

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 16866

Date: Friday August 13, 2021  
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## **Interim Comment**

**In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

Attention: Sishen Iron Ore Company (Pty) Ltd - Geoscience

**Sishen Iron Ore Company (Pty) Ltd (“SIOC”) proposes to construct a regional geological camp on the Remaining Extent (RE) of the Farm Demaneng 546. The proposed geological camp and associated infrastructure will be located on the Farm Demaneng 546 in the Northern Cape Province (refer to Figure 1 and Appendix A). The nearest residential centre to the facility is the town of Kathu which is located approximately 15km to the north of the site in the Gamagara Local Municipality. An application for a Water Use Licence for the abstraction of groundwater in terms of section 21 (a) of the National Water Act, 1998 (“NWA”) has also been submitted to the Department of Water and Sanitation (“DWS”). The application has been provided with the reference number “WU20708”. Proof of submission is provided in Appendix J. The geological camp will serve as the regional administration centre for prospecting activities undertaken by SIOC in the Northern Cape. The intention is to centralise all the SIOC geological activities supporting Sishen and Kolomela Mines, but also all prospecting projects within the Northern Cape. The farm Demaneng 546 was primarily selected based on the following:**

- The property is currently owned by SIOC;
- The site is centrally located within relatively close proximity to all SIOC prospecting and mining based activities; and
- The disturbed nature of the selected area has been largely affected by historic anthropogenic activities. The site will consist of administrative offices, sheds for the storage, sampling and processing of geological core material, a workshop, wash bay and parking areas. It should however be noted that no physical prospecting activities is planned on the farm Demaneng 546.

EXM Environmental Science has been appointed by Sishen Iron Ore Company (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed construction of a Geological Camp on the farm Demaneng 546 near Kathu, Northern Cape Province (DENC REF: NC/BA/11/JTG/GAM/KAT1/2021).

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) Report has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include the construction of administrative offices, sheds for storage, sampling and processing of geological material, a workshop, wash bay and parking area, water and sewage infrastructure, electrical infrastructure, wireless communication tower, hazardous substances and waste storage areas, access roads and perimeter fence.

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Banzai Environmental (Pty) Ltd PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd and were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

*Butler, E. 2021. Palaeontological Desktop Assessment for the Proposed Exploration Camp on the Farm Demaneng 546, Gamagara Local Municipality, Kuruman Magisterial District, Northern Cape Province.*

The proposed development area is underlain by Campbell Rand Subgroup and Quaternary aged sediments of the Kalahari Group. It is considered that the development will not lead to detrimental impacts on palaeontological resources in the area. A Chance Finds Protocol is recommended and is provided in the report.

*Birkholtz, P. 2021. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Exploration Camp on the Farm Demaneng 546, near Kathu, Gamagara Local Municipality, John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality, Northern Cape Province.*

A total of two (2) heritage resources of medium heritage significance were identified, that include Middle Stone Age (MSA) lithics within a large-scale excavation that seems to have originated from the palaeo-riverbed (DEM-01) and a dense concentration of MSA and Later Stone Age lithics (DEM-02). Middle Stone Age lithics were spread evenly throughout the development footprint. Site DEM-01 has been previously disturbed

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The sites must be assessed in the field by a suitably qualified Stone Age specialist long before construction commences. This is to allow this specialist report, and any mitigation measures recommended by the specialist, to be undertaken before construction commences;
- The recommendations made by the Stone Age specialist must be adhered to. Such recommendations may include the archaeological recording of a surface layout plan, surface collection of lithics, etc.

### **Interim Comment**

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that the recommended assessment by a qualified Stone Age specialist be conducted as part of the EA application process. SAHRA cannot provide further conditions until this assessment is completed.

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The applicant is advised to extend the BAR process in terms of section 19(1)b of the NEMA EIA regulations in order to comply with this comment.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested assessment.

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

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/578976>  
(DENC, Ref: NC/BA/11/JTG/GAM/KAT1/2021)