

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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Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha

Date: Tuesday March 16, 2021

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Email: sngcatsha@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 16146

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Copper Sunset Sand (Pty) Ltd

Copper Sunset (Pty) Ltd holds an approved Mining Right to mine sand in Viljoensdrift in the Free State Province. Copper Sunset intends to expand the current Mining Right area to include an additional 2 821 hectares over multiple properties adjacent to the current operation to extend the Life of Mine. All equipment will be mobile but Copper Sunset will establish some temporary infrastructure within the proposed extension area.

Digby Wells and Associates (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd have been appointed by Copper Sunset (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation Application for the extension of an existing Mining Right for sand mining (FS30/5/1/1/2/164 MR), to incorporate the adjacent portions of the remaining extent of the Farm Bankfontein No. 9 (1642 ha) and a portion of the remaining extent of the Farm Zandfontein No. 259 (1179 ha), Sasolburg Magisterial District, Free State Province.

A Draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014 for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA).

The sand will be mined in strips of 30 – 35 m in width and depth of 0.4 - 2 m using the strip-mining method and temporary haul road (20 m wide with a length of approximately 10 km) will be constructed. Excavations will be backfilling with stockpiled topsoil afterwards. There will be no permanent infrastructure constructed on site.

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) will be undertaken and will form part of the EIA Phase. No archaeological material were identified during the pre-disturbance survey, but burial grounds were identified. The site is underlain partly by the Vryheid Formation, Karoo Supergroup. This unit is considered of very-high palaeontological sensitivity. The study areas have been disturbed through agricultural activities.

Hardwick, S. 2021. Notification of Intent to Develop: Environmental Authorisation Process for the Expansion of the Copper Sunset Mining Right Area

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No archaeological resources, Burial grounds and graves, places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance have been identified within the project area at this stage, however the development footprint will be assessed in the pending Impact Assessment phase. The Project area is underlain by geological strata of very high palaeosensitivity and this will also be assessed in the Impact Assessment phase.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite (APM) Unit notes that the HIA will be undertaken as part of the EIA phase. Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the draft EIA with all associated appendices and the HIA inclusive of a Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) and field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA).

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

Yours faithfully

Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite Intern
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

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Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/560411>
(DMR, Ref:)