



Final Comment

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

Attention: Mr Daniel van der Heever
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Observatory
7925

CONSULTATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 40 OF THE MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT 2002, (ACT 28 OF 2002) FOR THE APPROVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR MINING PERMIT ON THE REMAINING EXTENT OF FARM SCHMIDTSDRIFT NO 248 SITUATED IN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF HERBERT: NORTHERN CAPE REGION.

Beaumont, P. May 2012. *Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report On Mining Zones 0 - 24 And Abutting Areas On The Remaining Extent Of Farm Schmidtsdrift 248, At Schmidtsdrift, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province*

New Diamond Corporation (Pty) Ltd has applied for a Mining Right for diamonds, river sand, stone aggregate and gravel on the remaining extent of Farm Schmidtsdrift 248, Herbert District, Northern Cape Province. This operation is located approximately 80km west of Kimberley and covers 31 816 ha. This land was handed over to the Schmidtsdrift Communal Property Association in 2000. The mining operation will consist of strip mining, and all gravels recovered will be transported by articulated trucks to the treatment facilities.

The archaeologist compiled a comprehensive account of the regional archaeology, noting the presence in the area of high quantities of Early Stone Age material as well as San rock engravings. The site survey was conducted with two assistants and was confined to the alluvial flats in mining Zones 0-15, covering some 9 000 ha of the site. Much of the site was inaccessible due to an inability to obtain permission from the owners of various parcels of land.

The site survey identified 45 grave sites, largely consisting of low mounds of stone with slate headstones. The earliest legible date was 1883, although some graves were far younger and many had been "modernised" by updating headstones. Grave sites ranged in size from 30m² to 8 451m² and between 1 and 250 graves were identified at each; these comprised both marked and unmarked graves. Further, 32 walling sites were located, most consisting of only foundations, but some with stone or calcrete block superstructure still remaining. These structures were rectangular in plan and fairly small; many were associated with scattered debris in the form of tins, nails, glass and ceramics which the author dates to the first half of the twentieth century. Some irregular, curved walls without foundations were noted and identified as possible enclosures.

Sixteen lithic sites were identified, with a general background signature recorded across the whole area. The sites were identified as those occurrences with a definable extent and similar weathering patination across all artefacts. These sixteen sites consisted variously of Early, Middle and Later Stone Age artefacts, with





Early-Middle Acheulean artefacts found *in situ*, numerous late Acheulean assemblages with blade components in sedimentary contexts and a single Early Fauresmith occurrence. Sites ranged from 60m² - 1200m² in area and consisted of between 60 and 170 artefacts. Artefacts included large cores, large, irregular flakes, coarse scrapers, cleavers, blades, handaxes and convergent flakes. At least two sites, M20 LS1 and M20 LS2, supported likely refitting of artefacts in the 1-1.5 million year range.

Case Decision:

SAHRA supports the recommendations of the author and requests that:

- Lithic sites 1-16 should be fenced off with hazard tape prior to any mining related activities taking place on the site. These fences should be placed 10m beyond the observable perimeter of each scatter and no disturbance should occur within the fenced off buffer zones. The location of each site should be marked on all maps to ensure their protection.
- If protection of the sites is not possible, and the disturbance of these sites is unavoidable, Phase 2 mitigation, in terms of Sections 38(4)(b&c) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999), will be required. This mitigation should take the form of systematic excavation and sampling, which must be undertaken before trenching and any other earth-moving activity resulting from this proposed project begins. The visible material boundaries of the sites to be mitigated must be surveyed with the aid of a surveying instrument and for the purpose of establishing excavation grids; a photographic record must be established immediately before, during and after mitigation. The archaeologist will require a mitigation permit from SAHRA in terms of Section 35 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999). 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.
- The SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves Unit strongly supports that all identified graves should be restored where these are dilapidated, protected and conserved. For this purpose, a proper fence must be built around them including entry gates to allow visits from relatives and to allow for maintenance. The fence must be placed 5 meters away from the perimeter of the graves. No development is allowed within 15 meters from the fence line surrounding the graves. A brief Cultural Management Plan should be drafted to ensure the ongoing maintenance of these graveyards. Alternatively, if the area where the burials are located fall within the development footprint, then provisions stipulated in section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999) are applicable, and relocation of these might proceed provided that a public consultation process is followed (see <http://www.sahra.org.za/sites/default/files/website/articledocs/SahraReg...>).
- Quarterly monitoring of the site should take place by a professional archaeologist to ensure that these recommendations have been followed and that the sites identified, both lithic and graves, are being adequately protected. The results of these monitoring visits should be reported on and those reports submitted to SAHRA.



Our Ref: 9/2/038/0001

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CaseID: 1048

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

Yours faithfully

Kathryn Smuts
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South African Heritage Resources Agency

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SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
(DMR, Ref: NC 30/5/1/3/3/2/1/10036 EM)

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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