



## Final Comment

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

Attention: Jeremy Blood  
CCA ENVIRONMENTAL (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 10145  
Caledon Square  
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### De Aar Solar One Photovoltaic Power Project, Northern Cape

Becker, E. January 2012. *Heritage Impact Assessment Scoping Report Prepared for De Aar Solar One Photovoltaic Power Plant, Northern Cape*

Becker, E. April 2012. *Phase 2 Heritage Impact Assessment De Aar Solar One Photovoltaic Power Project*

Brink, J. August 2012. *A Palaeontological Desktop Study of the Area to be Affected by the Proposed Photovoltaic Power Project on Portion 3 of Farm Hartebeestplaats 135*

Business Venture Investments 1421 (Pty) Ltd has proposed the development of the De Aar Solar One Photovoltaic Power Project on 75 to 80 ha of Portion 3 of Farm Hartebeestplaats 135, Northern Cape. The project will generate between 25 and 30 MW and be connected to the Eskom Hydra Substation via a 132kV power line. The receiving environment is relatively flat with some low ridges to the east and north-east. The vegetation is predominantly grass and shrubs and several power lines and pylons transect the property.

The archaeologist undertook two assessments of the site's heritage resources, a heritage scoping assessment and an HIA (this was called a Phase 2 HIA by the author, but is, nonetheless, a Phase 1 report). Background research indicated occupation of the area by the San and Khoe, as evidenced by rock art in the region. As colonists and Trekboere arrived, farms were established and the area settled. The area became an important point on the railway link between Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth, Cape Town and Namibia. Its central location also made it significant during the South African War.

The field survey noted that current land use has disturbed the area considerably - there is a lodge, brickworks and grazing on the site. Some stone tools were identified on the hilltop area, which the author assumes falls outside the proposed development area. These artefacts were deemed to be of low significance, although no description of the type of artefact, density of distribution or raw material was provided. The author notes that the artefacts form part of the cultural landscape. In the second assessment, these tools were identified as being Middle Stone Age artefacts, but no further explanation was provided.

The palaeontologist undertook a desk-based assessment of the palaeontology of the area and established that the northeast of the area is underlain by Karoo sedimentary rocks of the Adelaide Subgroup (Beaufort Group), which are fossiliferous. The west and south of the development area is underlain by dolerite, which is not fossil-bearing. Across a large part of the development footprint, these deposits are mantled by later Cainozoic





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deposits, which are likely to contain fossils preserved in the catchment area between two of the drainage channels that are found on the property; these fossil types have not been well studied in the central Karoo area and would therefore be significant. Several of the activities related to the development are likely to impact on one or both of the fossiliferous layers, particularly in the more sensitive low-lying areas.

### Decision:

SAHRA supports the recommendations of the authors and requests that:

- A suitably qualified palaeontologist be employed to monitor the excavations for the panel foundations; the inverter and transformer structures; construction of power lines and internal roads.
- The site of the Middle Stone Age material should be protected by a 20m buffer. This area should be fenced off and avoided by the development activities, whether it falls within the development footprint or not. If the site is within the development footprint and the layout of the panels cannot be changed to protect the site, mitigation in the form of proper recording and photographing of the site should be conducted. SAHRA APM Unit will make further recommendations upon receipt of the Phase 2 mitigation report. This measure could have been avoided had such information been included in the initial Heritage Reports.

If the recommendations made in the specialist report and in this comment are adhered to, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit has no objection to the development (in terms of the archaeological and palaeontological components of the heritage resources). If any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources are found during development, construction or mining, SAHRA and a professional archaeologist and/or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be alerted immediately.

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



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Colette Scheermeyer  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**  
(DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/2313)

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.



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