

Our Ref:

Enquiries: Jenna Lavin
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: jlavin@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 1489

Date: Thursday February 14, 2013

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Final Comment

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

Attention: Department of Public Works, Roads & Transport
Private Bag x 1313
Thulamahashe
1290

Rehabilitation of Provincial Road P127/2 (25.5km) between National Road N4 (Middelburg west) and Provincial Road D914 (Van Wyksvlei), Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

Thank you for sending through supplementary information regarding the above proposed development in response to the letter from SAHRA dated 5 February 2013. In this letter, SAHRA requested that suitably qualified practitioners compile a Heritage Impact Assessment.

Your subsequent submissions to SAHRA have indicated the following;

- The impacts of the proposed development will be on an existing footprint or previously disturbed areas within the existing road reserve.
- With the exception of some widening (<2.54m) along the proposed 830m long climbing lane, rehabilitation activities will not exceed the shoulder break point or the toe of the fill.
- During a topographical survey, no structures including buildings, kraals, graves, old structures and the like within the road reserve were recorded.
- No indications of any graves were identified during visual investigations undertaken on the road and the 40m road reserve
- The underlying geology of the area to be impacted includes rocks from the Dwyka and Eccca Group of the Karoo Supergroup, as well as rocks of the Rooiberg Group the Loskop Formation of the Transvaal Supergroup.
- No excavations will take place in undisturbed areas.

The Eccca Group is known for its non-marine trace fossils, vascular plants (including petrified wood), mesosaurid reptiles and microfossils among others. This group has moderate palaeontological sensitivity, and under normal circumstances, SAHRA would require that a minimum of a Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment be conducted.

Comment

In light of the above information, SAHRA requires that, instead of completing a Desktop PIA, a palaeontologist must inspect the newly exposed cuts before rehabilitation and planting occurs, and submit an inspection report to SAHRA. This may be helpful in identifying any fossil of significance but can be done while the development



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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is already underway.

It is therefore unlikely that any significant impacts on heritage resources will result from the proposed development based on the information provided above. Consequently, SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology & Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objection to the proposed development.

If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, marine shell and charcoal/ash concentrations), unmarked human burials, fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed activities, SAHRA APM Unit (Jenna Lavin/Colette Scheermeyer 021 462 4502) must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contacted 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 might be necessary.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Jenna Lavin
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
(MDEDET, Ref: 17/2/3N-210)

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.



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