

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 19398

Date: Wednesday September 21, 2022
Page No: 1

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: P G Vlok Trust

To prospect for Diamond Alluvial with test pits

DERA Environmental Consultants have been appointed by PG Vlok Trust to undertake an Environmental Authorisation Application for proposed prospecting activities on portion 20 (portion of portion 15) of the farm Lanyon Vale 376, near Douglas, Northern Cape Province (NC 30/5/1/1/2/12991 PR).

A Draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the EIA Regulations for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended). The proposed prospecting activities include 150 pits (2 m x 2 m x 5 m deep), 10 trenches (10 m x 60 m x 5 m deep), topsoil stockpiles, roads, ablution facilities, and temporary office buildings. It is noted that the location of the prospecting areas is not yet known.

The DSR notes that a desktop study be done by an archaeologist to indicate the possibility of heritage resources, and if a strong possibility exists, a full on-site investigation needs to be done. However, the DSR also state that it is unlikely that the proposed development will result in any significant archaeological impact at the site.

No assessment of the impact to heritage resources as been conducted as per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that an assessment of the impact to heritage resources be undertaken as part of the EA process that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA as required by section 38(8) of the NHRA. The HIA must include an archaeological and palaeontological component.

The archaeological component of the HIA must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and must comply

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Page No: 2

with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports (see www.asapa.co.za or www.aphp.org.za for a list of qualified archaeologists). As the location of the prospecting is not yet known, a desktop HIA may be conducted. Based on the results of the desktop HIA, SAHRA may request a field assessment to be undertaken, which must be undertaken as part of the EA process.

The proposed development is located within an area of medium and high Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As the location of the boreholes is not yet known, a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist. (See <https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html> for a list of qualified palaeontologists). The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.

Any other heritage resources as defined in section 3 of the NHRA that may be impacted, such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewscapes must also be assessed.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested reports and draft EIA inclusive of all appendices.

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

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Page No: 3

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/604164>