

Our Ref:



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: 12801

Date: Tuesday October 23, 2018
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Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(8), 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: National Department of Public Works

Planning & Design for the Maintenance and / or Upgrade of the Patrol Roads and Fencing on the Borders between the Republic of South Africa (RSA), Swaziland & Mozambique, being undertaken by the National Department of Public Works (DPW), KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga Provinces

Thank you for notifying the SAHRA on the proposed development of the Patrol Roads and Fencing on the Borders between the Republic of South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique.

The Department of Public Works intends upgrade maintain the borders which stretches from the Mozambique-South African border immediately south of Ponta de Ouro, then along the entire length of the Swaziland – South African border to the point where the Swaziland, Mozambique and South African borders once again meet at Zulu Crossing (immediately south of a settlement named Mbuzini) in the Mpumalanga Province. The total extent of the development area covers 520km and includes relevant access roads and borrow pits.

Amafa; the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority responsible for KZN will comment on their designated section of the development area. SAHRA's comment on the other hand will be on sections within Mpumalanga, within the Umjindi, Mkhondo, Msukaligwa, eHlanzeni, Nkomazi and Albert Luthuli Local Municipalities.

Royal Haskoning DHV (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by dept of Public Works to undertake a Basic Assessment process in support of a Environmental Authorisation (EA) application in terms of National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and a Water Use License in terms of the Water Use Licence Regulations, March 2017 promulgated in terms of the National Water Act, 36 of 1998. In respect of listed activities in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2017, as amended. As part of the proposed development, Active Heritage CC was contracted to conduct the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) as part of the EA application in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Prins, F. January 2018. Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of The Proposed Border Road, including 20

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Borrow Pits, Swaziland.

The author states that archaeological sites exist in the development area and these include Early Stone Age, Middle Stone Age, Later Stone Age, Later Iron Age, Rock Art, and Later Iron Age/historical period sites. The conducted desktop study revealed that the development area has not been systematically surveyed as many grave sites were discovered in the environs. The author determines that there will be no impacts to heritage resources as they located far from the proposed development activities.

Banzai Environmental (PTY) LTD was also contracted to conduct the Palaeontological Impact Assessment (Phase 1) according to section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999).

Butler, E. February 2018. Palaeontological Field Assessment of The Proposed Swaziland-Mozambique Border Patrol Road And Mozambique Barrier Structure.

The author reveals that a physical field assessment of the proposed development area was conducted on foot and by vehicle and no fossil-bearing outcrops were found in the development footprint. The area on the other hand, is underlain by high Palaeontological sensitivity sedimentary rocks.

Interim Comment

SAHRA acknowledges that the activities of the development may have an impact on the environment, thus a draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) needs to be submitted to the case on SAHRIS in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, No 107 of 1998 (NEMA), NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations.

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorites (APM) Unit does not accept the HIA and PIA reports submitted for this application. The HIA does not provide a detailed project description and impact assessment. This report does not adhere to the minimum standards for archaeological components of an HIA report, nor does it completely adhere to section 38 (3) of the NHRA. The HIA report must be amended to include a map of the identified heritage resources (with numbers associated with a corresponding site list) in the Mpumalanga sections of the the development, the map must be overlaid with the location of the proposed borrow pits and other proposed development areas. Furthermore, there should be an impact assessment, the report must make it clear the distances of the heritage resources to the proposed development. In addition to this, the report must also indicate the closest development in the Barbeton area to the recently declared Barbeton-Mkhonjwa Mountains National Heritage Site and World Heritage Site.

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The PIA report does not distinguish between the Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal Provinces, also it does not assess the potential impacts to palaeontological sensitive formations within Mpumalanga. The report must be amended to show which formations occur in which province and also an impact assessment inclusive of a Fossil Finds Procedure must be conducted following the 2012 minimum standards for the palaeontological components of the HIA report.

SAHRA awaits the submission of the draft BAR and amended HIA and PIA reports, as well as a .kml file of the development locations before we process the case further. The applicant is advised to apply for an extension of the BAR process in terms of section 19(1)b of the NEMA EIA Regulations to address the issues noted above.

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

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

ADMIN:

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Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/510804>
(DEA, Ref:)

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.