



Final Comment

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

Attention: Postmasburg Solar PV Energy Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd.

75MW Postmasburg Solar PV Energy Facility 2 on 225ha of Remainder of Farm 436 Kapstewel, Postmasburg, Northern Cape.

Webley, L. & Halkett, D. November 2014. Archaeological Impact Assessment: Proposed Construction Of Postmasburgsolar Pv Energy Facility 2 On The Remaining Extent Of The Farm Kapstewel 436, Postmasburg, Northern Cape.

Almond, J. November 2014. Recommended Exemption From Further Palaeontological Studies: Proposed Construction Of Postmasburg Solar Pv Energy Facility 2 On The Remainder Of The Farm Kapstewel 436 Near Postmasburg, Zf Mcgawu District, Tsantsabane Local Municipality, Northern Cape.

Postmasburg Solar PV Energy Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd. proposes the development of a 75 MW fixed-tilt, single-axis tracking or double-axis tracking PV facility on approximately 220 ha of the property. The footprint of the solar facility will be 240 ha, and will include associated infrastructure including a lay-down area, access roads and a 132 kV powerline which will connect to the existing Manganore substation. The development is located on remaining extent of the farm Kapstewel 436, situated in the Tsantsabane Local Municipality, Northern Cape

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, a Palaeontological Assessment and an Integrate Heritage Impact Assessment has been submitted in support of this application. The receiving environment is described as a combination of undulating plains, hills with occasional prominent rocky outcrops and non-perennial water courses. A substantial rocky outcrop is located on the eastern edge of the development area which has been excluded from the development. Similarly the Kapsteuwel homestead has also been excluded from the development.

In terms of the archaeological component of the heritage resources, the report indicates that past assessments have noted artefact densities tend to be low on the plains, but that concentrations of Middle Stone Age and Later Stone Age material may be found around pans. It is also noted that Wonderwerk Cave is situated to the east of the study area in the Kuruman Hills and a significant Early Stone Age site of Kathu complex.

During the fieldwork no significant pre-colonial archaeological resources were identified. The following archaeological resources were identified:



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1. D003: A single notched-flake near an exposure of banded ironstone in an outcrop of iron-rich rock
2. D005: A stone-packed grave about 400 metres to the southeast of the Kapstewel homestead.
3. D001-D002: Two stone cairns were recorded at the foot on two hills which lie on the edge of the less preferable area.
4. D006-D009: A rectangular stone base of wire kraal, enclosing at least 3 concrete slabs. It is thought that the two of the smaller slabs could have been used as bases for wind pumps. It is believed that sites probably date to the second half of the 20th century.

A letter of exemption was provided by Dr John Almond for the development. According to the report provided to SAHRA the project is underlain by Precambrian marine carbonate sediments of the Campbell Rand Subgroup, and locally the Precambrian bedrocks are overlain by Quaternary aeolian sands of the Gordonia Formation (Kalahari Group), calcretes and **downwasted** surface gravels.

It is noted that rich fossil biota of stromatolites or microbially-generated, finely-laminated sheets, mounds and branching structures occur within the 2.6 to 2.5 billion year-old shallow shelf and intertidal carbonate sediments of the lower part of the Ghaap Group. The specialist indicates that the fossil record of the Kalahari Group is generally sparse and low in diversity.

The author indicated that the Precambrian marine limestones of the Campbell Rand Subgroup that underlie the study area at depth may contain well-preserved stromatolites, however, readily-weathered bedrocks are poorly exposed in the flat-lying study area, where they are extensively mantled by fossil-poor Late Caenozoic deposits such as Kalahari sands, calcretes and surface gravels.

Final Comment:

SAHRA has no objection based on the archaeological and palaeontological components of the heritage resources, provided the following recommendations are implemented:

1. The stone-packed grave (D005) should be retained *in situ*. For this purpose, a proper fence must be built 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. No development is allowed within 15 meters from the fence line surrounding 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.
2. If any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources are found during development, construction or mining, SAHRA and a professional archaeologist/palaeontologist depending on the nature of the find must be alerted immediately.



3. Decisions in terms of the Built Environment (e.g. structures over 60 years) and Cultural Landscapes and associated Living Heritage must be made by the the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Northern Cape (Mr Ratha Timothy, ratha.timothy@gmail.com).

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/174044>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/698)

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.

