



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 19814

Date: Monday November 07, 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: Sishen Iron Ore Company (Pty) Ltd - Sishen Mine

The proposed Sishen Expansion Project at SIOM comprises of further pit expansions that include Far south pushback 21 and 19, Lylyveld pit expansion, C&G stockpile at Far south and Lylyveld pit, Moolmans workshop, access road and pollution control dam, proposed Far south Waste Rock Dump, heavy and light vehicle crossing, expansion of the existing tyre storage area, heavy mining equipment Parkup area, proposed haul roads, and associated mining infrastructure, proposed rerouting of telephone line, powerline and pipelines.

Shangoni Management Services (Pty) Ltd have been appointed by Sishen Iron Ore Company (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation Application for proposed expansion of activities at the Sishen Mine, near Kathu, Northern Cape Province (Ref no: 00202 MR).

A Draft Scoping Report (DSR) 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 expansion will include the pit expansions (Far south pushback 21 and 19, Lylyveld pit expansion, C&G stockpile at Far south and Lylyveld pit), Moolmans workshop, various wash bays and separation plant, LDV and HME service bays, GET yard, boiler shop, office blocks, parking, access road and pollution control dam, proposed Far south Waste Rock Dump, heavy and light vehicle crossing, expansion of the existing tyre storage area, heavy mining equipment parkup area, proposed haul roads, and associated mining infrastructure, proposed rerouting of telephone line, powerline and pipelines.

Dr Bruce Rubidge, Mr Siegwalt Küsel and Sidney M Miller were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA as per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA.

Rubidge, B. 2022. Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Sishen Iron Ore Mine Expansion Project, Northern Cape Province

The proposed development area is underlain by rocks of the Precambrian Transvaal Supergroup, Quaternary

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calcrete and alluvial deposits, Wolhaarkop Formation, superficial Tertiary calcretes and aeolian deposits of the Quaternary Kalahari Formation. Fossils might be present in the Kalahari sands but are often not well preserved. A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended.

Küsel, S and Miller, S. M. 2022. 1st phase H.I.A. of a proposed extension and upgrading, also known as The Sishen Iron Ore Mine Expansion Project for Sishen Mine.

A small scatter of a mixture of ESA, MSA and LSA lithics of low heritage significance was identified within the development footprint. It is noted that the lithics site has been provided with an exclusion zone. The specialist notes that the previously identified cemetery could not be found.

Recommendations provided in the report and addendum include the following:

- It is recommended that the lithics site be granted destruction authorisation at the discretion of the relevant heritage authority outside of the formal permitting process;
- The source of the identification of the cemetery be revisited for clarification; and
- A Chance Finds Procedure be implemented.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that the clarification of the existence of the cemetery be provided as an addendum to the HIA as part of the EIA phase of the application. Should a cemetery be found, an assessment of the impact to the cemetery must be provided, with recommendations for the management of the site. Further comments will be issued during the EIA phase and the submission of the draft EIA inclusive of appendices.

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
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South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
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South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/606727>