

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: 15363

Date: Friday September 18, 2020

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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Mr Trust Mlilo

Sativa Travel and Environmental Consultants

Head Office/Gauteng Office 135 Pitzer Road Glen Austin Midrand 1685

Proposed establishment of an integrated sustainable human settlement on Portions 8 of the farm Buhrmann's Tafelkop 135 IT, Msukalingwa Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. The project entails formalisation of an existing informal settlement (Mabuza Informal settlement) in Ermelo

OURA Solutions was appointed to conduct the Environmental Authorisation Application for the formalisation of Mabuza informal settlement by creating an integrated sustainable human settlement on Portions 8 of the farm Buhrmann's Tafelkop 135 IT in Ermelo Town of Msukalingwa Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

The Environmental Impact Assessment was undertaken in terms of Section 24G of National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998), to rectify and undertake the listed activities in terms of NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation, 2017 as amended.

The township establishment process entails construction/upgrading of the already existing 700 informal houses to low cost residential housing with the intention to increase the number of units to be catered for to about 1298 units including the already existing 700 households. Infrastructure associated with the proposed development includes bulk stormwater, bulk sewers, bulk water supply, bulk electrical supply, solid waste management and roads.

The site is located in an area generally known for occurrence of Late Iron Age Archaeological Sites. The Paleontological sensitivity may also indicate that the area is sensitive and therefore a Paleontological Impact study is imperative. The project area is also known for occurrence of unmarked graves.

Integrated Specialist Services (Pty) Ltd was appointed to provide the heritage specialist report for the EA process as per section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA.

Mlilo, T. 2020. Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for proposed establishment of an integrated sustainable human settlement on Portions 8 of the farm Buhrmann's Tafelkop 135 IT, Msukalingwa Local Municipality,



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Mpumalanga Province

The survey of the proposed development site did not yield any confirmable archaeological remains. It is assumed that the chances of recovering significant archaeological materials in situ were seriously compromised by erosion and other destruction agents. The survey did not record any burial grounds or graves as well.

Recommendations

- The site considered in this study is equally viable from an archaeological and heritage perspective. However, a paleontological study may be required to ensure protection of paleontological resources during construction.
- The proposed development may be approved to proceed as planned under observation that construction work does not extend beyond the surveyed site.
- The footprint impact of the proposed development should be kept to minimal to limit the possibility of encountering chance finds within the proposed site.
- The chance finds process will be implemented when necessary especially when archaeological materials and burials are encountered during subsurface construction activities.
- If during the construction or operations phases of this project, any person employed by the developer, any of its subsidiaries, contractors and subcontractors, or service provider, finds any artifacts of cultural significance, work must cease at the site of the find and this person must report this find to their immediate supervisor, and through their supervisor to the senior on-site manager.
- The senior-site manager must then make an initial assessment of the extent of the find and confirm the extent of the work stoppage in that area before informing SAHRA/PHRA.
- If human remains or suspected grave goods are accidentally unearthed, they must not be further disturbed or removed from the original place before the local police and SAHRA or PHRA are informed. The accidental find must be protected while mitigation measures are sought. If the burial is

ON PORTIONS 8 OF THE FARM BUHRMANN'S TAFELKOP 135 IT HOUSING PROJECT

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deemed to be over 60 years old and no foul play is suspected, an emergency rescue permit may be issued by SAHRA for an archaeologist to exhume the remains.

- The Project Public Participation Process should ensure that any cultural heritage related matters for this project are given due attention whenever they arise and are communicated PHRA throughout the proposed project development. This form of extended community involvement would pre-empt any potential disruptions that may arise from previously unknown cultural heritage matter that may have escaped the attention of this study.
- The findings of this report, with approval of the PHRA/SAHRA, may be classified as accessible to any interested and affected parties within the limits of the laws.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite (APM) unit notes the Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) along with its recommendations. It is noted that the report does not contain a tracklog for the survey of the study area. The HIA must be amended to include the tracklog for the survey.

It is noted in the recommendations of the HIA and the section 24G rectification EIA document that it is crucial for a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) to be undertaken. The SAHRA APM unit agrees with the recommendation and requests that a field based PIA be undertaken.

Further comments will be made upon the submission of the amended AIA and the field based PIA reports.

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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Nokukhanya Khumalo
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/538836>
(DARDLEA, Ref: none)

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.