

Interim Comment

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

Attention: Alzu Enterprises (Pty) Ltd

Alzu Enterprises (Pty) Ltd intends to establish a breeder sow unit to produce F1 gilts on Portion 19 of the farm Grootlaagte 449 JS, Middelburg. The piggery will comprise of a Sow Unit and a Weaner/Grower unit. The site is approximately 6 ha in extent and currently vacant. The farm is located 6 km south east of the Alzu Petroport, which is located between Middelburg and Belfast along the N4 national road, Mpumalanga.

Thank you for submitting the Heritage Impact Assessment and the Palaeontological Impact Assessment to the case as per the request issued in the SAHRA comment dated 28/07/2015.

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 Vollenhoven, AC. April 2015. A Report on an Archaeological and Built Environment Heritage Impact Assessment for a Proposed Piggery on Portion 19 of the Farm Grootlaagte 449 JS, close to Middelburg, Mpumalanga Province.

The author undertook a field assessment of the proposed development to document any heritage resources located on the foot print of the various development locations. No heritage resources were found during the survey.

Fourie, H. June 2015. The construction and operation of a breeder sow unit and associated infrastructure Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province Farm: Portion 19 Grootlaagte 449 JS, Middelburg. Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Phase 1 Field study.

The author undertook a desktop and field survey of the proposed development area and found that the underlying rocks belong to the potentially fossiliferous Vryheid Formation that can be up to 500 m thick. The author suggests to verify the thickness of the Vryheid Formation in the proposed area with geological cores, and furthermore to survey the topsoil, subsoil and overburden for fossils and mitigate the shale layer.

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Because of the impracticability of the author's recommendations in the Palaeontological Impact Assessment to mitigate the entire shale layer that may or may not contain fossils, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology



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CaseID: 7672

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and Meteorites (APM) Unit decided on the following:

- During excavation works for building foundations, a professional palaeontologist must be present on site once per week to survey the overburden and topsoil. To this end, a monitoring programme must be submitted to SAHRA and be made part of the Environmental Monitoring Programme before excavation works commence.

Regarding archaeological heritage resources, the 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 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 012 320 8490).

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



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**Construction and operation of a breeder sow unit on Portion 19 of the farm
Grootlaagte 449 JS, Middelburg
Our Ref: 7672**



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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/270123>
(MDEDET, Ref:)



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