

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 16615

Date: Friday July 02, 2021

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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Kalahari Goldridge Mining Company Ltd

The Kalahari Goldridge Mining Company (Pty) Ltd operates an open-pit gold mine approximately 55km southwest of Mafikeng in the North West Province. Kalgold holds a Mining Right for this operation and an additional two Prospecting Rights near this operational mine. Kalgold intends to consolidate the two Prospecting Rights into the existing Mining Right and undertake prospecting activities within a portion of one of the Prospecting Right areas. These activities will include the drilling of 46 drillholes and the associated clearing of vegetation. The drillholes are arranged into seven transects.

Digby-Wells Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Kalahari Goldridge Mining Company (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed in-cooperation of Prospecting Rights into existing Mining Rights within the Mahikeng, Tswaing, and Ratlou Local Municipalities in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District, North West Province.

A final Basic Assessment Report (fBAR) was submitted in terms National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002, as amended) (MPRDA). The proposed Prospecting and the associated infrastructure will approximately be 43 000 ha. The proposed prospecting sites are divided into several blocks namely, Goldridge Block, Lynplaats Block, Madibe Block, Northern Farms Block, and Vryhof Block. The proposed drilling and prospecting activities clearing of vegetation, removal and stockpiling of soil, construction of temporary access roads and related infrastructure.

Digby Wells Environmental have been appointed to provide heritage input into the EA process as per section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA.

Hardwick, S. May 2021. Heritage Basic Assessment Report for the Proposed Incorporation of Prospecting Rights into Existing Mining Rights for Kagold Mine in the North West Province.

A pre-disturbance survey was undertaken wherein the potential and predicted impacts that may arise from activities associated with the establishment and operation of the proposed drilling sites at each stage of the

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project life-cycle. One heritage resources, BGG-001 was identified within the development footprint. BGG-001 is described as a well maintained burial ground demarcated by a half-height cement wall with an iron gate, comprising of at least 10 graves, including a double grave. All graves have granite headstones with legible inscriptions in either English or Afrikaans. The graves range in date from 1953 to 2008. BGG-001 is located within 50 m of the proposed drilling site 29 and within 80 m of proposed drilling site 30. As such there is potential for BGG-001 to be directly impacted through the clearing of land for the establishment of both drilling sites. No archaeological, historical, features or material were identified during the survey but these are known to occur in the larger geographic area. Therefore, the following recommendations are made for the proposed prospecting:

- Kagold must avoid impacts to BGG-001 through an amendment of the location of the proposed drill points 29 and 30, or excluding these points from the drilling programme to avoid the risk of direct impact and implement a 100 m no-go buffer zone around the heritage resource;
- Kagold must develop and implement a HSMP to conserve BGG-001 in-situ. Where Kagold have developed such a management plan, this must be updated to include BGG-001,
- Where project design amendments are not feasible, Kagold will need to embark on a consultation process to assess whether a GRP is feasible for BGG-001, and
- To mitigate against potential direct impacts against previously unidentified heritage resources and where Kagold has not done so already, Kagold must develop and implement a CFP prior to the commencement of project activities. This CFP must be approved by the Heritage Resources Authority prior to implementation.

The proposed prospecting is largely located in an area of moderate palaeosensitivity with patches of low palaeosensitivity within the drilling area. As a result a desktop palaeontological assessment of the impact of the proposed drilling on palaeontological resources is required.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite Unit notes the fBAR and HIA archaeological component along with the recommendations provided therein. As the proposed prospecting is located in area of moderate palaeontological sensitivity, a desktop-based assessment of the impact to palaeontological resources must be undertaken. The assessment must be conducted by a qualified palaeontologist.

Incorporation of Prospecting Rights into Mining Right for Kalgold Mine in the North West Province

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The report above must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA and the 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessments and the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Component of Heritage Impact Assessments.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above.

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

Yours faithfully

Elijah Dumisani Katsetse
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/575527>
(DMR, Ref:)