

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 17965

Date: Tuesday October 04, 2022
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Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Mr Shaun Macgregor
Ecoleges Environmental Consultants
PO Box 9005
NELSPRUIT
1200

The development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa

Ecoleges Environmental Consultants has been appointed by Soventix South Africa (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed 400MW Solar PV Facility on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development (600 ha) will include the construction of solar panels, inverters, transformers, on-site substation, 66 to 132KV overhead distribution line, construction camp and laydown area, rack foundations, pylon footings, underground cables, water pipes, roads, fire break and fencing posts, borrow pit, water tanks and deionization plant(s), two track access roads, existing roads to be upgraded and road crossings, fencing, and waste water system.

Natura Viva CC and APelser Archaeological Consulting were 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).

Almond, J. E. 2022. Site Sensitivity Verification Report (in terms of Part A of the Assessment Protocols Published in GN 320 On 20 March 2020). Proposed Development of a 400 Mw Solar Photovoltaic Facility on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goedehoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover,



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Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

The proposed development footprint is underlain by the potentially fossiliferous sediments of the Adelaide Subgroup, however based on recent fieldwork (2021 and 2022) conducted in the development area, no high sensitivity fossil sites are located within the proposed development area. The Adelaide Formation is intersected by unfossiliferous igneous rocks, and largely covered by Pleistocene to recent alluvial deposits. Fossils identified include breccia with bone and wood fragments, invertebrate burrows, and reworked silicified wood fragments of low heritage significance. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended to be followed.

Pelser, A. 2022. A Report on a Phase 1 Archaeological & Heritage Impact Assessment related to the Development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility and Associated (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

It is noted that large sections of the development footprint could not be surveyed due to heavy unseasonal rainfall. It is also noted that several heritage resources were identified as part of previous assessments conducted in 2017 and 2021, while additional sites were identified as part of the 2022 field assessment.

A total of 31 heritage resources were identified as part of the 2022 field assessment. These include open air surface scatters of Stone Age lithics of low to medium heritage significance, a stone built kraal and stone cairn of low heritage significance, and stone cairns of medium to high heritage significance that may be markers along the old wagon road linking historical farmsteads.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Detailed mapping of the Stone Age sites to determine their extents; and
- Surface collection of material to obtain a representative sample of Stone Age material and types to determine the age of the material and sites;
- Desktop Research on the age, origin and function of the road;
- Detailed mapping and photographic recording of the section of the road located in the development footprint;
- Preserving a section of the possible road located within the development footprint and the erection of

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Information Signage on the history of the road;

- All of the above recommended work must be completed by an appropriately qualified heritage specialist;
- A Chance Find Procedure must be implemented.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests the HIA be revised to include the following:

- To clarify if the previously identified heritage resources have been included in the discussion of identified heritage resources;
- A map of all heritage resources located within the development area, which must include previously identified heritage resources (this is not clear in the submitted HIA);
- Clear descriptions of each site with clear significance ratings per site;
- An assessment of the impact of the development on all of the identified heritage resources.

SAHRA will provide further comments upon receipt of a revised HIA and the Draft EIA report inclusive of all appendices.

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

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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/592717>