



Enquiries: Phillip Hine  
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CaseID: 204

Date: Friday July 06, 2012

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## Final Comment

### In terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention:

Divan van der Merwe  
Synergistics  
P O Box 1822  
Rivonia  
2128

### Fairview Mine Tailings Dam Reworking Project, near Barberton, Mpumalanga Province.

*Pelser, A. March 2012. A Report on a 2<sup>nd</sup> opinion on possible graves found during a HIA done for the Fairview Tailings Dam Reworking Project, near Barberton.*

A second Archaeological Impact Assessment was conducted for the proposed Fairview Mine Tailings Dam Reworking Project.. An initial assessment was conducted by Dr J. Van Schalkwyk in 2009; he identified a settlement site consisting of stone walling, possible graves, agricultural terracing and field clearing cairns. Dr Van Schalkwyk indicated that the settlement and possible graves are unlikely to date to the Iron Age since Early Farming occupation was not prevalent in the area due to malaria and tsetse flies.

The second assessment conducted by Mr. A. Pelser during March 2012, focussed on providing an assessment of the possible graves. He noted that the stone heaps (possible graves) are in excess of 20 and their location close to the mine dating to the 1880s may be indicative of a mine labourer settlement. The smaller heaps of stones are related to field clearing activities. The author recommended that the possible graves be investigated and relocated if impacted by the proposed mining activities, and that this investigation should be undertaken as part of the mitigation of the stone walling.

### Decision:

No pre-colonial archaeological resources were identified during the assessment. However, the settlement is probably older than a 100 years and therefore archaeological. Since the new development will have a negative impact on the heritage resources identified, SAHRA recommends:

- A Phase 2 mitigation impact assessment of the settlement stone walling and terracing. This must include detail site drawings of the settlement and a photographic record and the excavation of a representative sample of archaeological deposit where appropriate. The specialist will require a mitigation permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA (Act no 25 of 1999). SAHRA will make further recommendations upon receipt of a satisfactory Phase 2 mitigation report. The specialist may also apply for a destruction permit on behalf of the developer after the submission of the final Phase 2 Impact Assessment report.

- more may be a likelihood of graves, and these what may be a 1880s mine labour settlement,*
- It is assumed that the possible graves are older than 60 years since none of them have headstones. *any possible graves uncovered will be treated as older than 60 years (as none of the stone heaps have headstones).*



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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The proposed new activities will have a direct impact on the possible graves. It is therefore recommended that test excavations be conducted to establish if these features are in fact graves. The test excavations may be done in terms of s. 35 of the NHRA. If graves are positively identified during the test excavation phase relocation of these will need to be done in terms of section 36 of the NHRA.

- If these recommendations are adhered to SAHRA does not object to the proposed development. If any evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, or other heritage resources are found during construction activities, the SAHRA APM Unit (**Mr. Phillip Hine, tel: 021-462 4502**), must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist/palaeontologist must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings at the cost of the developer. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological/palaeontological significance, then a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary at the cost of the developer.

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

Yours faithfully

Phillip Hine  
Heritage Officer

Colette Scheermeyer  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

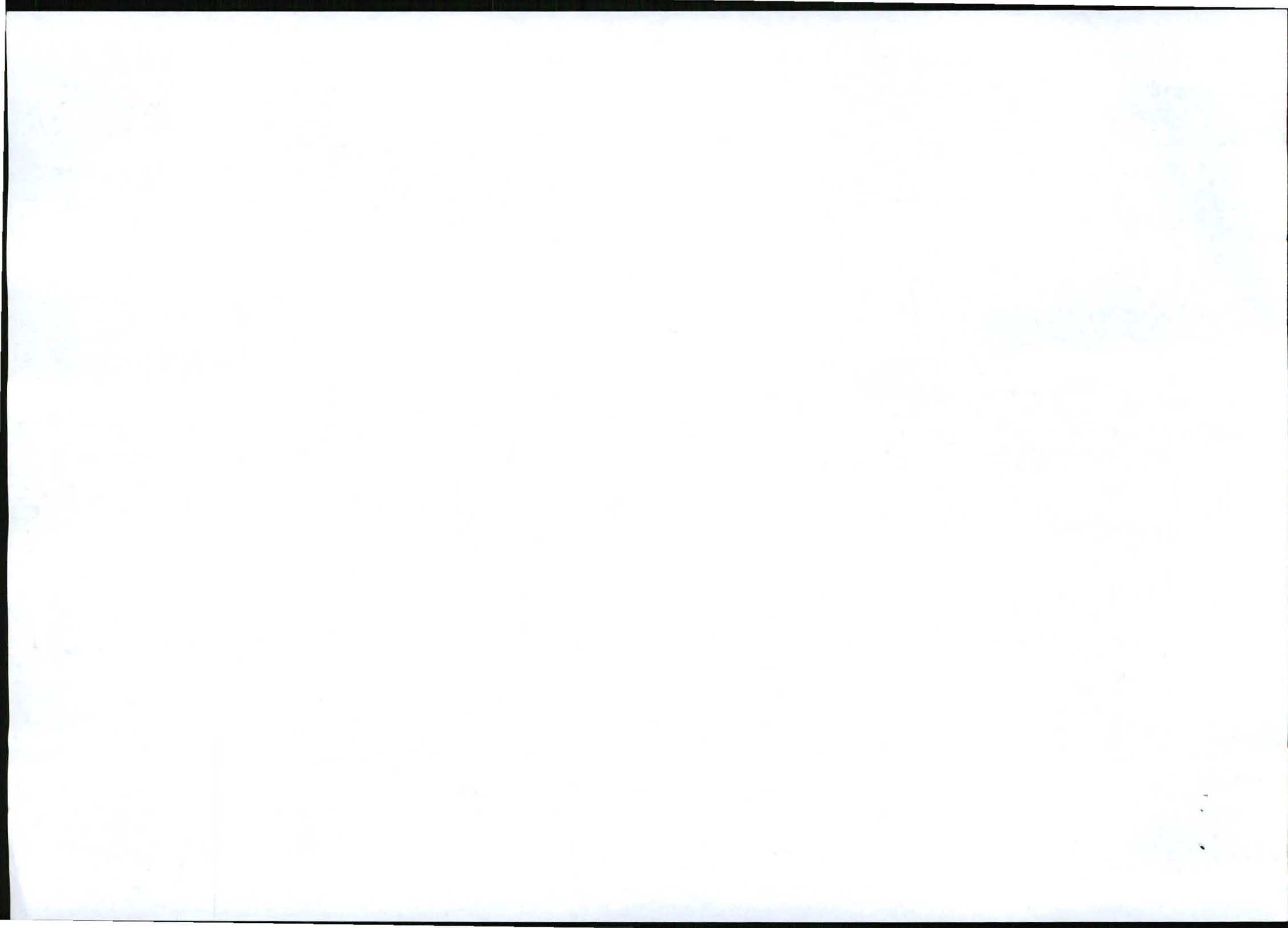
**ADMIN:**

Terms & Conditions:



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**Fairview Mine, Mpumalanga**  
**Our Ref: 9/2/203/0005**



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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.



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