



Interim Comment

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

Attention: Bapela Cav Klapwijk Land Planing and Design

PO Box 11651

Hatfield

0028

South Africa

Proposed development of the Middelburg Eastern Bypass consisting of two sections, Middelburg, Mpumalanga

Van Vollenhoven, AC. June 2012. A Report on a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Middelburg Eastern Bypass Route (As Revised), Middelburg, Mpumalanga Province.

A heritage assessment was conducted for the proposed construction of the Middelburg Eastern Bypass Route, outside Middelburg, Mpumalanga Province. The report submitted to SAHRA is a revised report since the bypass route had to be realigned. The reason for the realignment is not provided in the report.

According to the submitted information, the proposed road consist of two sections, each to the east and north east of Middelburg. The proposed alignments have been disturbed by previous activities such as agriculture, roads and railways.

Two sites of heritage significance were identified in the HIA completed for the original alignment. Site 1 is a Late Iron Age or historical site which may contain graves. Site 2 is an Anglo-Boer War Blockhouse and associated stone wall enclosure. The author believes the enclosure to have been used for the horses. Both of these identified heritage resources are situated close to the reservoir and far enough away from the proposed revised alignment that it is unlikely that the proposed development will impact on these resources.

SAHRA supports the recommendation that Site 1 and Site 2 may not be disturbed during the construction of the bypass. It is furthermore recommended that Site 1 be fenced temporarily during construction activities. All sites must be clearly marked on construction maps and avoided by contractors. The ECO must also be informed to their significance and that special care must be taken not to disturb these sites.

No palaeontological assessment was conducted for this project. Such a study must be undertaken or at least a letter of exemption must be compiled by a professional palaeontologists. Areas such as the use of borrow pits must also be considered in the palaeontological assessment. The report must be then submitted to SAHRA for comments. SAHRA will not be able to issue a final comment on the matter until the palaeontological assessment is undertaken.

We look forward to receiving this information before commenting further.

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



Proposed Middelburg Eastern Bypass Project

Our Ref: 16/5/1 Middelburg Eastern Bypass

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CaseID: 3673

Date: Thursday September 26, 2013

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Yours faithfully

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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/132739>



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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