



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: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 14317

Date: Friday February 28, 2020
Page No: 1

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Bloemsmond 5 Solar

The PV energy facility is to consist of solar photovoltaic (PV) technology, fixed-tilt-, single-axis tracking- or dual-axis tracking- mounting structures, with a net generating capacity of 100 MW as well as associated infrastructure

Cape EA Prac have been appointed by Bloemsmond Solar 5 (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application process for the proposed Bloemsmond 5 PV facility on portion 5 and portion 14 of the farm Bloemsmond 455, near Upington, Northern Cape Province (DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2044).

A Final Basic Assessment Report (FBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include PV panels, substation, auxiliary buildings, underground cabling, access roads and internal roads, laydown area, rainwater tanks and perimeter fencing.

Natura Viva CC and Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting (HCAC) were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process as per section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA.

Almond, J. E. 2019. Recommended Exemption from further Palaeontological Studies: Proposed Bloemsmond 3, Bloemsmond 4 and Bloemsmond 5 Solar PV Facilities on portion 5 and 14 of the farm Bloemsmond 455 near Upington and their connections to the National Grid via the Upington Main Transmission Substation, ZF Mgcawu District Municipality, Northern Cape.

The proposed development area is underlain by unfossiliferous Precambrian basement rocks (Namaqua-Natal Province Formation) which are overlain by superficial Quaternary sediments and Late Cenozoic calcretes that do not allow for good fossil preservation. The impact to palaeontological heritage is assumed to be low. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented and is appended to the report.

Van der Walt, J. 2019. Heritage Impact Assessment: Bloemsmond 5 PV Project, Upington, Northern Cape Province.



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: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 14317

Date: Friday February 28, 2020
Page No: 2

A total of seven heritage resources were identified within the development footprint. These include a scatter of Later Stone Age (LSA) flakes (B5/1) and a rectangular stone foundation (B5/2) of low heritage significance; a collapsed oval stone feature (B5/5), a circular stone house (B5/7) and a large pan with a higher density Stone Age scatter (B5/6) rated as sites of low to medium significance; a stone kraal with monoliths (B5/4) rated as having a medium heritage significance; and a LSA stone enclosure with LSA and historical artefacts (B5/3) rated as a site of high heritage significance.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Features B5/1, B5/2, B5/4, B5/5, B5/6 and B5/7 have to be preserved in situ with a 30 m buffer;
- Features B5/3 has to be preserved in situ with a 50 m buffer;
- The implementation of a chance finds procedure during the pre-construction and construction phase of the project; and
- The lay out of the project changed after the field survey and it is recommended that the areas that were not covered during the initial survey should be subjected to a heritage walk through prior to development.

The Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) concluded that the proposed development is unlikely to result in a loss of significant visual and scenic resources.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final EIA and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows:
- A Heritage Management Plan (HMP) must be developed and submitted to SAHRA for approval prior to construction commencing. The HMP must form part of the EMPr;
- If it is not possible to avoid the heritage sites, permits in terms of section 35 of the NHRA and Chapter II and IV of the NHRA Regulations must be applied for from SAHRA in order to mitigate the sites. No damage may occur to the sites without a permit issued for this purpose;



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: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za

Date: Friday February 28, 2020
Page No: 3

CaseID: 14317

- As per Figure 5 of the HIA, the areas not surveyed as part of the EA application process must be surveyed prior to ground clearance. A report detailing the results of the walk-down must be submitted to SAHRA for comment. No construction may occur without comments from SAHRA;
- 38(4)c(i) – 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 or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
- As the FBAR has been submitted, there is no opportunity to include SAHRA comments as per section 38(8) of the NHRA. This comment must be forwarded directly to the competent authority to be included in the decision-making process as per section 38(8) of the NHRA. Proof of the delivery and receipt thereof must be submitted to the SAHRIS application for record purposes; and
- The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

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

Yours faithfully

Our Ref:



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: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 14317

Date: Friday February 28, 2020
Page No: 4

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/528334>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2043)

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.