



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: Ragna Redelstorff, PhD

Tel: +27 (0)21 202 8651

Email: rredelstorff@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 7955

Date: Tuesday June 29, 2021

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Final Comment

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

Attention: Eland Photovoltaic (Pty) Ltd

Proposed 10MW Harmony Eland PV Solar Facility, Matjhabeng Local Municipality and the Lejweleputswa District Municipality, Odendaalsrus, Free State Province

The project entails the construction of a small-scale photovoltaic (PV) facility Eland and associated infrastructure on the Farms Rietpan RE/17, Tochgekregen RE/99 and Wesselia 101 near Odendaalsrus, Free State Province. This PV facility is part of a larger project "Harmony" of three PV facilities in total.

A Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) and an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) were submitted to the application:

VAN DER WALT, J. JUNE 2015. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED HARMONY GOLD ELAND PV FACILITY IN WELKOM FREE STATE PROVINCE.

As the proposed preferred area for the Eland PV facility was moved after the author undertook a field survey, the new area was subjected to superficial observations and a desktop study only. The new area contains buildings that may be older than 60 years.

The author undertook a desktop and field study on the previously proposed preferred area adjacent to the new area to assess the archaeological components. He identified, due to the disturbed nature of the area, no surface indicators of archaeological heritage resources. Demolished remains of mining related structures, probably less than 60 years old, occur. In their vicinity stone and brick cairns, postdating the mining structures, occur, which may indicate informal graves.

BAMFORD, JULY 2015. PALAEOONTOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THREE PROPOSED PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR FACILITIES FACILITIES FOR HARMONY GOLD MINING COMPANY, ODENDAALSRUS, FREE STATE PROVINCE.

The author summarises that the area of the proposed PV facility occurs within layers of the Permian Volksrust



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Formation, the potentially fossiliferous coals of which are of poor quality and lie too deep to be affected by the proposed development.

The updated EMPr, a heritage walk-down report for the final layout and supplementary letter as well as a letter confirming the developer's name change to Eland Photovoltaic (Pty) Ltd were submitted to the application.

VAN DER WALT, J. 2020. HERITAGE WALK-DOWN FOR THE PROPOSED ELAND SOLAR PV FACILITY NEAR WELKOM, FREE STATE PROVINCE.

No heritage features or sites of significance were identified. The author recommends the implementation of a chance finds procedure.

An updated PIA that was conducted by Lavin & Bamford in 2020 was subsequently submitted as requested by SAHRA.

LAVIN & BAMFORD. 2020 DESKTOP PALAEOLOGICAL SPECIALIST STUDY - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF ELAND SOLAR PV STEP-UP FACILITIES AND SUBSTATION, NEAR WELKOM, FREE STATE PROVINCE.

The proposed area is underlain by Quaternary aeolian sands and palaeontological sensitive coal deposits of the Volksrust Formation. Due to the low depth of the proposed infrastructure it is unlikely that significant palaeontological material will be affected. A Chance Finds Procedure must be implemented.

Final comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit endorses the updated EMPr as well as the recommendations in the archaeological walkdown report and updated PIA. The following conditions apply:

1. Should any objects of archaeological or palaeontological remains be found during construction activities, work must immediately stop in that area and the ECO must be informed.
2. The ECO must inform the South African Heritage Recourse Agency (SAHRA) and contact an archaeologist and/or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the find, to assess the importance and rescue them if

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necessary (with the relevant SAHRA permit). No work may be resumed in this area without the permission from the ECO and SAHRA.

3. If the newly discovered heritage resource is considered significant a Phase 2 assessment may be required. A permit from the responsible heritage authority will be needed.

4. A Chance Finds Procedures must be developed for the project to ensure that standard protocols and steps are followed should any heritage and/or fossil resources be uncovered during all phases of the project. These procedures should outline the steps and reporting structure to be followed in the instance that heritage resources are found. This must be included in the Environmental Awareness Plan.

5. The final EMPr and appendices as well as the Environmental Authorisation and all relevant documents must be 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

Ragna Redelstorff, PhD
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/289357>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1471)

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.