



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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CaseID: 11246

Date: Thursday July 12, 2018

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Final Comment

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

Attention: Rockdale Industrial (Pty) Ltd

Rockdale Industrial (Pty) Ltd intends to develop a residential area on the Remaining Extent of the farm Rockdale 442 JS, Middelburg, Mpumalanga.

AdiEnvironmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Rockdale Industrial (Pty) Ltd to carry out an Environmental Authorisation process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1999 (NEMA), for the construction of residential area on the remainder of the farm Rockdale 442 JS, in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality of Mpumalanga Province. Rockdale Industrial (Pty) Ltd is proposing to construct a residential area consisting of a combined school, cemetery, sports facility, public open spaces, 4 institutional stands, 3 municipal stands, 6 Industrial 1 stands, 2 business 2 stands, 633 Residential 3 units, 29 Residential 2 units, 1218 Residential 1 units.

The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report and the Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) report have been submitted to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), for commenting in terms section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999).

Van Vollenhoven, A.C. September 2017. A Report on a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Housing Development on the Remaining Extent of the Farm Rockdale 442 JS, close to Middelburg, Mpumalanga Province.

The undertook an assessment of the available historical literature of the proposed development area and a field assessment and did not identify any heritage resources within the study area apart from an isolated Middle Stone Age stone tool. However, a there is an excavated railway line servitude that dates back to 1949 but the actual railway line was never constructed. The author does not recommend any further mitigation measures.

Fourie, H. October 2017. Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Phase 1 Field Study. The Development of a Residential Area on the Remaining Extent of the Farm Rockdale 442-JS, Middelburg Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province Farm: Remaining Extent of the Farm Rockdale 442-JS.



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In the eastern half of the development area the underlying geology consists of sediments of the Permian Vryheid Formation (Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup), which has a Very High palaeontological sensitivity. Fossils were not observed on the surface during the field survey. In the western half of the development area, the underlying geology consists of feldspatic quartzites, arkosols, shales and interbedded volcanics and felsites rocks of the Upper Selons River Formation (Rooiberg Group, Transvaal Supergroup). This formation has low palaeontological sensitivity. The author recommends the following:

Mitigation by a qualified palaeontologist if any fossils are uncovered in the eastern section of the development area,

The ECO must familiarise himself with the type of fossils that may be uncovered in the Vryheid Formation,

There is no objection to the development, but the ECO must monitor for fossils before and after any blasting/excavation,

The EMPr is updated to include the training of the ECO in the identification of fossils in the Vryheid Formation, or for a palaeontologist to be present once a month during construction of the development.

The EMPr must also be updated to include the Protocol for Finds attached to the PIA report under Appendix 2.

Final Comment

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit agrees with the recommendations provided within the HIA report as well as the PIA report. These recommendations must be included in the EMPr for implementation along with *Appendix 2: Protocol for Finds* in the PIA report.

In the unlikely 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.

If there are any new heritages resources are discovered during construction and operation phases of the proposed development, then a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings at the expense of the developer.

If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a

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Phase 2 rescue operation may be required at the expense of the developer. Mitigation will only be carried out after the archaeologist or palaeontologist obtains a permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999). You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (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).

This letter must be forwarded to the competent authority as the commenting period has passed, the record of decision letter must be uploaded to the case once it has been received. The Final EIAr must also be uploaded to the case.

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

Yours faithfully

Nokukhanya Khumalo
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

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Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/405253>
(MDARDLA, Ref: 1/3/1/16/1N-101)

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.