



## Interim Comment

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

Attention: Miss Surina Brink  
WSP Environment and Energy  
3rd Floor  
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Cape Town  
8001

### Proposed Wind Energy Facility near De Aar, Northern Cape Province

Kaplan, J. October 2010. *Archaeological Impact Assessment of a Proposed Wind Energy Facility near De Aar Northern Cape*

Mulilo Renewable Energy had proposed the construction of a 300 MW wind energy farm in the Northern Cape, with 150 turbines to be erected over 25 000 ha. A scoping study was compiled to assess possible impacts on the development area, being portions of Farm Swartkoppies and Farm Smouspoort, where the first 23 turbines were expected to be erected. The survey found no significant archaeological resources. The project has now been scaled down to a 100 MW wind farm comprising 67 turbines; plans for a Phase 2 part of the project have been scrapped.

The full Archaeological Impact Assessment investigated the proposed 13.5km long 132kV overhead transmission line alignment, the site of the proposed construction camp and the proposed access road alignments. The transmission line survey yielded 70 archaeological occurrences comprising several hundred tools dating predominantly to the Middle and Later Stone Age. Most of these tools existed as a dispersed, background signature, although several diffuse scatters were identifiable (ZWK4, ZWK14, ZWK50 and ZWK61). The MSA tools were highly weathered flakes and blades on hornfels/lydianite, while the LSA material was largely on unweathered hornfels and consisted of flakes, chunks and cores, with a few formal tools, including adzes and scrapers. This survey also identified a ruined shepherd's hut (ZWK46) made of undressed sandstone blocks associated with modern debris, although some older artefacts were noted, namely a late 19th Century bottle fragment and an earthenware ceramic sherd. All the above finds were described as isolated and in disturbed contexts and rated as having low heritage significance.

The proposed construction camp site contained LSA hornfels flakes (ZWK35) and some weathered MSA flake tools (ZWK36), with a thin scatter of LSA flakes (ZWK34) towards the south. These isolated occurrences were also accorded low heritage significance.

The proposed access road to the wind turbines at Swartkoppies did not yield any significant heritage resources, although some LSA and MSA tools were noted, particularly at the lower reaches of the proposed alignment (ZWK37-40). The Goenmanskloof road on Farm Smouspoort has been abandoned as an option, so the historic water pit documented there in the scoping phase is no longer under threat. The proposed





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Kasarmberge road runs directly adjacent to site ZWK95, which consists of one packed stone grave with a small upper grindstone and some flakes nearby, as well as two further possible graves. Also identified were LSA flakes, chips, chunks and cores as well as scrapers and an adze all on lydianite and one item on cryptocrystalline. Other finds included ostrich eggshell and bone fragments and a small slab of dolerite exhibiting fine cross hatching.

A series of further sites were identified, but these will not be impacted by the development; these sites were identified as potential tourist attractions. These sites were rock engravings (ZWK60, ZWK65 and ZWK66), a collapsed shelter (ZWK1) and an extensive LSA site (ZWK70). Also possibly of interest are the historical water pit and walling on Kasarmberge and the remains of a stone feature on Swartkoppies.

**Case Decision:**

SAHRA supports the recommendations of the author and requests that:

- Site ZWK95 should be avoided by all development activities. To ensure this, a temporary fence should be erected around the site, no less than 5m from the visible boundaries of the site. The access road that is planned for the Kasarmberge should be moved at least 10m from the fencing and should run no closer than 15m from the edge of the site. Should it not be possible to change the alignment of the access road, and should the impact on this site be unavoidable, the applicant will need to liaise with the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit to determine the appropriate way forward.
- The Palaeontological Impact Assessment for this project is still outstanding and must still be submitted to SAHRA for comment before construction activities can begin.

SAHRA looks forward to receiving the Palaeontological Impact Assessment for this project and will provide comment on this report once it has been received.

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





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Colette Scheermeyer  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/124659>  
(DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/1651)

