



Final Comment

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

Attention: Mainstream Renewable Power South Africa (Pty) Ltd
P.O. Box 45063
Claremont
7735

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A 188.6MW WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT NOUPOORT WITHIN UMSOBOMVU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

Orton, J., September 2014. Specialist Input For The Archaeological Walk Down Survey Of The Proposed Noupoort Wind Energy Facility, Noupoort Magisterial District, Northern Cape

In April 2014 SAHRA APM Unit first commented on the archaeological impact assessment undertaken by Dr van Schalkwyk for the proposed establishment of the wind energy facility at Noupoort. After commenting on this report SAHRA requested that:

- *The study area be subject to a pre-colonial survey before construction begins. A Stone Age specialist should undertake this survey. Communication with Sampson and Bousman may help in addressing this issue.*
- *A more detailed survey of the stone structures be undertaken during the same survey*

A heritage management plan for construction dated April 2014 was then submitted to the heritage agency, who commented on it in July 2014 requesting that the HMP be re-submitted, since it did not comply with the previous two recommendations.

On the 26th of September 2014 PGS submitted a new report by Asha Consulting to satisfy SAHRA's request. Dr Orton revisited the twelve sites listed in the heritage management plan by PGS and provided a description for them (Sites 1 to 12). In addition, Dr Orton also identified an additional 25 sites which were recorded nor in the scoping report by van Schalkwyk nor in the heritage management plan by PGS.

These additional sites are five historical ruins (Site 13, 22, 30, 32 & 36); seven stone features (Site 14, 21, 23, 29, 33, 35 and 37); six rock art sites (Site 15, 16, 17, 24, 26 and 27); six artefact scatters (Site 18, 19, 20, 25, 31 & 34) and one graffiti (Site 28).





Site 4 and site 30, two historical ruins, were not recorded properly because of time constraints, however they are not expected to be impacted by the construction of the wind energy facility and related infrastructure.

Recommendations:

SAHRA supports the recommendations of Dr Orton and requires that:

- all heritage sites should be recorded on all development maps to ensure that no accidental damage occur to any of the sites;
- site 11, a small semi-circular stone structure possibly a LSA hunting blind, located 45m from the position of turbine N27, should be cordoned off during construction;
- the access road close to site 32, a dry-stone walled structure of 3m by 3m, be realigned so that a buffer zone of at least 20m be held between the site and the road;
- site 36, a dry-stone walled kraal which is badly collapsed, be temporarily fenced off during construction of the proposed power line which will be erected about 40m from the site

SAHRA also agrees with the following recommendations:

- No stone may be removed from any of the stone-walled historical sites for any reason;
- Construction staff should be educated on the existence of rock art in the area and prevented from accessing rock art sites where further graffiti might occur.

If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, marine shell and charcoal/ash concentrations), unmarked human burials, fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed activities, SAHRA APM Unit (Phillip Hine/Colette Scheermeyer, tel. 021 462 4502) must be alerted immediately, and 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 might be necessary.

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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South African Heritage Resources Agency

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South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/109804>
(DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/2319)

