



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 18231

Date: Monday June 13, 2022

Page No: 1

## **Interim Comment**

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

Attention: Samancor Chrome - Eastern Chrome Mines

**Mareesburg Chrome Mine comprises of the farm Mareesburg 8 JT situated in the Steelpoort area. The portions are as follows: Portion 0 of the Farm Mareesburg 8 JT (RE Extent); Portion 1 of the Farm Mareesburg 8 JT; Portion 2 of the Farm Mareesburg 8 JT; Portion 6 of the Farm Mareesburg 8 JT; and Portion 7 of the Farm Mareesburg 8 JT. This farm lies within the provincial boundaries of the Limpopo Province, and falls within the Sekhukhune District Municipality of the Limpopo Province, approximately 34km south-west of Steelpoort and 32km west of Lydenburg.**

Samancor (Pty) Ltd Mareesburg Chrome Mine have appointed Environmental Assurance (Pty) Ltd to undertake an environmental assessment as part of the Basic Assessment application 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 the requirements of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, No 28 of 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended).

Mareesburg Chrome Mine will be an opencast and underground chrome 980.3 ha in extent and targeting the middle group chromitite seams. The opencast area including 191 ha in extent.

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report 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. February 2022. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for the Proposed ECM Mareesburg Mining Development on Portions of the Farm Helena 6 JT and Mareesburg 8 JT, Steelpoort, Limpopo.*

The author undertook a field assessment of the proposed development area and identified various sites of heritage significance, however, the report mainly assesses sites within the opencast zone. Sites K09 & K10 are Later Iron Aged (LIA) sites consisting of upper and lower grinding stones and dilapidated stone walling. Both these sites are unrelated to the LIA stonewalled sites of the region and they are both sufficiently recorded in this report. An MSA scraper was identified as site K06, and site K01 is a ploughshare with bricks, both these



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Page No: 2

sites are sufficiently recorded in the report. Site K03 is a stone cairn and site K02 is a potential grave site located in the underground mine section. Site K03 is located on top of bedrock and is unlikely to demarcate a burial, this site is sufficiently recorded in the report. There are two areas in the proposed opencast section that are designated sensitive areas because of the clusters of stonewalled enclosures with some potsherds visible on the surface. Sensitive area 1 is 4.9 ha in extent and Sensitive area 2 is 23.5 ha in extent. Sites Sites K04, K05, K07, K08 are MSA and an ESA stone tools located in sensitive area 2.

The author recommends the following to be implemented throughout the life of the mine:

Site K02 must be conserved *in situ* with a 10m buffer zone and it must be fenced.

Sensitive areas 1 and 2 should be conserved *in situ*, if the mine is unable to then they must be mitigated. If the sites are to be mitigated then an archaeologist must map the sites in detail, test pits will have to be made to determine the depth of any archaeological deposits, and a sample of MSA and ESA stone tools to be collected.

If any surface activities in the underground mining section then an archaeologist must be appointed to inspect the area and a report compiled.

The chance finds procedure must be implement by the ECO and they must be included in the EMPr.

It should be noted that the development area is underlain by geological strata that has negligible palaeontological significance and according to the palaeomap policy no studies are required.

### **Interim Comment**

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes the submission of the HIA reports however, the SAHRA requires the submission of the environmental documents mentioned in the HIA report.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the requested.

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

Yours faithfully

# Samancor ECM MR, EA and WML Application for the proposed Maresburg Mine

Our Ref: 18231



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Page No: 3

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Nokukhanya Khumalo  
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South African Heritage Resources Agency

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## ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/594522>  
(, Ref: LP 30/5/1/2/3/2/1 (10219) EM)