

**Attention:**

The South African Heritage Resources Agency  
2015-08-01

## PERMIT APPLICATION FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF HISTORICAL PERIOD HERITAGE REMAINS OF LOW SIGNIFICANCE AT THE SITE OF THE ST AUGUSTINE MINE DUMPS, KIMBERLEY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE (SAHRA CASE REFERENCE 8001).

### 1. Background and Nature of the sites

An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) study<sup>1</sup> was conducted on ERF 8622, subject to the application for an environmental management plan in respect of a mining permit for diamonds by means of reprocessing approximately 8ha of the old St Augustine mine dumps in Kimberley, Northern Cape Province.

The St. Augustines Mine located directly north-west of the Kimberley Mine was in operation from the late 1890s until 1902 to a depth of approximately 240 meters. Historical reference to the mine is few and far between but geological records indicate that the diamond quality of minerals from St. Augustines Mine was considered identical and the grade similar to that of the Big Hole, which, until 1914, produced 14.5 million carats of diamonds from 22.5 million tonnes at a grade of 64 carats per hundred tonnes. Records also indicate that the kimberlite pipes of the Big Hole and St Augustines are located on the same structure and are connected by a kimberlite fissure. Mining at St Augustines ceased in 1902 and records indicate that that the 240m deep St Augustines was only partially mined. It is said that the mine was closed in a strategic move to monopolise diamond production and limit diamond mining to the Kimberley Mine. Subsequently the tailings of the Kimberley Mine were deposited over the St Augustines kimberlite and all indications of the mine disappeared.

According to the AIA Study, heritage resources occur in the St Augustine Reprocessing Project area. Single fragments of dated bottles and bottle necks, porcelain and glass occur randomly at the site in low densities in association with mining debris. No heritage objects seem to occur in sub-surface deposits. Considering the state of preservation of the site and the recurring alteration of surface deposits the local site context of the artefacts has probably been lost. This aspect, combined with the low artefact density and general absence of diagnostic material implies a low heritage significance of the material. However, the former St Augustine Mine is situated within the larger Kimberley Mine Complex historical landscape and on a regional scale associated material within intact site contexts might be of some importance.

### 2 Required Measures and Recommendations

Cognisant of the proximity of the Historical Kimberley Mine to the St Augustines site, SAHRA noted that measures should be implemented so that the proposed activity should not negatively impact on the Historical Kimberley Mine, particularly with regards to, increased generation of dust, noise pollution and increased traffic. According to the developer, no mining operations will take place at St Augustines site.

<sup>1</sup> Kruger N. June 2014. *Archaeological Impact Assessment the proposed reprocessing the St Augustine Mine Dumps on two Portions ff Erf 8622 In Kimberley, Kimberley Magisterial District, Northern Cape Province*

Soil will be recovered from the tailings and then transported to an off-site location for processing. In this process, one front loader will be utilized to remove soil and a maximum of 3 trucks will transport material to the processing site. Water spray technology will be implemented on Erf 8622 for dust control. A transport route away from the Historical Kimberley Mine is planned in order to limit road traffic and noise to a minimum. Fixed operational hours will also be implemented in order to limit noise disturbance at the site.

Generally, the site will be frequented by an ECO who will inspect the construction site on regular basis in order to monitor possible impact on heritage resources. Where previously undetected heritage remains be exposed during construction activities, all activities will be suspended until an archaeological specialist has examined any such finds.

### **3 Purpose of the application**

Based on the directives of The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) (Act No. 25 of 1999), SAHRA document (2007:4) *APM Guidelines: Minimum Standards for the Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports* and SAHRA *General Guidelines to Archaeological Permitting Policy* (2.2 Permits for Mitigation) I request that a destruction permit should be issued to **Craig Raymond Lubbe and Mosala James Brits** in view of the **Phase 1 AIA investigations, and subsequent interim SAHRA comment that recommended as follows:**

- The applicant will require a permit from SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit before mining may proceed.
- Although SAHRA has no objection to the mining based on the heritage report submitted the proposed activity should not negatively impact on the Historical Kimberley Mine, as it relates to the increased generation of dust, noise pollution and increased traffic. The Permit Application to SAHRA must indicate what measures will be implemented to mitigate the above mentioned impacts.

**Subject to the approval of the Phase 1 Specialist Report by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) it is accordingly recommended that an application for a destruction permit should be approved for Historical Remains at the St Augustine mine tailings, in order for reprocessing of the tailings as proposed Craig Raymond Lubbe and Mosala James Brits proceed.**

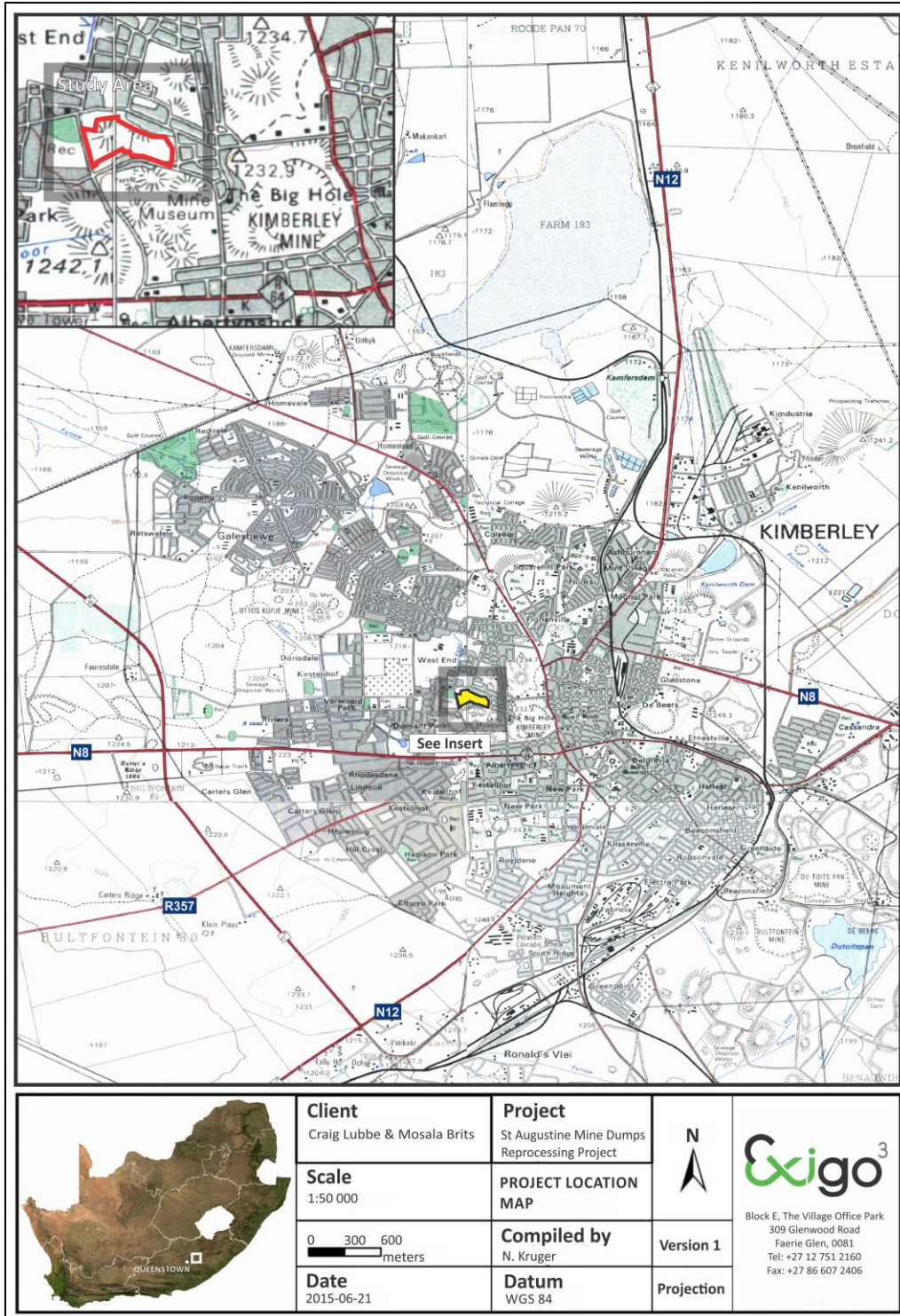


Figure 1: Map indicating the location of the St Augustines Mine Tailings area.



Figure 2: Aerial image of the St Augustines Mine Tailings site in Kimberley.



Figure 3: Aerial representation providing a historical and regional setting of proposed St Augustine Reprocessing Project (courtesy of Lubbe & Brits).

Kind regards,

Neels Kruger (Archaeologist, Exigo Sustainability)



