

Tel: (015) 2257075
083 770 2131
Fax: 086 670 9130
E-Mail: hr19@pixie.co.za



P.O Box 1600
POLOKWANE
0 7 0 0

SRK Consulting
P O Box 55291
Northlands
2116

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Attention: Jeannine Nienaber

**DER BROCHEN: HELENA TAILINGS DAM – AN OVERVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF
ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE SURVEYS CONDUCTED ON THE FARM HELENA 6 KT**

The farm Helena has been well covered by archaeological surveys, which resulted in the under-mentioned unpublished reports:

1. Huffman, T.N. & Schoeman, M.H. 2002. *Archaeological Assessment of the Der Brochen Project, Mpumalanga*. Archaeological Resources Management (ARM). School of Geography, Archaeology and Environmental Studies. University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.
2. Roodt, F. January 2003. *Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment*. Der Brochen Tailings Dams: Farms: Helena and St. George, Mpumalanga Province.
3. Roodt, F. May 2003. *Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment*. Der Brochen Project: Helena Complex: Trial Mining Phase, Mpumalanga Province.

The area where the Tailings Dam is to be placed was covered by ARM; Wits and they recorded sites 10 – 13 on this particular terrain (page 4 of Report).

The remains of recent Historic homesteads extend along the upper slopes on the western boundary of the Helena complex. Low lapa walls, maize grindstones, metal and Pedi pottery are common (Site 6: 25° 01' 15.5"S 30° 06' 44.5"E; Site 7: 25° 01' 13.7"S 30° 06' 40.6"E; Site 9: 25° 01' 04"S 30° 06' 45.4"E; Site 10: 25° 00' 59.7"S 30° 06' 47"E; Site 11: 25° 06' 43.1"S 30° 00' 53.8"E; and Site 12: 25° 06' 45".5 30° 00' 43.5" E). One stone-walled kraal (Site 8: 25° 01' 10.7"S 30° 06' 42.9"E) was part of one complex, and there was a considerable amount of burnt daga at another (Site 13: 25° 00' 58" to 56"S 30° 06 47.1E).

The sites contain recent historical homestead remains (probably farm worker's dwellings) and ARM; Wits stated that the remains have low significance. We concur with this assessment, but It must, however, be noted that unmarked graves or burials may occur at the historical homestead sites recorded by ARM; Wits, and that human remains may be exposed during earthworks.

No other significant heritage resources were noted in the Tailings Dam area during any of the surveys and **no management measures** are recommended for the project, but should important remains, such as human burials, be encountered during earthwork operation on any part of the development, work should cease in that area, and archaeologists or the South

African Heritage Resources Agency should be notified. The Der Brochen Mine staff have undergone an archaeological training and awareness programme. It consisted of an introduction to the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999), a lecture on heritage remains from the Stone Age, Iron Age to recent historical remains. The staff had hands-on demonstrations of heritage objects as well as a field exercise. We are thus confident that they will be able to identify significant heritage remains during the course of their work.

It has been reported that someone claims that an ancestral grave occurs within the Tailings Dam area. It is possible that a grave may have been overlooked during the surveys. This claim must therefore be taken seriously and the claimant must be invited to show the Mine Management or an archaeologist the location of the alleged grave. Mitigation for the exhumation, and re-burial of the remains must be conducted in line with the prescribed legal procedures. Should the grave be older than 60 years, a permit must also be acquired from SAHRA.

With these provisions, we have no objection with regard to the development.

Yours faithfully



FRANS ROODT (*BA Hons, MA Archaeology, Post Grad. Dipl. Museology; UP*)
Principal Investigator for R & R Cultural Resource Consultants

Impact assessment on historical remains

Period/type of cultural heritage	Intensity/severity of impact	Probability of impact	Timing of impact	Duration of impact	Extent of impact	Significance of impact prior to mitigation	Significance of impact with mitigation
Recent Historical	>90%	>90%	Construction	Permanent/irreversible	On site	Low	Low
