



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: 14849

Date: Wednesday February 03, 2021

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## Final Comment

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

Attention: Bakkos Projects (Pty) Ltd

**The applicant intends to develop a light industrial area (for the purpose of e.g. motor showrooms, workshops, etc) on Portion 58 of the farm Vaalbank 289 JS, Middelburg, Mpumalanga. The site is approximately 22ha in extent and located adjacent to the R35 provincial road (Bethal Road) and in close proximity of the N4 national road, about 2.5km south of the Middelburg Mall. A truck stop, take-away and diesel depot are already present on site.**

Bakkos Projects (Pty) Ltd is proposing to develop a light industrial area for the purposes of a motor showroom, workshops etc, on the remainder of the farm Portion 58 of the farm Vaalbank 289 JS, in the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality of the Mpumalanga Province. The rezoned area will be 22 ha in extent but the construction area will not cover the entire rezoned area.

They have appointed AdiEnvironmental (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Basic Assessment (BAr) application process in support of an Environmental Authorisation application in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA), as amended for listed activities in the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

To meet the requirements of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) a HIA report has been submitted to SAHRA for commenting. SAHRA issued two Interim Comments dated 18/03/2020 and 17/08/2020, requesting initially the submission of a PIA and HIA reports and then the submission of the environmental reports compiled for the EA application.

*Van Vollenhoven, A.C. and Viljoen, D. March 2020. A Report on a Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Development of a Light Industrial Area on Portion 58 of the Farm Vaalbank 289 JS, Middelburg, Mpumalanga Province.*

The author undertook a field study of the proposed industrial area and did not identify any heritage resources that may be impacted by the proposed development. The author recommends chance finds procedures, whereby, the construction manager knows who to contact if any heritage resources are uncovered during construction.



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*Fourie, H. March 2020. The Development of a Light Industrial Area on Portion 58 of the Farm Vaalbank 289-JS, Middelburg Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Nkangala District Municipality within the Mpumalanga Province Farm: Portion 58 Vaalbank 289-JS.*

The study area is underlain by the Permian aged sandstone and shale of the Vryheid Formation (Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup) which has a very high palaeontological sensitivity. The potential impacts by the proposed development to the underlying shale and sandstone is Very High, as exposed in the cleared area on the west of the property. Therefore, author recommends the Fossil Chance Finds Procedure as detailed in Appendix A and monitoring by the EAP during construction.

### **Final Comment**

South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the amended HIA and the PIA reports submitted to the case for commenting and has no objection to the development going ahead.

The Chance Finds Fossil Procedure as detailed in the PIA must be included in the EMPr.

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 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 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 BAR 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: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/534441>  
(DARDLEA, Ref: 1/3/1/16/1N-217)

[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.