

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 11828

Date: Monday February 12, 2018
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Final Comment

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

Attention: PAUL SEUN THUKGWI

Prospecting Right Application on the Farm No 42 Remainder of Portion 1 of the Farm Annex Vlegulandsput, Magisterial District of Prieska, Northern Cape. The application area is 1676.89 ha. The farm is situated straight east of the small town Prieska. The town lies +/- 45km to the west of the proposed prospecting area.

Wadala Mining and Consultants (Pty) Ltd were appointed by Paul Seun Thukgwi to conduct a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process for a proposed Prospecting Right application for Farm No 42 Remainder of Portion 1 of the Farm Annex Vlegulandsput, Magisterial District of Prieska, Northern Cape. A final EIA and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) have been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2014 EIA Regulations for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended). The proposed prospecting right application area will cover 1676.89 ha and include activities such as 10 km water pipeline (TBC), dams, diesel storage area, haul roads and lengthening of such roads, 20 pits (2 m x 1 m x 0.5-5 m deep), 20 trenches (200 m x 100 m x 0.5-5 m deep), and stockpiles. Associated infrastructure will include temporary workshop facilities, storage facilities, concrete bund walls and diesel depots, ablution facilities, topsoil stockpiles and overburden stockpiles.

Archaeological and Heritage Services Africa (Pty) Ltd (AHSA) was appointed to provide heritage input into the S&EIA.

Matenga, E. 2017. Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment (Including Palaeontological Assessment) requested in terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25/1999) For the Proposed Mine Prospecting on the Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the Farm Viegulands Put 42, Prieska District, Northern Cape Province.

A total of 18 heritage resources were identified as part of the HIA which include 14 Stone Age sites of medium B significance, one Early Stone Age (ESA) handaxe of medium A significance, a homestead consisting of features such as a swimming pool, stone-walled livestock enclosure, shed with Cape Dutch style gables (Medium A significance) and one burial consisting of two graves of high significance.



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Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The hand axe may be worth collecting;
- The stone structures are worthy of preservation;
- Graves are sacred and must be protected.

Chikumbirike, J. 2017. Palaeontological Assessment (Desktop) requested in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act No 25/1999 for Proposed Prospecting on the Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the Farm Annex Viegulands Put 42, Near Prieska, Siyathemba Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province.

The proposed prospecting area is underlain by formations of the Dwyka Group and the Mbizane Formation, and the Kalahari Group such as the Mokalanen Formation, the Obobogorop Formation and the Gordonia Formation aeolian sands. Fossils such as plant root casts and insect burrows, land snails, tortoise carapaces and ostrich eggshell are commonly found in these formations. The Dwyka bedrock is mantled by calcrete, which is further covered by the Gordonia sands.

The sensitivity of the Dwyka formation is moderate, while the sensitivity of the Kalahari formations is low and the overall impact of the proposed development on palaeontological resources is expected to be minimal.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- A Standard Fossil Finds Procedure must be incorporated into the EMP. The Heritage Western Cape (HWC) FFP has been appended to the report;
- The ECO must put in place a contingency plan to rescue chance finds and where possible preserve them in situ. However, exposed fossil bones, unless already lying in the excavated spoil, must not be retrieved by a worker or ECO. All work must cease and the ECO must inform SAHRA and a professional palaeontologist, who will then decide if avoidance or mitigation are preferred. Only a professional palaeontologist may excavate uncovered fossils with a valid mitigation permit from SAHRA.

In an Interim Comment issued on 27/11/2017, SAHRA requested that the recommendations of the Palaeontological Report with regards to the HWC FFP must be revised as the project is located in the Northern Cape Province. A fossil finds procedure must address the conditions specific to the geological formation(s) that will be affected by the development.

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Pether, J. 2018. Updated Palaeontological Assessment with Revised Fossil Finds Procedure for the EMP: Proposed Prospecting on the Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the Farm Annex Viegulands Put 42, near Prieska, Siyathemba Local Municipality, Prieska Magisterial District, Northern Cape Province.

The revised PIA found that the development is underlain by sediments of the Dwyka Group (Karoo Supergroup) with valley and inlet deposits from the Mbizane Formation which are known to contain trace fossils, plant fragments and petrified wood. Calcretes formed within overlying superficial deposits that mantle the majority of the Dwyka Group sediments and can be broadly correlated to the Mokalanen Formation (Kalahari Group; eastern portion of study area) and Gordonian Formation (Kalahari Group; central portion of study area). The Mokalanen Formation calcretes are known to contain fossilized burrows, land snails, tortoise carapaces, ostrich eggshell and bone. The Quaternary Gordonian Formation aeolian sands may contain trace fossils and burrow fossils with fossilised bone caches.

All of the above formations' sensitivity is found to be low due to the poor preservation conditions. The pans and their margins have a high sensitivity for both palaeontological and archaeological remains and may contain fossils of the micro-organisms that would have inhabited them.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- It is recommended that a requirement to be alert for possible fossil materials and buried archaeological material be included in the EMP for the proposed prospecting applications;
- A Fossil Finds Procedure has been included in the report.

Final Comment

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

- The identified heritage sites of medium A to high significance (handaxe, farmstead and burial grounds) must be avoided with a 30 m no-go buffer zone. A Heritage Management Plan (HMP) must be developed and implemented as part of the EMP for the in-situ management of the heritage resources;
- Should it not be possible to avoid the handaxe, a permit in terms of section 35 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) and Chapter II and IV of the 2000 NHRA Regulations must be applied for the collection of the artefact;
- Should it not be possible to avoid the farmstead werf, a permit in terms of section 34 of the NHRA and

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Chapter II and III of the 2000 NHRA Regulations must be applied for from the Northern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority for mitigation if the werf is older than 60 years and younger than 100. If the werf is older than 100 years, then a permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA and Chapter II and IV of the 2000 NHRA Regulations must be applied for from SAHRA;

- Should it not be possible to avoid the burial grounds, a consultation process in terms of section 36 of the NHRA and the 2000 NHRA Regulations Chapter XI must be conducted. If grave relocation is found feasible, a permit in terms of section 36 of the NHRA and Chapter II and IX must be applied for. If a permit is issued by SAHRA for this purpose, the site may be mitigated;
- If grave relocation is not found feasible, the in-situ management of the burial ground must be incorporated into the above mentioned HMP;
- As the Final EIA/EMPr has been completed, and SAHRAs comments not incorporated as part of the submission to the Competent Authority for decision making, this comment must be forwarded directly to the Competent Authority for their consideration as per section 38(8) of the NHRA. Proof of this submission must be provided to SAHRA;
- 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 and Prospecting Right, 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

Natasha Higgitt

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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/409013>
(DMR - NC, Ref: (NC) 30/5/1/1/2/11639 PR)

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.