



Final Comment

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

Attention: Ms Ria Pretorius
Texture Environmental Consultants
P.O. Box 36593
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0102

Eskom Mantsole Substation and Loop-in-loop line

Eskom proposes the construction of the 2X10MVA 123/22kV Mantsole Substation with 4X 22kV feeder bays, on a terrain of 200x200m. In addition the construction of a 132Kv Loop-in Loop-out power line from the proposed Mantsole substation to the Pienaarsrivier-Warmbad 132kV line; the construction of an 8m wide access road; and the erection of an 36 m Communication Tower.

A Desktop Palaeontological Assessment was submitted to SAHRA for comments, however this report did not meet the current minimum standards for Palaeontological Impact Assessments.

The palaeontologist considered both site alternatives. Alternative 2 is the preferred option in terms of the potential impact on palaeontological resources since the area has been cultivated and the author believes that it is likely that palaeontological resources have already been impacted. Alternative 1 is underlain by mudstones, sandstones and siltstones in a degraded woodland. Opencast mines near the Hammerskraal and Tshwaing yielded fossils of the Glossopterid flora. The specialist indicated that most of the fossiliferous outcrops may be as shallow as 3 meter but the small area used for pylons is likely not to have a major impact on any fossils.

Decision:

SAHRA APM Unit does not object to either alternative 1 or 2. However, alternative 2 is preferred since it is less sensitive from a palaeontological perspective.

The ECO must be aware of the possible presence of fossils in particular during excavations. If fossiliferous material is accidentally discovered during excavations for the pylons and the substation, SAHRA APM Unit (Mr. Phillip Hine/Mrs Colette Scheermeyer, tel: 021 462 4502), and a professional palaeontologists must be contacted immediately to inspect the findings at the cost of the developer. If the palaeontological material is regarded as significant a rescue excavation may be needed.

General Recommendations: The specialist report is closer to a Letter of Exemption from further Palaeontological Assessment rather than a Desktop Study. A geological map of the area is not included in the report. For Desktop Assessments SAHRA requires a detailed description of the geology of the area, the significance of potential fossiliferous material that may be identified in the project area, and a geological map. While SAHRA APM Unit does not object to the current project in terms of the palaeontological resources, the specialist needs to ensure that the report complies with SAHRA Minimum Standards. In future, reports such as





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the one submitted for this project will not be accepted by the heritage authority and will be returned to the applicant for amendments. Please note that expressions such as "if memory prevails" should not be included in any scientific assessments.

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

Yours faithfully

Phillip Hine
Heritage Officer

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
(DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/2469)

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.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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