

Preliminary Heritage Impact Assessment Report

*Proposed Low Income Housing Project on Erf 112, Groot Mier Municipality,
Northern Cape.*

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Compiled for:

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Glossary

'archaeological' means-

- (a) material remains resulting from human activity which are in a state of disuse and are in or on land and which are older than 100 years, including artefacts, human and hominid remains and artificial features and structures;
- (b) rock art, being any form of painting, engraving or other graphic representation on a fixed rock surface or loose rock or stone, which was executed by human agency and which is older than 100 years, including any area within 10m of such representation;
- (c) wrecks, being any vessel or aircraft, or any part thereof, which was wrecked in South Africa, whether on land, in the internal waters, the territorial waters or in the maritime culture zone of the Republic, as defined respectively in sections 3, 4 and 6 of the Maritime Zones Act, 1994 (Act 15 of 1994), and any cargo, debris or artefacts found or associated therewith, which is older than 60 years or which SAHRA considers to be worthy of conservation; and features, structures and artefacts associated with military history which are older than 75 years and the sites on which they are found;

'cultural significance' means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance;

'palaeontological' means any fossilised remains or fossil trace of animals or plants which lived in the geological past, other than fossil fuels or fossiliferous rock intended for industrial use, and any site which contains such fossilised remains or trace [sic];

'structure' means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith. Protected structures are those which are over 60 years old.

Acronyms

ASA: Archaeological Specialist Assessment

APM: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites

EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment

ESA: Earlier Stone Age (>200 000-2.5 Million years ago)

HIA: Heritage Impact Assessment

HWC: Heritage Western Cape

IAP: Interested and Affected Parties

LSA: Later Stone Age (<35 000 years)

MSA: Middle Stone Age (>30 000 years - <300 000 years ago)

NHRA: National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999

SAHRA: South African Heritage Resources Agency

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1. Summary of Findings

Very little archaeological material was found on Groot Mier, Erf 112. Only five flakes and one core were located, all from the Middle Stone Age. Materials included shale, quartz, quartzite and chert.

2. Impacts in Archaeological Resources

The isolated nature and limited amount of stone tools found on the site mean that development will have no significant impact on the archaeological resources.

3. Mitigation Measures

The site has been sufficiently surveyed. No further archaeological intervention is necessary.

4. Legislation

4.1 NHRA 1999 S3(3) – Cultural Significance

A heritage resources authority may prescribe detailed heritage assessment criteria, consistent with the criteria set out in section 3 (3), for the assessment of Grade II and Grade III heritage resources in a province. (3) Without limiting the generality of subsections (1) and (2), a place or object is to be considered part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value because of-

- (a) its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- (b) its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (c) its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (d) its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
- (e) its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- (f) its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- (g) its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or

- spiritual reasons;
- (h) its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa; and
- (i) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.

4.2 NHRA 1999 S38(3) – Heritage Assessment

(3) The responsible heritage resources authority must specify the information to be provided in a report required in terms of subsection (2) (a) : Provided that the following must be included:

- (a) The identification and mapping of all heritage resources in the area affected;
 - (b) an assessment of the significance of such resources in terms of the heritage assessment criteria set out in section 6 (2) or prescribed under section 7;
 - (c) an assessment of the impact of the development on such heritage resources;
 - (d) an evaluation of the impact of the development on heritage resources relative to the sustainable social and economic benefits to be derived from the development;
 - (e) the results of consultation with communities affected by the proposed development and other interested parties regarding the impact of the development on heritage resources;
 - (f) if heritage resources will be adversely affected by the proposed development, the consideration of alternatives; and
- (a) plans for mitigation of any adverse effects during and after the completion of the proposed development.

4.3 NHRA 1999 7(1) - Grading

7(1) SAHRA, in consultation with the Minister and the MEC of every province, must by regulation establish a system of grading of places and objects which form part of the national estate, and which distinguishes between at least the categories-

- a) Grade I: Heritage resources with qualities so exceptional that they are of special national significance;
- b) Grade II: Heritage resources which, although forming part of the national estate, can be considered to have special qualities which make them significant within the context of a province or a region; and

- c) Grade III: Other heritage resources worthy of conservation, and which prescribes heritage resources assessment criteria, consistent with the criteria set out in section 3(3), which must be used by a heritage resources authority or a local authority to assess the intrinsic, comparative and contextual significance of a heritage resource and the relative benefits and costs of its protection, so that the appropriate level of grading of the resource and the consequent responsibility for its management may be allocated in terms of section 8.

While grading is ultimately the responsibility of the heritage resources authorities, a field rating (proposal for grading) can be awarded.

- a. National: This site is considered to be of Grade I significance and should be nominated as such.
- b. Provincial: This site is considered to be of Grade II significance and should be nominated as such.
- c. Local: this site is of Grade IIIA significance. Mitigation as part of the development process is not advised. The site should be retained as a heritage site (High significance).
- d. Local: this site is of Grade IIIB significance. It should be mitigated and (part) should be retained as a heritage site (High significance).
- e. Generally Protected A: this site should be mitigated before destruction (generally High/Medium significance).
- f. Generally Protected B: this site should be recorded before destruction (generally Medium significance).
- g. Generally Protected C: this site has been sufficiently recorded. It requires no further recording before destruction (generally Low significance).

4.4 Significance & Grading of Groot Mier, Erf 112

This site has a very low significance and is awarded a field grade of Generally Protected C. This site has been sufficiently recorded. It requires no further recording before destruction and has a generally Low significance.

5. Permits & Authorisations

No Permits are required. SAHRA will issue a statement of Authorisation once they have evaluated the final HIA report.