

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: 19948

Date: Wednesday April 19, 2023  
Page No: 1

## Interim Comment

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

Attention: Keren Energy Group Holdings

#### **PHASE 1 HIA FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY ON THE FARM SPES BONA NO. 2355, PORTION 8 (HARVARD 1), BLOEMFONTEIN, MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE**

EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Keren Energy Harvard 1 (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the development of a solar photovoltaic (PV) array on Remainder of Portion 8 of Farm Spes Bona No. 2355 and overhead powerline (grid connection) on Remainder of Farm 2300, Bloemfontein, Free State.

The Draft Scoping Report has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act 107 of 1998) and the NEMA EIA Regulations. The proposed property covers an area of 215ha, of which approximately 150ha will be developed for the PV array, consisting of either fixed or single axis tracking systems, and associated infrastructure, allowing for the generation of approximately 60MW of alternating current.

Ubique Heritage Consultants has been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

*Fairhurst, S. Fivaz, H. 2022. Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment For The Proposed Development Of Harvard Solar Farm, Spes Bona No. 2355, Portion 8*

An isolated occurrence of lithic material (SB01-001) of low heritage significance was recorded outside to the southwest of the development footprint and no mitigation is required. A farmscape (SB01-002 and SB01-003) which consists of ruins of possible farming-related features, Livestock kraal has been identified and these are of medium heritage significance (Grade IVB). Site SB01-004 is the remains of a retaining wall made from stone and it is of low heritage significance.

Recommendations



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- The historical farmscape with farming-related structures, features and structural remains, and the livestock (Aloe plant) kraal is situated directly on the development footprint. These heritage resources are of medium cultural and historical significance. These resources would require costly mitigation before destruction. It is, therefore, our recommendation that a buffer/safety zone should be implemented.
- The two MSA/LSA Lithics and the piece of metal recorded at site SB01-001 to the southwest of the proposed development footprint is of low significance and will not be affected by the development.
- The retaining wall is considered to be of low significance and will not be impacted by development. No further mitigation is recommended.
- According to the PalaeoMap on the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) database, the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the Balfour Formation is Very High, and Jurassic Karoo dolerite is Zero as it is igneous in origin. However, no fossiliferous outcrops were identified during the site visit. If Palaeontological Heritage is uncovered during surface clearing and excavations, the Chance Find Protocol (Appendix A/12) must be implemented by the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) in charge of these developments. Fossil discoveries ought to be protected, and the ECO/site manager must report to SAHRA (Contact details: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town. PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000, South Africa. Tel: 021 462 4502. Fax: +27 (0)21 462 4509. Web: [www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)) so that mitigation (recording and collection) can be carried out (Butler 2022).
- Although all possible care has been taken to identify sites of cultural importance during the investigation of study areas, it is always possible that hidden or subsurface sites could be overlooked during the assessment. If during construction, 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 (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. A professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. 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. UBIQUE Heritage Consultants and its personnel will not be held liable for such oversights or costs incurred as a result of such oversights.

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*Butler, E. 2022. Palaeontological Field Assessment For The Proposed Construction Of Harvard 1 Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility And Associated Infrastructure, On Portion 8 Of Farm Spes Bona No 2355 In The Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality In The Free State*

The study area is underlain by the Balfour Formation (Adelaide Subgroup, Beaufort Group, Karoo Supergroup) and a small portion in the south-west is underlain by Jurassic Karoo dolerite. A site-specific field survey of the development footprint was undertaken, and no fossiliferous outcrops were identified. The scarcity of fossil heritage at the proposed development footprint indicates that the impact of the development footprint will be of a low significance in palaeontological terms.

### Interim Comment

The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) notes the heritage studies and the recommendations provided therein. Further comments will be issued once the Draft EIA report has been attached to the case on SAHRIS.

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

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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/607807>

**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.