

24 July 2013

Att: Mr Andrew Salomon

Archaeological Heritage Impact Assessor
South African Heritage Resources Agency
PO Box 4637
Cape Town
8000



By email: asalomon@sahra.org.za

Dear Mr Salomon,

REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT STUDY: ELECTRICAL CO-GENERATION PLANT AND ASH DISPOSAL FACILITY AT SCAW METALS, GERMISTON, GAUTENG PROVINCE

1. Introduction

Your letter dated 27 June 2013, responding to a notification of development of the proposed electrical co-generation plant and ash disposal facility on the property, from Synergistics Environmental Services, refers.

That letter required that a heritage specialist be appointed to undertake either a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment or to send a letter indicating that there is no necessity for any further assessment, due to the property being very small or disturbed.

Accordingly, this letter serves to request that the project be exempted from the requirement of a full Phase 1 AIA/HIA, due to the properties being disturbed previously to a considerable extent.

2. Description of the receiving environment

The Scaw Metals facility at Union Junction is a large industrial complex. The proposed sites for the electrical co-generation plant and ash disposal facility have been used for various activities such as rail sidings, material borrowing and scrap metal, product and waste storage since 1942, when the

present site was established (<http://www.scaw.co.za/Pages/Scaw-history.aspx>). The entire area is, therefore, a heavily disturbed and transformed industrial landscape.

The general overall area contains mainly grass cover mixed with large areas of khakibos as well as isolated trees.



Figure 1 – Locality plan showing the two study areas

3. Archaeological and heritage potential

Stone Age and Iron Age

Due to a lack of academic research, no Stone Age sites are known to exist in this specific area – however, it is possible that unknown sites may have been destroyed by the previous mining activities, urbanization, industrialization, agriculture and other development activities occurring throughout the general area during the past 100 years or more.

An Archaeological Impact Assessment conducted at the nearby area of Roodekop in Germiston by the Archaeological Resources Management Unit of the University of the Witwatersrand did identify several scatters of stone tools comprising both manufacture sites and living sites dating to the Early and Middle Stone Age. This was attributed to the fact that a long vein of quartz was present in that area. Most of the Middle Stone Age sites and artefacts were located near to the Natalspruit River (Huffman, 2000).

The closest known Late Iron Age stone walled sites, dating from the 18th and 19th centuries, occur towards Alberton, along the rocky ridges of the eastern part of the Klipriviersberg (Huffman, 2000).

Historical period

Germiston was founded in 1886, after John Jack from Scotland and August Simmer from Vacha in Germany, found gold while prospecting on the farm of Elandsfontein. John Jack called the place Germiston after his childhood home near Glasgow. Many other mining ventures followed and the town sprang up next to the mine. The world's largest gold refinery, known as the Rand Refinery, was established here in 1921. It became a municipality in 1903 and a city in 1950. (<http://www.germiston.co.za/historyggc.html>; http://www.joburghappenings.co.za/germiston_home_page.htm)

4. Findings of Site Visit

A site visit was undertaken by two PGS staff on Wednesday 17 July 2013. We were accompanied by a representative of Scaw Metals. The property was traversed by a combination of a vehicle drive-through and walk-over of the two specific study areas. According to the Scaw representative, the properties have been used for dumping scrap metal since the property was bought in the 1940s. This date was verified by the information on the Scaw website regarding the history of the company.

The smaller square-shaped site, which is planned to be utilized as the Electrical Co-generation Plant, consists of a relatively flat area, which is currently being used for storage of scrap metal and skip containers. The surface of this area is covered with gravel and no evidence of any archaeological or heritage material or sites was observed (**Figures 2-3**).

The larger roughly rectangular area, which is planned to be used for the ash disposal facility, consists of previously disturbed ground which is covered with mixed grass cover and khakibos plants (**Figures 4, 6-8**). A large part of this area comprises a sunken wetland/pan area and with a series of associated drainage ditches (**Figure 5**). This area contains evidence of previous underground disturbance in the form of two boreholes, which have since been closed (**Figure 9**).

5. Conclusion

Based on the information from the desktop research and the results of the site visit, no heritage

resources are present within the two study areas proposed for development of the proposed electrical co-generation plant and ash disposal facility on the Scaw Metals property.

Indications are that the receiving environment is not a sensitive archaeological or historical landscape, and is in fact a severely degraded industrial landscape.

Therefore, no negative impacts on heritage resources are foreseen and no mitigation is required.

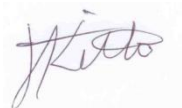
6. Recommendations

With regard to the proposed development, the following recommendations are made:

1. No further heritage impact assessment of the study area is required.
2. No archaeological mitigation is required.
3. In the unlikely event of any unmarked human burials, burial pits, potsherds or stone tools being uncovered during earthworks, these must be reported immediately to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mr Andrew Salomon 012 362 2535).

Should you have any queries, please contact Jennifer Kitto (email: jennifer@gravesolutions.co.za; tel: (012) 332 5305).

Yours Sincerely



Jennifer Kitto

Heritage Specialist

References

HUFFMAN, 2000. Archaeological Survey of Roodekop Extension 6(1), Germiston. Archaeological Resources Management Unit. University of the Witwatersrand.

Synergistic Environmental Services. 2012. Environmental Scoping Report: Electrical Co-generation Power Plant and Ash Disposal Facility at Scaw Metals, Germiston

<http://www.germiston.co.za/historyggc.html>;

http://www.joburghappenings.co.za/germiston_homepage.htm

<http://www.scaw.co.za/Pages/Scaw-history.aspx>

**APPENDIX
PHOTOGRAPHS AND FIGURES**



Figure 2 – Co-gen plant site, view from western boundary to south-east



Figure 3 – Co-gen plant site, view from north-east corner to south



Figure 4 – Ash disposal site, view to south from northern boundary



Figure 5 – Ash disposal site, showing drainage ditch in eastern section



Figure 6 - Ash disposal site, view to south from eastern boundary ditch



Figure 7 - Ash disposal site, view to west from eastern boundary ditch



Figure 8 - Ash disposal site, view to north from eastern boundary ditch

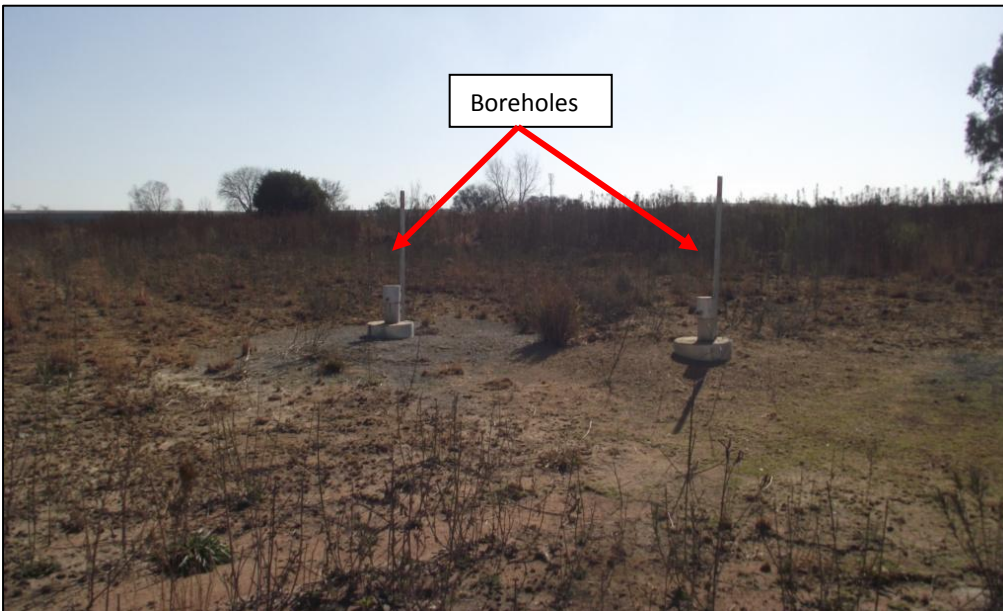


Figure 9 - Ash disposal site, showing two sealed boreholes