

NATIONAL MONUMENTS COUNCIL

RAADVIRNASIONALE GEDENKWAARDIGHEDE



Ref./Verwys:

Your Ref.:

U Verwys.: 9/2/072/3

Enquiries / Navrae:

Western Cape
Mrs P Riley

P E R M I T

Issued under Section 12 (4) of the National Monuments Act, No 28 of 1969 as amended.

Approval in principle is hereby given to:

Robert Charles Hack (Reg owner Albertus Johannes Bester)

of: P O Box 29 Sauer 7236

for: Rezoning to subdivisional area

at: Portion 1 of farm BANGHOEK No 87
and Portion 2 (Matjesfontein) of the farm t'VOETPAD No 82
Piketberg District

in accordance with: Application dated 6 August 1990 and
documentation submitted to the National Monuments Council.

The following condition applies:

That the applicant agrees to follow the recommendations in the
attached report from Dr Janette Deacon, NMC archaeologist, with
respect to the rock paintings on the site.

This permit is valid for: one year until 28 August 1991

for Director

Date: 28 August 1990

Place: Cape Town

The issue of this permit does not exonerate the applicant from
obtaining approval from the Local Authority or any other
authority for the proposed work.

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CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF ROCK PAINTINGS AT BANGHOEK
FILE NO. 9/2/072/3 DATE: 17 August 1990
TO: Mrs Pat Riley FROM: Dr J Deacon

The application for the rezoning of Banghoek Farm, Piketberg, refers.

Rock paintings are known on the property and they are marked on the route map for visitors. All rock paintings are protected in terms of the National Monuments Act (Act No. 28 of 1969, as amended) and anyone found damaging them is liable for prosecution. There is no known way to preserve rock paintings and research on the subject has been conducted world-wide without a suitable solution having been found. It has been conclusively demonstrated that the single most damaging factor is the action of people who touch, rub, wet and scribble over the paintings, make fires in the rock shelters or attempt to chop paintings off the rocks. The only known antidote is to keep people away from them, or to limit access strictly to those visitors who are accompanied by a trained guide. Educational aids such as noticeboards and pamphlets help, but are not foolproof. Once a rock painting is damaged or desecrated, there is nothing that will bring it back. It is literally gone forever. It is the responsibility of the National Monuments Council to see that this does not happen in the case of Banghoek.

The National Monuments Council is not against the opening of rock art sites to the public, but it must be done with the greatest care and under professional guidance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The developers of Banghoek should commission a survey of the rock paintings on the property to identify and record what is there. This could be done by the archaeology contracts office at the universities of Cape Town or Stellenbosch or through the NMC.
2. The NMC would then draw up management proposals for the rock art and identify which sites may be used for visitors and which should not. The NMC would also monitor the sites from time to time to check on vandalism and natural deterioration.
3. Information boards must be erected in consultation with the NMC to indicate to visitors where to go to see rock paintings, how they should be treated, and what they may mean.
4. If any of the rock painting sites is of particular importance, it may be necessary to appoint a guide or site guardian.