

AGES Gauteng

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Attention:

The South African Heritage Resources Agency
AGES Gauteng Office
The Village, Block E
309 Glenwood Road
Faerie Glen
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2014-06-25

ADDITIONAL PERMIT APPLICATION FOR THE CONTINUAL DESTRUCTION OF STONE AGE LOCALITIES FOR THE SISHEN WESTERN WASTE DUMPS: SISHEN IRON ORE MINE, KGALAGADI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE (SAHRA CASE REFERENCE 864).

1. Background

The Sishen Iron Ore Company is planning the establishment of additional waste rock dumps for their Sishen mine on surface portions of the farms Gamagara 541, Onverwacht 540 (Fritz 540 Portion 1) and Nooitgedacht 469 (Woon 469) in the Northern Cape Province. The mine has updated its medium to long term mining schedule and this requires the establishment of new waste rock dumps on the western side of the area covered by the mining right as granted to the Sishen Iron Ore Company (SIOC) for its operations at Sishen. The Sishen Western Waste Dumps project will entail the gradual dumping of waste rock material from mine pits across the demarcated project area (see Figure 1) over a period of approximately 20 years.

An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) study¹ on the properties subject to the proposed Sishen WRD Project identified 4 areas of archaeological potential. At one of these areas, larger amounts of Earlier and Middle Stone Age artefacts including handaxes, cores and flakes were noted in one area near a manmade dam and borehole (Site SA02). It was recommended that the Earlier and Middle Stone Age scatters documented at the manmade dam at Site SA02 be mitigated by means of a limited Phase 2 Specialist Study, comprising the systematic documentation of surface material by a qualified Stone Age specialist in view of the significance of these scatters. Dr Maria Van Der Ryst, a Stone Age archaeologist from the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology at UNISA was selected for this study and she submitted the final Phase 2 Specialist Study Report² in 2013. The report was reviewed by SAHRA and a destruction permit was issued in July 2013 (SAHRA Permit ID 317, see below) which stated that the site had been adequately sampled, and SAHRA thus authorised the destruction of the noted Stone Age localities (see attached). **The destruction permit is specified to be valid for one year, expiring on 31/07/2014.**

The nature of the Sishen WRD project implies that the impact on the Stone Age localities subject to the SAHRA destruction permit will occur gradually, and over approximately 20 years, commencing in 2013 with final phases expected to be completed in 2032 / 2033. Thus, impact on the site will occur a number of years after the current SAHRA destruction permit has reached its expiry date (31/07/2014). For this reason application is hereby made to SAHRA for a

¹ Kruger, N. January 2012. Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of Demarcated Surface Areas on the Farms Gamagara 541, Onverwacht 540 (Fritz 540 Portion 1) and Nooitgedacht 469 (Woon 469), Sishen Iron Ore Mine, Kgalagadi District Municipality, Northern Cape Province

² Van der Ryst, M.M & Kusel, S. 2013. Phase 2 Report on Middle Stone Age localities on the farm Woon, Sishen, Northern Cape Province. Pretoria: Habitat Landscape Architects.

Proudly Supporting



TOUCHING AFRICA

AGES Gauteng Directors: Dr JJP Vivier Dr JC Vivier E van Zyl M Grobler

destruction permit that is valid for the entire duration of the project, and by implication, for the life of the Sishen Western Waste Dumps project, which is estimated to be approximately 20 years. It is assumed that such a permit will thus cover the time frame required by the mine to destroy the site, subject to the conditions set out by SAHRA. This application is motivated by the following:

- The current destruction permit time frame does not provide for the scope of work and time required for the proposed actions to impact on the Stone Age localities.
- Even though the duration of the impact on the site could be regarded as long-term, the significance of the impact remains low since the site had been adequately sampled and interpreted during the Phase 2 Stone Age Specialist Study.
- Impact on the site, when it occurs, will be monitored if required by SAHRA.

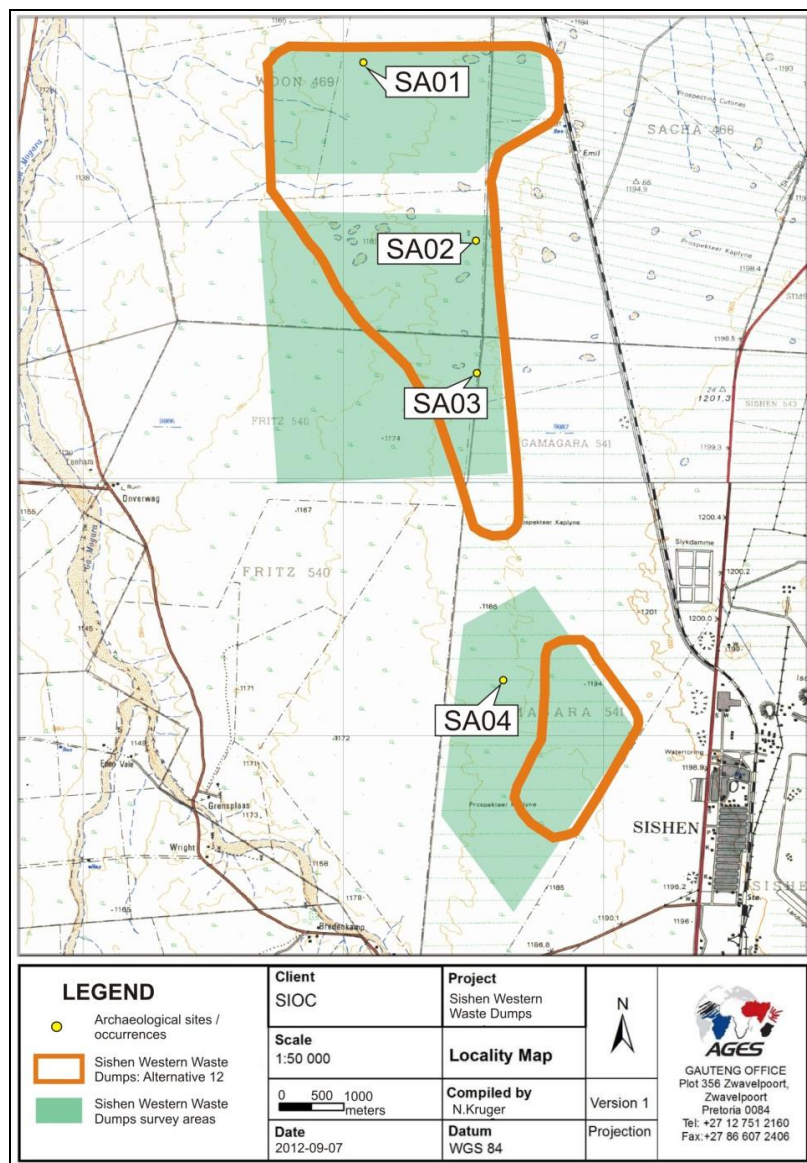


Figure 1: Map indicating the location of archaeological sites in relation to the Western Waste Dumps footprint area.

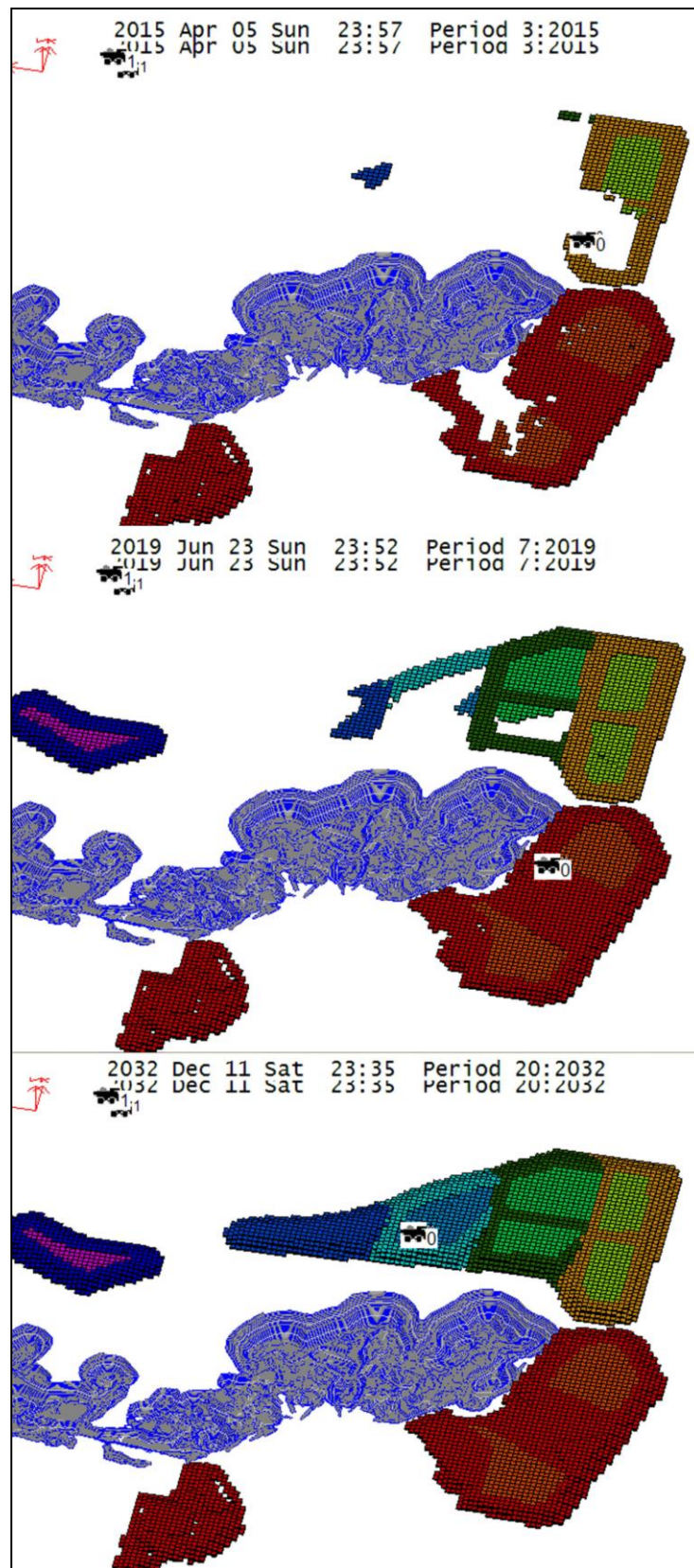
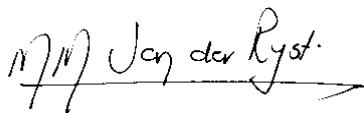


Figure 2: Graphical simulation of the Western Waste Dumps project schedule and time projections.

Kind regards,



Neels Kruger (Archaeologist, AGES)



Dr Maria Van Der Ryst (Archaeologist & Stone Age Specialist)

Neels Kruger
Archaeologist

Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) - Registered Archaeologist & Cultural Resources Practitioner.
BA, BA Hons. Archaeology (Pret.)

Woon 469, Kumba Sishen Iron Ore Mine, Northern Cape Province

Our Ref: 9/2/074/0001

Enquiries: Mariagrazia Galimberti
Tel: 021 462 4502
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CaseID: 864

Date: Monday July 01, 2013
Page No: 1

PermitID: 317



PERMIT: Destruction

In terms of Section 35(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Permit Holder: Dr Maria Van der Ryst
University of South Africa, Department of Anthropology and Archaeology
P.O. Box 392
UNISA
0003

Site: SA02 on Woon 469 (SA02 Woon 469) approximately at 27° 43' 13.6992" S, 22° 57' 12.7008" E

- The destruction permit for site SA02 on Woon 469 is issued to Mr Neels Kruger who applied on behalf of Sishen Iron Ore Company, who will destroy the site during mining activities.
- SAHRA shall not be liable for any losses, damages or injuries to persons or properties as a result of any activities in connection with this permit.
- SAHRA reserves the right to cancel this permit by notice to the permit holder.

This permit is valid from **01/07/2013 to 31/07/2014**.

Mariagrazia Galimberti
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Additional Info:

Please note that this permit may be suspended should an appeal against the decisions be received by SAHRA within 14 days from the date of the permit. SAHRA may not be held responsible for any costs or losses incurred in the event of the suspension or retraction of this permit.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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