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CaseID: 16877

Date: Monday August 15, 2022

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## **Interim Comment**

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

Attention: Hlobisa Enviro Club (Pty) Ltd

**BECS Environmental has been appointed by Hlobisa Enviro Club (Pty) Ltd to apply for an environmental authorisation for the construction and operation of a chicken farm on Portion 42 of the farm Welgekozen 514 IT.**

Tobias Coetzee was appointed by Hlobisa Building Maintenance Services to undertake a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed construction of 10 chicken houses and operation of the poultry farm on a portion of the Remaining Extent of Portion 42 of the Farm Welgekozen 514 IT near Mkhondo/Piet Retief in the Mpumalanga Province. The proposed development includes the 10 chicken houses, a bore hole, water reservoir of 50 000l, office buildings, a 5 000l diesel storage tank, shed/store, greenhouse and a hatchery/sorting/packaging/dry/cold store. The size of area to be developed is 5.5ha.

The HIA report compiled by Mr Coetzee was submitted to SAHRA for commenting on the development in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Agency Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA). However, the title of the case and the HIA report indicates that the report was commissioned as part of specialist studies in an Environmental Authorisation application.

Seven sites (CP1- CP7) have been identified in this area. Site CP1 consists of a cemetery falling outside of the demarcated study area, but due to the sensitive nature of graves, a conservation buffer of 30 m along the northern boundary of the demarcated portion is recommended. Site CP2 consists of three stone cairns resembling graves. The remaining sites (CP3 – CP7) are the remains of buildings, and rubble not considered significant from a heritage perspective as these sites date to recent times. There are no cultural remains dating to recent times.

CP1 – A large cemetery that borders the study area to north and is used by the people living in Ajax township. Cemetery still in use, not fenced off. Buildings and cemetery could be related to early sawmill workers. The cemetery falls outside of the proposed study area

CP2 – Unmarked burial site. Consists of three stone cairns in close proximity of each other near the centre of the study area. No surface material. Poorly preserved, not maintained.

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an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CP1 and CP2 were rated as having high heritage significance whereas CP3 – CP7 were rated as having low heritage significance.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Conservation buffer of 30 m be established at the northern boundary of the study area for conservation of CP1, which falls outside of the study area, but for which construction may negatively impact the graves;
- A fenced-off conservation buffer of 30 m be placed around the potential graves at Site CP2 and that applicable signage be erected. Access to the area must not be refused. If to the stone cairns at CP2 is unavoidable, the potential graves may be relocated by a qualified graves relocation unit to a premise earmarked by the local municipality. Alternatively, the potential burial sites may be investigated by using Ground Penetrating Radar to verify whether the sites contain human remains.
- CP3 – CP7 require no further action;
- If culturally significant material is exposed during the development and construction phases, all activities must be suspended pending further archaeological investigations by a qualified archaeologist;
- Should skeletal remains be exposed during development and construction phases, all activities must be suspended and the relevant heritage resources authority contacted;
- Should the need arise to expand the proposed development beyond the surveyed areas outlined in this study, the following applies: A qualified archaeologist must conduct a full Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA);
- Development may proceed on the demarcated project area, subject to the abovementioned conditions.

### **Interim Comment**

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit (APM) requests that the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) be submitted to the case application on SAHRIS so that an informed comment may be issued.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

# HLOBISA ENVIRO CLUB - EIA/EMPR FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A CHICKEN FARM

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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

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## ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/579148>  
(MDARDLA, Ref: 1/3/1/16/1 G-190)