



Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt  
Tel: 021 202 8660  
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za  
CaseID: 20726

Date: Monday July 10, 2023  
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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: Xhariep Plant and Mining (Pty) Ltd

### Prospecting Right application over Remaining Extent, Portion 1, Portion 2 and Portion 3 of the Farm Gayelong 191, Kuruman District, Northern Cape Province

M and S Consulting (Pty) Ltd have been appointed by Xhariep Plant and Mining (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation Application for proposed prospecting activities on Remaining Extent, Portion 1, Portion 2 and Portion 3 of the Farm Gayelong 191, Kuruman District, Northern Cape Province (NC) 30/5/1/1/2/12455 PR).

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 include 150 drilled boreholes and access tracks over an application area of 2 629.0589 ha.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 30/05/2023, SAHRA noted the pending heritage reports and requested that they comply with section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as required by section 38(8) of the NHRA. The HIA must include field-based archaeological and palaeontological components. Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, the HIA and PIA have been submitted for review (05/06/2023).

*Chikumbirike, J and Jirah, S. 2023. Palaeontological Impact Assessment of Application for Prospecting Right for Iron and Manganese Ore on the Remaining Extent of the Farm Gayelong 191, Portion 1 of the Farm Gayelong 191, Portion 2 of the Farm Gayelong 191 and Portion 3 of the Farm Gayelong 191, Kuruman District, Northern Cape Province*

The proposed development area is underlain by the Ghaap Group, Campbell Rand subgroup and Late Caenozoic superficial sediments. Stromatolites may be present within the rocks of the Campbell Rand Subgroup and fossils of a more recent age and trace fossils may be present in the superficial sediments. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
www.sahra.org.za

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*Chikumbirike, J. 2023. Heritage Impact Assessment of Application for a Prospecting Right for Iron and Manganese Ore on the Remaining Extent of the Farm Gayelong 191, Portion 1 of the Farm Gaeylong 191, Portion 2 of the Farm Gayelong 191 and Portion 3 of the Farm Gayelong 191, Kuruman District, Northern Cape Province*

A total of five heritage resources were identified within the proposed development area. These include Stone Age lithic scatters of low heritage significance and historical structures and features of medium heritage significance. A Chance Finds Protocol is recommended. It must be noted that the field assessment as show in Figure 4 of the HIA was limited, and only a small portion of the area to be impacted was surveyed.

#### **Interim Comment**

SAHRA is not satisfied with the coverage of the field assessment conducted by the HIA. SAHRA requests that a more comprehensive field survey be conducted and a revised HIA be submitted as part of the EA application. Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested report.

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  
Manager: Development Applications Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

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T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
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Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/613266>  
(DMR - NC, Ref: NC 12455 PR)