

Final Comment

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

Attention: Phethogo Consulting

Township establishment of about 850 erven in Thabong Homestead

Thank you for notifying SAHRA of the Proposed Thabong Homestead Township development near the town of Welkom. The development is located on the farm Homestead 668, Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Free State Province. The Thabong Homestead housing development is located on significantly disturbed land by cattle grazing and previous human informal occupation.

Under sections 34, 35 and 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) heritage resources are protected from damage from mining and development activities. These resources are for instance burial grounds, unmarked and marked graves that are older than 60 years, built structures that are older than 60 years old, archaeology (stone tools, stone walled sites, prehistoric and historic pottery sherds, ash grounds etc.) and palaeontology (fossils of plant and animal material).

Dr Rossouw, L. October 2013. *Phase 1 Palaeontological and Archaeological Impact assessment of the proposed homestead Township extension at Thabong, Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Free State Province.*

Dr Rossouw undertook a field assessment of the proposed development of the Thabong township near Welkom in October 2013 to locate any possible heritage resources that may be negatively impacted by the proposed development.

- The development is located in a Moderate and Very High Palaeontologically Sensitive Zone, the heritage report mentions that the Adelaide and Volkrust Formations underlies the Welkom area, which is in itself has a very high Palaeontological Potential. This formation bears trace fossils of *plants and seeds* of the Quaternary age and considered significant for palaeo-climate reconstructions. However the heritage report mentions that the overlaying strata of the development area has deep Quaternary eolian soils and they hold no palaeontological potential.

The field assessment did not locate any archaeological heritage resources on the development site, including stone tool sites and other heritage resources like pre-historic structures and rock art. The area was significantly disturbed by recent human activity, thus the likelihood of finding any significant surface heritage resources are low.

Final Comment

Based on the information that was submitted in this case the likelihood of any significant heritage resources

Our Ref:

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CaseID: 6010

Date: Wednesday October 22, 2014

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being negatively impacted on is low. However the development location is on a Very High Palaeontologically sensitive zone, thus SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit has no objections to this proposed development, based on the submitted information. On condition that the following are adhered to:

- A fossil finds procedure must be included in the EMP, stipulating:
 - The environmental practitioner is present to monitor if any fossils are present in the bedrock when any deep trenching that will expose bedrock happens during construction.
 - That the construction manager acquaints himself/herself along with the construction crew with how fossils look like.
 - Also that when any fossils are uncovered during the construction phase, development must stop within the 50m radius and a palaeontologist will have to be called in to inspect the finds.

- It should be noted that any evidence of any significant archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments and charcoal/ash concentrations), unmarked human burials, fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed activities, SAHRA APM Unit (Nokukhanya Khumalo/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



Nokukhanya Khumalo
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency



Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency



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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/169705>
(DHS, 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.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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