

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 11074

Date: Friday October 20, 2017
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Final Comment

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

Attention: Mr Anton Pelser
A Pelser Archaeological Consulting
P.O. Box 73703
Lynwood Ridge
0040

PHASE 1 HIA REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ACCESS ROADS FOR THE ZEERUST PV PLANT ON REMAINDER OF PORTION 5 OF HAZIA 240JP & PORTION 15 OF KAMEELDOORN 271JP IN ZEERUST, NORTHWEST PROVINCE -APAC017/36 - May 2017

RE Capital 2 (Pty) Ltd appointed APelser Archaeological Consulting to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed access roads for the Zeerust PV Plant on remainder of portion 5 of the Hazia 240JP and portion 15 of Kameeldoorn 271JP in Zeerust, North West Province.

Pelser, A. 2016. Phase 1 HIA Report for the proposed access roads for the Zeerust PV Plant on remainder of portion 5 of the Hazia 240JP and portion 15 of Kameeldoorn 271JP in Zeerust, North West Province.

Several heritage resources were identified within the broader study as a result of previous assessments, however none will be impacted by the proposed development.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Any development associated within the Alternative Access roads stay clear of any rocky ridges and outcrops as far as possible;
- The presence of archaeological or historical sites, features or objects is always a possibility. This could include unknown and unmarked burial pits. Should any be uncovered during the development process, an archaeologist should be called in to investigate and recommend on the best way forward.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 07/06/2017, SAHRA requested that a Palaeontological Desktop Study be conducted for the proposed project. Additionally, if this project is undergoing an Environmental Authorisation Application, the environmental reports and all appendices must be submitted to the case so that an informed comment can be issued.

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Almond, J. 2017. Recommended Exemption from further Palaeontological Studies: Proposed access roads for the Zeerust PV Plant on remainder of portion 5 of portion 5 of Hazia 240JP and portion 15 of Kameeldoorn 271JP near Zeerust, North West Province.

The proposed development area is underlain by sediments of the Rooihogte and Timeball Formations which are of low palaeontological sensitivity. They are mantled by Caenozoic superficial sediments of very low palaeontological sensitivity. The small footprint of the proposed road is unlikely to have significant impacts on local palaeontological heritage.

Recommendations provided in the report include that should any substantial fossil remains (e.g. well-preserved stromatolites, mammalian bones and teeth) be encountered during excavation, however, these should be safeguarded, preferably in situ, and reported by the ECO to SAHRA, as soon as possible. This is so that appropriate action can be taken by a professional palaeontologist, at the developer's expense. Mitigation would normally involve the scientific recording and judicious sampling or collection of fossil material as well as associated geological data (e.g. stratigraphy, sedimentology, taphonomy) by a professional palaeontologist. These recommendations should be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the proposed development

Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development and supports the recommendations of the heritage specialists. The following additional conditions must be included in the EMPr:

- SAHRIS Case ID 9194 (<http://sahra.org.za/sahris/cases/heritage-impact-assessment-hia-report-zeerust-solar-pv>) has reference. Site B was noted in the HIA conducted as part of Case ID 9194 and recommendations were provided for in the HIA and the Conservation Management Plan (CMP), and commented on by SAHRA. All recommendations and procedures included in the comments issued on 22 June 2016 (<http://sahra.org.za/sahris/node/364300>) and 14 October 2016 (<http://sahra.org.za/sahris/node/373991>) must be adhered with regards to Site B;
- 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/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately. A professional archaeologist or palaeontologist,

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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

- The decision regarding the EA Application must be uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application when received.

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

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/398670>
(, Ref: NWP/EIA/66/2016)

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.

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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.