



SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY
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FOR ATTENTION: SAHRA Mpumalanga OR PHRA: Mpumalanga

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:

SAHRA File No: 9-2-204-0004

Date Received: 25 Aug 2008

Date of Comment: 4 Sept 2008

Sent to Peer Review:

Date to Peer Review:

SAHRA Contact Person: Ms Roxsanne Dyssell

DME Ref No:

REVIEW COMMENT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

BY ARCHAEOLOGY/PALAEONTOLOGY UNIT OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

South Africa has a unique and non-renewable archaeological and palaeontological heritage. Archaeological and palaeontological sites are protected in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999) and may not be disturbed without a permit. Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIAs) and Palaeontological Impact Assessments (PIAs) identify and assess the significance of the sites, assess the potential impact of developments upon such sites, and make recommendations concerning mitigation and management of these sites. On the basis of satisfactory specialist reports SAHRA or the relevant heritage resources agency can assess whether or not it has objection to a development and indicate the conditions upon which such development might proceed and assess whether or not to issue permission to destroy such sites.

AIAs and PIAs often form part of the heritage component of an Environmental Impact Assessment or Environmental Management Plan. They may also form part of a Heritage Impact Assessment called for in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act No. 25, 1999. They may have other origins. In any event they should comply with basic minimum standards of reporting as indicated in SAHRA Regulations and Guidelines.

This form provides review comment from the Archaeologist of the relevant heritage resources authority for use by Heritage Managers, for example, when informing authorities that have applied to SAHRA for comment and for inclusion in documentation sent to environmental authorities. It may be used in conjunction with Form B, which provides relevant peer review comment.

- A. PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY: **MPUMALANGA PROVINCE/Mr Benjamin Moduko**
- B. SAHRA PROVINCIAL MANAGER : **MPUMALANGA PROVINCE : Mrs Nkosazana Machete**
- C. AUTHOR(S) OF REPORT: **Fourie W.**
- D. ARCHAEOLOGY CONTRACT GROUP: **Professional Grave Solutions – Heritage Unit**
- E. CONTACT DETAILS: **P.O. Box 32542, Totiusdal, 0134, Tel: 012 332 5305, Fax: 0866 580199, E-mail: wouter@matakoma.co.za**
- F. DATE OF REPORT: **July 2008**
- G. TITLE OF REPORT: **AIA Northern Coal Portion 15 and 16 of the Farm Weltevreden 381 JT, Belfast, Mpumalanga**
- H. Please circle as relevant: Archaeological component of **EIA / EMP / HIA / CMP Other (Specify)**
- I. REPORT COMMISSIONED BY (CONSULTANT OR DEVELOPER): **Digby Wells and Associates, Ms. Marike Fourie**
- J. CONTACT DETAILS: **Digby Wells and Associates, P/Bag X 10046, Randburg, 2125, tel: 011 789 9495, fax: 011 504 1440, email: marike@digbywells.co.za**
- K. COMMENTS:

Please see comment on next page.....

REVIEW COMMENT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Fourie, W
July 2008, Received 25 Aug 2008

AIA Northern Coal Portion 15 and 16 of the Farm Weltevreden 381 JT, Belfast, Mpumalanga

PGS Heritage Unit was contracted by Digby Wells & Associates to conduct a Heritage Scoping Study for the Environmental Assessment for the proposed Northern Coal Weltevreden Project Portions 15 and 16 of the farm Weltevreden 381 JT, Belfast, Mpumalanga. The operation will be the opencast mining, there will be no processing plant on site and coal will be transported off site.

The study area is currently utilised for grazing and planting. Large sections of the area are currently covered by mealies. No evidence of cultural remains was found on site.

SAHRA RECOMMENDATIONS

As there is apparently no evidence of any significant archaeological material in this area, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorite Unit has no objection to the development (in terms of the archaeological component of the heritage resources) on condition that, if any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources are found during development, construction or mining, SAHRA or an archaeologist must be alerted immediately.

Where bedrock is to be affected, or where there are coastal sediments, or marine or river terraces and in potentially fossiliferous superficial deposits, the developer must ensure that a professional Palaeontological Desk Top 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 (see attached list of accredited Palaeontologists).

Decisions on Built Environment (e.g. structures over 60 years) and Cultural Landscapes must be made by the SAHRA Mpumalanga Provincial Office (Mrs. Nkosazana Machete: nmachete@mp.sahra.org.za) / and the Mpumalanga Provincial Heritage Authority (Mr Benjamin Moduka bmoduka@nel.mpu.gov.za , ph: 013 766 5196) to whom this Archaeological Review Comment will be copied.

SIGNATURE OF ARCHAEOLOGIST PROCESSING REPORT: 

EMAIL: rdyssel@sahra.org.za

SIGNATURE OF SAHRA HEAD ARCHAEOLOGIST:

EMAIL: mleslie@sahra.org.za

NAME OF HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY: SAHRA 

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COMMENT (ABOVE OR APPENDED) CONSTITUTES THE COMMENT OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY ARCHAEOLOGIST AND THAT ANY DEVELOPMENT THAT INVOLVES DESTRUCTION OF ANY ARCHAEOLOGICAL/PALAEONTOLOGICAL SITE IS STILL SUBJECT TO A PERMIT/PERMISSION FOR DESTRUCTION OF SUCH SITE GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPER BY THE RELEVANT HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALAEONTOLOGICAL PERMIT COMMITTEE (THIS WILL BE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE PHASE 2 OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL/PALAEONTOLOGICAL MITIGATION AS NECESSARY). THIS REPORT MAY BE TAKEN ONLY AS APPROVAL, IN PRINCIPLE, IN TERMS OF SECTION 35 OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT. THE PROVINCIAL MANAGER OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY MUST ADVISE AS TO APPROVAL IN TERMS OF HERITAGE ISSUES ENCOMPASSED BY OTHER ASPECTS OF THE LEGISLATION, SUCH AS ISSUES OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (STRUCTURES (E.G. FARM HOUSES), OVER 60 YEARS), INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS OR OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES AS THIS IS NOT WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGIST.

PLEASE NOTE THAT SAHRA IS NOW RESPONSIBLE FOR GRADE I HERITAGE RESOURCES (AND EXPORT) AND THE PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GRADE II AND GRADE III HERITAGE RESOURCES, EXCEPT WHERE THERE IS AN AGENCY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY.