



Final Comment

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

Attention: Belmont Development Corporation
P.O. Box 2237
Grahamstown
614

Proposed Belmont Valley Golf Course, Grahamstown, Eastern Cape Province of South Africa

Booth, C., December 2011. A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment For The Golf Course Development On Portions 1 And 2 Of The Farm Willow Glen And Portion 6 Of Belmont Farm, Grahamstown, Makana Municipality, Cacadu District Municipality, Eastern Cape Province.

Gess, R., February 2012. Palaeontological Heritage Impact Assessment for housing development north of Grahamstown and development in Belmont Valley.

Way-Jones, M.F., Phase I: Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed development by the Belmont Development Company On the heritage aspects of two areas: - The Grahamstown Golf Course, - The Belmont valley farms: portions 1 and 2 of the farm Willow Glen (known as Willow Glen annexe) and portion 6 of Belmont farm, all of which are situated approximately 8km northeast of Grahamstown.

Belmont Development Corporation is applying for an environmental authorization to develop a new golf course at Belmont Valley, close to Grahamstown. The total extent of the area is 222 ha and the development will include, besides a golf course, a club house, a driving range, a parking area and a new access road which will require the replacement of a causeway above the Blaaukrants River.

The archaeologist states in her archaeological impact assessment that no archaeological sites were identified. Although thick vegetation hampered surface visibility, the survey undertaken on the properties should be sufficient to define the archaeological significance of the area. Despite the author mentioning that evidence points to a predominantly historical archaeological landscape, no information regarding this period is included in the brief archaeological background of the area included in the assessment.

Both the archaeologist and the historian identified on site the original farmhouse on Willow Glen in a derelict state, along with a related dump and a section of the original railway line from Grahamstown to Port Alfred. Walls of the Oak Valley Railway Siding building and bridge are also still present on site. According to the specialist, the railway siding must be preserved, but it is not expected to be affected by the housing development since the line is outside of the development area. Two graves may be present on the site, however their identification as burials is not certain.

The historian identified many structures, mostly farmhouses, on the adjacent properties to where the golf





course is proposed. Most of these buildings fall outside the development area, such as the farmstead at Belmont, the school and the church close to Varnam, the farmhouse on the McLean section of Willow Glen, the Fairyvale house and the farmhouse of Varnam. The farmhouse in ruins on Willow Glen Annexe is established on the ground where the new clubhouse for the golf course is proposed and it will therefore be impacted by the establishment of the new estate.

Geologically the area is mostly underlain on the eastern side diamictite and products of its breakdown within the Dwyka Group of the by the lowermost portion of the Karoo Supergroup. In the western side of the Blaaukrants River, the Dwyka Group is overlaid by the uppermost strata of the Witteberg Group (Witpoort and Waaipoort Formations) of the Cape Supergroup. At the contact between the two, within a small quarry in the Belmont Valley, the palaeontologist identified overturned ripple cross beds, highlighted by iron concentrated in palaeoripple troughs, along with fossilised plant fragments preserved in more clay rich strata.

SAHRA recommends that:

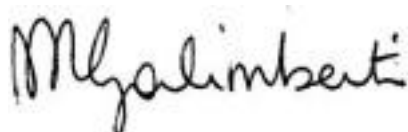
- no alteration to or demolition of the farmhouses older than 60 years may occur without obtaining a permit from the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (Ms Africa Maxongo, Tel: 043 642 2811).
- an historical archaeologist should be present on site during the clearing of vegetation around the ruins of the farmhouse on Willow Glen Annexe.
- the remains of the railway line from Grahamstown to Port Alfred must be incorporated into the development of the golf course. A conservation management plan for the site must be drawn and submitted to the heritage authority for approval.
- the two possible graves must be considered and treated as burials. A proper fence must be built around them including entry gates. The fence must be placed 5 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 falls 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 may proceed provided that a public consultation process is followed (see SAHRA Regulations). If relocation has to be undertaken, it is suggested that the archaeologist applies to SAHRA for test excavation of the possible graves.
- a palaeontologist monitors all earth moving activities in the Witteberg Group occurring west of the Blaaukrantz River
- if any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, marine shell and charcoal/ash concentrations), unmarked human burials, fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during mining activities, the ECPHRA must be alerted immediately, and an accredited professional archaeologist must be contacted 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 might be necessary





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

Yours faithfully



Mariagrazia Galimberti
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
South African Heritage Resources Agency



Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

(, Ref: EC04/LN2/M/11-98)

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.

