



## Final Comment

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

Attention: Sasol Mining (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 5486  
Johannesburg  
2000

### SASOL MINING SIGMA COLLIERY ASH BACKFILLING PROJECT, SASOLBURG, FREE STATE PROVINCE

#### Nel, J. & Karodia, S. November 2013. Heritage Statement For The Sasol Mining Sigma Colliery Ash Backfilling Project, Sasolburg, Free State Province

The proposed project entails a Sasol project to backfill underground voids in the northern defunct area at the Sigma Colliery with ash, aimed at mitigating risk associated with subsidence of the surface caused by historical underground mining activity at Sigma. The ash backfilling process will utilise several pipelines located above ground to transport the ash slurry from the Sasol Ash pump station to the underground voids. The return water pipelines will be used to abstract water from the mine voids to create space for backfilling.

The authors state that the current cultural landscape is primarily agriculture with large parts having been altered by industry, mining and town development, and agricultural activities would have, over the years, destroyed most archaeological resources that may have been present. Open cast mining and rehabilitation of sites would further have destroyed any viable archaeological sites and palaeontology that may have existed. The entire area, underlain by the Vryheid Formation, which will be crossed by proposed pipelines required for the ash backfilling, is devoid of rock outcrops and is covered by either grassland or by ploughed fields. The authors content that it is thus very unlikely that any fossil heritage will be damaged by activities relating to the ash backfilling.

#### Final Comment

Considering that the nature of the proposed development is unlikely to have a negative impact on potential palaeontological resources, and as there is apparently no evidence of any significant archaeological material in this area, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit exempts this project from having to conduct any further heritage assessments, provided that this project has a Chance Finds Procedures in place.

If any new evidence of palaeontological heritage resources, archaeological sites or artefacts, graves or other archaeological heritage resources is found during development, SAHRA and an archaeologist and/or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the resources, 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.



# SASOL MINING SIGMA COLLIERY ASH BACKFILLING PROJECT

Our Ref: 9/2/335/0001

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CaseID: 5035

Date: Monday November 17, 2014

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an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

Yours faithfully

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Andrew Salomon  
Heritage Officer: Archaeology  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Colette Scheermeyer  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

## ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/158774>

## 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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