



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
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2157

Proposed Wonderheuwel Solar Energy Facility near Noupoort, Northern Cape Province. DEA Ref No: 14/12/16/3/3/1/731

Booth, C. and Shanker, S. October 2012. *A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed establishment of the Wonderheuwel Solar Energy Facility on Portion 7 of Farm Damfontein 114, near Noupoort, Usombomvu Local Municipality, Northern Cape.*

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

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd is conducting a Basic Assessment process for the proposed Wonderheuwel Solar Energy Facility near Noupoort in the Northern Cape. The proposed facility is intended to cover 20 ha in extent. A Desktop PIA and an AIA were submitted to SAHRA for assessment.

The AIA indicated good archaeological visibility on the property. The AIA identified several surface scatters of mainly Middle Stone Age origin on the property, as well as stone knapping/manufacture sites. Two particularly dense areas of artefacts were noted, one in the east of the development site and one near a rocky outcrop and koppie. Of these, the former was identified as MSA and probably *ex situ*, while the other was identified as a knapping site (WH S1).

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. The report contained little detail on the specifics of the proposed development including what ancillary infrastructure is proposed and the proposed output of the facility.

Interim Decision:

SAHRA supports the recommendations of the author in terms of site WH S1 and requests that this site is cordoned off prior to any development activities and that this area, is declared a no-go zone during development. The cordon should take the form of temporary fencing and be placed 50m from the perimeter of





the site.

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 Dicyonodon 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

Kathryn Smuts
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/731)

