

Memorandum on site status and heritage impact of the proposed expansion of the Glencore Thorncliffe platinum flotation plant and chrome plant

Our Ref: 18452



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 18452

Date: Thursday June 30, 2022

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Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(8), 38(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Glencore Operations South Africa (Pty) Ltd

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Glencore Operations SA (Pty) Ltd have appointed Ukwazi Mining Studies (Pty) Ltd to undertake an EMP amendment application for their proposed Fine Chrome Recovery plant and expansion of their existing Platinum Flotation Plant at their Thorncliffe Mine, located on portion 3 of the farm Arthurseat 373 KT, Greater Tubatse Local Municipality, Limpopo province.

An amended EMP report has been submitted to SAHRA for commenting in terms of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, No 28 of 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended). The proposed listed activities will be 1.8ha in extent on disturbed land currently used as a mine waste dump.

A Heritage Statement by Exigo Sustainability cc has been submitted to SAHRA for commenting in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Kruger, N. March 2022. Memorandum on site status and heritage impact of the proposed expansion of the Glencore Thorncliffe platinum flotation plant and chrome plant, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality, Limpopo Province.

The author undertook a desktop study of the available heritage reports, maps and aerial imagery and assessed the proposed activities are located in an area that is highly disturbed and within the existing Glencore mining operations area. If any heritage was present it would have been disturbed a long time ago. There will be no impacts on heritage resources. The author recommends the following:

- Implementation of a chance find procedure for the project.

Dr JF Durand had undertaken a desktop palaeontological assessment in 2018 was undertaken for the Eastern

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Chrome Mine application with the case ID 11847. The study area has negligible palaeontological significance as it was underlain by norite and pyroxenite of the Dwars River Subsuite and no assessment of the impact to palaeontological resources is required.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes and accepts the submission of the amended EMPr and Heritage Statement and accepts the recommendations provided by the Heritage Specialist. Furthermore, we grant the development from undertaking an assessment of impacts to palaeontological resources because the area is located within a region that has low palaeontological sensitivity. SAHRA has no objections to the proposed development on the following conditions:

In the unlikely event that fossils are uncovered during construction then construction must cease within the immediate vicinity, a buffer of 30 m must be established, and a palaeontologist called in to inspect the finds. The palaeontologist must obtain a section 35(4) permit in terms of NHRA and Chapter IV NHRA Regulations, before any fossils are collected.

If there are any new heritages resources are discovered during construction and operation phases of the proposed development, then a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings at the expense of the developer.

If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required at the expense of the developer. Mitigation will only be carried out after the archaeologist or palaeontologist obtains a permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999). You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8654).

If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the police find them to be heritage graves, then mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be contacted for processes to follow (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Ngqalabutho Madida 012 320 8490).

Once a Record of Decision from the competent authority is issued, it must also be submitted to the case.

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

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Yours faithfully

Nokukhanya Khumalo
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/596218>

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.