



Final Comment

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

Attention: Ms Engela Grobler
Africa Geo-environmental Services
PO Box 2526
Polokwane
0700

Renewable Energy Generation Project on Portion 10 of the Farm Lichtenburg Town and Townlands 27 IP, Ditsobotla Local Municipality, Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality, North West Province (Lichtenburg Solar Park)

Hutten, M. May 2012. *Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Lichtenburg Solar Park North of Lichtenburg, North West Province*

Rubidge, B. July 2012. *Palaeontological Assessment - Lichtenburg Solar Park*

Matrigenix (Pty) Ltd has proposed the development of the Lichtenburg Solar Park on Portion 10 of the Farm Lichtenburg Town and Townlands 27 IP, north of Lichtenburg in the North West Province. The facility will occupy 240 ha and generate up to 70 MW.

In addition to the Photovoltaic panels and their mounting system, the facility will include substations and switching stations; connecting cabling; workshop facilities; storm water and sewage systems; internal access roads and perimeter fencing. The facility will connect to the Eskom grid via a 3160m power line, linking it to the Watershed Substation south of the study area.

The receiving environment is fairly flat, with sandy soils and exposed banks of rock; the vegetation is grassland with some trees. Power lines traverse the property to the west, but the area is largely undisturbed, having been used as a game breeding farm.

Background research showed that the area has been inhabited since the Early Stone Age, as evidenced by the presence of the Taung National Heritage Site and Makapansgat in the broader region. Middle Stone Age sites are also present as well as site with evidence of the transition from ESA to MSA technologies. Important Later Stone Age sites in the area include Thaba Sione where extensive artefact scatters are found together with engraved boulders. This site was adopted as a rain making site by Iron Age people and is still in use today by Zionist Church members. Iron Age remains in the region date back to the Early Iron Age, such as at Kruger Cave and Broederstroom, while the Groot Marico area, north of Lichtenburg is known to contain more than 100 Late Iron Age sites. The area is rich in evidence for the development of Sotho-Tswana settlements, the emergence of stone-walled cities and their eventual destruction during the Difaqane.

Historically, the area is recorded in Campbell's account of his visit to Kaditshwene in the 1820s, while David Livingstone established a mission station north of Lichtenburg in 1843. The town itself was proclaimed in 1873,





Enquiries: Kathryn Smuts
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: ksmuts@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 467

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at a time when there was much conflict between Boer settlers and the BaRolong people. The area was important during the South African War, due to its proximity to besieged Mafikeng. The town gained prominence in the late 1920s following the discovery of diamonds in the region, and several mining settlements can be found in the area; the cattle dip at Elandsputte, associated with this period, is a Provincial Heritage Site.

The field survey did not identify any heritage resources.

The palaeontological field survey described the underlying geology as comprising the Monte Christo Formation of the Malmani Subgroup of the Transvaal Sequence. This Formation is rich in chert, quartzite and dolomite, and small outcrops of these rock types were seen across the site. These rocks can contain stromatolites and, in many areas, create sinkholes and caves which can be filled with fossil-bearing Quaternary deposits; the site inspection, however, revealed neither and showed the area to be thickly mantled by soil.

Decision:

As there is apparently no evidence of any significant archaeological and palaeontological material in this area, 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) on condition that, 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 an 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

Street Address: 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town 8000 * Postal Address: PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000
* Tel: +27 21 462 4502 * Fax: +27 21 462 4509 * Web: <http://www.sahra.org.za>



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Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/270)

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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