



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Ragna Redelstorff  
Tel: +27 (0)21 202 8651  
Email: rredelstorff@sahra.org.za  
CaseID: 12860

Date: Friday November 09, 2018  
Page No: 1

## Final Comment

### In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: White Rivers Exploration (Pty) Ltd

**White Rivers Exploration submitted a Prospecting Right and an Environmental Authorisation application to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) Free State Regional Office. The application for the Prospecting Right was accepted by the DMR Free State Regional Office on the 25th June 2018. If the application is granted, White Rivers Exploration will be enabled to ascertain if economically viable mineral deposits exist within the application area. The minerals of interest include: gold, silver, coal, cobalt, copper, diamond (alluvial), iron, manganese, molybdenum, nickel, lead, platinum group metals, rare earths, sulphur, uranium, tungsten and zinc. The proposed prospecting programme will be completed within five (5) years.**

The proposed project entails a prospecting right application for gold, silver, coal, cobalt, copper, diamond (alluvial), iron, manganese, molybdenum, nickel, lead, platinum group metals, rare earths, sulphur, uranium, tungsten and zinc on 90 farm portions (18623.73 hectares) within the Vredefort Magisterial district, near Parys, Free State Province. Proposed invasive activities will include vegetation clearing and trenching of two trenches (phase 4). In an interim comment dated 12 September 2018 SAHRA requested a desktop Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) to be submitted. After the locations of trenches have been identified (after phase 3) and before trenching-related activities including vegetation clearing commences (before phase 4) a full field-based HIA and PIA must be conducted for the identified trenching and vegetation clearing locations by a professional archaeologist and palaeontologist and submitted to SAHRA for comment. The submitted draft BAR and EMP states that only two trenches (3x10x1.5m) will be excavated, which will be located on the farm Mimosa grove 491. As two proposed trench sites have been identified at this stage, a full phase 1 HIA and desktop PIA were submitted. In an interim comment from 27 September 2018, SAHRA asked for an amended PIA due to inconsistencies, which was subsequently submitted. The final BAR and EMP was also submitted.

*De Bruyn, C. 2018. Heritage Impact Assessment the Prospecting Right and Environmental Authorisation Application for Vredefort West situated in the Free State Province.*



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

The author identified the following sites within the proposed broader Vredefort West prospecting area:

- Mim Gro Cem-01: small cemetery containing 33 graves on the farm Mimosa Grove 491 located approximately 700 m to the north west of Trench 1 and falls just outside the 500 m zone of influence.
- Lindek Cem-01: small cemetery containing 32 graves on the farm Lindekfeesfontein 73 located approximately 2.4 km to the north west of Trench 1 and falls just outside the 500 m zone of influence.
- Rhebok Cem-01: 14 graves on the Rhebokfontein West 117 located approximately 21 km to the south of Trench 1.
- Site complex 01: Several collapsed Late Iron Age stone walls on the farm Rhebokfontein West 117 located approximately 19 km to the south of Trench 1.

The following identified sites fall outside the proposed broader Vredefort West prospecting area but within a 500 m of influence:

- Onreg Cem-01: 11 graves on the farm Onreg 1032 located approximately 21 km to the south of Trench 1.

Recommendations include:

- The cemeteries (Mim Gro Cem-01 and Lindek Cem-01) identified near the location of Trench 1 and 2 on the farms Mimosa Groove 491 and Lindekfeesfontein 73 should be fenced off from prospecting activities and a 10m buffer be established around each of the cemeteries. These areas should be considered as No-Go-Areas.
- Should the prospecting activities expand in the near future to include the farm Rhebokfontein West 117, the cemetery (Rhebok Cem-01) should also be fenced off from prospecting activities and a 10m buffer zone be established. This area will become a No-Go-Area, and mining and prospecting machinery and vehicles should avoid the area.
- Should the prospecting activities expand in the near future to include the farm Rhebokfontein West 117, a Phase II investigation of the stonewalls (Site Complex 01) on the Rhebokfontein West 117 should be conducted, where it is mapped, recorded and permit for alterations and demolition should be applied for in



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Ragna Redelstorff  
Tel: +27 (0)21 202 8651  
Email: [rredelstorff@sahra.org.za](mailto:rredelstorff@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 12860

Date: Friday November 09, 2018  
Page No: 3

terms of Section 34 of the NHRA, No. 25 of 1999 with the provincial heritage authority i.e. Free State Provincial Heritage Authority (FSPHRA).

- Should the prospecting activities expand in the near future a buffer zone should be established around Onreg Cem-01 on the farm Onreg 1032 and it should be marled as a No-Go-Area.

- The historical graves identified are rated as high/medium significance and are protected as a in terms of Section 36) of the NHRA, No. 25 of 1999. As such it is recommended that no machinery or site office associated with the proposed prospecting activities should be established near the graves.

- Some archaeological material, including artefacts and graves can be buried underground and as such, may not have been identified during the initial survey and site visits. In the case where the proposed development activities bring these materials to the surface, they should be treated as Chance Finds. Should such resources be unearthed it is recommended that, the prospecting activities be stopped immediately, and an archaeologist be contacted to conduct a site visits and make recommendations on the mitigation of the finds. SAHRA and NW-PHRA should also be informed immediately on such finds.

- The proposed development will not have impact on the heritage and archaeological resources in the broader Vredefort area.

*Bamford, M. 2018. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the Proposed Kroonstad South PWP, Free State Province, South Africa.*

The two trenches, identified to be excavated on the Farm Mimosa Grove 491, will impact on ancient non-fossiliferous rocks of the Witwatersrand Group (Government and Jeppestown Subgroups) in the central and east parts. A narrow section in the west occurs on sandstones and shales of the Vryheid Formation that could preserve fossil plants of the *Glossopteris* flora (early Permian).

Recommendations include:

There is a small chance that fossils may occur in the shales of the early Permian Vryheid Formation, so the Fossil Chance Find Protocol (Appendix A) should be added to the EMPr.



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Ragna Redelstorff  
Tel: +27 (0)21 202 8651  
Email: [rredelstorff@sahra.org.za](mailto:rredelstorff@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 12860

Date: Friday November 09, 2018  
Page No: 4

### Final comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit reviewed the amended PIA and has no objections against the proposed excavation of two trenches. The recommendations in the HIA and PIA as well as the following conditions must be adhered to and must be incorporated into the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for implementation:

1. Buffer zones of at least 30m must be established around graves and archaeological sites.
2. Should any meteorites or objects of archaeological or palaeontological remains be found during construction activities, work must immediately stop in that area and the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) must be informed.
3. The ECO must inform the South African Heritage Recourse Agency (SAHRA) and contact an archaeologist and/or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the find, to assess the importance and rescue them if necessary (with the relevant SAHRA permit). No work may be resumed in this area without the permission from the ECO and SAHRA.
4. If the newly discovered heritage resource is considered significant a Phase 2 assessment may be required. A permit from the responsible heritage authority will be needed.
5. The Chance Finds Procedures must be included in the EMPr and Environmental Awareness Plan.
6. The project be granted Environmental Authorisation, SAHRA must be notified and all relevant documents submitted to the case file.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Ragna Redelstorff  
Tel: +27 (0)21 202 8651  
Email: [rredelstorff@sahra.org.za](mailto:rredelstorff@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 12860

Date: Friday November 09, 2018  
Page No: 5

---

Ragna Redelstorff  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

---

Phillip Hine  
Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

---

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/511577>

**Terms & Conditions:**

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.