

Final Comment

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

Attention: Cabanga Concepts

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2162

Overlooked Colliery (Pty) Ltd Heritage Impact Assessment Report for the proposed mining of the farm Halfgewonnen 190 IS Portions RE, 5 & 17 in the magisterial district of Bethal, Mpumalanga

Van Vollenhoven, A. March 2013. A Report on a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment for a proposed mining right application at the Overlooked Colliery, between Bethal and Hendrina, Mpumalanga Province

Millstead, B. October 2013. Desktop Palaeontological Heritage Impact Assessment Report on the site of the proposed Overlooked Coal Mine to be located on Portions 0, 5, and 17 of the farm Halfgewonnen 190 IS Portion 0 of the farm Forzando 592 IS, Mpumalanga Province

The above report was submitted to SAHRA for the application for mining right for the Overlooked Colliery located on Farm Halfgewonnen 190 IS. The proposed coal mine will cover 165ha. Information gathered during the prospecting phase indicates that opencast mining is viable in the northern extent of the colliery and underground mining in the central and southern extent. The proposed infrastructure for the mine includes a crushing and screening plant, a change house, pre-fabricated offices, a weigh-bridge, a workshop area and a salvage area. Existing access roads will be utilised.

The area investigated for heritage resources in this report has been previously disturbed by agricultural activities. The likelihood of the proposed development impacting on significant archaeological material is therefore low.

Two heritage resources were identified in the above report. Site 1 is a burial ground containing approximately 21 burials dated to between 1949 and 1983. Underground mining is proposed for this area and therefore limited impact is anticipated. Site 2 is a historical farm werf consisting of two houses, a wagon shed and a historical post office. This resource has a proposed grading of 3B.

According to the submitted palaeontological study, the project area is underlain by the sediments of the Vryheid Formation and the igneous rocks of the Lebowa Granite Suite. In addition, satellite imagery suggests that the project area may be covered in regolith. The Vryheid Formation has been known to contain abundant plant fossils of *Glossopteris* and other plants and other trace fossils. These fossils mostly occur in the shale lenses between the coal beds and are of some palaeontological significance. It is therefore likely that the



proposed development will impact on significant heritage resources.

As such, SAHRA has no objection to the proposed development on condition that;

1. Please note that the heritage resources identified as Site 2 in the above report must not be disturbed by the proposed development and must remain *in situ*. As such, the proposed mine layout must take these identified resources into consideration. If this is not possible, as expressed in your letter dated 24 October 2013, a full heritage statement on this Grade 3B cultural landscape resource is required before SAHRA or the MPHRA can comment further.
2. A Conservation Management Plan is required for the identified graves at Site 1 in order to ensure their conservation into the future. This CMP must be included in the EMP.
3. A thorough site investigation of the outcrops of the area to be mined is required prior to the commencement of mining. This site investigation must identify palaeontological resources that may be impacted by the proposed development and must provide mitigation measures to limit negative impact. A report on this site investigation must be submitted to SAHRA for comment.
4. Should 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 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
South African Heritage Resources Agency



Overlooked Colliery

Our Ref: 16/5/1 Overlooked Colliery

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CaseID: 2863

Date: Monday October 28, 2013

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an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/123996>

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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