

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Andrea Gibb
Sivest - Gauteng
P.O. Box 2921
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2128

Proposed construction of the Dwarsrug Wind Farm and associated infrastructure near Loeriesfontein in the Northern Cape Province.

Fourie, W. December 2014. Dwarsrug Wind Energy Facility: Heritage Impact Report

Groenewald, G. October 2014. Palaeontological Desktop Assessment For The Construction Of The Dwarsrug Wind Energy Farm On The Farms Brakpan 212 And Stinkputs North 229, Near Loeriesfontein, Namaqua District Municipality, Northern Cape Province

South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Development (Pty) Ltd proposes the construction of a 140MW wind farm, called Dwarsrug Wind Farm, near Loeriesfontein in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa. The wind farm will occupy a footprint of 5210.045 hectares. The wind farm is to be constructed on the following farms:

- Remainder of the Farm Brak Pan No. 212, Northern Cape
- Stinkputs North No. 229, Northern Cape
- Remainder of the Farm Narosies No. 228, Northern Cape
- Portion 1 of the Farm Ann De Karree Doorn Pan No 213, Northern Cape
- Remainder of the Farm Kleine Rooiberg 227, Northern Cape
- Portion 5 of the Farm Kleine Rooiberg 227, Northern Cape
- Portion 4 of the Farm Rooiberg 263, Northern Cape
- Portion 1 of the Farm Sous No. 226, Northern Cape
- Remainder of the Farm Sous No. 226, Northern Cape.

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment was undertaken for this project. This study was undertaken by Mr Wouter Fourie of Professional Grave Solutions. During the field assessment a number of archaeological sites, grave sites and historical structures were identified during the field assessment. A total of seventeen spot finds were identified. The majority of these sites comprise of single Later Stone Age or Middle Stone Age stone artefacts. The specialist indicated that these spot finds are not significant and requires no further mitigation measures. Ten archaeological sites were identified during the field survey; sites DR04, DR05, DR18, DR22 and DR24 are rated as medium significance. DR24 is a cache of three ostrich egg water containers, one of which is broken with the remaining two fully intact. The impact assessment recommended

Our Ref:

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on-site conservation of the sites.

Four Historical Sites were identified, these included DR01 (Historical House), DR02 (Historic Dam and two associated wells), DR04 (Informal cemetery with three graves), and DR23 (Granite Monument dating to 1987/possible grave).

In terms of the palaeontological sensitivity of the project, the area is underlain by shales of the Permian aged Tierberg Formation, and two very small outcrops of Permian aged shales of the Whitehill Formation, Ecca Group of the Karoo Supergroup. According to the specialist report large areas are covered in dolerite scree whilst small areas are covered in Quaternary aged alluvium and pan sediments.

Due to the fact that significant sections of the project area is underlain by Permian aged Tierberg Formation and that the fossil rich Whitehill Formation underlies two restricted areas in the project area, the project area is considered to contain a high fossiliferous potential. The palaeontologist recommended a range of mitigation measures to mitigate palaeontological resources.

SAHRA Recommendations:

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objection to the proposed project in terms of the archaeological component of the heritage resources, provided that the recommendations stipulated below are implemented:

1. SAHRA APM Unit has no further recommendations regarding the archaeological spot finds identified during the field assessment.
2. According to Figures 37 and 38 (HIA Report) the archaeological sites identified will not be impacted by either the tower locations or any of the associated infrastructure. SAHRA APM Unit supports the recommendations contained in the specialist archaeological report that the identified sites should be conserved. A conservation management plan should be included in the EMP and submitted to SAHRA. However, the cache of Ostrich Eggshell containers should be collected and curated at a recognised repository.
3. The palaeontological desktop assessment identifies areas that are of high palaeontological sensitivity. SAHRA request that a palaeontological field based assessment be undertaken for this project. SAHRA will make further recommendations regarding the palaeontological component of the heritage resources once it has received the field based assessment.
3. The informal cemetery DR04 should be restored where these are dilapidated, protected and conserved. For this purpose, a proper fence must be build around them including entry gates to allow visits from relatives and family friends. The fence must be placed 2 meters away from the perimeter of the graves. Alternatively, The SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves Unit requires that if the area where the burials are located fall within the development footprint, then provisions stipulated in section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999) are applicable, and relocation of these might proceed provided that a public consultation process is followed.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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4. Decisions on Built Environment (e.g. structures over 60 years) and Cultural Landscapes and associated Living Heritage (e.g. sacred sites) must be made by the Provincial Heritage Authority (**(Mr Andrew Timothy: ratha.timothy@gmail.com)**), whom this Comment will be copied

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Phillip Hine
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/170705>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/690)

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.



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