

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

Date: Monday May 16, 2016

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Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 9055

Interim Comment

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

Attention: Protea Solar Power Plant (Pty) Ltd

The Proposed Protea Photovoltaic Solar Energy development Facility near Vryburg, Naledi Local Municipality, North West Province

Protea Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd has contracted Environamics to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed development of the Protea Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility.

Otte, C; Griesel, M. Environamics (2016) Final Scoping Report: Proposed Protea Solar Power Plant near Vryburg, North West Province.

The proposed development is located on the remaining extent of the farm Hartsboom no.734 HN within the Naledi Local Municipality (Vryburg Magisterial District, North West Province). The site is approximately 11km south of the town of Vryburg.

The development plan for the 240ha PV facility includes the following: A 115MW PV Solar Array; Central inverters; On-site substation; Control facility; Plus other supporting infrastructure (including: current and voltage regulators, internal road network, fencing)

van Schalkwyk, J. 2016. Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment for the development of the proposed Protea Solar Power Plant on a portion of the farm Hartsboom 734, Vryburg Region, North West Province.

One small low-density scatter of stone artefacts was identified (Middle/ Later Stone Age). This scatter was deemed of low enough density and significance as to make it not warrant any further mitigation or recording thereof. Should any archaeological materials or graves be encountered during the construction phase of the development, the find must be immediately reported to a heritage practitioner so that it can be reported and assessed.

Almond, J 2016. Palaeontological Heritage Assessment: Combined Desktop & Field-Based study: Proposed Protea Solar Plant on remaining extent of Farm Hartsboom 734 near Vryburg, North West Province.

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The proposed development is underlain at depth by Permo-Carboniferous glacial sediments of the Dwyka Group (Karoo Supergroup) which is of low palaeontological sensitivity and is very poorly exposed at the surface. These deposits are overlain and mantled by much younger Caenozoic calcrete hardpans, sandy soils of possible eolian origin and relict alluvial gravels related to the Droë Harts River. The area has been classified as having a negative low significance rating and development may proceed.

Should any significant fossil remnants be encountered during the construction phase, the responsible Environmental Control Officer (ECO) should preserve the find *in situ* and should immediately alert SAHRA of the find. These would then be subject to further mitigation.

Interim Comment:

The following comments are relevant to the proposed Protea PV Solar Energy Facility:

- SAHRA APM Unit does not accept the provided HIA on the grounds that the proposed development area was not adequately surveyed. It must be stressed that a field survey, conducted on foot, must adequately assess the full extent of the development footprint, so that any heritage resources which may be present in the area can be competently graded and the development impact assessed. Please refer to the minimum standards as issued by SAHRA in May 2007 ([ASG2-2 SAHRA A&PIAs MIN STDS Ph1-2 16May07](#));
- The impact of the layout of the proposed development needs to be assessed. During the EIA phase, the impacts to the identified heritage resources in relation to the proposed development footprint/layout must be assessed as part of a revised HIA that addresses the impacts and provides clear mitigation measures;
- The nearby (approx. 1.2km) Tiger Kloof School, built in 1904 by the London Mission Society, is graded as a provincial heritage site (gazetted 27/05/1988). Additionally, the railway adjacent to the south eastern corner of the proposed development is part of the old *Cape to Cairo* railway and the section in question was constructed prior to 1893. The visual impacts of the proposed Protea PV facility on these two heritage resources need to be assessed as part of the revised HIA; and
- Further comment will be issued once the case is fully compliant

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
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
SAHRA Head Archaeologist (Acting)
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/354815>

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.