

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
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CaseID: 12292

Date: Friday August 06, 2021
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Final Decision

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

Attention: South African Radio Astronomy Observatory

Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARA O) Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Project in the Northern Cape Province.

In a Final Decision (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/511200>) issued on the 07/09/2018 for the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARA O) Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Project in the Northern Cape Province, SAHRA noted no objections to the development and provided conditions for the proposed development as presented in the application. A second Final Decision was issued on the 24/01/2020 following amendments to the project design, where SAHRA noted no objections to the proposed amendments and provided conditions (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/533255>).

Since the issuing of the second Final Decision, proposed changes to the layout of the 20 borrow pits as been necessary in response to the outcomes of the aquatic sensitivity assessment.

A Memorandum regarding these changes and the impact to heritage resources has been submitted for review (30/07/2021).

Hardwick, S. 2021. Update to Infrastructure Layout for the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory Square Kilometre Array Project

The specialist confirmed that the change to the layout of the borrow pits would not impact heritage resources as no heritage resources were identified within these areas as part of the initial HIA. The recommendations provided in the original HIA and HRM process remain applicable.

Final Decision

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 38(4) of the NHRA:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the

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proposed amendments to the development;

- 38(4)b – The recommendations provided by the heritage specialists are supported and must be adhered to;
- The conditions provided in the Final Comment issued on the 07/09/2018 and 24/01/2020 are still valid and must be adhered to;
- 38(4)c(i) – 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 as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – 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 as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA regarding offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
- If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. 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.

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

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South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/488663>
(DEA, Ref:)

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.