

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  
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
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CaseID: 18196

Date: Friday August 05, 2022  
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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: Orange River Solar Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd

**Orange River Solar Facility 1 (PTY) Ltd has initiated the process to construct a proposed 50MW photovoltaic solar plant on Portion of the Farm Rooisand 387, located near Groblershoop, Northern Cape Province.**

Environmental Management Group (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Orange River Solar Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed development of the 50MW PV Orange River Solar Facility 1, on Portion of the Farm Rooisand 387 Groblershoop, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Scoping Report 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 will include the construction of PV solar panels, a new gravel road, 10MW inverter station (7.5 m x 3.5 m), Eskom Substation and an operation and maintenance building within a site of 178 ha.

The HIA submitted to the application was written by Ubique Heritage Consultants in 2018 for a holiday resort development.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 08/04/2022, SAHRA requested that an application specific assessment of the impact to heritage resources be conducted as part of the EA process that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA as required by section 38(8) of the NHRA and section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA. Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, an application specific HIA has been submitted to the case for review (01/07/2022) and a draft Basic Assessment Report (05/08/2022).

*Rossouw, L. 2022. Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed Orange River Solar 1 SPV facility on Portion 18 of the farm Rooisand 387 near Groblershoop, NC Province*

The proposed development footprint is underlain by metavolcanic-metasedimentary rocks of the Groblershoop Formation and is not considered to be palaeontologically significant. Identified heritage resources include low density isolated finds of unifacially prepared Early Stone Age lithics of low heritage significance.

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Recommendations provided in the report include that a professional archaeologist is appointed as part of the project management plan to monitor for and map potentially rare Early Stone Age LCT occurrences at the forthcoming solar panel positions during the construction phase of the development.

## 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 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 monitoring report of the recommended monitoring must be submitted to SAHRA upon completion of the construction phase;
- 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/Ngqabutho Madida 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 of the NHRA regarding offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
- With reference to the mitigation work noted above, a qualified archaeologist must be appointed to undertake the work in terms of the permit applied for as noted above;
- 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;

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- The Final BAR and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA 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

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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/594073>  
(DAFF, Ref: )

**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.

# Proposed Groblershoop Solar Facility Development

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3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.