

# Prospecting Right Application on the Farm No 42 Remainder of Portion 1 of the Farm Annex Vlegulandsput, Magisterial District of Prieska, Northern Cape

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 11828

Date: Monday November 27, 2017  
Page No: 1

## Interim Comment

**In terms of Section 38 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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Page No: 2

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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 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.

## Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit does not accept the recommendations of the Palaeontological Report with regards to the HWC FFP 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

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be affected by the development.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above.

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

Yours faithfully

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Natasha Higgitt  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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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)