Our Ref: 17238



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## **Final Comment**

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

Attention: Mr Shaun Macgregor

**Ecoleges Environmental Consultants** 

PO Box 9005 NELSPRUIT

1200

Development of the Soventix Unilever 3.6MWp Solar Photo-Voltaic Plant, Boksburg, City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, East Rand, Gauteng Province.

Pelser, A. October 2021. A Report On A Basic Heritage Assessment For The Proposed Soventix 3.6mwp Solar Pv Facility On 3.8ha Of The Property Of Unilever Boksburg Erven 757 & 758 Boksburg East Portions 127 & 128 Of Vogelfontein 84IR City Of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, Gauteng

The proposed development entails a photovoltaic plant and will comprise approximately 3.8ha of land and 3 Alternative locations are being looked at for the development.

One archaeological site was identified and recorded during the field assessment in the study area. This site is fairly extensive and consists of a refuse midden/ash dump with late 19th to mid-20th century cultural material. It is located in the so-called Alternative 2 development footprint portion. No other sites, features or material of archaeological and/or historical origin or significance were found in the study area (Alternatives 1 & 3 footprints).

The author notes that, although it is not known if this site and the material found here is in a primary context or if the material was dumped here recently from another location, the site is still fairly significant in terms of its size and the fact that a fair amount of identifiable and dateable cultural material is present here. It is therefore, from an historical-archaeological perspective recommended that if the site can be avoided by the proposed development that this should be considered. Alternatively the site should be investigated through Phase 2 Archaeological mitigation that would include excavations to recover cultural material from the site.

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Fourie, H. October 2021. Proposed Construction of a 3.6 MWp Solar Photovoltaic Plant on a 3.8 ha Site at the Unilever Boksburg Factory City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, Gauteng Province. Farm: Erf 757 & 758 Boksburg East, Portion 127 Vogelfontein 84-IR. Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Phase 1 Field Study

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The author notes that the study area is very flat, and no outcrops or fossils were found. The Project includes one locality Option present on the Vryheid Formation: All three Alternatives have the same impact. Alternative 1 is the preferred Alternative.

The author notes that a Fossil Chance Find Protocol is already included in the Environmental Management Programme. If fossils are found during development, a palaeontologist must be called to assess.

## **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:

- A palaeontological Chance Find Protocol must be implemented by the Environmental Control Officer or site manager in charge of these developments.
- 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.

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**Enquiries: Andrew Salomon** 

Tel: 021 462 4502

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CaseID: 17238

Yours faithfully

Andrew Salomon

Heritage Officer: Archaeology

South African Heritage Resources Agency

account

Phillip Hine

Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit

South African Heritage Resources Agency

## **ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/584913 (, Ref: )

## 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.