

Our Ref:



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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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
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CaseID: 13135

Date: Wednesday March 20, 2019
Page No: 1

Final Comment

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

Attention: Koot Raubenheimer
Maxim Planning Solutions
PO Box 6848
Flamwood
2572

Township Establishment of Kathu Extensions 6 to 10 on Portions 1 and 2 of the farm Kalahari Golf en Jag Landgoed No. 775, Division Kuruman, Northern Cape Province; the removal of certain title restrictions, the consolidation of the above-mentioned farm portions as well as the re-subdivision thereof into five (5) portions

Gamagara Local Municipality appointed Maxim Planning Solutions Proprietary Limited to conduct an application process for the establishment of the proposed township Kathu Extensions 6 – 10, Kathu, Northern Cape Province.

The application is being undertaken in terms of the provisions of Section 32(1) of the Gamagara By-Law on Spatial Planning and Land Use Management and read with the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013 (Act 16 of 2013), as well as the National Environmental Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) as amended and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will cover a combined total of 380,8600 ha and include residential type erven, business zones, institutional zones, open space erven, transport erven and authority erven.

APelser Archaeological Consulting was appointed to provide input for the NEMA Environmental Authorisation (EA) application as per section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Pelser, A. 2017. Report on a Phase 1 Heritage Assessment for the Proposed township establishment on portions 1 and 2 of the farm Kalahari Golf and Jag Landgoed 775, Gamagara Local Municipality (Kathu), Northern Cape Province.

A total of nine (9) heritage sites were identified within the proposed development area. These include 8 Stone Age surface scatters and one recent historical burial ground. It is assumed that sites 1 and 2 are made up of imported material deposited to build a road and are therefore out of context. Sites 3, 4, 8 and 9 were rated as

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sites of low – medium significance, sites 1, 2,5 and 6 were rated as sites of medium – high significance, and site 7 was rated as a highly significant site.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Surface sampling of representative material is recommended to be undertaken at sites 1 and 2. The source of the borrow material to build the road that resulted in sites 1 and 2 must be identified;
- Care should be taken should the development occur within the vicinity of site 5 that if material is uncovered, an expert be called in to investigate;
- The streambed should be avoided by the development;
- It is recommended that a more detailed mapping and assessment of the Stone Age of the study area is undertaken;
- The grave site is to be avoided or relocated if it is not possible to avoid the site;
- Should any previously unknown or invisible sites, features or materials be uncovered during any development actions, then an expert should be contacted to investigate and provide recommendations for the way forward.

In an Interim Comment issued on 27/11/2018, SAHRA requested that a desktop Palaeontological Assessment be conducted for the proposed development as part of the EA Application process, as it is located within an area of moderate and high sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity Map.

Rubidge, B. 2019. Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment Kathu Extensions 6-10 Township development in Gamagara Local Municipality.

The proposed project area is underlain by Precambrian rocks that include the Kuruman and Danielskuil formations, which do not contain fossils. These rocks are overlain by Tertiary limestone and aeolian sands of the Quaternary Kalahari Formation which may preserve fossils of animals and plants, however their occurrence would be sporadic. The report recommends that in the unlikely event that fossils are exposed as a result of construction activities, a qualified palaeontologist must be contacted to assess the exposure for fossils before further development takes place so that the necessary rescue operations are implemented. Depending on the nature of the fossils discovered this could entail excavation and removal to a registered palaeontological museum collection.

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

- Permits in terms of section 35(4) of the NHRA and Chapter II and IV of the NHRA Regulations must be applied from SAHRA to sample sites 1, 2 and 5. No construction activities may occur in these areas prior to the sampling of the sites and an indication from SAHRA that construction may commence in these areas;
- A no-go bufferzone must be adhered to around the streambed demarcated in figure 35 of the HIA;
- The detailed mapping and assessment of the area with regards to Stone Age lithics must be undertaken prior to construction. A report detailing the mapping and assessment of the area must be submitted to SAHRA prior to construction for comments. No construction may commence without comments from SAHRA in this regard;
- A no-go bufferzone of 30 m must be adhered to around the identified grave and a fence with a gate must be installed around the site. A Heritage Site Management Plan must be developed for the long-term in situ conservation of the grave following a consultation process in terms of section 36(4) of the NHRA and Chapter XI of the NHRA Regulations;
- Should it not be possible to avoid the grave, consultation regarding possible relocation must be conducted as per section 36(4) of the NHRA and Chapter XI of the NHRA Regulations. If grave relocation is found to be feasible, a permit application in terms of section 36(4) of the NHRA and Chapter IX of the NHRA Regulations must be applied for;
- As this comment has been issued after the final Memorandum and EMPr have been finalised, this comment must be submitted directly to the competent authority and proof of the delivery and receipt thereof must be uploaded to the SAHRIS application;
- 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 as per section 35(3) and 36(6) of the NHRA. 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;

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Page No: 4

- The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

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/514398>

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.