

Repair and maintenance work to existing infrastructure and the development of rock revetment at the Arniston harbour, Western Cape.

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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Date: Monday November 13, 2017

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Final Comment

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

Attention: National Department of Public Works

The proposed development entails repair and maintenance work to existing Arniston harbour infrastructure and the development of a rock revetment in order to protect the harbour embankment and infrastructure. The repair and maintenance work does not require environmental authorisation, however the development of rock revetment will require environmental authorisation as it will increase the harbour footprint. The proposed development will take place at the Arniston harbour, Western Cape.

The South African Heritage Resources Agency would like to thank you for submitting the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report for the Proposed Repair, Maintenance and upgrade of existing infrastructure and the development of Rock Revetment at the Arniston Fishing Harbour, Western Cape.

The proposed development of a rock revetment is in order to protect the harbour embankment. The embankment is eroding away and requires the installation of rock revetment to stabilise and reduce erosion; this work will increase the footprint of the development.

An HIA was required as the Basic Assessment Report issued by PBPS was in response to the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) EIA regulations. As a NEMA application process is being followed Section 38(8) of the NHRA applies.

The desk based study conducted as part of the HIA considered three main aspects of maritime heritage commonplace along the southern Cape coast, namely coastal Stone Age heritage sites, stone built fish traps and maritime history.

As noted in the HIA, there are no known Stone Ages sites within the development area and as the area has been in use for over 120 years the report concluded that the likelihood of finding any remains is low.

Although there are known fish traps to the south and east of the harbour, these will not be affected by the proposed works.

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The area around Arniston has historically been a treacherous place for ships and Struis Point to the south of the town has been the site of numerous maritime accidents. The HIA concluded that while numerous ships were reportedly wrecked along or in the vicinity of Arniston harbour, the exact location of these has not been ascertained and the chance of finding a wreck in the development area is very low.

The conclusions and control measures recommended in the report are supported by SAHRA and as such there are no objections to the proposed project so long as it adheres to these.

SAHRA would like to advise that should any structures or shipwreck remains older than 60 years be uncovered during the proposed works, we must be notified immediately so that further advice can be given regarding complying with heritage legislation.

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

Yours faithfully

Briege Williams
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Lesla la Grange
Acting Manager: Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/398794>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1768)

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.