

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: 15907

Date: Friday April 23, 2021
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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: Thembelihle Local Municipality

Legalization of the commencement of the clearance of 102.3852 ha of indigenous vegetation in order to formalise a township, currently known as the informal settlements of Goutrou and Hillside, situated on a Portion of the Remaining Extent of Erf 1, Hopetown, within the Thembelihle Local Municipality, Northern-Cape Province.

AB Enviro-Consult CC has been appointed by the Thembelihle Local Municipality in association with the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs of the Northern Cape to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application in support of a Section 24G rectification process for the legalization of the commencement of the clearance of 102.3852 ha to formalize a township, situated on a Portion of the Remaining Extent of Erf 1, Hopetown, within the Thembelihle Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Section 24G Report 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 activities that commenced without authorisation include the clearance of 102.3852 ha, installation of VIP toilets, roads, standpipes and electricity. Activities to still be completed include re-layout of the township and service provision such as bulk water supply, sanitation, storm water infrastructure, electricity, roads, dump site. The proposed new township will consist of 1500 residential stands and several other community services including schools, businesses and parks. The proposed development footprint has been impacted by informal residential settlements, quarrying, trenching and informal dumping.

APelser Archaeological Consulting has 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).

Pelser, A. 2020. Report on a Phase 1 HIA for the Proposed Goutrou Township Development on a Portion of the Remaining Extent of Erf 1 and Erf 624 in the Thembelihle Local Municipality Hopetown, Northern Cape Province.



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Two heritage resources of no heritage significance were identified within the proposed development area that include Stone Age lithics. A large contemporary cemetery is noted to be in close proximity, however, will not be impacted by the development.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- If any in situ deposits of archaeological material is exposed during development activities then an archaeologist should be called in to investigate and recommend on the way forward;
- Finally, it should be noted that although all efforts are made to locate, identify and record all possible cultural heritage sites and features (including archaeological remains) there is always a possibility that some might have been missed as a result of grass cover and other factors. The subterranean nature of these resources (including low stone-packed or unmarked graves) should also be taken into consideration. Should any previously unknown or invisible sites, features or material be uncovered during any development actions then an expert should be contacted to investigate and provide recommendations on the way forward.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 29/01/2021, SAHRA requested that a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment be conducted as part of the 24G EA application as the proposed development is located in an area of moderate and high palaeontological sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity Map. Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, the desktop PIA was submitted (25/03/2021) and the Final 24G report (20/04/2021).

Rubidge, B. 2021. Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Proposed Hopetown (Goutrou) Township development, Thembelihle Local Municipality, Hopetown, Northern Cape Province.

The proposed development area is underlain at depth by the Permian Tierberg and Whitehill Formations (Ecca Group) that are known to contain sporadic fossils of vertebrates and plants. However, these sedimentary formations are overlain by calcretes and sands of the Kalahari Formation that do not preserve fossils well. It is highly unlikely that palaeontological heritage will be affected by the proposed development. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

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

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Final 24G 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. No further additional specific conditions are provided for the development;
- 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;
- As the Final 24G report and EMPr has been finalised, this Final Comment must be provided to the competent authority for their consideration during the decision-making process. Proof of the delivery and receipt thereof must be provided for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA Rectification 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

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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/550762>
(DENC, Ref: S24G01/03/2020)

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.