

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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CaseID: 9055

Date: Wednesday August 31, 2016
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Final Comment

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

Attention: Protea Solar Power Plant (Pty) Ltd

The Proposed Protea Photovoltaic Solar Energy development Facility near Vryburg, Naledi Local Municipality, North West Province

Protea Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd has contracted Environamics to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed development of the Protea Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility. The proposed development is located on the remaining extent of the farm Hartsboom no.734 HN within the Naledi Local Municipality (Vryburg Magisterial District, North West Province). The site is approximately 11km south of the town of Vryburg. The development plan for the 240ha PV facility includes the following; a 115MW PV Solar Array; Central inverters; On-site substation; Control facility; plus other supporting infrastructure (including: current and voltage regulators, internal road network, fencing).

In an Interim Comment issued on the 16 May 2016, it was requested that the survey be redone according to SAHRAs Minimum Standards, the impact on heritage resources by the proposed development footprint be assessed during the EIA phase, and the visual impact on the Cape to Cairo Railway and the Provincial Heritage Site Tiger Kloof School be assessed.

Van Schalkwyk, J. 2016. Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment for the development of the proposed Protea Solar Power Plant on a portion of the farm Hartsboom 734, Vryburg Region, North West Province.

One small low-density scatter of stone artefacts was identified (Middle/ Later Stone Age). This scatter was deemed of low enough density and significance as to make it not warrant any further mitigation or recording thereof. No additional sites were identified as a result of the revised survey.

There is some discussion regarding the Tiger Kloof School, however no assessment has been conducted and there is no discussion regarding the railway. No assessment taking into account the visual impact has been conducted, however an excerpt from the Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) conducted for the project has been included in the report, noting that the visual impact of the proposed development will be insignificant.

Should any archaeological materials or graves be encountered during the construction phase of the

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development, the find must be immediately reported to a heritage practitioner so that it can be reported and assessed.

Almond, J 2016. Palaeontological Heritage Assessment: Combined Desktop & Field-Based study: Proposed Protea Solar Plant on remaining extent of Farm Hartsboom 734 near Vryburg, North West Province.

The proposed development is underlain at depth by Permo-Carboniferous glacial sediments of the Dwyka Group (Karoo Supergroup) which is of low palaeontological sensitivity and is very poorly exposed at the surface. These deposits are overlain and mantled by much younger Cenozoic calcrete hardpans, sandy soils of possible **alioan** origin and relict alluvial gravels related to the Droë Harts River. The area has been classified as having a negative low significance rating and development may proceed.

Should any significant fossil remnants be encountered during the construction phase, the responsible Environmental Control Officer (ECO) should preserve the find *in situ* and should immediately alert SAHRA of the find. These would then be subject to further mitigation.

Final Comment

It must be noted that the quality of the report does not allow SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit to provide an informed comment, and as such SAHRA APM does not endorse or deny the proposed development. The following conditions and the recommendations provided with the report must be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr):

- Comments must be sought from North West Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (NWPHRA) regarding the Provincial Heritage Site Tiger Kloof School;
- The final EIA and all appendices must be submitted to SAHRA and uploaded to the case file;
- If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils, stromatolites or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/John Gribble 021 462 5402) must be alerted. Instances of stromatolite mats have been identified in the surrounding areas, and the Environmental Control Officer must be alerted to this;
- If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Itumeleng Masiteng/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately. A professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required;

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- Should the proposed development be granted an EA, SAHRA must be informed and the decision letter must be uploaded to the case file.

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

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

John Gribble
Manager: Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit / Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/354815>

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.