

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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CaseID: 17660

Date: Wednesday April 13, 2022

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Final Decision

In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Eland Platinum Mine

Investigation in to the presence of possible human remains – Northam Elands Open Cast Mine - Farm Elandsfontein 440 JQ, District of Brits, South Africa

PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Northam Elands Open Cast mine to assist with the identification of possible burial grounds and grave that could potentially be impacted by the mining activities related to their opencast mine on the farm Elandsfontein 440JQ, close to Brits in the North West Province. The Elands Mine operates under Environmental Authorisation (approved by the DMRE on 21 December 2006 – Ref No: (NW) 30/5/1/2/3/2/1/280EM). An updated Heritage Impact Assessment was completed and submitted to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) - case: **15430**.

Dr J van Schalkwyk, 2020. *The Eland Mine consolidation application, Consisting of Portions of the farms Zilkaatsnek 439 JQ, Elandsfontein 440JQ And De Kroon 444JQ (Maroelabult) east of Brits in the Local Municipality of Madibeng, North West Province.*

Fourie W, 2021. *Investigation in to the presence of possible human remains – Northam Elands Open Cast Mine - Farm Elandsfontein 440 JQ, District of Brits, South Africa.*

Assessment findings

The field assessment confirmed that the human remains (cranium fragment) did not originate from any open or disturbed burial grounds or grave located within the assessment area. The survey further confirmed the presence of a single burial ground as previously identified in the HIA completed for the project. An additional grave was identified on the side of a service road within 50 meters from a new overburden berm being tipped by the mine. The activities were immediately stopped by the mine and contractor and the berm realigned to keep further mining activities outside of the recommended 100 meter buffer from the South African Heritage Resources' (SAHRA) Burial Ground and Graves Unit (BGG).

Recommendations

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- The existing service road is closed off or realigned to ensure no further traffic close to the grave(s);
- The grave must be demarcated with a no-go sign;
- All further activities must be kept outside of the 100 meter no development buffer around the graves;
- If the required buffer cannot be implemented, the grave (s) must be relocated with all the relevant permits and authorisations.

Final Comment

SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves Unit (BGGU) has no objection to the recommendations made by the Specialist in the Site Inspection Report. The following additional mitigation measures must be complied with:

1. A permit in terms of the relevant legislation must be obtained for the re-internment of human remains currently stored by SAPS forensic. Public consultation in terms of the NHRA Regulations of 2000 must be observed as appropriate.
2. Development activities must be closely monitored for possible unknown graves.
3. A Heritage Management Plan (HMP) must be developed for long term preservation of the identified grave sites.

This comment does not cancel section 38 processes, the developer still need to obtain formal comment for proposed development activities under CaseID 15430. For this reason, the case status must be changed from 'DRAFT' to 'SUBMITTED' so that the case can appear under case listings for review by a case officer.

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

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Yours faithfully

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

Mimi Seetelo
Manager: Burial Grounds & Graves Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/589904>

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.