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10 September, 2017

South African Heritage Resources Agency

PO Box 4637

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Attention: Miss Natasha Higgitt

Ref: SAHRA Case ID 11362. Helios Heritage Walk through

Dear Natasha

Thank you for your comments for the above-mentioned case and our subsequent telephonic conversation on the 18th of August 2017. As requested please find some additional information to clarify the discrepancies between the walk-through survey and the recommended mitigation measures in the CEMPr.

Based on the AIA for the project (Magoma 2014) the following site-specific recommendations were made:

- Tower 25-28: Located on a flat section of land, several Stone tools were documented. An application for a destruction permit to have the site destroyed is recommended. This should also be subject to detail mapping and documentation;
- Tower 29-32: An application for a destruction permit to have the site destroyed is recommended. This should also be subject to detail mapping and documentation.

In the Magoma report there were no site numbers given (Table 3). They do however refer to their findings as “resources” and apart from the grave (that was not photographed) and the vernacular building that will not be impacted on, they recorded Middle and Later Stone Age artefacts. These “resources” were given a medium to high and medium significance rating.

The photographs of these resources (Figure 6 and Figure 7 in the Magoma report) require further comment. Figure 6 is described as photographs of Stone Age artefacts, it is not certain to which recorded location these refer to but apart from one or possibly two of the seven artefacts photographed the other are not Stone tools or artefacts. Figure 7 depicts five MSA/LSA tools, again none of these are artefacts.

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Other surveys in the area reported on a marked paucity of Stone Age material (Morris 2013; van der Walt 2011 & 2012 and Fourie 2011), although areas with pans and small hills are known to contain LSA sites (van Schalkwyk 2011, Webley and Halkett 2012, Orton 2014, van der Walt 2015).

A low-density scatter of mostly weathered Middle Stone Age artefacts was recorded during the walk-through (van der Walt 2017). These isolated artefacts are ascribed as background scatter (See Orton 2016 for definition) and is often out of context and of low significance as opposed to the Medium High significance rating ascribed to these by the Magoma report.

Previous studies (van Schalkwyk 2011, Morris 2013 and Orton 2014) also covered sections of the power line, mostly close to the Helios substation and recorded no sites of significance although isolated Stone Age artefacts of low significance were recorded.

We are of the opinion that the Stone Age “resources” have been incorrectly identified by the Magoma (2014) study and therefore given an inaccurate significance rating. We recommended that the proposed construction of the power line can continue on the condition that the next version of the Construction EMP is amended to exclude the recommended mitigation measures at towers 25-32.

I hope that this information clarifies the discrepancies between the reports to an acceptable level.

Kindly contact me with any queries or concerns.

Sincerely

Jaco van der Walt

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