

Finalisation of the Environmental Management Programme reports and final layout for the 132 KV powerline and 132KV switching station and associated infrastructure for the Sutherland & Rietrug WEFs, Northern Cape Province

Our Ref:



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: 021 202 8660
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za

Date: Monday February 06, 2023
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CaseID: 17529

Final Comment

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

Attention: South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd

P.O. Box 45063
Claremont
7753

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME REPORTS AND FINAL LAYOUT FOR THE 132KV POWERLINE AND 132KV SWITCHING STATION AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT THE SUTHERLAND AND RIETRUG WIND ENERGY FACILITIES (DFFE REF.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2457/AM1) NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Nala Environmental Consulting has been appointed by Sutherland Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd to submit the Final Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the authorised 132KV powerline, 132KV switching station and associated infrastructure to support the authorised Sutherland and Rietrug Wind Energy Facilities, near Sutherland, Northern Cape Province (14/12/16/3/3/1/2457).

Generic EMPrs has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. Heritage Walkdown reports were conducted to inform the EMPrs.

Almond, J. E. 2022. Palaeontological Heritage Report: Combined Desktop & Field-Based Study. Authorised 140MW Rietrug (DFFE Ref: 12/12/20/1782/1/AM5) and 140MW Sutherland (DFFE Ref: 12/12/20/1782/2/AM6) Wind Energy Facilities (WEFS) and their Associated Grid Connections (DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2457/AM1, 14/12/16/3/3/1/2458 & 14/12/16/3/3/1/2077/AM2) Between Sutherland & Merweville, Karoo Hoogland Municipality (Namaqua District), Northern Cape and Laingsburg Municipality (Central Karoo District), Western Cape Provinces.

None of the new fossil sites lie directly within or close to (< 20 m) the WEF and grid connection project footprints while scientifically valuable sites have already been sampled for curation in the palaeontological collections of the Evolutionary Studies Institute (ESI), Wits University Johannesburg (Fossil Collection Permit of Professor Bruce Rubidge). No mitigation measures - including micro-siting of the proposed final layouts - are therefore proposed in their regard.



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Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The final, approved layouts of the WEF and its associated Grid Connection Infrastructure must be cross-checked by a professional palaeontologist against the available palaeontological database prior to commencement of site clearing and excavation activities. Residual, potentially sensitive, unsurveyed sectors of the project footprint must be surveyed and mitigated in the Pre-construction Phase (prior to any site clearance and bedrock excavations) by a professional palaeontologist, with recording and judicious sampling or collection of scientifically valuable fossil material.
- A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented and is provided in the report.

Orton, J. 2022. Pre-Construction Archaeological Survey of the Authorised 140MW Sutherland Wind Energy Facility and Associated Grid Connection Infrastructure, Northern & Western Cape Provinces.

A total of two new previously unidentified heritage sites were identified within the development footprint. These include stone walled features of low heritage significance.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The sites identified for avoidance must be avoided (Site 600 and 601 (Northern Cape));
- Flagging of no-go areas is required for sites less than 30 m from the project footprint (Northern Cape). This must be done before construction and the sites must be monitored for compliance during construction by the ECO (at least weekly while construction is busy in the relevant areas);
- Unsurveyed sections of the approved final layout must be checked in the field prior to commencement of construction in case of further small sites requiring recording or mitigation (Northern Cape and Western Cape);
- If road widening occurs at waypoint 560 (Northern Cape) then no material may be disposed of down the slope;
- No stones may be removed from any heritage sites (Northern Cape);
- All construction work must occur within the demarcated project footprints and vehicles may not move outside of these areas (Northern Cape);
- A Permit application must be lodged with SAHRA for any mitigation required in Northern Cape (currently none is needed);
- The developer is reminded that if any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development then work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to

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be reported to the heritage authorities (SAHRA or HWC as appropriate) and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.

The Generic EMPs contain management measures for the management and protection of heritage resources.

Final Comment

**The comments below pertain only to the Northern Cape section of the development.*

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 EMP:

- The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the submitted EMPs;
- The recommendations of the specialists and the management measures within the EMP are supported and must be adhered to. No further additional specific conditions are provided for the development.

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
Manager: Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/588895>
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