



Final Comment

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

Attention: Green Door Environmental

P.O Box 11

Hilton

KZN

3245

Proposed Wetland Rehabilitation Intervention for the Working for Wetlands Programme in the Zaalklapspruit Wetland, eMalahleni Local Municipality, Mpumalanga

Thank you for your indication that development is to take place in this area.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999, heritage resources, including archaeological sites over 100 years old, palaeontological sites and graves and structures older than 60 years are protected. They may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority.

In terms of Section 38(8) of the NHRA, before any development proposed in terms of the MPRDA (2002) is approved, it is incumbent on the developer to ensure that any potential impacts to heritage resources are assessed to the satisfaction of the relevant heritage authority. Appropriate mitigation, which involves recording, sampling and dating sites that are to be destroyed, may be required depending on the nature and significance of the resources identified.

According to the submitted Draft BAR, the Zaalklapspruit Wetland has been identified as a "National Freshwater Ecosystem Area" and falls within a critically endangered wetland type. The Zaalklapspruit Wetland is 139ha in size and is located in the Mpumalanga Upper Olifants Catchment. This catchment area is 9603ha in size and consists of cultivated lands, plantations and mines.

This particular wetland is not functioning optimally due to impacts associated with the catchment's land uses. As part of the SANBI Wetland Rehabilitation Project, both soft and hard interventions are proposed including concrete weirs and earthwork berms. According to the information provided in the Draft BAR, it is unlikely that the proposed interventions will negatively impact on significant heritage resources.

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SAHRA strongly advises that potential impacts to heritage resources are assessed by recognised heritage practitioners and that evidence for this assessment is provided to SAHRA to determine whether or not the assessment done fulfills our requirements, as per Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999). In the meeting held between SAHRA and SANBI on 28 February 2011, it was agreed that Desktop heritage studies must be done for the various rehabilitation projects. However, no such studies have been forthcoming. SAHRA regrets that this agreement was not upheld by SANBI.





However, based on the evidence provided in the in the submitted documentation in support of the Zaalklapspruit Wetland Rehabilitation Plan only, and based on the professional opinion of the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit, the likelihood of the proposed rehabilitation of the specific Zaalklapspruit Wetland consisting of the construction of hard and soft structures including concrete weirs and earthwork berms impacting on significant heritage resources is low. As such, no further heritage impact studies are required by SAHRA for this particular rehabilitation project.

SAHRA looks forward to continued positive engagement around this project as more Final Rehabilitation Plans are developed.

Should any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal/ash concentrations), unmarked human burials, fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed activities, SAHRA APM Unit (Jenna Lavin/Colette Scheermeyer 021 462 4502) must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary.

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

Yours faithfully



Jenna Lavin
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency



Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency





Our Ref: 9/2/284/3

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CaseID: 1850

Date: Friday April 05, 2013

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ADMIN:

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.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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