



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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CaseID: 17444

Date: Friday January 07, 2022

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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: Noko Solar Power Plant (RF) Pty Ltd

The activities entail the development of photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure on Portion 15, 19, 45 and 46 of the Farm Goedgenoeg No. 433, Registration Division IP, North West Province situated within the City of Matlosana Local Municipality area of jurisdiction. The town of Orkney is located approximately 6 km northeast of the proposed development. The project entails the generation of up to 150MW electrical power through photovoltaic (PV) panels. The total footprint of the project will approximately be 307 hectares (including supporting infrastructure on site). The property on which the facility is to be constructed will be leased by Noko Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd from the property owner, for the lifespan of the project (minimum of 20 years).

Environamics Environmental Consult (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Noko Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation for the development of a Photovoltaic Solar Facility on Portion 15, 19, 45, and 46 of the farm Goedgenoeg No. 433, Registration Division IP, Matlosana Local Municipality, North West Province.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) as amended for activities that trigger the NEMA 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (As amended). The scope of work entails a Photovoltaic Solar Facility and associated infrastructure.

Environamics, van Schalkwyk, J.A., and Benzai Environmental were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of 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).

van Schalkwyk, J.A. November 2021. A Phase 1 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: The Proposed Noko Solar Power Plant Near Viljoenskroon, North West Province.

The cultural landscape qualities of the region are made up of a pre-colonial element consisting of very limited Stone Age and Iron Age occupation, as well as a much later colonial (farmer) component, which also gave rise to an urban component. The specialist undertook a field assessment and identified sites, features, and object



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of cultural significance:

- 7.3.1 The main farmstead on the property. It is clearly visible on the 1961 version of the aerial photographs, and it is therefore deemed to be older than 60 years. This statement is supported by the style and material used in its construction. Some outbuildings, some of which seems to be later in date, occur adjacent to it. Two stone-built structures occur on the property and served to keep cattle and other small-stock. The farmstead is given a field rating of 4-B with medium significance. It is recommended that the site be avoided or preserved *in-situ* with a buffer zone of 100m.
- 7.3.2 An informal burial site with probably 7 graves. The Graves probably belong to former landowners and only two names occur: Beukes and Marais. The death dates on the headstones range between 1923 and 1967. Although the graves were "recently" repaired with brick walling, most of the headstones have been pushed over, probably by cattle, and no recent signs of visitation could be seen. The burial site is given a field rating of 4-A with High significance. It is recommended that the site be avoided or preserved *in situ* with a buffer zone of 100m.
- 7.3.3 A small informal burial site with approximately 30 graves, all probably farm labourers and their children. None have any headstones, no signs of recent visitation or maintenance could be seen. The site used to be fenced and some of the burials are now overgrown by trees. The burial site is given a field rating of 4-A with High significance. It is recommended that the site be avoided or preserved *in situ* with a buffer zone of 100m.

Based on these findings it is recommended that the proposed development be allowed to continue from a heritage point of view.

Butler, E. November 2021. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the Proposed Noko Solar Power Plant (Part of the Authorised Paleso Solar Power Plant) Near Orkney, North West Province.

The proposed development is underlain by the Allanridge Formation, with the most northern portion of the Solar Power Plant footprint underlain by the Rietgat Formation of the Platberg Group. The Palaeontological Sensitivity of the Allanridge is zero according to the PalaeoSensitivity Map on SAHRIS while that of the Quaternary alluvium and Rietgat Formation of the Platberg Group is moderate.

The specialist undertook a site specific field survey of the development footprint on 6-7 November 2021.



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During the site visit no fossiliferous outcrops were identified on the development footprint. A Low significance has thus been allocated to the proposed development. It is therefore considered that the proposed Noko SPP and power line will not lead to detrimental impacts on the palaeontological resources of the area. The proposed development may be authorised to continue. If fossil remains or trace fossils are discovered during any phase of construction, either on the surface or exposed by excavations the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) in charge of these developments must be informed.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of 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 Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development;
- The farmstead (7.3.1) must be preserved *in-situ* with a no-go buffer zone of a 100m. If the farmstead cannot be avoided a permit for mitigation must be obtained from the North West Provincial Heritage Resources Authority;
- A 100m no-go buffer zone must be maintained for both burial sites (7.3.2 & 7.3.3) as recommended in the HIA report;
- 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 APM Unit (Elijah D. Katsetse/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence 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 Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Ngqalabutho Madida 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA regarding offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - i) 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

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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 the SAHRIS application for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA application must be submitted to the SAHRIS application for record purposes.

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

Yours faithfully

Elijah Dumisani Katsetse
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahrissahra.org.za/node/588115>

[Terms & Conditions:](#)

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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.