



## Final Comment

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

Attention: Mr George Dyman  
Vunene Mining (Pty) Ltd  
P O Box 90349  
Bertsham  
JOHANNESBURG  
2013

**PROPOSED COAL MINING FOR VUNENE MINING (PTY) LTD ON PORTION 3,4,6,9,14 AND 15 OF THE FARM JAN HENDRIKSFONTEIN 263 IT, PORTIONS 2,8,9,11,17,21 OF THE FARM VLAKFONTEIN 266 IT, HOLBANK 265 IT AND ROODEWAL 270 IT, TWYFLAAR 298 IT, VLAKFONTEIN 269 IT, MOOIPLAATS 290 IT IN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.**

*Coetzee, T. (August 2012). Archaeological Impact Assessment for the Extension of Development for Coal Mining for Vunene Mining (Pty) Ltd on Portions 3, 4, 6, 9, 14 and 15 of the Farm Jan Hendriksfontein 263 It, Portions 2, 8, 9, 11, 17 and 21 of the Farm Witpunt 267 It, Portions 5, 6, 7, 8 of the Farm Vlakfontein 266 It, Holbank 265 It, Roodewal 270 It, Twyfelaar 298 It, Vlakfontein 269 It and Mooiplaats 290 It.*

*Bamford, M. (June 2012). Palaeontological Impact Assessment on behalf of Environmental Assurance (Pty) Ltd for proposed Usutu Coal Colliery, Ermelo, Mpumalanga province.*

The application is for the proposed expansion of both open cast and surface coal mining activities in the vicinity of Farm Transutu 257 IT and Camden Power Station on Farm Jan Hendriksfontein 263 IT. The submitted archaeological report identified no stone age or iron age archaeological remains.

What has been interpreted as a historical mine was identified on Portion 9 of Farm Jan Hendriksfontein. The Sites identified as U2, U3, U6, U7 and U8 in the report are possibly associated with mining activities. The sites identified as U4, U5, U9 and U10 have a more recent origin.

Sites 63 and 65 are two historical homesteads on Farm Holbank 265 IT. Both structures are older than 60 years and both are associated with graveyards. A stone wall (Site 22) was identified on Portion 26 of Farm Witpunt 267 IT.

One graveyard (Site U1) was identified in the report that falls within the mining footprint. This graveyard is situated on Portion 9 of Farm Jan Hendriksfontein 263 IT. This site consists of 14 graves, with an only visible date of 1979, and is not fenced, however a monolith is in place on each corner of the graveyard. The site has been damaged. Other graves have been identified in the vicinity of the project area however these will not likely be impacted by the proposed mining.





According to the palaeontological report, the area is underlain by early to middle Permian rocks of the Vryheid Formation with numerous intrusive Jurassic dolerite dykes. It is highly probable that fossil plants will be impacted by the proposed mining activities however it is unlikely that these activities will impact on significant palaeontological heritage resources.

### Comment

Based on the information provided in the above reports, SAHRA has no objection to the proposed development on condition that;

- The Sites identified on Portions 3 and 9 of Farm Jan Hendriksfontein 263 IT, Sites U2, U3, U4, U5, U6, U7, U8, U9 and U10 be retained *in situ*.
- The identified graves, specifically for Site U1, must be fenced off, left *in situ* and not impacted by construction activities. A conservation management plan must be drafted for the ongoing conservation and management of all the graves identified. A conservation buffer of 100m must be established around Site U1.

Should any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal/ash concentrations), unmarked human burials, fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed activities, SAHRA APM Unit (Jenna Lavin/Colette Scheermeyer 021 462 4502) must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary.

Should it not be possible to adhere to the above conditions, the applicant must consult with SAHRA regarding the reasons for non-compliance. In this instance, on SAHRA's advice, other mitigation strategies may have to be adopted which will require following a process for archaeological investigation in terms of Section 35 and for exhumation in terms of Section 36 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999).

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

Yours faithfully

---

Jenna Lavin  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency





---

Colette Scheermeyer  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

---

**ADMIN:**  
(MDEDET, Ref: 17/2/4/GS-26)

**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.

