



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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Tel: 021 462 4502

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CaseID: 14851

Date: Tuesday November 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: 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 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) 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.



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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 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).

Final Comment

South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the letter of recommendation for exemption from undertaking a HIA and the PIA report 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 in appendix 2 must be included in the EMPr along with the following conditions:

In the event that fossils are uncovered during construction then construction must cease within the immediate

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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 1251).

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

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/534445>
(DARDLEA, Ref: 1/3/1/16/1N-218)

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.