



Final Comment

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

Attention: Mr Jeff Leader
Ntsimbintle e' Ntle Manganese Mining
P O Box 652286
Benmore
South Africa
2010

CONSULTATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 40 OF THE MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT 2002, (ACT 28 OF 2002) FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN AMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR AN EXISTING PROSPECTING RIGHT ON THE REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM GLORIA NO.266, SITUATED IN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF KURUMAN, NORTHERN CAPE REGION.

Fourie, W. July 2013. *Prospecting activities on the farm Gloria 266, near Hotazel in the Northern Cape Province Heritage Impact Assessment*

Groenewald, G. April 2013. *Palaeontological Desktop Assessment of the Farm Gloria 266, near Hotazel town in the John Toalo Gaetsewe District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province*

Ntsimbintle Mining (Pty) Ltd (Ntsimbintle) has proposed an amendment to the existing Environmental Management Plan in place for Farm Gloria 266. Ntsimbintle has already drilled 31 prospecting holes on the Remaining Extent of the farm, but plans to drill additional boreholes and a total of 120 prospecting boreholes, including the 31 already created. These activities will entail creation of new access tracks, stripping of vegetation and topsoil and creation of stockpile areas. The prospecting area is approximately 447ha in extent.

The archaeologist notes that archaeological material in the study area is limited to material from the Middle and Later Stone Age, and restricted to areas with access to water. The field survey identified only two sites. These sites were both low density scatters of Middle Stone Age material. Site GL1 was approximately 5 meters in diameter, while GL2 was approximately 20 meters in diameter. Both sites contained scrapers and triangular flakes with minimal retouch; both sites were accorded low heritage significance.

According to the submitted desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment, the proposed development area is underlain by claystone, calcrete and dune sand of the Kalahari Formation which is in turn underlain by Dwyka tillite of the Karoo Supergroup, the hotazel Iron Formation and the Ongeluk Lava Formation. Although stromatolites are known from the dolomites of the Transvaal Supergroup, it is unlikely that the proposed development will impact on significant palaeontological heritage resources.

Case Decision:

SAHRA supports the recommendations of the authors and requests that:





- The two archaeological sites should be avoided by all prospecting activities. In order to ensure their protection, both should be marked on all prospecting maps and should be fenced off for their protection with temporary fencing. The sites should be demarcated as no-go areas with 20 meter buffer zones enforced around each site if prospecting activities are to be conducted closer than 100 meters from the sites.
- The developer must be aware of the chance of impacting stromatolites in the course of prospecting. Should any palaeontological resources be impacted by the development, work must cease and a palaeontologist and SAHRA must be contacted to deliberate on an appropriate way forward.

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

Yours faithfully

Kathryn Smuts
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/103908>
(DMR, Ref: NC 30/5/1/1/3/2/1/1250 EM)

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.

