

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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CaseID: 21330

Date: Thursday September 21, 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 Farm Stofbakkies Public Outspan 30, Prieska District, Northern Cape Province

M & S Consulting has been appointed by Xhariep Plant and Mining (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation Application for proposed prospecting activities on Farm Stofbakkies Public Outspan 30, Prieska District, Northern Cape Province (NC 30/5/1/1/2/13476 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 20 percussion boreholes (20 m² each) and 20 RC boreholes (20m² each), two spoor access roads and chemical toilets. It is noted that the location of the boreholes has not yet been determined.

Pulafel 4D Consulting (Pty) Ltd was appointed to provide heritage specialist input into the EA process in terms of section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Chikumbirike, J and Jirah, S. 2023. Desktop & Field Palaeontological Impact Assessment for a Diamond Prospecting Right on the Farm Stofbakkies 30 in the administrative district of Prieska, Northern Cape Province, South Africa

The proposed development footprint is underlain by the Campbell Rand Supergroup, Asbestos Hills Subgroup, Precambrian bedrocks, which are overlain by aeolian sands of the Gordonina Formation. Stromatolites may be present. No adverse impacts on palaeontological heritage are expected. A Fossil Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be added to the EMPr.

Chikumbirike, J. 2023. Desktop & Field Heritage Impact Assessment for a Diamond Prospecting Right on the Farm Stofbakkies 30 in the administrative district of Prieska, Northern Cape Province, South Africa

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A total of 15 heritage resources were identified within the proposed development area. These include Stone Age lithic scatters, circular stone structures, a stone cairn, building foundations, old farmhouses, old mine site and a shooting range.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Avoid all sites noted in Table 4
- Grave sites 1 and 2 should be indicated on development plans and avoided with a 30 m buffer;

A Chance Finds Procedure must be implemented.

Interim Comment

SAHRA requests that the HIA be revised to provide a significance assessment for all the identified sites and an impact assessment for the sites identified in table 4.

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 this comment. Further comments will be issued upon receipt of a 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

Natasha Higgitt
Manager: Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/617422>
(DMR - NC, Ref: NC 30/5/1/1/2/13476 PR)