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CaseID: 385

Date: Tuesday September 18, 2012

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Final Comment

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

Attention: Mr Steven Ingle
Marsh Environmental Services

Proposed Madibeng Treated Effluent Scheme, Madibeng Local Municipality, North West Province

Birkholtz, P. March 2011. *Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Madibeng Treated Effluent Scheme, Madibeng Local Municipality, North West Province*

The Madibeng Local Municipality has proposed the development of the Madibeng Treated Effluent Scheme west of Brits in the North West Province. This scheme will see treated, non-potable water from the Brits Wastewater Treatment Works transported along a 37km pipeline to three mining operations to the west. The pipeline will require a 20m wide working area during construction and a 3m servitude once built and will be 1m below ground. It will largely run outside of and parallel to an existing Transnet rail servitude. The study area is open and flat with occasional granite outcrops to the west and north west. The area is somewhat disturbed by the presence of roads, railway lines, agricultural activities, canals and water furrows and some structures, it is largely undisturbed.

Background research showed that the area has been inhabited since the Stone Age, with many sites, predominantly LSA sites, known from south of the research area. The Late Iron Age is well represented in the area, with stone walled settlements being fairly common. White farmers settled the area from the mid-1800s, with settlement increasing through the century. The South African War saw a skirmish on the banks of the Crocodile River (on Farm Roodekopjes 417JQ), which is likely to be in close proximity to the north eastern section of the pipeline. The railway line was built between 1906 and 1910 and a section of the pipeline follows this alignment. The canals and water furrows date to the 1920s when the Hartebeestpoort Dam Irrigation System was commenced to provide poverty relief to poor whites.

Four sites were identified during the field survey. The first of these (Site 1) contained several stone walled enclosures over an area of 50m x 80m, near a rocky outcrop. Three large (15m-10m wide) and two small (5m wide) enclosures were identified, with walls 0.5m high and 0.5m in width. Scatters of potsherds (10-15 sherds per 5m²) were noted, although none was diagnostic and no midden material was observable. The walls were in fairly bad repair. Site 2 consisted of a small (20m x 20m) dwelling associated with the Wolhuterskop railway station. The dwelling is facebrick, with steel framed windows and corrugated iron roof; it is currently occupied. Site 3 comprises a small informal, fenced graveyard with seven graves. All the graves have granite and cement dressings and dated from 1900 to 1950. Site 4 encompasses all the points at which the proposed pipeline crosses the water canals and furrows. These seven sites represent only a small disturbance to the large number of irrigation canals in the region.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Decision:

SAHRA supports the recommendations of the author and requires that:

- Site 1 should be fenced off and protected prior to development activities commencing. If the pipeline is to be built within 10m of Site 1, an archaeologist should be appointed to monitor activities during this period of construction. Should the development disturb this site, Phase 2 mitigation will be required, in terms of s.35 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999). The specialist will require a mitigation permit from the relevant Heritage Resources Authority. 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.
- The graves should be restored where these are dilapidated, protected and conserved. For this purpose, a proper fence must be build around them including entry gates to allow visits from relatives and family friends. The fence must be placed 5 metres from the perimeter of the graves. No development is allowed within 15 metres of the fence line surrounding the graves.

Decisions on Built Environment (e.g. structures over 60 years) and associated Living Heritage (e.g. sacred sites) - in this instance, Site 2 and Sites 4 - must be made by the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the North West Province (**Mr. Mothlabane Mosiane**, email: mosianem@nwpg.gov.za) to whom this Archaeological Review Comment will be copied.

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





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SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

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.



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