



Final Comment

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

Attention: Ms Josette Oberholzer
Enviro Pro
P.O. Box 1391
Kloof
3610

FE Prins and SM Hall, July 2012. Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of the Proposed Fobane Water Supply Scheme, Alfred Nzo District Municipality.

The Alfred Nzo District Municipality is proposing the implementation of Phase 2 of the Fobane water supply scheme. Twenty four villages will be provided with water, which will be distributed through boreholes. The project will also require the establishment of reservoirs, bulk and village reticulation pipelines, mostly located along existing roads, and associated infrastructure.

The independent environmental assessment practitioner, which undertook the basic assessment process for this project, is Enviropro. Active Heritage CC was hired to compile the heritage assessment for the project.

Two archaeologists undertook both a desktop study of the possible archaeological evidence in the area and a site visit. The specialists recorded eight rock art sites located in shelters and twenty rural burial grounds. None of the eight rock art sites are expected to be impacted by the establishment of the water supply scheme, since they are all located in shelters more than 50m away from the proposed development.

In graveyards 1 and 2 all graves are younger than 60 years and therefore they are not protected in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), Act 25, 1999. All other burial grounds are composed by both burials younger than 60 years and unmarked burials, which may be older than 60 years and therefore protected under section 36 of the NHRA. Graveyards 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 are located closer than 20m to the proposed water supply scheme and therefore their integrity may be jeopardised.

While the specialist states that no sites of palaeontological significance are known from the project area, no professional advice was sought in this regard, and no indication of the geology and of the formations affected by the development is given.

Please note that the Kwa-Zulu Natal Heritage Act, Act 4 of 2008 does not apply to this project since the development is located within the Eastern Cape Province.

Decision:





SAHRA reviewed the heritage impact assessment and recommends that:

- A proper fence must be built around all burial grounds older than 60 years. The fence must include an entry gate to allow visits from relatives and friends. The fence must be placed 5m away from the perimeter of the graves.
- Since the development is expected to impact on burial grounds 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 the pipeline must be re-aligned so that no development will occur within 15m from the fence line surrounding the graves.
- Relocation of the cemeteries is SAHRA least preferred option and it should only be explored if alternative options have failed. If relocation must be considered the developer must interact with the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves Unit (Mr Troy Phili, Tel: 012 362 2535, tphili@sat.sahra.org.za).
- For the two burial grounds 1 and 2, younger than 60 years, other legislations apply, such as the Human Tissues Act (Act No.65 of 1983 and as amended), the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ord. No. 7 of 1925) and
- The Exhumations Ordinance (Ord. No. 12 of 1980). The Provincial Health Authority and local Health Department should be contacted.
- SAHRA must be provided with information on the geology of the area and of formations affected by the development for further comments on the possible presence of palaeontological resources of significance.
- 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 construction, the ECPHRA must be alerted immediately (Tel: 0436422811), and an accredited professional archaeologist or palaeontologist according to the nature of the findings, must be contacted as soon as possible. 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

Mariagrazia Galimberti
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
South African Heritage Resources Agency





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 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.

