

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 20341

Date: Friday June 30, 2023
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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: Kudu Solar Facility 6 (Pty) Ltd

Kudu Solar Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd to Kudu Solar Facility 12 (Pty) Ltd is proposing to develop 12 Solar Photovoltaic (PV) power generation facilities and associated Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI), north-east of the town of De Aar, in the Renosterberg Local Municipality and Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, in the Northern Cape Province. Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Processes are currently being undertaken for the 12 Solar PV facilities. Separate Basic Assessment (BA) and/or EGI Standard Registration processes will be commissioned separately, once finalised, for the EGI projects. This case is for the proposed Kudu Solar Facility 6, and the Applicant is Kudu Solar Facility 6 (Pty) Ltd.

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been appointed by ABO Wind renewable energies (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation Application for the proposed Kudu Solar Facility 6 and associated infrastructure, near De Aar, Northern Cape Province.

A Draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed activities will include the construction of solar panels, auxiliary buildings, inverter/transformer stations, on-site substation complex, battery energy storage system (BESS), underground cables, access roads, internal roads, fencing, storm water channels, panel cleaning and maintenance area, laydown areas with an overall application area of 260 ha.

Natura Viva CC and ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process as per 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: Proposed Development of the Kudu Solar Photovoltaic Facilities and Associated Infrastructure near Philipstown and De Aar, Pixley Ka Seme District, Northern Cape Province.

A report that combines the assessment of all 12 Kudu Solar Projects has been submitted.



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The proposed development footprint is underlain by the Waterford Formation, the Tierberg Formation and are overlain by the Late Caenozoic calccrete hardpans, alluvial deposits, surface gravels and soils of low sensitivity. A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

Orton, J. 2022. Heritage Specialist Scoping Report Inputs: Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process for the Proposed Development of a Solar Photovoltaic Facility (Kudu Solar Facility 6) and associated infrastructure, near De Aar, Northern Cape Province

A total of seven heritage resources were identified within the Kudu Solar Facility 6. These include ground and incised dolerite rocks, berms and two stone-lined dams of very low and low heritage significance respectively.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Avoid stone dams (Site 1068);
- A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended; and
- the recommendations of the Visual Impact Assessment must be followed.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 25/01/2023, SAHRA requested that the HIA be revised and an addendum to the PIA must be submitted with specific results for the Kudu Solar 6 project. Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, an HIA and PIA have been submitted (04/06/2023).

Almond, J. E. 2023. Site Sensitivity Verification Report (In Terms of Part A of the Assessment Protocols Published in GN 320 on 20 March 2020). Proposed Development of the Kudu Solar Photovoltaic Facilities and Associated Infrastructure near Philipstown and De Aar, Pixley Ka Seme District, Northern Cape Province

No fossils were identified within the proposed development area. A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be followed.

Orton, J. 2023. Heritage Specialist Study: Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Processes for the Proposed Development of a Solar Photovoltaic Facility (Kudu Solar Facility 6) and associated infrastructure, near De Aar, Northern Cape Province

The report has been revised to include a tracklog of the completed survey and additional discussions regarding identified heritage resources, including surface scatters of Stone Age lithics, ground and incised



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dolerite boulders and a stone beacon of very low heritage significance. A historical farmstead (Site 1058) is located immediately adjacent to the footprint which has been avoided with a 50 m buffer.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- A pre-construction survey for graves and/or other historical features around the archaeological farmstead must be carried out in short grass conditions;
- The farmstead area must also be recorded in more detail when visibility is better;
- Any low dolerite outcrops included within the final footprint should also be examined in more detail for traces of engravings or other features;
- No stones or any other materials may be removed from any of the historical ruins in the area;
- The various features bordering the access road must be flagged as No-Go areas and monitored during construction to ensure that the largest vehicles will be able to make use of the upgraded road without causing impacts;
- When the access road is upgraded in the vicinity of the historical farmstead any widening required should, if possible, be done on the side of the track where the most space is available;
- If any extra land is available within the project area, then the buffers around the farmstead should be increased where possible.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final EIA and EMP:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Applications 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:
- The farmstead features located along the proposed access route must be clearly demarcated. A speed limit of 20 km/h must be adhered to within this section of the road. Speed bumps may be considered along this section of road to ensure slow speeds are adhered to in this section. Large vehicles with abnormal loads must be monitored when moving through this area to ensure no accidental damage to the farmstead and associated features;
- If the road requires widening for any purpose, a heritage specialist must provide their opinion on the proposed widening and design the road layout accordingly taking any sensitive zones into consideration, and recommend any additional mitigation measures to be implemented. This must be



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submitted to SAHRA prior to construction for comment. No construction may commence without comments from SAHRA;

- A report detailing the results of the pre-construction survey, including the recommended examination of low dolerite outcrops and the recommended recording of the farmstead, must be submitted to SAHRA prior to the construction phase for comment and approval. No construction may commence with comments from SAHRA in this regard;
- A Heritage Management Plan must be developed for all heritage resources that will remain in-situ within the development area. This HMP must be submitted to SAHRA prior to the construction phase. No construction may commence without comments from SAHRA in this regard;
- SAHRA reserves the right to impose additional conditions or restrictions on the development based on the results of the pre-construction survey report;
- 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 DAU (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660/ nhiggitt@sahra.org.za) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with this 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 DAU (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660/ nhiggitt@sahra.org.za) 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(1) of the NHRA regarding offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - i) 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 EIA must be submitted to the SAHRIS application for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA application must be submitted to the SAHRIS application for record purposes.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

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Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Manager: Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/611035>
(DFFE, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2249)

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.