

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: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 19833

Date: Monday November 14, 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

Riet Fountain Solar PV1 (Pty) Ltd is proposing the development of a Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Energy Facility and associated infrastructure on Portion 1 of the Farm Riet Fountain No.6, located approximately 10km east of De Aar within the Emthanjeni Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. The facility will have a contracted capacity of up to 100MW and will be known as Fountain Solar PV1. The project is planned as part of a cluster of renewable energy facilities known as Pixley Park, which includes three (3) additional 100MW Solar PV Facilities (Wagt Solar PV1, Carolus PV1, and Fountain Solar PV), and grid connection infrastructure connecting the facilities to the existing Hydra Substation. The projects will all connect to the new Vetlaagte Main Transmission Substation (MTS) via the Wag 'n Bietjie MTS.

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Riet Fountain Solar PV 1 (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Riet Fountain Electrical Grid Infrastructure, near De Aar, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) 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 an on-site switching station (100 x 100 x 30 m), 132kV overhead powerline, and access roads.

CTS Heritage and Banzai Environmental (Pty) Ltd have been 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).

Butler, E. 2022. Palaeontological Impact Assessment Proposed Development of the Pixley Park Ref and Associated Infrastructure near De Aar, Northern Cape Province

Development of the grid connection infrastructure for the Riet Fountain Solar PV1 Facility near De Aar, Northern Cape Province

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The proposed development area is underlain by the Abrahamskraal Formation Adelaide Subgroup, Quaternary alluvium and Jurassic dolerite. No fossils were identified within the proposed Riet Fountain Grid development footprint.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The Environmental Control Officer (ECO), responsible for the development, should be aware of the possibility of finding fossils in the Adelaide Subgroup (Beaufort Group, Karoo Supergroup) and Quaternary deposits of the area; and
- A Chance Finds Procedure must be implemented.

Lavin, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment in terms of Section 38(8) of the NHRA for the Development of the grid connection infrastructure for the Riet Fountain Solar PV1 Facility near De Aar, Northern Cape Province

A total of 32 heritage resources were identified within the proposed development area. These include surface scatters of Stone Age lithics and old farm dam of negligible heritage significance, one Stone Age site of Grade IIIB and one Stone Age site of Grade IIIC heritage significance.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- A 30 m no-go development area must be implemented around site 004;
- A 100m no-go development area must be implemented around site 014;
- The attached Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is implemented for the duration of construction activities;
- An inspection of excavations is undertaken by a palaeontologist during the construction phase;
- Should any buried archaeological resources or human remains or burials be uncovered during the course of development activities, work must cease in the vicinity of these finds. The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be contacted immediately in order to determine an appropriate way forward.

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 EMP:

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- 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:
- Should it not be possible to avoid impact to Site 004 and 014, permits in terms of section 35 of the NHRA must be applied for mitigation of these sites;
- 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;
- 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

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/606854>

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.