

the proposed construction of a 100 MW photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facility (known as the Stellar Mockford Solar PV), situated approximately 20 km southwest of the town of Polokwane, in the Limpopo Province



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Nokusho Ngobeni
Tel:
Email: nngobeni@sahra.org.za
Case ID: 23718

Date: Monday, 21 July, 2025

Final Decision

In terms of Section 38(2) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)/In terms of Section 38(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Mrs Jo Dean
Stellar Energy Solutions (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 42343
Heuwelsig
Bloemfontein
9332

AB Enviro Consult has been appointed by Stellar Energy Solutions (Pty) Ltd, to Register their Proposed development in terms of the "Norm for the Exclusion of the Development and Expansion of Solar Photovoltaic Facilities for the proposed Construction of a 100MW Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Energy Facility, Grid Connection, and Associated Infrastructure (to be known as the Stellar Mockford Solar PV) located approximately 18 km southwest of Polokwane within the Polokwane Local Municipality, Capricorn District area of jurisdiction of the Limpopo Province.

A Site Sensitivity Verification Report (SSVR) has been submitted in term of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA EIA Regulations (As amended). The solar PV facility will comprise several arrays of PV panels and associated infrastructure and will have a contracted capacity of up to 100 MW. The design of the final detailed layout will consider and adhere to the limitations of the development area and aspects such as environmentally sensitive areas, roads, fencing and servitudes on site. The total surface area proposed for the layout will include the PV panel arrays (spaced to avoid shadowing), access and maintenance roads and associated infrastructure (buildings, power inverters, power lines, battery energy storage systems, on-site substations and switching substations and perimeter fences).

Lavin, J. 2024. HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT In terms of Section 38(8) of the NHRA for the PROPOSED STELLAR MOCKFORD 2 SOLAR PV ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR POLOKWANE, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

No heritage resources were identified during the field assessment for the PV facility or its EGI.

It is recommended that no development take place within or on the koppies. It is noted that this is not

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anticipated in the layout provided for the assessment.

Bamford, M. 2024. Desktop Study (Phase 1): Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Stellar-Mockford SEF, Polokwane Limpopo Province

The proposed site lies on the non-fossiliferous Pietersburg Sequence but is indicated as having low sensitivity. Therefore, a Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the EMP. Based on this information it is recommended that no further palaeontological impact assessment is required unless fossils are found by the contractor, environmental officer or other designated responsible person once excavations or drilling for foundations and infrastructure have commenced.

Final Decision

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 38(4) of the NHRA:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Application Unit (DAU) has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations provided by the heritage specialists are supported and must be adhered to.
- 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 (Nokusho Ngobeni/Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with this section of the NHRA is an offence 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 (Nokusho Ngobeni/Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with this section of the NHRA is an offence 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;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - i) 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

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permits issued by SAHRA.

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

Yours faithfully

Nokusho Ngobeni

South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.org.za/node/353535>