

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
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
Tel: 0212028663
Email: sngcatsha@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 18847

Date: Wednesday July 27, 2022
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Final Decision

In terms of Section 38(2), 38(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Coenie van der Merwe
FCE Consulting Engineers
39 Brebner Street, Westdene, Bloemfontein

The erection of two new ground-mounted grid-tied solar plants of 1Ha each on the grounds of the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein. Please refer to the uploaded NID for more detail.

The University of the Free State intends to expand an existing solar plant that is situated in an area of the main campus of the University of the Free State (directly north of the sports grounds) that was previously utilised for agricultural training purposes. The application has been made in terms of section 38(1) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999.

The proposed expansion of the solar plant area is approximately 2ha in size and the solar array consists of 30 tables. The proposed area has been disturbed previous agricultural activities. It is currently covered in a dense grass layer and no heritage resources were identified within the exposed areas of the development footprint.

The development area is located within an area of very high palaeontological sensitivity in terms of the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity Map, the development excavations will however not penetrate beyond already disturbed soil (about 200-300mm deep).

Final Decision

As the proposed expansion of the solar power plant will be in a disturbed area and there are likely no *in-situ* heritage resources, no further assessment of the impact to heritage resources is required as per section 38(2)a of the NHRA.

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 38(2) and 38(4) of the NHRA and must be adhered to:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;

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- 38(4)b – No further conditions are required 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 APM Unit (Sityhilelo Ngcatsha/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 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 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 offense 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 offenses;
- 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.

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

Yours faithfully

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

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

ADMIN:
Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/599556>