



SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY
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FOR ATTENTION: **PHRA: Northern Cape**

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SAHRA File No: **9/2/055/0001**
Date Received: **20 May 2011**
Date of Comment: **11 August 2011**
Sent to Peer Review:
Date to Peer Review:
SAHRA Contact Person: **Dr Mariagrazia Galimberti**
DMR Ref. no:

REVIEW COMMENT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

BY ARCHAEOLOGY, PALAEOLOGY AND METEORITES UNIT OF THE
SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

South Africa has a unique and non-renewable archaeological and palaeontological heritage. Archaeological and palaeontological sites are protected in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999) and may not be disturbed without a permit. Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIAs) and Palaeontological Impact Assessments (PIAs) identify and assess the significance of the sites, assess the potential impact of developments upon such sites, and make recommendations concerning mitigation and management of these sites. On the basis of satisfactory specialist reports SAHRA or the relevant heritage resources agency can assess whether or not it has objection to a development and indicate the conditions upon which such development might proceed and assess whether or not to issue permission to destroy such sites.

AIAs and PIAs often form part of the heritage component of an Environmental Impact Assessment or Environmental Management Plan. They may also form part of a Heritage Impact Assessment called for in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act No. 25, 1999. They may have other origins. In any event they should comply with basic minimum standards of reporting as indicated in SAHRA Regulations and Guidelines.

This form provides review comment from the Archaeologist of the relevant heritage resources authority for use by Heritage Managers, for example, when informing authorities that have applied to SAHRA for comment and for inclusion in documentation sent to environmental authorities. It may be used in conjunction with Form B, which provides relevant peer review comment.

- A. PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY: **Northern Cape**
- B. AUTHOR(S) OF REPORT: **Mr A.J. Pelser and Dr A.C. van Vollenhoven**
- C. ARCHAEOLOGY CONTRACT GROUP: **Archaeos Culture and Cultural Resources Consultants**
- D. CONTACT DETAILS: **P.O. Box 55, Groenkloof, 0027, Tel: 083 291 6104, email: antonp21@yahoo.com**
- E. DATE OF REPORT: **May 2011**
- F. TITLE OF REPORT: **A Report On A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) For A Proposed New Rail Crossing Over The Gamagara River For The Gloria Mine Operations, Assmang Black Rock, On Gloria 266, North Of Hotazel, Northern Cape**
- G. Please circle as relevant: Archaeological component of EIA / **EMP** / HIA / CMP/ Other (Specify)
- H. REPORT COMMISSIONED BY (CONSULTANT OR DEVELOPER): **Escience Associates (Pty) Ltd,**
- I. CONTACT DETAILS: **P.O. Box 2950, Saxonwold, 2132, Tel: 011 728 2683, Fax: 086 512 2366, Email: brian@science.co.za**
- J. COMMENTS:

REVIEW COMMENT ON HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Mr A.J. Pelser and Dr A.C. van Vollenhoven

Dated: May 2011, Received: May 2011

A Report On A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) For A Proposed New Rail Crossing Over The Gamagara River For The Gloria Mine Operations, Assmang Black Rock, On Gloria 266, North Of Hotazel, Northern Cape

INTRODUCTION

ASSMANG is proposing the establishment of a new railway bridge over the Gamagara River on the Farm Gloria 266. The assessment considered not only the impact of the bridge itself but also the possibility that the railway line may require realignment.

Most of the area is covered by red sand dunes with shrubs and grass, with patches of calcrete and outcrop exposure.

Previous studies in the area were undertaken for the powerline and for extension of the mining activities. The outcome from a heritage perspective was that any developments within 100m from the centre of the Gamagara River should have involved a Phase 2 HIA.

In total, 15 sites were identified in the assessed area. One is the existing rail bridge which might not be older than 60 years, whereas the other fourteen sites belong to the Stone Age period from the Early Stone Age, including the Fauresmith industry, to the Later Stone Age, with varying concentration of artefacts and evidence of knapping activities. Most sites were given a significance from medium to high, with two of them being of high significance for artefact density.

The report submitted to SAHRA does not mention any assessment of palaeontological resources, which might be impacted if bedrock will be exposed during construction of the river or realignment of the railway line.

SAHRA RECOMMENDATIONS

SAHRA requires that:

- Any development activity within 100m from the Gamagara river will require monitoring and possibly mitigation; where the development involves disturbance of an archaeological site of some significance and Phase 2 mitigation has been asked for, SAHRA will require that, in terms of s. 38(4)(b&c) of the National Heritage Resources Act, the provisions of s 35 apply, as appropriate. The specialist will require a mitigation permit from SAHRA. On receipt of a satisfactory mitigation (Phase 2) permit report from the archaeologist, the heritage authority will make further recommendations in terms of the site.
- Site 6 must be properly mapped and recorded; SAHRA requires that, in terms of s. 38(4)(b&c) of the National Heritage Resources Act, the provisions of s. 35 apply as appropriate and a collection permit be submitted.
- A Palaeontological Study must be undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon palaeontological resources - or at least a letter of exemption from a Palaeontologist is needed to indicate that this is unnecessary.

CONCLUSION

SAHRA will further comment on this project once a Phase 2 mitigation and collection report is submitted to SAHRA along with the palaeontological assessment.

If any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources are found during development, construction or mining, SAHRA (Dr Mariagrazia Galimberti/Mrs Nonofho Ndobochani) and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist according to the finding, must be alerted immediately.

Decisions on Built Environment (e.g. structures over 60 years) and Cultural Landscapes and associated Living Heritage (e.g. sacred sites) must be made by Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Northern Cape (Mr. Joas Sinthumule jsinthumule@ncpg.gov.za) to whom this Archaeological Review Comment will be copied.

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