



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency - Pretoria Office | 432 Paul Kruger Street | Pretoria

SITE INSPECTION REPORT: BY WEARNE QUARRY MULDRSDRIFT

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HERITAGE PROTECTION UNIT

16 May 2017

APP Indicator Number: 2.1





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Introduction

Section 5 (1)(a) of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) states that *“Heritage resources have lasting value in their own right and provide evidence of the origins of the South African society and as they are valuable, finite, non-renewable and irreplaceable they must be carefully managed to ensure their survival”*.

On the 9th of May 2017, South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Heritage Protection Unit received an email concerning the discovery of graves 3 years ago at Wearne Quarry in Muldersdrift in Gauteng province. They want SAHRA to advice on what needs to be done to protect the graves. SAHRA conducted an inspection at the heritage sites on the 16 May 2017.

Purpose of the site visit

The site visit was conducted as part of the reactive site inspection in the Gauteng Province (Muldersdrift). The main objective of the inspection was to inspect the state of the graves and give an advice of how the quarry mine can protect the graves. This was done to ensure that the authority responsible is in compliance with section 5 of the NHRA which states that *“Heritage Resources contribute significantly to research, education and tourism and they must be developed and presented for these purposes in a way that ensures dignity and respect for cultural values”*

Background

On the 16 May 2017, SAHRA Heritage Protection Unit officials together with Mr Piet Vorster the Wearne Quarry manager conducted an inspection at the mine. After the mine requested SAHRA to go and conduct an inspection.



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Significance of the Site

The site is a quarry where there are mining crushed stones construction sand. The activities on the mine contribute to the employment of South African and people from other countries. Its significance is more on economic growth rather heritage. Mr Piet Vorster discovered the graves and informed the Department Mineral Resources (DMR) and the department asked the mine to inform SAHRA.

Picture 1 & 2: Graves on site



Assessment

We had a meeting first with the mine manager and he told us that the graves were discovered 3 years ago and they are 5 graves in one area and 1 grave in the middle of the water and no one can access the grave as it is surrounded by water. When SAHRA official was conducting the inspection find out the grave that is not accessible was on the top of the mountain and during mining they have discovered the grave and was left where it was. The



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mine continued mining around it as the result of the water from the wetland and rain water the area is flooded with water and no one can access the grave because of water.

The other graves on the different site of the mining where the mine is no more mining, the manager said they have 5 graves during inspection the SAHRA official discovery 4 more graves. The graves are still in good condition but the mine need to fence the graves and clean the areas and erect signage to indicate the grave site. The mine had a problem of erecting a fence as they indicated that it will be stolen. SAHRA official suggested that the mine can use trees branches as a fence.

Conclusion

The grave site needs to be fenced, cleaned and put a signage indicating a burial site. The Wearne Quarry Mine needs to clean the burial site regularly for maintaining purposes.

Manager: Nkosazana Machete

Executive Officer:

Date:

Date: