



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 11069

Date: Thursday August 31, 2017
Page No: 1

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Akani Properties

This environmental application is for the proposed Autumn Leaf Shopping Mall, a hotel with conference centre, free stander drive thru's, a Taxi rank, and a distribution centre.

Setala Environmental was appointed by Akani Properties (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation Application for the proposed Autumn Leaf Shopping Centre on Portion 24 (a Portion of Portion 5) of the farm Hazia 240 JP, approximately 2km east of the Zeerust CBD, and is situated within the Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality, North West Province. A draft Basic Assessment Report (dBAR) has been completed in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998(Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014. The proposed development will include the construction of a shopping centre with parking bays, three drive through restaurants, a Taxi Rank and ablution facilities, a hotel, and associated infrastructure such as access roads, water, sewer, storm water reticulation and electricity.

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Palaeontological Desktop Assessment were submitted as part of the application to SAHRA that formed part of the BAR. These reports were discussed as part of the previous comment and will not be discussed below.

In an Interim Comment issued on 21/06/2017, SAHRA requested that the Palaeontological Desktop be revised to address the following:

- The depth of the excavations for the foundations of the development must be taken into account for the impact assessment;
- There must be a discussion of the Quaternary soil layer and the potential fossils it may contain, as well as the highly sensitive formations below the Timeball Hill formation;
- The highly sensitive areas must be mapped out in detail by the PIA specialist, using the geological map;
- **Clear** recommendations for mitigation of impacts must be provided by the specialist.

Fourie, H. 2017. Palaeontological Impact Assessment Addendum: Proposed Autumn Leaf Shopping Mall Project



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Page No: 2

The following below will discuss how the consultant addressed SAHRAs concerns, as detailed above.

- Depth of the excavations: No clear discussion on the depth of the excavations for the development in relation to the depth of the formations within the proposed development area;
- Discussion of Quaternary soil layer and formations below the Timeball Hill Formation: Discussion on the Quaternary soil layer is adequate, however there is no discussion regarding formations below the Timeball Hill Formation;
- Mapping of sensitive areas: Addressed on page 6 and 8;
- Clear recommendations of mitigation of impacts: Recommendation for a field survey.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The impact on the development on fossil heritage is high, medium and very low and therefore a field survey or further mitigation or conservation measures may be necessary for this development. A Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment and or mitigation may then be recommended;
- The overburden and inter-burden must always be surveyed for fossils;
- Special case must be taken during digging, drilling, blasting and excavation of foundations, trenches, channels and footings and removal of overburden not to intrude fossiliferous layers;
- The development may go ahead with caution. The Environmental Control Officer (ECO) must familiarise him/herself with the Timeball Hill Formation and quaternary alluvium;
- If any palaeontological material is exposed during digging, drilling, blasting and excavation, SAHRA must be notified. All construction activities must be stopped and a palaeontologist should be called in to determine proper mitigation measures.

SAHRA APM Unit issued a comment on the 31/07/2017 requesting that a PIA inclusive of a field assessment be conducted as per the specialist recommendation, and that the outstanding concerns as detailed above must be addressed as part of the PIA.

A letter from the Palaeontologist was submitted to the case application stating that the depth of the excavation will not exceed 60 cm and will not impact the Timeball Hill Formation and the formation below the Timeball Hill Formation does not contain fossils. It is recommended that no further palaeontological studies are required.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objection to the proposed development in terms of heritage resources. The recommendations of the heritage specialists and the following conditions must be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr):

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Page No: 3

CaseID: 11069

- The Final BAR and appendices must be submitted to the SAHRIS Case application for record purposes;
- If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/John Gribble 021 462 5402) must be alerted. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately. A professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted 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 may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA; and
- If the development receives an Environmental Authorisation (EA), SAHRA must be informed and all documents pertaining to the EA must be uploaded to the SAHRIS Case file.

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

John Gribble
Manager: Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit / Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Page No: 4

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/398649>

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.