

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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Tel: 0212028663  
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CaseID: 20386

Date: Wednesday May 31, 2023  
Page No: 1

## Final Decision

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

Attention: SiVEST SA (Pty) Ltd

### **Proposed Development of the Leeudoringstad 132kV Powerline and Associated Substations and Infrastructure within Maquassi Hills and City of Matlosana Local Municipality, Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality in the North West Province**

Upgrade Energy (Pty) Ltd appointed SiVEST Environmental to undertake the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Leeudoringstad 42km long 132kV Powerline and Associated Substations and Infrastructure within Maquassi Hills and City of Matlosana Local Municipality, Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality in the North West Province.

The Final Environmental Sensitivity Report has been submitted in terms of the Standard for the Development and Expansion of Power Lines and Substations within Identified Geographical Areas, 2022, as gazetted by GN 2313 of 2022 and promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act (Act 59 of 2008), as amended. The construction and operation of the electricity distribution infrastructure is to connect the proposed Leeudoringstad solar plants to the Vaal reef ten Power Station.

PGS Heritage Pty Ltd and Banzai Environmental (Pty) Ltd have been appointed to provide the heritage specialist input Section 38(2) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) as well as Minimum Standards for the Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports.

*Mann, N. 2022. Proposed Construction Of The Leeudoringstad 132kv Powerline, North West Province, South Africa*

A square single stone packed foundation (LDS-01) was identified during the site visit. This structure is of medium to low heritage significance and it is located less than 50m from the two proposed powerline alternatives. A burial ground (LDS-02) and 2 possible graves (LDS-03 and LDS-04) are also located less than 50m from the proposed development areas.

Mitigation Recommendation

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- A 20-meter buffer should be maintained around site LDS-01. Further consultation with local communities on the previous inhabitants of these areas be initiated to determine the possibility of infant burials. In the event that such a burial is confirmed, a grave relocation process must be initiated.
- The site LDS-02 should be demarcated with a 50-meter no-go-buffer-zone and the graves should be avoided and left *in situ*. If the site is going to be impacted directly and the graves need to be removed, a grave relocation process for these sites is recommended as a mitigation and management measure. This will involve the necessary social consultation and public participation process before grave relocation permits can be applied for, to SAHRA under the NHRA and National Health Act regulations.
- A 50-meter buffer should be maintained around the possible grave sites (LDS-03, LDS-04) until the presence of a grave at the site has been tested. The stone concentrations must be viewed as containing a grave. If the site cannot be avoided, then an application will be required for a test excavation and/or GPR permit to determine if the site contains graves. If human remains are discovered a grave relocation process is recommended as a mitigation and management measure. This will involve the necessary social consultation and public participation process before grave relocation permits can be applied for with the SAHRA BGG under the NHRA and National Health Act regulations. If, during test excavations, it is determined that the site does not contain graves, no further mitigation will be required.

*Butler, E. 2022. Palaeontological Desktop Assessment Leeudoringstad 132kv Power Line To Vaal Reef Ten Power Station, North West Province*

The proposed development is underlain by the volcanic Allanridge Formation (Ventersdorp Supergroup) and the Rietgat Formation (Platberg Group, Ventersdorp Supergroup) and overlain in some areas by the Quaternary sediments. It is considered that the proposed development will not lead to detrimental impacts on the palaeontological resources of the area. The construction and operation of the project may be authorised, as the whole extent of the development footprint is not considered sensitive in terms of palaeontological heritage.

## Final Decision

The following conditions are provided in terms of section 38(4) of the NHRA:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Application Unit (DAU) has no objections to the proposed development with regards to all heritage resources protected in terms of section 35 of the NHRA;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No further

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additional specific conditions are provided 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/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;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Ngqabutho 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;
- All permit applications regarding section 34 heritage resources must be applied for from the North West Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (NWPHERA).

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

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

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/611377>  
(DEA, Ref: )

**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.