

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION (WITH CONDITIONS) FOR THE EXEMPTION OF A FULL PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED EXTENSIONS OF THE CONTAINER BERTH AND CONSTRUCTION OF AN ADMINISTRATION CRAFT BASIN AT THE PORT OF NGQURA (COEGA), EASTERN CAPE

Prepared for: CSIR

P O Box 320
Stellenbosch
7599
Tel: 27-21-888 2486
Fax: 27-21- 888 2693
email: plochner@csir.co.za

Compiled by: Dr Johan Binneman

Department of Archaeology
Albany museum
Somerset Street
Grahamstown
6139
Tel.: 046 6222312
Fax: 046 6222398
Email: J.Binneman@ru.ac.za

Date: 2 April 2007

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION (WITH CONDITIONS) FOR EXEMPTION OF A FULL PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Status of the property

The proposed areas for development was visited on 26 March 2007. Both areas under discussion were previously exposed to Phase 1 and a Phase 2 Archaeological Impact Assessments (Binneman and Webley1997; Binneman 1999). Since then the areas were exposed to intensive development. A large part of the container terminal site, is seaward of the high water mark and is largely constructed from material dredged from the sea and deposited on this site (see attached photographs). The admin craft basin site is inside the recently constructed port breakwater in an area near the mouth of the Coega River that has undergone significant modification during the construction of the port. It is highly unlikely that any archaeological heritage remains of any value will be found *in situ* or of any contextual value in any of these two areas.

Conditions

Although it is unlikely that any archaeological heritage remains of any value will be found *in situ* or of

Appendix I : Archaeological and palaeontological heritage reviews

any contextual value, there is always a possibility that human remains and/or other archaeological and historical material may be uncovered during the development. Such material must be reported to the nearest museum, archaeologist or to the South African Heritage Resources Agency if exposed (see general remarks and conditions below).

Letter of recommendation

It is recommended that the proposed extensions of the container berth and construction of an administration craft basin at the port of Ngqura (Coega), Eastern Cape, is exempted from a full Phase 1 archaeological heritage impact assessment. The proposed area for development is of very low cultural sensitivity and it is believed that it is unlikely that any archaeological heritage remains will be found on the property.

References

- Binneman, J. & Webley, L. 1997. Coega industrial development zone: cultural sensitivity report. Unpublished report prepared for Portnet.
- Binneman, J. 1999. Coega Industrial Development Zone: cultural sensitivity Phase 2 report. Unpublished report prepared for Portnet.

Note: This letter of recommendation **only** exempt the proposed development from a full Phase 1 archaeological heritage impact assessment, but **not** for other heritage impact assessments.

It must also be clear that this letter of recommendation for exemption of a full Phase 1 archaeological heritage impact assessment will be assessed by the relevant heritage resources authority. The final decision rests with the heritage resources authority, which should give a permit or a formal letter of permission for the destruction of any cultural sites.

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999, section 35) requires a full Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in order that all heritage resources, that is, all places or objects of aesthetics, architectural, historic, scientific, social, spiritual linguistic or technological value or significance are protected. Thus any assessment should make provision for the protection of all these heritage components, including archaeology, shipwrecks, battlefields, graves, and structures older than 60 years, living heritage, historical settlements, landscapes, geological sites, palaeontological sites and objects

GENERAL REMARKS AND CONDITIONS

It must be emphasised that this letter of recommendation for exemption of a full Phase 1 archaeological heritage impact assessment is based on the visibility of archaeological sites/material and may not therefore, reflect the true state of affairs. Sites and material may be covered by soil and vegetation and will only be located once this has been removed. In the unlikely event of such finds being uncovered, (during any phase of construction work), archaeologists must be informed immediately so that they can investigate the importance of the sites and excavate or collect material before it is destroyed (see attached list of possible archaeological sites and material). The *onus* is on the developer to ensure that this agreement is honoured in accordance with the National Heritage Act No. 25 of 1999.