



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 11112

Date: Friday October 27, 2017  
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## Final Comment

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

Attention: Enpact Environmental Consultants CC

#### **Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment on the farm Bruintjieslaagte 465 JT in respect of the proposed construction of an irrigation dam, Mpumalanga Province.**

Joubert and Seuns (Pty) Ltd is proposing to construct a dam wall that will be 23.6 m high and 340 m in length, 13 hectares in extent with a capacity of 1 00 000 m<sup>3</sup>. The dam wall will be constructed across the Devil's Creek River, a tributary of the Crocodile River. The proposed project will be located on the farm Bruintjieslaagte 465 JT, in the area of Schoemanskloof in the Mbombela Local Municipality of Mpumalanga Province.

Enpact Environmental Consultants cc have been appointed by Joubert and Seuns (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment in support of an Environmental Authorisation, in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998, as amended (NEMA). A Heritage Impact Assessment by Kudzala Antiquities cc and a Desktop Assessment by Prof M. Bamford have been submitted to SAHRA, in terms of section 38 (8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

SAHRA has issued an interim comment dated 14/08/2017 whereby SAHRA requested that a Fossil Chance Finds procedure is drafted by a suitably qualified palaeontologist and included into the EMPr report. Furthermore, the interim comment requested the HIA to be revised to re-assess portions of the dam flood zone.

*Celliers, J.P. April 2017. Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment on the farm Bruintjieslaagte 465 JT in respect of the proposed construction of an irrigation dam, Mpumalanga Province.*

The following recommendations were summarised in the interim comment:

BL 1 is a historical structure which the report lists as having medium significance. The author recommends mitigation as it will be impacted by the proposed development.

BL 3 is an archaeological stonewalled structure of medium significance.



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BL 2, 4 and BL 4B, BL5 to 7 are all archaeological stonewalled structures of high significance. All part of one settlement complex relatively dated to the Later Iron Age. Due to dense vegetation the author cannot make out the entire complex and recommends an archaeologist is called in to map and mitigate the sites once vegetation clearance is completed. With better visibility the author will be able to identify sites that need mitigation and those that may be conserved *in situ*.

*Bamford, M. August 2017. revised Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed construction of a dam wall on farm Bruintjieslaagte 465JT, in the Schoemanskloof Valley, Mpumalanga Province.*

SAHRA requested that a fossil finds procedure is compiled for proposed dam wall construction on the farm Bruintjieslaagte. A revised Palaeontological desktop assessment with the Fossil Finds Procedure included, was submitted to the case for comments.

The Fossil Finds Procedure includes regular monitoring by the ECO once construction begins. If any fossiliferous rocks are uncovered then a suitably qualified palaeontologist must be called in to inspect the finds. If the finds are significant, a monitoring schedule must be set up by the palaeontologist and construction ECO.

## Final Comment

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the revised HIA and Palaeontological Desktop Assessment reports. It is noted that the EMPr has included the recommendations provided in the HIA.

Comments and a permit in terms of section 34 of the NHRA for the site BL1 must be obtained from the Mpumalanga Heritage Resources Authority.

The recommendations outlined below must be included into the EMPr report along with the following additional conditions:

As the area across the river is densely vegetated, an archaeologist must be present to monitor vegetation clearance. If any more sites are identified then they must also be mapped and recorded. A report detailing vegetation clearance monitoring must be included in the mapping report and submitted to SAHRA.

A section 35(4) permit application in terms of NHRA and Chapter IV NHRA Regulations, must be prepared and submitted to SAHRA for the mitigation of sites BL2 and BL4.

If any additional sites are uncovered and assessment in the monitoring report recommends mitigation,



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a section 35(4) permit application in terms of NHRA and Chapter IV NHRA Regulations, must be prepared and submitted to SAHRA for the mitigation of those sites.

In the event that fossils are uncovered during construction then construction must cease within the immediate vicinity, a buffer of 30 m must be established and a palaeontologist called in to inspect the finds. The palaeontologist must obtain a section 35(4) permit in terms of NHRA and Chapter IV NHRA Regulations, before any fossils are collected.

You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details on section 35 permit application requirements: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8652).

If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the police find them to be heritage graves then mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be contacted for processes to follow (Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490).

The EIA appendices and the Final EIA report must be uploaded to the case, as well as MDARLEA's Record of Decision once it is available.

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

Yours faithfully

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Nokukhanya Khumalo  
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

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/398868>

**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.