



Enquiries: Mariagrazia Galimberti
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: mgalimberti@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 200

Date: Thursday July 05, 2012

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Final Comment

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

Attention:

Mr Fuad Fredericks
CCA ENVIRONMENTAL (Pty) Ltd
Unit 35 Roeland Square
30 Drury Lane
Cape Town
8001

Prins, F., May 2012. Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed Thombo Community Access Roads in the Port St Johns Municipality, Eastern Cape.

Gess, R., April 2012. Proposed Thombo Community Access Roads in the Port St Johns Local Municipality - Palaeontological Impact Assessment

The South African National Road Agency is proposing the upgrade of the R61 between the villages of Tombo and Luqakweni and upgrade of eight access roads leading to it for a total of about 3660m.

The heritage impact assessment undertaken for this project was compiled by two heritage specialists, Dr Robert Gess, a palaeontologist, and Mr Frans Prins, an archaeologist.

The archaeologist did not identify any archaeological resources, but he recorded five modern graves in proximity of the proposed access roads. Since these graves are younger than 60 years, they are not protected under the National Heritage Resources Act.

The access roads are underlain by mudstone and sandstone of the Eccca Group, of the Karoo Supergroup, which are in turn partly intruded by dolerite. The palaeontological sensitivity of the Eccca Group is quite high in the Eastern Cape because of the extensive presence of invertebrate trace fossils and plant fossils and Actinoptergian fish body fossils, even though no animal body fossils have yet been found.

During the field survey the palaeontologist visited all outcrops and exposures of the Eccca Group and identified a few fossils, most of which plant fragments of low significance.

Decision:

Particular care must be taken in regards of the five modern graves identified during the survey. Where these are not fenced off, SAHRA suggests that a fence is erected around them during construction. If the burials are expected to be impacted by the upgrade of the access roads, it is recommended that the relevant community be consulted.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

Street Address: 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town 8000 * Postal Address: PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000
* Tel: +27 21 462 4502 * Fax: +27 21 462 4509 * Web: <http://www.sahra.org.za>



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As there is apparently no evidence of any significant archaeological or palaeontological material in this area, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit has no objection to the development. If any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources are found during the upgrade of the access roads, SAHRA APM Unit (Tel: 021 462 4502) and an archaeologist or palaeontologist, according to the nature of the findings, must be alerted immediately.

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

Yours faithfully

Mariagrazia Galimberti
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
(DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/2407)

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.



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