

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 15710

Date: Wednesday November 25, 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: ABS Africa

Vardocube Irrigation Project, Copperton, Northern Cape Province

ABS Africa has been appointed by Vardocube (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed establishment of the Vardocube Irrigation Project, near Copperton, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed infrastructure will include water pipelines, five linear pivots, and a water tank.

Prof Marion Bamford and Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Bamford, M. 2020. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed upgrade and irrigation for Prieska Copper Mine, at Copperton, Northern Cape Province

The proposed development area is underlain by aeolian sands of the Gordonia Formation which seldom preserve fossils. A Fossil Chance Finds Protocol should be adhered to and is provided in the report.

Van der Walt, J. 2020. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Prieska Copperton – Copper and Zinc Mine Irrigation Project in the Northern Cape Province.

A total of 24 heritage resources were identified within the proposed development area. These include Stone Age artefact surface scatters of low significance, and Stone Age artefact scatters around pans of medium significance. One grave site was identified outside of the development footprint and will not be impacted.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za

Date: Wednesday November 25, 2020
Page No: 2

CaseID: 15710

- No infrastructure must occur surrounding Blombospan and Valspan (Waypoint 145, 146 and 150) with a 30 m buffer;
- Irrigation must be done in a way that will not accelerate sheet erosion in the impact area or result in silting up of Blombospan and Valspan. This must be monitored by the ECO;
- No infrastructure must occur surrounding the knapping and quarrying site (Waypoint 169) with a 30 m buffer;
- Implementation of a chance find procedure that include a Fossil Chance Find Protocol for Quaternary fossils.

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 EMPr:

- 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:
 - No construction or operational activities may occur within 30 m of the Blombospan and Valspan and Waypoint 169;
 - If it will not be possible to avoid impacts to Blombospan and Valspan and Waypoint 169, these areas must be mitigated through archaeological excavation and sampling prior to construction commencing. A permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA and Chapter II and III of the NHRA Regulations must be applied for from SAHRA prior to the construction phase. No construction or related activities may occur without a permit from SAHRA in this regard;
 - Monitoring reports by the ECO regarding sheet erosion impacts on Blombospan and Valspan must be submitted every 6 months to SAHRA inclusive of photographs. Dependant on the results of these reports, SAHRA may request mitigation measures to be implemented at these sites;
- 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

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za

Date: Wednesday November 25, 2020
Page No: 3

CaseID: 15710

- 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

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 15710

Date: Wednesday November 25, 2020
Page No: 4

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/543934>

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.