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CaseID: 10668

Date: Monday November 06, 2017
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Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Enviroafrica CC

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The intention is to develop Hakskeen Pan as a multi-event outdoor arena/stadium type facility which could host future events such as land speed record attempts (Bloodhound SSC), speed testing, concerts and festivals etc. Approximately 16 150ha will be rezoned to accommodate the mixed use tourism-related area. Although the Basic Assessment Report and the Environmental Management Programme have been compiled with focus on the speed events (Bloodhound SSC), the general recommendations and mitigation measures outlined in the BAR, specialist reports and the EMP should be adopted by any other future events. The construction of infrastructure for the speed events held/to be held on Hakskeen Pan has commenced. The infrastructure constructed to date includes the following and is included in a separate Section 24G Application under the NEMA EIA Regulations 2010: - a 20km long, 500m wide track has been constructed, including a 300m wide safety buffer on either side of the track. Construction comprises of the following: ? 317 workers have cleared by hand an area of 20km x 1,1km of all surface stones and pebbles. ? Rehabilitation of the pan in the form of removing an existing causeway which was previously the main road between Mier and Rietfontein has taken place. This road which was 1m high was removed and the pan restored to its original surface and level. ? Material removed from the road was placed back in the borrow pits created many years ago when this road was first built. ? In certain areas it was necessary to remove stones which protruded above the surface but which extended to below the surface of the pan. These cases only represent a total estimated area of 500m x 300m when combined thus only 0,68% of the total amount of stones removed unearthed by machines, the rest was removed by hand. ? The only place where grading has and will take place is to repair manmade indentations and elevations in the form of old tracks created by locals or in the case of the elevated causeway which was removed. - Temporary structures (mostly shipping containers) placed on the edge of the pan for various functions such as control, storage, hospitality, showers and toilets etc.) located at the landside/Speedweek camp. - A 110kVa diesel generator, with a 3500l diesel tank and bund, also housed within a portable shipping container on site. - Two telecommunications masts placed at the landside camp and next to the R31 - 6 x 10 000l jo-jo tanks have been constructed for the storage of water on site. - Water is sourced from local borehole near the site, via a 16m long, 40mm diameter pipeline. - There is also a 110kVa diesel



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generator, with a 3500l diesel tank and bund, also housed within a portable shipping container on site. - A 44000l sewerage septic/holding tank has also been constructed at the landside/ Speedweek camp for the temporary storage of all effluent. The tank is emptied by a honeysucker by the local Municipality when it is full. At this stage it is not known what additional infrastructure (conservancy tanks etc.) - Farm boundary fencing was also moved to accommodate the track - There was also a 7km, 500m wide track for the speedweek events, however, no preparation of this track was required. The following infrastructure and development still needs to take place, and is the subject to this NEMA

EnviroAfrica CC was appointed by the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality to conduct a Basic Assessment Process for the proposed development of the Hakskeen Pan for event and tourism purposes, near Rietfontein, Northern Cape Province. A Final Basic Assessment Report (dBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014. Infrastructure constructed to date is currently being assessed as part of a Section 24G application in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations (SAHRIS Case ID 10680). This infrastructure includes a 20 km long, 500 m wide track, surface stones of the pan have been cleared by hand and deposited in piles, rehabilitation of previous main road, temporary structures (shipping containers) were placed on the edge of the pan, temporary fuel storage area, two telecommunication masts, water pipeline and septic tank. No new roads were constructed.

The proposed future development includes the temporary construction of facilities such as a landing strip (Landside/Speedweek Camp Area) for film, support and/or medical crew, tents, marquess, stages, grand stand viewing area, shipping containers, ablution facilities, exhibition stands, parking area, additional water tanks, technical camp and fuel depot. The McGregor Museum Archaeologist was appointed to conduct the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the development.

Morris, D. 2016. Heritage Impact Assessment, Hakskeen Pan, in the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality, Northern Cape, in relation to tourism and event-related development.

Surface scatters of Stone Age lithics rated as resources of low significance were identified within the areas earmarked for the Landside/Speedweek Camp Area, fuel depot option areas, and the domestic camp option B. A stone packed grave was identified within the dunes adjacent the pan and was rated as a site of high significance.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Manage development in the dune area and salvage Stone Age material which could be used in a tourist information pan;



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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- Expansion of the development with time would lead to cumulative impacts, which should be managed in a heritage management plan component of the environmental management plan;
- Impacting the grave to be avoided. No go area. Environmental Management Plan to red flag this as a no go area;
- An environmental management plan that takes cognizance of heritage resources during construction and in the event of any future expansion of infrastructure
- Provision for on-going heritage monitoring in a project environmental management plan which also provides guidelines on what to do in the event of any major heritage feature being encountered during any phase of development or operation
- Inclusion of further heritage impact consideration in any future expansion or infrastructural elements. Immediate reporting to relevant heritage authorities of any heritage feature discovered during development or operational life of the project
- Officials from relevant heritage authorities (National and Provincial) to be permitted to inspect the project/operation at any time in relation to the heritage component of the management plan.

Additional recommendations were provided in the dBAR:

- If any archaeological remains (including but not limited to fossil bones and fossil shells, coins, indigenous and/or colonial ceramics, any articles of value or antiquity, stone artefacts and bone remains, structures and other built features, rock art and rock engravings) are discovered during construction they must immediately be reported to SAHRA and must not be disturbed further until the necessary approval has been obtained from SAHRA; and
- Should any human remains/burial or archaeological material be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during construction, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency. The ECO and Engineer are also to be informed.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 10/03/2017, SAHRA requested that a Palaeontological Desktop Study be conducted for the development.

Almond, J. 2017. Palaeontological Desktop Assessment Desktop Study: Tourism and event related developments at Hakskeen Pan, Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality, ZF Mgcawu District, Northern Cape.

The author concludes that the palaeontology of Hakskeen Pan and its surrounds is very poorly-known. Potentially fossiliferous sediments of the Dwyka Group crop out along the western and eastern margins of Hakskeen Pan, of the overlying postglacial Prince Albert Formation (Ecca Group) along the southern and south-eastern pan margins, and Kalahari aeolian sands appear along the eastern and eastern pan margin.

**HAKSKEEN PAN EVENTS AND TOURISM-RELATED DEVELOPMENT Including
the Bloodhound SSC, Speed Events and other tourism-related
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The unfossiliferous Karoo Dolerite Suite occurs along the south-eastern pan margin.

Due to the lack of palaeontological studies in the area, recommendations contained within the report include the following:

- A specialist palaeontological field assessment of the development must take place with special focus on the pan margins and rock dumps; and
- The resulting report must be submitted to SAHRA, and should document and briefly assess any fossil remains, as well as make recommendations for mitigation measures for the remaining phases of the development.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment be conducted for the development as part of the BAR process.

Further comments will be provided upon receipt of the above.

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

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine
Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/386686>
(DENC, Ref:)