



Letter

In terms of Section 35(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Mr Peter Beaumont
Archaeology Department, McGregor Museum
PO Box 316
Kimberley
8300

Proposed Kathu Urban Development, Northern Cape

Dear Mr Beaumont,

The SAHRA APMHOB permit committee has received your Phase 2 report related to permit issued by SAHRA on the 6th of May 2013 for the excavation of Kathu Townlands 1 (permit ID_250).

SAHRA has assessed the report and noted the following:

- Condition 1 of the permit requested the excavation of three trenches at the site. This was also mentioned in the proposal submitted by yourself as motivation for the permit. It is unclear from the report why only one trench was eventually excavated.
- The position of the trench is not indicated on a plan site as was requested in condition 2 of the permit
- All material excavated was not delivered to the McGregor Museum for curation as requested in condition 4 of the permit. While the report explains why only half of the retrieved material could be curated (p. 8), no information is given about the rationale behind the choice of which half of the material to keep for storage, nor what was done with the remaining material.
- The terms of reference (p. 4) informing the excavation are incorrect. The excavation permit was issued under s. 35(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act and, although having being initially triggered in this instance by s.38, the motivation of the excavation is related s. 35, unlike what stated in the Phase 2 report.
- The report explains that the excavation was carried out in spits of 5cm each. Besides a brief explanation of the first two spits, no additional information was provided regarding the stratigraphy of the rest of the excavation.
- The bedrock was not reached during the excavation. No scientific explanation for this decision was provided.
- No information about preliminary analyses of the material was provided.
- In the light of the above, SAHRA is not satisfied with the excavation undertaken under this permit and





we are of the opinion that the permit holder failed to comply with the conditions listed in permit.

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:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/110399>



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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