



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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CaseID: 17022

Date: Monday October 11, 2021
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Interim Comment

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

Attention: National Treasure Minerals (Pty) Ltd

Vlakfontein Coal Rush (Pty) Ltd has applied for a Prospecting Right Referenced MP30/5/1/1/2/15870 PR and would like to engage the local property owners and Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) over portions 2, 3, 4, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 25, 26, 29 and remaining extent of the farm Legdaar 78 IS.

Vlakfontein Coal Rush (Pty) Ltd is proposing to prospect for coal reserves with a prospecting work programme including 20 boreholes on 2143 ha of land located on Portions 2, 3, 4, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 25, 26, 29 and the Remaining Extent of the farm Legdaar 78 IS in the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, of the Mpumalanga Province.

Eco Elementum (Pty) Ltd have been appointed to undertake an environmental assessment as part of a Basic Assessment process in support of an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environment Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) for activities that trigger the NEMA EIA 2014 Regulations. As well as an Environmental Management Plan as per the requirements of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, No 28 of 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended).

A Scoping Report and a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was submitted to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for commenting in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Coetzee, T. July 2021. ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESKTOP STUDY for the Application of a Prospecting Right on several Portions of the Farm Legdaar 78 IS, Bethal, Mpumalanga.

The author assessed available satellite images and records and noted the presence of 16 heritage features, 14 of them being historical buildings and 2 of the features are burial grounds. Assessing recent satellite images, 10 of the historical houses have been demolished at some point and no longer appear. The graves and remaining building must be avoided by the prospecting crew and a 500m no-go buffer zone along the river must be adhered to. If the overall invasive activities in the prospecting work programme exceeds 0.5ha then a field based assessment by a suitably qualified archaeologist must be carried out.

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The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that an assessment of the impacts to palaeontological resources because the development is located in an area of very highly sensitive palaeontological region according to the SAHRIS palaeomap.

The palaeontological report must be conducted by a qualified palaeontologist and the report comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Component of Heritage Impact Assessments (a list of qualified palaeontologists can be found at <https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html>). The Minimum Standards refers to a Letter of Recommendation for Exemption from further studies, that may be submitted should the palaeontologist deem it appropriate.

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

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

Yours faithfully

Nokukhanya Khumalo
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit

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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/580916>

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.