APPENDIX F7: Archaeological/Heritage Walkdown

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WALKDOWN REPORT: PROPOSED EXTENSION OF MOSSDUSTRIA AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RACEWAY ON REM OF RIETVALLEY 225/8, MOSSEL BAY DISTRICT AND MUNICIPALITY

(In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999)
(HWC Case Number: 2205 2006)

On Behalf of the Mossel Bay Municipality



March 2023

Prepared by:
Lita Webley
lita@webleyonline.com
0721796219

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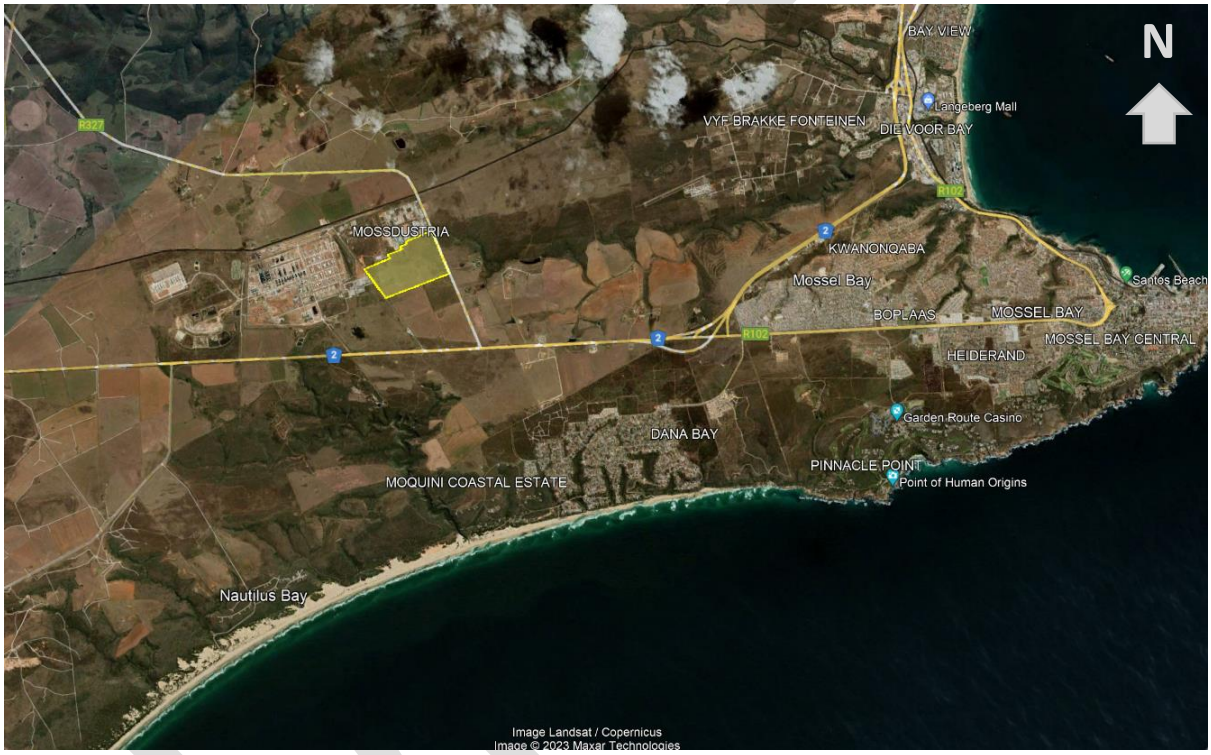
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Site Name
Proposed extension of Mossdustria and the establishment of a raceway on the Reminder of Rietvalley 225/8, Mossel Bay.

Location
The subject area (87.7ha in extent) is situated 13km to the west of Mossel Bay, 27km southeast of the rural village of Herbertsdale, and directly adjoining the existing Mossdustria industrial area. It is directly east of the PetroSA and the Gourikwa Power Plants.

The centre of the study area is located at: S 34°10'2.22"S°; E 22° 0'18.15"E

Locality Plan



Location of the study area (yellow) to the west of Mossel Bay and north of the N2 highway. It is located next to the PetroSA facility and the Gourikwa Power Plant

Description of Proposed Development

- Development of the Remainder of the farm Riet Valley 225/8 to make provision for the following:
    - Future industrial expansion of covering an area of 13ha;
    - Conservation area (15ha) covering the environmentally sensitive wetland area along the eastern property boundary;
    - Motorsport arena incorporating e.g. an oval race track, drag strip, drifting track, fuel storage, go cart track, workshops, spectator pavilions, training, ablution and emergency facilities, parking as well as ancillary services and infrastructure (38ha);
    - Motorsport business development units (10) (included in the 38ha for the motorsport arena) ;
    - Alternative energy generation area (22ha).

Background to the Walk over Report
S de Kock of Perception Planning submitted a Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) to Heritage Western Cape (HWC) in July 2022. It was discussed at HWC Heritage Officers Meeting (HOMS) on the

18 July 2022, and it was noted that although the area appeared badly degraded, concern was expressed about the possibility of impacts to archaeology. The Case Officer (S. Barnardt) suggested the following two (2) possibilities:

a) Option One - An archaeological a walk-over of the site and submission of a report regarding potential archaeological sensitivities. Should there be significant archaeological resources, HWC will allow that to be dealt with as part of a permitting process in terms of Section 35 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) NHRA.
b) Option 2 - HWC requests a Heritage Impact Assessment(HIA) focussing on archaeology. This will then require public participation etc.

S de Kock advised HWC that the client, Mossel Bay Municipality, intended to follow Option 1.

Archaeological Resources Identified
Webley conducted an archaeological walk over on 14 and 16 March 2023. The following was recorded:

- A very sparse scatter of Early Stone Age (ESA) stone tools (on yellow quartzite cobbles) spread across the southern extent of the property. This mirrors the same quartzite stone tools observed in recently ploughed farmlands on the adjoining property. They are considered Not Conservation Worthy (NCW).
- Large blocks of stone which are heaped in the central and northern extent of the property, and which appear to represent old farming activities (i.e. stones which have been removed to clear lands and have been heaped in the central area). They are NCW.

Anticipated Impacts on Archaeological Resources
The very sparse ESA stone tool scatter (less than 10 artefacts were recorded) will be disturbed during the development for the raceway. However, they are probably in secondary context because they are in old, ploughed lands. The impacts are considered to be very Low.

Recommendations
The site has very low sensitivity. An HIA is not required. No mitigation measures are proposed, and the development is supported.

The standard clause applies:

If during ground clearance or construction, any archaeological material or human graves are uncovered, work in that area should be stopped immediately and the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) must report this to Heritage Western Cape. The heritage resource may require inspection by the heritage authorities, and it may require further mitigation in the form of excavation and curation in an approved institution.

Author and Date

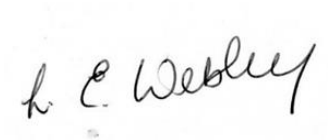
Dr Lita Webley March 2023.

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SPECIALIST DECLARATION

I, Lita Webley, as the independent specialist for this application declare that I –

- act as an independent specialist (archaeologist) in this application;
- regard the information contained in this report as it relates to my specialist input/study to be true and correct;
- do not have and will not have any financial interest in the undertaking of the activity, other than renumeration for work performed in terms of the NEMA, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 and any specific environmental management Act;
- have and will not have no vested interest in the proposed activity proceeding;
- have disclosed, to the applicant, EAP and competent authority, any material information that have or may have the potential to influence the decision of the competent authority or the objectivity of any report, plan or document required in terms of the NEMA, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 and any specific environmental management Act;
- am fully aware of and meet the responsibilities in terms of NEMA, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (specifically in terms of regulation 13 of GN No. R. 982) and any specific environmental management Act, and that failure to comply with these requirements may constitute and result in disqualification;
- am aware that a false declaration is an offense in terms of regulation 48 of GN No. R. 982.



Signature of the specialist

Name of company: Dr Lita Webley
Professional Archaeologist and Specialist Heritage Practitioner

Date: March 2023

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Glossary

Archaeology: Remains resulting from human activity which is in a state of disuse and are in or on land and which are older than 100 years, including artefacts, human and hominid remains and artificial features and structures.

Early Stone Age: The archaeology of the Stone Age between 700 000 and 2500 000 years ago.

Fossil: Mineralised bones of animals, shellfish, plants and marine animals. A trace fossil is the track or footprint of a fossil animal that is preserved in stone or consolidated sediment.

Heritage: That which is inherited and forms part of the National Estate (Historical places, objects, fossils as defined by the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999.

Holocene: The most recent geological time period which commenced 10 000 years ago.

Late Stone Age: The archaeology of the last 20 000 years associated with fully modern people.

Middle Stone Age: The archaeology of the Stone Age between 20-300 000 years ago associated with early modern humans.

National Estate: The collective heritage assets of the Nation

Palaeontology: Any fossilised remains or fossil trace of animals or plants which lived in the geological past, other than fossil fuels or fossiliferous rock intended for industrial use, and any site which contains such fossilised remains or trace.

Pleistocene: A geological time period (of 3 million – 20 000 years ago).

SAHRA: South African Heritage Resources Agency – the compliance authority which protects national heritage in the Northern Cape.

Structure (historic:) Any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith. Protected structures are those which are over 60 years old.

Acronyms

DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
ESA	Early Stone Age
GPS	Global Positioning System
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
HWC	Heritage Western Cape
LSA	Late Stone Age
MSA	Middle Stone Age
NCW	Not Conservation Worthy
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency

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1. INTRODUCTION

Lita Webley was appointed by Gibb Environmental, on behalf of the client, Mossel Bay Municipality, to compile an archaeological walk over report to submit to Heritage Western Cape (HWC) for the for the proposed extension of Mossdustria and the establishment of a raceway on the remainder of the farm Rietvalley 225/8, Mossel Bay. The study area is 13km west of Mossel Bay, adjoins the Mossdustria facility and adjoins PetroSA and the Gourikwa Power Plant (Figures 1 & 2).

The centre of the study area is located at: S34.165252°; E 22.005764°

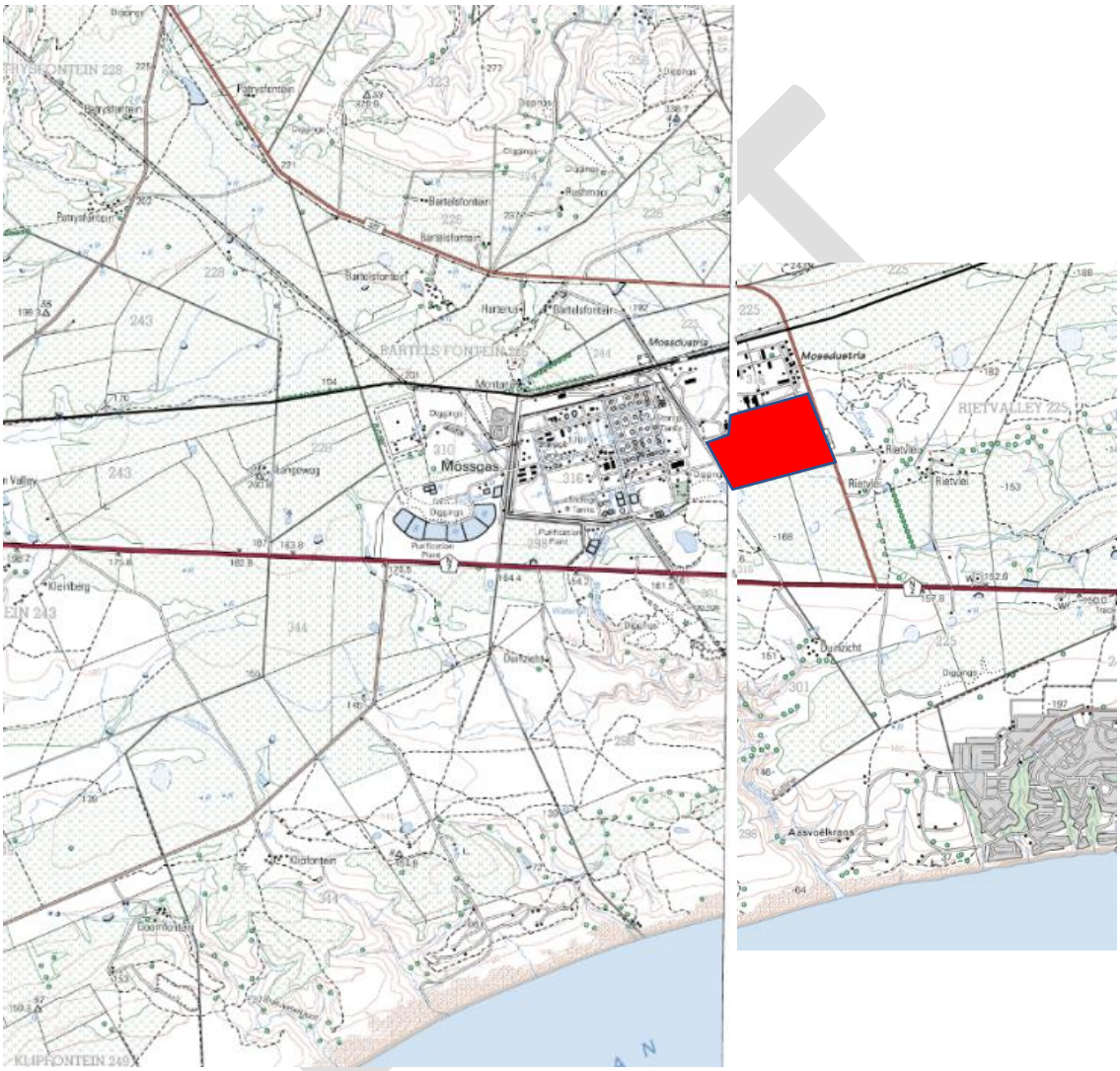


Figure 1: Extracts from 1:50 000 map sheets 3421BB and 3422AA (Mossel Bay) indicating the location of the study area adjoining Mossdustria, PetroSA and the Gourikwa Power Station (Source of Map: Chief Directorate: National Geo-Spatial Information. Website: www.ngi.gov.za).

The subject area (87.7ha in extent) is situated 13km to the west of Mossel Bay, 27km southeast of the rural village of Herbertsdale, and directly adjoining the existing Mossdustria industrial area. It is directly east of the PetroSA and the Gourikwa Power Plant (Fig 2). The study area consists of one cadastral land unit, namely the remainder of the farm Rietvalley 225/8 (situated directly south of Mossdustria industrial area). There is vehicular access from the R327 off the N2 National Road.

Existing land use in the surrounds of the study area includes agricultural lands to the north and east with the Mossdustria industrial area within the centre of the study area. The historic Rietvalley farmstead (now Reed Valley Wines), is 500m to the east of the study area boundary.



Figure 2: Study area (yellow) located within the context of the surrounding coastal landscape (Google Earth)

2. PROJECT PROPOSAL

According to the information made available by Gibb Environmental (Pty) Ltd, the proposed development would entail the following:

- Development of the Remainder of the farm Riet Valley 225/8 to make provision for the following:
  - Future industrial expansion of Mossdustria comprising covering an area of 13ha;
  - Conservation area (15ha) covering the environmentally sensitive wetland area along the eastern property boundary;
  - Motorsport arena incorporating e.g. an oval race track, drag strip, drifting track, fuel storage, go cart track, workshops, spectator pavilions, training, ablution and emergency facilities, parking as well as ancillary services and infrastructure (38ha);
  - Motorsport business development units (10) (included in the 38ha for the motorsport arena);
  - Alternative energy generation area (22ha).

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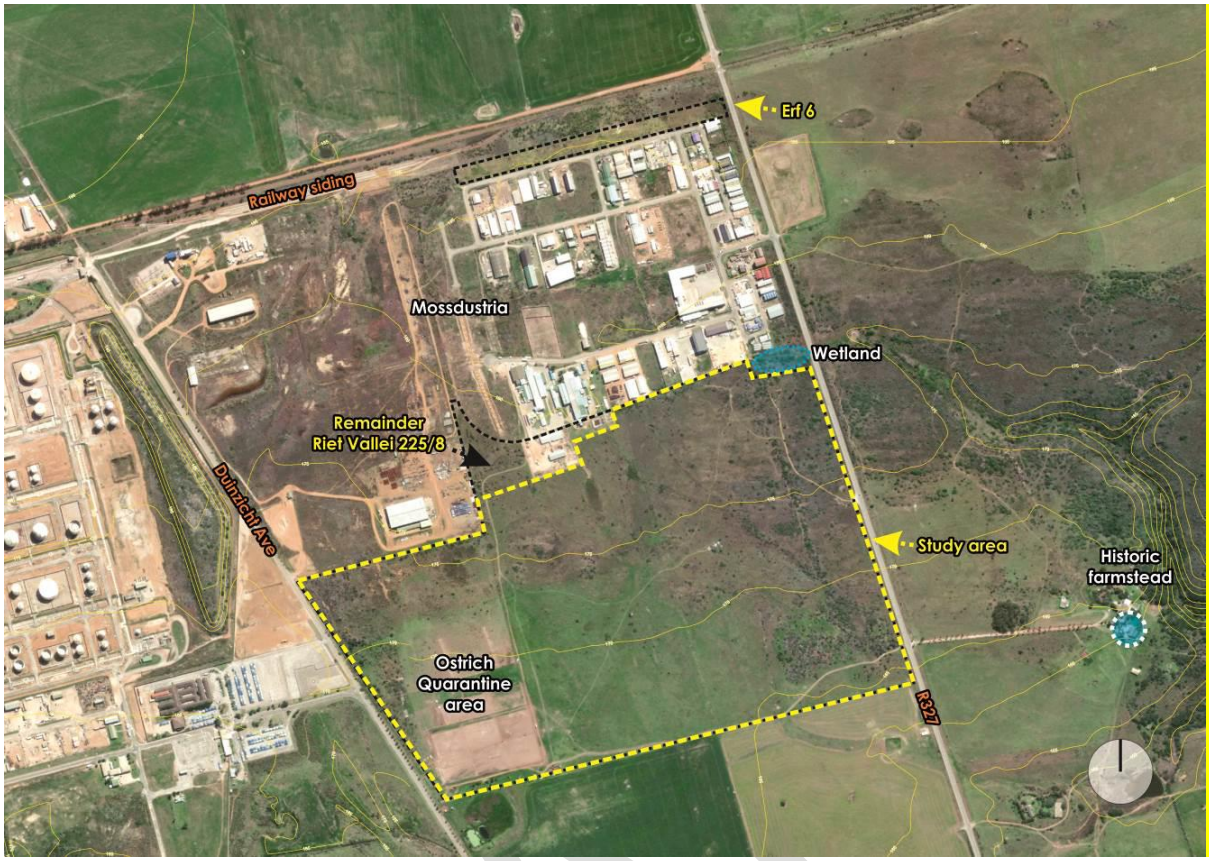


Figure 3: Study area boundary (yellow dotted line) in relation to the existing land use (CFM, 2020) (Perception Planning 2022).

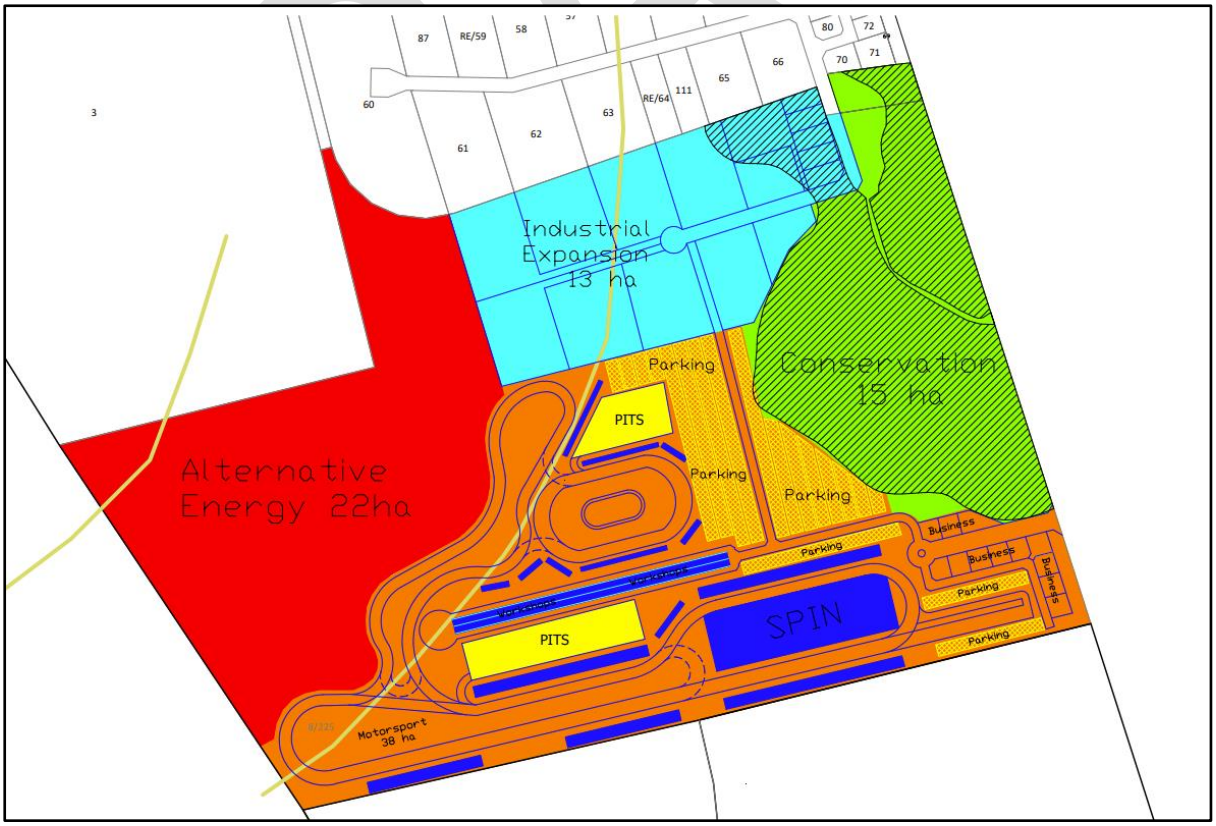
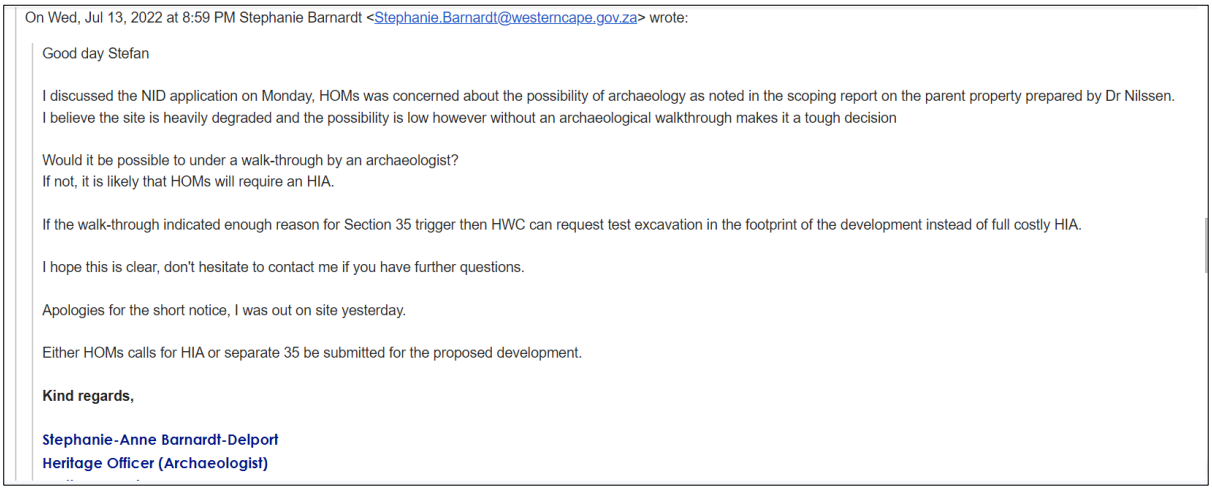


Figure 4: Preliminary site layout plan

3. BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT



On Wed, Jul 13, 2022 at 8:59 PM Stephanie Barnardt <Stephanie.Barnardt@westerncape.gov.za> wrote:

Good day Stefan

I discussed the NID application on Monday, HOMs was concerned about the possibility of archaeology as noted in the scoping report on the parent property prepared by Dr Nilssen.
I believe the site is heavily degraded and the possibility is low however without an archaeological walkthrough makes it a tough decision

Would it be possible to under a walk-through by an archaeologist?
If not, it is likely that HOMs will require an HIA.

If the walk-through indicated enough reason for Section 35 trigger then HWC can request test excavation in the footprint of the development instead of full costly HIA.

I hope this is clear, don't hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Apologies for the short notice, I was out on site yesterday.

Either HOMs calls for HIA or separate 35 be submitted for the proposed development.

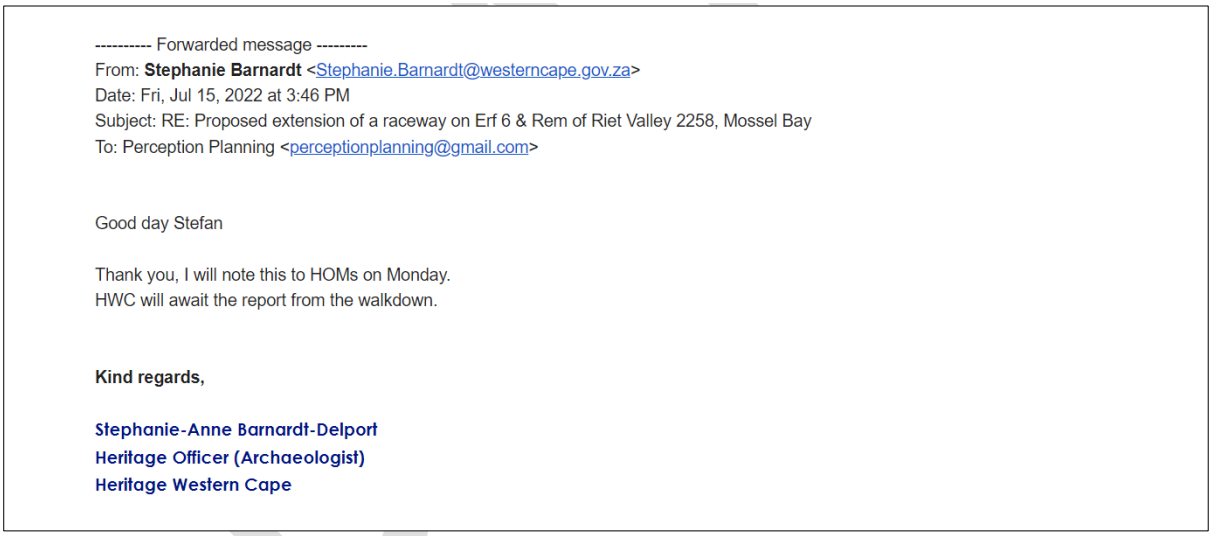
Kind regards,

Stephanie-Anne Barnardt-Delport
Heritage Officer (Archaeologist)

The project was presented at the HWC Heritage Officers Meeting (HOMS) meeting on 18 July 2022 and it was confirmed that they will await a copy of the walk-over report and make a decision from there.

Mr S de Kock responded:

"We have communicated the above to the Mossel Bay Municipality and the decision was made to proceed with the walk-over and walk-over report".



---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Stephanie Barnardt** <Stephanie.Barnardt@westerncape.gov.za>
Date: Fri, Jul 15, 2022 at 3:46 PM
Subject: RE: Proposed extension of a raceway on Erf 6 & Rem of Riet Valley 2258, Mossel Bay
To: Perception Planning <perceptionplanning@gmail.com>

Good day Stefan

Thank you, I will note this to HOMs on Monday.
HWC will await the report from the walkdown.

Kind regards,

Stephanie-Anne Barnardt-Delport
Heritage Officer (Archaeologist)
Heritage Western Cape

4. HERITAGE LEGISLATION

While the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) is the decision making authority acting in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and Regulations (2014), they must ensure that the evaluation of the statutorily defined broad range of heritage resources fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority in terms of Section 38 (8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) (NHRA) and that any comments and recommendations of the relevant heritage resources authority with regard to proposed development have been taken into account prior to the granting of the consent.

The NHRA provides protection for the following categories of heritage resources:

- Landscapes, cultural or natural (Section 3 (3))
- Buildings or structures older than 60 years (Section 34);
- Archaeological Sites, palaeontological material and meteorites (Section 35);

- Burial grounds and graves (Section 36);
- Public monuments and memorials (Section 37);
- Living heritage (defined in the Act as including cultural tradition, oral history, performance, ritual, popular memory, skills and techniques, indigenous knowledge systems and the holistic approach to nature, society and social relationships) (Section 2 (d) (xxi)).

This report is conducted in terms of Section 38 (8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999.

4.1 Grading

Heritage resources are graded following the grading guidelines, "Grading: Purpose and Management Implications" as approved by Heritage Western Cape in 2016.

Table 1: Grading of Heritage Resources

Grade	Level of significance	Description
I	National	Of high intrinsic, associational and contextual heritage value within a national context, i.e. formally declared or potential Grade 1 heritage resources.
II	Provincial	Of high intrinsic, associational and contextual heritage value within a provincial context, i.e. formally declared or potential Grade 2 heritage resources.
IIIA	Local	Of high intrinsic, associational and contextual heritage value within a local context, i.e. formally declared or potential Grade 3a heritage resources.
IIIB	Local	Of moderate to high intrinsic, associational and contextual value within a local context, i.e. potential Grade 3b heritage resources.
IIIC	Local	Of medium to low intrinsic, associational or contextual heritage value within a national, provincial and local context, i.e. potential Grade 3c heritage resources.
NCW		Not conservation – worthy. The Heritage Authority has applied its mind and the resourced does not have enough heritage significance to be included in the National Estate.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND METHODOLOGY

A survey of available literature was carried out to assess the archaeological heritage of the area. The information sources are provided in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Sources of Information

Data/Information	Source	Date	Type	Description
Maps	Chief Directorate: National Geo-Spatial Information	Various	Spatial	Current 1:50 000 topographic maps of the study area and immediate surrounds
Satellite imagery	Google Earth	Various	Spatial	Current and historical satellite imagery of the study area and immediate surrounds
Background data	South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS)	Various	Reports	Previous impact Assessments for developments in the vicinity of the study area.
Background data	Books, journals, theses, websites	Various	Books, journals,	Literature of the study area and it surrounds containing relevant

			theses, websites	material on archaeology or history.

5.1 Field Survey

A field survey was undertaken on the 14 and 16 March 2023. The position of identified archaeological resources was plotted using a handheld GPS unit set on the map datum WGS84. A track of the paths was captured, and digital images were taken of the area and archaeological resources. The survey was conducted in autumn; however the season of the survey is not anticipated to impact on the visibility of archaeological resources and the author has a **high degree of confidence in the results of the field survey.** The tracks are indicated in Figure 4.

5.2 Limitations

Since HIA reports from the Western Cape Province that are more recent than 2009, are not on the SAHRIS database, the literature on archaeological resources in the general vicinity of the study area is out of date. While it is possible that there is Cultural Resource Management CRM literature more recent than 2009, it is not readily available to heritage practitioners.

6. RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

The remainder of Rietvalley 225/8 is overgrown by a mix of low-growing indigenous grasses and shrubs interspersed with alien invasive shrubs and trees. Dumping of refuse, building rubble but also animal carcasses were noted across the property. Evidence of former agricultural practices in the form of heaps of rock from cleared lands, an old reservoir and an animal drinking trough were observed.




Plates 1 & 2: Left the remnants of old ostrich structures, right the low bushes and grasses which characterise the southern portion of the property.




Plates 3 & 4: Left shows the dense vegetation in the northern section of the property; right the heaps of stone relating to the clearing of old fields.

The western portion of the study area was an ostrich quarantine facility until at least 2022.The area comprises a number of large camps and it is highly disturbed and degraded. This area is currently leased to a farmer who keeps horses on the land.

7. REVIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The study area is 5km north of Dana Bay and 8km north-west of Pinnacle Point. The latter site (Graded 1 and of World Heritage significance) is known for its Middle Stone Age sequence, but Nilssen (2005) in his report on archaeological monitoring of the site, observed rare ESA occurrences as well.

In his report on the transmission lines between the Proteus substation and the OCGT power station (Gourikwa) at Mossel Bay, Hart (2006) noted scatters of ESA material on farmlands along the route of the proposed power lines. Nilssen & Yates (pers comm) also monitored the earthmoving operations for the OCGT site and recovered a number of ESA artefacts from the surface. According to their observations, there was no further archaeological material below the surface.

Kaplan (2007) discovered a low-density scatter of LSA, MSA and a few ESA tools thinly spread across the landscape in the Dana Bay area. More recently, a survey by Kaplan (2021) to the south of the study area (and the N2 National Road) recorded MSA artefacts in the gravel road and in the mine footprint but they were graded as having Low (IIIC) significance. In his survey for the Mossel Bay Wind Farm, Nilssen (2012) recorded fifteen scatters of ESA, MSA and LSA stone tools in both undisturbed and ploughed contexts.

Hart concluded in his heritage assessment of 2005 that "*Since the study area lies in rolling open landscape away from the coast, the expectation is that the kind of archaeological material that will be found will consist of open scatters of Early and Middle Stone Age artifacts (with the rarer concentrations of later material). Since there are no rocky outcrops, shelters or natural foci in the study area, occurrences of Late Stone Age material are not expected to be frequent*".

8. RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

The field survey confirms the expectations raised by Hart (2005), i.e. that there could be disbursed scatters of ESA material in old lands. The ploughed lands immediately to the south of the study area (see Plates 5 & 6 below) contain large numbers of quartzite cobbles. A very small percentage (i.e. less than 10 artefacts observed) are flaked. This disbursed scatter extends into the study area, and is visible in the south. However, dense vegetation makes it difficult to identify and record any scatters further to the centre and north of the property. The geology of the area, suggests that the quartzite cobbles occur only in the south. A few of stone tools were recorded and they are illustrated in Plates 7 & 8 and 10 below. They will have been subjected to ploughing activities over the last 50 years and are no longer in primary context. They are considered Low significance.

Table 3: Sites recorded during survey.

Site Number	GPS co-ordinates	Description	Significance
001	S34.170370° E22.000621°	Two ESA quartzite cores	NCW
002	S34.170500° E22.001579°	One ESA quartzite handaxe	NCW
003	S34.170458° E22.001513°	One ESA quartzite handaxe	NCW
004	S34.165879° E22.002575°	Bedrock	NCW
005	S34.165668° E22.003342°	Rough heap of large stones	NCW
006	S34.166205° E22.004425°	Stone heap from old lands	NCW
007	S34.165977° E22.006109°	Reservoir	NCW

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008	S34.167147° E22.004785°	Stone heap from old lands	NCW
009	S34.166992° E22.004004°	Three stone heaps from old lands	NCW
010	S34.165977° E22.006109°	Stone heap from old lands	NCW
011	S34.167147° E22.004785°	Small stone ridge	NCW
012	S34.166138° E22.007595°	Three ESA quartzite cores	NCW
013	S34.169389° E22.009859°	One ESA quartzite flake	NCW

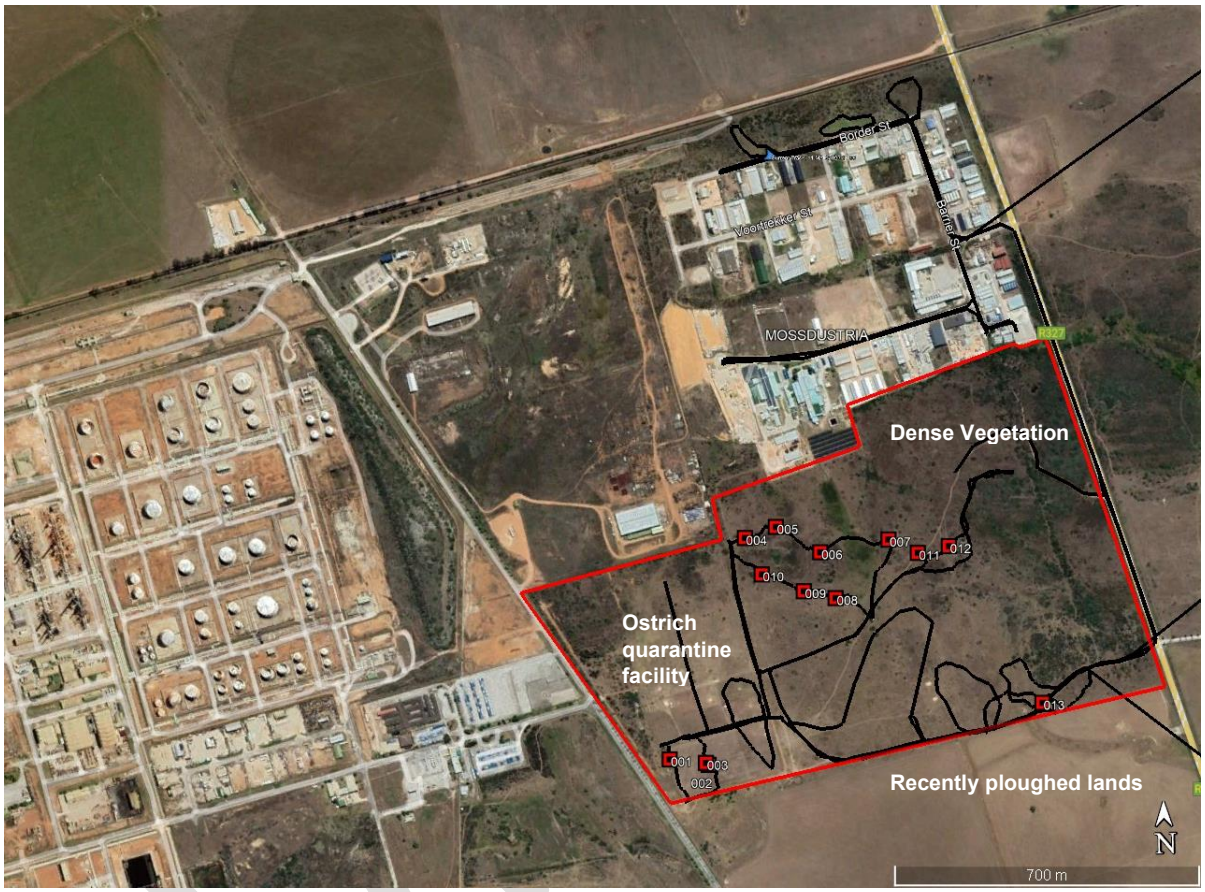


Figure 5: Tracks and archaeological sites (as well as observations) made during the survey of the area (red outlined area) sites. The dispersed stone artefacts occur to the south of the green line indicated about.



Plates 5 & 6: Left shows that the old, ploughed lands adjoining the study area contain large numbers of rounded quartzite cobbles. A very small percentage of these appear to be flaked.




Plates 7 & 8: Left a handaxe, right two cores. They are made of quartzite.




Plates 9 & 10: Left is open piece of ground with dispersed quartzite cobbles, right is a quartzite handaxe.

9. IMPACTS TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The main cause of impacts to archaeological sites is direct, physical disturbance of the material itself and its context. The heritage and scientific potential of an archaeological site is highly dependent on its geological and spatial context. This means that even though, for example a deep excavation may expose buried archaeological sites and artefacts, the artefacts are relatively meaningless once removed from the area in which they were found. The impacts are likely to be most severe during the construction period although indirect impacts may occur during the operational phase of the project.

It is important to note that archaeological sites and unmarked graves may be buried beneath the surface and may only be exposed during earth-moving and construction.

It is the considered opinion of this walkdown report, that the archaeological impacts of the proposed development on the archaeological resources of the site, will be Low.

10. SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION

A screening tool report for the proposed Mossdustria development was drawn from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) screening tool in February 2023. The screening report identifies the site as **low** sensitivity for the archaeological and cultural heritage theme. The walk over confirms this rating.

MAP OF RELATIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE THEME SENSITIVITY



Figure 6: Map of relative archaeological and cultural heritage (source, DFFE screening report)

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

The site has very low sensitivity. An HIA is not required No mitigation measures are proposed and the development is supported.

The standard clause applies:

If during ground clearance or construction, any archaeological material or human graves are uncovered, work in that area should be stopped immediately and the ECO must report this to Heritage Western Cape. The heritage resource may require inspection by the heritage authorities, and it may require further mitigation in the form of excavation and curation in an approved institution.

12. REFERENCES

De Kock, S. 2022. Background Information document to the notice of intent to develop: Proposed extension of Mossdustria and the establishment of a raceway on Erf 6 Mossdustria and the Remainder of Rietvalley 225/8, Mossel Bay District and Municipality.

Hart, TJG 2005. Initial heritage statement: proposed OCGT site and transmission lines at Mossel Bay. Specialist report prepared for Ninham Shand Consulting.

Hart, T. 2006. Archaeological Impact Assessment: Proposed Eskom Transmission lines from OCGT Power Station site to Proteus Substation, Mossel Bay, South Western Cape. Unpublished report for Eskom.

Kaplan, J. 2007. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Proposed development on the Remainder of the farm Droogfontein 245, Mossel Bay. Unpublished report for Envirocor Management Services (Pty) Ltd.

Kaplan, J. 2021. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed new sand mine on Portion 3 of the Farm 249 Doornfontein, near Mossel Bay, Western Cape. Unpublished report for Sunnic Thatch (Pty) Ltd.

Nilssen, P. 2005. Archaeological monitoring of vegetation clearing & all earthmoving activities at Pinnacle Point, Mossel Bay. Unpublished progress report for HWC.

Nilssen, P. 2012. Scoping Archaeological Impact Assessment: Proposed development of the Mossel Bay Wind Farm including Portion 13 of farm Harteest Kuil 213, Portions 3,5, 12, 13 & 15 of the farm Welbedagt 215 and Portion 11 of the farm Bartelsfontein 226, Mossel Bay, Western Cape Province. Unpublished report for Henque 1018 CC.

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DR LITA WEBLEY HERITAGE PRACTITIONER
5 Oaktree, Cornwall Place, Kenilworth 7708. Tel: 072 179 6219 Email: Lita@webleyonline.com

19 September 2025

To: Marilie Pretorius
Nemai Consulting
On behalf: The Mossel Bay Municipality
Tel: 011 781 1730
Email: mariliep@nemai.co.za

Dear Marilie

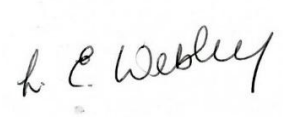
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WALKDOWN REPORT: PROPOSED EXTENSION OF MOSSDUSTRIA AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RACEWAY ON REM OF RIETVALLEY 225/8, MOSSEL BAY DISTRICT AND MUNICIPALITY

With reference to my archaeological walkdown report dated March 2023.

Since I wrote the walkdown report in 2023, there have been no significant changes to the proposed development to influence my opinion on the project. Impacts to archaeology are considered Low and no mitigation is required.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any questions in this regard.

Kind regards



Dr Lita Webley