

**The proposed construction of a solar photovoltaic (PV) Plant to generate up to 40MW (PHASE 2), Brakpan, Gauteng Province (DMRE REF: GP158MREA)**

**Our Ref: 18418**



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 18418

Date: Wednesday March 01, 2023  
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## **Final Comment**

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

Attention: Tshedza 3 Investments (Pty) Ltd

**Proposed 80-100 hectare Solar PV development located on Ergo Mining owned land adjacent to the Withok Estates Agricultural Holdings in the area of Brakpan within the City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, Gauteng Province. The site is located approximately 6km south of the Brakpan central business district. Farms included in scoping assessment totaling about 557ha include: Portion 9 of Farm Withok 131 IR; Portion 183; 272 and 283 of Farm Witpoortje 117 IR; Holdings 203 - 208; 240-245; 296-303; 348-355 of Withok Estates Agricultural Holdings**

**Van der Walt, J. Heritage Impact For The Proposed Construction Of A Solar Photovoltaic (Pv) Plant To Generate Up To 40 Mw Of Energy (Ergo Mining Solar Pv Energy Phase 2) Brakpan, City Of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, Gauteng Province**

**Bamford, M. July 2022. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Ergo Mining Solar PV Phase 2 (40MW), Brakpan, Gauteng Province**

The proposed development entails a photovoltaic plant and associated infrastructure.

The archaeological assessment revealed that the study area is characterised by cultivation and mining activities from the 1940's onwards with various features relating to the built environment occurring in the area, that is older than 60 years, and therefore protected by Heritage Legislation. Additionally historical material was recorded that washed out of reclaimed slimes dams. Previous assessments in the area recorded Stone Age sites concurring with Stone age scatters recorded in this assessment. The author recommends the implementation of Chance Find Procedure for the project, along with monitoring of the study area by the Environmental Control Officer. If impacted on the standing structures (DRD008) must be assessed and recorded prior to the application for a destruction or alteration permit adhering to all legal requirements. Both the Preferred and Alternative lay out are acceptable from a heritage point of view provided that the recommendations in the report are adhered to.

The palaeontological assessment revealed that the three proposed project areas lie on the potentially fossiliferous Vryheid Formation (Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup) that could preserve fossils of the



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*Glossopterisflora*. A site visit was not completed because the site is already highly disturbed from the past mining activities and subsequent rehabilitation and re-vegetation. Both factors would have destroyed any surface or near surface fossils, if ever present. The author recommends that a Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the Environmental Management Programme report in case there are fossils well below the ground surface.

### Final Comment

In terms of archaeological and palaeontological heritage, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit has no objections to this proposed development, provided that the recommendations in the above specialist reports and this comment are adhered to, and in addition, on the following conditions:

- A palaeontological Chance Find Protocol must be implemented by the Environmental Control Officer or site manager in charge of these developments.
- If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments and charcoal/ash concentrations) or palaeontological remains are found during the proposed activities, SAHRA must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, based 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 significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary.

If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the police find them to be heritage graves, mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be contacted for processes to follow.

Should the project be granted Environmental Authorisation, SAHRA must be notified and all relevant documents submitted to the case on SAHRIS.

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

Yours faithfully

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Andrew Salomon  
Heritage Officer: Archaeology  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine  
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/595981>

**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.