

Our Ref:



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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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
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CaseID: 15109

Date: Thursday May 14, 2020
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Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Heba Vergruisers CC

P.O. Box 255, Springbok 8240
Farm Voëlklip, Springbok 8240

Proposed Sand Mining operation on a 5Ha portion of Portion 14 Farm Mesklip 259 in the Namakwaland District and Nama Khoi Local Municipality Northern Cape

N. J van Zyl has been appointed as an Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by Heba Vergruisers CC to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for proposed sand mining activities on 5 ha portion of Portion 14 Farm Mesklip 259 in the Namakwaland District and Nama Khoi Local Municipality Northern Cape (NC30/5/1/3/2/10815MP).

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2014 EIA Regulations for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended). The proposed mining activities include the removal of approximately 4 ha of top layer river sand, stockpiling and the use of existing access roads for hauling, that will need to be upgraded as needed.

Natura Viva CC and ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed to provide specialist heritage input as part of the EA process as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA, in accordance with section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Almond, J. E. 2020. Palaeontological Heritage Input: Sand mining on Portion 14 of the Farm Mesklip 259 near Springbok, Northern Cape Province.

The proposed development area is underlain by the Namaqua-Natal Province rocks that include the Little Namaqualand Suite, Bushmanland Group and the Gladkop Metamorphic Suite that do not contain fossils. Superficial deposits of Quaternary and Recent age are present between the above rocks and may contain fossils. No known fossils have been recorded in the area. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended and has been provided in the report.

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Orton, J. 2020. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Sand Mine on Portion 14 of Mesklip 259, Namakwaland Magisterial District, Northern Cape.

A total of 12 heritage resources were identified as part of the HIA. These include nine sites of very low significance that comprise scattered Stone Age lithics and a stone cairn. One site of low significance includes Stone Age lithics, a potsherd, a fragment of ostrich eggshell and pieces of a stoneware jar, located in front of a large boulder that may have served as a shelter. Two historical sites of low-medium significance include a concrete bridge dating to 1944 associated with the original N7 alignment, and earlier evidence of the original N7 alignment in the form of a cement and stone drift. The overall impact significance is deemed to be very low.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The development footprint (mining and associated roads) must be kept as small as possible;
- Existing farm roads should be reused as much as possible;
- Damage to the bridge should be avoided. Ensure that the size of trucks used does not exceed that which can be handled by the bridge;
- The haul road should preferably be contained within the mined-out areas of the river channel; and
- If any palaeontological material, archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development then work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final BAR and EMP:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows:
- All decisions regarding heritage resources as defined by section 34 of the NHRA i.e. built structures, must be directed to the Northern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority;

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- 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
 - The Final BAR and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
 - The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

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

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

**Sand Mining operation on a 5Ha portion of Portion 14 Farm Mesklip 259 -
NC30/5/1/3/2/10815MP**

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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/536850>
(DMR - NC, Ref: NC30/5/1/3/2/10815MP)

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.