



## Letter

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

Attention: Mr Kabelo Mphake  
Digby Wells Environmental  
Private Bag X10046  
Randburg  
2125

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT: AMENDMENT OF THE EXISTING PROSPECTING ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN AND PROSPECTING WORK PROGRAMME TO INCLUDE A PROSPECTING SHAFT FOR BULK SAMPLING AND INTEGRATED WATER USE LICENSE APPLICATION, PLATREEF PROSPECTING PROJECT IN MOKOPANE, LIMPOPO PROVINCE.**

Thank you for your indication that development is to take place in this area.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), no 25 of 1999, heritage resources, including archaeological or palaeontological sites over 100 years old, graves older than 60 years, structures older than 60 years are protected. They may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. This means that before such sites are disturbed by development it is incumbent on the developer (or mine) to ensure that a **Heritage Impact Assessment** is done. This must include the archaeological component (Phase 1) and any other applicable heritage components. Appropriate (Phase 2) mitigation, which involves recording, sampling and dating sites that are to be destroyed, must be done as required.

#### **Decision:**

Although it is noted that the prospecting will be underground, **clearing of vegetation and building for access roads may also destroy or damage archaeological and/or palaeontological sites**. Consequently, the quickest process to follow for the archaeological component would be to contract a qualified specialist (see [www.asapa.org.za](http://www.asapa.org.za)) to provide a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report. This must be done before any prospecting drilling, trenching or mining takes place.

The Phase 1 Impact Assessment Report will identify the archaeological sites and assess their significance. It should also make recommendations (as indicated in section 38 of the NHRA) about the process to be followed. For example, there may need to be a mitigation phase (Phase 2) where the specialist will collect or excavate material and date the site. At the end of the process the heritage authority may give permission for destruction of the sites.

Where bedrock is to be affected, or in potentially fossiliferous superficial deposits, a Palaeontological study must be undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon palaeontological resources - or at least a letter from a Palaeontologist motivating for an exemption is needed to indicate that this is unnecessary. If the area is deemed sensitive, a full Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be required and if necessary a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary (see [www.palaeontologicalsociety.co.za](http://www.palaeontologicalsociety.co.za)).





Enquiries: Phillip Hine  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: phine@sahra.org.za  
CaseID: 566

Date: Monday September 17, 2012

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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.

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

Colette Scheermeyer  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

**ADMIN:**  
(DMR, Ref: LP30/5/1/1/2/872PR.)



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

Street Address: 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town 8000 \* Postal Address: PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000  
\* Tel: +27 21 462 4502 \* Fax: +27 21 462 4509 \* Web: <http://www.sahra.org.za>