

Our Ref: 8149

Enquiries: Ragna Redelstorff
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CaseID: 8149

Date: Thursday November 05, 2015

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Interim Comment

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

Attention: South African National Parks
PO Box 787, Pretoria 0001, South Africa
643 Leyds Street, Muckleneuk, Pretoria

SANParks propose to develop a Dinosaur Interpretation Centre (IC) within the Golden Gate Highlands National Park, on the Remaining Extent and Portion 1 of the Farm Glen Reenen No. 1361, Bethlehem, Free State Province.

Thank you for uploading a final BAR. The proposed project entails the construction of a dinosaur interpretation centre on the Remaining Extent and Portion 1 of the Farm Glen Reenen No. 1361, Bethlehem, within the Golden Gate Highlands National Park in the Free State Province. The following features are included in the building plans: display areas, multipurpose hall/facility, food and beverage area, palaeontological study area, lookout point and walkways, play area, parking area, ablution facilities, management facilities, storage space, retail outlet for arts and crafts.

A Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment and a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment were submitted with the application.

Choiniere, J. March 2015. Palaeontological Impact Assessment Phase 1: Desktop Study. Proposed Dinosaur Interpretation Center, Golden Gate Highlands National Park, Free State

The author reports that fossiliferous bedrock of the Elliot and Clarens Formation and, occasionally, unfossiliferous dolerite is underlying the proposed development area. Both formations contain significant fossils and are known for their richness in fossils; therefore, the likelihood of recovering these during bedrock excavations is very high. The author recommends that mitigation plans should be in place and a palaeontologist should be on site during excavation for monitoring and, if necessary, mitigation purposes.

Rossouw, L. 2015. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed development of a Dinosaur Interpretation Centre within Golden Gate Highlands National Park, FS Province.

The author undertook a field survey, during which no evidence of Stone Age Archaeological material, rock art, prehistoric structures or historical buildings older than 60 years was found. He concludes that the cultural landscape would not be impacted as the building is planned to blend in with the surrounding landscape.

Interim comment

With regard to archaeological heritage resources, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites



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(APM) Unit has no objections against the proposed development.

As an amendment to the interim comment released on 21 August 2015, the SAHRA APM Unit follows the recommendations by the author of the PIA that, before any excavation works commence, a palaeontologist must be appointed, who will monitor the excavation works. A letter of agreement between the appointed palaeontologist and the developer must be submitted to SAHRA. No excavation works may commence before such a letter is submitted to SAHRA and a written authorisation has been given by SAHRA. If any fossils are exposed during excavations, the palaeontologist must apply for a mitigation permit in order to excavate the fossils.

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

Phillip Hine
SAHRA Head Archaeologist (Acting)
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/316631>
(DEA, Ref:)

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.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.



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