



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 6669

Date: Monday November 13, 2017  
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## Final Comment

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

Attention: Mr Clifford Hallat  
Oakleaf Investment Holdings Holdings 95 (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 653749, Benmore, 2010

### **Proposed Oakleaf Opencast Coal Mine, Wachtenbietjieskop 506 JS, Bronkhorstspuit, Gauteng Province**

**Du Piesanie, J. August 2015. Heritage Impact Assessment: Environmental Impact Assessment for the Proposed Open Pit Coal Mine and Associated Infrastructure, near Bronkhorstspuit, Gauteng.**

**Bamford, M. April 2015. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for proposed Oakleaf opencast coalmine near Bronkhorstspuit**

The proposed development entails an open pit coal mine approximately 5.5 km northeast of Bronkhorstspuit town. Several layout and routing alternatives have been identified.

The following heritage resources were identified in the archaeological assessment:

- Burial ground containing at least 50 graves, located within the proposed south pit.
- Cemetery of approximately 30 graves.
- Monument erected in 1966 by the National Monuments Council to commemorate the Battle of Bronkhorstspuit of December 1880. The monument is located approximately 5.5km south of the project site.
- A water pipeline laid in 1905.
- A four room historical dwelling constructed from stone.

The author recommends that:

- The rail siding options are 3, 4 and 5 and option 2 for the conveyor.



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- The section of the Wilge River Scheme pipeline traversing the proposed open pit must be rerouted, and a Watching Brief be implemented during removal of the existing section of pipeline and a permit be applied for in terms of section 35 of the NHRA to collect any Significant artefacts that may have been deposited during the original construction of this section.

- Irrespective of whether the burial grounds will be directly or indirectly affected, agreement regarding the future of the site must be reached between Oakleaf and NoK through the implementation of a Burial Grounds and Graves Consultation process.

The palaeontological assessment notes that the proposed project area is situated within the Wilge River Formation of the Waterberg Group which is part of the Waterberg Group. There is no published evidence that microbial mats occur in the Wilge River Formation. The author recommends that there is no need for a palaeontological impact assessment for microbial mats in the proposed mining area.

Should microbial mats be identified in the Wilge River Formation and disturbed by coal mining operations, a palaeontologist should be notified and called to collect a representative sample.

### Final Comment

In terms of archaeological and palaeontological heritage, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit has no objections to this proposed development, provided that the recommendations in the specialist reports and this comment are adhered to. No mining operations are to take place prior to the consultation processes mentioned in the specialist reports having been concluded, the necessary permits granted, and the agreed mitigation measures concluded.

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



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South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/180774>  
(DEA, Ref: 12/9/11/L45315/3) (GDARD, Ref: 002/14-15/0171) (DMR, Ref: GP 30/5/1/2/2 (10027) MR)

**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.