



Letter

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

Attention: Mr Andre Markgraaff Jnr
ATM Group
2nd Floor
Block B
De Wagenweg Office Park
Stellentia Street
Stellenbosch
7600

Proposed Kathu Urban Development, Northern Cape

Dear Mr Markgraaff,

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

- SAHRA is not satisfied with the excavation undertaken under this permit and is of the opinion that the permit holder failed to comply with some of the conditions listed in the permit.
- Condition 1 of the permit requested the excavation of three trenches at the site. This was also mentioned in the proposal submitted by Mr Beaumont 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 about 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 requests that a new excavation be undertaken in fulfillment of the SAHRA request of the 23rd of April 2013.

A new permit application will need to be submitted to SAHRA by a suitably qualified Stone Age archaeologist. Procedures to apply for the permits are the same as for permit 250. We recommend that the excavation team comprises appropriately trained personnel.

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>

