

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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CaseID: 13135

Date: Tuesday August 20, 2019
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Final Comment

In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Koot Raubenheimer
Maxim Planning Solutions
PO Box 6848
Flamwood
2572

Township Establishment of Kathu Extensions 6 to 10 on Portions 1 and 2 of the farm Kalahari Gholf en Jag Landgoed No. 775, Division Kuruman, Northern Cape Province; the removal of certain title restrictions, the consolidation of the above-mentioned farm portions as well as the re-subdivision thereof into five (5) portions

Gamagara Local Municipality appointed Maxim Planning Solutions Proprietary Limited to conduct an application process for the establishment of the proposed township Kathu Extensions 6 – 10, Kathu, Northern Cape Province.

APelser Archaeological Consulting was appointed to provide input for the NEMA Environmental Authorisation (EA) application as per section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Pelser, A. 2017. Report on a Phase 1 Heritage Assessment for the Proposed township establishment on portions 1 and 2 of the farm Kalahari Gholf and Jag Landgoed 775, Gamagara Local Municipality (Kathu), Northern Cape Province.

A total of nine (9) heritage sites were identified within the proposed development area. These include 8 Stone Age surface scatters and one recent historical burial ground. It is assumed that sites 1 and 2 are made up of imported material deposited to build a road and are therefore out of context. Sites 3, 4, 8 and 9 were rated as sites of low – medium significance, sites 1, 2, 5 and 6 were rated as sites of medium – high significance, and site 7 was rated as a highly significant site.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- No construction may commence without comments from SAHRA in this regard;



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- A no-go buffer zone of 30 m must be adhered to around the identified grave and a fence with a gate must be installed around the site. A Heritage Site Management Plan must be developed for the long-term in situ conservation of the grave following a consultation process in terms of section 36(4) of the NHRA and Chapter XI of the NHRA Regulations;
- Should it not be possible to avoid the grave, consultation regarding possible relocation must be conducted as per of section 36(4) of the NHRA and Chapter XI of the NHRA Regulations. If grave relocation is found to be feasible, a permit application in terms of section 36(4) of the NHRA and Chapter IX of the NHRA Regulations must be applied for;
- If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit, must be alerted immediately as per section 35(3) and 36(6) of the NHRA. A professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA.

The EMProgramme prepared by AB Environ-Consult provides mitigation measures, 104. Notes that during operational phase -"ensuring the graves are excavated as per approved layout plan"; SAHRA BGG does not approve this as a mitigation measure for any graves as per the in an Interim Comment issued on 27/11/2018 as well as a final comment provided by SAHRA on the 20/03/2019.

Final Comment:

SAHRA recommendations following a review of the HMP (August 2019) are as follows:

- The provided site mitigation requirements concluded prior to any development commencement.
 - The general principals of heritage resources management as per the NHRA are not cited or referred to in HMP.
 - Recommendations by the specialist to preserve all identified graves *in situ* is in accordance with best-practice methodologies, SAHRA BGG provides that the policy on "what to do when graves are uncovered' (Section 3) is adhered to as far as possible when relating to graves that are uncovered during the course of development.
- The recommendations provided regarding the maintenance of the cemeteries vegetation stating that (ii) clearing should be conducted.
- SAHRA BGG proposes that clearing be conducted bi-annually to ensure the graves and their remains are monitored for any degradation or damage.

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- Access control or provisions for visitors to the graveyard for cultural or ritual purposes not stated as per NHRA regulations regarding Living Heritage. HMP to ensure this is addressed by providing public engagements to ensure community participation regarding fencing, conservation and access is agreed upon.

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

Yours faithfully

Annlin Matabane
Heritage Intern
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Mimi Seetelo
Manager:Burial Grounds & Graves Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/514398>