

Our Ref: 9719



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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Final Comment

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

Attention: Jumbo van der Merwe Trust

The applicant plans to utilize a portion of Portion 55 of the farm Blesboklaagte 296 JS (eMalahleni, Mpumalanga Province) for commercial purposes i.e. for the development of a shopping centre and associated infrastructure. The site is 10.11 ha in extent and located between Voortrekker Road and the Transnet railway line in close proximity of the eMalahleni CBD.

Jumbo Van Der Merwe Trust is proposing to develop a portion of their property to construct a shopping centre and other associated retail space. The proposed project area is 10 ha in extent, located on a portion of Portion 55 (which is 42 ha) of the farm Blesboklaagte 295 JS in the Emalahleni Local Municipality of the Mpumalanga Province. The Trust has appointed AdiEnvironmental (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Basic Assessment or Environmental Impact Assessment process in support of an Environmental Authorisation in terms of Section 24(2) and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 as amended. The project will include the subdivision of the existing portion into 5 separate portions, to be rezoned and development as needed but with the new portions 270 and 271 to be the areas proposed for the shopping centre.

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit had issued Interim Comment dated 16 August 2017, notification of said comment was sent to the case author (EAP) on the same day. The Interim Comment was based on the Palaeontological Impact Assessment and Heritage Impact Assessment reports that were submitted to the case in 19 June 2017.

SAHRA APM Unit accepts the PIA report and the recommendations for a Fossil Chance Finds procedure in the report to be implemented. Although SAHRA APM Unit expressed concerns in the field survey methodology of the HIA report, the area is located within a low surface occurrence of heritage resources therefore accepting the recommendations of the HIA.

Final Comment

SAHRA APM Unit notes the bar has included the HIA and PIA report findings under section 5.13 as well as the recommendations under section 8.3.2 General Construction Principles. Therefore, SAHRA has no objections to the proposed development of the shopping centre on Blesboklaagte 295 JS in the Emalahleni Local Municipality of the Mpumalanga Province. The following conditions still apply and must be included in the

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EMPr for implementation:

- The Chance Finds procedure provided for in the PIA report as appendix 2.
- If there are any new heritage resources discovered during construction and operation phases of the proposed development, then a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings at the expense of the developer.
- If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required at the expense of the developer. Mitigation will only be carried out after the archaeologist or palaeontologist obtains a permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999). You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8652).
- If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the police find them to be heritage graves then mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be contacted for processes to follow (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

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Phillip Hine

Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/364655>
(MDEDET, Ref: 1/3/1/16/1N-97)

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.