



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 16607

Date: Friday July 09, 2021

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Letter

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

Attention: Mafube Coal Mining (Pty) Ltd

It is the intension of the Mafube Mine (Pty) Ltd on behalf of the Mpumalanga Department: Public Works, Roads and Transport to upgrade a section of the existing Provincial Road D684, and to construct a new access road to link the existing Provincial / National Road R104 and the D684, near the Sikhululiwe Village east of Middelburg, Mpumalanga Province. The project is located in the Nkangala District Municipality, and the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality within Wards 7 and 9 and is situated approximately 31.6km west of Middelburg, and approximately 38.2km south-west of Belfast. The existing Provincial Road D684 runs to the east of the Mafube Mine and the Sikhululiwe Village, in a north-south direction. The D684 is a gravel road, which is 9m in width with a road reserve width of 25m. The D684 is currently not connected to the R104. The R104 runs to the south of the Mafube Mine, in an east-west direction, and joins the N11 in Middelburg with the N4, to the south-west of Belfast. The existing D684 provides access to the Sikhululiwe Village, which is situated to the south of the existing Mafube Mine operations. The proposed access road to link the D684 to the R104 is situated to the south west of the Village. The upgrading of the D684 will be undertaken within the existing road reserve, and no private land will be affected by the upgrade. The new access road will be constructed on Portion 7 of the Farm Springboklaagte 416 JS (T0JS00000000041600007), which is currently being used for Agriculture. Portion 7 is owned by the Mafube Coal Mining (Pty) Ltd, and is being leased by Alzu Ondernemings (Pty) Ltd. The new access road will also traverse a Transnet Railway line, where a level crossing with the necessary traffic and pedestrian safety measures are proposed. During the heritage impact assessment conducted for this new access road and upgrade (By Dr Johnny van Schalkwyk), a burial site was identified to be in close proximity of the proposed new access road and the existing railway crossing.

This letter is in response to the Application submitted by JG Afrika (Pty) Ltd onto SAHRIS and the letter written by Dr J van Schalkwyk.

JG Afrika (Pty) Ltd is requesting SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit to relax the standard 30m bufferzone around cemeteries. They are requesting that the buffer zone be less than 30m in order to allow the construction of the Mafube road project, which has no alternatives in this section. A letter from a heritage specialist has been submitted in support of the request.



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Van Schalkwyk, J. June 2021. Re: Burial Site at Road D684 and Transnet Crossing East of Middelburg, Mpumalanga Province.

The heritage specialist proposes the following instead of the 30m buffer zone:

"We therefore propose that the buffer zone on the eastern side of the burial site, i.e. closest to the road, is foregone and that instead a brick wall is erected in the place of the wire fence. This wall can then also serve as a bill-board where a site notice can be added cautioning drivers to be careful when passing the site."

The SAHRA notes that this request is submitted outside the legal processes as the Environmental Authorisation has not been submitted to the competent authority. As such SAHRA cannot at this stage comment on a development application that requires an EA application outside the stipulated legal process.

The SAHRA will await the submission of the EA application before providing a formal response in terms of section 38 (8) of the NHRA. However, we will keep note of this submission once the EA application is lodged for comments from SAHRA.

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/575431>
(DPWRT, Ref:)

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.