

Our Ref:



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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CaseID: 14016

Date: Thursday July 18, 2019
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Final Comment

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

Attention: Mrs Lorato Tigedi
NSVT Consultants
P.O. Box 45425
Heuwelsig
Bloemfontein
9332

Proposed formalization of Vergenoeg Informal Settlement located on approximately 20 hectares on Portion of Farm Herman 236 in Wesselsbron, Nala Local Municipality, Free State.

The proposed project entails the establishment of a township located on a portion of the farm Herman 236, Wesselsbron/Monyakeng, Free State Province. NSVT Consultants as independent EAP was appointed by Hoxana Consulting Engineers on behalf of Nala Local Municipality to conduct the Environmental Impact Assessment Report for rectification process in terms of Section 24G of NEMA, 1998 for commencing with an activity without obtaining an Environmental Authorisation. The municipality has deemed it necessary to formalise Vergenoeg Informal Settlement so that they can provide basic services to the area.

A draft Section 24G Environmental Impact Report and a Heritage Impact Assessment were submitted with the application.

PELSER, A. 2019. PHASE 1 HIA REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED VERGENOEG TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT LOCATED ON A PORTION OF HERMAN 236 IN WESSELSBRON/MONYAKENG, FREE STATE PROVINCE.

The field survey did not reveal any sites, features or material of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) origin or significance. The proposed area has previously been impacted by both agricultural activities and formal & informal residential settlement.

The large (formal) cemetery close to the township area, would require appropriate fencing a qualified archaeologist/ heritage practitioner is to recommend appropriate fencing mitigation as part of a detailed mitigation plan in a Phase 2 Mitigation Plan to be submitted to SAHRA, this mitigation report is to include detailed site survey, as per the minimum standards of Heritage reports (2007) as well as historical research.

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The informal older burial ground situated outside of the study area looks to be older than 100 years, with the large cemetery being envisaged to be formalized (fenced-in) as part of the proposed township development. Protection of the smaller informal graveyard such as fencing-in needs to be considered in case of future expansions in residential settlement in the area and SAHRA wishes to recommend that the graves identified in this informal cemetery be relocated to be included in the formal cemetery.

Final comment

The **SAHRA Archaeology, palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit** reviewed and accepts the HIA and recommendations therein. The area is situated in an area of moderate to high palaeontological sensitivity; however, as the area has been extensively disturbed previously and the area appears to be underlain by mainly Quaternary sediments of low palaeontological sensitivity the SAHRA APM Unit exempts the developer from undertaking a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment. A Fossil Finds Procedure must be included in the EMP for implementation.

The following conditions must be adhered to and must be incorporated into the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for implementation:

1. Should any objects of archaeological or palaeontological remains be found during construction activities, work must immediately stop in that area and the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) must be informed.
2. The ECO must inform the South African Heritage Recourse Agency (SAHRA) and contact an archaeologist and/or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the find, to assess the importance and rescue them if necessary (with the relevant SAHRA permit). No work may be resumed in this area without the permission from the ECO and SAHRA.
3. If the newly discovered heritage resources is considered significant a Phase 2 assessment may be required. A permit from the responsible heritage authority will be needed.
4. Should any human remains be uncovered during development, the activities must be immediately following SAHRA's 'What to do when graves are uncovered', section 3, must be followed as far as possible.

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5. A Chance Finds Procedures must be developed for the project to ensure that standard protocols and steps are followed should any heritage and/or fossil resources be uncovered during all phases of the project. These procedures should outline the steps and reporting structure to be followed in the instance that heritage resources are found. This must be included in the Environmental Awareness Plan.

6. The final EIA and appendices must be submitted to SAHRA upon submission to DEA. Should the project be granted Environmental Authorisation, SAHRA must be notified and all relevant documents submitted to the case file.

The **SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit** also reviewed the HIA and comments that both the formal and informal cemetery must be fenced-in with a designated buffer zone, including a gate for access.

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

Yours faithfully

Ragna Redelstorff
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/525301>
(DESTE, Ref: 24G/27/27,12/19/03)

[Terms & Conditions:](#)

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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.