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Beyond Heritage (Pty) Ltd

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2021/598485/07

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Attention: Ms Cate Rapudi

Reference: **PROPOSED STEYNSRUS 10MW PV FACILITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE**

HERITAGE STATEMENT

1. Introduction

Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting (HCAC) (now Beyond Heritage) was contracted by Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd to conduct an archaeological impact assessment for the proposed Steynsrus 10MW PV Facility (Van der Walt 2013). The proposed development falls within the jurisdiction of Mqohaka Local Municipality, in the Free State Province and it entails the establishment of the new Steynsrus 10 MW PV Solar Facility with battery storage and supporting infrastructures. The project is located on the farm Arbeid 2154 and Weltevrede 2151.

The study area was assessed by van der Walt (2013) and Almond (2013) and the reports have been submitted to the South African Heritage Resources Authority (SAHRA) (CaseID: 3420), and was closed and approved in October 2013. The project was initially proposed at 5MW capacity, and was issued with an Environmental Authorisation in 2014, unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances the environmental authorisation lapsed, and is subjected to a new process that serves to re-apply for such authorisation and applicable water use authorisations. Beyond Heritage has therefore been requested to provide a heritage statement on the validity of the heritage reports compiled in 2013 as the development will now proceed.

2. Background information

Contrarians Capital Holdings (the Applicant) has proposed the development of a new Steynsrus 10MW Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Facility. The associated infrastructure will include but are not limited to the following: on-site substation and buildings, access roads, overhead power line, and associated structures. The power generated by the proposed Project will feed into the existing Eskom 132 kV distribution system. The applicant anticipates bidding for Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) bid windows and any other possible renewable energy opportunities in South Africa.

3. Findings

Six sites of heritage significance were identified during the 2013 survey consisting of:

- The demolished remains of two residential dwellings (Site 2 and 3) and the foundations of a rectangular cattle kraal (Site 1) associated with the residential complex.
- Site 4 is a large farm labourer compound setup.
- Site 5 consists of approximately 23 stone packed graves and
- Site 6 consists of three stone cairns roughly aligned east to west that might represent graves.

None of the documented sites are in close proximity to the proposed development and no direct impact is foreseen on the recorded sites (Figure 1).

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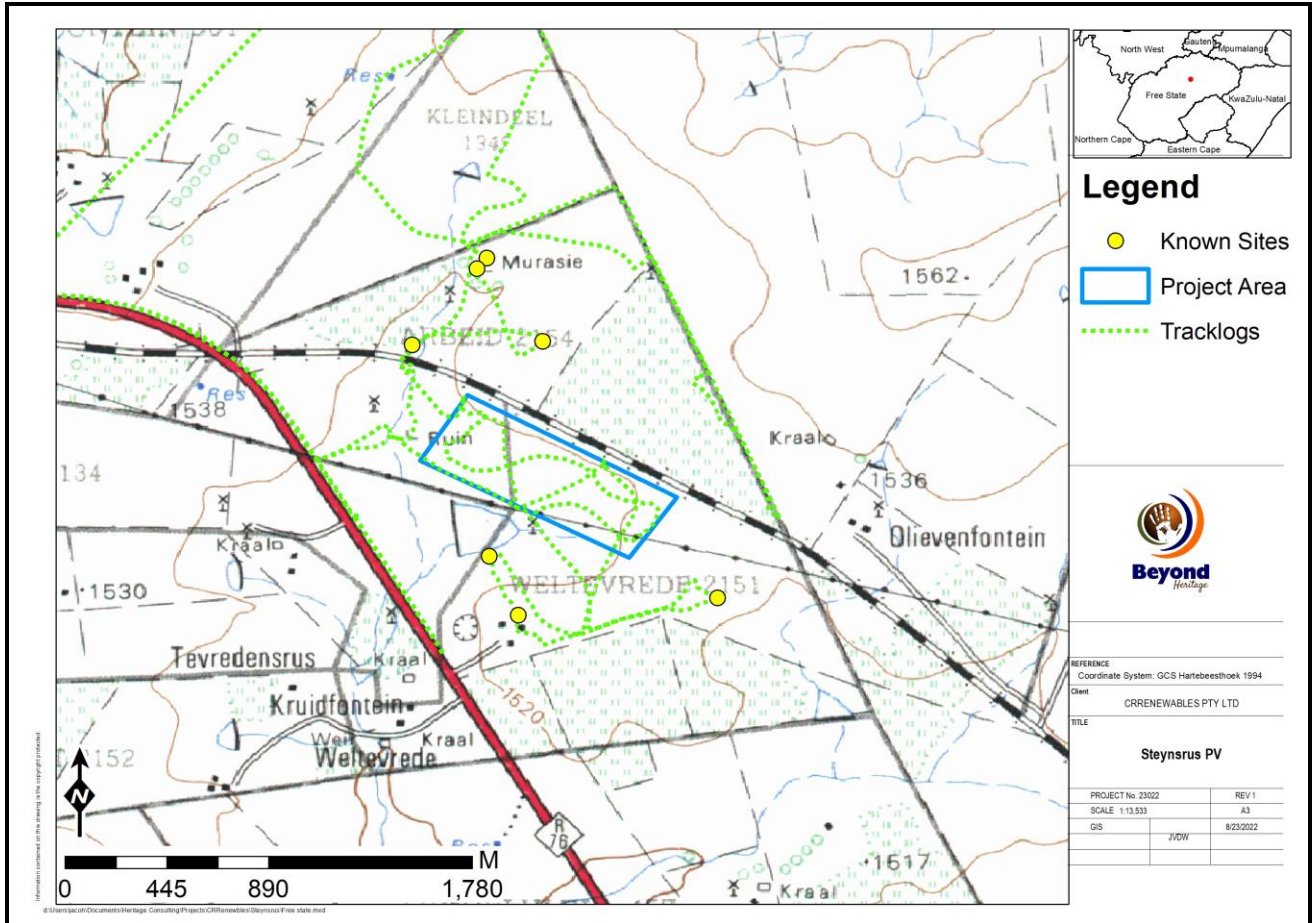


Figure 1. Location of recorded sites in relation to the development footprint.

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4. Heritage Opinion

Based on the findings of the 2013 heritage assessments, there is no objection to the current application for the following reasons:

- There is no expected change in the nature or significance of the impacts assessed in the 2013 study;
- Approval from SAHRA for the PV facility was obtained in October 2013.

Beyond Heritage is of the opinion that the development can continue based on the adherence to the following recommendations and that the impact area of the development remains exactly the same as the previously approved footprint:

- The areas where the recorded heritage resources occur should be indicated on development plans and demarcated (with a 30 m buffer zone) with danger tape and workers should be informed that they are not to go into these areas.
- Regular monitoring of the development footprint by the ECO to implement the Chance Find Procedure (detailed below) for heritage and palaeontology resources in case heritage resources are uncovered during the course of construction.
- The final layout should be subjected to a heritage walkdown prior to construction.

5.1. Chance Find Procedure

The possibility of the occurrence of subsurface finds cannot be excluded. Therefore, if during construction any possible finds such as stone tool scatters, artefacts or bone and fossil remains are made, the operations must be stopped, and a qualified archaeologist must be contacted for an assessment of the find and therefore chance find procedures should be put in place as part of the EMP. A short summary of chance find procedures is discussed below and monitoring guidelines applicable to the Chance Find procedure is discussed below and monitoring guidelines for this procedure are provided in Section 10.5.

This procedure applies to the developer's permanent employees, its subsidiaries, contractors and subcontractors, and service providers. The aim of this procedure is to establish monitoring and reporting procedures to ensure compliance with this policy and its associated procedures. Construction crews must be properly inducted to ensure they are fully aware of the procedures regarding chance finds as discussed below.

- If during the pre-construction phase, construction, operations or closure phases of this project, any person employed by the developer, one of its subsidiaries, contractors and subcontractors, or service provider, finds any artefact of cultural significance or heritage site, this person must cease work at the site of the find and report this find to their immediate supervisor, and through their supervisor to the senior on-site manager.
- It is the responsibility of the senior on-site Manager to make an initial assessment of the extent of the find and confirm the extent of the work stoppage in that area.
- The senior on-site Manager will inform the ECO of the chance find and its immediate impact on operations. The ECO will then contact a professional archaeologist for an assessment of the finds who will notify the SAHRA.

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Kindly contact me with any queries or concerns.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jaco van der Walt'.

Jaco van der Walt

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References

Van der Walt, J. June 2013. Archaeological Impact Assessment For the proposed Steynsrus (19.5 MW) photovoltaic plant, Free State Province

Almond, J. August 2013. Proposed Steynsrus Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility Near Kroonstadt, Moqkaka Local Municipality, Free State Province