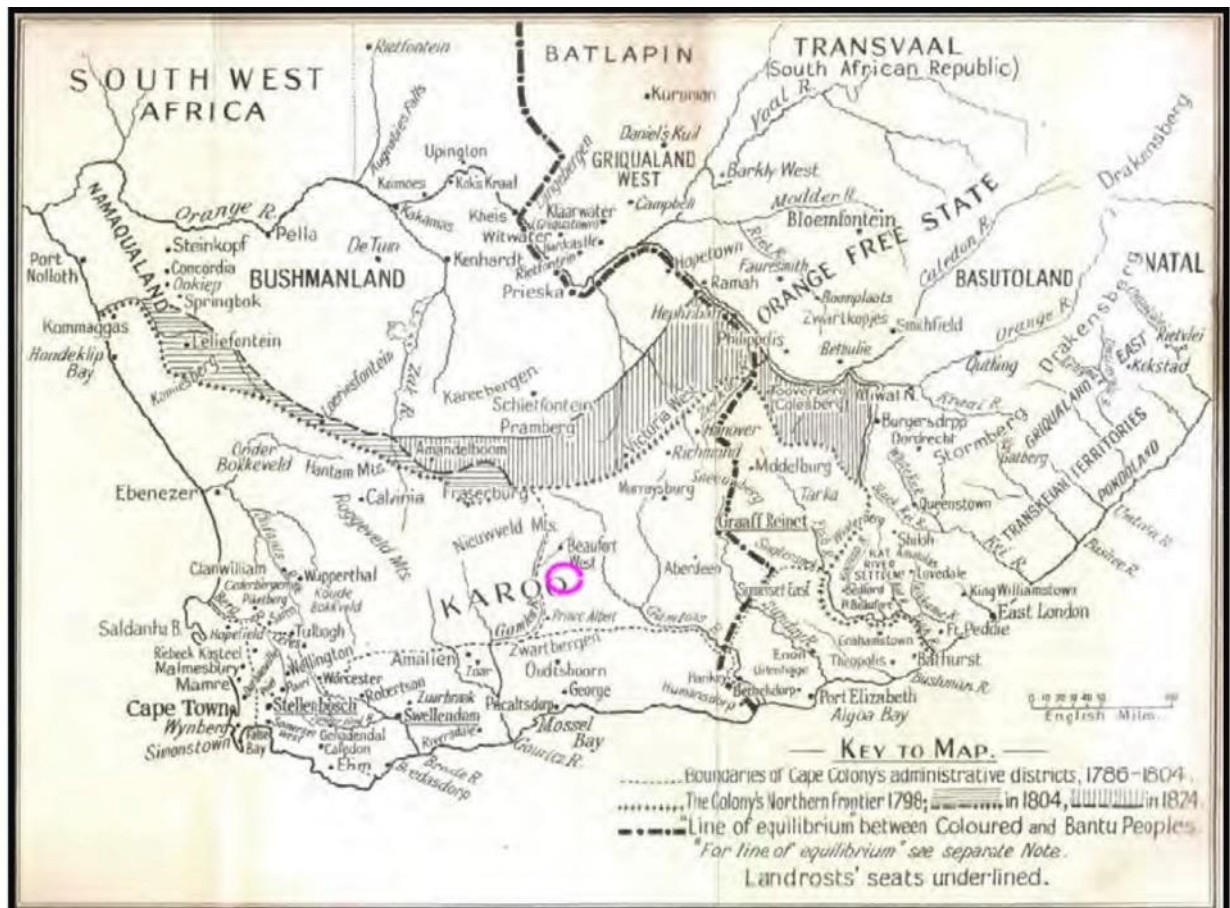


Figure 9: C19th Cape Frontier map (Marais, 1935) showing approximate location of Koup WEF (pink).

The sparsely populated countryside provided a gateway for dangerous runaways and for gun running, and the local Khoi and San people continually struggled against the inhabitation of land, already under environmental and population stress even before colonial introduction. By the latter part of the 18th century land ownership of the Koup and Nieuweveld was bitterly contested between indigenous groups and colonial settlers and these border conflicts are historically significant. Formal recorded commando attacks on nomadic groups living in the Roggeveld and “Coup” began in 1770 and continued until 1799. Conflict zones appear to have been on farms, areas near to the higher mountain ranges and along the wagon routes. There is a possibility that material evidence may still be found on or in the ground relating to this period.

This situation continued until 1818, and this region remained part of an ill-defined edge to the Cape Colony’s zone of settlement and the hinterland beyond. Part of the problem was that the illegal activities and conflicts between the settlers and the Khoi and San had to be controlled from the landdrosts at Tulbagh in the west or Graaff-Reinet in the east – with a full 600 kilometers between them (Fransen, 2006:170). Needless to say the rule of law did not extend very far into this region. Complaints and petitions streamed back to the Cape, begging the governor to investigate the problems and address the issue of security within the frontier zone (Baird: 2007: 29). Although encouraged to expand by the Dutch overseers, support and control for those affected by this

expansion into the interior had devastating negative impacts on the local inhabitants and ultimately led to many of the socio-political conflicts still of concern today.

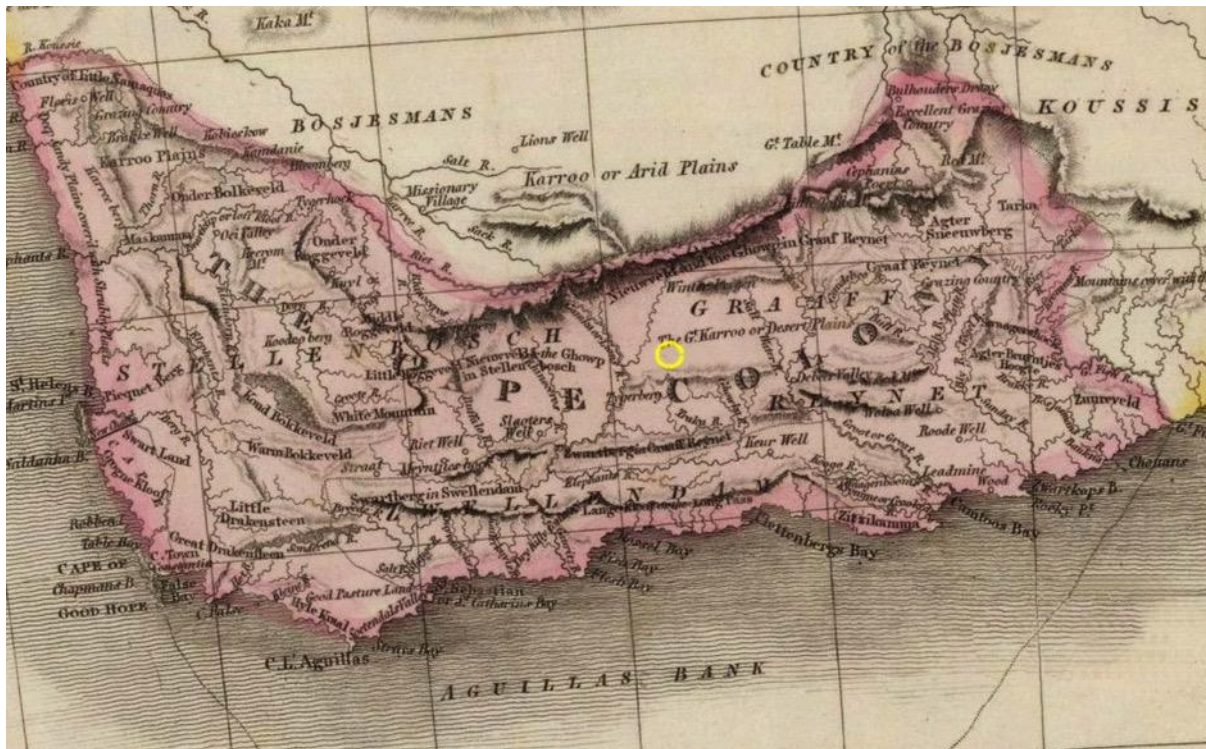


Figure 10: Excerpt of 1809 map showing approximate location of proposed Kraaltjies WEF (yellow).



Figure 11: Excerpt of the Burchell's 1822 map of Southern Africa showing approximate location of proposed Kraaltjies WEF (pink).

In the early years of the 19th Century after the British Occupation at the Cape, it was decided to create a new “sub-landdrost” between Tulbagh and Graaff-Rienet in order to address some of the violence and unrest in this region. A landdrost, an institution of Dutch origin, was a post created in the newly-settled districts of the colony that extended rights to collect tax, police, prosecute and carry out sentences to a local representative of the government authority. When the two landdrosts from Tulbagh and Graaff-Reinet – J.H. Fisher and Andries Stockenstrom – were sent to select a suitable site for the new landdrost, they chose an area of one of the first trekboers to the area, Abraham de Clercq's farm, Hooyvlakte, with its permanent source of water, upon which to locate the new town. His farm had five springs on it, and both the Gamka and Kuils rivers ran through the land, which as a result was extremely fertile: Baird writes that de Clercq was able to cultivate orchards and vineyards – something that would have been unachievable on most other farms in the region due to the aridity of the area and the reliance on groundwater (2007: 29). Once Beaufort West was established as a town, it remained very isolated within the region. Even in 1900, Beaufort West was fairly isolated from the surrounding church and mission towns that had been established in the Cape Colony.

Beaufort West was to constitute the first proper town within the area, and the first town to gain municipal status within South Africa. The other settlements of any note within the region often developed first as stop-over areas for hunters and transport riders, and slowly developed into settlements, or were established as church towns, or

kerkdorpe. A key moment in the development of the towns within the region was the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War, which was fought across the Karoo landscape and had an effect on all of its urban nuclei.

Within the Prince Albert Municipality, Leeu Gamka is an important town to consider when understanding the urban development of the wider region as it formed the primary gateway into the area from the south and the wider Koup region. Leeu Gamka had its beginnings as a rest stop on the wagon route across the Karoo, as it was one of the few outspans along the long route north that offered drinkable water: two streams converged at that point, the Leeu and the Gamka. It soon became the choice stopover for adventurers, explorers, missionaries, settlers and trekboere within the area, and was said to offer a good camping area near a grove of sweet thorn trees (Central Karoo Regional Tourism Board, 1997). The first farmers received land grants in the area in the early 1800s. The area was also noted for its abundance of game. Early travellers often wrote of lions, and the last Cape Lion is thought to have been shot at Leeu Gamka by explorer Robert Gordon in 1842. The trend towards linear developments of connection and communication between the region and further afield evolved with the railway line in the 1870s. The railway line reached Leeu Gamka in 1879 and a stone station building, railway single quarters and a hotel were built. In 1880 a telegraph line was laid alongside the railway tracks, and the connection of the settlement to the outside world was greatly increased.

The vast and spectacular Swartberg Mountain range to the south of the arid Koup rises just west of historical Matjiesfontein and stretches eastwards for almost 300kms up to the Camdaboo plains. It is best known for its mountain passes built in the mid nineteenth century by master road builders such as Thomas Bain, who designed the Swartberg Pass (opened in 1888 and proclaimed a PHS in 1988) linking Prince Albert and Oudtshoorn. The Seweweekspoort links Laingsburg with the Klein Karoo and Meiringspoort, along the N12, linking Beaufort West with De Rust and Oudtshoorn. Swartberg Pass was constructed to supplement Meiringspoort, which often became flooded and unpassable for weeks or months following heavy rains, which severed the significant connection between the Central Karoo and the south coast. Swartberg Pass retains historic elements including the hand-packed stone retaining walls, an old prison and a toll hut and is known as one of the most spectacular scenic drives in the country.

The final flourish of development in the Koup area was related to the nearby discoveries of gold in between 1871 and 1891, on the farms Spreeufontein and Klein Waterval around 50kms from Prince Albert. This interest didn't last long though as the source of gold was found to be unsustainable and mining ended shortly after. British army camps were established in the Beaufort West region soon after the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer war in 1899. Leeu Gamka's hotel and railway quarters were used as a hospital and convalescent home, resulting in many war graves and other military structures, such as blockhouses, being located in the area.

The development of the area stagnated after this, returning mainly to stock farming (mainly sheep, best suited to this environment and the farm sizes) and, more recently, game. Tourism is a main drawcard for the region, being recognised and appreciated as a place of natural arid beauty and dramatic landscape. Most recently the

main new development in the region is related to mining and national electric grid connections and associated renewable energy developments, for which there are a multitude of proposed projects currently in process.

9. REGIONAL CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

1. “A magnificent natural setting” (Abrahamse, 2013) of arid plains with gently undulating ridges and koppies, framed by the dramatic mountain ranges of the Nieuweveld and Swartberg. This landscape element is the main drawcard for tourism to the area and a national narrative of identity for many South Africans. This scenic beauty and natural sense of place has been celebrated in no less than three national parks being proclaimed in the Koup region, the Karoo National Park, the Gamkapoort Nature Reserve and the Swartberg Nature Reserve, not to mention the various private nature reserves in the area.
2. Some of the world’s most significant geological and palaeontological sites are located in the Great Karoo, specifically between Beaufort West and Nelspoort, and include ancient rock formations and Late Permian fossils which record the evolution from reptiles to mammals.



Figure 12: Karoo National Park fossils (Winter and Oberholzer, 2014)

3. The distinct remoteness of the semi-arid Karoo provided a refuge for the displaced San and later the Khoekhoen. The remote settings of mission settlements are associated with the role of religion and an emphasis on social engineering and self-sufficiency (Winter and Oberholzer, 2014). This remote desert wilderness is an essential element to the Central Karoo cultural landscape’s sense of place.
4. Low shrubby vegetation dominates the landscape allowing for distant views of mountain ranges, with taller clusters of trees marking historic points such as cemeteries or farmsteads. Many of the endemic species hold medicinal value for local communities, making these significant as cultural resources.

5. Although not immediately apparent on travelling through the landscape, significant stone age archaeology, which includes petroglyphs and rock engravings, is common in the area; material cultural remnants of the prehistoric inhabitants of the landscape who lived in intimate dependence on and knowledge of the natural environment, shaping it and being shaped by it over time. This relatively undisturbed area is rich in archaeology, especially near dolorite outcrops due to the presence of underground water and includes stone tool scatters, rock engravings and herder kraals.



Figure 13: Nelspoort rock engravings near Beaufort West (Winter and Oberholzer, 2014).

6. *Poorts* and *drifts* which navigate the topography of ridges and riverine corridors. These natural crossing points, gaps between the mountain ranges, ridges and undulating hills, and shallower sections of river, have been used by animals and people as the places to traverse the landscape to water, forage, safety or settlements for centuries. These places, acting as funnels of movements across the landscape, therefore, may hold the material scatter of those who passed over them and, where identified historic tracks are still used, these are heritage elements of land use and one of the ways in which the landscape would have determined the movement and, therefore, settlement and interaction of people on the landscape.
7. Scenic historic movement routes, tarred, gravel and rail, connect the regional towns over the Central Karoo landscape with distant dramatic viewscapes of mountain ranges. These movement routes and patterns to access have informed the settlement patterns of the region. Many of the roads and farm tracks in the study site as well as surrounding area are visible on maps dating back to the 18th and 19th centuries. As a landscape that maintains a dominant characteristic of survival, conflict and change, the roads and paths that cross this landscape are an essential element, connecting the significant points, places of refuge and conflict, trade and subsistence, to each other in a challenging space over time.
8. A combination of the *poort* and scenic historic route elements, the historic Swartberg Pass, is an identified historic scenic route and declared Provincial Heritage Site. Further east on the N12 lies Meiringspoortpass, which predates the Swartberg Pass, and connects Beaufort West with De Rust and Oudtshoorn. Other passes in the region include the Gamkasloof Pass, Seweweekspoort in the Swartberg and the Molteno Pass in the Nuweveld range to the north. Historic mountain passes provided

access between coastal plains and the remote interior, and their gateway conditions are typically associated with historical patterns of settlement (Winter and Oberholzer, 2014).



Figure 14: Swartberg Pass PHS (left) and Meiringspoort (right) (Winter and Oberholzer, 2014)

9. Historic farmsteads with their associated agricultural structures and linking farm roads. Many of the farm werfs include historic structures, built in the regional architecture of packed local stone, now converted into dwellings or sheds. These farmsteads are mostly situated at points of lower elevation, nestled against the hills and ridges where the soils are more suitable for agriculture, and where nearby springs or other water sources supply water for livestock and limited cultivation of crops. Amandelhoogte and Vlieefontein have been identified as “significant Cape farmsteads” in Abrahamse’s Beaufort West Municipal Heritage Survey (2013).
10. Stone walls and kraals dot the landscape as remnants of stock keeping, road building and fortifications in the area.
11. Agricultural landscape with livestock, mostly sheep and cattle; fencing and associated structures line and dot the landscape. These are evidence of the human landscape modifications and patterns of land use over millennia, including seasonal grazing and pastoral uses.
12. Game and nature reserves with live game and associated high fencing, drawing tourists to the region for game viewing and hunting. Game hunting has been continuous on this landscape for millennia since pre-historic inhabitants to the most recent tourist hunters, and attests to the ongoing relationship between humans and the environment in this region. Although a sense of wilderness is experienced when travelling within these reserves, the height of the fences and their increased occurrence does detract from the ‘wild’ sense of place when travelling the roads around them.
13. Historic town settlements and landscapes, such as Beaufort West, Prince Albert and Leeu-Gamka, associated to significant events in South Africa’s history of survival, conflict and nation-building, including many provincial heritage sites which mark people and places of value to our national estate.

Matjiesfontein and the isolated Gamkaskloof Cultural Landscape have Provincial Heritage Site status.



Figure 15: Beaufort West, early C20th (Winter and Oberholzer, 2014)

14. Military posts and forts, historic and current, constructed of local stone; material remains to the frontier zone of conflict and survival that dominated this landscape for so long. Evidence of the Anglo-Boer War in the early 1900s still remains in the form of grave sites and blockhouses along the railway line, and places such as Matjiesfontein and Prince Albert were used as garrisons by the British.
15. Uranium mining sites dot the region around Beaufort West. Historic gold and diamond prospecting in the region add an additional cultural layout to this element.
16. Industrial elements of transmission lines and associated infrastructure are evident along the N12 and N1. Due to their limited scale and massing along the N12 currently, they do not overwhelm or detract from the rural and historic sense of place in the area.

10. THE KRAALTJIES CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

10.1 Landscape Elements

The cultural landscape is a composition of a series of natural layers that have both informed and been formed by the patterns of human use and habitation on that place over time. The nature and shape of the landscape has informed the way in which it has been used, in turn ascribing cultural values to the these place-specific features. Through unpacking the layers, landscape character units can be identified which need to be carefully considered in proposed alterations to the landscape.

10.1.1 Geology and soils

The geology of the area dictates the soil structure, which in relation to climate will determine the capacity for the land to be used by humans for agriculture. Geology will also determine what raw materials are available for use in building structures or other land management practices.

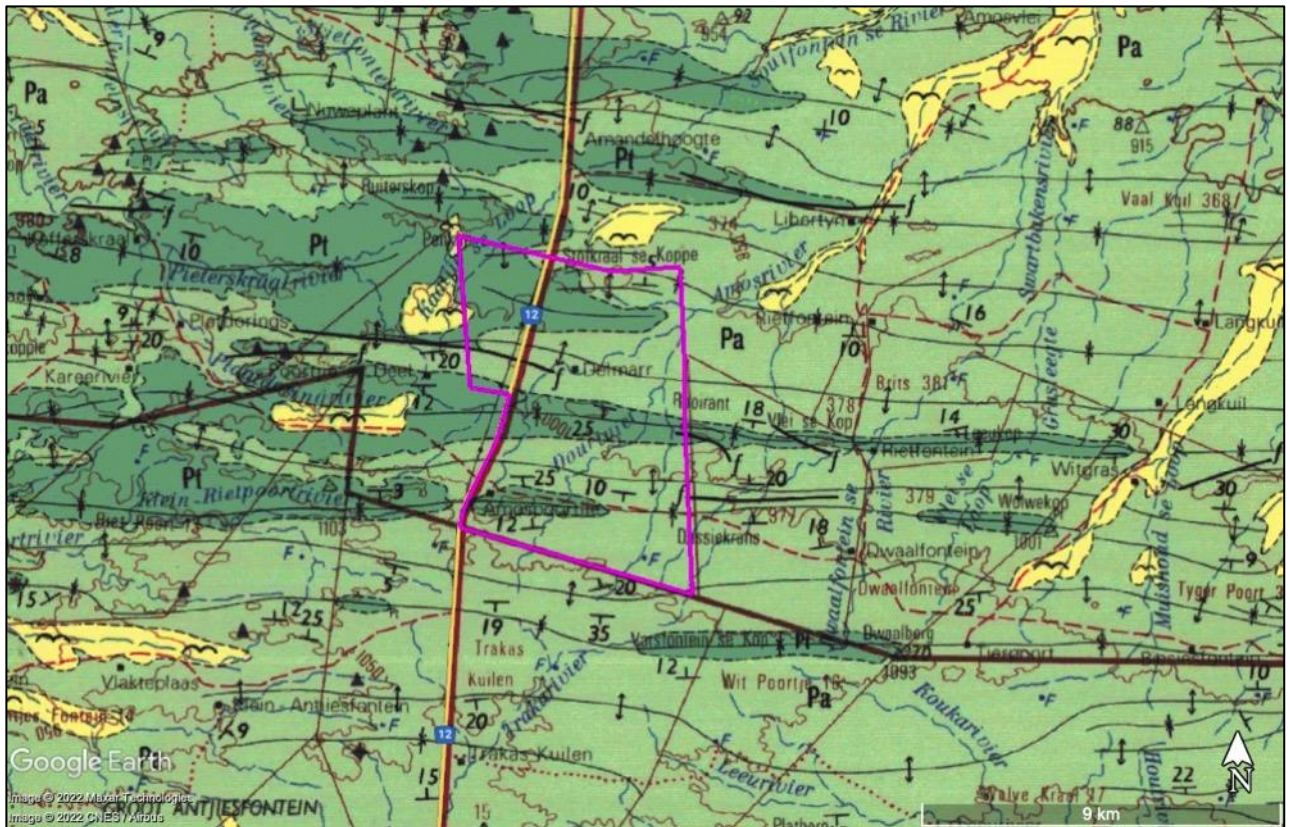


Figure 16: Excerpt from 1:250 000 Geological series map (3222, Beaufort West) showing locality of Kraaltjies WEF development (outer boundary in pink) over Abrahamskraal and Teekloof Formations of the Late Permian Beaufort Group.

The project site is underlain by the Teekloof and Abrahamskraal Formations of the Adelaide Subgroup within the Later Permian Beaufort Group (**Figure 16**), an internationally recognised rock succession with fossil evidence of the world's largest extinction event (Johnson et al, 2006). The Early Jurassic dolerite intrusions associated with the Abrahamskraal formation do not occur this far south within the Main Karoo Basin. The Abrahamskraal and Teekloof Formations are known to be rich in fossil material. The mudstone, widely available in the area, has been used extensively in the built forms evident on site and in the region as a whole (**Figure 17**).



Figure 17: Examples of use of local stone for wall construction at Amospoortjie cemetery.

According to Cape Farm Mapper (accessed January 2022) the project site is classed as Glenrosa and/ or Mispah form soils with lime generally present in the entire landscape and with moderate soil erodibility. The land type is Fc164 in the southwest with Fc162 present in the northeast. Both these land types are considered “unavailable for agriculture”.

The land capability of the project site is low to moderate for the entirety. Correspondingly, the land capability of the Kraaltjies project site is considered very low to low for the majority of the higher elevations of the site to moderate and high in the low lying riverine corridors. This corresponds to the existing small-scale crop cultivation that can be seen in the riverine areas, usually near or adjacent to homesteads (**Figure 19**). Stock and game farming are thus well suited to the larger area, with the use of the land for sensitive conservation and eco-tourism facilities sustainable and economically viable.

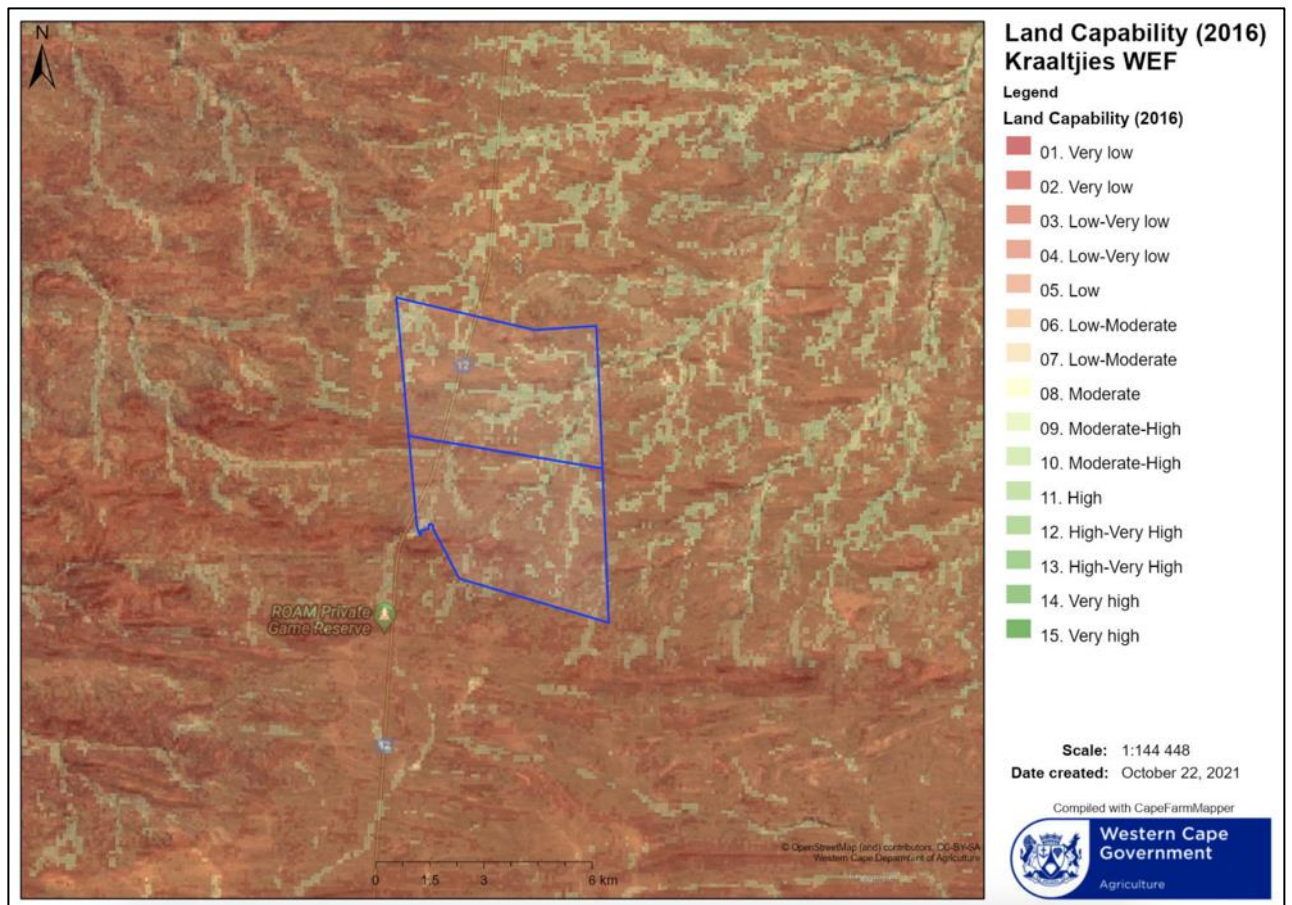


Figure 18: Land capability map for Kraaltjies area (Cape Farm Mapper, 22 October 2021)



Figure 19: Example of crop cultivation at Amospoortjie farmstead

10.1.2 Landform

Landform describes the topography of the area. The contours of the study area can be interpreted to identify slope gradient, with anything steeper than 25% slope being the steepest (like mountain slopes) and anything less than 10% slope representing a flatter area (like alluvial plains). Steep gradients and higher relative elevations increase the potential visual impact of a WEF development on the surrounding landscape.

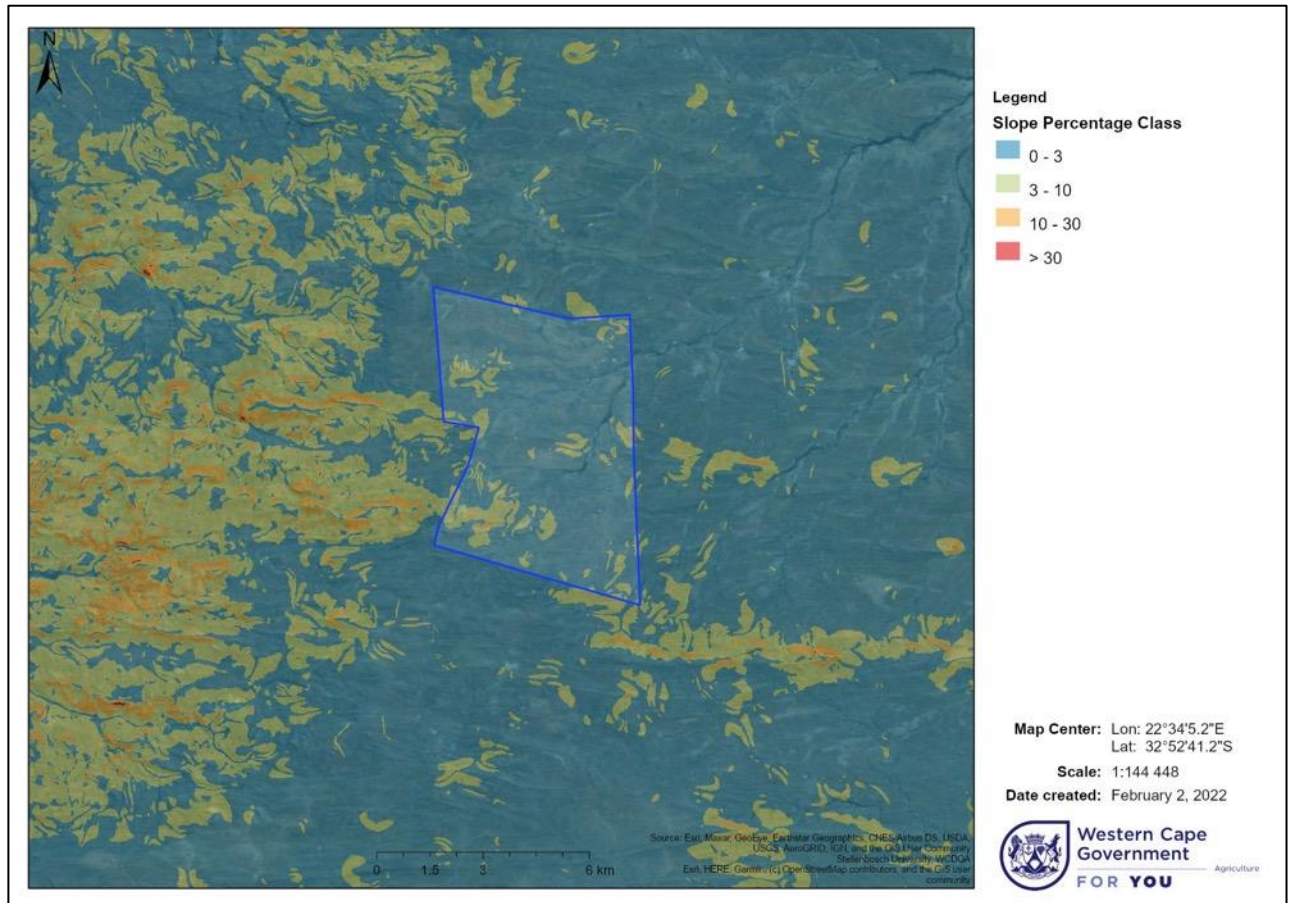


Figure 20: Slope classification (%) of the Kraaltjies project site and surrounds (Cape Farm Mapper, 2 February 2022)

The Kraaltjies project site is characterised by low relief, largely flat terrain rising to a low ridge along the southern boundary. A prominent low koppie is present to the north of the site, creating watershed zones. The majority of the project site consists of relatively flat terrain with a slope gradient of less than 3%. The southern ridge and koppies are of relatively low elevation on the landscape and are only experienced at a hyper local scale; from a distance these undulations largely disappear into the expansive flat plains of the Koup. The addition of wind turbines or electrical grid infrastructure to these relatively higher elevations will emphasise the change in topography. However subtle these changes in elevation are, in this flat vast landscape, the slightest elevation becomes a point of reference. The ridges and koppies determine water drainage in this flat, dry

landscape and have thus influenced the location and orientation of human habitation and water management practices.



Figure 21: Kraaltjies site looking north from foot of southern boundary ridge.



Figure 22: Looking north towards the prominent small koppie on the northern portion of the Kraaltjies site.



Figure 23: View of Kraaltjies site looking south towards the Amospoortjie ridge. Note the slight kopie to the right and the Swartberge on the horizon. The east-west ridges to the west of the site are evident in the mid horizon to the right.



Figure 24: Amospoortjie farmstead located on the north-facing slopes of the southern boundary east-west ridge.

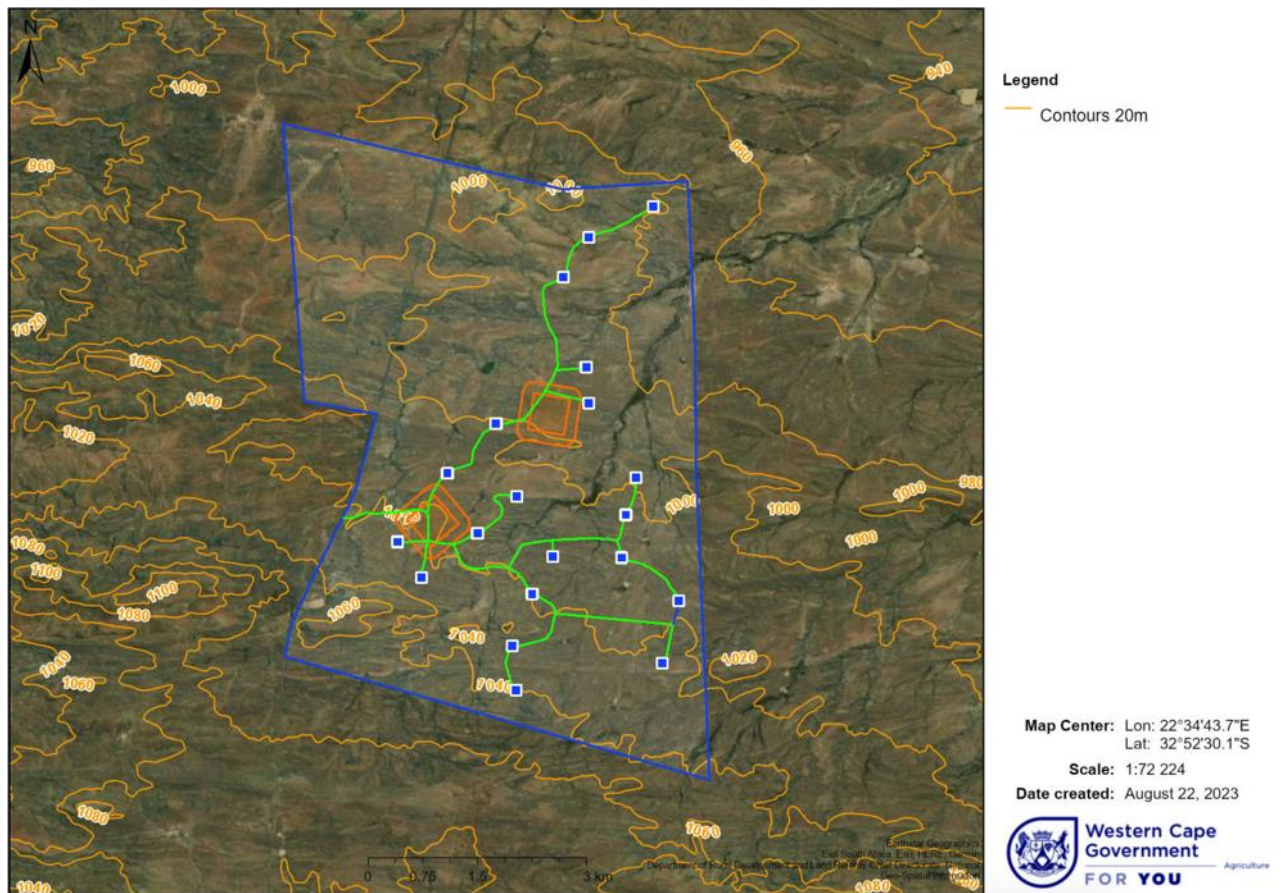


Figure 25: Kraaltjies topography showing proposed WEF site. Note the location of the small but locally prominent koppie to the north of the site.

10.1.3 Hydrology

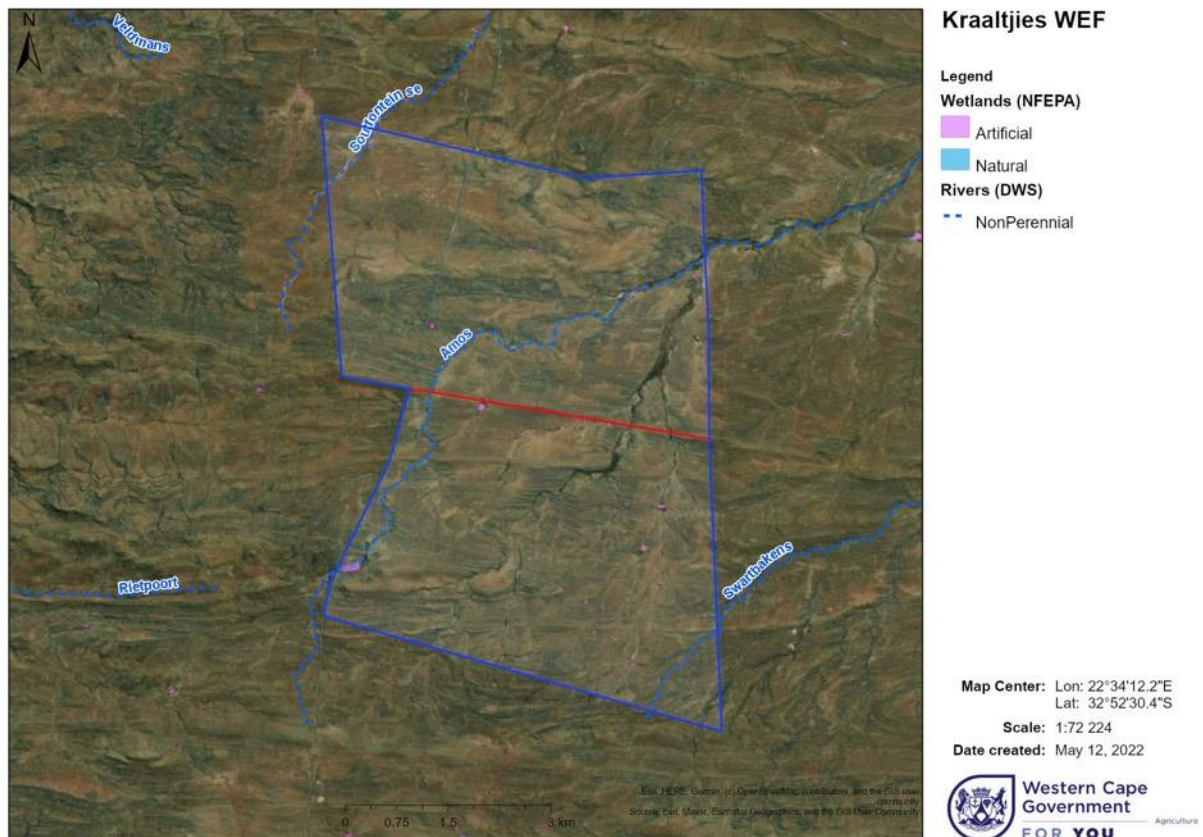


Figure 26: Hydrology of the Kraaltjies site showing main non-perennial river courses and man-made wetlands

The hydrology of the Kraaltjies landscape is comprised of non-perennial rivers that reflect the local place names, indicating a close relationship between inhabitants on the landscape and these rivers as well as the significant dependence on these resources. These aquatic environments are also the focus of the Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas for the area.

Wetlands and rivers are hydrological features sensitive to development and integral to the landscape character of the study area. In order to retain the landscape character of the area, cognisance must be taken of the contribution of rivers and wetlands in a water-stressed area to the evolution of the landscape character of the area.

Three non-perennial river drainage lines, Soutfontein/ Kaatjie se Loop, Swartbakens/ Varsfonteinloop and Amos tributaries running off the low lying ridges in the southwest to the Amosrivier drainage line to the northeast of the site, inform the Kraaltjies landscape. The study area features a number of constructed dams related to these non-perennial rivers, which can be considered a feature in the landscape. The

landform has been historically altered to maximise the water potential of the area and the dams therefore form part of the Cultural Landscape.



Figure 27: Kraaltjies site with man-made dam feature and related taller vegetation showing water management strategies in this water restricted environment.

10.1.4 Vegetation

The Kraaltjies project area is characterized by the karroid broken veld of the Gamka Karoo with taller vegetation attributed to non-endemic vegetation associated to locations of human habitation (**Figure 28**). This karroid vegetation type is classified as least threatened and has not experienced a high degree of transformation. The study area forms an integral part of the unique landscape character that is classified as a least threatened ecosystem. Most of the study area has been used for agriculture, drawing on the potential of the natural vegetation to support livestock (mostly sheep and some cattle), and therefore has a largely untouched character.

Note that large pockets of critical biodiversity areas (CBA), and ecological support areas (ESA) usually run along the drainage and water accumulation lines. The lines of the river as well as the subtle rocky outlines support different vegetation, and typically taller plant species.



Figure 28: View to north over Kraaltjies site showing typical karroid broken veld of the Gamka Karoo.



Figure 29: North facing slopes of the low ridge along the southern boundary of the Kraaltjies site, showing variation in vegetation.



Figure 30: Kraaltjies landscape showing south facing slopes on the koppies to the north of the site (left) and the riverine context with taller vegetation associated to human habitation and water management elements (right).



Figure 31: Taller vegetation around places of human habitation and cultivation at Amospoortjie



Figure 32: Taller vegetation around places of human habitation and cultivation at Dankbaar.

10.1.5 Conservation: Biodiversity

The Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) and Ecological Support Areas (ESA) are essentially a combination of the following layers and their biodiversity significance:

- Ecosystems
- Vegetation Types
- Wetland Types
- River Types
- Estuaries
- Indigenous Forest
- Threatened Species

The CBA and ESA areas for the Kraaltjies project site are largely riverine related with the aquatic environments of the Amosrivier and Dourivier. The north west and south east corners of the Kraaltjies site have been identified as CBA's of terrestrial species' significance associated to a riverine corridor, with sections of the Dou and Amosrivier identified as riverine CBAs. All the non-perennial river corridors are identified as ESAs for the project site.

The rationale of this study is that the CBA and ESA layers embody those natural hydrological, vegetation and ecological variables that are integral to maintaining the landscape character in some areas of the study area. The CBA's constitute highly significant areas and the ESA's include areas of medium significance, even from a heritage perspective (Jansen and Franklin, 2020). This is because agricultural and heritage values overlap in these considerations. The significance of the site, in the way that it was farmed to maintain the integrity of the natural vegetation, signifies a unique relationship between man, and nature where it reflects an entangled dimension, and representative of a cultural landscape.

The findings of this report should support any ecological or hydrological specialist studies and in the event of conflicting information the ecological or hydrological specialist studies should take preference.

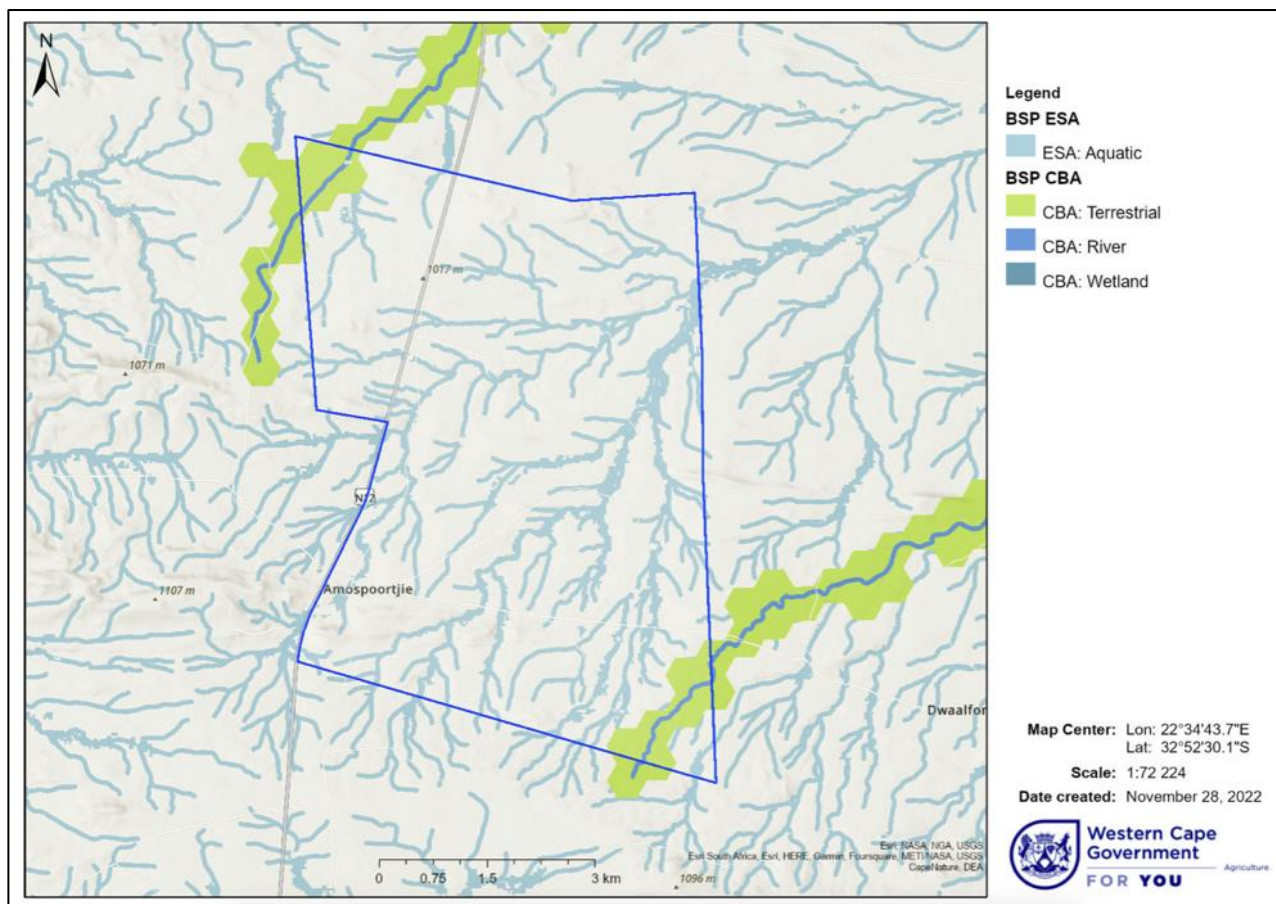


Figure 33: Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas map for Kraaltjies WEF site.



Figure 34: Example of a dry riverbed in the Kraaltjies landscape.



Figure 35: Kraaltjies riverine CBA adjacent showing adaptation to local natural conditions by human inhabitants through water management systems in the form of stone weirs

10.2 Cultural Elements

10.2.1 Archaeological material

The Archaeological Impact Assessment identified various elements of heritage significance including stone-age sites and scatters, unmarked and formalized grave sites as well as historic farmsteads with structures of high heritage significance.

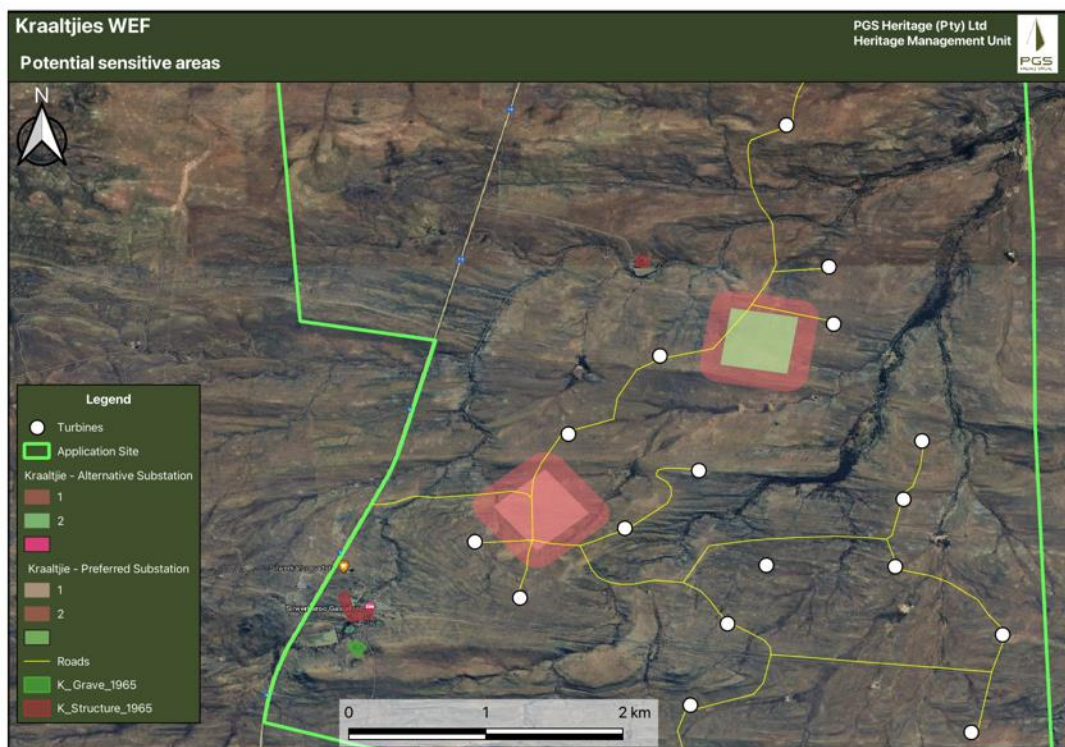


Figure 36: Farmsteads and graves identified within Kraaltjies WEF site (AIA, PGS, Aug 2022)

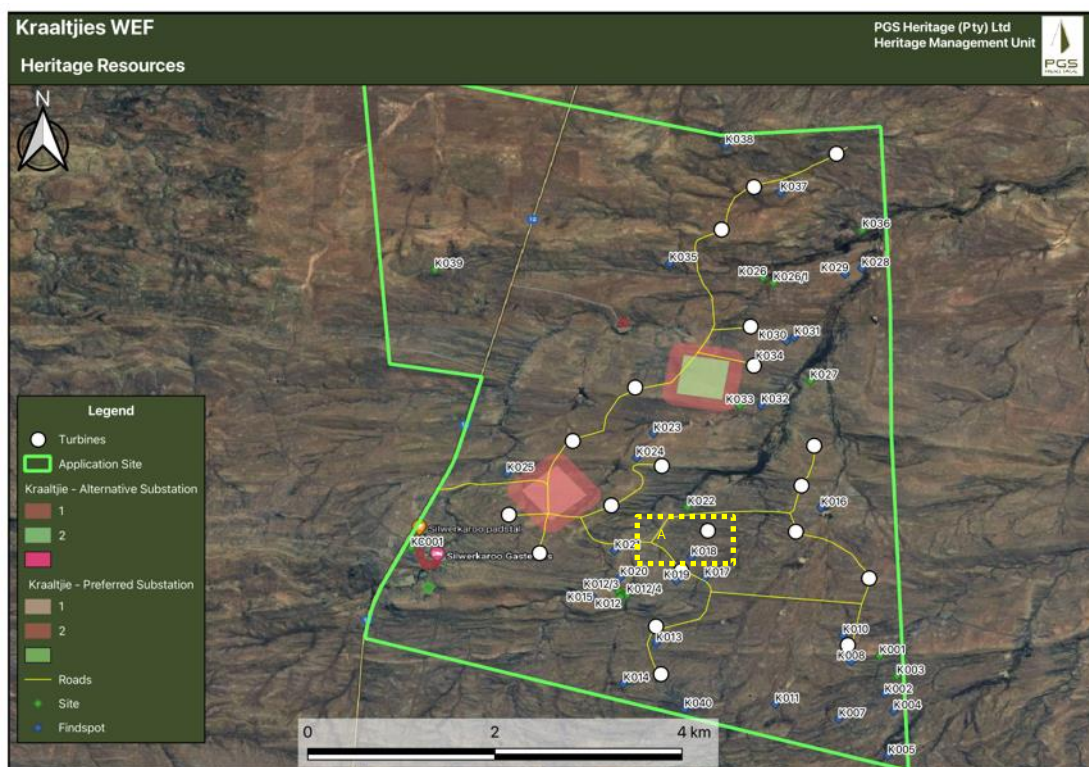


Figure 37: Locality of archaeological heritage resources identified in the AIA (PGS Heritage, 2022) for Kraaltjies WEF site



Figure 38: Insert A from Figure 32

The Kraaltjies WEF Archaeological Impact Assessment (PGS, August 2022) describes the general archaeology of the area as follows:

The archaeological record of the Karoo region is well documented, dating from the ESA to the historic periods. Vast areas of the region have however, yet to be subjected to systematic analytical research. Scatters of ESA through to LSA artefacts have been widely reported in the general vicinity of Beaufort West. This is a result of the erosional nature of the environment, which tends to leave artefacts exposed on the surface rather than buried beneath layers of sediment. To date, heritage studies in the area have shown that these artefacts have occurred in secondary contexts, often associated with gravel deposits, having been subjected to erosion of the soils in which they were once deposited (Dreyer 2005; Halkett 2009; Kaplan 2006, 2007; Orton 2010; Webley & Hart 2010a, 2010b; Webley & Lanham 2011). Although context is generally poor, the Karoo is still regarded as a region that is very rich in archaeological and historical heritage. Historical resources, such as farmsteads, kraals and graves, are also observed within the Beaufort West region (Halkett 2009; Webley & Hart 2010b). To the northeast of Beaufort West, rock engravings have been identified on dolerite boulders that are characteristic of parts of the Karoo (Orton, 2010; Parkington et al., 2008). The lack of caves and rock shelters in the Karoo region, results in the majority of archaeological sites in the area being classified as open-air sites. As such, the artefacts are generally not in-situ and organic remains are rarely preserved.

10.2.2 Historical farmsteads and routes

The history of the landscape is intimately associated to stock farming and waves of settlement throughout history. The stone-age and prehistoric archaeology attests to the inhabitants of the landscape before written history, with the first farmsteads and stone kraals and walls remnants of the first people to settle on the land more permanently rather than being transhumant. The place names of the farms and landscape elements on historic maps give some context to the chronological evolution of settlement in the area. Many Afrikaans names are still prevalent with the terms *rivier*, *kraal*, *kop* and *poort*, commonly found in existing place names to describe the phenomenon being named. The use of influential landscape elements highlights the significance of these elements in the psyche of the historical inhabitants in this vast, seemingly barren, flat place. Names of individuals and descriptions of groups of people have also been used to name places and farms, which further attest to the historical cultural influences on the landscape.

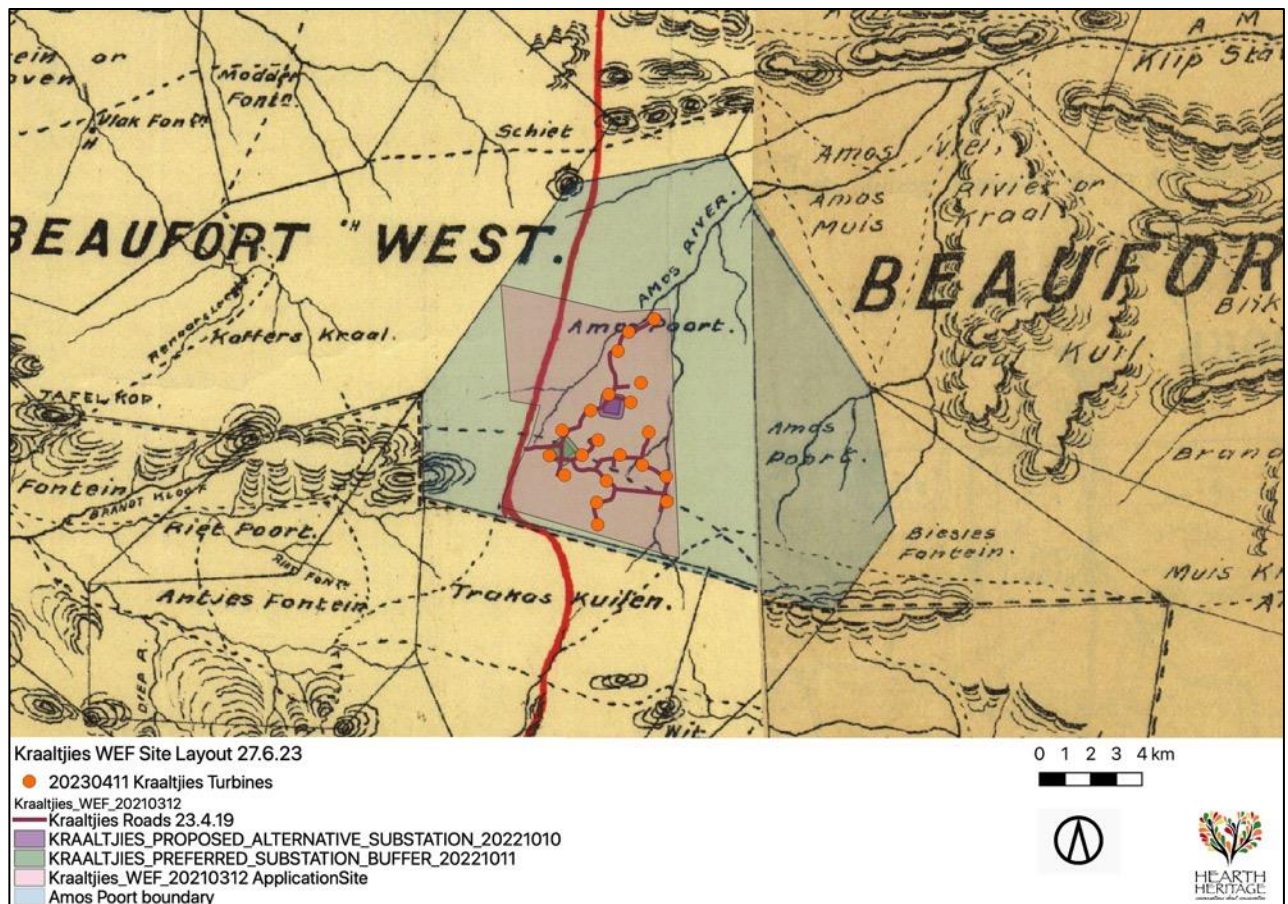


Figure 39: Imperial map of 1901-1919 showing the orientation of Beaufort-West to George route (now N12) and 1841 Amos Poort farm boundaries (blue shading) with proposed Kraaltjies WEF layout located within (pink).

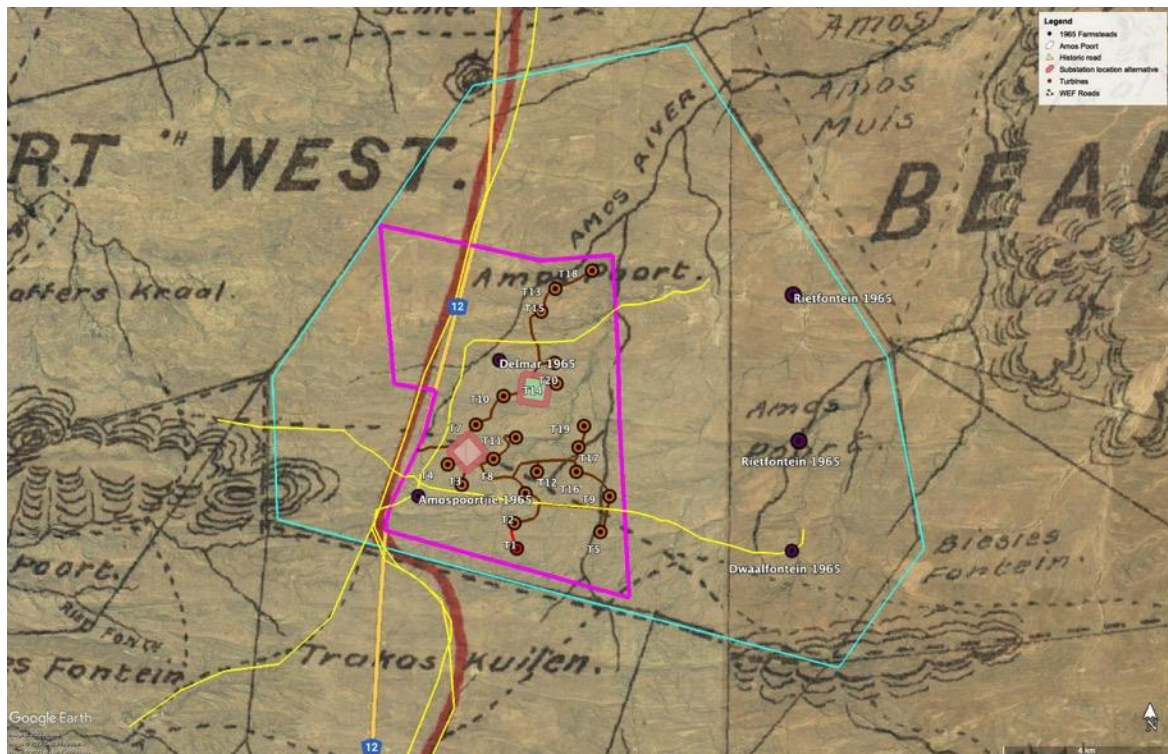


Figure 40: Excerpt of the 1900-1919 Imperial map with proposed WEF development overlay, showing existing historic farm roads (yellow and orange) in relation to the locations of the historic farmsteads identified on the 1965 1:50K topographical map (purple points).

Some of the historic farms boundaries in the proposed WEF site date back to the late 19th century. As elements of historic land management, which would have considered access to water sources and grazing, these boundaries are part of the cultural landscape and the fencing and stone markers that mark these boundaries are considered of low heritage significance (IILC).

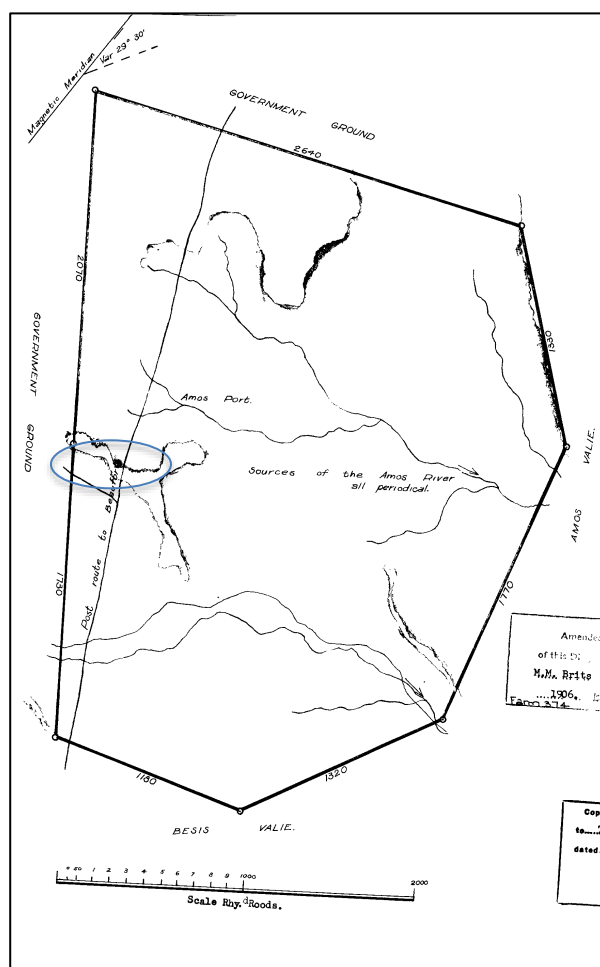


Figure 41: SG Diagram for Farm 372 Amos Poort 1841. The name ‘Amos Port’ is indicated on the diagram and located in a similar place to the existing Amospoortjie farmstead. NOTE North is not orientated to the top of the map, the left boundary on this map being the southern boundary of the Amos Poort farm. This brings into question the orientation of the ‘Post route to Beaufort’ indicated in the 1841 SG diagram: either the orientation is incorrect or the historic route identified running east-west to the north of the southern ridge is, in fact, more historically significant as a cultural landscape element. With no north-south routes identified in the early C19th

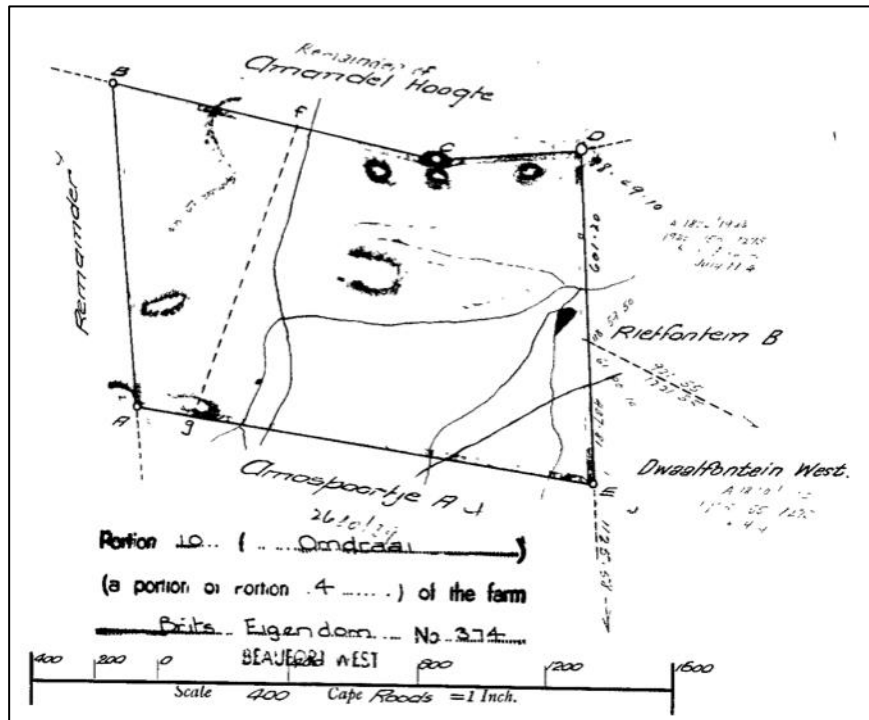


Figure 42: 1906 SG Diagram of the Farm 374/10 Omdraai, which constitutes the northern portion of the Kraaltjies WEF, and was previously a portion of the Farm Amospoortje and later Farm 374 Brits Eigendom (1906). The farmstead Dankbaar, previously Delmar is situated on this portion of the site but not indicated on this map.

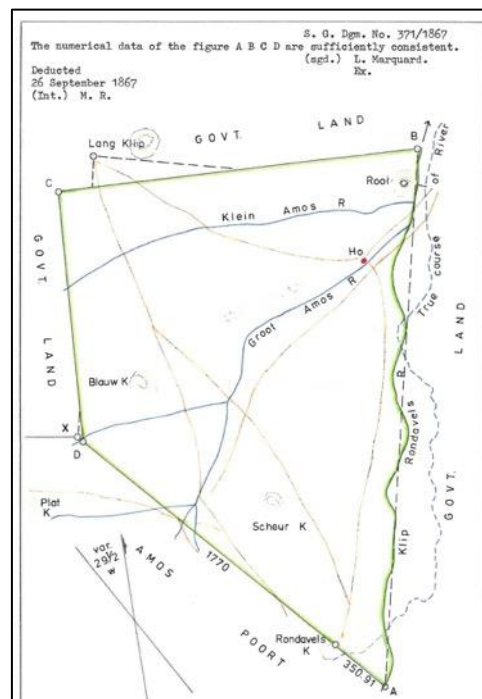


Figure 43: SG Diagram showing 1867 farm 373, Muiskraal, previously Amosvlei, indicating the Amosvlei homestead. Note that other than the farm Amos Poort to the south, all other surrounding land is still government land, showing that the farms along the Amos River were the first in the area

and lends significance to the Amos River in the role it played in the nature and orientation of human settlement in the Koup during the C19th.

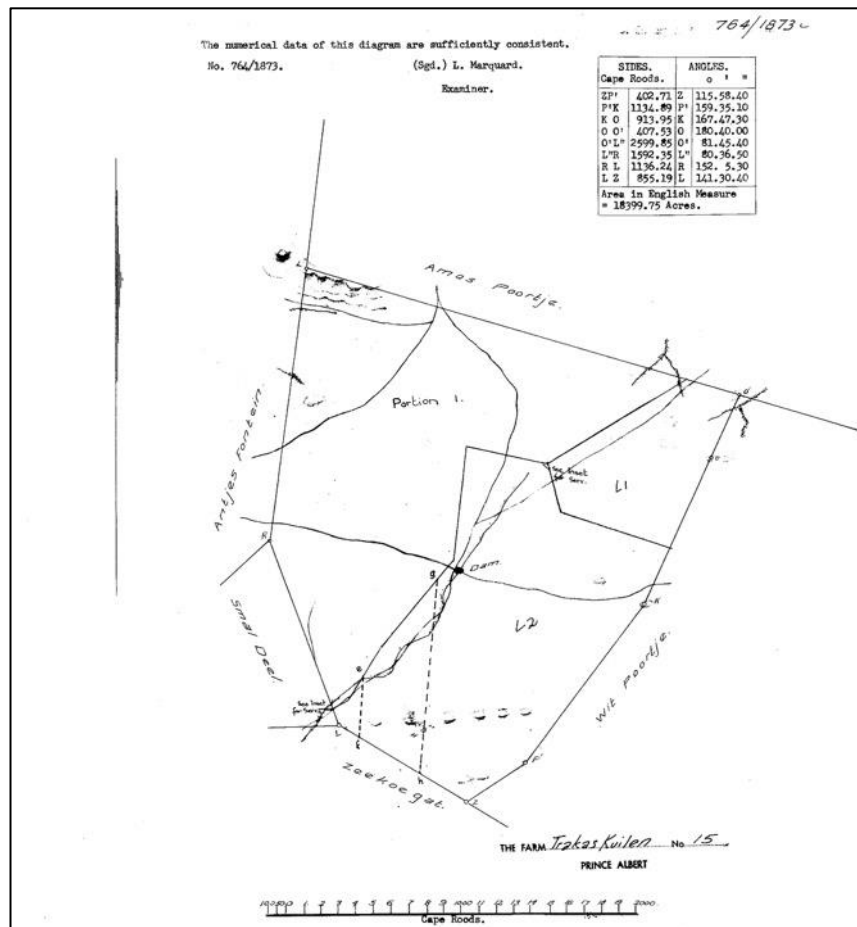


Figure 44: 1873 SG Diagram for Farm 15 Trakaskuilen to the south of Amospoortjie, showing the dam in the centre of the farm which is still in use as such today. The majority of the old farm routes that traverse the site linking the various farmsteads on adjacent farms are still in use today. No house structures are indicated on this diagram at the current Trakaskuilen farmstead location adjacent to the dam.

The farms *Trakaskuilen*, *Rietpoort*, *Antjesfontein*, *Witpoortjie*, and *Amospoort*, constituting or adjacent to the development area, are all evident on the Imperial map (Beaufort West, 1900-1991) and the most recent 1:50K topographical map, lending them significance in the longevity of the place names.

The Amos⁴ River has been used for orientation on the broader landscape for at least 150 years, with places such as *Amospoort*, *Amosskuur* and *Amosvlei* being directly related to the natural feature's route. The relationship between these places of human habitation and the river is thus longstanding and would have

⁴ The name 'Amos' is a well known Afrikaans name of Biblical Hebrew origins. This suggests that the naming of this river is associated with the arrival of European settlers in the C18th.

created a sense of place and orientation on the vast flat expanse of the Koup plains. The 1867 SG Diagram for Muiskraal (previously Amosvlei) (Figure 43), shows that other than the farm Amos Poort to the south, all other surrounding land is still government land, showing that the farms along the Amos River were the first in the area and lends significance to the Amos River in the role it played in the nature and orientation of human settlement in the Koup during the C19th. The farm Amos Poort dates to at least 1841 (SG diagram farm 372) and therefore predates the surrounding farms with land to the west and south still being government land. The 1841 SG diagram does not have much information, but that which is there refers to the flow and non-perennial nature of the riverine corridors in relation to the 'Amos River', highlighting the significance of this natural feature on the landscape. This farm and others around it were first subdivided into smaller portions as was common in terms of Cape inheritance law and then consolidated into farm 374, Brits Eigendom in 1906, after which they have been successively subdivided again into the farm portions we see today.

The 1841 SG diagram of Amos Poort shows a route marked as '*Post route to Beaufort*' and runs east – west near the southern boundary of the farm, a road that is still in use today (Figure 41). The Beaufort-West to George route, now the N12, is not indicated on this map in its current orientation. Beaufort West was founded as a town in 1818 and initially named Beaufort, then later renamed to Beaufort West in 1869. The historic route's orientation suggests that it could refer to Fort Beaufort in the Eastern Cape, which was established as a military outpost on the eastern frontier of the Cape Colony in 1822, but no other historic maps corroborate this route. It is also possible that just the orientation of the route on the SG map is incorrect and that this route does, in fact refer to the route now the N12 just incorrectly placed, as the orientation of the rivers and farm boundaries are accurately portrayed on the diagram in relation to each other.

The historic farmsteads and the roads that link them are contextually and historically significant as they would have determined patterns of use and movement across the landscape, and in turn the natural landscape determined where these places of habitation would be through location of water sources, protection from the element, poorts through ridges and drifts through rivers. Connection between these places and the people who lived and stayed there has historically been critical in determining the way in which people use and survive in this landscape. Further, in an environment of harsh dry conditions where water is scarce, spaces of water management and cultivation are testament to the determination of its inhabitants to survive in *this* place and the investment of resources, time and effort, that would go into such an ideology. The potential for continued occupation of the farmsteads are significant in maintaining the significance of the cultural landscape.

Three farmsteads of this nature are relevant to the Kraaltjies WEF site, these being:

Amospoortjie

Amospoortjie consists of a spread out cluster of buildings with historic fabric, associated cemeteries, extensive crop cultivation, historic stone kraals and associated water management infrastructure. The name, relating to the Amos River, a significant and determining natural element on the landscape, as well as the name of the original 1841 farm, Amos Poort, suggests a long-standing and recognised relationship between these elements on the landscape. Potentially dating back to the early C19th, and as the possible original farmstead of the Amospoort farm (confirmed by the current owners), the existing structures are of high local significance (IIIA). Located at the junction of the Amos River and the historic Beaufort West to George route (now the N12 scenic drive) Amospoort functioned as a local rest stop and gathering point for people crossing the vast Koup landscape. As the Silver Karoo guesthouse and rest stop, Amospoortjie is still functioning in the same manner as it has done for centuries. Amospoortjie was one of a network of farms that were used by the local Gamkavallei Dutch Reformed Congregation (est 1949) for their '*buitedienste*' (outside services) for the people living on the farms between the 'Meiringspoortpad' and the 'Nuweveldsberge'. Its use as such contributes to its significance as a social historical space with importance in the regional cultural landscape. As a continued example of the relationship between man and environment, the Amospoortjie farmstead and associated cultural landscape is of high local significance and IIIA grading.



Figure 45: Looking south to Amospoortjie farmstead with low ridge running behind. Extensive crops are cultivated inside stone walls and one of the Amospoortjie cemeteries is located beneath the tall eucalyptus tree behind the crops. The stone sheep kraals and 'skuur' can be seen to the left of the picture.



Figure 46: Amospoortjie historic homestead (green roof), now a guesthouse with flanking additions (left) and rear side elevation (right).



Figure 47: Amospoortjie historical homestead kitchen (left) and stone 'skuur' (right).



Figure 48: Amospoortjie stone kraals with windpump and stone 'skuur' to the right.



Figure 49: Stone walling (left) and windpump (right) at Amospoortjie farmstead.



Figure 50: Amospoortjie cemeteries



Figure 51: Aerial view of Amospoortjie farmstead showing cluster of buildings, stone kraals, cultivated areas, cemeteries and the dam all located along the Amos River tributary.

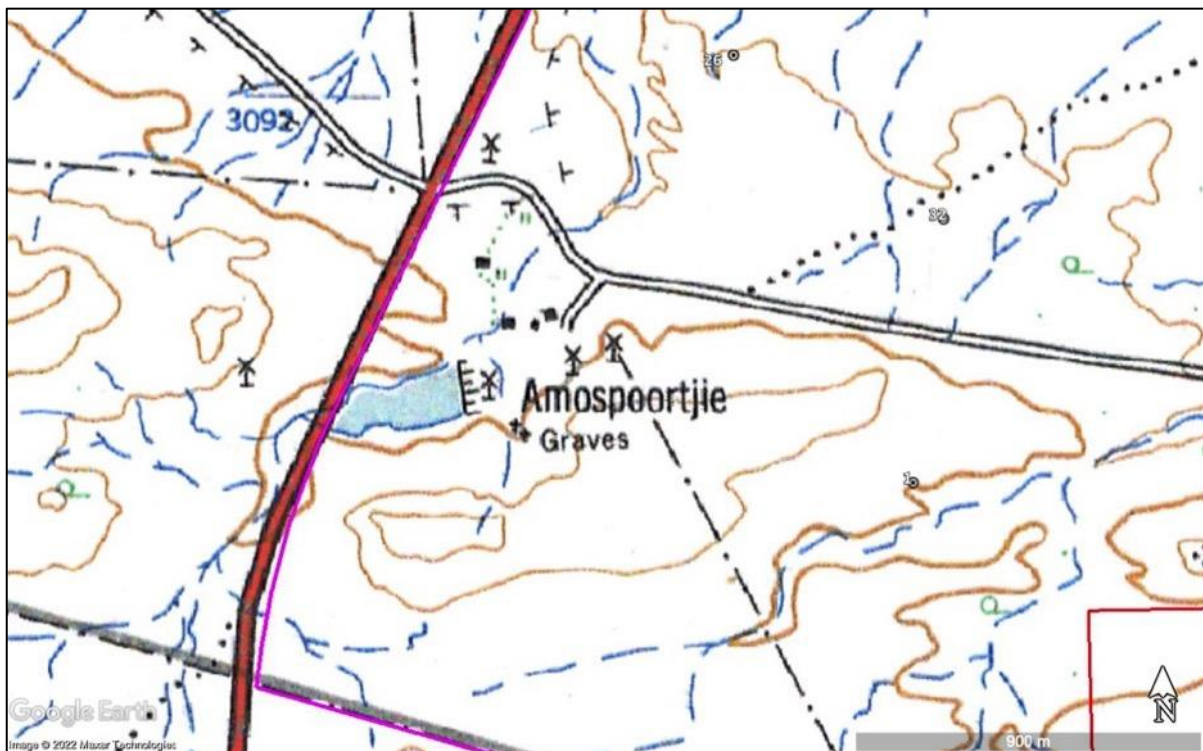


Figure 52: 1965 1:50k topographical map showing Amospoortjie farmstead elements and historic road network.

Dankbaar

The Dankbaar farmstead, previously Delmar, consists of small cluster of buildings and associated water management infrastructure, as well as an area that is still used for crop cultivation on the banks of the Amos River. This farmstead is not evident in the 1906 SG diagram (Figure 42), however the roads that intersect the landscape are still consistent with the C19th century routes. It does not seem that the homestead is of historic significance, although it is likely older than 60 years. The stone cottage is not evident on the 1965 topographical map. Although the buildings do not seem to hold historic significance, they are occupied and the land is being cultivated, owing to the proximity of the Amos River and access to water in this dry environment. As an example of continued significance of the river and its influence in the habitation and use of this landscape, the farmstead is considered an element of the cultural landscape with low significance of Grade IIIC.



Figure 53: Dankbaar homestead looking south with taller vegetation showing the space of human habitation and use of stone for low garden walls.



Figure 54: Dankbaar stone cottage.



Figure 55: Aerial view of Dankbaaar farmstead showing homestead adjacent to large cultivated areas and the stone cottage west across the Amos River.

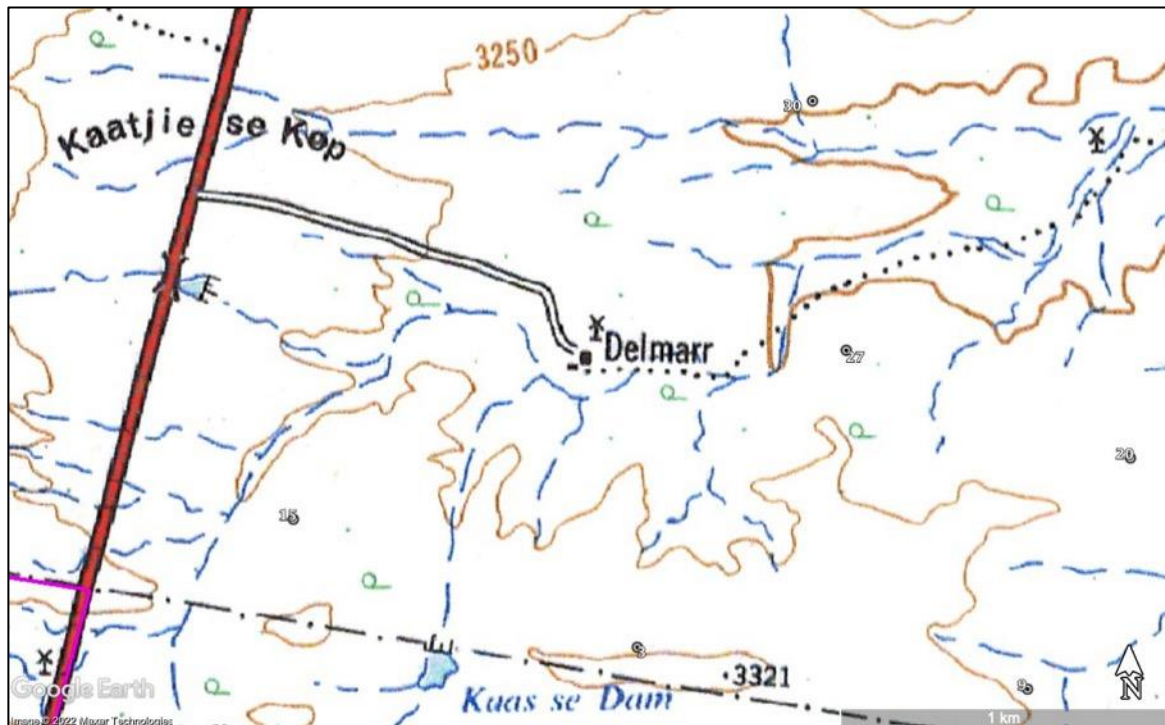


Figure 56: 1965 1:50k topographical map showing Dankbaaar (previously Delmar) homestead and historic road which leads to neighbouring farms and homesteads to the east

Kraaltjies farm roads

The first roads for the Kraaltjies landscape are indicated on the 1841 SG Diagram for the farm Amos Poort (Figure 41). The road, named 'Post Route to Beaufort', is orientated along the east-west historic route that runs along the northern edge of the low ridge that spans the southern boundary of the Amospoortjie farm. This route, that links Amospoortjie farmstead to neighbouring farmsteads, is evident in all the local maps and diagrams of the area since the early C19th and it is conceivable that this road, and not the north-south road to Beaufort West, was the original route through the low ridges of the Koup. The natural poort at Bloemendal farm to the west of Amospoortjie does seem a likely route for humans and animals before the alterations to the ridges at Amandelhoogte and Amospoortjie to allow for the N12 (Bailey, 2021). Further, since the Swartberg and Meiringpoort passes were only completed in the mid C19th, it is likely that the majority of travel across the Koup would have been east-west until passage through the Swartberg was made feasible. By 1873, the Trakaskuilen SG Diagram (Figure 44) shows the north-south route connecting farmsteads between Meiringspoort and Beaufort West, which was to become the orientation of the N12 scenic drive. The local farm road that runs along the Amos River is significant as a cultural landscape element as its orientation is intimately determined by the significance of the water source in the vast dry landscape and the places of habitation that inevitably occurred along the same route. The Kraaltjies farm roads are of low to medium significance.

The 1900-1919 Imperial map shows farm roads associated with the Kraaltjies historic landscape (Figure 40).



Figure 57: C19th historic farm road looking west past Amospoortjie farmstead to the ridges of the proposed Koup WEF sites.

N12 regional road

The N12 can be seen in red running north - south as a 'trunk road' on the Imperial map of 1900-1919, identifying it has a significant historic route, linking the town of Beaufort West to the coast via the significant Meiringspoort Pass in the Swartberg. As the most recent iteration of the historically significant network of

roads that has determined patterns of travel and use on the landscape and linked vulnerable farmsteads and towns in an area of conflict and tension throughout history, the regional roads in the area are of high significance. The N12 is a historic route that has been used to navigate the vastness of space between places. This character of the landscape and the experience of travelling along the route, is an essential part of the sense of place and a significant element in the cultural landscape. As a significant regional road, the N12 ferries much heavy transport like reticulated trucks, along its course and although not overwhelming when travelling the route as well, the experience of the industrial traffic from a stationary point such as Amospoortjie impacts negatively on the sense of wilderness, especially after dark when all other more subtle sounds that are part of the sense of place are drowned out.



Figure 58: View travelling north on N12 with Koup 1 WEF site on left

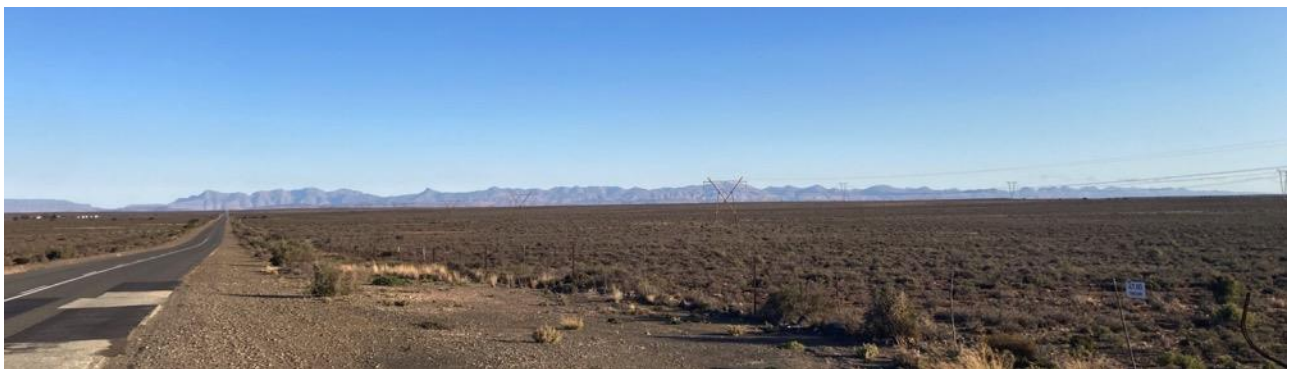


Figure 59: View travelling south on the N12 with the Swartberg mountain range in the distance

10.2.3 *Intangible heritage/ Indigenous Knowledge Systems*

Limited interviews with local landowners and non-landowner residents were held by the SiVEST social impact consultants in October 2023. The interviews showed a variation in inhabitants of the site, with some being more local with knowledge of the landscape and vegetation, such as indigenous knowledge on medicinal plant use and general food planting and others recently employed and originating outside of the province. There was a variation in land and property ownership amongst farm labourers, with some owning their portion of land and residence and others being temporary residents. Interviews identified elements of indigenous knowledge that are currently being practiced in the area by the local inhabitants. Specific

indigenous plants with medicinal properties and uses, such as artimisia afra, 'karmedik' [*Dicoma capensis*], 'oondbos' [*Conyza scabrida*] and 'wynruit' [*Ruta graveolens*] and general places of prayer 'in the mountains' were mentioned but not identified.

10.3 Economic development

Amospoortjie farm is still run as a sheep farm with the SilverKaroo guesthouse further drawing on its location on the N12 as a rest stop for travellers. This continued economic use of the landscape adds to the significance of this farm in the landscape.

The more recent transformation of the surrounding landscape into one of nature and game reserves attests to the resilience and adaptability of the inhabitants of the landscape to exploit the resources in the most economically productive manner without overwhelming or detracting from the sense of place or natural elements of the cultural landscape. The surrounding nature reserves have reintroduced wild game, as were prevalent before the influx of farming communities, and draw on the sense of wilderness and physical and visual expanses of the landscape to encourage tourism. The eco-tourism and game park ventures surrounding the proposed WEF's have high economic value for the local inhabitants of the area, currently under the strain of high unemployment.

These landscape elements are a clear example of man and nature working in a symbiotic relationship with conservation considerations in relation to agricultural, economic and heritage values overlapping. The significance of this element, in the way that it is being exploited to maintain the integrity of the natural vegetation and fauna, signifies a unique relationship between man and nature and is representative of a cultural landscape.

10.4 Social

Limited interviews with local landowners and non-landowner residents were held by the SiVEST social impact consultants in October 2023. The interviews showed a variation in inhabitants of the site, with some being more local with knowledge of the landscape and vegetation, such as indigenous knowledge on medicinal plant use and general food planting and others recently employed and originating outside of the province. There was a variation in land and property ownership amongst farm labourers, with some owning their portion of land and residence and others being temporary residents. The interviewees were informed of the nature and impact of the proposed WEF, both on site and in the area, for the construction and operational phases. There was no opposition to the proposed WEFs with the understanding that it would alleviate load shedding.

The high level desktop SIA (Acer, 2022) found that “several social impacts were identified, assessed and possible mitigations measures discussed for the proposed project. At the conclusion of the assessment, it can be confirmed that there are no fatal flaws from a social and socio-economic perspective.”

In terms of social processes that may change as a result of the proposed project, the SIA found that, “Any changes to the existing processes brought about by the movement of people, for example, construction workers or job seekers moving into the study area may result in social impacts”, that the WEF may cause “slight changes in the environment which can potentially result in social impacts” and that “changes in the composition of the population as a result of construction workers and/or contractors may result in changes in the way that local communities function. These changes can result in an increase in social pathologies such as, crime, alcoholism, sexual promiscuity, etc. Similarly, potential increases in nuisances, such as dust or noise, can have social impacts.”

The SIA found that in terms of site specific social sensitivities, the project will impact negatively in that, “Property owners and land users on neighbouring properties may experience direct or indirect impacts differently. Construction causes noise and visual changes, for example. These activities could affect "Sense of place," the identity and character of a landscape felt by locals and visitors (e.g. farmer, tourists, and community members). This attribute is derived from the natural environment, a mix of natural and cultural landscape features, and the people who live there” and recommended the client “Establish communication protocols to manage Mainstream, landowners, and contractors during construction; Appropriate mitigation measures are implemented to mitigate biophysical, visual, and cultural heritage impacts, per the BA for the proposed project; Ensure a clean site during construction and operation to reduce the project's impact on the area's character.”

In consideration of impacts relevant to the cultural landscape, the desktop Social Impact Assessment for adjacent Koup 1 WEF by Bews and Associates (2021) concluded that the Koup 1 WEF project will “create employment for local communities during the construction and operational phases”, and that the “more significant positive impact of the project will be the contribution it will make towards renewable energy infrastructure”. The SIA also points out that “it is evident that the cumulative impacts associated with changes to the social environment of the region are more significant than those attached to any one project”. On a negative front, it notes that one of the issues of most concern, is “the change to the sense of place of an area that was once considered a pristine region of South Africa”. Further the SIA continues to state that “the initiative to address these cumulative impacts lies at a far higher level than at an individual project level. In this regard, the Western Cape Government has undertaken an exercise to address intergovernmental readiness for the large development scenarios in the Central Karoo; which is a positive step towards addressing the cumulative impact of these developments (Western Cape Government Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, 2019)”.

10.5 Industrial elements

Industrial elements of transmission lines and associated infrastructure are evident along the N12 (Figure 58 & Figure 59). Due to their limited scale and massing along the N12 currently, they do not overwhelm or detract from the rural and historic sense of place in the area. They are further limited to the western side of the N12, leaving the view to the east of the N12 open. There is currently no impact on the experience of the place after dark as there are no significant lighting elements associated with the industrial infrastructure.



Figure 60: Industrial elements along the N12 south of the Koup landscape.

11. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

The scope of cultural understanding is not only limited to the tangible features found on the site, but also include features that are captured in the production of space, the sense of place, and emotional connection to place.

“Article 22 of the Burra Charter in article 15.1 states that the amount of change to a place and its use should be guided by the cultural significance of a place and its appropriate interpretation. It is for this reason that this study analysed the entire landscape for its collective and contextual significance. Landscape Character Assessment is used as a tool to understand the character of the cultural landscape, and its associated boundaries. Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) helps us to understand our landscapes: their qualities, vulnerabilities and varying capacities to absorb change. It is a tool for understanding the formation of landscapes, defining patterns of natural and cultural features, and identifying the significant elements that give them character. Landscape Character Assessment is an integral part of identifying Cultural Landscapes, which embody the long history and heritage of the relationship between nature and culture, between people and their environment.

The methodology of Landscape Character Assessment was adjusted to include five core value lines that underscore heritage significance in the context of the study site (ecologic, aesthetic, historic, social and economic value). Each of these value lines and the element of landscape character that they support (site requirements), lead to development criteria or placement indicators for the protection and management of its heritage significance. In each instance, ‘Character’ is thus understood to comprise a distinct, recognisable, describable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from

another, each with its sense of place. When such a place is recognised as being valuable as a whole, but also due to each of its individual elements, it is defined as having significance.

The purpose of Landscape Character Analysis in this study is to help conserve and manage the significant qualities of our cultural landscapes as heritage. Landscape character differs with a different combination of elements and features that make up the landscape. Elements are classified as the functional (what), while features are more distinctive (how) that makes one area different to the next.” (Jansen and Franklin, 2020)

11.1 Kraaltjies Landscape Character Areas and Heritage Resources

Cultural landscapes are a significant factor in the evaluation of the impact of proposed development on cultural heritage resources, tangible (e.g. Historic settlements, landscapes, technological) and intangible (e.g. language, indigenous knowledge systems, oral traditions). The areas investigated for the proposed Kraaltjies WEF are considered as having high cultural landscape heritage significance.

The Kraaltjies site can be divided into landscape character areas with cultural heritage resource types. These units were determined by taking the larger landscape context into consideration in order to understand the character and cultural heritage values that underpin the proposed development site.

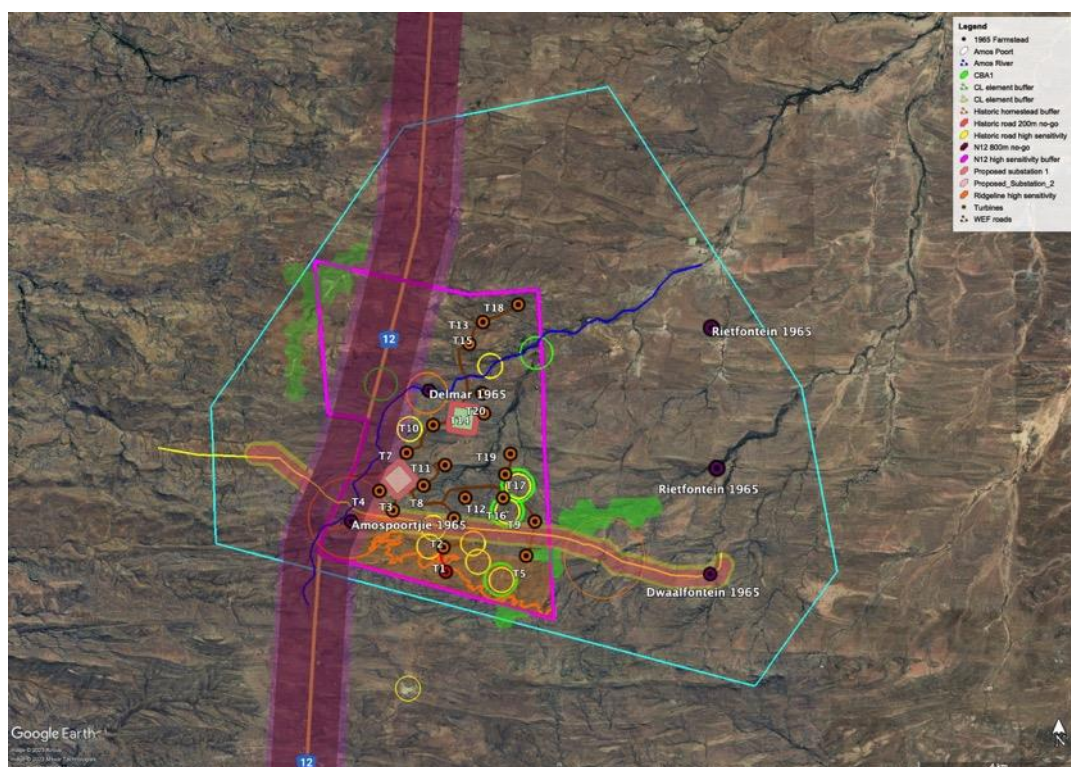


Figure 61: Kraaltjies Cultural landscape features map with proposed WEF infrastructure overlay. Orange line inside the ridgeline high sensitivity buffer is the 1040m asl, above which is a no-go for all infrastructure (Riverine corridors/ ESAs have not been included here but have been mitigated for in the recommendations)

A: Poorts and koppies

The vast terrain of the Koup lends significance to the low ridges and associated visually prominent koppies that create intermittent relief from the monotonous largely flat topography of the region. The small local poorts and koppies create a sense of place and orientation in this landscape and are associated to points of continuous access and thoroughfare by humans and animals over time. The farm Amospoort is associated with this landscape element.

B. Riverine corridors – Bio-cultural heritage resources

The dry riverine corridors that spread over the Koup landscape create points of contact and cultivation in an otherwise dry and barren environment. Largely non-perennial, these watercourses are also known for flooding after heavy rains, spreading much needed water over the surrounding land and, in so doing, supporting ecological and agricultural systems. Historic farmsteads and their associated structures and areas of crop cultivation are found in this landscape unit.

C. Historic farmsteads and associated crop gardens – Grade IIIA – IIIC cultural heritage resources (high to low local significance)

The farmsteads in this study are all located adjacent or near to riverine corridors. Areas of crop cultivation are found adjacent to the farmsteads, often along the dry riverbeds. The continued existence of these farmsteads in this historically and environmentally hostile environment lends significance to their place on the landscape and the determination of the people they represent.

D. Conservation areas –Bio-cultural heritage resources

Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas, largely associated with the riverine environment of the study area supports biodiversity conservation. These areas recognise the ongoing relationship between man and the environment in the way they are managed to maintain a natural state, which in turn, has a benefit for human habitation.

E. Historic routes and gateways – Grade IIIA – II cultural heritage resources (high local to provincial significance)

The site is accessed via the national N12 road, a historic route linking Beaufort West with the towns of De Rust and Outdshoorn via scenic Meiringspoort Pass, and the coastal town of George further south. The north-south orientated N12 intersects the characteristic east west ridges with shallow poorts, often the location of historic farmsteads, such as Amospoortjie, Trakaskuilen and Amandelhoogte, culminating in the Meiringspoort Pass that winds through the Groot Swartberg mountain range located within the Swartberg Nature Reserve. This road has carried inhabitants and travellers between historic towns, farmsteads and further regional destinations since at least the late C18th. The N12 has been recognised as a scenic route in the district and municipal SDFs for the area.

F. Viewsheds of significant mountain ranges

Views and vistas of the distant mountains and destinations give significance to the experience of the vast open landscape. The flat open expanses of the Koup Karoo are a central element to the experience and sense of place of the landscape; the mountain ranges of the Nuiweveld to the north and Swartberg to the south give scale and containment to this vastness. Buffers for development mitigate the impact of the development on places from which significant viewsheds are experienced.

G. Slopes and ridges

The vast terrain of the Koup lends significance to the low undulating ridges and associated visually prominent koppies that create intermittent relief from the monotonous largely flat topography of the region. Within this relatively flat expanse the steep slopes and ridges contained in the Kraaltjies landscape are significant in their visual and environmental capacities. The 'mountains' were identified as having spiritual significance for local inhabitants.

11.2 Heritage Indicators

The principle of locating of an additional WEF facility in this immediate landscape context can be accommodated, however certain standard principles should be observed. These principles are derived from international best practice as contained in various International Charters on Conservation, and a number of local adaptations, and can be applied to this cultural landscape assessment.

- **Landscape significance** - acknowledge the overall natural and cultural landscape, and the layered pattern of settlements in response to the natural landscape over time.
- **Landscape integrity** – retain the essential character and intactness of natural, rural and urban landscapes in the face of fragmentation through unstructured development.
- **Landscape connectivity** – retain the continuity and interconnectedness of natural and cultural landscapes, including the relationships between settlements, agricultural patterns, ecological green corridors and the historical scenic route network.
- **Landscape setting** – maintain the role of the natural landscape as a “container” within which settlements are embedded, the natural landscape providing the dominant setting or backdrop.
- **Logic of landscape** – recognise the intrinsic characteristics and suitability of the landscape and its influence on land use, settlement and movement patterns, in response to geology, topography, water, soil types and microclimate.

11.3 Heritage receptors

While the site has been found to have the capacity to accommodate development of this nature due to other WEF facilities that have been approved in the immediate area, the broader landscape is regarded as having a high degree of sensitivity. The landscape comprises heritage receptors of varying degrees of sensitivity to this type of development. These receptors are identified below as well as their varying degree of sensitivity to the location of wind turbines. This information serves as a guide to an assessment of the carrying

capacity of the cultural landscape to accommodate the proposed development and the assessment of heritage impacts on the cultural landscape. The sensitivity of each heritage receptor to the proposed development is considered independently within its specific context to determine appropriate buffers.

Table 5: Heritage receptors adapted from Oberholzer 2020

| Resource | No-go areas | High sensitivity | Medium sensitivity |
|---|-------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Heritage sites worthy of Grade I, II and IIIA heritage sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amospoortjie | 0-1km | 1-2km | 2-5km |
| Heritage sites worthy of grade IIIB and IIIC heritage status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dankbaar (IIIC) Trakaskuilen (IIIB) Historic farm roads Crop gardens and associated infrastructure | 0-500m | 500m-1km | 1-1.5km |
| Historic scenic routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N12 | 0-1km | 1-3km | 3-5km |
| Slopes and ridges | >30% | >10% | <10% |
| Water features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amosrivier Dourivier Farm dams | 0-250m | 250-500m | - |
| Topographical features such as poorts, koppies and significant ridges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amospoort Amandelhoogte East-West ridges | 0-500m | 500m-1km | - |

11.4 Response to receptors

In general the following principles apply to the layout of WEF turbines:

- Avoid an orthogonal pattern in favour of a more organic pattern.
- Turbines should be clustered or read as individual elements in the landscape, as opposed to being aligned in a row or in proximity of each other.
- Avoid continuous or unbroken swathes of infrastructural development, especially as viewed from the scenic route network.
- Avoid a stacking effect of the alignment of turbines, especially as viewed from the scenic

route network. A staggered setback line is preferable.

12. IMPACTS TO CULTURAL LANDSCAPE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The impact of the proposed development on the cultural landscape will be assessed according to five core values developed by Job Roos (2007), which include ecologic, aesthetic, historic, social and economic (Jansen and Franklin, 2020). These values merge the requirements of significance assessment according to cultural and natural heritage resources as is required for consideration of cultural landscapes which, by definition, are the manifestation of the relationship between these characteristics of a landscape over time.

An updated cultural landscape impact assessment report must be completed should the WEF continue to be used after the term granted in this application, should it be granted. The report should include a detailed assessment of the impacts to the cultural landscape and its outcomes and recommendations need to be considered in the decision for recommissioning and be implemented if recommissioning is approved.

12.1 Ecological

Most of the area is prized for the fact that its natural character is retained, and that the landscape therefore still performs a range of biodiversity and ecological functions. This is mainly due to the low agricultural potential of the area for anything other than grazing, which has limited the impact on the landscape and vegetation. Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas, largely associated with the riverine environment of the study area supports biodiversity conservation. These areas recognise the on-going relationship between man and the environment in the way they are managed to maintain a natural state, which in turn, has a benefit for human habitation. Landscape elements such as the Amos River reflect the names of the local farmsteads, indicating a close relationship between inhabitants on the landscape and these rivers as well as the significant dependence on these resources. The dry riverine corridors that spread over the Koups landscape create points of contact and cultivation in an otherwise dry and barren environment. Largely non-perennial, these watercourses are also known for flooding after heavy rains, spreading much needed water over the surrounding land and, in so doing, supporting ecological and agricultural systems. Historic farmsteads and their associated structures and areas of crop cultivation are found in this landscape unit.

Ecological heritage recommendations should be considered together with specialist ecologist's reports for the site and where their recommendations conflict, the specialist ecologist report should take preference.

Mitigation and recommendations:

Species and ecosystem loss should be prevented by limiting fragmentation in the landscape, and should therefore adhere to the following:

12.1.1 Planning/ pre-construction

- Critical Biodiversity Areas, and Ecological Support Areas (along drainage lines), should be protected from development of the wind turbines or any associated development during all phases, as far as possible.
- No wind turbines should be placed within the 1:100-year flood line or the no-go areas specified by the wetland specialist (where advised) of the watercourses. In the context of the sensitivity to soil erosion in the area, as well as potential archaeological resources, it would be a risk to include any structures close to these drainage lines and specialist recommendations must be taken into account in this regard, as advised.
- Identified medicinal plants used for healing or ritual purposes should be conserved during all phases if threatened for use and continued access to these resources must be maintained, these include, *inter alia* artimisia afra, 'karmedik' [Dicoma capensis], 'oondbos' [Conyza scabrida] and 'wynruit' [Ruta graveolens]. ECO to geo-id location of identified medicinal plant species and relocate these plants where threatened by the development.
- Careful planning should incorporate areas for stormwater runoff where the base of the structure disturbed the natural soil. Local rocks found on the site could be used to slow stormwater (instead of concrete, or standard edge treatments), and prevent erosion that would be an unfortunate consequence that would alter the character of the site. By using rocks from site it helps to sensitively keep to the character.

12.1.2 Construction/ decommissioning

- Critical Biodiversity Areas, and Ecological Support Areas (along drainage lines), should be protected from development of the wind turbines or any associated development during all phases as far as possible.
- No wind turbines should be placed within the 1:100-year flood line of the watercourses, unless otherwise advised by the aquatic specialist. In the context of the sensitivity to soil erosion in the area, as well as potential archaeological resources, it would be a risk to include any structures close to these drainage lines. This recommendation can be waived if the archaeological or hydrological/ aquatic specialist reports recommend different buffers.
- Remaining areas of endemic and endangered natural vegetation should be conserved in line with relevant specialist buffers.
- Critical Biodiversity Areas, and Ecological Support Areas (along drainage lines), should be protected from development of the wind turbines or any associated development during all phases as far as possible in line with relevant ecological and aquatic specialist recommended buffers.
- Areas of critical biodiversity should be protected from any damage during all phases; where indigenous and endemic vegetation should be preserved at all cost.
- Areas of habitat are found among the rocky outcrops and contribute to the character, as well as

biodiversity of the area. Care should be taken that habitats are not needlessly destroyed.

- Identified medicinal plants used for healing or ritual purposes should be conserved during all phases if threatened for use and continued access to these resources must be maintained, these include, *inter alia* artimisia afra, 'karmedik' [Dicoma capensis], 'oondbos' [Conyza scabrida] and 'wynruit' [Ruta graveolens]. ECO to geo-id location of identified medicinal plant species and relocate these plants where threatened by the development.
- Careful planning should incorporate areas for stormwater runoff where the base of the structure disturbed the natural soil. Local rocks found on the site could be used to slow stormwater (instead of concrete, or standard edge treatments), and prevent erosion that would be an unfortunate consequence that would alter the character of the site. By using rocks from site it helps to sensitively keep to the character.

12.1.3 Operational

- Areas of endemic and endangered natural vegetation should be conserved.
- Critical Biodiversity Areas, and Ecological Support Areas (along drainage lines), should be protected, as far as possible.
- Areas of habitat are found among the rocky outcrops and contribute to the character, as well as biodiversity of the area. Care should be taken that habitats are not needlessly destroyed.
- Identified medicinal plants used for healing or ritual purposes should be conserved during all phases if threatened for use and continued access to these resources must be maintained, these include, *inter alia* artimisia afra, 'karmedik' [Dicoma capensis], 'oondbos' [Conyza scabrida] and 'wynruit' [Ruta graveolens]. ECO to geo-id location of identified medicinal plant species and relocate these plants where threatened by the development. Access to these resources should be made available to those who have had historic access to them.

12.2 Aesthetic

The overwhelming sense of vast open landscape with low shrubby vegetation, characteristic of the Koup Karoo and determining to a large extent its evolution in history, creates a sense of place and landscape character intimately associated with this cultural landscape. The various cultural landscape elements have all contributed to a landscape that offers wide open spaces, stillness, distant vistas of impressive and containing mountain ranges with local poorts and koppies defining of the movement of people and animals throughout history. The vast terrain of the Koup lends significance to the low ridges and associated visually prominent koppies that create intermittent relief from the monotonous largely flat topography of the region. The small local poorts and koppies create a sense of place and orientation in this landscape and are associated to points of continuous access and thoroughfare by humans and animals over time. The experience of the landscape after dark is one

of stillness and wilderness with the vastness of the landscape paralleled and expressed in the vastness of the stars overhead amidst overwhelming darkness.

The visual impact of the proposed WEF facility on heritage resources or receptors may differ from the findings of the specialist VIA report as the criteria for determining a receptors' significance would be different. Notwithstanding, the recommendations made in the VIA do not conflict with the findings of this report.

Mitigation and recommendations:

Appropriate planning, construction and management of the WEF infrastructure will prevent degradation of the regional character of the cultural landscape and its unique sense of place for which it is valued. The following recommendations, which also impact the construction phase, must be addressed at the planning and layout stage to reduce impacts as far possible and reduce potential negative impacts during following phases.

12.2.1 Planning/ pre-construction

- Where additional infrastructure (i.e. roads) is needed, the upgrade of existing roads to accommodate the development should be the first consideration.
- Avoid development of infrastructure (such as buildings, wind turbines and power lines), on crests or ridgelines, due to the impact on the visual sensitivity of skylines. The visual impact of turbines can be reduced by distancing them from viewpoints such as roads and farmsteads, and placing them in lower lying plains to reduce their impact on the surrounding sensitive cultural landscape.
- Significant and place-making viewsheds of surrounding ridgelines and distant mountain should be maintained by limiting the placement of turbines or associated infrastructure on opposing sides of any of the regional roads, so that at any time a turbine-free view can be found when travelling through the landscape or at the historic farmsteads.
- Retain view-lines and vistas focused on prominent natural features such as mountain peaks or hills, as these are important place making and orientating elements for experiencing the cultural landscape.
- Prevent the construction of new buildings/structures/ new roads on visually sensitive, steep, elevated or exposed slopes, ridgelines and hillcrests,.
- Turbine and new road placement to avoid slopes steeper than 10% with existing farm roads to be used for access to turbines where existing, and / or to be used as far as possible. The low gradient is relative to the context of the landscape, which is flat and expansive.
- No-go areas on mountain ridges over 1040m asl and steep slopes over 10% for all infrastructure (orange shading). Mountain ridgeline high sensitivity area below 1040m asl is for specialist approval on finalisation in EIA phase.
- Due to the scenic and historic significance of the regional road, a buffer of 1000m to either side of the N12 should be maintained for no development associated with the WEF other than sensitive road access and upgrades, which must not impact on the views from the road. Note that 800m is a no-go turbine buffer and

200m high sensitivity buffer where turbine placement is subject to specialist approval. The WEF layout and internal roads presented in this report (22.8.23) are acceptable and have been reviewed and approved by the specialist.

- To support the continued occupation of the homesteads on the landscape, the turbines should be placed at a suitable distance from any occupied homestead. Amospoortjie can be graded IIIA and a 1km buffer would be minimum. For Dankbaar, the buffer can be reduced to the recommendations set by the VIA, SIA and Noise specialist reports with no less than 500m buffer. A buffer of 800m is currently recommended for Trakaskuilen for any future development.
- Due to the historic and local experience of the landscape from the farm roads, which link the historically significant farmsteads across the region, a buffer of 300m (200m no-go turbine buffer and 100m high sensitivity buffer where turbine placement is subject to specialist approval) from the farm roads still in use should be maintained for no development associated with the WEF other than sensitive road upgrades which must not impact on the views from the road.
- Substation Option 1 is preferred in terms of cultural landscape assessment as it avoids any steep slopes, the ridgeline and the CL buffers of the farm road and N12 scenic route.
- Substation Option 2 is acceptable if all permanent infrastructure, other than roads, can be kept out of the N12 800m no-go buffer on final construction.
- The impact of WEF turbine night lighting on the wilderness landscape is intrusive and overwhelms the rural character of the landscape, giving it an industrial sense of place after dark. Reduce the impact of turbine night lighting by minimizing the number of turbines with lighting to only those necessary for aviation safety such as a few identified turbines on the outer periphery, or use aircraft triggered night lighting. Due to the reduced receptors on the roads at night, the impact of the lighting at night is reserved mainly for farmsteads and other places of overnight habitation such as the surrounding tourist facilities, which would be heavily impacted by the light pollution on a long term and ongoing basis.

12.2.2 *Construction/ decommissioning*

- Encourage mitigation measures (for instance use of vegetation) to 'embed' or disguise the proposed structures within the surrounding tourism and agricultural landscape at ground level, road edges etc;
- The continuation of the traditional use of material could be enhanced with the use of the rocks on the site as building material. This would also help to embed structures into the landscape and should not consist of shipping containers or highly reflective untreated corrugated sheeting that clutters the landscape and exacerbates the foreign intrusion on the natural matte landscape.
- Using material found on the site adds to the sense of place and reduces transportation costs of bringing materials to site.
- The local material such as the rocks found within the area could be applied to address storm water runoff from the road to prevent erosion.
- Duration and magnitude of construction/ decommissioning activity must be minimized as far possible to

reduce the impact of heavy vehicles on the roads as well as the associated dust from the activity. Lightest vehicles possible should be used to reduce degradation to the farm roads and the need to upgrade roads to scale and extent that negatively impacts on the integrity of the historic farm roads. Construction/decommissioning traffic must operate at speeds that reduce dust and noise as far possible.

12.2.3 Operational

- Infrastructure improvement or maintenance work, including new roads and upgrades to the road network, should be appropriate to the rural context (scale, material etc.) and avoid steep slopes over 10% as well as ridges.
- Prevent the construction of new buildings/structures on visually sensitive, steep (over 10%), elevated or exposed slopes, ridgelines and hillcrests or within farmstead and N12 buffers and 300m of the farm roads.
- Avoid visual clutter in the landscape by intrusive signage, and the intrusion of commercial, corporate development along roads.
- Duration and magnitude of operational activity must be minimized as far possible to reduce the impact of heavy vehicles on the roads as well as the associated dust from the activity. Lightest vehicles possible should be used to reduce degradation to the farm roads and the need to upgrade roads to scale and extent that negatively impacts on the integrity of the historic farm roads. Operational traffic must operate at speeds that reduce dust and noise as far possible.
- The impact of WEF turbine night lighting on the wilderness landscape is intrusive and overwhelms the rural character of the landscape, giving it an industrial sense of place after dark. Reduce the impact of turbine night lighting by minimizing the number of turbines with lighting to only those necessary for aviation safety, such as a few identified turbines on the outer periphery, or use aircraft triggered night lighting. Due to the reduced receptors on the roads at night, the impact of the lighting at night is reserved mainly for farmsteads and other places of overnight habitation such as the surrounding tourist facilities, which would be heavily impacted by the light pollution on a long term and on-going basis.

12.3 Historic

The site is accessed via the national N12 road, a historic route linking Beaufort West with the towns of De Rust and Outdshoorn via scenic Meiringspoort Pass, and the coastal town of George further south. This road has carried inhabitants and travellers between historic towns, farmsteads and further regional destinations since at least the late C18th. The history of the landscape is intimately associated to stock farming and waves of settlement throughout history. The stone-age and prehistoric archaeology attests to the inhabitants of the landscape before written history, with the first farmsteads and stone kraals and walls remnants of the first people to settle on the land more permanently rather than being transhumant. The use of influential landscape elements highlights the significance of these elements in the psyche of the historical inhabitants in this vast, seemingly barren, flat place. The historic farmsteads and the roads that link them

are contextually and historically significant as they would have determined patterns of use and movement across the landscape, and in turn the natural landscape determined where these places of habitation would be through location of water sources, protection from the element, poorts through ridges and drifts through rivers. Connection between these places and the people who lived and stayed there has historically been critical in determining the way in which people use and survive in this landscape. Further, in an environment of harsh dry conditions where water is scarce, spaces of cultivation are testament to the determination of its inhabitants to survive in *this* place and the investment of resources, time and effort, that would go into such an ideology. The potential for continued occupation of the farmsteads are significant in maintaining the significance of the cultural landscape.

Mitigation and recommendations:

Appropriate planning, construction and management of the WEF infrastructure will prevent degradation of the historic elements of the cultural landscape.

12.3.1 Planning/ pre-construction

- Due to the scenic and historic significance of the regional road, a buffer of 1000m to either side of the N12 should be maintained for no development associated with the WEF other than sensitive road upgrades, which must not impact on the views from the road. The visual impact of the turbines will be 50% less at 1000m distance and therefore this distance will greatly reduce the negative visual impact of the turbines on the experience of the historic road and the values that give it significance. Note that 800m is a no-go turbine buffer and 200m high sensitivity buffer where infrastructure placement is subject to specialist approval
- The integrity of the historic farmsteads and their associated cultivated areas and relationship to the riverine corridors and other natural elements, such as the Amos River should be maintained and protected. Due to the nature of the landscape being largely devoid of high vertical elements such as the proposed turbines, the introduction of turbines will fundamentally alter the sense of place and character of the landscape for those living there. Location of proposed turbines should be limited to the identified buffers around the farmsteads as far possible to limit impact to the farmsteads.
- Any development that impacts the inherent character of the werf component should be discouraged and a development buffer of 50m around any outlying graded heritage structure, must be maintained, including the associated cultivated areas, cemeteries and unmarked graves, for all new infrastructure. With current recommended buffers in place these heritage resources will not be negatively impacted upon.
- Due to the historic and local experience of the landscape from the farm roads, which link the historically significant farmsteads across the region, a buffer of 300m (200m no-go turbine buffer and 100m high sensitivity buffer where turbine placement is subject to specialist approval in the final layout) from the farm roads should be maintained for no development associated with the WEF other than sensitive road upgrades which must not impact on the views from the road. The proposed placement of infrastructure as per 22.8.23 is acceptable.

- The existing names of places, routes, watercourses and natural features in the landscape that are related to its use, history and natural character should be retained and used as heritage resources related to intangible heritage.
- Burial grounds and places of worship are automatically regarded as Grade IIIa or higher. Any development that threatens the inherent character of family burial grounds must be assessed and should be discouraged. No development closer than 50m from the boundary of any burial grounds or unmarked graves. No turbines have been proposed for placement near known unmarked burials or family cemeteries. A preconstruction micro-survey of each turbine footprint and any new access roads should be conducted to ensure no further unmarked graves are threatened. These recommendations should be considered together with the AIA report and the AIA recommendations should take preference for stand-alone burial grounds or graves where they are not associated with other heritage features or cultural landscape elements.
- Commonages and outspans were located at water points, and these places were likely gathering points before the arrival of colonists and continued to provide communal resources. In the mid-20th century, many old commonage came under the ownership of the Municipality, and have since been rented out to private individuals or organisations. The Municipality should facilitate the use of common land in a way that promotes the well-being and quality of life of the public. These sites can play a restorative role within the community, for instance for those who have limited alternative opportunities for recreation.
- Respect existing patterns, typologies and traditions of settlement-making by promoting the continuity of heritage features. These include: (a) indigenous; (b) colonial; and (c) current living heritage in the form of tangible and intangible associations to place.
- Alterations and additions to conservation-worthy structures should be sympathetic to their architectural character and period detailing.

12.3.2 *Construction/ decommissioning*

- Historic farmsteads must be protected from the impacts of heavy construction vehicles and increased numbers of people. No construction traffic should pass through or closer than 50m to any outlying graded heritage structure, which includes the associated historically cultivated lands, cemeteries, unmarked burials. The most appropriate use of existing farm roads must be found to avoid farm werfs as far as possible and reduce construction impact on these heritage features. The AIA buffer recommendations should take preference for identified archaeological heritage resources.
- Duration and magnitude of construction/ decommissioning activity must be minimized as far possible to reduce the impact of heavy vehicles on the roads as well as the associated dust from the activity. Lightest vehicles possible should be used to reduce degradation to the farm roads and the need to upgrade roads to scale and extent that negatively impacts on the integrity of the historic farm roads. Construction decommissioning traffic must operate at speeds that reduce dust and noise as far possible.
- Accommodation of construction staff must not negatively impact on existing farm residents or degrade the

integrity of the farmstead complexes and should, without negative impact to ecological or aesthetic resources, be located outside of the farmstead complexes or site. Farm residents should be consulted on the preferable location for construction staff accommodation.

- Traditional planting patterns should be protected by ensuring that existing trees are not destroyed as these signify traces of cultural intervention in a harsh environment. These planting patterns include the trees planted around the werfs and along travel routes. Interpretation of these landscape features as historic remnants should occur. A buffer of 50m around such planting patterns, associated with cultural landscape elements and farmsteads as identified in this report, should be maintained..
- Burial grounds and places of worship are automatically regarded as Grade IIIa or higher. Any development that threatens the inherent character of family burial grounds must be assessed and a buffer of 50m around all burial ground or unmarked graves should be in place. No turbines have been proposed for placement near known unmarked burials or family cemeteries. These recommendations should be considered together with the AIA report and the AIA recommendations should take preference for stand-alone burial grounds or graves where they are not associated with other heritage features or cultural landscape elements.
- Mountain slopes have been used for traditional practices for many years, and care should be taken that any significant cultural sites, such as burials and veldkos/medicinal plant resources, are not disturbed.
- Farms in the area followed a system of stone markers to demarcate the farm boundaries in the area. Where these structures are found on the site, care should be taken that they are not needlessly destroyed, as they add to the layering of the area.
- Roads running through the area have historic stone way markers. Where these are found, care should be taken that they are left intact and in place. Road upgrades and or new roads must not move or threaten their position and they should be visible from the road they are related to by passing travellers. Final buffers for stone markers will be for identification and mitigation in collaboration with and approval by heritage specialist.
- Where the historic function of a building/site is still intact, the function has heritage value and should be protected.
- Surviving examples (wagon routes, outspans, and commonage), where they are owned in some public or communal way (or by a body responsible for acting in the public interest) and where they are found to be actively operating in a communal way, will have cultural and heritage value and should be enhanced and retained. The historic route running through Kraaltjies should be maintained and integrity as a communal road for farm residents must be retained.

12.3.3 Operational

- Historic farmsteads must be protected from the impacts of operational facility vehicles and increased numbers of people. No WEF operations traffic should pass within 50m from any outlying graded structures, which includes the associated historically cultivated lands, cemeteries, unmarked burials. The most

appropriate use of existing farm roads must be found to avoid farm werfs as far as possible and reduce construction impact on these heritage features. The AIA buffer recommendations should take preference for identified archaeological heritage resources.

- Traditional planting patterns should be protected by ensuring that existing trees are not destroyed as these signify traces of cultural intervention in a harsh environment. These planting patterns include the trees planted around the werfs and along travel routes. Interpretation of these landscape features as historic remnants should occur. A buffer of 50m around such planting patterns, associated with cultural landscapes elements and farmsteads as identified in this report, should be maintained.
- Burial grounds and places of worship are automatically regarded as Grade IIIa or higher. Any development that threatens the inherent character of family burial grounds must be assessed and should be discouraged and a buffer of 50m around any burial ground or unmarked graves should be in place. No turbines have been proposed for placement near known unmarked burials or family cemeteries. These recommendations should be considered together with the AIA report and the AIA recommendations should take preference for stand-alone burial grounds or graves where they are not associated with other heritage features or cultural landscape elements.
- Mountain slopes have been used for traditional practices for many years, and care should be taken that any significant cultural sites, such as burials and veldkos/medicinal plant resources, are not disturbed.
- Farms in the area followed a system of stone markers to demarcate the farm boundaries in the area. Where these structures are found on the site, care should be taken that they are not needlessly destroyed, as they add to the layering of the area.
- Roads running through the area may have historic stone way markers. Where these are found care should be taken that they are left intact and in place. Road upgrades must not move or threaten their position and they should be visible from the road they are related to by passing travellers.
- Where the historic function of a building/site is still intact, the function has heritage value and should be protected.
- Surviving examples (wagon routes, outspans, and commonage), where they are owned in some public or communal way (or by a body responsible for acting in the public interest) and where they are found to be actively operating in a communal way, will have cultural and heritage value and should be enhanced and retained. The historic route running through Kraaltjies should be maintained and integrity as a communal road for farm residents must be retained.
- Accommodation of WEF staff must not negatively impact on existing farm residents or degrade the integrity of the farmstead complexes and should, without negative impact to ecological or aesthetic resources, be located outside of the farmstead complexes or site. Farm residents should be consulted on the preferable location for construction staff accommodation.
- Lightest vehicles possible should be used to reduce degradation to the farm roads and the need to upgrade roads to scale and extent that negatively impacts on the integrity of the historic farm roads. Operational traffic must operate at speeds that reduce dust and noise as far as possible.

12.4 Socio-economic

The non-owner residents on the Kraaltjies site are in a symbiotic relationship with the environment and through cultivation and resource management have continued to exist and interact with the landscape in a way that has allowed for the relatively unchanged character of the landscape. This has created a unique sense of place and relationship between the inhabitants and the place. The continued land use pattern and relationship to the land mitigates the decline of the socio-economic position of the inhabitants, as they are able to maintain some level of subsistence with these resources. The ability for these residents to provide for themselves in this way must not be negatively impacted upon by the WEF development and must be supported, including financially, by the development. Their existence on the landscape, as the historic inhabitants of the area, previously disenfranchised and disempowered, is a fundamental element to the cultural landscape.

The high level desktop SIA for Kraaltjies WEF (Acer, 2022) found that “several social impacts were identified, assessed and possible mitigations measures discussed for the proposed project. At the conclusion of the assessment, it can be confirmed that there are no fatal flaws from a social and socio-economic perspective.”

In terms of social processes that may change as a result of the proposed project, the SIA found that, “Any changes to the existing processes brought about by the movement of people, for example, construction workers or job seekers moving into the study area may result in social impacts”, that the WEF may cause “slight changes in the environment which can potentially result in social impacts” and that “changes in the composition of the population as a result of construction workers and/or contractors may result in changes in the way that local communities function. These changes can result in an increase in social pathologies such as, crime, alcoholism, sexual promiscuity, etc. Similarly, potential increases in nuisances, such as dust or noise, can have social impacts.”

The SIA found that in terms of site specific social sensitivities, the project will impact negatively in that, “Property owners and land users on neighbouring properties may experience direct or indirect impacts differently. Construction causes noise and visual changes, for example. These activities could affect “Sense of place,” the identity and character of a landscape felt by locals and visitors (e.g. farmer, tourists, and community members). This attribute is derived from the natural environment, a mix of natural and cultural landscape features, and the people who live there” and recommended the client “Establish communication protocols to manage Mainstream, landowners, and contractors during construction; Appropriate mitigation measures are implemented to mitigate biophysical, visual, and cultural heritage impacts, per the BA for the proposed project; Ensure a clean site during construction and operation to reduce the project's impact on the area's character.”

Mitigation and recommendations:

The SIA for the Kraaltjies WEF development (Acer, 2022) was a broad level desktop study and, as such, did not assess the impact of the WEF development on the non-landowner residents of the site as recommended in the CLA report (Dec2022). Appropriate consultation and inclusion of local communities, including non-landowner residents on site and in the region, in all phases will prevent degradation of the socio-economic elements of the cultural landscape as well as potential loss of intangible indigenous knowledge. Loss of historic local inhabitants of the area due to reduction in economic opportunity or places for habitation and cultivation as a result of the WEF development will negatively impact on the character of the landscape.

12.4.1 Planning/ pre-construction

- The continued use of the landscape for human habitation and cultivation by historic residents of the area, should be retained and encouraged as far possible to sustain the continual use pattern and human-environment relationship which is the ultimate significance of this cultural landscape element. The WEF development must allow and support this, including financially, and not degrade this continued relationship.
- The local community on and around the development should benefit from job opportunities created by the proposed development and the development should not cause reduction in economic viability of surrounding properties in excess of those offered by the development. Short-term job opportunities at the expense of long term economic benefit and local employment opportunities must be prevented.
- Local residents must be offered appropriate training and the opportunity for employment on the construction/ decommissioning and operational phases before 'importing' staff from elsewhere.
- Local residents must be offered employment training opportunities associated with WEF developments at all phases.

12.4.2 Construction/ decommissioning

- An updated cultural landscapes impact assessment report must be completed should the WEF continue to be used after the term granted in this application. This report should include a detailed assessment of the socio-economic impacts to the cultural landscape and its outcomes and recommendations need to be considered in the decision for recommissioning and be implemented if recommissioning is approved.
- The continued use of the landscape for human habitation and cultivation by historic residents of the area, should be retained and encouraged as far possible to sustain the continual use pattern and human-environment relationship which is the ultimate significance of this cultural landscape element. The WEF development must allow and support this, including financially, and not degrade this continued relationship.
- The local community on and around the development should benefit from job opportunities created by the proposed development and the development should not cause reduction in economic viability of surrounding properties in excess of those offered by the development. Short-term job opportunities at the expense of long term economic benefit and local employment opportunities must be prevented.

- Local residents must be offered appropriate training and the opportunity for employment on the construction/ decommissioning and operational phases before 'importing' staff from elsewhere.
- Local residents must be offered employment training opportunities associated with WEF developments at all phases.
- Sheep, cattle or game farming should be allowed to continue below the wind turbines, or be rehabilitated to increase biodiversity in the area.

12.4.3 *Operational*

- The local community on and around the development should benefit from job opportunities created by the proposed development and the development should not cause reduction in economic viability of surrounding properties in excess of those offered by the development. Short-term job opportunities at the expense of long term economic benefit and local employment opportunities must be prevented.
- The continued use of the landscape for human habitation and cultivation by historic residents of the area, should be retained and encouraged as far possible to sustain the continual use pattern and human-environment relationship which is the ultimate significance of this cultural landscape element. The WEF development must allow and support this, including financially, and not degrade this continued relationship.
- Local residents must be offered the opportunity for employment on the construction/ decommissioning and operational phases before 'importing' staff from elsewhere.
- Local residents must be offered employment training opportunities associated with WEF developments at all phases.
- Crop cultivation, sheep, cattle or game farming should be allowed to continue below the wind turbines, or be rehabilitated to increase biodiversity in the area.

12.5 **Cumulative Impacts**

This section evaluates the possible cumulative impacts on heritage resources associated with cultural landscapes with the addition of the Kraaltjies WEF and associated infrastructure. The cumulative impact on heritage resources evaluated a 35-kilometer radius. It must further be noted that the evaluation is based on available heritage studies. Although there are 12 WEF applications in process currently, none have yet been built and as a result the full impact of the development cannot be fully assessed.

The following must be considered in the analysis of the cumulative effect of development on heritage resources:

- Fixed datum or dataset: The region has never been covered by a heritage resources study that can account for all heritage resources. Further to this none of the heritage studies conducted can with certainty state that all heritage resources within the study area have been identified and evaluated.

- Defined thresholds: The value judgment on the significance of a heritage site will vary from individual to individual and between interest groups. Thus implicating that heritage resources' significance can and does change over time, and so will the tipping threshold for impacts on a certain type of heritage resource;
- Threshold crossing: In the absence of a comprehensive dataset or heritage inventory of the entire region we will never be able to quantify or set a threshold to determine at what stage the impact from developments on heritage resources has reached or is reaching the danger level or excludes the new development on this basis. (Godwin, 2011).

Without a regional database of this information it is impossible to offer a true cumulative impact of the proposed development. Cumulative impact assessment on cultural landscapes for the area is therefore based on minimal information and assumptions drawn from the general information of the area and the limited local cultural landscapes and visual landscape assessments that have been done for other proposed WEF facilities in the Karoo region where the cultural landscape is most similar.

Oberholzer's Landscape Report for the SEA REDZ includes development density limits guidelines which recommend a 6km buffer between renewable energy facilities within the same viewshed and a limit of 30 turbines per cluster in an area of high landscape sensitivity (Table 1). These buffers should be upheld in this landscape, especially from the viewshed of the scenic N12 route. Without the turbine placement for the surrounding clusters, these buffers are not possible to map for this project. If the Kraaltjies WEF VIA findings contradict this recommendation, the VIA recommendations should be motivated for deviations from the Oberholzer landscape report.

A few specialist HIA and VIA reports in the area did consider cultural landscapes in their consideration of the developments being assessed for and they have been summarised here. It must be noted that these were not necessarily all assessed for WEF's and therefore the consideration of impacts would differ from this cultural landscapes report. Notwithstanding, the findings of these reports in terms of the significance of the landscape and potential mitigation are in line with those of this cultural landscapes assessment report for Kraaltjies WEF.

Webley and Halkett's (2015) HIA for the Rystkuil Uranium Mine found that,

"Although technically the land is zoned as agricultural, in real terms the Cultural Landscape has the character of a wilderness. Occasional stock posts, dry stone kraals, fences, wind pumps, boundary beacons and tracks are the only apparent elements of human modification on the landscape. It appears, even in prehistoric times, to have been marginally inhabited.

Visual impacts occur when developments exceeds the visual capacity of the landscape to absorb the change and results in a radical change to the sense of place of the area or region.

- As a result of the flat horizontal landscape character visibility is high and the viewshed extends over a large area;
- Due to the inherent lack of available screening in the context with the flatter, wide open vistas, there is a

high potential for visual impact in the flat arid Karoo landscapes.

□ It is important that development is managed in such a way that does not detract from the elements which define significant landscape character, specifically relating to the tourism industry.”

Their recommendations for the built environment heritage resources were,

“No demolition of any farm buildings may be undertaken without an assessment of the significance of the buildings by the heritage authority;

□ If any of the existing farm buildings is used for mining accommodation, then the approval of the relevant heritage compliance authority is necessary for any building alterations;

□ Haulage routes should avoid passing in close proximity to farm buildings.”

Stead’s (2008) VIA for the Rystkuil Uranium Mine made the following recommendations in his report:

“□ Avoid visual impacts to the R61 which will be bisected by the Ryst Kuil/De Pannen mining blocks. While the route will have a potential view corridor across the mining operations, it is important to note that the R61 is not rated as having scenic qualities and is commonly used as a short cut to the N1;

□ Avoid visual impacts to Karoo farmsteads and Karoo landscapes that have outstanding rural qualities. However, only one farmstead (Katdoornkuil) was identified as having potential Grade IIIC significance and it is located at least 2km from the Ryst Kuil Extension mining area;

□ Avoid impacts on visually prominent ridgelines and skylines on the property.”

Gibb and Schwartz’s VIA (2018) for a powerline to link two substations nearby the Koup 1 site found in summary that, “It is anticipated that this concentration of facilities will alter the inherent sense of place and introduce an increasingly industrial character into a largely natural area. This will result in some form of cumulative impacts, although it is anticipated that these impacts could be mitigated to acceptable levels with the implementation of the recommendations and mitigation measures stipulated for each these developments by the visual specialists.”

PGS’s HIA (2018) for the Mainstream grid connection found that,

- “There is a characteristic sense of remoteness in the Great Karroo area. This is related partly to the flatness of the land and subtle ridges elements with distant views in part of the Swartberg. However, these landscapes exhibit very little qualities of use over time and as a result cannot be considered significant cultural landscapes.
- The placement of power lines and turbines will have a strong visual impact on the landscape because of the height and concentration of turbines. This however is not necessarily an adverse impact depending on how the turbines are placed and ordered.
- Placement of any power lines and turbines close to the Amospoortjie and Dwaalfontein werf may impact on heritage resources
- There is no possibility of hiding or mitigating the impact of the power lines or turbines other than through placement. Placement close to farms will impact visually on the environment.

- The N12 will be affected but it is not a scenic route.
- Skylines are affected owing to the predominance of the skyline in the landscape.”

It must be noted that the N12 has been recognised as a scenic route.⁵ The Findings of this CLA report for Kraaltjies WEF suggests planning and placement recommendations that would mitigate the impact on the cultural landscape.

Orton’s (2021) HIAs on the proposed Nuweveld WEST/ NORTH/ EAST WEF’s did consider the cultural landscape and found that, “The cultural landscapes of the region are broad and encompass archaeological, contemporary rural and natural landscapes. In the broadest sense, the entire study area and all surrounding land are part of the local cultural landscape. It is impossible to not impact the cultural landscape when constructing structures as large as wind turbines and, because it is largely the presence of the turbines that causes the impacts, the impacts will occur during all phases of the development. The specific nature of the landscape, whether it competes directly with the development, how much landscape scarring would be required (e.g. from cut-and-fill work) and the visibility of the site from accessible public areas (i.e. roads) are key in determining the expected intensity of the impacts. In this instance, the landscape is almost entirely undisturbed, it lacks similar developments but the proposed turbines are all far from any public roads. As a result, the intensity is rated as moderate and, although the probability of the impact occurring is definite, the expected impact significance in the construction phase calculates to **moderate negative**. The visual impact assessment assesses the construction phase impacts on the Karoo landscape as moderate negative before mitigation (Lawson & Oberholzer 2021: tables 11 & 12). There is little that can be done to mitigate the visual intrusion of such large turbines and the construction vehicles in the landscape. It is good, though, that all turbines are located to one side (east) of the R381 so that views towards the west remain uninterrupted. At ground level there are various measures that can be taken to reduce landscape scarring. Altogether, with mitigation, it is expected that the impact significance will still be **moderate negative**.”

It must be noted that the focus of heritage studies in the area has been on the material and tangible aspects of the landscape as identified in the NHRA. Cultural landscape assessments would ideally include consideration of intangible heritage associated to the tangible resources identified and a public participation process dealing with issues regarding inter alia intangible heritage, indigenous knowledge systems, oral histories, language and lifeways of the people who inhabit and use the landscape. Limited interviews with local landowners and non-landowner residents were held by the SiVEST social impact consultants in October 2023 for the proposed development. The interviews showed a variation in inhabitants of the site, with some being more local with knowledge of the landscape and vegetation, such as indigenous knowledge on medicinal plant use and general food planting and others recently employed and originating outside of the province. There was a variation in land and property ownership amongst farm labourers, with some owning their portion of land and residence and others being temporary residents. Interviews identified

⁵ Beaufort West SDP

elements of indigenous knowledge that are currently being practiced in the area by the local inhabitants. Specific indigenous plants with medicinal properties and uses, such as artimisia afra, 'karmedik' [Dicoma capensis], 'oondbos' [Conyza scabrida] and 'wynruit' [Ruta graveolens] and general places of prayer 'in the mountains' were mentioned but not identified.

The Koup region is not located within a SEA identified REDZ zone or in one of the SEA strategic transmission corridors. Currently there are no operational renewable energy projects in the Koup region, however there are applications for both wind and solar energy developments within a 35km radius from the Kraaltjies WEF application site. Various electric grid connections and transmission lines are currently in operation along the N1 and the N12. Although their height surpasses any natural or cultural elements, the linear orientation of these lines, in most part adjacent to the road, do not cross the viewshed as one travels along the N12. Together with their light form and static nature, this reduces their visual impact. The associated infrastructure, such as substations, is more intrusive as the height, scale and angular form is more in conflict with the natural undulating horizontal lines of the surrounding landscape. These elements are currently relatively low scale and do not overwhelm the sense of place, but should be considered as part of the cumulative impact of the new renewable energy developments in the region.

Table 6: Existing and Proposed Renewable Energy Projects within 35km of Site

| Project | DEA Reference No | Technology | Capacity | Max number of turbines | Land parcel area km ² | Status of Application / Development |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------|----------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Proposed Beaufort West Wind Farm | 12/12/20/1784/1 | Wind | 140 MW | 70 | 43 | Approved |
| Proposed Trakas Wind Farm | 12/12/20/1784/2 | Wind | 140 MW | 70 | 54 | Approved |
| Proposed Leeu Gamka Solar Power Plant | 12/12/20/2296 | Solar | - | n/a | 199 | EIA in Process |
| Proposed Koup 1 WEF | TBA | Wind | 140 MW | 32 | 28 | EIA in Process |
| Proposed Koup 2 WEF | TBA | Wind | 140 MW | 32 | 24 | EIA in Process |
| Proposed Kwagga WEF 1 | TBA | Wind | 279 MW | 45 | 51 | EIA in Process |
| Proposed Kwagga WEF 2 | TBA | Wind | 341 MW | 55 | 91 | EIA in Process |
| Proposed Kwagga WEF 3 | TBA | Wind | 204.6 MW | 33 | 94 | EIA in Process |
| Proposed Heuweltjies WEF | TBA | Wind | 240 MW | 38 | 40 | EIA in Process |

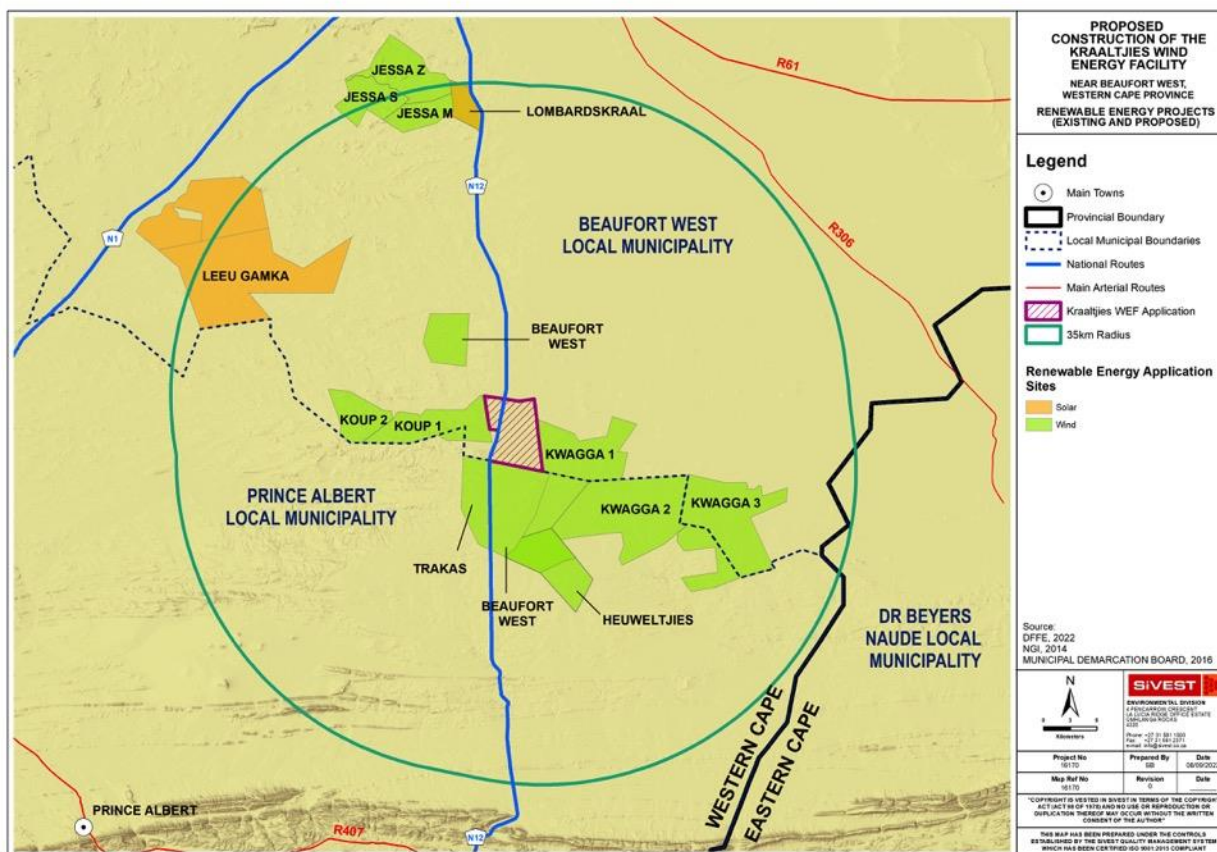


Figure 62: Renewable energy application sites in process in the surrounding area.

The numerous applications and proposed establishment of several wind energy facilities between Beaufort West and the Swartberg mountain range, as well as the adjacent regions in the Karoo have sparked a concern with regards to the cumulative impacts that these projects may have on the heritage resources and the cultural landscape. The approval of an increased number of RE projects in the region may lead to the mass industrialisation of the landscape that changes the character of the landscape and hence impacts on the sense of place and aesthetic value negatively. The Koups region has been considered as a wilderness landscape with a significant footprint of human habitation, cultural contact and conflict, whereby the cumulative impact of increased WEF's will involve significant sterilisation of the aesthetic qualities of the landscape. The cumulative impacts on tangible heritage resources can be considered low in general due to the thin density in the area, except when considering the cultural landscape which is negatively impacted by the construction of renewable energy, wind turbines and associated electrical infrastructure on the 'sense of place', land use patterns and its scenic beauty. The cumulative impact on the cultural landscape is thus unavoidably high without mitigation, with losses to perceptual qualities and historic land use. Similarly, cumulative impacts to living heritage sites will be unavoidably high without mitigation, with losses including the physical expressions of cultural heritage as well as to sense of place and cultural landscapes. While mitigation in the form of avoidance and protection of these sites can go some way to reducing cumulative impacts, these are likely to remain moderate.

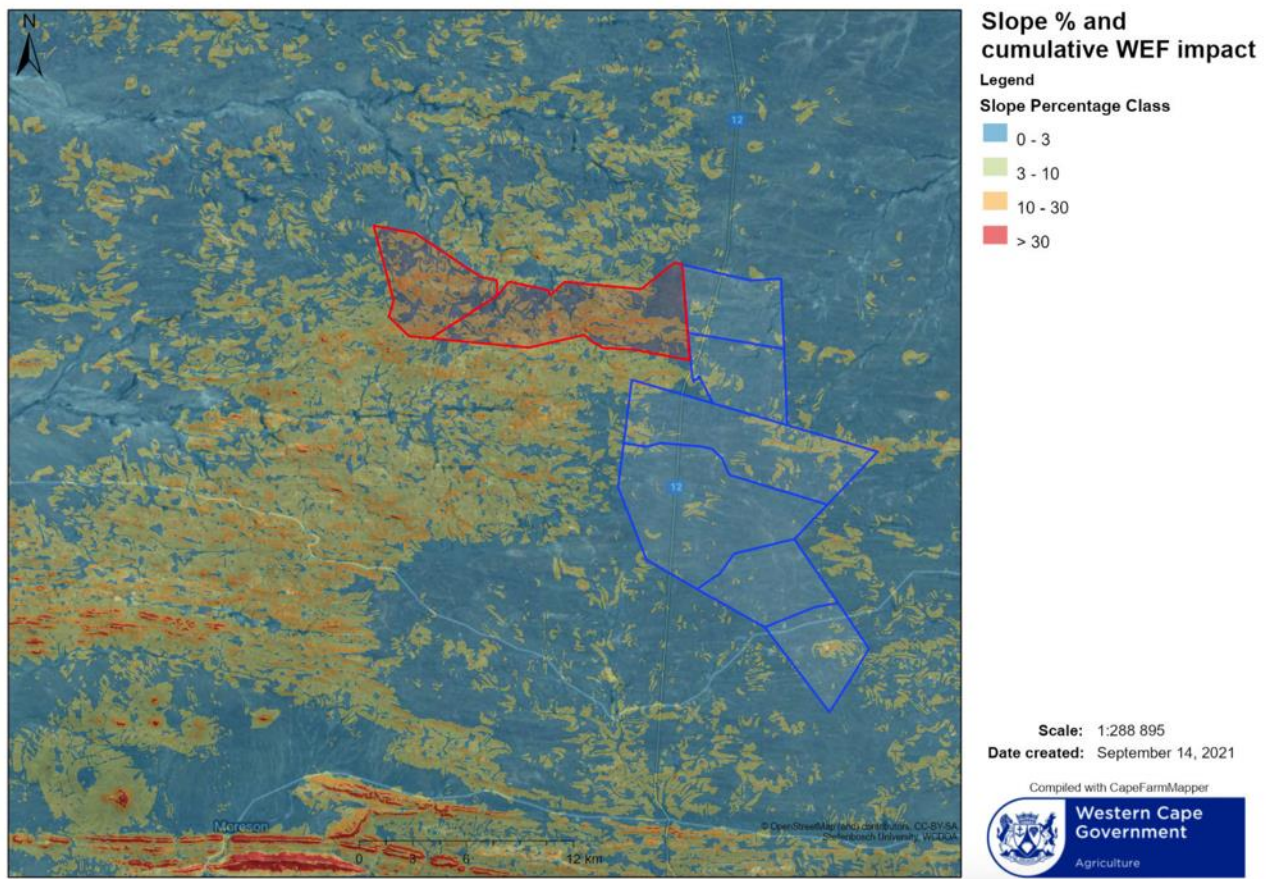


Figure 63: A map showing slope % classification for the wider Koups region, with the Koups 1 and Koups 2 WEF developments in red and other proposed WEF development in blue polygons. Note that the proposed Koups 1 and 2 WEF's to the west of the N12 are located on the more elevated ridgelines of the landscape, increasing their visual impact when compared to the developments proposed largely to the east of the N12 (blue).

By placing turbines away from the high and prominent ridgelines as well as further below rather than on top of steep and high slopes, the height of the turbines should be somewhat reduced so that they can be more gently incorporated visually into the skyline of the landscape. The infrastructure associated with the WEF, such as laydown areas, substations and gridlines, should be less conspicuous located between the ridgelines, at low lying elevations.

The main negative impacts by WEF development and associated infrastructure to the cultural landscape are on the aesthetic and historic value of the area, including the local residents'⁶ opportunity to continue their historic patterns of land use and relationship to the landscape. The historic inhabitants of the area are an essential element to the historic and cultural significance of the cultural landscape and their continued

⁶ 'Local residents' refers to, and must include, the people currently living on site and utilizing the natural resources there (e.g. site managers or rentee's) and not necessarily landowners. These residents often represent the historic occupants of this landscape, who have been historically disenfranchised and disempowered by the lack of land ownership opportunity.

existence in this place with the opportunity to practice traditional land use patterns and knowledge systems are critical in the conservation of the Koup region's intangible heritage.

The cumulative visual impact of the adjacent proposed Koup 1 WEF on the region has been considered by Schwartz (VIA, 2021) and is supported by the findings of this cultural landscapes impact assessment in terms of aesthetic heritage significance. The recommendations for cumulative visual impact according to the VIA (Schwartz, 2021) impact rating table is supported by this cultural landscape impact assessment.

“Although it is important to assess the visual impacts of the proposed Kraaltjies WEF and associated infrastructure specifically, it is equally important to assess the cumulative visual impact that could materialise if other renewable energy facilities (both wind and solar facilities) and associated infrastructure projects are developed in the broader area. Cumulative impacts occur where existing or planned developments, in conjunction with the proposed development, result in significant incremental changes in the broader study area. In this instance, such developments would include renewable energy facilities and associated infrastructure development.

Renewable energy facilities have the potential to cause large scale visual impacts and the location of several such developments in close proximity to each other could significantly alter the sense of place and visual character in the broader region. Although power lines and substations are relatively small developments when compared to renewable energy facilities, they will introduce a more industrial character into the landscape, thus altering the sense of place.

Twelve renewable energy project applications were identified as ‘approved’ or ‘in process’ within a 35 km radius of the proposed Kraaltjies WEF and associated infrastructure. It is assumed that all of these renewable energy developments include grid connection infrastructure. The eleven (11) WEF's, namely Beaufort West WEF, Trakas WEF, Kwagga WEF's 1, 2 and 3 and Koup 1 & 2 WEF's, Jessa S, M and Z and Heuweltjies WEF are all located in relatively close proximity to Kraaltjies WEF. These proposed WEF's, in conjunction with the associated grid connection infrastructure, will inevitably introduce an increasingly industrial character into a largely natural, pastoral landscape, thus giving rise to significant cumulative impacts. The number of renewable energy facilities within the surrounding area and their potential for large scale visual impacts will significantly alter the sense of place and visual character in the broader region, as well as exacerbate the visual impacts on surrounding visual receptors, once constructed.

From a visual perspective, the further concentration of renewable energy facilities as proposed will inevitably change the visual character of the area and alter the inherent sense of place, introducing an increasingly industrial character into the broader area, and resulting in significant cumulative impacts.”

Significant negative cumulative impacts will occur due to the night lighting associated with WEF's. As identified and supported by the VIA (Schwartz, 2021) the negative impact of this WEF element on the cultural landscape will alter the sense of place for the duration of the operation of the facility.

"Much of the study area is characterised by natural areas with pastoral elements and low densities of human settlement. As a result, relatively few light sources are present in the broader area surrounding the proposed development site. The closest built-up area is the town of Beaufort West which is situated approximately 55km north of the application site and is thus too far away to have significant impacts on the night scene. At night, the general study area is therefore characterised by a picturesque dark starry sky and the visual character of the night environment across the broader area is largely 'unpolluted' and pristine. Sources of light in the area are limited to isolated lighting from surrounding farmsteads and transient light from the passing cars travelling along the N12 national route. Given the scale of the proposed WEF, the operational and security lighting required for the proposed project is likely to intrude on the nightscape and create glare, which will contrast with the extremely dark backdrop of the surrounding area. In addition, red hazard lights placed on top of the turbines may be particularly noticeable as their colour will differ from the few lights typically found within the environment and the flashing will draw attention to them."

However, with the proposed recommendations of this CLA, the cumulative negative impact of the proposed WEF's on the cultural landscape can be reduced.

12.5.1 Recommendations to mitigate for cumulative impact on the Koups cultural landscape.

In addition to the proposed recommendations of this CLA, the cumulative negative impact of the proposed WEF's on the cultural landscape can be reduced with the following recommendations on WEF development for the regional cultural landscape.

A cautious approach is required to the location of any additional WEF developments in the area. The establishment of clearly defined edges to the WEF clusters need to be identified, for the individual facilities as well as this RE region as a whole. To reduce the negative cumulative impact of the proposed WEF's on the N12 scenic route and the character and sense of place of the cultural landscape of the Koups region, other than those projects already approved to date, further RE, but specifically WEF, development should be contained within the Beaufort West REDZ. As per the Oberholzer Landscape Report for REDZ (2021), the WEF's should read as separate developments of no more than 30 turbines per cluster with vast spaces of at least 6km in between to continue the reading on the landscape of places amongst the vastness as is the historical trend of farmsteads in the Koups region.

These recommendations should allow for the continued opportunity by travellers to experience the vistas of the vast open wilderness spaces and views of the mountain ranges in the distance at all points along the N12 scenic drive.

Known locations of identified medicinal plants and places of spiritual significance as identified in the related studies for this report, should be geo-located by the ECO and recorded for inclusion in further reporting on the area, to establish a baseline dataset for future recommendations in relation to REDs developments.

13. IMPACT RATING TABLES

13.1 Planning / Pre construction

Table 7: Rating of impacts for Planning/ Pre-construction Phase

| ENVIRONMENTAL PARAMETER | ISSUE / IMPACT / ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT/ NATURE | ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE BEFORE MITIGATION | | | | | | | | | RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURES | ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------|-------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---------|-------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | E | P | R | L | D | I/ M | TOTAL | STATUS (+ OR -) | S | | E | P | R | L | D | I/ M | TOTAL | STATUS (+ OR -) | S |
| Planning Phase | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ecological | Inappropriate infrastructure layout planning degrades ecological elements of the cultural landscape. | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 60 | - | Negative High | Please see page 54 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 20 | - | Negative Low |
| Aesthetic | Inappropriate infrastructure layout planning negates aesthetic and sense of place requirements of the cultural landscape. | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 68 | | Negative Very High | Please see page 55 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 39 | | Negative medium |
| Historic | Inappropriate infrastructure layout planning degrades historic elements of the | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 68 | | Negative Very High | Please see page 59 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 20 | | Negative Low |

| ENVIRONMENTAL PARAMETER | ISSUE / IMPACT / ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT/ NATURE | ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE BEFORE MITIGATION | | | | | | | | | RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURES | ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|---------|-------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---------|-------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | E | P | R | L | D | I/ M | TOTAL | STATUS (+ OR -) | S | | E | P | R | L | D | I/ M | TOTAL | STATUS (+ OR -) | S |
| | cultural landscape. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Socio-economic | Non-landowner residents' lack of representation in planning and public participation process leads to loss of local knowledge, socio-economic empowerment and character of the cultural landscape. | 2 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 68 | - | Negative Very High | Please see page 64 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 22 | - | Positive Low |

13.2 Construction/ Decommissioning

Table 8: Rating of impacts for Construction/ Decommissioning Phase

| ENVIRONMENTAL PARAMETER | ISSUE / IMPACT / ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT/ NATURE | ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE BEFORE MITIGATION | | | | | | | | | RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURES | ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------|-------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---------|-------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | E | P | R | L | D | I/ M | TOTAL | STATUS (+ OR -) | S | | E | P | R | L | D | I/ M | TOTAL | STATUS (+ OR -) | S |
| Construction/ Decommissioning Phase | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ecological | Fragmentation and destruction of the landscape degrading the environment and thus continuous relationship between man and environment | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 48 | - | Negative High | Please see page 54 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 22 | - | Negative Low |
| Aesthetic | WEF infrastructure construction and decommissioning activity degrades the character of the cultural landscape and the sense of place | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 60 | | Negative high | Please see page 57 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 24 | | Negative Medium |

| ENVIRONMENTAL PARAMETER | ISSUE / IMPACT / ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT/ NATURE | ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE BEFORE MITIGATION | | | | | | | | | RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURES | ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------|-------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---------|-------|-----------------|--------------|
| | | E | P | R | L | D | I/ M | TOTAL | STATUS (+ OR -) | S | | E | P | R | L | D | I/ M | TOTAL | STATUS (+ OR -) | S |
| Historic | Integrity of farmsteads and farm roads degraded by insensitive construction or decommissioning activities. | 2 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 68 | | Negative very high | Please see page 60 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 22 | | Negative low |
| Socio-economic | Integrity of local residents to continue their patterns of land use is degraded by the construction and decommissioning activities. | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 68 | | Negative very high | Please see page 64 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 22 | | Positive low |

13.3 Operation

Table 9: Rating of impacts for Operational Phase

| ENVIRONMENTAL PARAMETER | ISSUE / IMPACT / ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT/ NATURE | ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE BEFORE MITIGATION | | | | | | | | | RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURES | ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------|-------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|----------|-------|-----------------|--------------------|
| | | E | P | R | L | D | I / M | TOTAL | STATUS (+ OR -) | S | | E | P | R | L | D | I / M | TOTAL | STATUS (+ OR -) | S |
| Operation Phase | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ecological | Inappropriate operational activities degrade the significant ecological elements of the cultural landscape | 1 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 56 | | Negative high | Please see page 55 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 22 | | Negative low |
| Aesthetic | Inappropriate operational activities degrade the significant aesthetic elements of the cultural landscape altering the character and sense of place | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 48 | | Negative high | Please see page 58 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 32 | | Negative medium |
| Historic | Inappropriate | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 72 | | Negative | Please see page 61 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 28 | | Negative |

| ENVIRONMENTAL PARAMETER | ISSUE / IMPACT / ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT/ NATURE | ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE BEFORE MITIGATION | | | | | | | | | RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURES | ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|---------|-------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---------|-------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | E | P | R | L | D | I/ M | TOTAL | STATUS (+ OR -) | S | | E | P | R | L | D | I/ M | TOTAL | STATUS (+ OR -) | S |
| | operational activities degrade the significant historic elements of the cultural landscape altering the character and sense of place | | | | | | | | | very high | | | | | | | | | | medium |
| Socio-economic | Inappropriate operational activities degrade the significant socio-economic opportunities of the cultural landscape | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 68 | | Negative very high | Please see page 65 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 24 | | Positive medium |

13.4 Cumulative impacts

Table 10: Rating of cumulative impacts

| ENVIRONMENTAL PARAMETER | ISSUE / IMPACT / ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT/ NATURE | ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE BEFORE MITIGATION | | | | | | | | | RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURES | ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|---------|-------|-----------------|--------------------|---|--|---|---|---|---|---------|-------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | E | P | R | L | D | I/ M | TOTAL | STATUS (+ OR -) | S | | E | P | R | L | D | I/ M | TOTAL | STATUS (+ OR -) | S |
| CumulativePhase | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ecological | Inappropriate cumulative development degrade the significant ecological elements of the cultural landscape | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 72 | | Negative very high | Please see page 73 for mitigation recommendations for specifically cumulative impacts. | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 28 | | Negative medium |
| Aesthetic | Inappropriate cumulative development degrades the significant aesthetic elements of the cultural | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 64 | | Negative very high | NOTE: If the recommendations in this CLA are applied to the majority of the surrounding RE developments, impacts can be reduced to ratings given in this table. | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 28 | | Negative medium |

| ENVIRONMENTAL PARAMETER | ISSUE / IMPACT / ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT/ NATURE | ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE BEFORE MITIGATION | | | | | | | | | RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURES | ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|---------|-------|-----------------|-----------------------|--|--|---|---|---|---|---------|-------|-----------------|--------------------|
| | | E | P | R | L | D | I/ M | TOTAL | STATUS (+ OR -) | S | | E | P | R | L | D | I/ M | TOTAL | STATUS (+ OR -) | S |
| | landscape altering the character and sense of place | | | | | | | | | | With no specialist CLA reports done on the surrounding applications, cumulative impact on the cultural landscape of the region has not been considered and cannot be included in this rating. | | | | | | | | | |
| Historic | Inappropriate cumulative development degrades the significant historic elements of the cultural landscape altering the character and sense of place | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 76 | | Negative very high | | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 26 | | Negative medium |
| Socio-economic | Inappropriate cumulative development degrade the significant socio- economic opportunities of the cultural landscape | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 72 | | Negative very high | | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 24 | | Positive medium |

14. COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

Key

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| PREFERRED | The alternative will result in a low impact / reduce the impact / result in a positive impact |
| FAVOURABLE | The impact will be relatively insignificant |
| LEAST PREFERRED | The alternative will result in a high impact / increase the impact |
| NO PREFERENCE | The alternative will result in equal impacts |

| Alternative | Preference | Reasons (incl. potential issues) |
|-------------------------------------|------------|--|
| SUBSTATION SITE ALTERNATIVES | | |
| Substation Option 1 | Preferred | This location is located further from the N12 and will have a reduced visual impact. |
| Substation Option 2 | Favourable | In close proximity to cultural landscape features including N12. |

14.1 No-Go Alternative

It is mandatory to consider the “no-go” option in the EIA process. The “no development” alternative option assumes the site remains in its current state, i.e. there is no construction of a WEF facility and associated infrastructure in the proposed project area and the status quo would remain. This option would result in no development impact on the Kraaltjies cultural landscape and it would continue to operate in the current way maintaining the current significance.

If the Kraaltjies site is not developed, the WEF and associated infrastructure will not be built to the west of the N12 and the aesthetic and visual impact of new RE developments will be contained to the eastern viewshed.

The potential for socio-economic opportunities related to the construction and operation of the RE facility for local residents in the area would be lost. The potential for increased RE energy capacity nationally would be lost in this instance but certainly gained elsewhere.

15. CONCLUSION

15.1 Summary of Findings

The Koup region is a significant cultural landscape that reflects the relationship between man and nature over a period of time. This relationship has generally been sustainable, where biodiversity and ecological systems have been maintained in the utilisation of the landscape expressed in specific land use patterns. The surrounding land use indicates a social appreciation of the natural environment with low impact stock farming with limited farmstead crop cultivation. The vastness and relative homogenous nature of the cultural landscape is, however, often undervalued. If careful contextual planning is not followed, it will rapidly result in a cluttered wasteland. This does not mean that development is discouraged, but rather that the implementation of wind and solar energy farms should be planned holistically. It is the duty of the planning department to consider this application in terms of other renewable energy developments that are planned/proposed for the Koup area, notably the proposed RE developments included in the cumulative impact section of this report.

Conservation: to protect the natural resources (water, air, land, sand, fishes, etc.), ecosystems (reefs, fynbos), biological abundance (flora and fauna), landscapes and the local culture.

Development: to protect social and economic progress, without damaging or depleting the natural resources (sustainable development).

The findings of this report, coupled with the proposed layout for development of the project area, which considers appropriate placement in terms of wind energy capacity, concludes that the development can be permitted within the site if the report's recommendations are followed. The mitigating recommendations in this report consider the ecological, aesthetic, historic and socio-economic value lines that underpin the layers of significance that combine to create the character of the place and the cultural landscape of the Koup. These recommendations include road and farmstead complex buffers which incorporate cultivated areas, graves and steep slope no-go areas, and ridgeline high sensitivity areas as well as consideration of the unique land form of the site, CBA and ESA no-go areas, as well as mechanisms to support the non-landowner residents that live on the site in being able to continue their indigenous land use patterns, knowledge and social systems. These mitigations will reduce the impact on the surrounding landscape and heritage resources but due to the high visual impact of the turbines, largely a result of their height, the negative impact to the cultural landscape cannot be removed, only reduced from very high to moderate.

15.2 Heritage Indicators

The conclusion of this CLA study has culminated in the map (Figure 64) showing location of proposed buildable area of WEF infrastructure with the following heritage indicators and development buffers:

- A 1000m high sensitivity buffer to either side of the N12 for turbines and vertical infrastructure placement (pink buffer). Note that 800m is a no-go turbine buffer and 200m high sensitivity buffer where turbine placement is subject to specialist approval – roads are permissible;

- 300m buffer to either side of identified significant historic farm roads (yellow) for turbine placement, substation and laydown area (200m no-go turbine buffer and 100m high sensitivity buffer where turbine placement is subject to specialist approval);
- 1000m buffer around Amospoortjie historic farmstead, 800m buffer around Trakaskuilen farmstead and 500m around Dankbaar farmstead (orange circles) for turbine placements (single turbines currently proposed for the edges of some of these buffers are acceptable); and
- existing roads to be used with minimal upgrade as far as possible;
- high sensitivity areas on mountain ridges and steep slopes (over 10%) for all infrastructure (orange shading) – any development of roads or infrastructure to be refined to specialist approval;
- prior to construction when detailed survey information is available and micro-siting takes place, the placement of T1 on the high sensitivity ridgeline buffer must be placed below the 1040m asl line;
- riverine corridors 100m buffer to either side;
- ECO to geo-id location of identified medicinal plant species and relocate these plants where threatened by the development.

Further, the following is recommended:

- Substation Option 1 is preferred in terms of cultural landscape assessment as it avoids any steep slopes, the ridgeline and the CL buffers of the farm road and N12 scenic route.
- Substation Option 2 is acceptable if all permanent infrastructure, other than roads, can be kept out of the N12 800m no-go buffer on final construction.

Further heritage indicators and recommendations for construction/ decommissioning and operational phases unsuitable for mapping have been made in the CLA (Section 12 on page 53) and are necessary for the identified negative impacts to be reduced from very high to medium negative impact of the proposed Kraaltjies WEF and associated infrastructure on the cultural landscape.

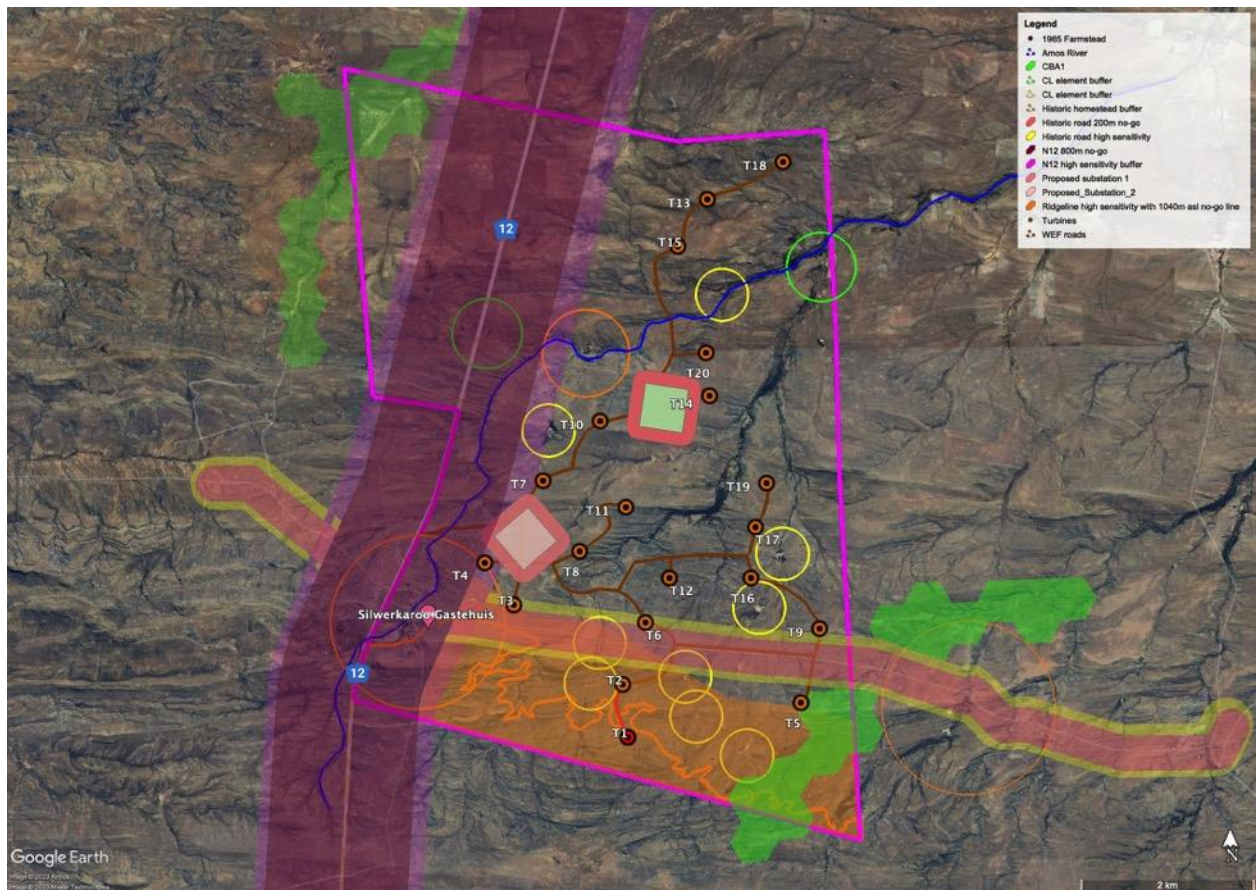


Figure 64: Cultural Landscapes Assessment heritage indicators and buffers map for proposed Kraaltjies WEF development (Note: 100m/ flood line riverine corridor buffers not indicated).

15.3 Conclusion and Impact Statement

- Prior to construction when detailed survey information is available and micro-siting takes place, the placement of T1 on the high sensitivity ridgeline buffer must be placed at a maximum height of 1040m asl contour line or below;

With the recommended CLA buffers in place and all other recommendations followed, the overall impact to the cultural landscape for the proposed Kraaltjies WEF and associated infrastructure can be reduced from very high to moderate.

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