

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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Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
Tel: 0212028663
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CaseID: 18799

Date: Thursday July 07, 2022
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Final Decision

In terms of Section 38(2), 38(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Miss Thabelo Mugwedi
Eskom - FSOU
Eskom Centre building
120 Henry street
Wesdene
Bloemfontein
9301

Proposed construction of an 11 kV overhead powerline between Balkfontein and Doornhoek, across the Vaal River, about 8km to the west of Bothaville, Free State Province. The line will be approximately 5 km long and close to the existing line.

Eskom Free State Operating Unit (FSOU) submitted an application in terms of section 38(1) of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA, Act 25 of 1999) for the construction of a proposed 11kV powerline between Balkfontein and Doornhoek, across the Vaal River, near Bothaville, Free State Province.

The proposed powerline is approximately 5km in length and it will be constructed near a proposed new township. The line mainly runs along an area with existing powerlines as this is a re-build close to the existing power line.

1World Consultants (Pty) Ltd appointed Professor Marion Bamford to undertake the Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) in terms of section 38(2) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Bamford, M. 2022. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Balkfontein-Doornhoek 11 kV powerline, west of Bothaville, Free State Province

The proposed site lies on the potentially very highly fossiliferous Vryheid Formation (Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup) and unfossiliferous Jurassic dolerite intrusions. The development area has been disturbed by previous agricultural activities. The potential fossils from the Vryheid Formation would be fossil leaf impressions of the Glossopteris flora, including leaves, reproductive structures, roots and trunk wood. Other plants that make up this flora are lycopods, sphenophytes, ferns and early gymnosperms. No vertebrates are known from this formation. No fossils were observed during the site visit and a Fossil Chance Find Protocol

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has been attached to be added to the EMPr in the event that fossil are uncovered in the Vryheid Formation.

Final Decision

As the powerline will be built in a disturbed area and there are likely no *in-situ* heritage resources, no further assessment of the impact to heritage resources is required as per section 38(2)a of the NHRA.

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 38(2) and 38(4) of the NHRA and must be adhered to:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – No further additional conditions are provided for the development;
- 38(4)c(i) – 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 (Sityhilelo Ngcatsha/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Nggabutho Madida 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA regarding offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
- If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA.

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

Yours faithfully

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Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite Assistant
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/598988>