



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 13104

Date: Wednesday December 18, 2019
Page No: 1

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Mr Craig Donald
Site Plan Consulting
Shop 5 Goedehoop Shopping Centre
Broadway Boulevard
Strand
7140

Prospecting drilling of 5 holes on pan surface to search for salt containing Brine

Site Plan Consulting has been appointed by Transalt (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for prospecting the potential for salt extraction on the Tsongna and Bettestat Pan on farm Gemsbok Horn 242 Remainder, Gemsbok Horn 242 Portion 1 Gordonia Magisterial District 75km north of Upington, Northern Cape.

A Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and Environmental Management Programme Report has been submitted for environmental authorisation and prospecting right in terms of Regulation 16 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the National Environmental Management Waste Act, 2008 in respect of listed activities that have been triggered by applications In Terms Of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002, Act 28 of 2002 (as amended).

The proposed prospecting area has an extent of 1622.7362 ha. Five hole will be drilled on the two pans up to a probable average depth of 10m. The auger drilling method to be used.

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite (APM) unit issued a comment dated 19/11/2018 which requested that the Heritage Impact Assessment be undertaken. The Heritage Impact Assessment was subsequently undertaken and submitted to the case on SAHRIS.

The McGregor Museum archaeology department along with John Pether were appointed to carry out a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment as per section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) and section 24(4)d(iii) of the NEMA EIA Regulations.

Pether, J. 2019. Gemsbok Horn Salt Prospect Basic Palaeontological Assessment Letter of Recommendation



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for Exemption from further Palaeontological Studies Gemsbok Horn 242, Dawid Kruiper Municipality, Gordonia District, Northern Cape.

The development area is underlain largely by the Goeboe Goeboe formation (uncertain palaeontological sensitivity) and the Mbizane formation (Dwyka Group, moderate palaeontological sensitivity) in the pans. The pans are surrounded by outcrops of the Prince Albert Formation (Ecca Group high palaeontological sensitivity) and the Mokalanen Formation calccrete that are of high palaeontological sensitivity along with the Gordonia Formation sand dunes which dominate the landscape.

The 5 drill holes will penetrate a small volume of pan deposits and the underlying Karoo bedrock and it is unlikely that intersecting fossil bones will be discovered. The Karoo bedrock beneath the pans is expected to be weathered and friable and is unlikely to yield well-preserved fossils.

Recommendations

In view of the very small footprint of the proposed 5 auger drill holes the anticipated palaeontological impact of the brine sampling is considered to be LOW to MARGINAL and no additional palaeontological interventions are required.

Notwithstanding, although improbable, a chance occurrence of fossil material cannot be entirely dismissed. It is recommended that the drill holes be regarded as an exploration opportunity for the nature of the pan deposits and be observed for the possible occurrence of Stone Age artefacts and bone and teeth fragments. Should such material be encountered in the drill spoil then SAHRA and/or the McGregor Museum must be informed and supplied with contextual information, such as images of the find and its context in the bore hole log, for assessment and decision on a suitable response.

Morris, D & Henderson, A. 2019. Heritage Impact Assessment of proposed prospecting drilling sites at two pans on Gemsbok Horn 242 in the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality, Northern Cape.

Low density surface occurrences of stone artefacts reflecting Middle Stone Age presence in the proposed prospecting area. Significance of impact on heritage material is reckoned to be low.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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Page No: 3

In terms of this report on archaeological and cultural heritage resources, the recommendation is made that the sampling by drilling, as proposed, be allowed to proceed.

Final Decision

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objection to the development as per section 38(4)a of the NHRA act 25 of 1999 and supports the recommendations of the specialist as per section 38(4)b. The recommendations of the specialist and the following conditions apply to the development and must be included in the Final BAR and EMPr:

The Final BAR and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;

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 uncovered 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 (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately.

Should the project be granted Environmental Authorisation, SAHRA must be notified and all relevant documents submitted to the case file.

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

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Page No: 4

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/514212>
(DMR - NC, Ref: NC30/5/1/1/2/12226PR)

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.