



Interim Comment

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

Attention: Kathu Property Developers
Private bag X2005
Menlyn Retail
PRETORIA

0063
**PROPOSED SOLAR FARM FOR BESTWOOD ON THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM BESTWOOD 459-RD,
K GALAGADI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.**

Thank you for your indication that the proposed Bestwood Solar Farm development is to be relocated to another piece of the Bestwood Farm..

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999, heritage resources, including archaeological or palaeontological sites over 100 years old, graves older than 60 years, structures older than 60 years are protected. They may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. This means that before such sites are disturbed by development it is incumbent on the developer (or mine) to ensure that a Heritage Impact Assessment is done. This must include the archaeological component (Phase 1) and any other applicable heritage components. Appropriate (Phase 2) mitigation, which involves recording, sampling and dating sites that are to be destroyed, must be done as required.

The Kathu Archaeological Complex, which includes the already known sites Bestwood 1 and 2, is currently being proposed for National Heritage status. Further, the suite of sites will be put forward by the Gamagara Municipality for World Heritage Status. While much of the archaeological material and sites are known and mapped, a vast amount of archaeological material remains undiscovered in and around Kathu Town. In the light of the proposed NHS and WHS status and the highly sensitive archaeological landscape known in the vicinity of Kathu, SAHRA requests that a full Heritage Impact Assessment is compiled as part of the planning phase of this application. The quickest way forward is to contact suitably qualified specialists to provide a Phase 1 Palaeontological and Archaeological Impact Assessment Report (see www.palaeontologicalsociety.co.za and www.asapa.org.za for lists of professionals).

The Phase 1 Impact Assessment Report will identify the archaeological sites and assess their significance. It should also make recommendations (as indicated in section 38) about the process to be followed. For example, there may need to be a mitigation phase (Phase 2) where the specialist will collect or excavate material and date the site. At the end of the process the heritage authority may give permission for destruction of the sites.

Where bedrock is to be affected, or where there are coastal sediments, or marine or river terraces and in potentially fossiliferous superficial deposits, a Palaeontological study must be undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon palaeontological resources - or at least a letter of exemption from a Palaeontologist is needed to indicate that this is unnecessary. If the area is deemed sensitive, a full Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be required and if necessary a Phase 2 rescue operation might be





necessary.

If the property is very small or disturbed and there is no significant site the specialist may choose to send a letter to the heritage authority to indicate that there is no necessity for any further assessment.

Any other heritage resources that may be impacted such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Kathryn Smuts
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/111025>
(DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/1906)

