

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
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: 19358

Date: Monday September 19, 2022
Page No: 1

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 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 165 MW Photovoltaic Solar Farm on Portion 0 of the Farm Kopje Alleen No. 81 and Portion 1 of the Farm Kopje Alleen No. 81, Khauta North Solar PV Facility, Near Riebeeckstad, Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Free State Province

Enviroworks has been appointed by Khauta North Solar PV Facility RF (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed development of the Khauta North Solar Photovoltaic Facility on Farm on Portion 0 and Portion 1 of the Farm Kopje Alleen No. 81, 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 165 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 273 ha in extent.

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

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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 two grave sites were identified; a graveyard with 40-50 barely visible graves and a grave site with two graves, an isolated Middle Stone Age (MSA) quartzite core and an Outspan. No heritage resources were identified in the proposed development area.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite (APM) Unit notes the heritage studies and the recommendations provided therein. Further comments will be issued once the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report has been submitted to the case.

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/603970>
(DFFE, Ref: 2022-06-0040)