

## 1.1. HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

### 1.1.1. Local Level and Archaeological Findings

There is one heritage site in a radius of 65 km from the EPL site (**Duwisib Castle**) (see **Figure 10**) that could be accessed through D831 road) is a grand pseudo-medieval-looking fortress in the hills of the semi-arid Southern Namib region of Namibia, 72 km southwest of Maltahöhe, Hardap Region. It was built in 1909 to serve as the residence of Hans Heinrich von Wolf, a German military officer. Since 1979 the castle has been owned by the government.

There are also some old graveyards on site (see **Figure 11**), while many archaeological sites have been discovered in Namibia, some of which provide evidence of long-term occupation, many of these are regarded as "lucky finds," because the chances of artifacts surviving long enough to be discovered are extremely poor. As a result, there are just a few known archaeological sites with exceedingly old artifacts. At this time, it is unknown whether the exploration will yield any significant archaeological finds; however, an incidental find strategy may be required. Work must be suspended immediately if any heritage or culturally significant artifacts are discovered during construction, and the Namibian National Heritage Council must be notified.

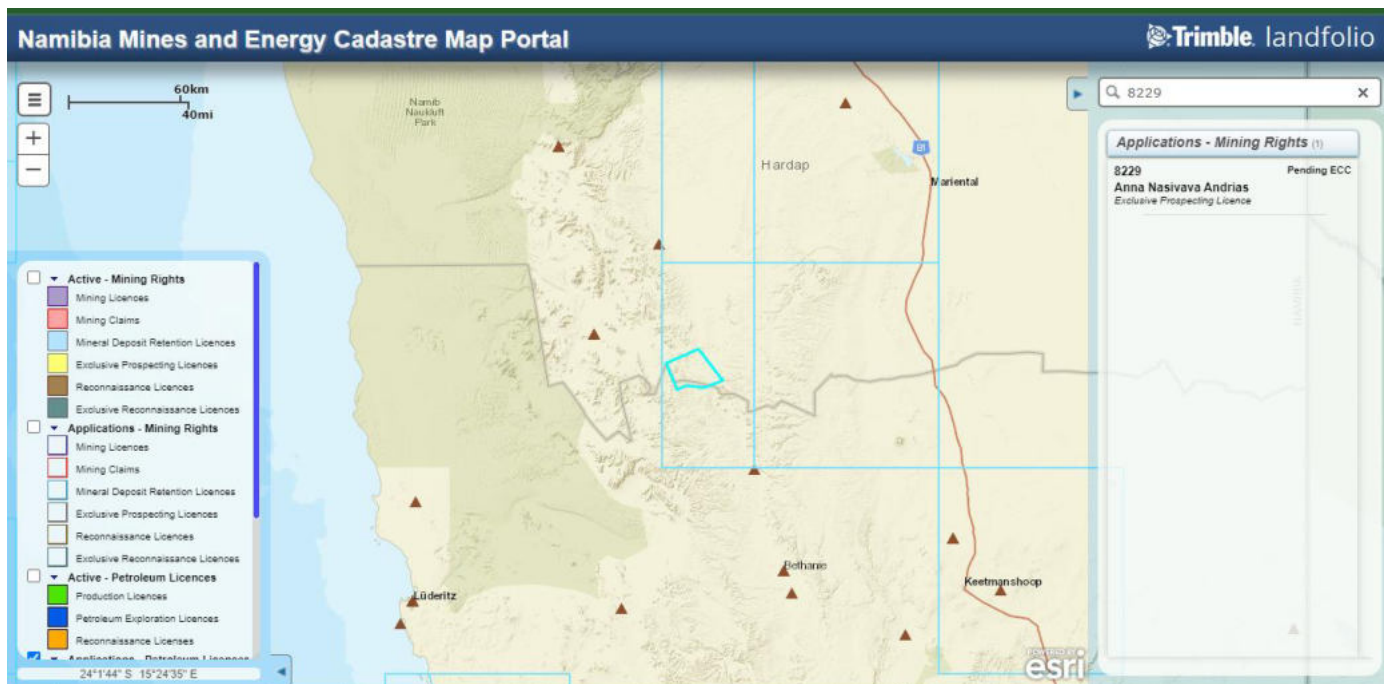


**Figure 1.** Duwisib Castle Heritage site



**Figure 2.** An old graveyard in the EPL was observed during the site visit.

As illustrated in **Figure 12** below, the proposed site (the blue octagon) is located more than 65 km away from other nearest heritage sites such as the



**Figure 3.** The location of other identified heritage sites in proximity to the site

### 1.1.2. Disturbance to archaeological and heritage sites /resources

No specialist archaeological assessment was conducted, However, during the site visit and according to the local farmers there is one heritage site in a radius of 65 km from the EPL site (**Duwisib Castle**) (see **Figure 10**). There are also some old graveyards on site (see **Figure 11**), while many archaeological sites have been discovered in Namibia, some of which provide evidence of long-term occupation, many of these are regarded as "lucky finds," because the chances of artifacts surviving long enough to be discovered are extremely poor. As a result, there are just a few known archaeological sites with exceedingly old artifacts. At this time, it is unknown whether the exploration will yield any significant archaeological finds; however, an incidental find strategy may be required. Work must be suspended immediately, buffer zones must be created if any heritage or culturally significant artifacts are discovered during construction, and the Namibian National Heritage Council must be notified.

Therefore, this impact can be rated as medium significance if there are no mitigation measures in place. Upon implementation of the necessary measures, the impact significance will be reduced to a lower rating. The impact is assessed in **Table 23**.

**Table 1.** Impact rating for disturbance of archaeological and heritage sites.

Mitigation Status	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Significance
Pre mitigation	M - 1	M/H - 4	M/L - 3	M/L - 2	M - 16
Post mitigation	L - 1	L/M - 1	L - 2	L - 1	L - 4

### 1.1.3. Mitigation measures to avoid and minimise distraction to archaeological and heritage sites.

- ❖ The Proponent and Contractors must adhere to the provisions of Section 55 of the National Heritage Act in event significant heritage and culture features are discovered while conducting exploration works.
- ❖ On-site workers and contractor crews must be trained to exercise and recognize chance finds heritage in the course of their work.
- ❖ During the prospecting and exploration works, it is important to take note and recognize any significant material being unearthed and make the correct judgment on which actions are to be taken.
- ❖ The footprint of the impact of the activities on site must be kept to a minimum, to limit the possibility of encountering chance finds within the EPL boundaries.
- ❖ There must be controlled movement of the contractor, exploration crews, equipment, and all parties involved in the exploration activities, to limit the creation of informal pathways, gully erosion and disturbance to surface and sub-surface artifacts such as stone tools and other buried materials etc.