

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
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CaseID: 21238

Date: Wednesday June 21, 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: SiVEST SA (Pty) Ltd

Bonsmara Solar PV (RF) (Pty) Ltd is proposing to develop one (1) new 33/132kV on-site substation and/or switching substation as well as one (1) new associated 132kV overhead power line for the proposed Bonsmara Solar PV Facility (SEF) (part of a separate EIA process / application

Sivest SA (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Bonsmara Solar PV (RF)(Pty)(Ltd) to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed on-site substation and/or switching station and 132KV grid connection for the proposed Bonsmara Solar PV Facility, near Kroonstad, Free State Province.

A draft Basic Assessment Report 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 a 33/132kV on-site substation (1ha), switching station (0.3 ha), new 132KV overhead powerline (1.94 km preferred alternative) and internal roads. Two alternative routes for the powerline have been assessed.

CTS Heritage was appointed to provide heritage specialist input into the EA process 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).

Lavin, J. 2023. Heritage Impact Assessment in terms of Section 38(8) of the NHRA for the Proposed Grid Connection for the Bonsmara Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Renewable Energy Facility near Kroonstad, Free State Province

The HIA draws on the results of specialist assessments (Lavin, J and Presnyakova, D. 2022 and Butler, E. 2022).

The proposed development footprint is underlain by the Adelaide Subgroup, Klipriviersberg Group and Quaternary alluvium. No in-situ fossils were identified as part of the site visit. Some loose fossils were identified within a ruined structure, possibly brought to the farm include fragmented and weathered tree fossils and well-preserved trace fossils.



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A total of eight (8) heritage resources were identified within or adjacent to the proposed development footprint. These include surface scatters of Stone Age lithics and historical stone structures of Grade IIIC heritage significance, and three dense scatters of Stone Age lithics of Grade IIIB heritage significance. Furthermore, areas of higher archaeological sensitivity (Figure 8 of the AIA) have been identified around the koppies and the pan located within the broader development area.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- A no development buffer of 50m is implemented around sites KS3 and KS4;
- A no development buffer of 100m is implemented around sites KS6, KS7 and KS8;
- The area identified as having higher levels of archaeological sensitivity in Figure 6 must not be impacted by any development activities;
- The attached Chance Fossil Finds procedure must be implemented for the duration of construction activities;
- A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended.

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:

- 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 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), 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;

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- 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

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/616889>
(DETEA, Ref:)

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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.