

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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CaseID: 16676

Date: Wednesday July 07, 2021
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Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Reuben Maroga
SLR Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DAMLAAGTE SOLAR PV FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE.

SLR Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by the South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the development of the Damlaagte Solar PV Facility including a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure on the remaining extent of the Farm Damlaagte 229, located 19 km west of the town Sasolburg, Free State Province.

A Scoping Report has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) and the NEMA EIA Regulations. The development footprint is 166 ha in extent and the infrastructure includes a PV panel array, mounting structures, inverters, substation, Battery Energy Storage and access roads along with Operations and Maintenance Buildings.

The study area has been impacted by agricultural activities no structures or archaeological sites of significance were identified during field survey. No paleochannels or rivers were noted within the study area and there is a well-documented history within the surrounding area of historical mining activities. The possibility of locating fossils within the study area is deemed to be low. The site is deemed to be of a low heritage sensitivity, however, a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) (including palaeontological study) of the project will be undertaken during the impact assessment phase.

Interim Comment

It is noted that the a HIA inclusive of an Archaeological and Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be undertaken during the impact Assessment phase.

The archaeological component of the HIA should follow the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological Component of Impact Assessment Report. The quickest process to follow for the archaeological component would be to contract a qualified archaeologist (see www.asapa.co.za or www.aphp.org.za).

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The proposed development area is located mostly within an area of moderate sensitivity in terms of palaeontological resources as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) will suffice. The PIA must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist (See <https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html> for a list of qualified palaeontologists). The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.

Further comments will be issued upon submission of the HIA.

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

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/576490>

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