

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
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CaseID: 18254

Date: Tuesday April 26, 2022
Page No: 1

Interim Comment

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

Attention: Morgenson Mining (PTY) LTD

17 Godly Street
Kimberley
8300

The proposed Prospecting Right combined with a Waste Licence application to prospect for Diamonds Alluvial (DA), Diamonds General (D) and Diamonds in Kimberlite (DK) on the Remaining Extent, Portion 1, Portion 2 and Portion 3 (Boorwater) of the farm Bultfontein 327, Registration Division: Hay, Northern Cape Province.

Milnex Environmental Consultants CC have been appointed by Morgenson Mining (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for proposed prospecting activities on the Remaining Extent, Portion 1, Portion 2 and Portion 3 (Boorwater) of the farm Bultfontein 327, Registration Division: Hay, Northern Cape Province (NC30/5/1/1/2/12990PR).

A draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) have been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 EIA Regulations for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended). The proposed prospecting right application area will cover 5 474.2388 ha and include bulk sampling i.e. 90 pits (3 m x 3 m x 4 m) and 45 trenches (40 m x 40 m x 3 m), ablution facilities, and storage of dangerous goods.

Banzai Environmental (Pty) Ltd and Dr Van Schalkwyk have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the BAR process as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Butler, E. 2022. Palaeontological Desktop Assessment for The proposed Prospecting Right combined with a Waste Licence application to prospect for Diamonds Alluvial (DA), Diamonds General (D) and Diamonds in Kimberlite (DK) on the Remaining Extent, Portion 1, Portion 2, and Portion 3 (Boorwater) of the farm Bultfontein 327, Registration Division: Hay, Northern Cape Province.

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The proposed development area is underlain by the Ghaap Group which are known to contain stromatolites, Tertiary calcretes and Quaternary deposits. A low palaeontological significance is allocated to the proposed development area and the development will not lead to detrimental impacts to palaeontological resources in the area. A Chance Finds Protocol is recommended to be followed and is provided in the report.

Van Schalkwyk, J. 2022. Phase 1 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: The Proposed Prospecting Right Combined with a Waste Licence Application to Prospect for Diamonds Alluvial (Da), Diamonds General (D) and Diamonds in Kimberlite (Dk) on the Remaining Extent, Portion 1, Portion 2 and Portion 3 (Boorwater) of the Farm Bultfontein 327, Registration Division: Hay, Northern Cape Province.

Surface scatters of Stone Age lithics of low heritage significance were identified within the proposed development area. A total of seven burial grounds of high heritage significance were identified within the proposed development area. One farmhouse and one old asbestos mine with associated structures of medium heritage significance were identified within the proposed development area.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- A minimum buffer of 100m must be established around the burial sites for the duration of the prospecting/mining phase. If it is decided to retain the burial site, it should be fenced off permanently by means of a wire fence or brick wall, with a buffer zone of at least 100m;
- Archaeological investigation of the farmstead: This option should be implemented when it is impossible to avoid impacting on an identified site or feature;
- The asbestos mine should be avoided for reasons other than its possible heritage value, i.e. the potential health hazard that asbestos pollution poses, however, should be mitigated before destruction if destruction is required;
- A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes that the field survey as shown on page 11 of the HIA was mostly conducted on the access roads, with three small areas of field-walking. Thus, the proposed development area has not been sufficiently surveyed. SAHRA requests that additional field surveys be conducted so as to sufficiently cover the proposed development area. A revised HIA with the results of the additional survey must be conducted as part of the EA process.

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The applicant is advised to extend the EA process in terms of section 23(1)b of the NEMA EIA regulations in order to comply with this comment. Further comments will be issued upon receipt of a revised HIA.

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/594663>
(DMR - NC, Ref: NC30/5/1/1/2/12990PR)