

# BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF 3000 BEDS

Our Ref: 16628



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
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CaseID: 16628

Date: Tuesday July 20, 2021

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## Final Comment

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

Attention: GRANTON MERIWEL & KHENKANE TRADING JV

**The development will comprise of the construction of 3000 beds for the University of Mpumalanga, which will be developed in three (3) phases. The first phase will involve the construction of fifteen (15) U-shaped blocks with each block comprising of three (3) floors. An access road from Koedoe Street and Rietbok Street will be surfaced**

They have appointed AES Consulting (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Basic 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 University of Mpumalanga is proposing to construct a new 3000 bed residential unit to house students who attend the university. The development will be completed in 3 phases, the first phase will involve the construction of 3 U-shaped 3 storey buildings. The development is located on Portion 33 of the farm Freidenheim 282 JU, City of Mbombela Local Municipality of Mpumalanga Province.

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) by Minen Viro (Pty) Ltd has been submitted to SAHRA for commenting in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

*Mlilo, T. December 2020. University of Mpumalanga Heritage Impact Assessment Report for the Development of 3000 Beds.*

The author undertook a field survey of the proposed development area and did not identify any heritage resources. The study area has been previously used for industrial and farming activities that have changed the character of the landscape. There are no historic buildings present and the author recommends chance finds procedures during construction phases.

### Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) accepts the HIA report. Furthermore, we grant

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the development from undertaking an assessment of impacts to palaeontological resources as the development location has a negligible palaeontological sensitivity. The SAHRA has no objection to the development going ahead on the following conditions:

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).

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 072 802 1251).

This comment must be forwarded to the competent authority and proof of submission must be uploaded to this case.

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

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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/575665>  
(DARDLEA, Ref: 1/3/1/16/1E-314)

## 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.