



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 16435

Date: Friday October 22, 2021

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## Final Comment

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

Attention: Dreamworks Haven Investments (Pty) Ltd

**The Applicant (Dreamworks Haven Investments Pty Ltd) proposes to develop the Halfgewonnen Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facilities on Portions 7, 8, 9 and 16 of the Farm Halfgewonnen 190 IS in the Mpumalanga Province. The total proposed Halfgewonnen Solar PV Facility will generate approximately 80 Mega Watts (MW) of electricity. The proposed Halfgewonnen Solar PV Project comprises of two components: ? Halfgewonnen Solar PV Facility 1 will generate approximately 20 Mega Watts (MW) for initial use by the immediately surrounding mines. Construction is expected to take approximately 10 months. The total development footprint will not exceed 30 Ha. ? Halfgewonnen Solar PV Facility 2 will generate approximately 60 MW for distribution into the National Grid. Construction is expected to take approximately 12 months. The total development footprint will be about 60 Ha. The Project will form part of the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) renewable energy independent power producer procurement programme (REIPPP).**

Dreamworks Haven Investments has appointed Cabanga Concepts (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment application process in support for an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) as amended, for activities that trigger the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 2014 Regulations, as amended.

The Solar facility is located in an approved mine right area, on Portions 7, 8, 9, and 16 of the farm Halfgewonnen 190 IS, in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality of Mpumalanga Province.

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report by Archaetnos Culture and Cultural Resources Consultants (Pty) Ltd has been submitted to SAHRA for commenting in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

*Van Vollenhoven, A.J. February 2021. A Report on an Archaeological Impact Assessment for the Halfgewonnen Solar PV Facilities, Close to Hendrina, Mpumalanga Province.*

The author undertook a field assessment of the proposed solar PV plant and did not identify any heritage sites within the footprint area, but identified 4 sites just outside. Sites 1 and 2 are burial grounds which are of local



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high significance. Sites 3 is a farmyard of low significance and Site 4 is a historical post office building of local medium significance.

The author recommends the following:

Sites 1 and 2 should be conserved in situ.

Site 3 has been sufficiently recorded in the report, and

Site 4 must be conserved in situ with measures to prevent impacts by the development. This building should also be included in the heritage register.

The author provides chance finds procedures to be followed in the HIA report.

The SAHRA APM Unit issued an Interim Comment dated 12/07/2021 requesting a PIA report to be submitted to the case. It was submitted 25/08/2021.

*Bamford, M. July 2021. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Dreamworks Solar PV Facility, Farm Halfgewonnen 190 IS, southwest of Hendrina, Mpumalanga Province.*

The study area is underlain by non fossiliferous Selons River Formation, Pretoria Group, Transvaal Supergroup in the south of the study area and very high significant fossiliferous shales and sandstones of the Vryheid Formation, Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup. The area is overlain by deep soils and sand of the Quaternary age, which are of low palaeontological significance. No surface exposure of the Vryheid Formation was observed and there are no recorded occurrences of fossils in this region. There is a low likelihood of fossils being identified in the study area. The author recommends the chance finds procedure under section 8 of the report is included in the EMP.

### Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) accepts the HIA and PIA reports and the recommendations contained in them. The SAHRA has no objection to the development going ahead on the following conditions:

The ECO must monitor construction activities around sites within close proximity to the development footprint area

If fossil remains or trace fossils are discovered during any phase of construction, either on the surface or exposed by excavations the Environmental Officer (EO) in charge of these developments must be informed. These discoveries ought to be protected and the ECO must report to SAHRA.

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A Chance Finds Fossil Procedures included under section 8 of the PIA report must be included in the EMPr.

In the event that fossils are uncovered during construction then construction must cease within the immediate vicinity, a buffer of 30 m must be established, and a palaeontologist called in to inspect the finds. The palaeontologist must obtain a section 35(4) permit in terms of NHRA and Chapter IV NHRA Regulations, before any fossils are collected.

If there are any new heritages resources are discovered during construction and operation phases of the proposed development, then a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings at the expense of the developer.

If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required at the expense of the developer. Mitigation will only be carried out after the archaeologist or palaeontologist obtains a permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999). You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8654).

If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the police find them to be heritage graves, then mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be contacted for processes to follow (Thingahangwi Tshivase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490).

Once a Record of Decision from the competent authority is issued, it must also be submitted to the case.

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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Nokukhanya Khumalo  
Heritage Officer

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South African Heritage Resources Agency

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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: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/573827>