

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: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
Tel: 0212028663
Email: sngcatsha@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 19353

Date: Wednesday August 30, 2023
Page No: 1

Final Comment

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

Attention: WKN Windcurrent SA (Pty) Ltd

P.O. Box 762
Wilderness
6560

Proposed Development of a 110 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility on Portion 9 of the Farm Commandants Pan No. 382, Farm Tafel Baai No. 413 and Portion 12 of the Farm Nooit Gedacht No.74, Khauta South Solar PV Facility, Near Riebeeckstad , Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Free State Province.

Enviroworks has been appointed by Khauta South Solar PV Facility RF (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed development of the Khauta South Solar Photovoltaic Facility on Portion 9 of the Farm Commandants Pan No. 382, Farm Tafel Baai No. 413 and Portion 12 of the Farm Nooit Gedacht No.74, near Riebeeckstad, Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Free State Province.

A Draft Scoping Report has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA Act No. 107 of 1998) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014 (as amended 2017). The Solar Photovoltaic Facility will have an output capacity of 110 MW and it will include the PV modules and mounting structures, stormwater management infrastructure, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), Site- and internal access roads, Auxiliary buildings along with Ablution facilities and associated infrastructure, laydown area, On-site 33/132 kV substation and associated 33/132 kV collector transmission line, Grid connection infrastructure, Perimeter fencing along with water storage tanks and associated water transfer infrastructure. The development footprint is approximately 168 ha in extent.

Agency for Cultural Resource Management and Natura Viva cc have been appointed to provide heritage



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specialist input as part of the EA application in terms of section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA as required by section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Almond, J. 2021. Palaeontological Heritage Screening Input: Proposed Khauta Solar PV Cluster Near Welkom, Free State Province

The development area is underlain by basinal mudrocks of the Volksrust Formation (Ecca Group) that are of Low to Medium Palaeosensitivity. Most of the development area is disturbed by agricultural activities. No pans are visible on satellite images of the solar project area, while some large pans (Kommandantspan, Rietpan) are mapped outside its margins. It is likely that bedrock exposure is limited and the sediments are weathered near surface, so these areas are not considered to be major sensitivities.

Kaplan, J. 2021. DESKTOP HERITAGE SCREENING ASSESSMENT, THE PROPOSED KHAUTA SOLAR PV CLUSTER NEAR WELKOM, FREE STATE PROVINCE

No fieldwork has been undertaken, however Colonial Period sites, historical structures, burial sites and farmsteads were identified in the adjacent farms and there is a high probability of identifying these in the proposed development area.

Kaplan, J. 2022. VERIFICATION REPORT, PROPOSED KHAUTA SOLAR PV CLUSTER NEAR WELKOM, MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE

A field assessment was undertaken for the development footprint and an isolated Middle Stone Age (MSA) quartzite core was identified alongside the proposed 44kV powerline corridor and it is of low archaeological significance. Two grave sites were identified; a graveyard with 40-50 barely visible graves and a grave site with two graves, along with an Outspan.

The grave site (Point 0026) with between 40-50 graves is located within the development area along with the outspan located about 200m from the grave site. The majority of graves are without headstones or footstones while a few have headstones.

Recommendation

The graveyard (Point 0026) on the Farm Commandants Pan 382/9 must be avoided. A 50m buffer around the

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graveyard is proposed. The site must be fenced off and protected throughout the Construction, Operational and Decommissioning Phase of the development.
The Outspan (Point 0036) on the Farm Commandants Pan 382/9 must be avoided and a 150m wide buffer is proposed.

The SAHRA Development Application Unit (DAU) issued an interim comment dated 19/09/2022 which requested the submission of the Draft EIA before further comments could be issued. The Draft EIA and the final Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) were subsequently submitted to the development application on the 07/03/2023.

Kaplan, J. 2022. Archaeological Impact Assessment Proposed Development Of A 110 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility On Portion 9 Of The Farm Commandants Pan No. 382, Farm Tafel Baai No. 413, And Portion 12 Of The Farm Nooit Gedacht No. 74, Khauta South Solar PV Facility Near Riebeeckstad, Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Free State Province

The grave site (Point 0026) with between 40-50 graves is located within the development area along with the outspan located about 200m from the grave site. A 50m and 150m buffer area respectively has been established around the graves and Outspan. It is recommended that the proposed development should be authorised. If any human burials are uncovered during construction activities then work in the immediate area should be halted. The finds would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and will require inspection by a professional archaeologist.

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Comment

As the NEMA EA application process has ended and the Environmental Authorisation (EA) has been granted on the 28/06/2023, SAHRA cannot provide any objections or agree on the development. While SAHRA cannot provide further conditions on the approved development, the applicant is advised to consider the following:

The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows:

The Heritage Management Plan must be implemented for the identified burial site and the Boer Outspan at sites 0026 and 0036 and the report must be submitted to SAHRA for comments prior to the commencement of the development.

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 Development Application Unit (Sityhilelo Ngcatsha/Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660) 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;

If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Development Application Unit (Sityhilelo Ngcatsha/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;

See section 51(1) of the NHRA regarding offences;

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.

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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Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite Assistant
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/603932>
(DFFE, Ref: 2022-06-0040)

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.