



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: 18796

Date: Monday August 15, 2022

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## Final Comment

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

Attention: Vodacom

PO BOX 17036 PHOENIX 4013

**Project Description: Vodacom intends to construct a 30m Lattice type mast with antennae mounted onto the mast, and container housing associated equipment. The size of the base station (fenced area) in which the mast and associated equipment will be placed will measure 10m x 12m (120m<sup>2</sup>). Location: The proposed site is located to the south of the Lephale Army Base / Airfield, on the Remainder of the Farm Piquetberg 523 LQ, Lephale area, Lephale Municipality area (Co-ordinates: S 23°43'37.64" E 27°42'10.90").**

Vodacom (Pty) Ltd has appointed Tekplan (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.

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report by Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting (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). A Palaeontological Letter of exemption by an independent specialist is included in the HIA on page 41 of the report.

*Van der Walt. June 2022. HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE VODACOM BASE STATION: LEPHALALE ARMY BASE, LIMPOPO PROVINCE..*

The author undertook a field assessment of the proposed new Vodacom base station in Lephale and did not identify any heritage resources on the surface. The development footprint area is small and the potential impacts to subsurface remains is low. The author assessed the overall impact to heritage to be low and recommends a chance finds procedures.

*Bamford, M. June 2022. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Vodacom Tower on Farm Piquetberg 523 LQ south of Lephale (Ellisras), Limpopo Province Desktop Study (Phase 1).*



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The proposed site lies on the Mogalakwena Formation (Waterberg Group, Transvaal Supergroup) that might preserve trace fossils of microbial activity. However there is no current records of microbial mats of other trace fossils being identified for the Mogalakwena Formation. The author recommends no further mitigation measures and the implementation of the chance finds procedures included in the report under section 8.

### Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) accepts the HIA report, the recommendations contained within the report as well as the palaeontological desktop study. 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 Tshivhase/Ngqalabutho Madida 012 320 8490).

The Final BAR and its appendices must be submitted to the case and 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.

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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/598981>  
(LDEDET, 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.