

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 15782

Date: Friday May 14, 2021
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Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Triplo4 Sustainable Solutions

The proposed development entails construction of a 55m high, telecommunication mast and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Elandsheuwel No. 146, Hanover, in the Umsobomvu Municipality, in Northern Cape Province. A 3m wide, approximately 125m long gravel access road will also be constructed from the existing gravel road to gain access to the proposed site. The total development footprint is approximately 100m². The mast's base station will be enclosed with a steel palisade fence. Electricity to power the mast will be sourced from an existing Eskom line. A new overhead line of approximately 420m will need to be constructed from the Eskom line to the site.

Enviro Africa CC has been appointed by Atlas Tower (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed telecommunication tower on the Remainder of Farm Elandsheuwel No. 146, Hanover, in the Umsobomvu Municipality, in Northern Cape Province.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include a 55 m telecommunication mast with related infrastructure covering a footprint of 100 m², a new 3 m gravel road, and a new overhead powerline (420 m long).

Natura Viva CC and ACRM have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EIA process as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Almond, J. E. 2020. Palaeontological Assessment: Recommended Exemption from further Palaeontological Studies. Proposed construction of a communications mast on the Remainder of Farm Elandsheuwel No. 146 near Hanover, Umsobomvu Municipality, Northern Cape Province

The development is underlain by Karoo Dolerite that does not contain fossils, with Late Permian sediments of the Balfour formation which are largely overlain by doleritic colluvium, and Pleistocene or younger gravels, calcretes and soils of low palaeontological sensitivity. Due to the small impact footprint of the proposed

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development, the anticipated impact will be very low. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended to be followed and is provided in the report.

Kaplan, J. 2020. Archaeological Heritage: Letter of Exemption from further specialist studies & mitigation. Proposed construction of a 25m high Telecommunication Mast on Rem of the Farm Elandsheuwel 146 near Hanover, Northern Cape Province.

A few Stone Age lithics and a stone-walled kraal was identified in close proximity to the proposed development. The kraal was noted to be of low significance. No further recommendations were provided.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 11/12/2020, SAHRA requested that a Heritage Impact Assessment inclusive of a field-assessment of the location of the proposed road and powerline. The HIA must include an assessment of the already identified heritage resources as noted above, as the submitted report does not satisfy the requirements of section 38(3) of the NHRA.

Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, a HIA has been submitted inclusive of a revised BAR (20/04/2021).

Kaplan, 2021. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Construction of a 55m high Telecommunication Mast on Re Farm Elandsheuwel No. 146 Hanover, Umsobomvu Municipality, Northern Cape Province.

A total of 2 heritage resources were identified (Stone Age lithic scatter) and a small stone kraal, with isolated artefacts along the ridgeline. It is noted that the tracklogs provided in the HIA are the same as the previous report, therefore the powerline and road routes were not surveyed. It is further noted in the report that the specialists scanned the landscape from the kopje, noting that no potential locations for archaeological sites were seen in the grasslands.

Recommendations provided in the report included that the Environmental Control Officer must be briefed in the event of any archaeological resources being uncovered or disturbed during construction activities.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit cannot accept the submitted HIA as the powerline and road route has not been physically surveyed as requested in the previous Interim Comment. The SAHRA APM Unit requests that the footprint of the powerline and road be physically surveyed and the HIA be revised to include the results of the survey.

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The applicant is advised to extend the EA application in terms of section 19(1)b of the NEMA EIA regulations in order to comply with this comment.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of a compliant HIA.

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

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/545707>
(, Ref:)