

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: 021 202 8660
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 20943

Date: Monday September 18, 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: Tournée 2 Solar (Pty) Ltd

Tournée 2 Solar (Pty) Ltd propose to construct the Tournée 2 Solar PV Facility near Thuthukani in the Mpumalanga Province. The proposed Tournée 2 Solar PV Facility will be developed with a contracted capacity of 150 megawatt (MW), thus allowing for up to 150 MW for export from the facility

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Tournée 2 Solar (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Tournée 2 Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure, near Morgenzon, Mpumalanga Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) 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 a solar field, site substation and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), Operation and Maintenance Buildings, construction camp and laydown area, temporary cement batching plant, septic tanks, underground cables, fencing, stormwater infrastructure, water pipelines and other associated infrastructure within a development footprint of 505.15 ha.

CTS Heritage was appointed to provide heritage specialist input into the EA process in terms of section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Lavin, J. 2023. Heritage Impact Assessment in terms of section 38(8) of the NHRA for the Proposed development of the Tournée 2 Solar PV Park near Standerton, Mpumalanga

The HIA draws on the results of an Archaeological Specialist Study (Lavin, J; Fivaz, H and Fairhurst, S. 2023) and Palaeontological report (Bamford, M. 2023).

The proposed development area is underlain by non-fossiliferous Jurassic Dolerite and potentially very highly fossiliferous Vryheid Formation. No fossils were identified during the site visit. A total of three heritage resources were identified within the proposed development area. These include a demolished historical farmstead of negligible heritage significance and two burial grounds of high heritage significance. The visual impact of the development is considered to be moderately low.



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Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The recommendation in the VIA are implemented;
- A no development buffer of 50m is implemented around the burial sites identified within the development area;
- On going community access to these burials, as well as their conservation into the future, must be ensured. This can be managed through the development of a Heritage Management Plan for the burials to be implemented for the duration of the project;
- The attached Chance Fossil Finds Procedure must be implemented for the duration of construction activities; and
- 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.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 03/05/2023, SAHRA noted the submitted Heritage reports and stated that further comments would be issued upon receipt of the draft EIA. Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, the draft EIA has been submitted (18/08/2023). The DEIA has incorporated the results and recommendations of the Heritage Specialists.

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 EIA and EMP:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) 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;
- The recommended Heritage Management Plan for the burial grounds must be submitted to SAHRA prior to construction for approval;
- 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

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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 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)d – See section 51 of the NHRA regarding offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
- 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 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
Manager: Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Tournée 2 150MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure, near Standerton, Mpumalanga

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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/615442>
(DFFE, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2340)

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.