



## **Interim Comment**

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

Attention: Mrs Gabriele Wood  
Savannah Environmental  
P.O. Box 148  
Sunninghill  
2157

### **Proposed Damfontein Solar Energy Facility near Noupoort, Northern Cape Province. DEA Ref No: 14/12/16/3/3/1/728**

Booth, C. and Shanker, S. October 2012. *A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed establishment of the Damfontein Solar Energy Facility on Portion 8 of Farm Damfontein 114, near Noupoort, Usombomvu Local Municipality, Northern Cape.*

Durant, J. F. October 2012. *Proposed Damfontein Solar Energy Facility, Noupoort, Northern Cape Province, Basic Assessment Report, Palaeontology.*

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd is conducting a Basic Assessment process for the proposed 20MW Damfontein Solar Energy Facility and ancillary infrastructure near Noupoort in the Northern Cape. The proposed facility is intended to cover 20ha in extent. An existing farm road will be used to access the proposed development. A Phase 1 AIA and a Desktop PIA were submitted to SAHRA for assessment.

The submitted AIA indicated good archaeological visibility on the property. The AIA identified several surface scatters of mainly Middle Stone Age origin on the property. These sites are likely out of context and as such, have been graded as having low archaeological significance.

According to the Desktop Palaeontological Report, the region is characterised by low hills and koppies, often topped by doleritic sills. The geology of the area is dominated by sedimentary rocks of the Adelaide Subgroup of the Beaufort Group of the Karoo Supergroup. The region is relatively fossil rich. Past findings include fossilised wood, leaf and stem imprints as well as vertebrate skeletal material. The area proposed for development falls within the Dicynodon Assemblage Zone of the Adelaide Subgroup which is characterised by herbivorous Synapsid fossils. These palaeontological resources are accorded high significance.

### **Interim Decision:**

According to the information provided in the Phase 1 AIA, the likelihood of the proposed development impacting on significant archaeological resources is low. As such, no further archaeological mitigation is required.

In terms of palaeontology, a site visit and surface survey by a suitably qualified palaeontologist is required to determine the extent of the exposures or outcroppings of the palaeontologically significant Dicynodon





Assemblage Zone of the Adelaide Subgroup in the proposed development area. This palaeontological Phase 1 assessment should include a comprehensive surface survey of the proposed development area, including appropriate mitigation measures and track paths of the area surveyed. The report must reflect the scope of the proposed project. It is advisable that the specialist receives all available information regarding the proposed project before the field survey is conducted.

SAHRA APM Unit awaits the Palaeontological Impact Assessment report and will review it before issuing further recommendations regarding this 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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Kathryn Smuts  
Heritage Officer: Archaeology  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Colette Scheermeyer  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

**ADMIN:**

(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/728)

