

# PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW MIXED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN GOVAN MBEKI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Our Ref: 14573



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 14573

Date: Monday February 03, 2020

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## Final Comment

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

Attention: Govan Mbeki Local Municipality

#### **Proposed Residential Establishment on Portion 2 of the Farm Rietfontein 313- Leandra, Mpumalanga Province.**

Henopath (Pty) Ltd is proposing to establish a mixed residential area on Portion 2 of the farm Rietfontein 313 Leandra, Govan Mbeki Local Municipality of the Mpumalanga Province. The total extent of the area is about 545 ha on which 3 story social housing will be constructed, with business stands, free standing units, community facilities, open spaces, central community points and internal road network.

Green-Box Consulting (Pty) Ltd have submitted a draft Environmental Impact Assessment report on behalf of the applicant, in support of an Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA), as amended. A Waste Management License (WML) in terms of the National Environmental Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No 59 of 2008) (NEMWA) and an Integrated Water Use License in terms of the National Water Act, No. 36 of 1998 (NWA), and a section 102 amendment of the Environmental Management Plan in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA) (As amended). All in an integrated process in respect of listed activities in the NEMA 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended for an integrated EA application.

In order to meet the requirements of SAHRA for commenting in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA), a Heritage Impact Assessment inclusive of a Palaeontological Impact Assessment by Paleo Fields Services (Pty) Ltd has been submitted to SAHRA for commenting.

*Roussouw, L. December 2018. Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment of the farm Rietfontein 313 near Leandra, Mpumalanga Province.*

The author undertook a field survey of the 5km<sup>2</sup> proposed residential development. They assessed the underlying geology and observed that it is mostly underlain by Jurassic aged unfossiliferous dolerite. Along the western margins, coarse-grained sandstone rocks of the Vryheid Formation (Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup) are exposed. The survey did not identify any exposed fossils within the Vryheid Formation. The area is overlain by well-developed and severely degraded residual soil. The author recommends further monitoring by

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a palaeontologist for any excavations deeper than 1m into the ground in the section underlain by the Vryheid Formation in the surveyed areas B,C and D.

The survey did not reveal any recent heritage resources dating from the stone aged to historical times. The area has been impacted by modern agricultural practices therefore, the likelihood of archaeological remains occurring is low.

## Final Comment

South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the HIA report submitted to the case for commenting and has no objection to the development going ahead, on the following conditions:

The surveyed areas B,C and D must be monitored by a palaeontologist for any excavations deeper than 1m into the ground in the section underlain by the Vryheid Formation.

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.

If there are any new heritages resources 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 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 8654).

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 (Thingahangwi Tshivase/Mimi Seetelo 072 802

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1251).

The Final EIAr and its appendices must be submitted to the case and once a Record of Decision from the competent authority is issued, it must also be submitted to the case. This comment must be forwarded to the competent authority and proof of submission must 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

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Nokukhanya Khumalo  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/531051>  
(DARDLEA, Ref: 1/3/1/16/1 G-131)

**Terms & Conditions:**

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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.