



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 16135

Date: Monday August 02, 2021

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Final Comment

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

Attention: Bushbuckridge Local Municipality

The proposed township establishment to be situated on Portion 1 of the Farm Newington 255 KU. The project area is approximately 88.41 hectares in extent, and is expected to yield approximately 562 stands.

Nkanivo Development Consultants, on behalf of the Bushbuckridge Municipality, have appointed Leago Environmental (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment application process in support for an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) as amended, for activities that trigger the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 2014 Regulations, as amended.

The proposed new township will be 88.41 ha in extent and will be zoned for 562 stands consisting of 543 housing stands, 8 business units, 6 institutional units, 4 public open space, and 1 municipal multi-purpose centre. The development is located on Portion 1 of the Farm Newington 255 KU, Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, Mpumalanga province.

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) by Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting has been submitted to SAHRA for commenting in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Van der Walt, J. April 2021. Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed development of Dumphries Township, Mpumalanga Province.

The author undertook a field assessment of the proposed development area and identified two areas containing Later Iron Aged settlements. The first area is characterised by middens, ashy soils, potsherds eroding out of the small gravel roads and a concentration of Marula Trees, all sites are marked by waypoints DC001-DC003, DC005 and DC006. The second area is characterised by similar features and is marked by waypoint DC004.

The author assesses the sites to be of medium significance and recommends the following:

A walk down survey must be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist in the winter period when there



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is more visibility. The survey must establish the extent of the individual sites identified. The sites must be mitigated, excavated and recorded before a destruction permit is applied for. If the sites can be conserved *in-situ* then a Site Development Plan for the long term conservation of the sites must be developed. The presence or lack of graves must be confirmed through a social consultation process.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes and accepts the submission of the draft EIAR and HIA report, and accepts the recommendations provided by the Heritage Specialist. Furthermore, we grant the development from undertaking an assessment of impacts to palaeontological resources as it is located in a negligible sensitivity zone. SAHRA has no objections to the proposed development on the following conditions:

If the sites are conserved *in-situ*, then a Site Development plan must be compiled by a suitably qualified archaeologist and the report must be submitted to the case.

If sites DC001 to DC006 cannot be conserved *in-situ* they must be mitigated. A permit issued under section 35(4) of the NHRA will be required to conduct such work. On completion of the mitigation work, the developer can apply for a destruction permit with the backing of the mitigation report.

In the unlikely 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 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).



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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 012 320 8490).

The Final EIA and its appendices must be submitted to the case and once a Record of Decision from the competent authority is issued, it must also be submitted 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

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/559026>
(DARDLEA, Ref:)



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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.