

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: 15347

Date: Wednesday February 24, 2021
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Final Decision

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: !Kheis Local Municipality

PROPOSED NEW TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT ON ERF 1, ERF 45, ERF 47, WEGDRAAI, !KHEIS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, ZF MGCAWU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE

Enviroafrica CC has been appointed by !Kheis Local Municipality to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed township development on Erf 1, Erf 45, Erf 47, Wegdraai, !Kheis Local Municipality, Northern Cape.

A draft Scoping Report has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include approximately 360 erven with associated services, over 45 ha.

Banzai Environmental (Pty) Ltd and Ubique Heritage Consultants have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EIA process as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Butler, E. 2020. Palaeontological Desktop Assessment for the Proposed Wegdraai Township Expansion, !Kheis Local Municipality, ZF Mgcawu District Municipality, Northern Cape Province.

The proposed development area is underlain by the Precambrian Transvaal Supergroup and aeolian sands and dunes of the Kalahari Group (Gordonia Formation). The Precambrian sediments are too deep to be impacted by the proposed development and the Kalahari Group sediments are of low sensitivity with Pleistocene to recent remains. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended and is provided in the report.

Fivaz, H and Engelbrecht, J. 2020. Phase 1 HIA Report, !Kheis Township Expansion, Wegdraai, Northern Cape.

A total of six isolated surface scatters of Early Stone Age and Middle Stone Age lithics of low significance were identified. Two cemeteries are located close to the proposed development and are grades as sites of High

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Local Significance (Grade IIIB).

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The cemeteries (WGD002 and WGD003) must be fenced off and have a 50 m buffer zone around the sites;
- Constant monitoring of the graves along the dry river should be undertaken by the municipality, to ensure timely mitigation of human remains become exposed by erosion;
- A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended and is provided in the report.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 28/08/2020, SAHRA requested that the draft EIA documents be submitted before further comments can be issued.

The DEIR and appendices were submitted to the application on the 29/01/2021.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final EIA and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows:
 -
- 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section

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- 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
 - 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
 - The Final EIA and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
 - The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

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

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/538651>

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.