Our Ref: 15543



an agency of the Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 15543

Date: Friday October 23, 2020

Page No: 1

Final Comment

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

Attention: Walt Landgoed (Pty) Ltd

Proposed Weaning and Growth Complex for Pigs for Walt Landgoed (Pty) Ltd on the Remaining Extent of Portion 4 of the Farm Hartbeesfontein 638 IR and Portion 15 of the Farm Hartbeesfontein 638 IR, Dipaleseng Local Municiplity in the Gert Sibande District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province

Walt Langgoed (Pty) Ltd are proposing to establish a weaning and pig growing facility on their pig farm, located on Portion 15 of the farm Hartebeestfontein 638 IR, Dipaleseng Local Municipality of Mpumalanga Province. The proposed development area will be 15 ha on current vacant land.

A Basic Assessment Report (dBAR) by Labesh Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) for activities that trigger the NEMA 2014 EIA Regulations (As amended).

In order to meet the requirements of SAHRA for commenting in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA), a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) by APelser Archaeological Consulting cc and a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) by Dr H Fourie have been submitted to SAHRA for commenting.

Pelser, A.C. September 2020. A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment & Report for the Walt Landgoed (PTY) Ltd Development on Portion 15 of the Farm Hartebeestfontein 638 IR near Villiers, Mpumalanga.

The author undertook a field assessment of the proposed weaning facility and there were no heritage sites identified within the proposed development site. A Later Iron Aged site was identified on a separate portion of the farm, however, the site will not be impacted. The author recommends that is is conserved in situ.

Fourie, H. September 2020. Proposed Weaning and Growth Complex for Pigs for Walt Landgoed (Pty) Ltd Dipaleseng Local Municipality, Gert Sibande District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province Farm: Remaining Extent of Portion 4 Hartbeesfontein 638-IS, and Portion 15 Hartbeesfontein 638-IS.

The study area is underlain by Permian aged sandstone, shale, grit, conglomerate of the Vryheid Formation,

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Page No: 2

Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup. This formation has a very high palaeontological significance. It is intruded by Jurassic igneous rocks of no palaeontological significance. No fossiliferous outcrops were found during the field survey. Therefore, the author recommends that the development goes ahead on the condition that if any palaeontological material is exposed then a palaeontologist must be called on site to inspect it.

The author recommends the Fossil Chance Finds Protocol in the EMPr to be implemented by the ECO.

- 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 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 along with the following additional conditions:

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

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CaseID: 15543

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).

Page No: 3

Date: Friday October 23, 2020

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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Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo Date: Friday October 23, 2020

Tel: 021 462 4502 Page No: 4

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CaseID: 15543

Phillip Hine

Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit

South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: http://www.sahra.org.za/node/540749

(DARDLEA, Ref: 1/3/1/16/1G-175)

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.