



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: 7272

Date: Monday February 22, 2016
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Final Comment

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

Attention: Absa Development Company Holdings (Pty) Ltd.

The development of a new residential area and associated infrastructure on various portions of the farm Blesboklaagte 296 JS and a portion of Erf 5017 Klarinet X7, eMalahleni, is proposed. It is envisaged that the development will comprise of the following: 3 299 units of subsidised housing – low cost free standing Residential 1 stands; 1 113 units institutional housing (@ density 80 units/ha) - apartments (multi storey units) – medium low to medium cost bonded apartments and rental stock; 660 bonded housing units– medium low to medium high cost free standing Residential 1 stands. The said site is approximately 275 hectares in extent and located adjacent to the existing Klarinet X6, X7 and X8 residential areas, Mpumalanga.

Thank you for submitting the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) Report to this case as requested in the Response to Notification of Intention to Develop (NID) dated 24/04/2015.

Van Vollenhoven, A.C. May 2015. A Report on a Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Klarinet Phase 2 residential development, close to Emalahleni, Mpumalanga Province

The field assessment was to assess the potential impacts of construction, and 5 heritage sites were identified from the survey. Site 1 was building foundations of low significance and the other 4 sites were unfenced and unmarked graves, which are protected from destruction by the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999). The heritage report recommends the relocation of the graves as they will be directly impacted on by the development.

Fourie, H. May 2015. Palaeontological Specialist Assessment: Phase 1 Field Study, Klarinet Phase 2 eMalahleni Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

The proposed area for the Klarinet housing development was surveyed for its potential for fossiliferous rocks; the area is underlain by igneous and sedimentary rocks of the Vryheid Formation (Karoo Supergroup), which are of high significance.

Final Comment

SAHRA agrees with the recommendations made in the HIA referenced in this comment as follows:



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The cemetery at Site 5 should be retained where it is, it should be fenced once the graves from Site 2-4 are relocated to Site 5. A 20m buffer zone around the perimeter of the new fence of the cemetery should be adhered to at all times. Before any relocation of graves can be done, a permit from SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves Unit must be applied for, as well as a social consultation must be carried to find the relatives before approval for relocation.

- If the graves cannot be relocated to Site 5 motivation should be given when applying for a permit.

Sites 6-8 should be protected against damage during construction of the housing units and other facilities, where they are close to the development they must be marked by danger tape.

Any buildings older than 60 years may not be damaged or destroyed during construction. However any decisions made about the built environment older than 60 years are handled by the Mpumalanga Provincial Heritage Authority (MPHRA) and the contact person is (bmuduka@mpg.gov.za).

If any fossils are uncovered during construction of the facility, then the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) must notify SAHRA and construction must cease around the area immediately until a palaeontologist can verify the finds.

A palaeontologist should be called regularly to inspect any excavated rocks.

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit have no objections to this proposed development on the following conditions:

- 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, 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, and a permit will be needed before mitigation. You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8652),

- and if any unmarked human burials are uncovered then please contact the SAHRA BGG Unit (Mimi Seetelo

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012 320 8490).

All the recommendations and conditions within this comment should be incorporated into the Environmental Management Program report (EMPr) for implementation.

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/251503>
(DARDLA, Ref: 17/2/3 N-397)

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.