



## Final Comment

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

Attention: GCS

#### Van Vollenhoven, A. April 2012. A Report On A Heritage Impact Assessment For The Steynol Umthombo Project Near Springs In The Gauteng Province.

The proposed development entails clay and coal mining, located east of the town of Springs in Gauteng.

The author notes the following heritage resources and recommendations:

**Site 1:** The remains of an industrial structure, most likely is younger than 60 years. The author notes that the site has a low cultural significance and regards the documenting of it in this report is seen as sufficient mitigation.

**Site 2:** The ruins of a number of industrial structures. One of these has graffiti on dating to the liberation struggle. The author notes that the site has a low cultural significance and regards the documenting of it in this report is seen as sufficient mitigation.

**Site 3:** A large grave yard consisting of at least 500 graves. It contains different kinds of headstones and grave dressing – cement, stone, bricks and granite. Graves with dates seem to range between 1950 and 1970. The author gives two options related to this site: The first would be to fence the site and write a management plan for its preservation. The second option is to have the graves exhumed and the bodies reburied, if the graves cannot be avoided by the development.

**Site 4:** A grave yard consisting of at least 37 graves. All the graves have stone dressing and some also have stone headstones, the author states that none of these have any information. The author gives two options related to this site: The first would be to fence the site and write a management plan for its preservation. The second option is to have the graves exhumed and the bodies reburied, if the graves cannot be avoided by the development.

**Site 5:** A large industrial structure linked to the mining history of the area. The author states that it is not possible to determine its exact age and function. The author notes that the site has a low cultural significance and regards the documenting of it in this report is seen as sufficient mitigation.

**Site 6:** A large site consisting of residential structures that served as the compound for mine workers. The





author notes that most of the buildings are quite unique rondavel-like structures and that the site has a high cultural significance based on its uniqueness and historic and social value. It has a general local significance. The author recommends a Phase II study, aimed at the full documentation of the site.

**Site 7:** The residential area for the senior staff at the previous mine, consisting of the ruin of various houses and other structures. The author notes that the site has a low cultural significance and regards the documenting of it in this report is seen as sufficient mitigation.

**Site 8:** A recent historical building with an industrial purpose. The author notes that the site has a low cultural significance and regards the documenting of it in this report is seen as sufficient mitigation.

**Site 9:** An industrial building linked to the mining history. The author notes that the site has a low cultural significance and regards the documenting of it in this report is seen as sufficient mitigation.

**Site 10:** An industrial building linked to the mining history. The author notes that the site is highly deteriorated and that it has a low cultural significance and regards the documenting of it in this report is seen as sufficient mitigation.

For the two cemeteries (Sites 3 and 4), the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves Unit requires that the graves should be restored where these are dilapidated, protected and conserved in perpetuity. For this purpose, a proper fence must be built around them including entry gates to allow visits from relatives and family friends. The fence must be placed 2 meters away from the perimeter of the graves. No development is allowed within 15 meters from the fence line surrounding the graves. Alternatively, The SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves Unit requires that 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.

Where bedrock is to be affected, or river terraces and in potentially fossiliferous superficial deposits, the developer must ensure that a professional Palaeontological study is undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon palaeontological resources. If this is deemed unnecessary, a letter of recommendation for exemption from a professional Palaeontologist is needed. If the area is deemed sensitive, a full Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be required and if necessary a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary.

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





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Date: Friday November 16, 2012

Page No: 3

Please note that for Sites 1,2 and 5 - 10, decisions on Built Environment must be referred to the Gauteng Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (Ms Maphata Ramphele: [Maphata.Ramphele@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:Maphata.Ramphele@gauteng.gov.za), Mr Grant Botha: [grantb@gpg.gov.za](mailto:grantb@gpg.gov.za)), to whom this 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

Andrew Salomon  
Heritage Officer: Archaeology  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer  
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.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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