

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: 18312

Date: Wednesday May 11, 2022
Page No: 1

Final Comment

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

Attention: Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

AGV Projects (Pty) Ltd is proposing the development of a solar PV facility (known as the Red Sands PV3 facility) and associated infrastructure on a site located approximately 22km northeast of Groblershoop, within the !Kheis Local Municipality and the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. The project is to be known as Red Sands PV3 and will have a contracted capacity of up to 75MW. A preferred project site with an extent of ~3380ha and a development area of ~184ha within the project site has been identified by AGV Projects (Pty) Ltd as a technically suitable area for the development of the Red Sands PV3 facility. The development area for the PV facility is located on Portion 19 of the Farm Rooisand 387. The project site is accessible via an existing gravel farm road from an existing main gravel road off the N8 which is located southeast of the project site.

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by AGV Projects (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Red Sands PV 3 Facility on Portion 19 of the Farm Rooisand 387, near Groblershoop, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) was submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA EIA Regulations (As amended). The proposed development will include the construction of a solar array, inverters and transformers, cabling between modules and inverters, and between project components on the substation, on-site substation, fencing, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), site offices and maintenance buildings, including workshop areas, laydown areas, access roads and internal distribution roads, with an overall development area of 184 ha.

Dr Marion Bamford and CTS Heritage were appointed to provide the heritage specialist reports as part of the EA process as required in terms of section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Lavin, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment in terms of Section 38(8) of the NHRA for the proposed

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development of the Red Sands PV 3 Facility in the Northern Cape.

A total of 19 heritage resources were identified within the proposed development area. The HIA contains the following recommendations based on two heritage specialist reports noted below:

- The mitigation measures proposed in the VIA (2021) are implemented;
- A no-go buffer area of 300m must be implemented around Site Red Sands-019 to ensure that no indirect impact takes place. This site should also be marked as no-go on all development maps and SDPs;
- A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended.

Bamford, M. 2021. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Red Sands Solar PV projects northeast of Groblershoop, Northern Cape Province.

The proposed development area is underlain by non-fossiliferous Groblershoop Formation with overlying moderately fossiliferous Quaternary Kalahari Sands. A Fossil Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be added to the EMPr which is provided in the report.

2021. Archaeological Specialist Study in terms of section 38(8) of the NHRA for a proposed development of the Red Sands PV Cluster in the Northern Cape Province.

The heritage resources identified within PV 3 include surface scatters of Stone Age lithics of negligible significance, modern farmhouse and associated structures, and one painted rock art site with associated Stone Age lithics and deposit of Grade IIIA heritage significance.

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. No further additional specific conditions are provided for the development;

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- 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 for 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;
 - 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

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer

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South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/595233>

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.