

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
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
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CaseID: 15706

Date: Monday May 10, 2021
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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: Sishen Iron Ore Company (Pty) Ltd

Private Bag X 506
KATHU
8446

Sishen Iron Ore Company (Pty) Ltd proposes to develop Farm Marsh Hydroponics Systems Project. The total area of application is approximately 35 hectares in size. Comment is invited from the SAHRA.

Thaya Trading Enterprise CC has been appointed by Sishen Iron Ore Company (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application process for the proposed Lusern and Hydroponics Systems Project on the Farm Marsh 467, near Kathu, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed infrastructure will include the clearance of 35 ha of natural vegetation, solar facility covering over 1 ha, water pipelines, powerline, expansion of existing canals, hydroponics system, and extension of roads

The DSR notes that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Palaeontological Desktop Assessment will be conducted as part of the EIA phase (page 37 of the DSR).

In an Interim Comment issued on the 19/11/2020, SAHRA noted the pending HIA and provided guidance for the compilation of the reports. Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, an HIA and PIA have been submitted for review along with the draft EIA (11/04/2021).

Bamford, M. 2021. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Agricultural development on Farm Marsh 467, northeast of Kathu, Kuruman District, Northern Cape Province.

The proposed development area is underlain by Tertiary limestone that is potentially fossiliferous, however no palaeo-spring or palaeo-pan sites were evident from satellite imagery. A Fossil Chance Finds Procedure is recommended and is provided in the report.

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Matenga, E. 2021. Heritage Impact Assessment in Terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25/1999) for the proposed Agricultural Development (Lusern & Hydroponics Systems Project) on the Remaining Extent of the Farm Marsh near Kathu, Northern Cape.

A total of nine (9) heritage resources were identified that include surface scatters of Middle Stone Age lithics of medium B significance rating. One pan was noted to be present outside of the project area and will not be impacted. It is noted that the pan is named Kathu pan in the report, however, this pan does not form part of the Grade 1 Kathu Pan sites. A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be followed.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final EIA and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No further additional specific conditions are provided for the development;
- 38(4)c(i) – 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 as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – 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 as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to

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- permits issued by SAHRA;
- The Final EIA and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
 - The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/543884>
(DENC, Ref:)

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.

**FARM MARSH HYDROPONICS SYSTEMS PROJECT, JOHN TAOLO GAETSEWE,
NORTHERN CAPE**

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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.