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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION:

**RESPONSE TO THE SAHRA FINAL COMMENT [SAHRIS CASE ID: 299] ON THE PHASE 1
ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – UTILIZATION OF EXISTING GRAVEL BORROW
PITS, CACADU DISTRICT, EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA**

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) and associated documentation for the abovementioned development refers, referenced as:

- Van Ryneveld, K. (Archaeomaps). 2012. *Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment – Utilization of Existing Gravel Borrow Pits, Cacadu District, Eastern Cape, South Africa; and*
- SAHRA Final Comment [Dated: 2013-01-17, SAHRIS Case ID: 299]

The SAHRA Final Comment states that: *'SAHRA APM Unit requires that: the three Stone Age occurrences identified by the archaeologist be described and recorded including extent of the sites, typology and relative density of the typology of the artefacts identified. After the report has been submitted to the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority, the sites can be destroyed without the developer having to apply for a destruction permit.'*

With reference to the abovementioned requirements, the following:

1. Identified Stone Age occurrences have been described and recorded in the Phase 1 AIA report, including basic occurrence descriptions with geo-referenced localities, as follows:
 - Borrow Pit TR43/1 Stone Age occurrence (MSA): See page 10 of the Phase 1 AIA report under the heading Borrow Pit TR43/1;
 - Borrow Pit MR407 Stone Age occurrence (MSA & LSA): See page 23 of the Phase 1 AIA report under the heading Borrow Pit MR407; and
 - Borrow Pit DR2006 Stone Age occurrence (MSA): See page 37 of the Phase 1 AIA report under the heading Borrow Pit DR2006.
2. Phase 1 surface survey was done across the proposed study site areas indicated on the relevant maps, as follows:
 - Borrow Pit TR43/1 Stone Age occurrence (MSA): See page 9 of the Phase 1 AIA report under the heading Borrow Pit TR43/1;
 - Borrow Pit MR407 Stone Age occurrence (MSA & LSA): See page 22 of the Phase 1 AIA report under the heading Borrow Pit MR407; and
 - Borrow Pit DR2006 Stone Age occurrence (MSA): See page 36 of the Phase 1 AIA report under the heading Borrow Pit DR2006.

Low density occurrences are known to continue often for vast areas on end; no attempt was made to identify actual boundaries of these low density occurrences for the following reasons:

- Occurrences extended beyond the study sites into neighbouring farm camps and properties, outside the scope of the ToR. In all cases occurrence extends can thus be recorded as larger than (>), implying that the indicated areas represent minimum occurrence sizes / extents.
3. Typology – MSA typology is characterized by a flake and blade technology, with typical types including primarily flakes (and also specialized flakes such as blades and convergent flakes) associated with cores and resultant knapping waste or *debitage*. MSA typology at Borrow Pit TR43/1, Borrow Pit MR407 and Borrow Pit DR2006 was primarily typified by flakes, mostly amorphous flakes. LSA typology includes as basic description microlithic and macrolithic assemblages. Assemblages comprise of a variety of flakes and scraper forms, cores and sometimes small blades and other formal tool types. The LSA artefacts associated with Borrow Pit MR407 includes a mix of microlithic and macrolithic types, all being flakes of non-specialized form. Low densities of artefacts do not allow a more in depth description of the typology of the deposits. Representative types has been photographically documented per identified occurrence; Borrow Pit TR43/1 – page 11, Figure 13, image 8; Borrow Pit MR407 – page 24, Figure 13, image 8 and Borrow Pit DR2006 – page 38, Figure 22, image 4.
4. Artefact densities has been described as artefact ratios, or the average number of artefacts per square meter (artefacts: m²) including the Borrow Pit TR43/1 Stone Age occurrence as 2:1, the Borrow Pit MR407 Stone Age occurrence as 3-5:1 and the artefact density or ratio at the Borrow Pit DR2006 occurrence has been described as too low to ascribe an artefact ratio. Relative density of the typology of artefacts at each occurrence would be a direct factor of the artefact ratio and the identified typology (MSA or MSA & LSA).

The report has been submitted to the EC PHRA at the time of submission to SAHRA (2013-05-11)

I trust the above further explains and meets the SAHRA requirements as per the relevant SAHRA Final Comment.

Yours faithfully,



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