



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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Case ID: 20124

Date: Friday, 18 July, 2025

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3) 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)

Ecoleges Environmental Consultants has been appointed by Taaibosch Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed development of a 200 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) plant and associated infrastructure on approximately 250 Ha of portion 2 of farm Taaiboschfontein 41C in the Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province.

A Draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include two (2) 100MW PV blocks with inverters, field transformers, BESS, Dx substation and associated 132 kV distribution line to Cluster 2. Existing roads will be enlarged to allow pass through of equipment.

APelser Archaeological Consulting has been appointed by Ecoleges Environmental Consultants to provide an assessment of the impact to heritage resources as per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Pelser, A. 2025. A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment Related to the development of Cluster 4, a 150 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility and Associated Infrastructure on Portion 2 of Taaiboschfontein 41C between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province For Soventix Business Development Africa (Pty) Ltd.

The author conducted a field survey in February and March 2025. Dense vegetation (shrub) cover in parts limited archaeological visibility on the ground.

The HIA identified the following Heritage Resources

- 12 sites were identified in the surveyed cluster 4 area. The author notes the possibility of relation between the sites as well as sites identified in previous HIAs.
- Sites HV001 and HV002 are thought to represent proto-historic pastoralist structures and are attributed a Low to Medium Significance.



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- HV003 and HV011 present stone packed walls on a small ridgeline attributed a Low Significance.
- HV004 and HV012 located south of an identified farmstead and in the manmade dam, respectively. Both occurrences are attributed a Low Significance.
- HV005 is a cemetery containing 8 graves given a High Significance rating,
- HV006, HV007, HV008, HV010 all present stone cairns attributed a High Significance and should not be disturbed.

The HIA recommends the following;

- The identified Heritage Resources be left intact. The Resources will have to be demarcated with a gate and fence. A clear sign demarcating the Grave Site will have to be posted, each grave numbered and included in a grave register.
- A Grave Management Plan will have to be drafted,
- A 30m buffer will have to be adhered to or;
- The processes of relocation and exhumation of the graves are followed.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA DAU acknowledges the submitted Heritage Report however, the proposed development is located within an area of moderate and very high Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist. (See <https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html> for a list of qualified palaeontologists). The Minimum Standards refer to a Letter of Recommendation for Exemption for further studies should the specialist deem it appropriate. SAHRA reserves the right to insist on a field-based assessment should the Letter of Recommendation not provide ample information to make an informed comment.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the PIA and DEIA inclusive of appendices.

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

Yours faithfully

Cluster 4 Solar PV Facility Development

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Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.org.za/node/162309>