



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 14587

Date: Monday January 13, 2020  
Page No: 1

## Final Decision

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

Attention: Groenheuwel

**Applicant: PV Solution Services (Pty) Ltd Conduct of a Heritage Impact Assessment for the construction of a proposed 990 kWp solar plant occupying an area of ~9800m<sup>2</sup> and short power line of ±6.5 km, close to the town of Augrabies, within the Kai !Garib Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province. In terms of the NHRA (No 25 of 1999, Section 38), it is required that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) be conducted to detect the presence of heritage material within the planned development footprint.**

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by PV Solutions Services (Pty) Ltd as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to manage the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) Process as per section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) for a proposed Photovoltaic (PV) facility and associated powerline near Augrabies, Kai !Garib Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province.

The PV plant will cover an area of 9800 m<sup>2</sup> and the powerline will be ±6.5 km in length.

PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd was appointed to compile an HIA as per section 38(3) of the NHRA. The HIA and Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) were released for public review on the 13 November 2019 – 13 December 2019.

*Butler, E. 2019. Palaeontological Desktop Assessment for the proposed 990kWp Groenheuwel Solar Plant near Augrabies, Northern Cape Province.*

The proposed development area is underlain by the ancient Precambrian Riemvasmaak Gneiss and Augrabies Granite Gneiss formations that do not preserve fossil material. These formations are overlain by Gordonia Formation sands that are of low sensitivity. A Chance Finds Protocol is recommended to be followed.

*Kitto, J. 2019. Heritage Impact Report for the Proposed Groenheuwel 990 kWp Solar Plant, Augrabies, Kai !Garib Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province.*



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Page No: 2

A Middle Stone Age surface artefact scatter of medium significance was identified within the proposed powerline route on a flat area between two ridges. The scatter contains artefacts such as flakes made from chert, siltstone and quartz, and a platform core.

Recommended provided in the report include the following:

- The powerline must be re-aligned so that it spans over the southern section of the identified site;
- No pylons may be erected within the identified site. If this cannot be avoided, the area that will be impacted must be mitigated before construction by means of surface collection and documentation;
- If pylons need to be located close to the identified site, it is recommended that the eastern section of the site that is already disturbed may be used;
- If access must be gained to the identified site, the small existing track that passes through the site must be used, but only if absolutely necessary;
- Develop a chance finds protocol for the mitigation of possible heritage finds, to be implemented as part of the EMPr of the construction phase of the project;
- If any artefacts are identified during construction, the chance finds protocol must be implemented.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 07/01/2020, SAHRA requested that the results of the public consultation be submitted before further comments would be issued.

Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, the Comments and Response report has been submitted to SAHRIS, along with other public participation documents. No comments were received during the public review period.

### Final Decision

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 38(8) of the NHRA:

- 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. Additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows:
- A buffer of 30 m must be maintained from the perimeter of the identified MSA site. All construction activities may not occur within 30 m of the perimeter of the site;
- If this is not possible, a permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA and Chapter II and III of the NHRA



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Page No: 3

Regulations must be made to SAHRA via SAHRIS prior to construction. No construction work may commence within the site without a permit issued for this purpose;

- 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.

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

Yours faithfully

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Natasha Higgitt  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Page No: 4

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

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/531240>

**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.