



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: 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

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Date: Monday January 18, 2016

Page No: 1

Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 8869

Interim Comment

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

Attention: Site Plan Consulting
PO Box 28
Strand
7139

The proposed borrow pit is located about 55 kms south of Sutherland, alongside the public gravel road to Kamsberg. Access to the site is from the R354/Matjiesfontein-Sutherland tarred road. An application for a mining permit is being lodged with the Department of Mineral Resources Northern Cape, in order to mine the deposits on the farm. The proposed borrow pit will provide suitable quality aggregate material for the construction/maintenance of gravel access roads, and turbine platforms to serve several large wind energy projects currently underway in the Sutherland area. The proposed application area is 4.98 ha in extent, of which the borrow pit excavation itself will be less than 1.0 ha. The excavation method will be linear trenches about 10-20m wide, running for a length of about 1.5km. Excavations will be to an average depth of 3m.

Site Plan Consulting CC was appointed by Power Construction (Pty) Ltd to compile a Mining Permit Application for a borrow pit in compliance with the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 Of 2002) (MPRDA). A Draft Scoping Report was completed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the EIA Regulations, 2014. The project is located 55 km from Sutherland on the farm of Rheebokke Fontein 209 portion 2 and portion 3, in the Northern Cape Province. Power Construction is in the process of submitting three other application for similar developments in the area i.e. Karusa North, Karusa R345 and on the farm Jakhals Valley 99 portion 3.

Site Plan Consulting contracted Jonathan Kaplan and Johan Almond to conduct the Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) and the Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) for the proposed quarry.

Kaplan, 2015. Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed borrow pit (Karusa East) on the farm Rheebokke Fontein 209/2 & 209/3 near Sutherland, Northern Cape.

The author assessed the proposed borrow pit area and recorded the survey through photographs and a track log. Two surface occurrences of heritage resources were identified just outside the proposed project area. These occurrences included stone chunks and a fragment of blue and white porcelain and were assigned a low significance. No other tangible heritage resources such as grave markers, or old buildings/structures and

**Proposed Gravel mine on farm Rheebokke Fontein 209 Portion 2 and Portion 3
near Sutherland, 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
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Date: Monday January 18, 2016

Page No: 2

Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 8869

features were present in the project area. No impacts on significant heritage resources were anticipated.

Recommendations in the AIA included that should any unmarked human remains be uncovered during mining operations, these must be immediately reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency or Jonathan Kaplan.

Almond, 2015. Recommended Exemption from further Palaeontological Studies for the proposed exploitation of fresh and weathered dolerite from four quarry sites near Sutherland, Namaqua District Municipality, Northern Cape.

The author assessed all four application areas in one combined report. The author found that the Karusa East application area is underlain by unfossiliferous dolerite intrusions and the potentially fossiliferous Abrahamskraal Formation. The Abrahamskraal formation may contain invertebrate trace fossils, compressions and rare fossil wood impressions. The anticipated impact of the proposed development is deemed to be low.

Recommendations provided in the Palaeontological study state that should any substantial fossil remains be uncovered during the construction phase, they should be reported to SAHRA for mitigation by a professional palaeontologist.

Final Comment

Based on the information provided, it is unlikely that significant archaeological resources will be impacted by the proposed Mining Permit Application for the Karusa East borrow pit. .

The recommendations provided in the AIA and PIA must be included in the final EMP. The following additional conditions must be adhered to and must form part of the final EMP:

- A Chance Finds Procedures and Fossil Finds Procedure must be developed for the project to ensure that standard protocols and steps are followed should any heritage and/or fossil resources be uncovered during excavations. These procedures should outline the steps and reporting structure to be followed in the instance that heritage resources are found.

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

Yours faithfully

**Proposed Gravel mine on farm Rheebokke Fontein 209 Portion 2 and Portion 3
near Sutherland, 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
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Date: Monday January 18, 2016

Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za

Page No: 3

CaseID: 8869

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/351001>
(DMR - NC, Ref: NC30/5/1/3/2/10502MP)

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.