

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 21134

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: Wendy Mey
Terramanzi Group (Pty) Ltd

Soyuz 4 Solar PV Park with a generating capacity of no more than 300MW, and infrastructure including Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) of 1200MWh, an on-site substation with a capacity of 300MVA and a 132kV overhead powerline, to be located on Portion 5 of Farm 127, near Britstown, Northern Cape Province.

Terramanzi Group (Pty) Ltd have been appointed by Soyuz 4 Solar PV Park (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Soyuz 4 Solar PV Park near Britstown, Northern Cape Province (DFFE Reference Number: 2023-02-0019).

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), site access and internal access roads, paved areas, fencing, Operation and Maintenance Buildings, temporary construction camp and laydown area.

ACO Associates CC 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).

Gribble, J. 2023. Heritage Scoping Report: Proposed Soyuz 4 Solar Energy Facility, outside Britstown, Northern Cape Province

The Heritage Scoping Report (HSR) states that a total of two heritage resources were identified within the proposed development area. These include a surface scatter of Stone Age lithics and pottery of grade 3C heritage significance and a possible rock gong of grade 3A heritage significance. It is noted that the development area is located in an area of moderate and high sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map.

A total of 15 heritage resources were identified outside the proposed development area. These include a surface scatters of Stone Age lithics, historical farmstead, engraved boulders, labourers cottage, stone



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structures of grade 3C heritage significance, a boulder with a rubbed patch of grade 3B heritage significance, and three engravings boulders of grade 3A heritage significance.

The HSR notes that an HIA will be submitted as part of the EIA phase, that will include a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment. In an Interim Comment issued on the 18/05/2023, SAHRA noted the pending assessments, and stated that the HIA must include the results of the VIA. Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, the DEIA, HIA with PIA have been submitted for review (15/08/2023).

Bamford, M 2023. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Soyuz 4 Solar PV Park, south of Britstown, Northern Cape Province

The proposed development area is underlain by fossiliferous Ecca and lower Beaufort Group rocks, which are overlain by Quaternary sands and alluvium. The impact of the development will be low. A Fossil Chance Finds Procedure is recommended.

Gribble, J. 2023. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Soyuz 4 Solar Photovoltaic Park, outside Britstown, Northern Cape Province

A total of two heritage resources were identified within the proposed development area. These include a surface scatter of Stone Age lithics with potsherds of low heritage significance and a rock gong with areas of pecking of high heritage significance.

A total of 15 heritage resources were identified in close proximity to the proposed development area. These include surface scatters of Stone Age lithics, engraved boulders, a historical farmstead with associated outbuildings, historical graffiti on boulders, circular stone structures with historical materials, and labourer's cottage of low heritage significance. A boulder with a small rubbed patch of grade 3B heritage significance, and four engraved boulders with a rock gong of Grade 3A heritage significance.

The landscape is characterised by historical stock farming and is of low cultural significance. Visual impact to the Witfontein farm complexes is assessed to be moderate. It is recommended that the disturbance footprint of the project during construction is kept to a minimum and all disturbed areas that will not be needed during operation are rehabilitated.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

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- JG005 and G007 must be excluded from the development area by the implementation of the no-go buffer of 100 m;
- Figure 13 of the HIA depicts recommended buffer zones around all identified heritage sites;
- A Chance Finds Procedure must be implemented.

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 EMPr:

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

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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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/616481>

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.