

**Our Ref:**

Enquiries: Phillip Hine
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: phine@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 4618

Date: Tuesday February 11, 2014

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Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Anglo American - Rustenburg Platinum Mines
PO Box 62179
Marshalltown
2107

Rustenburg Platinum Mines Limited (RPM), a subsidiary of Anglo American Platinum Limited (Anglo American Platinum), has applied for a Prospecting Right on Farm Witrand 103 IS in the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality area and the Witbank magisterial district in terms of Section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002(Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA).

Higgit, N., de Pusanie, J., & Nel, J. February 2014. Heritage Statement for the Witrand Prospecting Emp, Witrand 103is, 2629ad Bethal, Mpumalanga Province

Rustenburg Platinum (Pty) Ltd. has applied for a prospecting right on the farm Witrand 103 IS in the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality area and the eMalahleni Magisterial District in Mpumalanga Province. According to the documentation prospecting activities will take place over a period of five years with one 20m x 20m borehole drilled per year and respective access roads.

A Heritage Screening Assessment was undertaken by Digby Wells and Associates. The screening survey was undertaken over one day with a vehicle. In terms of archaeological resources the authors indicated that Stone Age sites are sparsely present in Mpumalanga Province, with most of the sites identified dating to the Later Stone Age.

Three Type V stone-walled Iron Age sites have been identified previously and also recorded during the screening assessment. Detailed recording of these could not be possible due to the inability of gaining access to the farms where these sites are located.

It is noted that the project area falls within an area that is considered to be palaeontologically sensitive. Although a specialist paleontological study was not undertaken the authors identified a number of sandstone outcrops along the south west corner of the project area. The report indicated that *Glossepteris* leaves, roots and inflorescences, lycopod and sphenophyte stems, ferns, cordaitaleans and early gymnosperms.

Final Comment:

Considering that the planned prospecting activities will result in low impact on potential heritage resources, SAHRA APM Unit has no objection to the proposed project in terms of the archaeological and palaeontological



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component of the heritage resources. SAHRA supports the recommendations of the report that no further heritage studies are required for the prospecting programme. However, if the prospecting advances to mining rights a full Heritage Impact Assessment must be undertaken, inclusive of a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment and a Paleontological Impact Assessment field survey.

Any other heritage resources that may be impacted such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.

For the current application, the following must be implemented;

1. Prospecting should be avoided near the sandstone ridges, and;
2. Groves of trees due to the potential for historical remains and burial grounds;
3. Areas near to and surrounding stonewalling

In addition, a chance fossil protocol must be implemented during site clearance and clearance of access routes. It is further recommended that the ECO familiarise themselves with the type of heritage resources that could be identified during the prospecting programme.

If any archaeological/palaeontological or any other heritage resources are identified during prospecting activities SAHRA (Mr Phillip Hine/Mr Phillip Hine, tel. 021 462 4502) and an archaeologist or palaeontologist depending on the nature of the find, must be alerted immediately. If the newly discovered heritage resource is considered significant, a Phase 2 mitigation assessment will have to be undertaken.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully



Phillip Hine
Heritage Officer





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an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/154124>
(DMR, Ref: MP 30/5/1/1/2/11685 PR)

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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