



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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Date: Tuesday November 07, 2017
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CaseID: 10856

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Hendrik Johannes Fouchè
Brakpan Trust

Prospecting Right application of diamonds alluvial and diamonds general on the Remaining Extent of Portion 2 (Cypherfontein) and Portion 15 (on Avon – a Portion of Portion 2) of the Farm Maraetchesfontein 54, Registration Division HO, North West Province. The property is located approximately 10km North East from Schweizer-Reneke.

Milnex 189 CC has been appointed by the Brakpan Trust to conduct Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process for proposed a Prospecting Right application for proposed prospecting activities on the remaining extent of portion 2 (Cypherfontein) and portion 15 (On Avon – A portion of portion 2) of the farm Maraetchesfontein 54, near Schweizer- Reneke, North West Province. A draft Scoping Report has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the EIA Regulations 2014 for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended). A total area of 294.824 ha will be subjected to prospecting activities which will include 100 pits (3 m x 2 m x 5 m) and 60 trenches (20 m x 20 m x 2 m). Supporting infrastructure will include a processing plant, roads, stockpiling of topsoil, office and workshop.

The Scoping Report notes that the prospecting will not impact on heritage resources, however no Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) has been submitted as per section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

In an Interim Comment issued on the 2 May 2017, SAHRA requested that an HIA that must assess all types of heritage resources as defined in the NHRA and must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA.

Rossouw, L. 2017. Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment of the Remaining Extent of Portion 2 (Cypherfontein) and Portion 15 (On Avon – a Portion of Portion 2) of the farm Maraetchesfontein 54, near Schweizer Reneke, Northwest Province.

The study area is underlain by Precambrian lavas of the Allanridge Formation (Ventersdorp Supergroup) and has been degraded by previous farming and mining activities. No intact fossil material was identified as part of the foot survey. Three isolated Early Stone Age (ESA) handaxes were identified and rated as resources of low cultural significance. A historical building and two rock art engravings sites were identified near the western



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boundary of the proposed prospecting rights application area. These resources were rated as sites of local heritage significance. Historical mining activities were also noted within the proposed development area.

Recommendations provided in the report include that it is advised that the engraving sites are fenced off and protected by a 10 m wide no-go bufferzone.

In an Interim Comment issued on 29/09/2017, SAHRA requested that the historical mining activities be described, their significance rated and an impact assessment conducted.

A revised report was submitted to the case, rectifying the statement that "historical mining activities" were present rather that they were previous mining activities conducted within the past 20 years.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeological, Palaeontological and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objection to the development and supports the recommendations of the specialists as referred to above. The recommendations of the specialists and the following conditions apply to the development and must be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr):

- A 30 m no-go buffer zone must be adhered to around the identified engraving sites and historical farmstead. These sites must be demarcated during the prospecting phase and a management and monitoring procedure for these sites must be developed to be included in the EMPr;
- If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately. A professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA.
- Should 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.

NW12057PR - Prospecting Right application of diamonds alluvial and diamonds general on the farm Maraetchesfontein RE/2/54 & 15/54, Registration Division HO, North West Province.

Our Ref:



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Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
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/396908>
(, Ref: NW30/5/1/1/2/12057PR)

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.