



Final Comment

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

Attention: Vipcon (Pty) Ltd

The proposed Bahlangene Residential Township will be approximately 205.4264 ha in extent, this will include residential erven, business area, schools, community facilities (e.g. Churches, crèches, community hall etc.), public open spaces and 1 stand that will be used by the Municipality

Thank you for notifying SAHRA of the proposed Bahlangene township development just outside Ermelo, on the remaining portion of Portion 2 of the farm Langverwacht, Msukaligwa Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

Vipcon Property Developers intend to develop the Bahlangene Township just outside Ermelo, the project entails 2 residential areas, 2 schools; 2 business centres which will be a total area of 205ha. Construction of the township will include underground construction of power lines and water pipe lines and sewage removal pipe lines.

Under sections 34, 35 and 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) heritage resources are protected. 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).

Van Wyk Rowe, March 2014. *Specialist Report Phase 1 Archaeological / Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Bahlangene Residential Township Establishment on Portion 2 of the farm, Langverwacht 293, Ermelo, Mpumalanga Province.*

Ms Van Wyk Rowe undertook a field assessment of the proposed Bahlangene township development area with the aim of finding and documenting heritage resources that may be potentially negatively affected by the Development. During the survey a cemetery in a bluegum tree plantation was documented and foundations of a historical house.

Cemetery: This site consists of 3 graves belonging to the Madonsela family. The graves are unmarked and have dates that range from 1977-78, this is information supplied by a family member. The cemetery is not fenced and the heritage report recommends the relocation of these graves.

Historic Stone Ruin: This is a farmstead house made of stone, common building material in the highveld. The





Our Ref: 7156

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house ruins are older than 60 years and thought to be originally constructed in the 1930's with a later additions added.

In terms of palaeontological heritage, the site overlies rocks of the palaeontologically significant Vryheid Formation of the Karoo Supergroup; however, dolerite intrusions are abundant and the site is covered by various recent sediments. No rocky outcrops except for the dolerite boulders were reported.

Interim Comment

SAHRA does not agree with the recommendations made in the HIA

1. Graves should be kept in their original form and location where possible, this means that building plans and site plans need to be adapted to accommodate a cemetery.
2. No further palaeontological assessment is needed as the Vryheid Formation is not exposed in the area but is overlain by recent deposits and intruded by dolerite dykes and sills. This exemption is subject to the conditions stated below.

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology & Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objection to the proposed development on the condition that:

- The graves found and documented in the proposed development area are fenced and there is a buffer zone of 5m around the cemetery.
- A permit for any built environment that may be damaged or destroyed by development must be applied to the Mpumalanga Provincial Heritage Resources Authority.
- If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments and charcoal/ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed activities, SAHRA APM Unit (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Colette Scheermeyer 021 462 4502), and unmarked human burials contact the SAHRA BGG Unit (Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), 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



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Proposed Bahlangene Township Development, Ermelo

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South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/193890>
(MDARDLA, Ref: 17/2/3/GS-220)

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.



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