

# Proposed 132 KV Transmission lines for the Photovoltaic Energy Facility for Sibanye Gold, Westonaria, Gauteng Province

Our Ref: 16846



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Andrew Salomon  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: asalomon@sahra.org.za  
CaseID: 16846

Date: Monday December 06, 2021  
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## Final Comment

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

Attention: Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd

**Sibanye Gold (Pty) Ltd proposes to develop a number of 132 KV transmission lines inside the three 200m wide assessed corridors, approximately 8 km southwest of Westonaria in the West Rand District, Gauteng.**

**Kitto, J., Fourie, W. & Groenewald, G. February 2016 Heritage Impact Assessment as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the New 200MW Photovoltaic Energy Facility Proposed For Sibanye Gold, Gauteng**

The proposed development entails a 200MW photovoltaic facility and associated infrastructure.

In terms of archaeological heritage resources, fieldwork confirmed the existence of some of the sites noted from the desktop historical study and identified several other sites. In total, nine sites of varying levels of heritage significance were identified:

Three of the sites are of recent historic date and have a negligible-neutral heritage significance (SB1, SB2, SB9). Sites SB3-SB8 contain historic structures and could be seen as an historic settlement cluster. This cluster also contains a possible grave site (SB6) and has been allocated a medium-high heritage significance. However, the location of this historic settlement cluster, which is situated outside the development footprint of the PV facility (although within the boundary of the preferred alternative, Site 1), has resulted in it being assigned a low-moderately detrimental impact significance.

In terms of palaeontological resources The fieldwork confirmed the presence of loose blocks of dolomite with very well defined small-scale stromatolite structures and a limited number of boulders containing cave breccia. Due to the limited outcrops it is not possible to determine the source bedrock of these local blocks of material on site. No sites or areas of high palaeontological sensitivity or no-go areas have been identified within the study area for each project component and no significant bedrock exposure has been recorded in the geotechnical report commissioned by Sibanye Gold to warrant further immediate mitigation for palaeontological heritage.

The authors note that there are no objections on general archaeological or palaeontological heritage grounds to any of the alternative sites for the proposed PV facility that would form part of the Sibanye PV project.



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However, Site 3 has been identified as the least preferred alternative site based on heritage resources and other criteria. No sites or areas of high archaeological-historical or palaeontological sensitivity or no-go areas have been identified within the study area for any of the project components.

The authors provide the following recommendations:

**PV Preferred Alternative Site 1:** It is concluded that the proposed PV facility can be developed on Site 1 subject to the following conditions:

- o Historical Structures If they cannot be avoided with at least a 20 m buffer, the significant historical structures identified (SB3-8) must be mitigated well in advance of construction.
- o Possible Graves Prior to construction, the two possible graves (SB6) should be tested to see whether they are graves or not. If they are then they will require in situ preservation and avoidance as per SAHRA requirements. A buffer of 20 m is suggested if avoidance and protection occurs.

**Palaeontology** · Should any sinkhole structures be identified, the Palaeontologist should be informed. · If significant fossil remains of stromatolites and/or significant remains of fossils in cave breccia are found, the HIA team and SAHRA must be informed of such finds and a suitably qualified palaeontologist must, at the cost of the developer, be appointed to do a Phase 2 PIA investigation with:

- 1. Recording and collection of stromatolite information; and
- 2. Recording and possibly arranging for intensive inspection of cave breccia deposits over an extensive period of time.

· All areas identified in the geotechnical reports where significant bedrock might be exposed (> 1.5 m excavations) should be monitored for fossil remains by the responsible Environmental Control Officer (ECO). Should substantial fossil remains, such as vertebrate bones and teeth, petrified wood, plant-rich fossil lenses or dense fossil burrow assemblages be exposed during construction, the responsible ECO should safeguard these, preferably in situ, and alert the South African Heritage Resources Authority (SAHRA) so that appropriate action can be taken by a professional palaeontologist, at the developer's expense. Mitigation would normally involve the scientific recording and judicious sampling or collection of fossil material, as well as associated geological data (e.g. stratigraphy, sedimentology and taphonomy) by a professional palaeontologist. A finds management protocol needs to be developed for construction activities. If no significant fossil finds are recorded, no further mitigation for palaeontological heritage is required.

**PV Preferred Alternative Site 2:** It is concluded that the proposed PV facility can be developed on Site 2 or a portion thereof, subject to the following conditions:

**Palaeontology:** Should any sinkhole structures be identified, the Palaeontologist should be informed. If significant fossil remains of stromatolites and/or significant remains of fossils in cave breccia are found, the HIA team and SAHRA must be informed of such finds and a suitably qualified palaeontologist must, at the cost

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of the developer be appointed to do a Phase 2 PIA investigation with 1. Recording and collection of stromatolite information; and 2. Recording and possibly arranging for intensive inspection of cave breccia deposits over an extensive period of time. During the construction phase all deep (> 1.5 m) bedrock excavations should be monitored for fossil remains by the Environmental Control Officer (ECO). Should substantial fossil remains such as vertebrate bones and teeth, petrified wood, plant-rich fossil lenses or dense fossil burrow assemblages be exposed during construction, the responsible ECO should safeguard these, preferably in situ, and alert the South African Heritage Resources Authority (SAHRA) so that appropriate action can be taken by a professional palaeontologist, at the developer's expense. Mitigation would normally involve the scientific recording and judicious sampling or collection of fossil material as well as associated geological data (e.g. stratigraphy, sedimentology and taphonomy) by a professional palaeontologist. A finds management protocol needs to be developed for construction activities. If no significant fossil finds are found, no further mitigation for palaeontological heritage is required.

## Final Comment

In terms of archaeological and palaeontological heritage, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit has no objections to this proposed development, provided that the recommendations in the above specialist reports and this comment are adhered to, and in addition, on the following conditions: If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments and charcoal/ash concentrations) or palaeontological remains are found during the proposed activities, SAHRA must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, based on the nature of the finds, must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary.

If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the police find them to be heritage graves, mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be contacted for processes to follow.

Should the project be granted Environmental Authorisation, SAHRA must be notified and all relevant documents submitted to the case on SAHRIS.

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

Yours faithfully

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Andrew Salomon  
Heritage Officer: Archaeology  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine  
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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## ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/578706>

## 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.