

**Our Ref:**

Enquiries: Andrew Salomon  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: [asalomon@sahra.org.za](mailto:asalomon@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 5220

Date: Wednesday December 10, 2014

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## Final Comment

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

Attention: Mr Rudi Wolter  
Copper Sunset Sand (Pty) Ltd

**Copper Sunset intends to expand their current sand mining operations to a neighbouring farm that is owned by Anglo American Thermal Coal (AATC). This expansion of the mining areas requires the existing EMP to be amended and the impacts associated with the mining of the new area to be assessed.**

The proposed development entails Copper Sunset Sand (Pty) Ltd (Copper Sunset) expanding their current sand mining operations to a neighbouring farm that is owned by Anglo American Thermal Coal (AATC) within the Fezile Dabi District Municipality. Current mining operation involves the strip mining of general sand for supply to the construction industry in the Free State and Gauteng Provinces. The mining activities will cover a maximum area of 49.41 hectares.

Findings from the literature review and historical layering indicate that heritage resources associated with the Stone Age and historical period. Aerial imagery indicates that historical impacts from the plantation would have potentially destroyed any heritage resources on the surface and to a certain depth below the surface. The author recommends that Copper Sunset be exempt from conducting any further heritage studies for the Section 102 Amendment, provided that a Chance Finds Procedure (CFP) is developed and integrated into the revised EMP.

In terms of palaeontology, a letter by Bamford, M. (November 2014) suggests that, although fossil plants of Dwyka age are known from the banks of the Vaal River (Plumstead, 1966, Kovacs Endrody, 1971) these occur in solid rock. Terrestrial fossils do not occur in situ in loose sand (but on extremely rare occasions may have been incorporated in sands when washed down from distant sites. However they are of no significance as their origin would be unknown). Therefore it is unnecessary to carry out any palaeontological assessment for the mining of the loose riverine sand. The author recommends that, in the extremely unlikely event of any fossils being found in the sand, they should be collected and given to a palaeontologist to identify and assess for importance.



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**Final Comment**

In view of the information provided relating to the possible presence and impact of heritage resources within the study area, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit grants exemption from having to conduct further archaeological or palaeontological impact assessments, provided that a Chance Finds Procedure (CFP) is developed and integrated into the revised EMP.

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

Yours faithfully

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Andrew Salomon  
Heritage Officer: Archaeology  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Colette Scheermeyer  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/160411>  
(DMR, Ref: FS 30/5/1/2/2/164 MR)

**Terms & Conditions:**



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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# COP2428 Copper Sunset Section 102 Amendment



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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.



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