Proposed development of a cattle feedlot on Portion 2 and 3 of the Leeuwenfontein farm No. 284, Gauteng

Our Ref: 15137



an agency of the Department of Arts and Culture

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Enquiries: Andrew Salomon Tel: 021 462 4502 Email: asalomon@sahra.org.za CaseID: 15137 Date: Friday July 02, 2021 Page No: 1

Final Comment

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

Attention: Enviroworks

4 Coligny Road Park West Bloemfontein, 9310

This application is for the construction of a feedlot on an existing cattle farm. The feedlot basically consists of poles and cables and only the apron at the feed bunker and water troughs are concrete cement. The proposed activity includes the levelling of soil and the landscaping of the floor to ensure a flat area. Associated infrastructure such as a hospital already exists as well as an access road.

Lavin, J. June 2020. Heritage Screener Proposed development of a cattle feedlot on Portion 2 and 3 of the Leeuwenfontein farm No. 284, Gauteng

The proposed project entails the construction of a feedlot on an existing cattle farm. The proposed activity includes the levelling of soil and the landscaping of the floor to ensure a flat area. Associated infrastructure such as a hospital already exists as well as an access road.

The author motivates for exemption of a full heritage impact assessment for the proposed project as follows: In terms of archaeology, the subject property is a working cattle farm and the area proposed for development has been extensively disturbed in the past. As such it is unlikely that the proposed establishment of additional cattle kraals on the property will negatively impact on any significant archaeological heritage resources. According to the SAHRIS Palaeosensitivity Map, the area proposed for development is underlain by sediments of very high and low palaeontological sensitivity. According to the CGS Map for the East Rand, the sediments underlying the study area include the Hospital Hill Formation of the West Rand Group (low) the Vryheid Formation of the Ecca Group (very high). The Vryheid Formation is coal-bearing and has influenced the evolution of this landscape through coal mining impacts. The Vryheid Formation is known for its abundant plant fossils of Glossopteris and other plants as well as trace fossils. This includes rich fossil plant assemblages of the Permian Glossopteris Flora (lycopods, rare ferns and horsetails, abundant glossopterids, cordaitaleans, conifers, ginkgoaleans), rare fossil wood and diverse palynomorphs as well as abundant, low diversity trace fossils, rare insects, possible conchostracans, non-marine bivalves and fish scales. However, due to the limited excavation associated with this proposed development, it is very unlikely that any

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fossiliferous sediments will be impacted and as such, impact to significant fossil heritage is very unlikely. It is recommended, however, that the attached Chance Fossil Finds protocol be adopted during any excavation activities in the unlikely event that fossil material is encountered.

Final Comment

Considering the evidence provided, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit grants exemption to this project from having to undertake further heritage assessments, on condition that:

- No palaeontological studies are required however a protocol for finds is required.
- A chance find procedure for archaeological materials is implemented.
- The recommendations in the letter of exemption and this comment are adhered to.

- If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments and charcoal/ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed activities, SAHRA must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary.

If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the police find them to be heritage graves, mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be contacted for processes to follow.

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

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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Andrew Salomon Heritage Officer: Archaeology 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/537236

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.