



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 14587

Date: Tuesday January 07, 2020
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Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3) 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 ~9800m² 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 m² 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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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.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit will withhold comments in terms of section 38(4) of the NHRA until the results of the public review period are provided as per section 38(3)e of the NHRA.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested information.

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
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South African Heritage Resources Agency

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