



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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CaseID: 16607

Date: Tuesday June 20, 2023
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Final Comment

In terms of Section 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.

Mafube Coal Mining (Pty) Ltd on behalf of the Mpumalanga Department of Public Works is proposing to rehabilitate a section of the D684 road and construct a new access road to link the D684 road to the R104 Road. Near the Sikhululiwe Village, situated 28 km east of Middelburg on the existing Road Reserve and on Farm Portion 7 Springboklaagte 416-JS, in the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province.

JG Afrika (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Mafube Coal Mining (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Basic Assessment in support of an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environment Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) for activities that trigger the NEMA EIA 2014 Regulations.

The SAHRA issued a letter dated 09/07/2021 stating that SAHRA cannot comment on the project prior to any application being submitted to the competent authority. The environmental documents, HIA and PIA were submitted on 09/05/2023.

The Basic Assessment report, HIA and PIA has been submitted to SAHRA in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999 for commenting.

Van Schalkwyk. JA. June 2021. Phase 1 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: UPGRADING OF EXISTING ROAD D684 AND PROVISION OF A NEW ACCESS ROAD AT SIKHULULIWE VILLAGE NEAR MAFUBE MINE IN THE NKANGALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

The author undertook a field assessment of the proposed road upgrades and identified a fenced informal cemetery containing 35 graves, the oldest grave dates to 1865. This cemetery shows signs of being maintained by the family members. The surrounding land is used for agricultural purposes, the cemetery is



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bordered by a gravel road to the rail crossing. The author recommends the foregoing of the eastern bufferzone in lieu of a brickwall being constructed to prevent accidental damage from cars. The road reserve and not the tar road will encroach on the cemetery, allowing for a 5m buffer from the actual road.

Fourie, H. July 2021. Proposed Rehabilitation of a Section of the Existing Road D684, and the Proposed Construction of a New Access Road to Link the R104 and the D684, Near the Sikhululiwe Village, situated 28 km east of Middelburg in the Mpumalanga Province Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. Farm: Road Reserve and Portion 7 Springboklaagte 416-JS.

The study area is underlain by igneous rocks of the Rashedoop Granophyre Suite, Bushveld Complex in the northern section of the road upgrades. The southern section of the road upgrades are underlain by sandstone, shale, and calcrete of the Vryheid Formation, Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup. Igneous rocks have negligible palaeontological sensitivity, and Vryheid Formation has very high palaeontological significance and it may contain fossilised remains of *Glossopteris flora*. The potential threats are:- Earth moving equipment/machinery (front end loaders, excavators, graders, dozers) during construction, The sealing-in or destruction of fossils by development, vehicle traffic, and human disturbance. The author recommends the implementation of the chance finds procedure included in the document as appendix 2.

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:

38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) and the Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;

38(4)b – The recommendations provided by the heritage specialists are supported and must be adhered to. There following additional specific conditions must be adhered to:

The palaeontological fossil finds procedure must be included in the EMPr.

The recommended brick wall is constructed before road construction commences.

A social consultation process as regulated in terms of Chapter XI of the NHRA must be carried out to identify the next of kin to obtain their permission for amending the fencing around the site.

If the road works plans are unable to retain Site 01 *in situ* then a social consultation process as regulated in terms of Chapter XI of the NHRA must be carried out to identify the next of kin to obtain their permission for relocation;



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Any grave relocations must be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist.

A section 36 of the NHRA permit application in terms of Chapter XI of the NHRA 2000 Regulations must be applied for by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

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 DAU (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence 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/Ngqalabutho Madida 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence 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

Nokukhanya Khumalo
Heritage Officer



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South African Heritage Resources Agency

Natasha Higgitt
Manager: Development Applications 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.