



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
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CaseID: 12328

Date: Friday September 21, 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: Bêrend van Deventer
Goldipro (Pty) Ltd

Goldipro (Pty) Ltd has applied for a Prospecting Right over Portions 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Farm Hedley Plains A 64, Prieska District, Northern Cape Province. The prospecting activities will be conducted in phases over a 5 year period and will include percussion drilling, core drilling and trenching.

G & A Heritage was appointed by Goldipro (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for proposed Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application and Prospecting Rights Application on portion 3 of the farm Hedley Plains A 64 Portions 2-5, near Copperton in the Prieska District, Northern Cape Province. The HIA has been conducted as per section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as part of the EA Application process 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). During Phase 5, 7 & 9, drill samples will be collected in one meter intervals. During phase 4, forty boreholes are planned, twenty boreholes are planned for phase 6, and ten trenches (2 m x 1 m x 15 m) are planned for phase 8.

Gaigher, S. 2018. Heritage Impact Assessment Scoping Report for the Prospecting Rights Application Boreholes and Trenches: Hedley Plains A 64 Portion 2 – 5 near Copperton in the Northern Cape Province.

The HIA references Palaeontological reports written in 2011 and 2015, noting that the area is underlain by Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks that do not contain fossils. The overlying glacially related sediments of the Dwyka Group are sparsely fossiliferous with occasional stromatolites.

Each borehole and trench were surveyed and a total of 4 heritage sites containing high density surface scatters of Stone Age lithics, one possible grave site, and one historical homestead and outbuildings. None of the identified heritage sites will be directly impacted by the proposed prospecting activities.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Chance Finds Protocols must be developed for any unmarked burial sites that may be encountered during the course of the development;



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- Should the area be designated for mining rights application, a full heritage impact assessment process of the whole property needs to be undertaken.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 04/04/2018, SAHRA requested that a Palaeontological Desktop Assessment be conducted by a qualified palaeontologist for the proposed development as it is located within an area of high and moderate Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the PalaeoSensitivity map on SAHRIS. Additionally, the EIA documents and their respective appendices must be uploaded to the case so that an informed comment can be issued.

Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, a Palaeontological study has been submitted, along with the EIA documents.

Almond, J. 2018. Recommended Exemption from further Palaeontological Studies: Prospecting Rights Application for farm Hedley Plains A64 Portions 2, 3,4 and 5 near Copperton, Northern Cape Province.

The proposed development footprint is underlain by unfossiliferous Precambrian metamorphic rocks which are overlain by patches of glacial sediments of the Dwyka Groups that may contain reworked stromatolites. Quaternary Gordonia Formation aeolian sands cover the majority of the area and may contain root casts, termitaria, ostrich eggshells and land snail shells, freshwater shells and other microfossils. The impact of the development on fossil heritage will be low. Recommendations provided in the report includes a Fossil Finds Procedure that is to be followed should any palaeontological material is uncovered.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit and the Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit do not have any objections to the proposed development and supports the recommendations of the specialists. The recommendations of the specialists and the following conditions must be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr):

- A 30 m no-go bufferzone must be maintained around all identified heritage sites;
- As the BAR has been finalised without the inclusion of this comment from SAHRA, this comment must be forwarded directly to the competent authority for their consideration as per section 38(8) of the NHRA. Proof of the delivery and receipt thereof must be submitted 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



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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.

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/488853>



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(DMR - NC, Ref: NC 30/5/1/1/2/11972 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.