



Enquiries: Mariagrazia Galimberti  
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CaseID: 347

Date: Monday August 13, 2012

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## Final Comment

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

Attention: Mr Cornelius van der Westhuizen  
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research  
Edit view PO Box 320  
Stellenbosch  
7599

### Proposed Biofuels Processing Plant in Zone 5 of the Coega IDZ, Eastern Cape Province.

Dear Mr van der Westhuizen,

SAHRA received the Final Scoping Report for the above-mentioned project.

As stated in your document, a heritage impact assessment, comprehensive of a palaeontological, an archaeological and a historical component, was undertaken in 2010. The Management Plan for the heritage resources identified has not been finalised yet, however the recommendations included in review comment issued by SAHRA on the 18th of March 2011 still stand.

Zone 5 is sensitive from a heritage perspective, as palaeontological deposits as well as graves were identified. From an archaeological point of view, occasional scatters of Early and Middle Stone Age informal stone tools were found in secondary context and they are mostly located along the river gravel.

Two important palaeontological sites have been identified, one in the cliff section at the west end of the paired stormwater tunnels beneath the N2, and another one on the deep railway cutting west of the N2 to the south of the marshalling yard. Both these sites carry evidence of sedimentary contact between the Alexandria and the Kirkwood formations. The former exposes crustacean borrow of *Ophiomorpha*, whereas the second one shows trace fossils along the contact of the vertical section. Evidence in this zone is that previous cuttings in the Kirkwood formation were not examined by a palaeontologist, possibly causing the loss of highly fossiliferous material.

A two-grave cemetery, belonging to the Du Piesanie's family was also identified. A larger grave dates to 1942, whereas a smaller one is dated to 1947. Both graves are fenced off, but they are very overgrown.

Specifically for this project, a pipeline is proposed to connect the biofuel processing plant to the proposed tank farm, which is expected to be located in Zone 8.

#### Decision:

SAHRA therefore recommends that:

- Due to low visibility on most of zone 5, an archaeologist be present on site during vegetation clearing.
- Development taking place around the two palaeontological sites must be monitored by a



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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palaeontologist or by an ECO trained by a palaeontologist during excavations, to ensure protection of these deposits from disturbance.

- If high volume excavations in the Kirkwood and Sundays River Formations are planned, a professional palaeontologist must examine the freshly exposed bedrock cuts.
- A buffer zone of at least 15m must be maintained between the fence around the graves and any proposed development.
- While a heritage impact assessment for zone 8 has not yet been undertaken, CSIR consulted with Dr Binneman, the archaeologist who undertook the archaeological impact assessment for the Coega IDZ, to enquire about the need of an assessment of archaeological resources along the three proposed alternatives for the pipeline routes. It is the opinion of the specialist that, since virtually all three are disturbed, a survey will not be necessary.

If these recommendations are adhered to, SAHRA has no objections to the development, on the condition that if any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., shellmiddens, remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, marine shell and charcoal/ash concentrations), unmarked human burials, fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during construction, the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (Tel: 0436422811) must be alerted immediately, and an accredited professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, according to the nature of the findings, must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary.

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

Yours faithfully

Mariagrazia Galimberti  
Heritage Officer: Archaeology  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist



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**ADMIN:**

Edit view (DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/321)

**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.



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