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11 October 2018

Shaun Taylor
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
P.O. Box 148
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Dear Shaun

SPLITTING OF APPROVED SOL INVICTUS PV3, OU TAAIBOSMOND 66/5, NEAR AGGENEYS INTO PV3 AND PV5: HERITAGE COMMENT

Thank you for providing the proposed split layout for the already authorised Sol Invictus 3 Photo Voltaic (PV) facility on the farm Ou Taaibosmond 66, Portion 5. The present proposal involves splitting the 150MW approved facility into two 75MW facilities with associated infrastructure to be named Sol Invictus 3 and Sol Invictus 5. These are located on the southern and northern halves of the approved site respectively and do not have any components falling outside of the original footprint. It is also noted that the new Sol Invictus 3 and Sol Invictus 5 projects will involve solar panels that are 5m high as opposed to the originally authorised 3m high panels. The map overleaf shows the new proposal.

My original field survey of the site in February 2016 showed it to not be sensitive from an archaeological point of view. No finds were located within the study area.


The distance of the site from the N14 (minimum 7.0km) suggests that the change in panel height from 3m to 5m will not be meaningful in terms of impacts to the cultural landscape as the facility would likely still be virtually invisible from the national road.

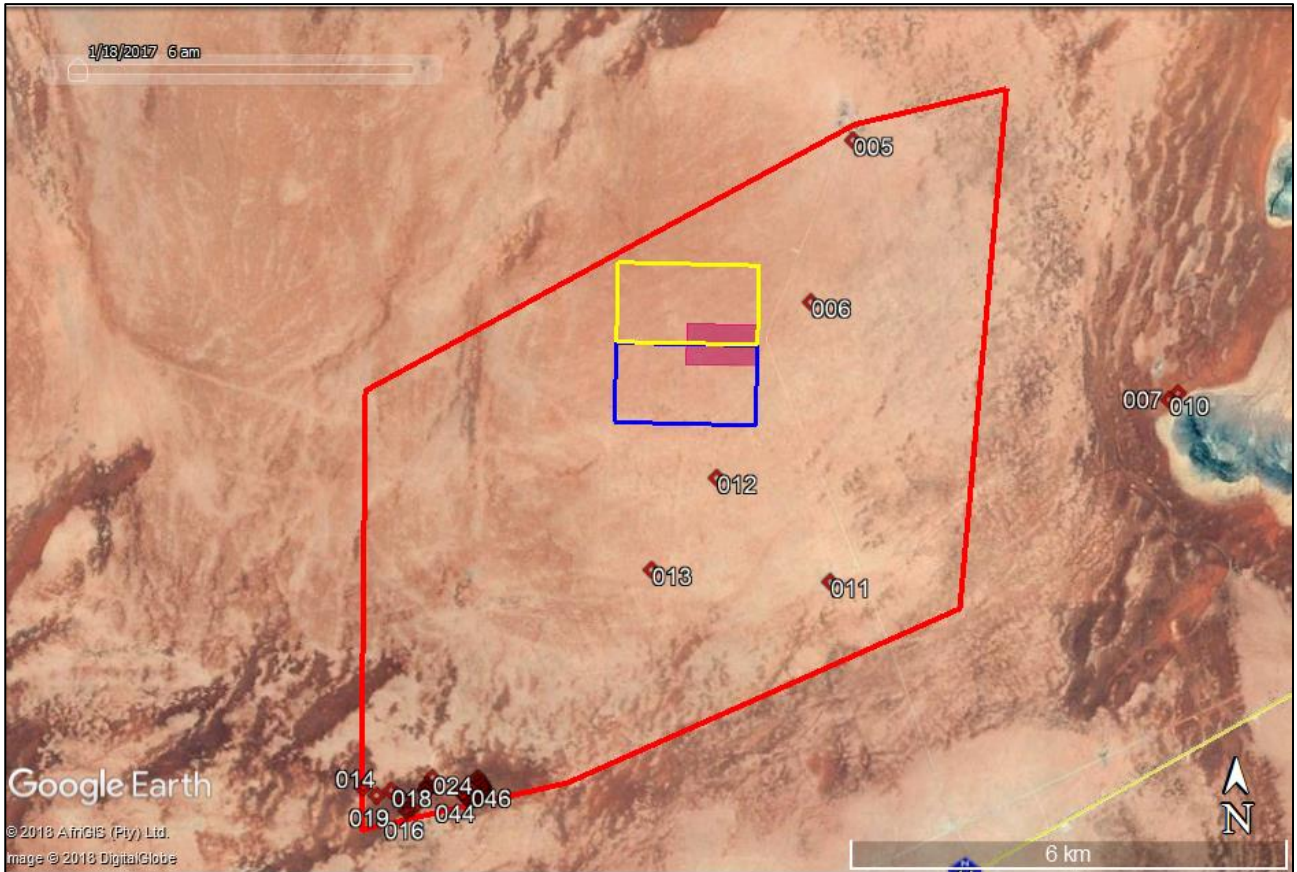
In terms of both the increase in solar panel heights from 3m to 5m as well as the split of the 150MW approved facilities with associated infrastructure, there are thus no heritage-based objections to the proposed amendments.

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) has issued comments on the project and all recommendations from both the original Sol Invictus 3 PV HIA and the original SAHRA Sol Invictus 3 PV comments are supported and should be carried through to the new environmental authorisation conditions. However, SAHRA will issue a new comment for the present application.

In conclusion, the proposed amendments will result in no (zero) changes to the significance rating within the original heritage impact assessment report that was used to inform the approved EIA. In terms of advantages and disadvantages, none were identified with respect to the proposed amendments. The proposed amendments are therefore supported provided that all mitigation measures originally specified in the heritage impact assessment (dated 2016) are implemented accordingly.

Yours sincerely


Jayson Orton



Aerial view of the study area. The farm portion (project area) is indicated by the red polygon while the PV3 and PV5 project sites are shown in blue and yellow respectively. Numbered waypoints denote archaeological finds.

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