



Final Comment

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

Attention: Ms Leandri Joubert
Aurecon South Africa
25 Rood Street
Nelspruit
1200

Extension of the Friedenheim Office Complex, Nelspruit

Van Vollenhoven, AC., & Radford, A. March 2012. A report on a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed extension of the Friedenheim Office Complex, Nelspruit, Mbombela Local Municipality.

The redevelopment of the Friedenheim Office Complex, Nelspruit is proposed. The area to be developed is 10 hectares; the extension will be on the existing Friedenheim Agricultural College land. The new development will entail demolishing of all existing buildings, demolishing of the current incinerator, removing the existing septic tank and if no connection to the existing agricultural college is available, then a new septic tank will be built; building a new office complex; building accommodation facilities; building a new veterinary laboratory and clinic; establishing new access roads; and building a new incinerator (size and design has not been determined as yet). The site has been completely transformed due to past developments and no archaeological or any other heritage resources were identified during the assessment.

It is noted that the proposed project area was utilized for agricultural research purposes and therefore it is not in pristine condition. However, SAHRA understands that an Early Iron Age site was recorded at the location of the Mpumalanga Government Offices in close proximity to the current project. The site was likely a large cattle kraal with storage pits. It is therefore likely that archaeological material may be disturbed during construction activities.

Decision:

Considering that the development will occur within close proximity to where an Early Iron Age site was discovered, SAHRA recommends that:

All earth moving activities must be monitored by a qualified archaeologist. A report from the monitoring activities must be submitted to SAHRA for further comments. If the newly discovered resources are of some significance, a Phase 2 mitigation will be asked for. SAHRA will require that, in terms of s.38(4)(b&c) of the National Heritage Resources Act, the provisions of section 35 apply. The specialist will require a mitigation permit from the relevant Heritage Resources Authority. On receipt of a satisfactory mitigation (Phase 2) permit report from the archaeologist, the heritage authority will make further recommendations in terms of the site. Very often permission is given for the destruction of the remainder of the archaeological or palaeontological sites. Very rarely, if a site has high heritage significance the authority may request that it be conserved, that mini-site management plans, interpretive material and possibly protective infrastructure be established.





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Date: Wednesday September 12, 2012

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Since this project did not consider the potential impact on palaeontological resources, an expert opinion must be sought to indicate the potential impact on palaeontology. The opinion of the expert in the form of a palaeontological impact assessment or of a letter of exemption from further palaeontological studies must be submitted to SAHRA for further comments.

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 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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