

REPORT ON AN ASSESSMENT OF TWO GRAVE SITES LOCATED AT THE SILVERLAKES COLLIERY

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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Enquiries: Thingahangwi Tracy Tshivhase

Tel: 012 941 4968

Email: ttshivhase@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 11119

Date: Wednesday January 24, 2018

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Final Comment

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

Attention: Mr Anton Pelser

A Pelser Archaeological Consulting

P.O. Box 73703

Lynwood Ridge

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REPORT ON AN ASSESSMENT OF TWO GRAVE SITES LOCATED AT THE SILVERLAKES COLLIERY NEAR ERMELO IN MPUMALANGA - APAC017/40

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was consulted by Steffanutti Stocks Mining Services on behalf of Silver Lakes Colliery to undertake the assessment of two known grave sites located in their mining area in order to recommend on the best practice regarding the protection of these sites against negative impacts by their mining activities.

The two sites (Site 1 & Site 2) are located on the farm Uitgevallen 134IT (Portions 15 & 26), in the Ermelo District of Mpumalanga. Mining operations in the areas where the sites are located are currently being undertaken, with Restriction Zones around the graves in order to prevent possible direct negative impacts on the sites and graves located here. The grave sites will therefore be left intact during the mining operations and the areas around them rehabilitated once mining has been completed.

Site 1 contains around 15 graves laid out in two rows, while Site 2 contains 8 graves. All the graves are stone packed, except 1 of the graves at Site 2 which have a cement and brick demarcation, without any headstones. Grave sites and cemeteries are always of High Cultural Significance and should not be negatively impacted by any development.

The recommendations of the Assessment Report included the following:

-To avoid any negative impacts on the site and graves the area where the Grave Site 1 is located has been enclosed by a soil berm by the Colliery and no mining operations are allowed within/close to the 20m Restriction Zone placed around it.

-A sign board must be placed at two points outside the soil berm indicating the presence of the graves and that No Access is allowed. According to the report, these signs have been erected by the client as requested.

-Once mining in the area has been completed, the area around the grave sites will be rehabilitated as is standard mining practice and the restrictive soil berm around the site will also be removed.

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-Should any previously unknown or invisible sites, features or material be uncovered during any development actions, a Heritage Specialist must be contacted to investigate and provide recommendations on the way forward.

SAHRA BGG Recommendations:

SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves Unit acknowledges receipt of your Assessment Report on the identified burial sites and has no objection to the recommendations in the report.

However, as the area surrounding the identified burial sites is undergoing mining operations and the graves are to remain in situ, SAHRA BGG Unit recommends the following additional mitigation measures:

- A fence must be erected surrounding the identified grave sites with an access gate for families who might want to visit the site.
- A Heritage Management Plan must be drafted for the burial sites to ensure long term management of the sites. The HMP must be submitted to the Case on SAHRIS for review and approval.
- The mentioned 20m buffer-zone must be increased to a 100m to avoid damaging the graves. If the 100m buffer is not possible, a motivation must be submitted to the Case on SAHRIS.
- A Heritage Specialist must be present on site to supervise mining activities closer to the burial sites.

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

Yours faithfully

Thingahangwi Tracy Tshivhase
Heritage Officer: Permitting
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Mimi Seetelo

Manager: Burial Grounds & Graves Unit

South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/398904>

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.