



Final Comment

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

Attention: Ms Elmarie van der Walt
The MSA Group
PO Box 81356
Parkhurst
2120

Soutfontein Prospecting Right Application (Dmr Ref No: NC 30/5/1/1/2/10729PR) over Portions 1 & 2 Zandkraal 434, Remainder And Portions 1, 2, 7 & 8 De Klipheuvel 435, Portions 3, 4 & 6 Soutfontein 436, Portions 1, 2, 3 & 4 Tierberg 438, Remainder And Portions 3 & 6 Kwoap 494, Remainder And Portions 4 & 11 Kameelboom

Van Vollenhoven, A. March 2013. *Report on a Desktop Study with regards to the Cultural Heritage Relating to a Prospecting Right Application for Soutfontein, Close to Garies in the Namaqualand District, Northern Cape Province*

Zirco Roode Heuwel (Pty) Ltd has applied for prospecting rights on Portion 1 and 2 of the Farm Zandkraal 434, the Remainder and Portions 1, 2, 7 and 8 of the Farm De Klipheuvel 435, Portion 3, 4 and 6 of the Farm Soutfontein 436, Portions 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Farm Tierberg 438, the Remainder and Portions 3 and 6 of the Farm Kwoap, the Remainder and Portions 4 and 11 of the Farm Kameelboom and Farm 581. The The study area lies in the Namaqualand District and is located north west of Garies.

Drilling will be done via air-core drilling with augur drills mounted on bakkies; individual hole diameters will be 82mm in width. No site camps will be established and the drill rigs will make use of existing roads and tracks wherever possible, with no creation of new roads necessary.

The archaeologist compiled a desk based assessment of the likely heritage resources in the area. This work concluded that Stone Age people lived in the region and that no previous work has been done on this site, although none of the extensive recent work on the occupation and utilisation of the wider area was consulted. Historically, the area was traversed in the seventeenth century by explorers, particularly in search of copper further north, by farmers in the eighteenth century and further by missionaries. The nearby town of Garies was established in 1845 and housed British soldiers during the South African War, as attested by the names engraved on the "Letterklip", a boulder near the town that is a Provincial Heritage Site.

The author indicates that De Klipheuvel was a public outspan from at least 1843 and that a house was located on the property, together with a possible kraal, while a farm house, stores, a stable, mill and school are located on Portion 2. No other structures are indicated on surveyor diagrams of these farms, although this does not preclude the existence of built features.

Case Decision:

SAHRA recommends that:





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CaseID: 2550

Date: Thursday June 06, 2013

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- Any historical buildings or structures should be temporarily cordoned off with danger tape prior to the commencement of prospecting activities and no related activities should take place within 100m of any of these structures.
- Historic farms often have farm graveyards, both formal, walled enclosures and less formal burial mounds. Should any graves be encountered, work in the area should be halted immediately and SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves Unit (Itumeleng Masiteng: imasiteng@sahra.org.za) and a professional archaeologist must be alerted immediately.

SAHRA recognises that the prospecting methods to be employed will be minimally invasive and are unlikely to have significant impact on the heritage resources of the receiving environment.

Consequently, SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology & Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objection to the proposed prospecting on the condition that if any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, marine shell and charcoal/ash concentrations), unmarked human burials, fossils or other categories of heritage resources is found during the proposed activities, SAHRA APM Unit (Katie Smuts/Colette Scheermeyer 021 462 4502) must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary.

Decisions on Built Environment (e.g. structures over 60 years) and associated Living Heritage (e.g. sacred sites) must be made by the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Northern Cape (**Mr. Andrew Timothy**, email: ratha.timothy@gmail.com) to whom this Archaeological Review Comment will be copied.

This exemption is only valid for the prospecting phase of this application. Should a mining phase be planned, a full Heritage Impact Assessment, inclusive of an Archaeological and a Palaeontological Impact Assessment, will be required.

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/121274>
(DMR, Ref: NC 30/5/1/1/2/10729PR)

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.

