



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
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CaseID: 21165

Date: Friday June 23, 2023
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Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Optimum Coal Mine (Pty) Ltd

Private Bag X1201
Pullenshope
1096

MINING OF COAL IN RESPECT OF PORTION 8 OF THE FARM BOSCHMANSPOORT 159 IS, STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NKANGALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Eco Elementum Environmental and Engineering has been appointed by Optimum Coal Mine (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application in support of a section 102 Amendment Application for proposed amendments to the authorised Optimum Colliery, on portion 8 of the farm Boschmanspoort 159IS, near Hendrina, Mpumalanga Province (MP-00174-MR/102).

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 amendments include the change in mining from underground to opencast, hauling, access road, mobile office, ablutions and change house location, mobile fuel storage, PCD, clean and dirty water, various stockpiles, weighbridge and waste management.

Agri Civilis Geo-Tech and Heritage has been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA application that complies with section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as required in terms of section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the NHRA.

Coetzee, T. 2023. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for the Proposed Optimum Colliery on Portion 8 of the Farm Boschmanspoort 159 IS, Hendrina, Mpumalanga

Four heritage resources were identified within the proposed development footprint. These include two demolished historical structures, one historical ruin and dilapidated graves, however they will not be directly impacted.



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Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- A fenced-off conservation buffer of 50 m must be established and maintained for effective in-situ preservation of the graves. The proposed fence infrastructure which should be at least 1.8 m high must include a gate to allow access by the family of the deceased individuals. A distance of at least 2 m must be maintained between the graves and fence. Should relocation of the graves be considered in future, a full 60 days consultation process as stipulated in the NHRA Regulations of 2000 must be implemented to identify the family of the deceased individuals who must then be consulted to give consent for the relocation;
- A Chance Finds Procedure must be implemented.

Interim Comment

SAHRA requests that the conducted Palaeontological Assessment be submitted for review as part of the EA application. Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the requested PIA.

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
Manager: Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

**MP-00174-MR/102 - OPTIMUM COAL MINE (PTY) LTD - BOSCMANSPOORT 159
IS (S102) MINING OF COAL IN RESPECT OF PORTION 8 OF THE FARM
BOSCHMANSPOORT 159 IS, STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
NKANGALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**



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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/616602>
(DMR-MP, Ref: MP-00174-MR/102)