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CaseID: 14851

Date: Monday May 25, 2020

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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Chestar Supplies (Pty) Ltd

The applicant intends to develop a neighbourhood shopping centre on Erf 1051, Rockdale, Middelburg, Mpumalanga. The proposed site is about 2 ha in extent and located in the residential area of Rockdale, adjacent to the N11 national road (Hendrina Road). An old borrow pit and a construction camp are present on site.

Chester Supplies (Pty) Ltd is proposing to develop a neighbourhood shopping centre located on Erf 1051 Rockdale in Middelburg, in the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality of the Mpumalanga Province. The proposed site is 2 ha in extent, adjacent to the existing Rockdale residential area. The proposed shopping centre site will be re-zone to Business 2 zoning to allow for the development to go ahead.

They have appointed Adi Environmental (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) for listed activities in the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

A Background Information Document (BID), Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment by Dr Fourie and a Letter of Exemption by Prof Van Vollenhoven has been submitted to SAHRA in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999 for commenting.

Van Vollenhoven, A.J. March 2020. Letter for HIA Exemption Request: Proposed Development of a Neighbourhood Shopping Centre on ERF 1051 (Zoned Public Open Space), Rockdale, Middelburg, Mpumalanga Province.

The author has assessed the area proposed for development and determines that it has been transformed by recent activities and the likelihood of significant heritage resources being disturbed or damaged by the



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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development is negligible. The literature and historical maps do not indicate any heritage resources that may have been located on the property. Therefore, the author requests that an exemption from undertaking a field assessment is granted for this proposed development.

Fourie, H. March 2020. The Development of a Neighbourhood Shopping Centre on Erf 1051 (Zoned Public Open Space) Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Palaeontological 1 Neighbourhood Shopping Centre on Erf 1051 (Zoned Public Open Space) Middelburg Municipality, Nkangala District Municipality within the Mpumalanga Province Erf 1050 Rockdale 442-JS.

The proposed development is underlain by sandstone rocks of the Permian Aged Vryheid Formation, Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup, which is of Very High Palaeontological Significance. The author recommends the following:

1. Mitigation may be needed (Appendix 2) if fossils are found.
2. No consultation with parties was necessary. The Environmental Control Officer must familiarise him- or herself with the formation present and its fossils.
3. The development may go ahead.
4. The EMPr already covers the conservation of heritage and palaeontological material that may be exposed during construction activities. For a chance find, the protocol is to immediately cease all construction activities, construct a 30 m no-go barrier, and contact SAHRA for further investigation. It is recommended that the EMPr be updated to include the involvement of a palaeontologist (pre-construction training of ECO).

Interim Comment

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes the submission of the heritage reports to this case, however, SAHRA requires that the dBAR and its appendices must be submitted to the case in order to issue an informed comment.

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SAHRA awaits the submission of the dBAR and its appendices before providing further comments on 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
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/534445>
(DARDLEA, Ref: 1/3/1/16/1N-218)