



Final Comment

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

Attention: Mr Brian Gardner
Seaton Thomson & Associates
PO Box 936
Irene
0062

Application for Authorisation of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) for the Proposal to Establish a Commercial and Residential Development on Erf 3094, De Aar, Northern Cape Province

Huffman, T. March 2013. *Archaeological Impact Assessment For The De Aar Project, Northern Cape*

Tintswalo De Aar Property Development (Pty) Ltd has proposed the establishment of a commercial and residential development on a 5ha plot on Erf 3094 in De Aar, Northern Cape. The development will consist of over 11 000m² of retail space, over 2 000m² of office space and between 80 and 100 residential units, depending on the layout alternative chosen.

The archaeologist consulted several impact assessments completed in the area and concluded that the region has a rich archaeological heritage. He further presented a brief background account of the history of De Aar, noting its significance as a rail stop which was of strategic importance during the Anglo Boer War. The author also made mention of the significant archaeological findings of Garth Sampson in the Seacow River Valley.

The author conducted a site visit which recorded physical traces of the site's origins as an historic farm. These included several sheep kraals and a ruined dwelling associated with glass and metal artefacts (recorded as Site 1). A brick and cement built water trough was also noted, although this was accorded no heritage significance. These remains were located outside of the development footprint.

Site 2 consisted of a 30m wide cluster of Later Stone Age artefacts on hornfels, which included adzes, end scrapers and circular scrapers as well as trimmed flakes. The author identifies these artefacts as probably belonging to the Lockshoek, Interior Wilton and Smithfield B industries and accords the scatter medium significance due to the density of the scatter and the abundance of formal tools. The archaeologist further noted a diffuse scatter of quartzite and hornfels artefacts that were likely of Middle Stone Age date. As these artefacts were *ex situ*, the scatter was deemed of low heritage significance.





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CaseID: 1851

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This development is likely situated within the Tierberg Fm of the Eccca Group, unfossiliferous Karoo dolerite or quarternary alluvium. Fish scales and sponge spicules have previously been found in some of the carbonate concretions and trace fossils commonly occur throughout the sequence, but terrestrial vertebrates and plant remains are generally absent from the Tierberg Formation. However, the likelihood of palaeontological impact as a result of the proposed development is considered to be extremely low.

Case Decision:

SAHRA supports the recommendations of the author and requests that:

- Site 2 is subjected to Phase 2 mitigation, in terms of s.38(4)(b&c) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999). The specialist will require a mitigation permit for this work, in terms of Section 35 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999) from the South African Heritage Resources Agency. Mitigation should take the form of systematic collection and limited excavation of the site, to be undertaken before trenching and any other earth-moving activity result from this proposed project. The visible material boundaries of the sites to be mitigated must be surveyed with the aid of a surveying instrument and a photographic record must be established immediately before, during and after mitigation. 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.

If the recommendations made in the specialist report and in this comment are adhered to, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit has no objection to the development (in terms of the archaeological and palaeontological components of the heritage resources). If any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources is found during development, construction or mining, SAHRA and a professional archaeologist and/or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be alerted immediately.

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
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/114999>
(DENC, Ref: NC/BA/PIXEMT/DEAAR2/2013) (DENC, Ref: NCP/EIA/0000212/2013)

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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