



## Final Comment

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

Attention: Msobo Coal  
50 Hoy Street  
Breyten  
2330

#### The Harwar Colliery near Breyten, Mpumalanga

*Karodia, S. June 2013. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Harwar Colliery, 2630AA and 2630AC, Mpumalanga Province*

The above HIA was submitted as part of the EIA process for the proposed Harwar Colliery project on Farms Harwar 58 IT, Mooifontein 35 IT, De Goedverwachting 57 IT, Vryheid 59 IT and on Tvredden 56 IT. The proposed Harwar Project is an extension of Msobo Coals existing Tselentis Operation in Mpumalanga. The open-cast mining method will be used, with all coal processing completed off site. The proposed infrastructure includes access roads, a substation, storage areas, stockpiles, pollution control dams, berms, weigh bridges, parking, roads, workshops, a salvage yard and services. However, detailed infrastructure plans were not available at the time of submission.

It is noted that site access to Farm Harwar 58 IT RE was not permitted and as such, this area has not been assessed for possible impacts to heritage resources. It is also noted that the study area falls within an area proposed for protection in terms of NEMPA (2003).

A number of isolated, undiagnostic potsherd fragments were identified on the property. These have low heritage significance. Two farm werfs were identified as being impacted by the proposed development. The sandstone structures on both of these werfs likely date to the early 1900's, however these structures were not identified as having heritage significance. Three informal burial grounds were identified within the study area. Two of these burial grounds will be impacted by the proposed development. The third burial ground is situated 400m south west of the proposed open-cast pit area.

No palaeontological heritage resources were identified in the foot survey, however the study area is situated near the edge of the highveld coal field that forms part of the Karoo Basin. The study area is underlain by the Madzaringwe Formation which is roughly equivalent to the basal unit of the Ecca Group. As such, there is a strong likelihood for the proposed development to impact fossil plant material occurring in the shales and mudstones associated with the coals.

#### Comment:

Based on the information provided in the above report, SAHRA has no objection to the proposed development on condition that;





1. The Fossil Finds procedure included in the HIA is adopted and included in the EMP
2. Both historical structures should be recorded in full by a suitably qualified historical archaeologist or heritage architect. This work should record all the layout and dimensions of these buildings and establish their true age as there is a likelihood that they could be older than 100 years of age. Should this work determine them to be older than 100 years and of low heritage significance, a demolition permit can be obtained from the SAHRA APM Unit in terms of Section 35 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999). If the buildings are older than 60 years, but younger than 100, a Section 34 of the NHRA demolition permit must be obtained from the Mpumalanga Provincial Heritage Resources Authority prior to the destruction of the identified structures.
3. While burial grounds should only be disturbed once all other options have been exhausted, it is noted that the two burial grounds identified as being impacted by the proposed development, each with 8 and 9 individuals respectively, are not older than 60 years and therefore no permit in terms of Section 36 of the NHRA is required for their exhumation. Human remains younger than 60 years should be handled only by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the Human Tissues Act. Other relevant legislation must be complied with, including the Human Tissues Act (National Department of Health) and any ordinances of the Provincial Department of Health). The archaeologist can usually advise about this.
4. The third identified burial ground containing 23 individuals situated 400m south west of the proposed open-cast mining area must remain *in situ* and undisturbed. A minimum 20m buffer zone between the burials and the open-cast mining area is required, and a perimeter fence must be constructed around the site. A Conservation Management Plan must be drafted to ensure the conservation of this site into the future.
5. 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 the proposed activities, SAHRA APM Unit (Jenna Lavin/Colette Scheermeyer 021 462 4502) must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, 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 it not be possible to adhere to the above conditions, please contact SAHRA with your reasons for non-compliance.

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

Yours faithfully

Jenna Lavin  
Heritage Officer





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South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Colette Scheermeyer  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/111269>

Edit view (DMR, Ref: 30/5/1/2/2/10061)

**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.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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