



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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Enquiries: Khanyisile Bonile
Tel: 021 202 8669
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Case ID: 25456

Date: Friday, 4 July, 2025

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)/In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

[Mr](#) Ashlea Strong

[WSP](#)

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Beyond Heritage have been appointed by Merafong Energy (Pty) Ltd in support for an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) as amended, for activities that trigger the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 2014 Regulations, as amended for the proposed 140MW Merafong Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility, situated approximately 10km east of Carletonville, Merafong Local Municipality and West Rand District Municipality, Gauteng Province.

In the proposed project, a loop-in loop-out overhead powerline and switching station will be established as part of the up to 140MW Merafong Solar PV Facility, which is situated in Gauteng close to Fochville. A loop-in loop-out (LILO) OHPL will be part of the project, connecting the switching station to the 132kV powerlines that currently cross the projected Merafong Solar Energy Facility and Power evacuation to the national grid is required for the project.

In terms of palaeontological sensitivity, the site is located on high to very high palaeontological sensitivity area According to the SAHRA palaeontological sensitivity map and the likelihood of fossil materials being uncovered in this project area is likely.

Kraljevic, L. April 2025. Heritage Impact Assessment for proposed Merafong Solar PV Facility.

The PV area noted high levels of surface disturbances from both agricultural and mining activities, and the proposed area is of low heritage potential and only a degraded cement foundation (MF 001) of low significance was identified. No other surface finds were present within the PV area, Multiple cemeteries, historical dwellings, werfs, stone foundations, a stone walled complex, and several modern structures were identified but no identified heritage resources fall within the area earmarked for the PV area.

Bamford, M. March 2025. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Merafong Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility between Carletonville and Westonaria, Gauteng Province.



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The proposed site is primarily in the highly sensitive Formation of Vrihide, in part in the highly sensitive dolomite of Marmani which can maintain tracers such as stromatolites. There are no fossil of any kind in the project area or surface, It's unknown what's under the surface so:

- Chance Finds Procedure is recommended and must be implemented for the duration of construction activities.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final BAR and EMPr:

- 38(4)a - The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b - The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No further additional specific conditions are provided for the development;
- 38(4)c(i) - If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA DAU (Khanyisile Bonile 021 202 8669/ kbonile@sahra.org.za) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with this section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) - If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA DAU (Khanyisile Bonile 021 202 8669/ kbonile@sahra.org.za) must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with this section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d - See section 51(1) of the NHRA regarding offences;
- 38(4)e - The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
- If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
- The Final BAR must be submitted to the SAHRIS application for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA application must be submitted to the SAHRIS application for record



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purposes.

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

Yours faithfully

Khanyisile Bonile
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Natasha Higgitt
Manager: Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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.

ADMIN:



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Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.org.za/node/382583>