



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 9231

Date: Wednesday May 04, 2016

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## Final Comment

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

Attention: Mrs Lorato Tigedi  
NSVT Consultants  
P.O. Box 45425  
Heuwelsig  
Bloemfontein  
9332

### **Proposed construction approximately 7km pipeline from Meulspruit Dam to the Water Treatment Plant in Ficksburg within the Setsoto Local Municipality.**

FLAGG Consulting Engineers (on behalf of the Setsoto Local Municipality) have contracted NSVT Environmental consultants to conduct the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Ficksburg Raw Water Pipeline

*Tigedi, L. 2016 Draft Environmental Management Programme: Construction of a new 600MMØ raw water pipeline from Meulspruit Dam to Ficksburg water treatment plant.*

The proposed 7500m raw water pipeline will run from the Meulspruit Dam to the water treatment facility in Ficksburg. It originates just south of the Meulspruit Dam, then follows the R26 (crosses over it just outside the town) from there it runs along De Villiers street, Visser Street, Bosch street and finally along Brand street to reach the Ficksburg water treatment plant (Setsoto Local Municipality, Free State Province).

*Rossouw, L. 2016 Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of a proposed new water pipeline between Meulspruit Dam and Ficksburg, Free State Province.*

Within close proximity of the western portion of the pipeline a circular brick structure was identified at the historical Anna Maria Mill and it is recommended that this be strictly avoided during development. Additionally the structural remains of the old Victoria Mill were also identified. The pipeline will run through a heavily degraded area, and the impact to the nearby structure will therefore be very low. In the middle and eastern sections of the proposed pipeline the terrain is already degraded due to road construction and urban development respectively. Overlying Quaternary sediments may contain vertebrate fossils, although this is considered unlikely.



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## *Butler, E. 2015 Palaeontological Impact Assessment of the proposed Ficksburg Raw Water Pipeline*

The proposed development is underlain by Late Triassic to early Jurassic sediments belonging to the upper part (Stormberg Group) of the Karoo Supergroup. Although the sensitivity is rated as high, the development area has been previously disturbed by human activities, namely road construction and urban development. No further palaeontological assessment is required.

Should any remains or fossils be encountered during the construction phase (either surface finds or freshly exposed by excavation), the responsible Environmental Control Officer (ECO) should be alerted. Such discoveries should remain *in situ* and SAHRA should be notified. Subsequent mitigation may need to be conducted by a professional palaeontologist.

### **Final Comment**

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit is satisfied that the assessments adequately account for potential heritage resources within the development footprint, and approves the proposed development with the following stipulations which should be reflected in the final Environmental Management Programme (EMP) report.

- The structural remains of the historical Victoria Mill and the circular brick structure associated with the Anna Maria Mill should remain *in situ*, and must therefore be avoided during the development. A buffer zone of 20m should be maintained around these features and they should be clearly demarcated during the construction phase in order to prevent any accidental damage.
- A chance finds procedure must be developed whereby the responsible ECO should monitor the excavations (during the construction phase). Any archaeological or palaeontological specimens encountered must result in the immediate cessation of activities in the vicinity, and SAHRA APM Unit must be notified (Nokukhanya Khumalo / Phillip Hine +27 21 462 4509). The find must then be assessed by the relevant trained practitioner and, where necessary, a phase 2 mitigation may be required, with the relevant permits from SAHRA.

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

Yours faithfully



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Nokukhanya Khumalo  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist (Acting)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/359477>  
(EDTEA, Ref: EMB/9(i)/15/19)

**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.