



Final Comment

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

Attention: Networkx Renewables (Pty) Ltd
20 The Piazza, 2nd Floor
Melrose Arch
2076 Johannesburg

Proposed Bosjesmansberg PV East Solar Energy Facility near Copperton, Northern Cape Province

van der Walt, J., December 2013. Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed Bosjesmansberg PV East Solar Energy Facility, located close to Copperton in the Northern Cape

Almond, J., September 2013. Recommended exemption from further palaeontological studies: proposed Bosjesmansberg PV solar energy facility near Copperton, Siyathembana Local Municipality, Northern Cape

Networkx Renewables (Pty) Ltd is proposing the establishment of a PV solar energy facility on Portion 1 of Farm Bosjesmansberg 67. The total production for the solar facility will be 75MW and the footprint is expected to cover a total of 337ha. This is just one of four proposed solar energy facilities on the same property which are expected to produce a total 300MW.

Infrastructure necessary for the power plant will be:

- underground cables;
- on-site substation including a building for control and storage;
- a loop in - loop out connection to the Cuprum-Burchell 132kV overhead power line;
- temporary and permanent laydown areas at the outskirts of the energy facility;
- internal access roads for a total of about 15km;
- electrical fencing.

An archaeological and a palaeontological impact assessment were undertaken as part of the specialist studies during the Environmental Impact Assessment process and included in the Environmental Impact Report.

The palaeontologist, Dr Almond, undertook a desktop assessment and concluded that the fossil significance of the area is very low. As such, it is unlikely that any significant fossil material will be disturbed during the establishment of the solar energy facility.

Mr van der Walt undertook the archaeological impact assessment and identified on site a higher density of MSA material compared to the other three PV solar facilities related to this project. The archaeologist argues



Our Ref: 9/2/075/0001

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CaseID: 4894

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that this may be due to the presence of quartzite ridges on the area which would more easily be exploited for knapping. The archaeologist identified three sites of medium significance for which he recommends preservation or mitigation. These three sites are a scatter of MSA and LSA material around a pan, a high density scatter of MSA flakes and tools on quartzite and and an MSA quartzite quarry site.

Background scatters of stone artefacts were mostly recorded along the quartzite ridge.

Case recommendations:

SAHRA recommends that:

- preservation *in situ* is the preferred option for all sites.
- since the three sites of medium significance (013, 035 and 036) are included in the exclusion zone for the solar power facility, no further mitigation is requested.
- should preservation in situ for these three sites not be possible, the provisions of s. 35(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 apply. SAHRA requires that an archaeologist applies for a mitigation permit.
- sites from 014 to 041 have been satisfactorily recorded in the assessment. As such, no mitigation for these sites is requested.
- should any new evidence of archaeological sites or remains e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, marine shell and charcoal/ash concentrations, rock art, unmarked human burials, fossils or other categories of heritage resources be found during the proposed activities, or in any future activities, SAHRA APM Unit (Tel: 021 462 4502) must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Mariagrazia Galimberti



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Heritage Officer: Archaeology
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/157273>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/579/1)

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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