

Our Ref: 14289



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: 14289

Date: Monday September 26, 2022
Page No: 1

Final Comment

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

Attention: City of Ekurhuleni

The Proposal entails the provision of bulk sewer and water pipelines to the Birchleigh North X 4 area as well as the upgrading and extension of the existing link road to the north of the proposed Esselen Park Integrated Housing Development.

Van Vollenhoven, July 2019. HIA Exemption Request: Proposed Bulk Sewer And Water Pipelines – Birchleigh North X 4, City Of Ekurhuleni, Gauteng Province

The project entails the provision of bulk sewer and water pipelines to the Birchleigh North X 4 area as well as the upgrading and extension of the existing link road to the north of the proposed Esselen Park Integrated Housing Development.

The author motivates for exemption of a full heritage impact assessment by noting that the entire area had been surveyed for a heritage assessment before (Van Vollenhoven & Marais-Botes 2014). During this survey no sites of cultural heritage importance was noted. The proposed sewer and water lines mainly follows existing roads, thus an entirely disturbed landscape. The proposed link roads also follows existing roads within a disturbed landscape.

The SA Palaeontological Sensitivity Map indicates that the study area has a mixture of Insignificant, Moderate and Very High fossil sensitivity.

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:

- Considering the nature and extent of the proposed activities, 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

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Page No: 2

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

Andrew Salomon
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

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Page No: 3

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/528093>

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.