

Appendix H

SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION





Sasol South Africa Limited

THE PROPOSED SECUNDA GAS TO POWER FACILITY, LOCATED WITHIN SECUNDA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Site Sensitivity Verification Report





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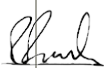
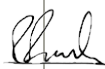
Sasol South Africa Limited

**THE PROPOSED SECUNDA GAS TO POWER
FACILITY, LOCATED WITHIN SECUNDA,
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Site Sensitivity Verification Report



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Signature	 Bhengu, Palisa (ZAPB162519) 2026.10.12 12:12:40 +02'00'			
Checked by	Rob Rowles			
Signature	 Rowles, Rob (ZARR05387) 2026.10.12 13:02:17 +02'00'			
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Signature	 Rowles, Rob (ZARR05387) 2026.10.12 13:02:34 +02'00' PP			
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1 INTRODUCTION

Sasol South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Sasol) plans to develop a Gas to Power (GtP) Facility at their Sasol Secunda establishment, which aims to supply electricity to the national grid and support South Africa's growing energy demand.

The proposed project entails the generation of electricity using regasified liquefied natural gas (LNG) as the primary fuel source, with methane-rich gas being considered as a potential backup feedstock. The primary objective of the Secunda GtP Project is to generate electricity for supply to the national grid, thereby contributing towards meeting South Africa's growing energy demand and improving grid stability.

The proposed GtP project being put forward for Environmental Authorisation (EA) pertains to the infrastructure and project footprint, required to support the Secunda GtP project, including the installation of transmission lines, and routing of high-voltage cables within existing servitudes.

In addition to the electrical work, the project will involve the installation and routing of various pipelines and installing water treatment facilities. These will include pipelines for LNG, MRG and other required utilities such as cooling water, raw water, firewater, instrument air, and effluent treatment.

The Sasol owned plot under consideration for this project is a brown fields area that covers approximately 50 000m² within the primary area of the factory (**Figure 3-2**).

This Site Sensitivity Verification Report (SSVR) forms part of the Application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA).

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by Sasol to undertake the required Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process.

The DFFE has developed the National Web-based Environmental Screening Tool in order to flag areas of potential environmental sensitivity related to a site as well as a development footprint and produces the screening report required in terms of regulation 16 (1)(v) of the EIA Regulations (2014, as amended). The Notice of the requirement to submit a report generated by the national web-based environmental screening tool in terms of section 24(5)(h) of the NEMA, 1998 (Act No 107 of 1998) and regulation 16(1)(b)(v) of the EIA regulations, 2014, as amended (GN 960 of July 2019) states that the submission of a report generated from the national web-based environmental screening tool, as contemplated in Regulation 16(1)(b)(v) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, published under Government Notice No. R982 in Government Gazette No. 38282 of 4 December 2014, as amended, is compulsory when submitting an application for environmental authorisation in terms of regulation 19 and regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as of 04 October 2019.

The Screening Report generated by the National Web-based Environmental Screening Tool contains a summary of any development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions that apply to the proposed development footprint as well as the most environmentally sensitive features on the footprint based on the footprint sensitivity screening results for the application classification that was selected.



A screening report for the proposed facility was generated on 31 March 2026 by WSP and is attached as **Appendix A**. The Screening Report for the project identified various sensitivities for the site. The report also generated a list of specialist assessments that should form part of the legalisation process based on the development type and the environmental sensitivity of the site. Assessment Protocols in the report provide minimum information to be included in a specialist report to facilitate decision-making.

The Screening Report recognises that “it is the responsibility of the EAP to confirm this list and to motivate in the assessment report, the reason for not including any of the identified specialist studies including the provision of photographic evidence of the footprint situation.” This report therefore addresses the findings of the Screening Report and provides a motivation for the proposed specialist studies to be conducted to inform the S&EIR.

It also discusses whether the specialist studies forming part of this project are required to comply with the Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Section 24(5) (a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation (“the Protocols”) (Government Notice No. 320 as published in Government Gazette No. 43110 on 20 March 2020 (GNR 320)).

2 METHODOLOGY

In line with GNR 320, the site sensitivity verification requirements have been achieved as per **Table 2-1**.

Table 2-1 - Site Sensitivity Verification and Minimum Report Content Requirements

Requirement	Reference
1.1. The site sensitivity verification must be undertaken by an environmental assessment practitioner or a specialist.	This SSVR was compiled by Rob Rowles, a registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) utilising the inputs of various specialists. Details of the EAP are provided in Table 2-2 . The CV of the EAP is included in Appendix B .
1.2. The site sensitivity verification must be undertaken through the use of: (a) a desk top analysis, using satellite imagery; (b) a preliminary on-site inspection; and (c) any other available and relevant information.	The Site Sensitivity Verification was undertaken through the use of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available satellite imagery; • Various desktop information sources; • Site inspections by specialists between April and May 2026; and • Additional supporting information supplied by specialists.
1.3. The outcome of the site sensitivity verification must be recorded in the form of a report that-- (a) confirms or disputes the current use of the land and the environmental sensitivity as identified by the screening tool, such as new developments or infrastructure, the change in vegetation cover or status etc.;	A summary of the environmental sensitivities identified by the DFFE Screening Tool and the confirmed sensitivity is provided in Appendix A . Motivation for the confirmed sensitivity rating as well as the discussion regarding the verification of the sensitivities is provided in Section 4.
(b) contains a motivation and evidence (e.g. photographs) of either the verified or different use of the land and environmental sensitivity; and	Motivation for the confirmed sensitivity rating is provided in Section 4 .
(c) is submitted together with the relevant assessment report prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations ¹ (EIA Regulations).	This SSVR is being submitted as Appendix H of the DSR.

The CV of the EAP is available in **Appendix B** and will be attached in the DSR as **Appendix A**. The EAP declaration of interest and undertaking is included in the DSR as Appendix C. **Table 2-2** provides contact details of the EAP.

Table 2-2 - Details of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)	WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd
Contact Person:	Rob Rowles
Postal Address:	1st Floor, Pharos House, 70 Buckingham Terrace Westville, Durban, 3629 South Africa
Telephone:	+27 31 240 8832
E-mail:	Rob.Rowles@wsp.com
Qualifications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masters MSc (Masters) Environmental Management • Honours Degree in Geography and Environmental Science • B Social Science Degree in Geography and Environmental Science
EAPASA Registration Number:	EAPASA (2022/5395)

Statement of Independence

Neither WSP nor any of the authors of this Report have any material present or contingent interest in the outcome of this Report, nor do they have any business, financial, personal, or other interest that could be reasonably regarded as being capable of affecting their independence. WSP has no beneficial interest in the outcome of the assessment.

3 PROJECT AND SITE OVERVIEW

3.1 SITE LOCATION

The proposed Secunda GtP Facility is located in Secunda in the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality and Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa (**Figure 3-1**). The proposed GtP Facility has a project footprint area of approximately 50 000m² or 5 ha.

The details of the property associated with the proposed Secunda GtP Facility, including the 21-digit Surveyor General (SG) codes for the cadastral land parcels are outlined in Table 3-1, the co-ordinates of the cadastral land parcels are included in **Table 3-2**.

The site layout for the proposed Secunda GtP facility is illustrated in **Figure 3-2**.

Photographic record of the site is provided in **Figure 3-3** Figure 3-3.

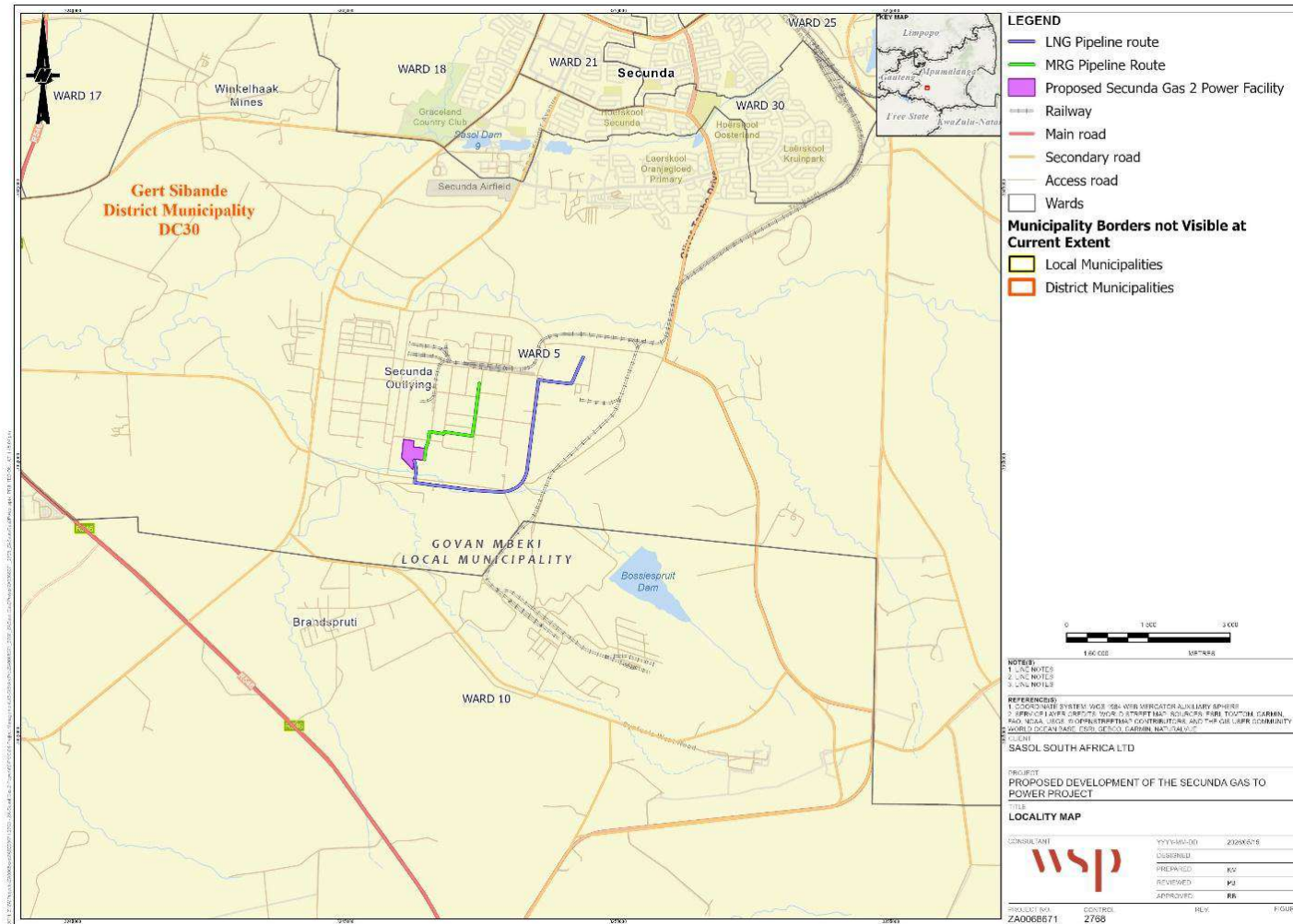


Figure 3-1 -Secunda Gas to Power Facility Locality Map

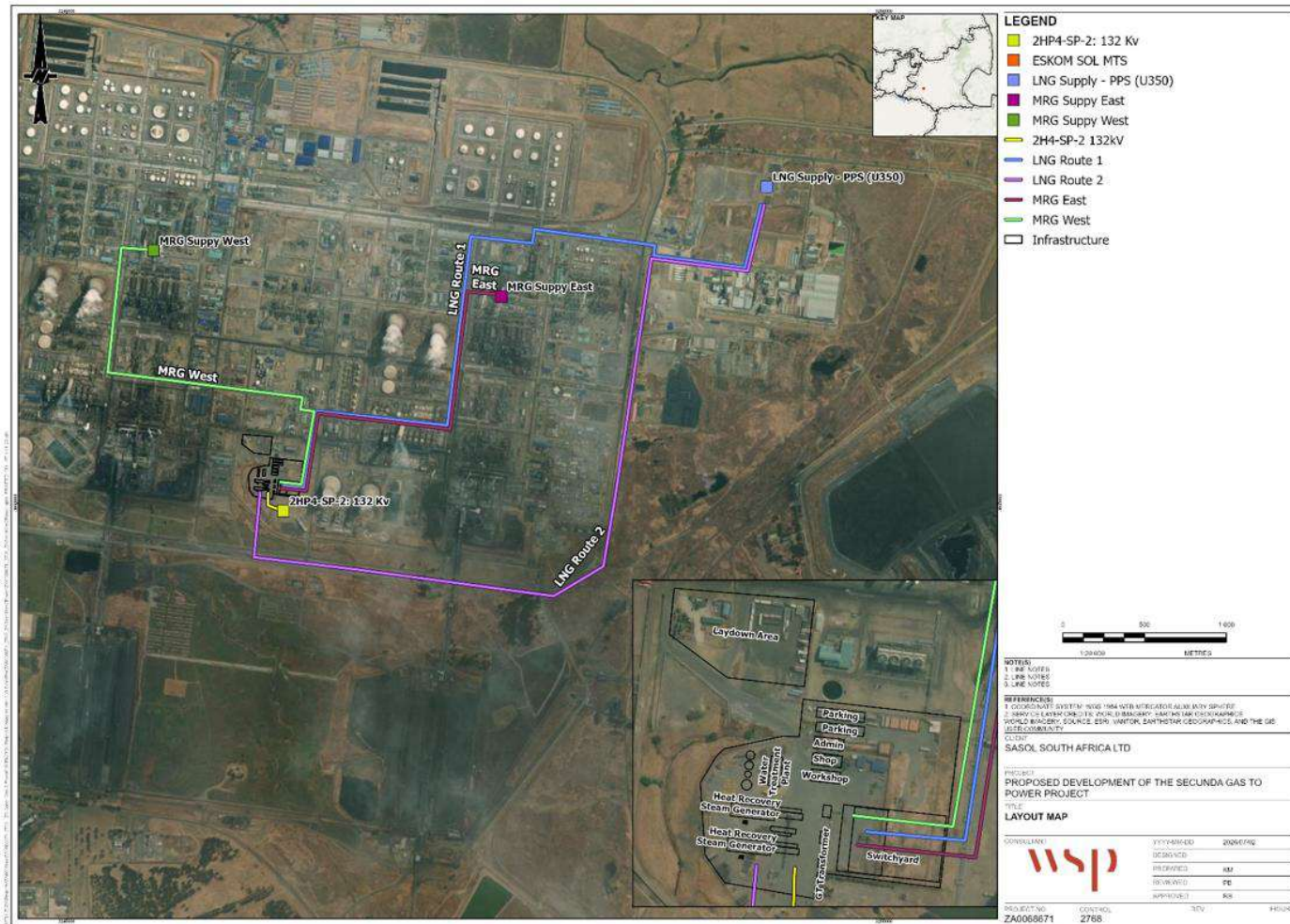


Figure 3-2 - Proposed G2P layout



Figure 3-3 - Photographic record of the site (22 April 2026)

The proposed G2P facility will be located on Sasol owned land.

Table 3-1 – Secunda Gas to Power Facility Affected Farm Portions

Farm Name and Number	Portion	21 Digit Surveyor General Code of Each Cadastral Land Parcel
45/290 (ERF 8488)	0	T0IS00190000848800000
8/290 (ERF 8342)	0	T0IS00190000834200000
FABRIEK 601 IS (ERF 8341)	0	T0IS00190000834100000

3.2 PROJECT INFRASTRUCTURE

The proposed Secunda GtP Facility will be developed with a capacity of up to 800 megawatts (MW). The key components are outlined in **Table 3-2**.

Table 3-2 – Proposed project infrastructure

Technical details of the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility		
Farm Portions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45/290 (ERF 8488) 8/290 (ERF 8342) FABRIEK 601 IS (ERF 8341) 	
Central coordinates of the site and activity location	GtP Facility	Central point on the site: -26.563088, 29.161332
	MRG Pipeline	East factory: - Start point: -26.553602, 29.173919 - Central point): -26.558468, 29.171505 West factory: - Start point: -26.551528, 29.155120 - Central point): -26.558140, 29.157479
	LNG Pipeline	Route 1(through primary area): - Start point: -26.548064, 29.189061 - Central point): -26.555818, 29.171938 Route 2 (around the factory): - Start point: -26.548064, 29.189061 - Central point): -26.568217, 29.178204
Total Site Extent	Approximately 50 000m ²	
Design Specifications		

Capacity of power plant (including all equipment and auxiliaries to enable operation)	778.6 – 800.6 MW		
Length of pipeline (LNG)	Route 1, through primary area: 5.38 km Route 2, around the south-eastern side of the factory: 5.87 km		
Pipeline specifications (LNG)	16" pipeline, C3 line class (carbon steel)		
Length of pipeline (MRG)	Total length of piping is 5.54 km (including piping from east and west factories).		
Pipeline specifications (LNG)	14" pipeline, C line class (carbon steel)		
Raw water treatment	<p>The raw water infrastructure requirements are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two stormwater attenuation facilities (evaporation ponds/dams) with surface areas of approximately 0.5 ha and 0.3 ha, each to a depth of 1.0 m, providing a combined storage capacity of 9,000 m³; Main raw water storage tanks with a total storage capacity of up to 10,000 m³; Raw water storage tanks for the water treatment system used for demi-water production, with a total storage capacity of 6,000 m³, supplied from the main raw water tanks; Demineralised water storage tanks with a total storage capacity of up to 3,000 m³, supplied from the raw water tanks of the water treatment system; Water storage tanks for the fire-fighting system, with a total storage capacity of up to 1,250 m³, supplied from the raw water tanks. 		
Emissions	<p>Number of Stacks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 stack per HRSG 1 stack for HRSG Bypass. 2 stacks for each GT. Stack Dimensions: 7 to 9 m stack diameter and 60 to 65 m stack height. Exit Velocity: 15 to 20 m/s flue gas velocity at stack exit and will be verified with project specific details 		
Construction schedule	Phase	Duration	Key Outcome
	Development & Financial Close	12–24 months	Permits + funding secured
	Construction	24–36 months	Plant built and commissioned
	Operation	25–30 years	Power generation lifecycle
Traffic	<p>Construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light vehicles 50 – 100p/d; 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heavy trucks 50 – 100p/d Operation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff cars 40–60p/d
Powerlines	117m 132 kV Line
Access Roads	PDP Kruger Avenue Energy Road, Synfuels East Road, Road 21, Road 2D (inside Secunda Operations)
Associated Infrastructure	Utilities and effluent streams piping between SO and power plant

4 FINDINGS

4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY

As per the Screening Tool Reports (**Appendix A**), the original proposed project area is indicated to be located within areas ranging from low to very high sensitivity. These are identified as Very high and High themes in **Table 4-1** below.

Table 4-1 - Sensitivities identified in the DFFE Screening Report

Theme	Very Sensitivity	High	High Sensitivity	Medium Sensitivity	Low Sensitivity
Agriculture Theme			X		
Animal Species Theme				X	
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	X				
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme					X
Civil Aviation Theme			X		
Defence Theme					X
Palaeontology Theme	X				
Plant Species Theme				X	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X				

Based on information gathered through a desktop study and site assessment, not all of the identified sensitivities apply to the site in its current state. Section 4.2 below serves to:

- Verify land use and sensitivities identified in the Screening Tool Report (as indicated above);
- Provide motivation and evidence of either the verified or different use of the land and environmental sensitivity; and
- Confirm / refute the need for the various specialist inputs recommended in terms of the Screening Tool Report.

4.2 SPECIALIST ASSESSMENTS

The specialist studies required to inform the S&EIR Process have been motivated for or against based on specialist informed site sensitivity. **Table 4-2** identifies the specialist studies commissioned and provides motivation for specialist studies not commissioned.

Table 4-2 - Specialist Studies identified by the DFFE Screening Tool

Specialist Study Identified	Specialist Study Commissioned	Specialist and Report Reference	Motivation for Exclusion
Agricultural Theme	No	SoilZA SSVR and Agricultural Compliance Statement Johan Lanz Pr.Sci.Nat – 400268/12 Appendix C.1	The site has low agricultural potential. No further impact assessment is required.
Landscape/Visual Theme	Yes	Visual Impact Assessment, WSP Jill Chauke	N/A
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme	No	Artefactual Heritage Consulting (Pty) Ltd Jenna Levin Appendix C.5	The site has low cultural heritage and palaeontological potential. No further impact assessment is required.
Civil Aviation Theme	No	N/A	According to the DFFE Screening Tool Report, civil aviation is regarded as having High sensitivity due to the proposed development area being located within 8 km of a civil aviation aerodrome and within an area classified as dangerous and restricted airspace. The proposed GtP Facility is located within the existing Sasol Secunda Complex, which is a heavily industrialised brownfield area. The project is not expected to result in significant impacts on civil aviation infrastructure, navigation systems or air traffic operations. Potential aviation-related impacts would primarily be associated with the height of permanent structures, temporary construction cranes and lighting during construction and operation. These impacts are considered site-specific and can be effectively managed through compliance with

Specialist Identified	Study Commissioned	Specialist Study Reference and Report	Motivation for Exclusion
			<p>applicable aviation requirements and permitting processes.</p> <p>Given the industrial nature of the receiving environment, the brownfield location of the project and the anticipated low significance of aviation-related impacts, a Civil Aviation Impact Assessment is not considered necessary. The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) and Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS), where applicable, will be included as stakeholders during the environmental assessment process and afforded the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed development.</p>
Defence Theme	No	N/A	<p>According to the DFFE Screening Tool Report, Defence is regarded as having low sensitivity. Therefore, a compliance statement is not required as per the protocol specifications. The Department of Defence will be included on the project stakeholder database. They will be informed of the proposed Project, and comments will be sought from these authorities as applicable.</p>
Palaeontology Theme	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof. Marion Bamford Appendix C.4 	<p>The site has low cultural heritage and palaeontological potential.</p> <p>No further impact assessment is required.</p>
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terrestrial biodiversity and aquatic biodiversity, WSP Group Africa Mandlenkosi Nkala (Cand.Sci.Nat – 132655) Sandhya Moodley (Pri. Sci. Nat. – 156165) Appendix C.2 	N/A.
Plant Species Theme	Yes		N/A.
Animal Species Theme	Yes		N/A.
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	Yes		N/A.

Specialist Study Identified	Specialist Study Commissioned	Specialist and Report Reference	Motivation for Exclusion
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandlenkosi Nkala Cand.Sci.Nat – 132655 Appendix C.2 	
Hydrology Theme	No	N/A	Due to the location of the study area, a Hydrology Study was not undertaken. There are no hydrological features that require a full Hydrological Impact Assessment. The size and nature of the proposed facility is not anticipated to cause change in flow regimes nor any significant catchment flow deviation than that which is presently being experienced. A full stormwater management plan will be generated at design and plan approval stage should the project be authorised which will cater for surface water flow and management.
Noise Theme	No	N/A	A Noise Impact Assessment was not undertaken, as the proposed project is not anticipated to generate excessive noise beyond typical construction and operational levels associated with similar infrastructure. The facility is located within a heavily modified environment that already accommodates comparable infrastructure, and the anticipated noise levels will therefore be consistent with existing baseline conditions. In addition, the site is situated away from identified noise-sensitive receptors.
Traffic Impact Assessment	Yes	Iwink Consulting (Pty) Ltd Iris Wink	N/A.
Geotechnical Assessment	No	Desktop Geotechnical assessment, WSP Khuthadzo Bulala	The site has a negative very low to negative low sensitivity. No further impact assessment is required.
Climate Change Theme	Yes	Climate Change Impact Assessment, WSP Sarah Feldman	N/A.

Specialist Study Identified	Specialist Study Commissioned	Specialist and Report Reference	Motivation for Exclusion
Health Theme	Yes	Health Risk Assessment, INFOTOX (Pty) Ltd Dr Willie van Nierkerk Dr MH Fourie	N/A.
Social Assessment	Yes	Social Impact Assessment WSP Steve Horak	N/A.
Ambient Air Quality Theme	Yes	Air Quality Impact Assessment, WSP Muhammed Khan	N/A.

Specialist site assessments were conducted in accordance with the Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e., “the Protocols”), or Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations, depending on which legislation apply to the assessment under consideration. The motivation for the site sensitivity verification for each environmental theme is discussed in Section 4.3 below.

4.3 SPECIALIST SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION MOTIVATION

4.3.1 AGRICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The output of the DFFE Screening Tool for the Agricultural Theme is illustrated in **Figure 4-1** and indicates that the site is classified as **High** Sensitivity. The agricultural sensitivity has been disputed and classified as “**Low**”.

The Agricultural SSVR is attached in **Appendix C.1**.

SoilZA concluded that although the DFFE Screening Tool classified portions of the site as Medium to High agricultural sensitivity, the site's actual (“verified”) agricultural sensitivity is Low because:

- The site is located within an already developed industrial area associated with the Sasol Secunda complex.
- There is no agricultural land use on the site.
- There is no agricultural land use in the surrounding area.
- The site has no realistic prospect of being used for viable agricultural production in future, regardless of the underlying soil capability.
- Therefore, the development would result in no loss of agricultural production potential.

SoilZA concludes that “the site will never be viably utilised for agricultural production, and its potential is therefore assessed here as non-existent.”

This assessment therefore disagrees with the high sensitivity rating assigned by the Screening Tool and verifies the entire site as having low agricultural sensitivity, based on its assessed cropping potential (**Figure 4-2**).

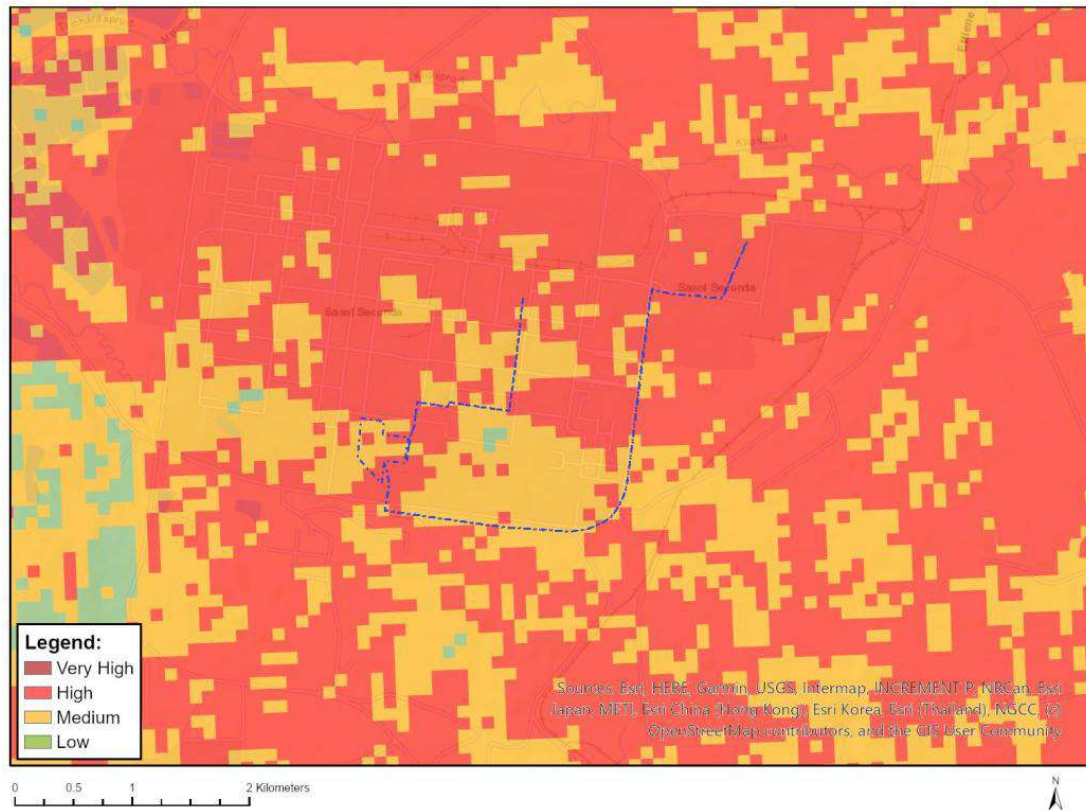


Figure 4-1 - Map of Agricultural Theme sensitivity (Source: DFFE Screening Report,2026)

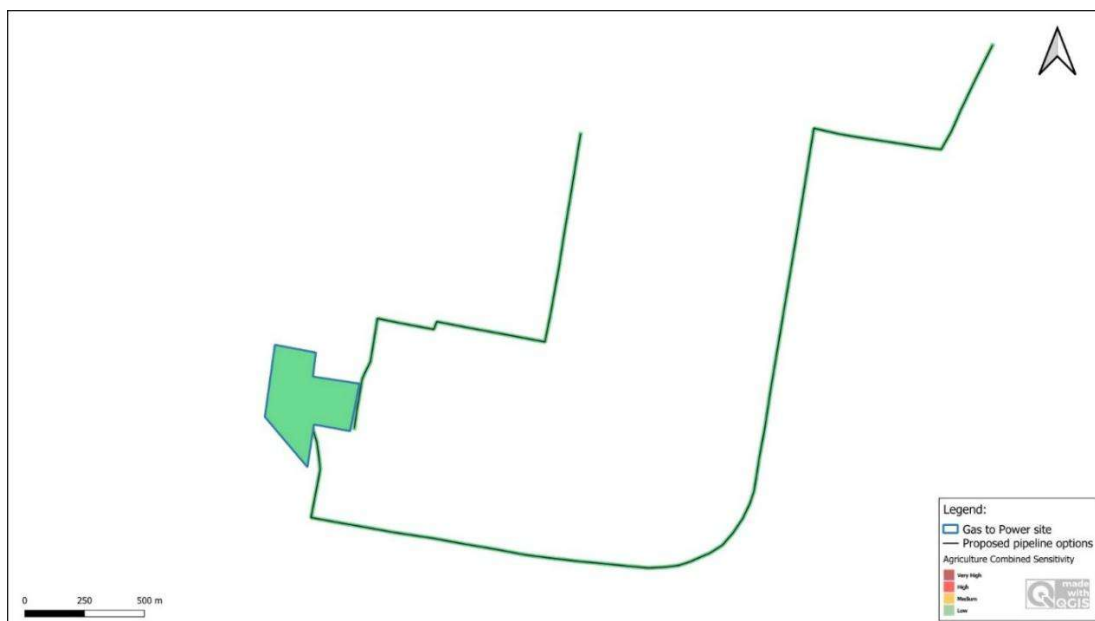


Figure 4-2 - Agricultural Sensitivity as identified by the specialist assessment

4.3.2.1 Vegetation Type

The study area is situated within the Grassland Biome and is mapped predominantly as Soweto Highveld Grassland (Gm 8), which is classified as Vulnerable and corresponds with the National Threatened Ecosystem designation (**Figure 4-4**).

Within the study area, extensive industrial development associated with the Sasol Secunda complex, together with supporting infrastructure, transformed areas, historical cultivation, and other land use activities, has resulted in the substantial modification of portions of the original Soweto Highveld Grassland vegetation. Consequently, large areas associated with the proposed facility footprint and sections of the pipeline alignments no longer support intact examples of the mapped vegetation type.

Despite this transformation, remnant grassland habitat, wetlands, drainage features and other semi-natural habitats remain present within the area of influence. These habitats retain ecological value and continue to provide suitable habitat for indigenous flora and fauna, including potential habitat for Species of Conservation Concern (SCC). While the vegetation type is not present in an entirely intact state throughout the study area, the remaining natural and semi-natural habitat associated with the Soweto Highveld Grassland ecosystem remains ecologically relevant and was therefore considered during the sensitivity verification.

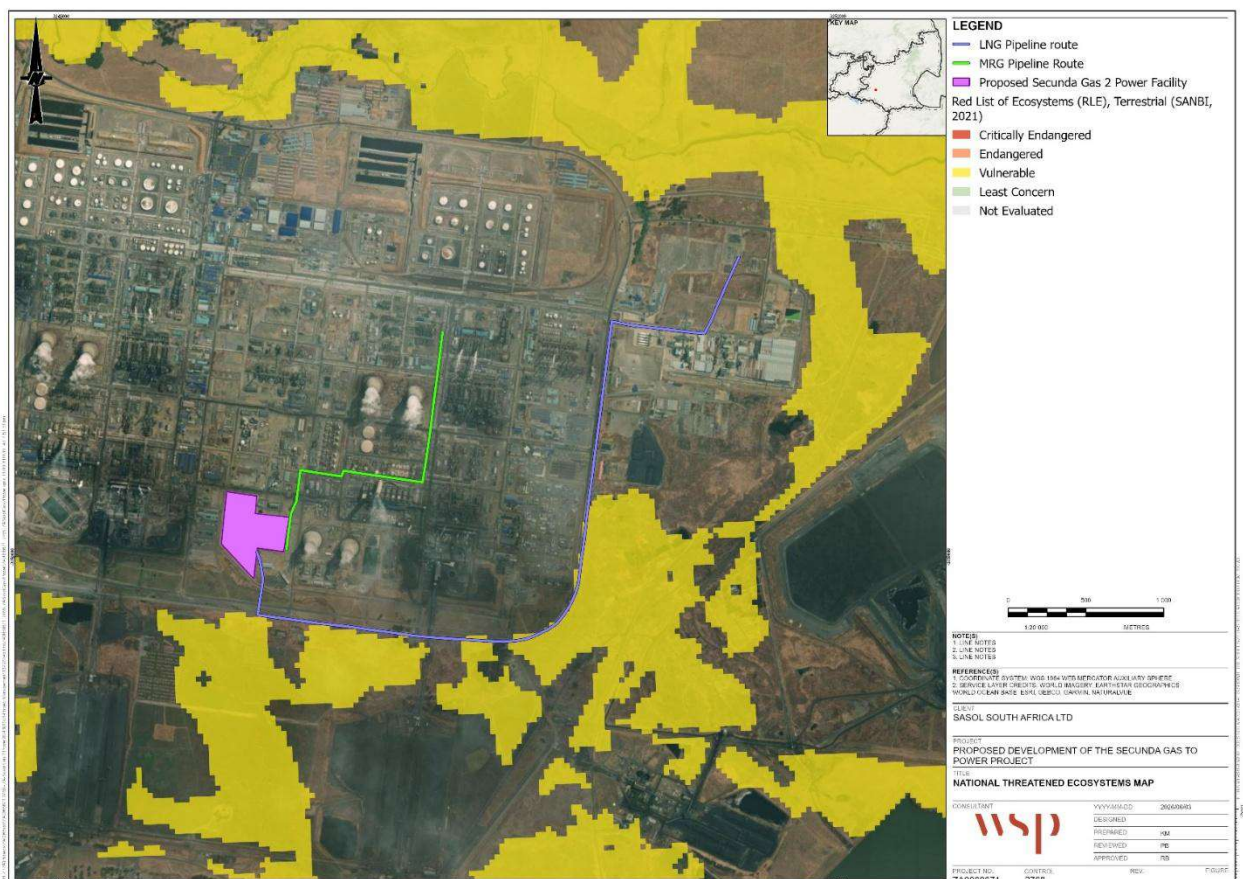


Figure 4-4 - Nationally threatened ecosystems in relation to the study area

The DFFE Screening Tool assigned a **Very High** terrestrial biodiversity sensitivity to the study area due to the occurrence of the Vulnerable Soweto Highveld Grassland ecosystem. Site verification

confirmed that much of the study area has been transformed by existing industrial infrastructure and associated activities. However, remnant grassland and wetland habitat remain along portions of the LNG Pipeline route. Consequently, a **Low** site-based terrestrial biodiversity sensitivity is assigned to the proposed Gas-to-Power facility footprint and MRG Pipeline route, while a **Medium** site-based terrestrial biodiversity sensitivity is assigned to the LNG Pipeline route.²

4.3.3 ANIMAL SPECIES ASSESSMENT

The output of the DFFE Screening Tool for the Animal Species Theme is illustrated in **Figure 4-5** and indicates that the site is classified as **Medium** Sensitivity due to the potential presence of the following Fauna species:

- Makwassie Musk Shrew (*Crocidura maquassiensis*),
- Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*)
- Grassveld Nimble Blue (*Lepidochrysops procera*)

The sensitivity for animal species for the facility footprint was disputed and classified as “**Low**”, however is considered “**Medium**” sensitivity for the LNG pipeline route. The Animal Species SSVR is attached as **Appendix C.2**.

² Terrestrial Biodiversity (incl of animal and plant species themes) Scoping report. WSP, 2026

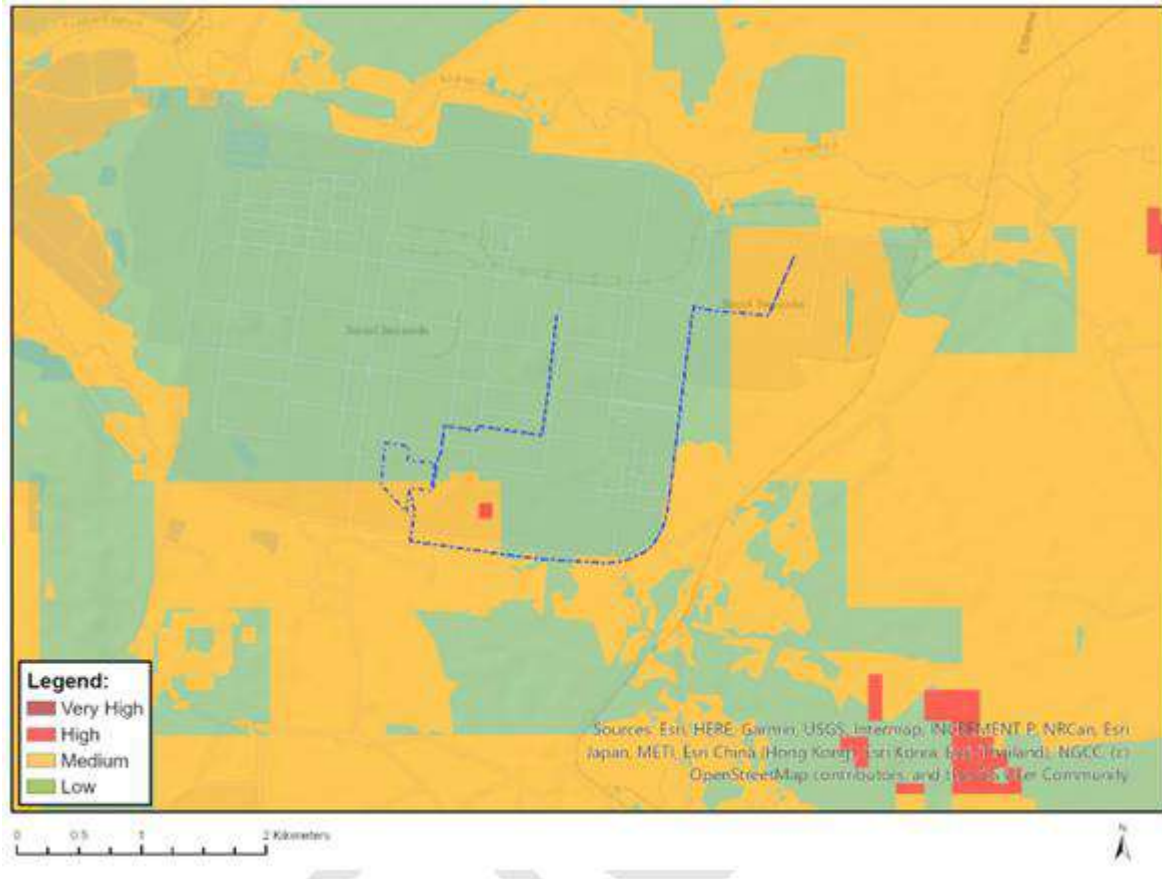


Figure 4-5 - Map of Animal Species Theme sensitivity (Source: DFFE Screening Report, 2026)

4.3.3.1 Mammals

The DFFE Environmental Screening Tool identified the Makwassie Musk Shrew (*Crocidura maquassiensis*), a Vulnerable species, as having the potential to occur within the study area.

The Makwassie Musk Shrew is typically associated with moist grassland habitats where sufficient vegetative cover and suitable microhabitats are available. Although portions of the area of influence retain natural and semi-natural habitat, extensive industrial transformation within the proposed development footprint has substantially reduced the availability of suitable habitat. Consequently, the likelihood of occurrence of this species within the development footprint is considered low.

Although no mammal SCC were recorded within the study area itself, evidence of Serval (*Leptailurus serval*) in the form of scat was recorded within the broader area of influence during the field survey (26°34'4.83"S; 29°10'52.52"E; **Figure 4-6**). The record was located outside the study area and outside areas likely to be directly affected by the proposed development. Serval is a wetland-associated mesocarnivore that primarily feeds on small mammals and is closely associated with wetlands, drainage features, and other habitats that provide suitable prey resources and cover. Although the species is listed as Least Concern globally, it is classified as Near Threatened in South Africa and is protected under provincial legislation.

While the serval was not recorded within the study area, its occurrence within the broader area of influence demonstrates that the surrounding landscape continues to support fauna species of conservation importance despite the high degree of industrial and agricultural transformation that

characterises the wider Secunda region. This finding is consistent with previous studies undertaken in the area, which have documented notable serval persistence within a landscape comprising a mosaic of industrial infrastructure, wetlands, grasslands, and associated habitats (Loock et al., 2018). The record further highlights the ecological importance of remnant wetland and grassland habitats occurring outside the development footprint and within the broader receiving environment.

Habitat associations, conservation status, and likelihood of occurrence of sensitive mammal species are provided in **Table 4-3**.

Table 4-3 - Sensitive mammal species

Family	Scientific Name	Red-list status	Provincial Protection status	Habitat Preferences	Probability of Occurrence in Study Area
Felidae	<i>Leptailurus serval</i>	Near Threatened	Protected	Closely associated with wetland habitats.	Recorded within the area of influence; not recorded within the study area (Figure 4-6).
Soricidae	<i>Crocidura maquassiensis</i>	Vulnerable	-	Primarily associated with moist grassland habitats within savanna and grassland biomes, often occurring in rocky or montane areas that provide suitable cover.	Unlikely



Figure 4-6 - *Leptailurus serval* (serval) scat observed outside the study area (26°34'4.83"S; 29°10'52.52"E)

4.3.3.2 Avifauna

The DFFE Environmental Screening Tool identified the Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*), a Vulnerable species, as having the potential to occur within the study area. A review of SABAP2

records indicates that approximately 148 bird species have been recorded within the broader region. However, no avifaunal SCC were recorded during the field survey.

The Caspian Tern is primarily associated with large waterbodies, estuaries, coastal environments and suitable roosting and foraging areas. While artificial waterbodies occur within the broader landscape, the highly transformed nature of the development footprint and the absence of suitable breeding or roosting habitat suggest that the likelihood of regular utilisation of the study area by this species is low.

4.3.3.3 Invertebrates

The DFFE Environmental Screening Tool identified the Grassveld Nimble Blue (*Lepidochrysops procera*) as having the potential to occur within the study area (Figure 4-7).



This species is a habitat specialist associated with relatively intact grassland ecosystems and specific host plant requirements. No evidence of the species was recorded during the field survey and the highly transformed nature of much of the development footprint is not considered favourable for its occurrence.

Figure 4-7 - Grassveld Nimble Blue (*Lepidochrysops procera*)

Although isolated remnants of grassland habitat remain within the broader landscape, the likelihood of occurrence of *Lepidochrysops procera* within the proposed development footprint is considered low. No invertebrate SCC were recorded during the survey.

In conclusion, the DFFE Screening Tool assigned a Medium Animal Species Sensitivity to the study area due to the potential occurrence of the Makwassie Musk Shrew (*Crocidura maquassiensis*), Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*), and Grassveld Nimble Blue (*Lepidochrysops procera*). Site verification confirmed that the proposed Gas-to-Power facility footprint and MRG Pipeline route are highly transformed and provide limited suitable habitat for these species, resulting in a Low site-based animal species sensitivity. In contrast, the LNG Pipeline route remains associated with secondary grassland, wetland and drainage habitats that retain ecological value and habitat connectivity within the broader landscape. Consequently, a **Medium** site-based animal species sensitivity is assigned to the LNG Pipeline route.

4.3.4 PLANT SPECIES ASSESSMENT

The output of the DFFE Screening Tool for the Plant Species Theme is illustrated in **Figure 4-8** and indicates that the site is classified as **Medium** Sensitivity due to the potential occurrence of the following flora SCC:

- Sensitive species 691 – VU;
- Sensitive species 1252 - VU; and
- *Pachycarpus suaveolens* (Sweet-Scented Pachycarpus) – VU

The sensitivity for plant species for the facility footprint and pipeline route was disputed and classified as “**Low**”.

The Plant species SSVR is attached as **Appendix C.2**.

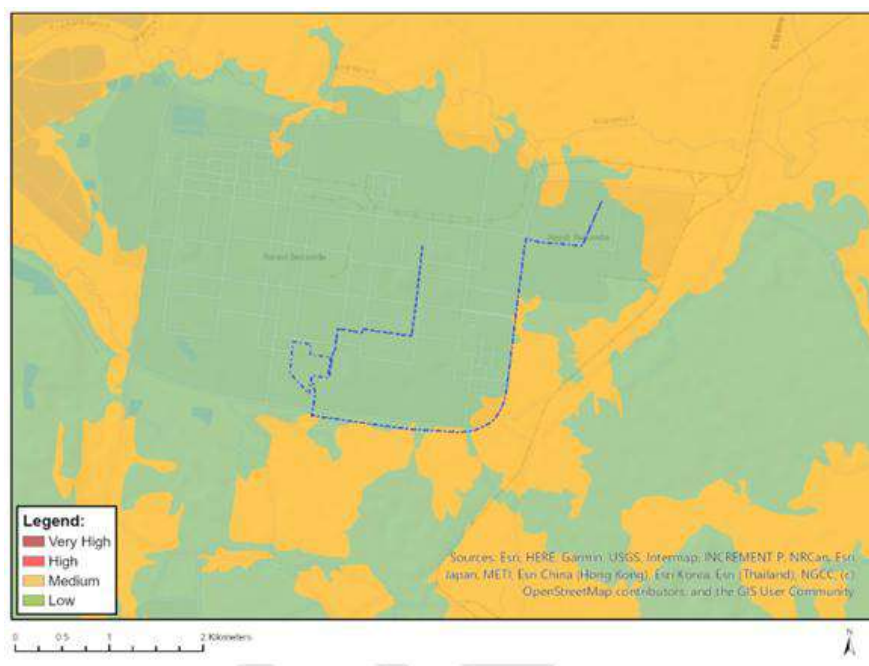


Figure 4-8 - Map of Plant Species Theme sensitivity (Source: DFFE Screening Report,2026)

During the field survey, no threatened or protected plant species were recorded within the study area or proposed development footprint. However, a population of approximately 25 individuals of *Crinum bulbispermum* (Orange River Swamp Lily), a species protected under provincial legislation, was recorded approximately 198 m southwest of the study area boundary (26°33'54.68"S; 29°09'32.82"E) within the broader area of influence (**Figure 4-9**).

The recorded population occurs outside the proposed development footprint and outside the defined study area assessed for direct impacts. Furthermore, the population is separated from the proposed infrastructure by existing disturbance features, including a road corridor, which is likely to reduce the potential for direct or indirect project-related impacts. As such, the recorded *Crinum bulbispermum* population is not expected to be directly affected by the proposed development.

While the species was not recorded within the study area itself, its presence within the broader area of influence demonstrates that suitable habitat for protected plant species persists within the surrounding landscape. This finding further supports the conclusion that remnant natural and semi-

natural habitats associated with the Soweto Highveld Grassland ecosystem continue to retain ecological value and biodiversity significance despite the extensive transformation of the broader industrial landscape.



Figure 4-9 - The *Crinum bulbispermum* (Orange River Swamp Lilly) (26°33'54.68"S; 29°9'32.82"E)

Habitat associations, conservation status, and likelihood of occurrence of the identified sensitive plant species are presented in **Table 4-4**.

Table 4-4 - Sensitive plant species

Scientific Name	Red-list status	Provincial Protection status	Habitat Preferences	Occurrence Relative to the Study area
<i>Crinum bulbispermum</i>	Least Concern	Protected	Prefers wetland and moist environments, and typically occurs along riverbanks and stream edges, as well as in swampy grasslands and seasonally wet areas.	Not recorded within the Study Area; confirmed within adjacent habitat in the Area of Influence (Figure 4-9)
<i>Pachycarpus suaveolens</i>	Vulnerable	-	Favours short, annually burnt grassland between 1400-2000 m.	Unlikely
Sensitive species 691	Vulnerable	Protected	It occurs in grassland habitats where it favours very shallow coarse sediments on flat rock protrusions.	Unlikely

Scientific Name	Red-list status	Provincial Protection status	Habitat Preferences	Occurrence Relative to the Study area
Sensitive Species 1252	Vulnerable	Protected	Primarily associated with mesic to moderately moist, well-drained environments.	Unlikely

No plant SCC were recorded within the proposed development areas during the field survey. Although a population of *Crinum bulbispermum* was recorded within the broader area of influence, it occurs outside the study area and is not expected to be directly affected by the proposed development. Furthermore, no protected or threatened plant species were identified along the LNG Pipeline route. Therefore, the site-based plant species sensitivity is considered **Low** for the proposed GtP facility footprint, MRG Pipeline route and LNG Pipeline alignment.

4.3.5 CIVIL AVIATION

The output of the DFFE Screening Tool for the Civil Aviation Theme as illustrated in **Figure 4-10** indicates that the site is classified as **High** Sensitivity.

According to the DFFE Screening Tool Report, civil aviation is regarded as having High sensitivity due to the proposed development area located within 8 km of a civil aviation aerodrome and within an area classified as dangerous and restricted airspace.

The proposed GtP Facility is located within the existing Sasol Secunda Complex, which is a heavily industrialised brownfield area. The project is not expected to result in significant impacts on civil aviation infrastructure, navigation systems or air traffic operations. Potential aviation-related impacts would primarily be associated with the height of permanent structures, temporary construction cranes and lighting during construction and operation. These impacts are considered site-specific and can be effectively managed through compliance with applicable aviation requirements and permitting processes.

Given the industrial nature of the receiving environment, the brownfield location of the project and the anticipated **low significance** of aviation-related impacts, a Civil Aviation Impact Assessment is not considered necessary to inform the S&EIR. The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) and Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS), where applicable, will be included as stakeholders during the environmental assessment process and afforded the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed development during the S&EIR Process.



Figure 4-10 - Map of Civil Aviation Theme sensitivity (Source: DFFE Screening Report,2026)

4.3.6 DEFENCE

The output of the DFFE Screening Tool for the Defence Theme is illustrated in **Figure 4-11** and indicates that the site is classified as **Low** Sensitivity.

According to the DFFE Screening Tool Report, Defence is regarded as having low sensitivity. Therefore, a compliance statement is not required as per the protocol specifications. The Department of Defence will be included on the project stakeholder database. They will be informed of the proposed Project, and comments will be sought from these authorities as applicable. No further assessment in this regard is considered necessary to inform the S&EIR process.



Figure 4-11 - Map of Defence Theme sensitivity (Source: DFFE Screening Report,2026)

4.3.7 AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The output of the DFFE Screening Tool for the Aquatic Biodiversity Theme is illustrated in **Figure 4-12** and indicates that the site is classified as **Very High** Sensitivity due to the presence of sensitive aquatic features including CBA: Wetlands, Seep wetlands and Rivers within the 500 m regulated zone (see **Figure 4-12**). The aquatic specialist confirmed this site sensitivity rating and recommended full impact assessment of the aquatic systems to inform the impact phase of the S&EIR.

The Aquatic Biodiversity SSVR is attached as **Appendix C.3**

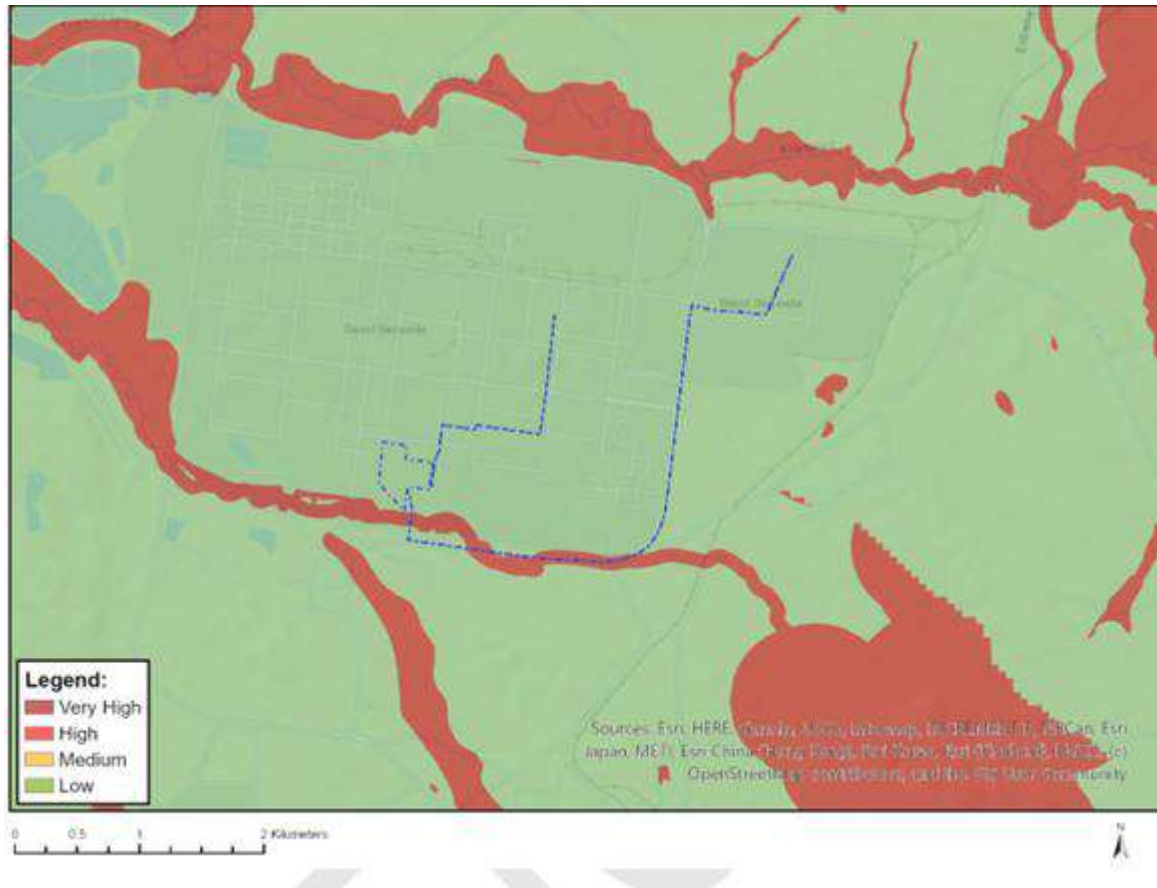


Figure 4-12 - Map of Aquatic Biodiversity Theme sensitivity (Source: DFFE Screening Report,2026)

Channelled Valley Bottom (CVB) wetland systems (**Figure 4-13**) were identified within the study area based on the previous wetland assessment (Linström et al., 2024) and confirmed through the site surveys conducted by the Aquatic Biodiversity specialist on 23 and 24 April 2026.

CVB1 is located within the west of proposed GtP Facility and currently serves as an artificial landscaped canal which drains toward the Groot-Bossiespruit in the south. Historically the canal has experienced significant erosion and is currently incised to a depth of approximately 2 meters. The field survey confirmed that the system primarily receives its flow from surface runoff generated within the Sasol Operation, which is directed through multiple culverts that discharge into the system. The vegetation composition of CVB indicates that the wetland has been subject to ecological pressures resulting from the adjacent land-use, specifically the increase in hardened surfaces. The embankments of the CVB exhibits dense stands of Alien Invasive Plants (AIP) species including *Tagetes minuta* (African marigold), *Bidens Pilosa* (blackjack), *Ipomoea indica* (morning glory) and *Salix babylonica* (weeping willow). Despite the occurrence of invasive species, the channel was dominated by obligate wetland vegetation including *Phragmites australis* (common reed) and *Typha capensis* (bullrush).

CVB2, is located just south of the proposed GtP Facility and north of the Synfuels Road. The system forms part of the Groot-Bossiespruit which drains from east to west. The channel is confined along the northern edge due to shallow rocky soils and extends towards the south where deeper vertic soils were identified during the current field survey. The system has been modified as a consequence of

industrial development (i.e. Sasol operation and road networks). The wetland supports both obligate and facultative species, with common obligate hydrophytes such as *T. capensis* and *P. australis* concentrated around the channel and in ponded, wetter areas. The temporary to seasonally zones were mainly dominated by facultative grasses, including *Cynodon dactylon* and *Paspalum dilatatum*. The northern edge of the system displayed an infestation of AIPs, which include *T. minuta*, *B. Pilosa* and *Conyza* sp. CVB2 serves as the main flow pathway, receiving water from CVB1 and a smaller southern tributary. Therefore, CVB2 may receive pollutants from the direct wetland catchment via releases, surface runoff, and seepage. Poor-quality water from industrial sources and activities in the wider catchment is therefore considered a significant impact on CVB2 and downstream watercourses.

Based on the MBSP freshwater assessment, the proposed area for the Sasol Secunda GtP Facility fall within 100 m of a watercourse classified as ESA Wetland clusters (**Figure 4-14**). These are priority freshwater areas identified to support CBAs, ensuring connectivity and ecological functionality

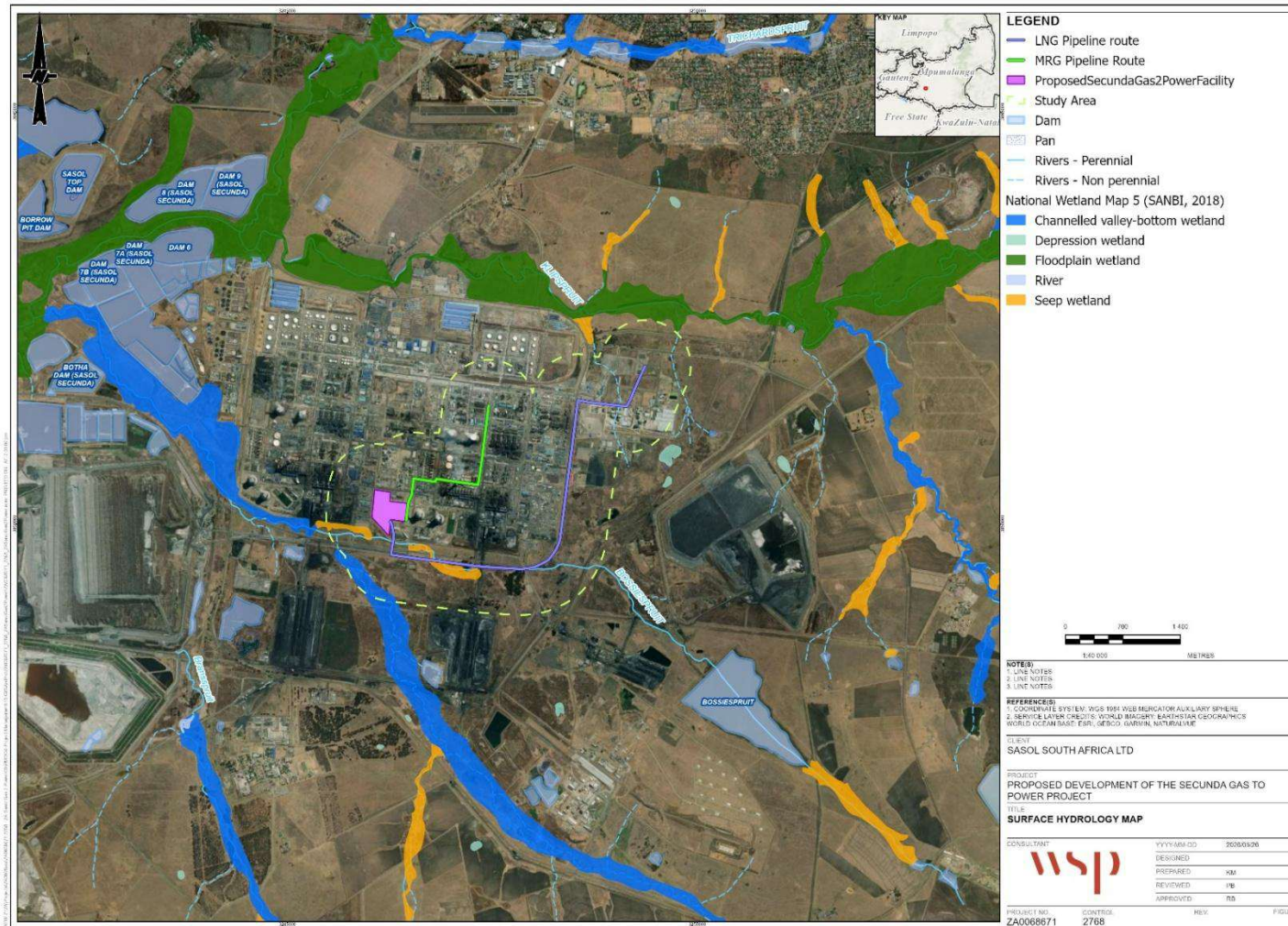


Figure 4-13 - National Wetland Map 5 for the study area

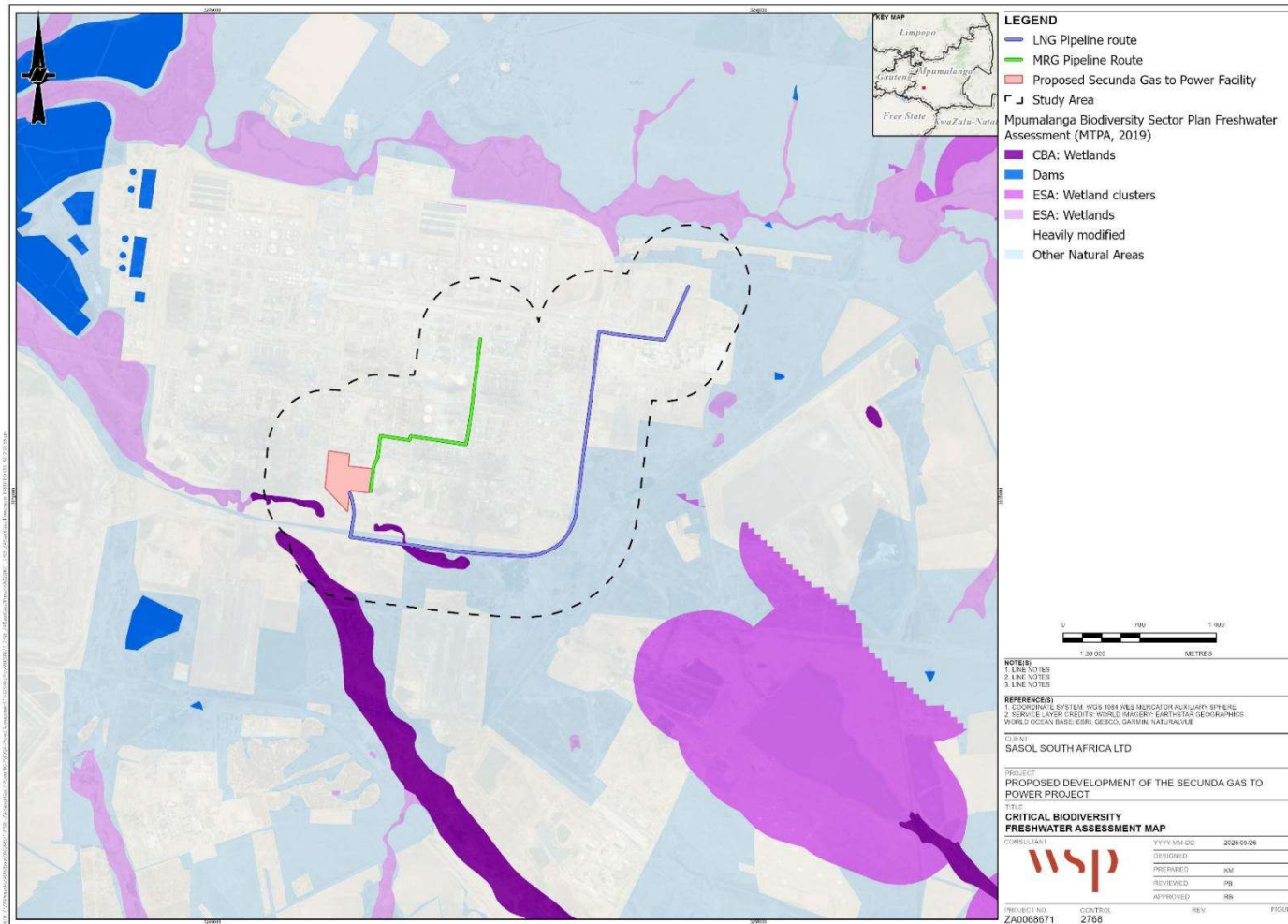


Figure 4-14 - MBSP Freshwater Assessment in relation to the study area

Based on the findings of the desktop assessment, site sensitivity verification and wet-season field survey conducted by the aquatic specialist, the project footprint is confirmed to be of “Very High” sensitivity for aquatic biodiversity. This is due to the presence of wetlands, riparian zones and riverine ecosystems associated with the Groot-Bossiespruit within the study area³.

4.3.8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The output of the DFFE Screening Tool for the Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Theme is illustrated in **Figure 4-15** and indicates that the site is classified as Low Sensitivity, for which the specialist confirmed.

The Archaeology and Cultural Heritage SSVR is attached as **Appendix C.5**

Archaeology:

Previous archaeological and heritage assessments conducted in the broader area indicate the presence of Stone Age artefacts, Late Iron Age settlements, historical farmsteads, ruins, graves and associated cultural landscapes. However, most significant heritage resources recorded in the region are located outside the proposed development area. The nearest heritage resource recorded on SAHRIS is INV Number 2629CA2, described as *Rietvley 320 IS Historical farmstead with associated midden, stock enclosures and other structures*. This site is located more than 6 km away from the proposed development area (**Figure 4-16**). While recent assessments indicate that the broader area has heritage value, the proposed development area has been extensively disturbed by existing industrial activities associated with the Sasol complex. No known archaeological sites have been recorded within the footprint of the proposed development.

Cultural Landscape:

Previous heritage assessments describe the broader area as a transformed Highveld landscape characterised by agriculture, historical farmsteads, old fields, transport infrastructure, mining activities and scattered heritage features. Historical routes, farm werfs, homesteads and associated burial grounds contribute to the area's layered cultural landscape and sense of place. However, the proposed development area is located within the existing Sasol Mine and Industrial Area, which has already been substantially altered by industrial development and associated infrastructure. As a result, the project area retains limited cultural landscape features that contribute to the historic character of the broader region.

The area proposed for development has already been extensively disturbed by activities associated with the Sasol plant. Consequently, it is unlikely that significant archaeological heritage resources or cultural landscape resources can occur within the project area and the likelihood of the proposed development impacting such resources is considered low. The low sensitivity rating is therefore confirmed.

³ Aquatic Impact Assessment. WSP, 2026.



Figure 4-15 - Map of Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Theme sensitivity (Source: DFFE Screening Report,2026)



Figure 4-16 – Map of finds (Source: SAHRIS,2026)

4.3.9 PALAEOLOGY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The output of the DFFE Screening Tool for the Palaeontology Theme is illustrated in **Figure 4-17** and indicates that the site is classified as **Very High** Sensitivity. The Palaeontologist disputed this rating and classified the site as having a “**Low sensitivity**”.

The Palaeontology SSVR is attached in **Appendix C.4**.

The proposed site lies on the potentially very highly sensitive Vryheid Formation (Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup) that could preserve fossil plants of the *Glossopteris flora*. Additionally, abundant, low diversity trace fossils, rare insects, possible conchostracans, non-marine bivalves, fish scales have been identified in similar sediments.

According to the SAHRIS Palaeosensitivity Map, the subject area has Very High palaeontological sensitivity (**Figure 4-18**). However, the proposed area is already occupied by buildings and their foundations will have destroyed any fossils (if any were present). Therefore, the sensitivity rating is verified as Low.

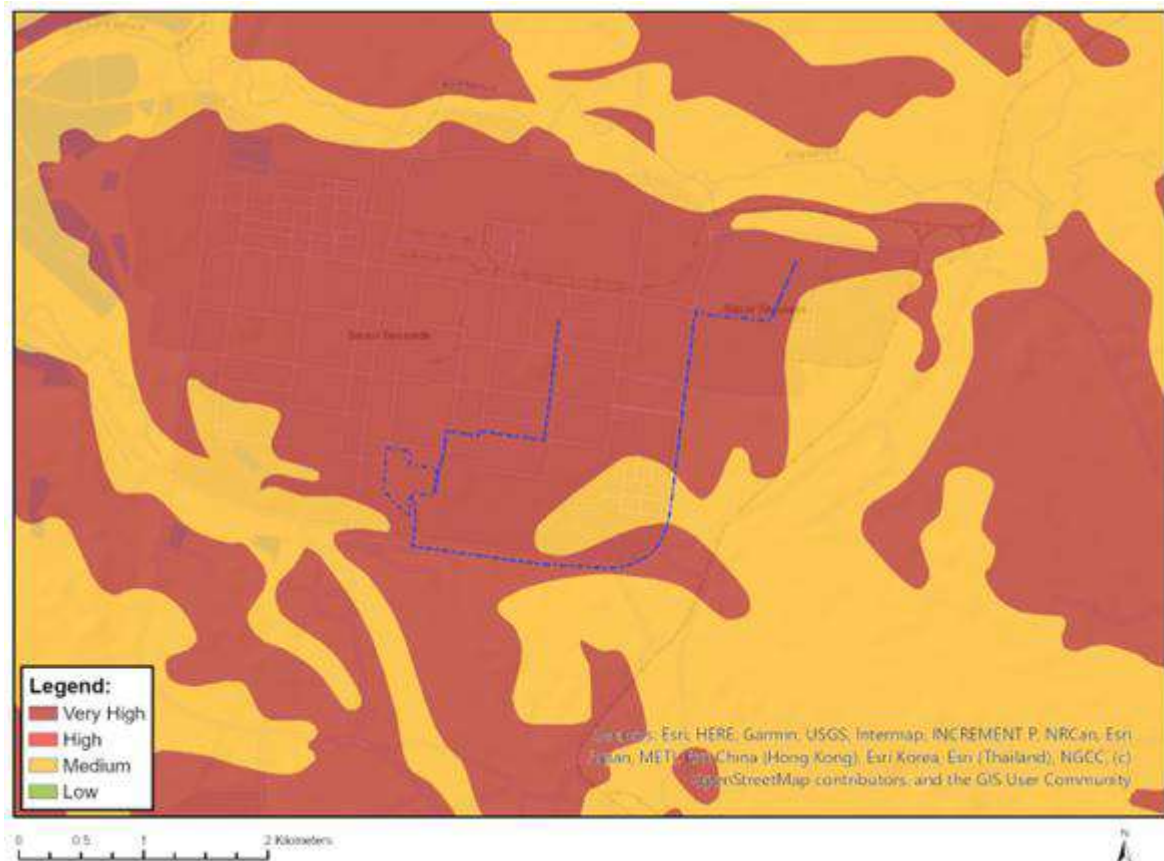


Figure 4-17 - Map of Palaeontology Theme sensitivity (Source: DFFE Screening Report,2026)

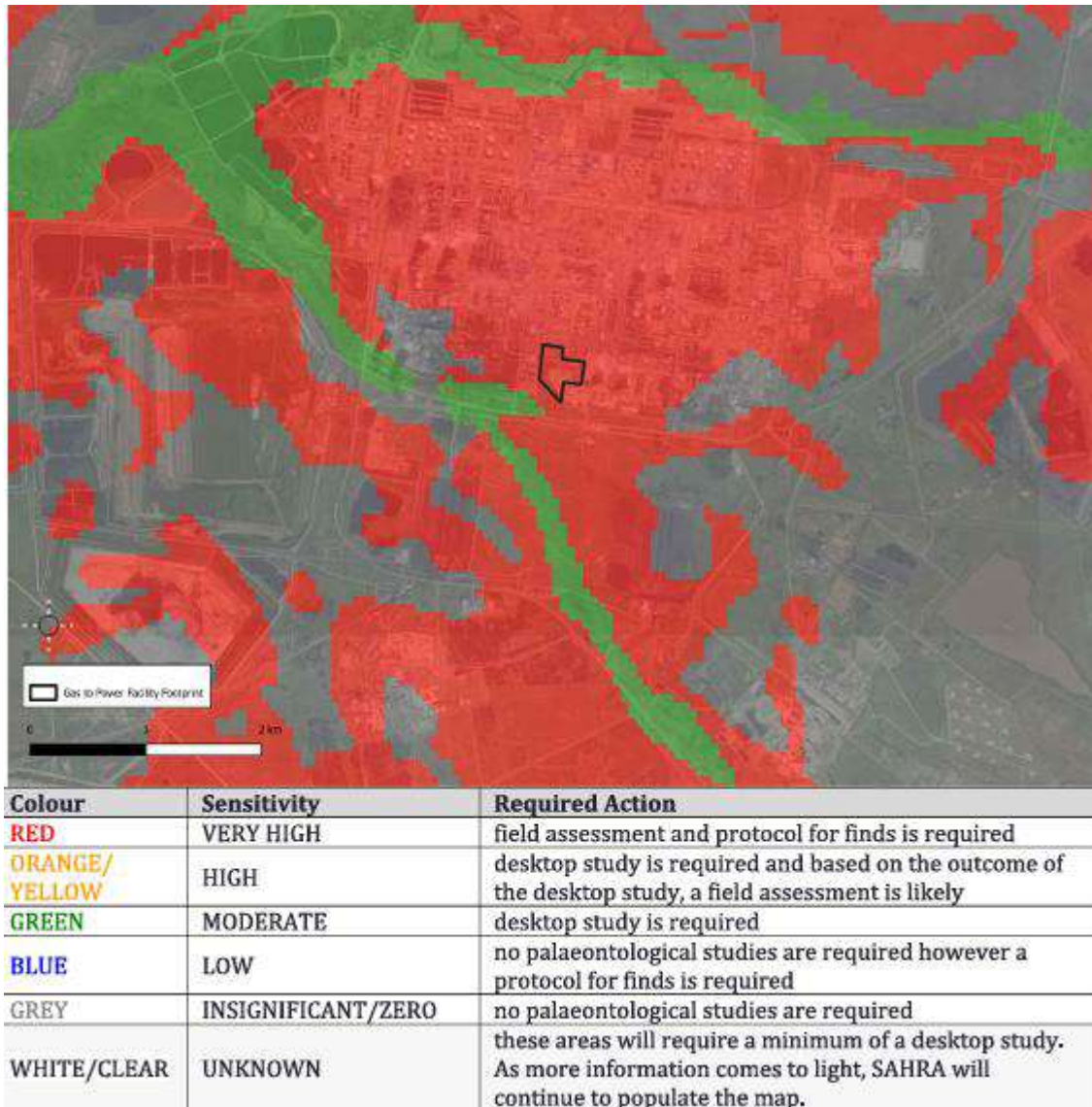


Figure 4-18 - SAHRIS Palaeosensitivity map for the proposed project (black outline).

4.4 SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION SUMMARY

A summary of the DFFE screening tool, the applicable legislation as well as the specialist sensitivity verification for the proposed project detailed in **Table 4-5**.

Table 4-5 - Assessment Protocols and Site Sensitivity Verifications

Specialist Assessment	Assessment Protocol	DFFE Screening Tool Sensitivity	Specialist Sensitivity Verification
Agricultural Impact Assessment	Protocol for the specialist assessment and minimum report content requirements of environmental impacts on agricultural resources	High Sensitivity	Low sensitivity The screening tool classifies the assessed site as ranging from medium to high. The high sensitivity classification by the screening tool is due to some land being classified as high sensitivity because of a classified land capability rating of 8. The specialist assessment therefore disagrees with the high sensitivity classification and verifies the entire site as being of low agricultural sensitivity because of its location in a transformed site.
Animal Species Assessment	Protocol for the Specialist Assessment and Minimum Report Content Requirements for Environmental Impacts on Terrestrial Animal Species	Medium Sensitivity	Medium to Low sensitivity No animal SCC, or evidence thereof, were recorded within the proposed facility footprint, MRG Pipeline route, or LNG Pipeline route during the field survey. The Gas-to-Power Facility and MRG Pipeline areas are highly modified, fenced and subject to ongoing industrial disturbance, resulting in limited habitat availability for the species identified by the Screening Tool. Animal species sensitivity ranges from Low within the proposed Gas-to-Power Facility and MRG Pipeline area to Medium along sections of the LNG Pipeline route.
Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Protocol for the Specialist Assessment and Minimum	Very sensitivity High	Very High sensitivity

Specialist Assessment	Assessment Protocol	DFFE Screening Tool Sensitivity	Specialist Sensitivity Verification
	Report Content Requirements for Environmental Impacts on Aquatic Biodiversity		The project footprint is confirmed to be of “Very High” sensitivity for aquatic biodiversity. This is due to the presence of wetlands, riparian zones and riverine ecosystems associated with the Groot-Bossiespruit within the study area.
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	Site Sensitivity Verification Requirements where a specialist Assessment is required but no Specific Assessment Protocol has been prescribed	Low sensitivity	Low sensitivity While the broader area had known heritage value based on the findings of previous assessments, the area proposed for development has already been extensively disturbed from activities associated with the Sasol plant. It is therefore unlikely that significant archaeological heritage resources are located here and the likelihood of the proposed development impacting on significant archaeological heritage is low.
Civil Aviation	Protocol for the specialist assessment and minimum report content requirements for environmental impacts on civil aviation installations	High sensitivity	Low sensitivity Although the DFFE Screening Tool identified High civil aviation sensitivity, the proposed Gas-to-Power Facility is located within the existing Sasol Secunda industrial complex. Potential aviation-related impacts are limited and can be managed through compliance with applicable aviation requirements. Therefore, the site-based civil aviation sensitivity is considered Low.
Defence	Protocol for the specialist assessment and minimum report content requirements for environmental impacts on civil aviation installations	Low sensitivity	Low sensitivity The Department of Defence will be included on the project stakeholder database. They will be

Specialist Assessment	Assessment Protocol	DDFE Screening Tool Sensitivity	Specialist Sensitivity Verification
			informed of the proposed Project, and comments will be sought from these authorities as applicable.
Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment	Site Sensitivity Verification Requirements where a specialist Assessment is required but no Specific Assessment Protocol has been prescribed	No sensitivity identified by the screening tool	
Palaeontology Impact Assessment	Site Sensitivity Verification Requirements where a specialist Assessment is required but no Specific Assessment Protocol has been prescribed	Very High sensitivity	Low Sensitivity While the area proposed for development is underlain by sediments of very high palaeontological sensitivity belonging to the Vryheid Formation, the area proposed for development has already been extensively disturbed from activities associated with the Sasol plant. Due to the existing disturbances associated with the Sasol Plant, the likelihood of impact to significant palaeontological heritage is low.
Plant Species Assessment	Protocol for the Specialist Assessment and Minimum Report Content Requirements for Environmental Impacts on Terrestrial Plant Species	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity No plant SCC were recorded within the proposed facility footprint or along the MRG and LNG Pipeline routes during the field survey. Accordingly, the site-based plant species sensitivity is considered Low across all project components.
Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Protocol for the Specialist Assessment and Minimum Report Content Requirements for Environmental Impacts on Terrestrial Biodiversity	Very High sensitivity	Medium to Low Sensitivity The Screening Tool identified a Very High terrestrial biodiversity sensitivity due to the regional occurrence of the Vulnerable Soweto Highveld Grassland vegetation. However, the proposed Gas-to-Power

Specialist Assessment	Assessment Protocol	DDFE Screening Tool Sensitivity	Specialist Sensitivity Verification
			Facility footprint and MRG Pipeline route are located within the existing Sasol Secunda operational area and are largely transformed by infrastructure, paved and gravelled surfaces, artificial fill and ongoing industrial activities. The terrestrial biodiversity sensitivity ranges from Low within the proposed GtP Facility and MRG Pipeline area to Medium along sections of the LNG Pipeline route. Appendix C.3
Traffic Impact Assessment	Site Sensitivity Verification Requirements where a specialist Assessment is required but no Specific Assessment Protocol has been prescribed	No sensitivity identified by the screening tool	
Geotechnical Assessment	Site Sensitivity Verification Requirements where a specialist Assessment is required but no Specific Assessment Protocol has been prescribed	No sensitivity identified by the screening tool	
Socio Economic Assessment	Site Sensitivity Verification Requirements where a specialist Assessment is required but no Specific Assessment Protocol has been prescribed	No sensitivity identified by the screening tool	
Climate Change Assessment	Site Sensitivity Verification Requirements where a specialist Assessment is required but no Specific Assessment Protocol has been prescribed	No sensitivity identified by the screening tool	
Air Quality Impact Assessment	Site Sensitivity Verification Requirements where a specialist Assessment is required but no Specific Assessment Protocol has been prescribed	No sensitivity identified by the screening tool	
Health Impact Assessment	Site Sensitivity Verification Requirements where a specialist Assessment is required but no Specific Assessment Protocol has been prescribed	No sensitivity identified by the screening tool	

4.5 CONSOLIDATED SITE SENSITIVITY

Figure 4-19 below shows the consolidated site sensitivities for the proposed project. The sensitivity inputs and findings from all the appointed specialists have been combined and utilised to prepare this layout.

These sensitive areas identified will be utilised going forward into the EIA phase in order to avoid and assess sensitive areas by specialists and to minimise the impacts of the proposed project on the area.

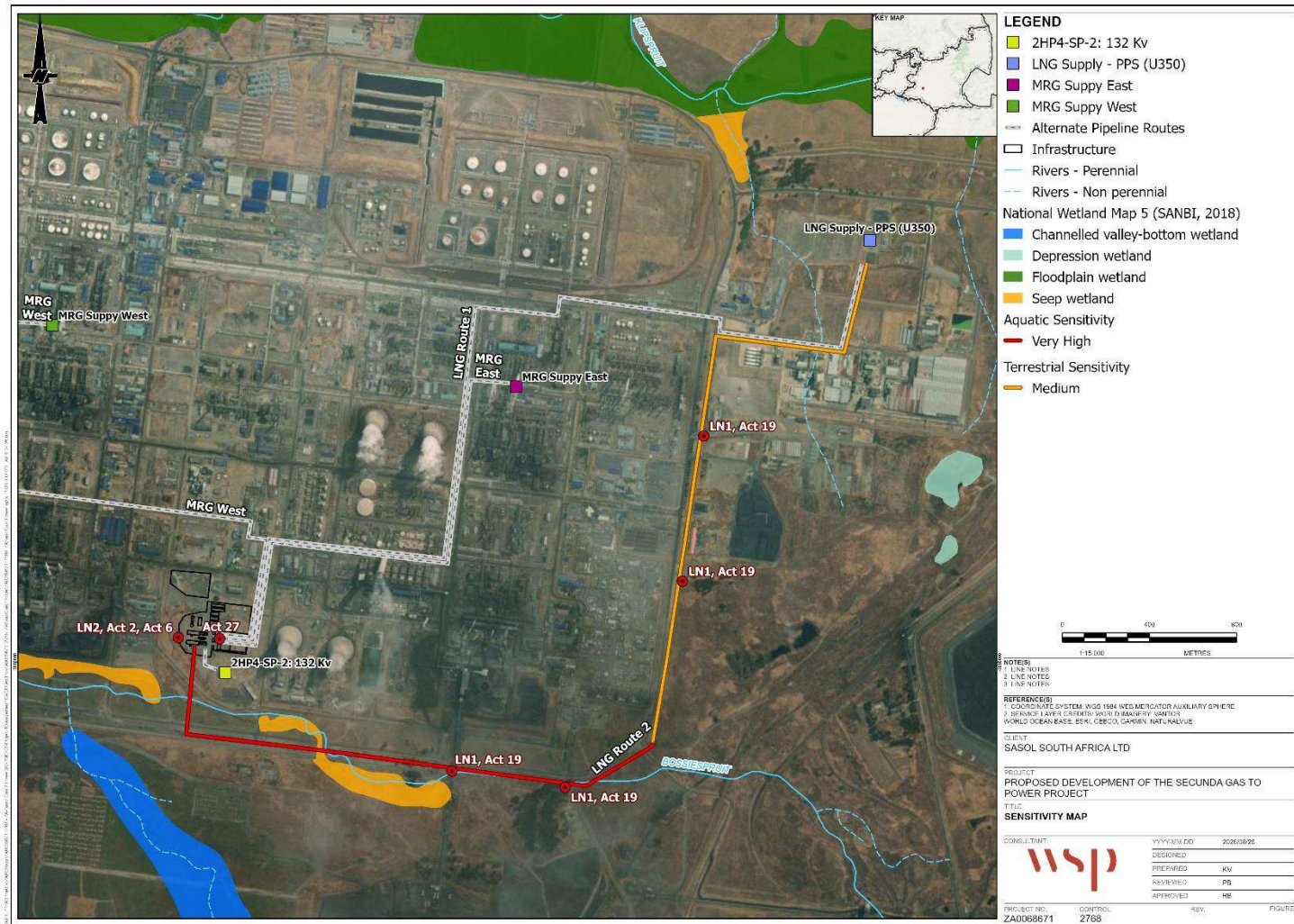


Figure 4-19 - Consolidated site sensitivity map for the proposed project.

5 CONCLUSION

The following environmental themes align with the DFFE Screening Tool Rating:

- Archaeological and Cultural Heritage (Low sensitivity)
- Defence (Low sensitivity)
- Aquatic Biodiversity (Very High sensitivity)
- Animal species (Medium to Medium-Low sensitivity)

The following environmental themes were disputed against the DFFE Screening Tool Rating, and found to be a lower sensitivity than what was identified by the DFFE Screening Tool:

- Terrestrial Biodiversity (Very High to Medium-Low sensitivity)
- Plant species (Medium to Low sensitivity)
- Agricultural Impact (High to Low Sensitivity)
- Palaeontology (Very High to Low Sensitivity)
- Civil Aviation (High to Low Sensitivity)

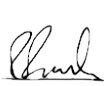
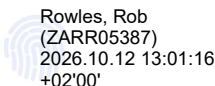
Therefore, the following specialist studies will be required to provide additional impact assessment input into the impact assessment phase of the S&EIR project:

- Aquatics, including wetland and aquatics; and
- Terrestrial Ecology for the LNG pipeline.

In addition to these, the following specialist studies will provide input into the impact phase of the S&EIR process:

- Social Impact Assessment,
- Traffic Impact Assessment,
- Air Quality Impact Assessment,
- Climate Change Assessment, and
- Health Risk Assessment.

Signed:

 
Rowles, Rob
(ZARR05387)
2026.10.12 13:01:16
+02'00'

EAP – Rob Rowles

(2022/5395)



Building 1, Maxwell Office Park
Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City
Midrand, 1685
South Africa

wsp.com

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