



Final Comment

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

Attention:

Divan van der Merwe
Synergistics
P O Box 1822
Rivonia
2128

Fairview Mine Tailings Dam Reworking Project, near Barberton, Mpumalanga Province.

Pelser, A. March 2012. A Report on a 2nd opinion on possible graves found during a HIA done for the Fairview Tailings Dam Reworking Project, near Barberton.

A second Archaeological Impact Assessment was conducted for the proposed Fairview Mine Tailings Dam Reworking Project. The first assessment was conducted by Dr J. Van Schalkwyk in 2009; he identified a settlement site consisting of stone walling, possible graves, agricultural terracing and field clearing cairns. Dr Van Schalkwyk indicated that the settlement and possible graves are unlikely to date to the Iron Age since Early Farming occupation was not prevalent in the area due to malaria and tsetse flies.

The second assessment conducted by Mr. A. Pelsler during March 2012, focussed on providing an assessment of the possible graves. He noted that the stone heaps (possible graves) are in excess of 20 and their location close to the mine dating to the 1880s may indicate that the settlement is related to the historical mine. However, it is possible that the settlement may pre-date the mine. The smaller heaps of stones are related to field clearing activities. The author recommended that the possible graves be investigated and relocated if impacted by the proposed mining activities, and that this investigation should be undertaken as part of the mitigation of the stone walling.

Decision:

It is noted in the specialist report that the settlement is older than 100 years and therefore archaeological. Its associated features such as the possible graves are also regarded as archaeological. Since the archaeological settlement identified during the assessment will be directly impacted by the proposed tailings dam, SAHRA recommends the following.

- A Phase 2 mitigation impact assessment of the settlement stone walling and terracing. This must include detail site drawings of the settlement and a photographic record and the excavation of a representative sample of archaeological deposit where appropriate. The specialist will require a mitigation permit in terms of s.35 of the NHRA (Act no 25 of 1999). SAHRA will make further recommendations upon receipt of a satisfactory Phase 2 mitigation report. The specialist may also apply for a destruction permit on behalf of the developer after the submission of the final Phase 2 Impact Assessment report.
- Because the specialist could not verify that the stone heaps are in fact graves during the field





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assessment, the specialist will need to apply for a s.35 test excavation permit to verify if the stone heaps are in fact graves. It is only once SAHRA has been informed about the outcome of the test excavation that the specialist will be able to apply for a permit in terms of s.35 to exhume the graves. The graves will need to be re-interred at a suitable location.

- If these recommendations are adhered to SAHRA does not object to the proposed development. If any evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, or other heritage resources are found during construction activities, the SAHRA APM Unit (**Mr. Phillip Hine, tel: 021-462 4502**), must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist/palaeontologist must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings at the cost of the developer. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological/palaeontological significance, then a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary at the cost of the developer.

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

Yours faithfully

Phillip Hine
Heritage Officer

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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- 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.



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