



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 10412

Date: Thursday April 20, 2017
Page No: 1

Interim Comment

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

Attention: Gamagara Local Municipality

The Gamagara Local Municipality (Gamagara Municipality) proposes to develop additional space for graves in the town of Kathu.

Synergistics Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by the Gamagara Local Municipality to conduct a Basic Assessment Process for the proposed new Kathu Cemetery located on the remaining extent of the farm Uitkoms 463 near Kathu, Northern Cape Province. A Final Basic Assessment Report has been submitted in term of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014. Activities will include vegetation clearance, a new access point including a road upgrade of the Dingleton Road, internal gravel roads, fencing of the cemetery, ablution facilities, parking, water supply and waste collection bins. The cemetery was cover 5 ha. Professional Grave Solutions Heritage (Pty) Ltd and Elize Butler were appointed to conduct the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and the Palaeontological Desktop Assessment for the project respectively.

Fourie, W and Forssman, T. 2017. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed New Kathu Cemetery on parts of the Remainder of the Farm Lyleveld 545 on the southern side of the town of Kathu in the Gamagara Local Municipality, Northern Cape.

A total of five (5) heritage findspots were identified within the proposed development area. These findspots comprised low density Middle Stone Age (MSA) scatters or single artefacts of low heritage significance. The possible impact of the proposed development on archaeological material is rated as low.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- It is recommended that KC1 be sampled and a geological trench be dug to test for any stratigraphic layering of artefacts. The intention here will be to assess whether artefacts do occur under the current land surface, and if so, at what density. This is the only site within the proposed area and it is not felt the sites in the evaluation zone require mitigation unless they are to be impacted by development;
- Alternatively, moving the proposed cemetery boundary ~50 m to the South-West, would minimize any impact on KC1 and would thus negate the need to mitigate (please see Figure 12, which indicates this shift). However, this may impact other environmental factors and not be possible;



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- If mitigation is to proceed, it is recommended that a set of test excavations be done to determine presence and extent of an archaeological deposit in and around the main site (KC1). This can be performed as part of the mitigation and would provide a finer-resolution understanding of what items of heritage significance can be found within the site;
- If a deposit is identified a controlled sampling of the material found should be done;
- This work must be done in such a way as to augment the current research questions and field work such as the excavations at the Kathu Townlands Site and Kathu Pan;
- These test excavations and sampling must be done after a permit has been granted under Section 35 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999) to a qualified and experienced Stone Age archaeologist;
- In the event that substantive material is uncovered, it is recommended that a display at the cemetery of the material found at KC1 is considered;
- An archaeologist suitably qualified in Stone Age fieldwork and research must be appointed to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief during the Construction Phase of the project. The appointed archaeologist will be responsible for the following:
 - Provide training to the project Environmental Control Office (ECO) in Stone Age archaeology and the identification of Stone Age artefacts and sites. The ECO will be responsible for daily on-site monitoring during the Construction Phase with the appointed archaeologist visiting the site every two weeks.
 - Conduct an archaeological monitoring program whereby the construction site is visited once every two weeks for at least the first three months of the project.
 - On-site assessment of any Stone Age material exposed during construction and the provision of recommendations for the way in which the exposed material must be mitigated.
 - Compile and submit an archaeological monitoring report at the end of the monitoring process.
 - During the monitoring undertaken everyday on-site by the ECO and once every two weeks by the appointed archaeologist, all construction work must be closely monitored.
 - Should any Stone Age material or any archaeological material be identified, all construction work in that area must immediately stop and the ECO or archaeologist (if already present on site) must demarcate a construction free area around the discovery.
- If the ECO made the discovery, the archaeologist must be contacted immediately to visit the construction site to assess the exposed material. After assessing the exposed material, the archaeologist would provide recommendations for the exposed material which may range from destruction without mitigation (if the exposed material is found to be of little significance) to archaeological mitigation (if the exposed material is found to be significant).

Butler, E. 2017. Palaeontological Desktop Assessment for the proposed development of a new cemetery, near Kathu, Gamagara Local Municipality and John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality, Northern Cape.



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The proposed development is underlain by the Campbell Subgroup which is of moderate palaeontological sensitivity. The overall impact of the proposed Cemetery development is rated as moderately negative. It is unlikely that that the development will pose a threat to local fossil heritage. Should fossil remains be discovered during any phase of construction, either on the surface or exposed by fresh excavation, the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) responsible for these developments should be alerted immediately. Such discoveries ought to be protected (preferably in situ) and the ECO should alert SAHRA so that appropriate mitigation can be undertaken by a professional palaeontologist.

Interim Comment

The HIA does not contain any ground level photographs of the proposed development area or of the identified heritage resources. SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that the HIA be revised to include the outstanding photographs before further comments can be issued.

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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South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Page No: 4

ADMIN:

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