



## Interim Comment

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

Attention: Mr Simon Bundy  
Sustainable Development Projects cc  
P O Box 1016  
Ballito  
4420

### **Proposed establishment of a farm or hub of concentrated photovoltaic panels to be used in the generation of between 5MW and 50MW of power that will be introduced into the national grid, De Aar, Northern Cape**

Morris, D. January 2013. *Archaeology Specialist Input on the Site of the Proposed Potfontein Photovoltaic Construction Site North of De Aar, Northern Cape*

Scatec SA (Pty) Ltd has proposed the creation of nine solar energy "hubs" near De Aar in the Northern Cape. Each such hub would produce between 5MW and 50MW of power by means of Concentrated Photovoltaic (CPV) technology and connect to the Eskom grid via existing 66kV to 400kV.

The sites earmarked for development are:

Site A: Die Plaas Elandsheuwel No 146 (Hanover),

Site B: Plek Petrus Valley La. H & lot 317 (known as Vermeulens Application),

Site C: Remainder of Vermeulens Application No 90. Hannover,

Site D: Vanderlindeskraal No 79,

Site E: Remainder of the Farm Sweetfontein No 92 (Britstown), Portion 3 (Annex De Hoop) of the Farm 94 (Britstown), Portion 2 (De Hoop) of the Farm No 94 (Britstown),

Site F: Koensdraai no.36 (Hopetown Portion 5 no. 12),

Site G: Portion of the Farm New Kalkbult No. 181,

Site H: Remainder of the Farm Taaiboschfontein No. 41,

Site I: Remainder of portion 1 of the Farm Van der Linderskraal No 79, Portion 3 (of 1) of the Farm Van der Linderskraal No 79, Remainder of the Farm Van der Linderskraal No 79

The archaeologist conducted a survey of the land forming part of the Potfontein Solar Facility. This survey yielded a background signature of both Middle and Later Stone Age artefacts that occurred in densities of between 1 artefact per 10m<sup>2</sup> to more than 10 per m<sup>2</sup>. These finds were noted to be devoid of any accompanying organic material and all *ex situ*, rendering their heritage significance negligible. A clearing was recorded at the north western extent of the hills south of the development area and this may have been related to the block house line that was constructed along the railway during the South African War, although the author notes it does not conform to the conventional forts noted elsewhere in the region. Faint rock engravings, dating to the Later Stone Age, were also recorded on the dolerite rocks to the south of the proposed development; more of these are expected to occur on similar rock outcrops locally, but these are all





outside of the development area.

The author further notes that the development is likely to have a significant visual impact on the area, which will have repercussions for travellers on the Blue Train and Rovos Rail, which both traverse this area.

Taaiboschfontein, Vanderlinderskraal and Kalkbultfontein have been surveyed and commented on by SAHRA separately (September 2011).

**Case Decision:**

SAHRA supports the recommendations of the author and requests that:

- While SAHRA is cognisant of the fact that the dolerite outcrops occur to the south of the development area, they should nonetheless be considered a no-go zone during development. Their location should be marked on all development maps and the ECO and site foreman should ensure that no access is gained to this area;
- A desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment should be conducted to ascertain whether the local geology, which can be highly fossiliferous, is likely to be sensitive in this area.

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit notes the concerns raised by the specialist regarding the visual impact of the proposed development on the scenic route through the area that is traversed by the Blue Train and Rovos Rail. SAHRA APM Unit draws the applicant's attention to the fact that decisions on issues such as visual impact must be made by the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Northern Cape (Mr. Andrew Timothy, email: [ratha.timothy@gmail.com](mailto:ratha.timothy@gmail.com) to whom this Archaeological Review Comment will be copied.

SAHRA will provide final comment on this application once the PIA has been received and reviewed.

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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Kathryn Smuts  
Heritage Officer: Archaeology  
South African Heritage Resources Agency



# Potfontein Photovoltaic project

Our Ref: 9/2/025/0001

Enquiries: Kathryn Smuts  
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CaseID: 1944

Date: Tuesday April 23, 2013

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Colette Scheermeyer  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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