



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: 15175

Date: Friday January 29, 2021
Page No: 1

Final Comment

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

Attention: Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

Gunstfontein Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd proposes the construction and operation of a grid connection solution, known as the “grid extension infrastructure” for the authorised Gunstfontein Wind Farm (DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/826), near Sutherland, Northern Cape Province. The grid connection solution will include the development of a double-circuit 132kV overhead power line (known as the Gunstfontein 132kV OHL extension double-circuit power line) to connect the Gunstfontein Wind Farm to the national grid, via the Hidden Valley substation. The proposed 132kV OHL extension will be an extension of the already authorised Gunstfontein Grid Connection (14/12/16/3/3/1/1619). Other associated infrastructure will also be required for the grid connection solution, such as access tracks/roads and laydown areas. A corridor 300m wide and approximately 7.5km long along with an assessment zone of 200m around the starting and terminating substation boundaries (collectively known as the grid corridor) is being assessed to allow for the optimisation of the grid (i.e. eventual micro siting) and associated infrastructure and to accommodate environmental sensitivities and other energy infrastructure currently under construction on the properties. It must be noted that the assessed corridor route is located directly adjacent and parallel to the approved Soetwater power line routing (this powerline connects the Heuwels and Hidden Valley substations, and is currently under construction by Soetwater and Karusa Wind Farms respectively). The proposed development consists of: A double-circuit 132kV overhead power line (known as the Gunstfontein 132kV OHL extension double-circuit power line); and Associated infrastructure: Laydown areas. Access and service tracks. A corridor 300m wide and approximately 7.5km long as well as a 200m wide assessment zone around each of the two substations is being assessed to allow for the optimisation of the grid and associated infrastructure and to accommodate environmental sensitivities. The grid infrastructure (including the power line and associated infrastructure) will be developed within the assessed 300m wide corridor and a 200m assessment zone around each of the substations (known as the grid connection infrastructure). The grid connection infrastructure will be located within a grid connection corridor located directly parallel and approximately 15m west of the authorised Soetwater WEF power line

Proposed Grid connection extension infrastructure for the Gunsfontein Wind Farm, Northern Cape.

Our Ref: 15175



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: 15175

Date: Friday January 29, 2021
Page No: 2

routing. The height of the power line towers of the 132kV double-circuit power line will be up to 32m and the servitude width of the power line will be up to 40m. The entire extent of the corridor proposed for the development is located within the Komsberg Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ) and within the central corridor of the Strategic Transmission Corridors. Access to the grid connection corridor is possible via numerous existing smaller farm roads in close vicinity to the corridor, primarily off the Regional 354 (R354) tarred road running between Matjiesfontein and Sutherland towns. Apart from these existing roads, the authorised Gunstfontein 132kV powerline provides for an access/service track along its length that can also be used to access the corridor. In addition, existing access roads to the Huewels and Hidden Valley substations (currently under construction) will be used to access the start- and end- point of the OHL extension. Formal roads will not be constructed underneath the power line for maintenance purposes, but rather access for maintenance purposes will be limited to jeep tracks running along the length of the line. Where possible, the existing service track for the Soetwater powerline will be utilised.

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Gunstfontein Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application process to extend the authorised Gunstfontein Grid Connection powerline to the authorised Gunstfontein Wind Farm, near Sutherland, Northern Cape Province

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) was submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed extension of the powerline will include the construction of a 7.5 km single or double circuit 132KV overhead powerline, laydown areas and access and service tracks.

In a Final Comment issued on the 20/11/2020, SAHRA noted no objections to the proposed development and provided conditions for the development (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/546200>).

Since the issuing of the Final Comment, a revised DBAR has been submitted for review noting that a small layout adjustment was required due to capacity issues at the Heuwels Substation. The layout amendment includes by-passing the Heuwels Substation and extending the authorised grid connection to connect to the Hidden Valley Substation.

Cedar Tower Services (Pty) Ltd was appointed to provide heritage specialist input for the revised BAR.

Lavin, J. 2020. The Proposed Extension of Grid Connection Infrastructure for the Gunstfontein Wind Farm, Northern Cape Province (DEFF Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2228).

Proposed Grid connection extension infrastructure for the Gunsfontein Wind Farm, Northern Cape.

Our Ref: 15175



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: 15175

Date: Friday January 29, 2021
Page No: 3

The specialist confirmed that the layout adjustment has no material change on the original assessment's findings, impacts and recommendations. The recommendations and findings of the original report therefore will apply to the revised layout.

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 BAR and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed amendment to the authorised development, including the revised layout as noted in the revised DBAR;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No further additional specific conditions are provided for the development;
- 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;
- The Final BAR and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA Amendment Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

Proposed Grid connection extension infrastructure for the Gunsfontein Wind Farm, Northern Cape.

Our Ref: 15175



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: 15175

Date: Friday January 29, 2021
Page No: 4

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

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/537577>

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.