

Our Ref: 19732



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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CaseID: 19735

Date: Friday April 14, 2023

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Final Comment

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

Attention: Mafadi Solar Power Plant (RF)(PTY) Ltd

The activities entail the development of an up to 150MW photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure on The Farm Langgedacht No. 1210, Registration Division LS, Limpopo Province, situated within the Makhado Local Municipality area of jurisdiction. The town of Louis Trichardt is located approximately 30km northeast of the proposed development. The project entails the generation of up to 150MW electrical power through photovoltaic (PV) panels. The total footprint of the project will approximately be 320 hectares (including supporting infrastructure on site).

Mafadi Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd have appointed Environamics (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment application process in support for an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) as amended, for activities that trigger the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 2014 Regulations, as amended.

Mafadi Solar Power Plant is proposing to construct a 150MW Solar PV facility with associated supporting infrastructure on 320 ha of land. This will include a 132KV substation and transformer, as well as a BESS and a 88kV power line to the Eskom Tabor substation. The PV plant will be located on Farm Langgedacht 1210 LS, Makhado Local Municipality of the Limpopo Province.

A BID and Scoping Report has been submitted to SAHRA for commenting in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA). An Interim Comment acknowledging the BID was issued by SAHRA on 06/02/2023.

It is noted that the Scoping Report states that a Heritage Impact Assessment will form part of the specialist studies undertaken for the EA application. The HIA and PIA reports were submitted on 31/03/2023.

Van Schalkwyk, J.A. November 2022. Phase 1 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MAFADI SOLAR PV PLANT NEAR LOUIS TRICHARDT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

The study area was assessed in November 2022 and no surface heritage resources were identified. The



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author recommends the implementation of chance finds procedures included in the report under section 6.

Butler, E. PALAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT MAFADI SOLAR POWER PLANT NEAR LOUIS TRICHARDT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE 2022.

The study area is underlain by rocks of the Archaean Granite-Gneiss Basement; Bandelierkop Complex of the Limpopo Belt and the Goudplaats Gneiss Suite. Updated geology (Council of Geosciences, Pretoria) indicates that the proposed development is underlain by the Goudplaats-River Gneiss Suite. Due to low paleo sensitivity in the development area, the author recommends chance finds procedures which is included in the report under section 12.2.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) notes and accepts the submission of the draft EIA, and HIA reports. SAHRA has no objections to the proposed development on the following conditions:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations provided by the heritage specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No further specific conditions apply.
- 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 (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Natasha 021 202 8660) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence 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/Ngqalabutho 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 offence 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;
- 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

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significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
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

Nokukhanya Khumalo
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/606255>

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.