

**Our Ref:**

Enquiries: Phillip Hine  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: phine@sahra.org.za  
CaseID: 3419

Date: Thursday April 03, 2014

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## Final Comment

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

Attention: Networkx Renewables (Pty) Ltd  
20 The Piazza, 2nd Floor  
Melrose Arch  
2076 Johannesburg

#### Proposed Gihon Solar Energy Facility near Bela-Bela, Limpopo Province

*Van der Walt, J. February 2014. Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed Gihon Solar Solar Energy facility and associated infrastructure, Bela Bela, Limpopo Province.*

Networkx Renewables (Pty) Ltd. proposes the development of a 150MW Solar facility on Portion 1, 2, 5 and 7 of the farm Turfbult 494 KR, near Bela-Bela. The footprint of the facility and associated infrastructure will be 392 hectares. SAHRA Interim Comment of 5 September 2013 requested that a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment be undertaken for this project. It is noted that the archaeologist did not survey the entire area and that the focus was primarily on the areas earmarked for infrastructure development.

In terms of the archaeological component of the heritage resources, the author identified highly weathered undercoated Iron Age ceramics in the west block rail. Similarly, a scatter of Middle Stone Age (MSA) tools were also identified in this area. Both of these finds are not considered sites and is of low significance.

The author identified one site of significance, a historic ruin with two outbuildings. According to the report there is a possibility that the site may be older than 60 years. It was recommended that a conservation architect determine its age and significance.

A palaeontological assessment has previously been undertaken for this project. The palaeontological assessment indicated that that the project area lies on the northwestern edge of the Springbok Flats Basin which is underlain by basaltic volcanics of the Lebombo Group of Early Jurassic Age. It is noted that the area has a low palaeontological sensitivity and unlikely to yield any significant palaeontological resources.

Final Comment:

1. As there is apparently no evidence of any significant archaeological and palaeontological material in this area, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit has no objection to the development (in terms of the archaeological and palaeontological components of the heritage resources) on condition that, if any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources are found during development, construction or mining, SAHRA or an archaeologist must be alerted immediately.

3. No further action is required for the Iron Age ceramics and Middle Stone Age artefacts of low significance.



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an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

2. Decisions on Built Environment (e.g. structures over 60 years) and Cultural Landscapes and associated Living Heritage (e.g. Sacred Sites) must be made by LIHRA, Limpopo Heritage Resources Authority, (Mr Donal Lithole, [Litholek@lp.sac.gov.za](mailto:Litholek@lp.sac.gov.za)).

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Phillip Hine  
Heritage Officer

Colette Scheermeyer  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/129806>  
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/576)

**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.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

Street Address: 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town 8000 \* Postal Address: PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000  
\* Tel: +27 21 462 4502 \* Fax: +27 21 462 4509 \* Web: <http://www.sahra.org.za>