



Final Comment

In terms of Section of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: AGES Environmental Unit
Postnet Suite 74
Private Bag X07
Arcadia
0007

Sand mine and related infrastructure on Brandbach 471 JR, GP

Kruger, N. September 2012. Phase 1 Arahcaeological Impact Assessment Report: Delf Sand (Pty) Ltd. Delf Cullinan Sand Mine, Brandbach 471 JR, Gauteng Province

The proposed development entails a sand mine and related infrastructure on Portions 63 and 67 of the Farm Brandbach 471 JR, covering approximately 50ha in extent and located approximately 15km east of Cullinan.

The report notes the following heritage resources:

A Later Iron Age walled site, extending for approximately 50m across the foothills of a stone ridge close to the southern border of the study area. The site is characterised by collapsed walling with some entrances and monoliths visible. No material culture was found in association with the walling, which could indicate a brief occupation period. The author notes that the site may be associated with Tswana and Ndebele speakers. A small cemetery of six graves, orientated east-west and located roughly in the centre of the study area, next to a section of stone-walling. The graves are marked with rectangular heaps of stone and headstones are absent. Two of the graves are fenced off with partially intact wire. The author reports that the graves may belong to members of the Mapai family who were employed as farm workers by the Malan family at Brandbach.

The author recommends that, if the Later Iron Age Site will be impacted by development, it should be thoroughly documented in order to establish its temporal and historical context and that a destruction permit be obtained from the relevant heritage resources authority. The author further recommends that a watching brief monitoring process be implemented for all developments around this site since periphery heritage features are likely to occur.

For the cemetery, the author recommends a buffer zone of at least 50m around the graves. If the cemetery or buffer zone will be impacted by the planned mining activities, grave relocation for the entire cemetery will be required in accordance with all relevant legislation.

The author further recommends a watching brief monitoring process be implemented for any developments at the site.

Decision:

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit supports the recommendations of the author





that if the Later Iron Age Site will be impacted by development, it should be thoroughly documented in order to establish its temporal and historical context and that a destruction permit be obtained from the relevant heritage resources authority, as well as that a watching brief monitoring process be implemented for all developments around this site.

For the cemetery, SAHRA requires that the graves should be restored where these are dilapidated, protected and conserved in perpetuity. For this purpose, a proper fence must be build around them including entry gates to allow visits from relatives and family friends. The fence must be placed 2 meters away from the perimeter of the graves. No development is allowed within 15 meters from the fence line surrounding the graves. Alternatively, if the area where the burials are located fall within the development footprint, then provisions stipulated in section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999) are applicable, and relocation of these might proceed provided that a public consultation process is followed.

Where bedrock is to be affected, or where there are coastal sediments, or marine or river terraces and in potentially fossiliferous superficial deposits, the developer must ensure that a professional Palaeontological Desk Top study is undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon palaeontological resources. If this is deemed unnecessary, a letter of recommendation for exemption from a professional Palaeontologist is needed. If the area is deemed sensitive, a full Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be required and if necessary a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary.

If the recommendations made in the specialist report and in this comment are adhered to, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorite Unit has no objection to the development (in terms of the archaeological component of the heritage resources). If any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources are found during development, construction or mining, SAHRA and a professional archaeologist must be alerted immediately.

Please note that decisions on Built Environment must be referred to the Gauteng Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (Ms Maphata Ramphele: Maphata.Ramphele@gauteng.gov.za, Mr Grant Botha: grantb@gpg.gov.za) to whom this comment will be copied.

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

Yours faithfully

Andrew Salomon
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
South African Heritage Resources Agency





Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Terms & Conditions:

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.

