

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 19749

Date: Friday November 04, 2022  
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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: Mr Petrus van der Walt Vermeulen

**Environmental Authorisation Application of Mr Petrus Van Der Walt Vermeulen for the proposed Prospecting Right for the prospecting of Diamonds Alluvial (DA), Diamonds General (D), Diamonds in Kimberlite (DK) and Diamonds (DIA) including associated infrastructure, structure and earthworks on Portion 3 of the Farm Deelfontein 237, Registration Division: Hopetown RD.**

Milnex CC has been appointed by Petrus Van Der Walt to conduct an Environmental Authorisation Application for proposed prospecting activities on Portion 3 of the Farm Deelfontein 237, near Hopetown, Northern Cape Province (NC30/5/1/1/2/13048PR).

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the EIA Regulations for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended). The proposed prospecting activities will include 200 boreholes and 50 pits (3 x 2 x 4 m deep), mobile toilets, and bunded area within an application area of 2 291.7235 ha.

Banzai Environmental and Francois Coetzee were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA application in terms of section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA as required by section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

*Butler, E. 2022. Palaeontological Desktop Assessment Diamond Prospecting Right on Farm Deelfontein 237 near Hopetown, Northern Cape Province Ref: NC30/5/1/1/2/13048PR*

The proposed development area is underlain by the Allanridge Formation, the Dwyka Group, calcrete, surface limestone and hardpan surfaces. Fossils that may be present include terrestrial plants and animals that resemble living forms, trace fossils, fossil plants, gastropods, invertebrates and marine fish, and stromatolites. A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be followed.

*Coetzee, F. 2022. Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: Phase 1 Investigation for a Proposed Environmental Authorisation Application of Mr Petrus Van Der Walt Vermeulen for the proposed Prospecting Right for the*

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*prospecting of Diamonds Alluvial (DA), Diamonds General (D), Diamonds in Kimberlite (DK) and Diamonds (DIA) on Portion 3 of the Farm Deelfontein 237 RD near Hopetown, Thembelihle Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape*

A total of nine (9) heritage resources were identified within the proposed prospecting area as part of the survey. These include three historical livestock enclosures and one historical farm house complex of low heritage significance, one historical livestock enclosure and one historical farmhouse complex of medium heritage significance and two rock engraving sites and one burial ground of high heritage significance. Stone Age lithic scatters were identified throughout the development area. A total of 27 heritage resources were previously identified in 2013 and these include stone walling, artefact scatters, rock art, graves, and structures. No assessment of the significance and impact to previously identified sites was conducted.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Take note of the position of the existing heritage sites;
- It is recommended that a 50 m buffer zone be maintained around all nine identified heritage resources;
- The burial ground must be fenced off with a gate installed;
- Care should be taken to prevent any indirect impacts on historical structures;
- A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

### Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that the HIA be revised to include a significance and impact assessment of all previously identified heritage sites within the development footprint. Photographs of the previously identified sites must be provided and recommendations for the management or mitigation of these sites must be provided.

The applicant is advised to extend the EA process in terms of section 19(1)b of the NEMA EIA Regulations in order to address these comments. A revised BAR must be submitted that incorporates the results of the 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

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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://sahr.is.sahra.org.za/node/606375>