

**Our Ref:**



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Phillip Hine  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: [phine@sahra.org.za](mailto:phine@sahra.org.za)

Date: Thursday May 26, 2016  
Page No: 1

CaseID: 7732

## **Letter**

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

Attention: Enviroafrica CC  
PO Box 5367  
Heilderberg  
7135

**The site is located on Portion 18 of Farm Witkop 350, Noenieput, Northern Cape. It is proposed that the property be rezoned and subdivided for the development of serviced low cost housing, including associated infrastructure.**

SAHRA received a hardcopy letter of notification of the granting of the Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued on 17 March 2016, for the Proposed Development of Low Cost Housing and Associated Infrastructure, on portion 18 of the farm Witkop 350, Mier Local Municipality, ZF Mgcawu District Municipality.

While SAHRA had not provided comments during the EA Application process, section 11 of the issued EA notes the following:

*“The activity may not commence without the necessary permits/licenses/approvals and/or service agreements, where it is relevant, from or with the relevant regulatory authorities whether national, provincial or local (these include but are not limited to...South African Heritage Resources Agency...”*

It is noted that the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) conducted for the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) identified several heritage resources within the proposed development footprint. These include a wide variety of Stone Age lithics from the Early, Middle and Late Stone Age periods, and have been rated of medium significance and require mitigation. Recommended mitigation provided for in the report includes a controlled surface pick-up which requires a permit in terms of section 35 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (NHRA).

Additionally, a total of four burials were identified within the proposed development footprint. These burials have been given a high significance rating and require mitigation. Mitigation measures recommended as part of the report include the following:

- Protection of the graves from the impact of the development including possibly mitigation through fencing and avoidance of the area by the development. A mini-management plan for maintenance of graves must also be developed;

**Our Ref:**



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Phillip Hine  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: [phine@sahra.org.za](mailto:phine@sahra.org.za)

Date: Thursday May 26, 2016

Page No: 2

CaseID: 7732

- Relocation of the graves involving public participation and possibly further archival research; and
- Or both of the above mitigation measures should be implemented.

The BAR notes the identified heritage resources and the need to investigate the burials to determine whether they are burials or not. Should they prove to be human burials, further mitigation is necessary.

The BAR has stated that the planners for the development have made provision for the graves within the development. They will be located within the area rezoned as Public Open Space as indicated by the preferred alternative (Option 3). Grave 1 is located outside of the development area and will not be directly impacted by the housing development. Grave 4 appears to be located immediately adjacent to the housing development.

The following comments are relevant to the authorised Low Cost Housing Development located on the farm Witkop 350:

- Please ensure that the EA is uploaded to the case file for record keeping purposes;
- Please indicate if any heritage mitigations measures will be completed and ensure that the relevant processes are followed and permits are applied for prior to construction;
- The controlled pick-up of Stone Age material must be completed prior to the construction phase, by a qualified archaeologist, preferably one with experience in Stone Age archaeology. An agreement with a recognized repository must be sought for the long term curation of collected material. A report detailing the results of the pick-up must be compiled and submitted to SAHRA upon completion;
- Both Grave 1 and 4 may be impacted by future development expansions or natural residential expansion and recommended mitigation measures for Grave 3 and 2 must also apply to these two;
- The recommended management plan for the grave sites must be developed and submitted to SAHRA for approval prior to construction; and
- If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Itumeleng Masiteng/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately. A professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted 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 may be required.

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

**PROPOSED LOW COST HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, NOENIEPUT, NORTHERN  
CAPE**

**Our Ref:**



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Phillip Hine  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: [phine@sahra.org.za](mailto:phine@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 7732

Date: Thursday May 26, 2016  
Page No: 3

Yours faithfully

---

Phillip Hine  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist (Acting)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

---

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/271793>  
(DENC, Ref: NC/BA/SIY/MIE/NOE/2012)