

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
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
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CaseID: 22167

Date: Thursday October 26, 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: Padloper PV (Pty) Ltd

Proposed development of the Padloper Solar PV Facility 1 and associated infrastructure (i.e., Padloper PV 1), near Murraysburg, Ubuntu Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province

The CSIR has been appointed by African Clean Energy Developments (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Padloper Solar PV 1 and associated infrastructure near Murraysburg in the Northern Cape and Western Cape Provinces.

It must be noted that SAHRA does not have jurisdiction to provide comments for development applications in the Western Cape Province. This comment will only discuss the Northern Cape portion of the proposed development application.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The DBAR is a combined report for two EA applications. Only the PV development will be discussed in this comment. The proposed development will entail the construction of a PV array, inverters, temporary construction and laydown area, main access roads and internal roads, cabling between components (underground where practical), site offices, warehouse and workshop, operations and maintenance building, guardhouse, ablution facilities, battery energy storage system, on-site substation within an application area of 420 ha.

Banzai Environmental (Pty) Ltd and ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EIA process as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Butler, E. 2023. Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Proposed Padloper (Projects 1, 2, 3 And 4) Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facilities and the Associated 132 kV Overhead Power Lines and Associated Infrastructure near Murraysburg, Western Cape and Northern Cape Provinces

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*Only the results of PV 1 will be discussed in this comment.

The proposed development area is underlain by the Balfour Formation. No fossils were identified as part of the site survey. A Chance Finds Protocol is recommended to be implemented and is provided in the report.

Orton, J. 2023. Heritage Impact Assessment: Basic Assessment for the Proposed Padloper Photovoltaic Facility 1 near Murraysburg, Richmond Magisterial District, Northern Cape

A total of 15 heritage resources were identified within the proposed development area. These include surface scatters of Stone Age lithics, farming features, stone kraals and walls (site 213) of very low heritage significance, farm shed with Victorian stoep, barn type structure, fence posts and labourers village of low heritage significance, stone-walled cottage, stone-walled structures and kraal (site 208) of medium low heritage significance, small gabled building and long barn of medium heritage significance, and a burial ground of high heritage significance. The cultural landscape is assessed to have a medium heritage significance at a local level and the visual impact will be a low negative after mitigation measures have been implemented.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The stone-walled kraal at waypoint 208 must be flagged as a no-go area and any road widening that occurs must not impact on the walling (enough space must be allowed for large loads to easily pass by without hitting the wall with approximately 5 m of clear space between the loads and the wall);
- No stones may be removed from any archaeological sites (with the exception of waypoint 213 if it cannot be preserved);
- Lighting mitigation must be employed to ensure that light is directed only to where it is needed and, preferably, that it only switches on when needed;
- Buildings to be painted in earthy tones where technically feasible;
- Signage demarcating the entrance of the facility must be modest in nature and should not exceed the height of regular street signage;
- A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

Final Comment

*This comment is only valid for the Northern Cape portion of the development.

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and

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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 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 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

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/623655>

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.