

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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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
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CaseID: 15939

Date: Tuesday February 02, 2021
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Final Comment

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

Attention: Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners

PO Box 2070
George
6530

Geelkop Grid Connection, Northern Cape Province

Cape EAPrac was appointed by Geel Kop Grid (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed establishment of a several powerlines connecting various PV Solar facilities to the grid, near Bloemsmond, Northern Cape Province (DEFF Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2235).

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed infrastructure will include five overhead powerlines, three switching stations, one collector switching station and additional infrastructure such as access roads and laydown areas.

Prof Marion Bamford and Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting has been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Bamford, M. 2020. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Geel Kop Grid Connection Infrastructure Northern Cape Province.

The development footprint is underlain by non-fossiliferous volcanic and igneous rocks of the Kakamas Terrane, Namaqua-Natal Province, which are mantled by Gordonia Formation sands and Tertiary limestones; however, as no palaeo-spring or palaeo-pan deposits are present it is unlikely that any fossils are present. A Fossil Chance Find Protocol is recommended to be added to the EMPr.

Walt, J. 2020. Heritage Impact Assessment Geel Kop PV Facilities Grid Project, Upington, Northern Cape Province.



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A total of 35 heritage resources were identified that include mostly low-density surface scatters of Stone Age lithics of low significance with one of medium significance (Waypoint 119), a wagon road of medium significance and water reservoir of low significance, and two stone cairns (Waypoint 111) of unknown purpose, noted that if confirmed to be graves, would be of a high heritage significance rating. The impact on the wagon road (Site 1) will be sufficiently mitigated as per the recommendations made in the Gordonia PV report (Van der Walt 2020). The stone cairns are located 82 m north of the powerline and will not be directly impacted.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The final alignment must be subjected to a walk down prior to development;
- Avoidance of Waypoint 111 and 119 (Table 8 and 9);
- A chance find procedure must be implemented for the project as outlined in Section 10.1.

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 EMP:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed amendment to the authorised 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 report detailing the results of the recommended walk-down of the finalised footprint and pylon foundations must be submitted to SAHRA for review and comment. No construction may occur without comments from SAHRA in this regard;
- A no-go buffer zone of 30 m must be maintained around waypoints 111 and 119;
- 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)

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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 the SAHRIS application for record purposes;
 - 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

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit

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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/551864>

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.