



Prospecting Right Application, portions of the farm Heuvelfontein 215 JR,
Mpumalanga

Notification of Intent to Develop and Request for Exemption
for
Amber Earth (Pty) Ltd

Project file number: AMB 44229

February 2021

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Signed on 17 February 2021 in Pretoria.



Johan Nel

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1 INTRODUCTION

Mwelase Group of Companies Pty Ltd (Mwelase), the Applicant, appointed Amber Earth (Pty) Ltd (Amber Earth), the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), to complete certain environmental studies as part of a Basic Assessment in support of a Prospecting Right Application (PRA). The PRA is in respect of coal resources underlying smallholdings, known as Kendal Forest Holdings on portions of the farm Heuvelfontein 215 JR, Mpumalanga.

Amber Earth in turn appointed the Heritage Foundation to complete a Heritage Resources Management (HRM) process in terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA).

Table 1 below provides a summary of the Applicant's and EAP's details.

Table 1 Summary of Applicant and EAP details

Applicant	
Company name	Mwelase Group of Companies (Pty) Ltd
Address	Ground Floor, West Block, 28 Fricker Road, Illovo, Sandton
Contact number	011 802 0565
Environmental Assessment Practitioner	
Company name	Amber Earth (Pty) Ltd
Contact person	Tim van Stormbroek
Address	347 Graham Road, Tiegerpoort, Pretoria, 0056
Contact number	082 483 6303
Email	tim@amberearth.co.za
Website	www.amberearth.co.za

This document constitutes a Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) and Request for Exemption (RfE) from all further heritage studies, based on evidence collected during a site-screening visit and high-level literature review.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The applicant, Mwelase Group of Companies Pty Ltd, is applying for a Prospecting Right to mine coal over certain properties outlined in section 3 below. Figure 3 below illustrates the application area relative to the individual plots as well as the initial 15 borehole positions. Later infill boreholes will be sited in accordance with resource results.

Proposed activities include:

- Non-Invasive prospecting via digital desktop map work;
- Invasive Prospecting via diamond core drilling, core logging, and evaluation;
- Borehole rehabilitation via capping of boreholes with a suitable stone/slab/cover to prevent subsiding of topsoil cover; and
- Scarification of final drill footprint topsoil.

3 PROPERTY DETAILS

The proposed study area is situated within smallholdings in the town of Kendal, 9 km west of the town of Ogies in the Delmas magisterial district.

Table 2 Summary of property details

Properties	<p>Farm: A portion comprising of a portion of portion 26 of the farm Heuvelfontein 215 J</p> <p>Erven: small holding numbers 3, 4, 19, 21, 22, 23, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 77, 78, 79, 80, known as Kendal Forest Holdings</p> <p>Address: Heller Avenue and sections of First and Second Avenues, Third Street, and Kendal Road.</p>
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Nearest town	Ogies
Local municipality	Delmas
Province	Mpumalanga
Relative centre coordinates of development area	26° 1' 23"S 28° 57' 52"E
Approximate total property size	88 hectares

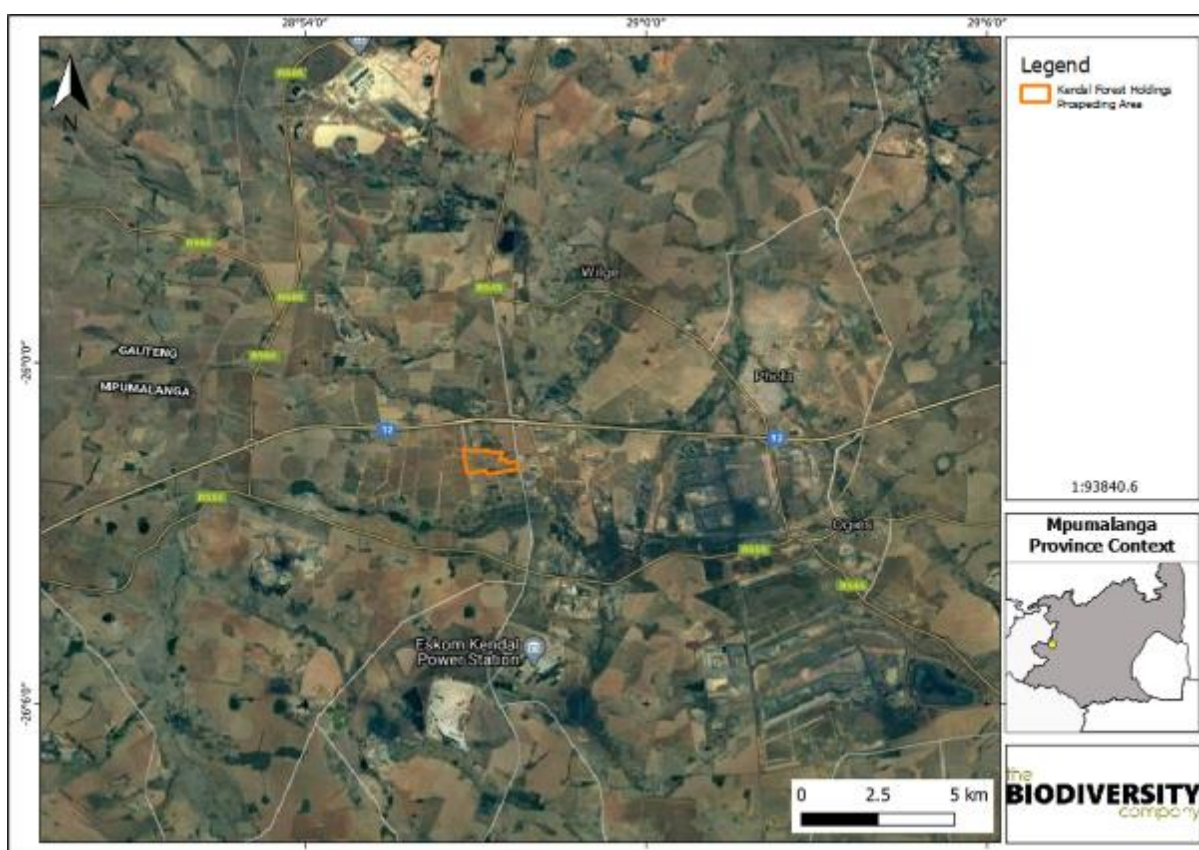


Figure 1: Development context and outline of proposed study area (© The Biodiversity Company)

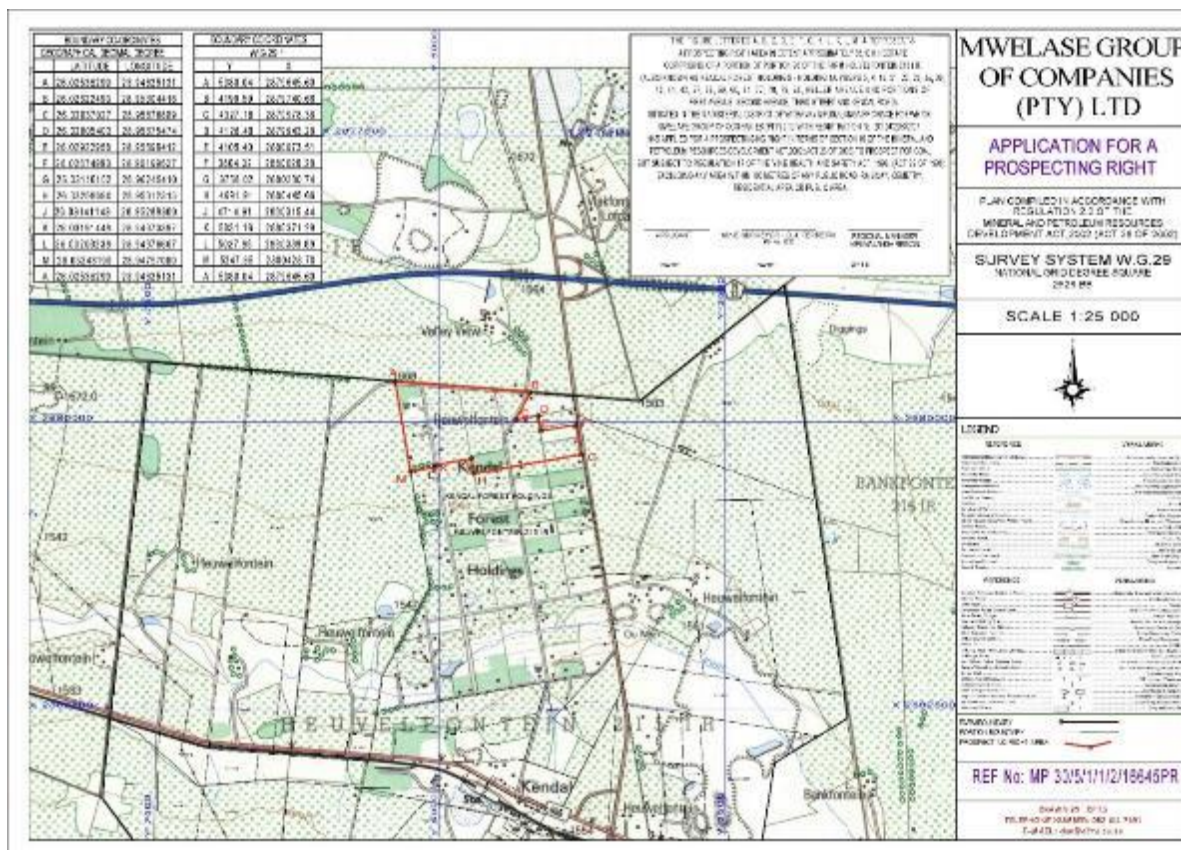


Figure 2: Prospecting right application area



Figure 3: Positions of proposed bore holes on small holdings (© Amber Earth (Pty) Ltd)

4 HIGH-LEVEL LITERATURE REVIEW

4.1 PREVIOUS STUDIES

A review of at least 26 heritage studies¹ completed for other projects within a 10 km radius of the proposed prospecting right area was completed. This review indicated that the predominant heritage resources previously identified within this study area include:

¹ Angel 2018 ; Baker 2017; De Jong 2007; Fourie 2009, 2018; Fourie and Fourie 2009; Gaigher 2007; Higgitt 2012; Küsel 2008; Moses 2020; Murimbika 2008; NCHM 2002a, 2002b, 2003; Pelsler 2018; Roodt 2007, 2008; Tomose 2011; Van der Walt 2007, 2018; Van Vollenhoven 2012, 2015.

- Burial grounds and graves;
- Historical structures and other buildings older than 60 years;
- Indeterminate later Late Iron Age or early historical period sites.

4.2 GEOLOGY AND FOSSIL SENSITIVITY

According to the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity Map,² (see Figure 4) the proposed project area is located within a highly sensitive palaeontological zone. The geology of this vegetation type is characterised by the Pretoria group and the Witwatersrand Subgroup's quartzite ridges as well as the Rooiberg Group's Selons River Formation which is from the Transvaal Supergroup. The parent geology from this vegetation type supports shallow soils like Glenrosa and Mispah which typically forms on slopes and ridges where topsoil is likely to wash off.³

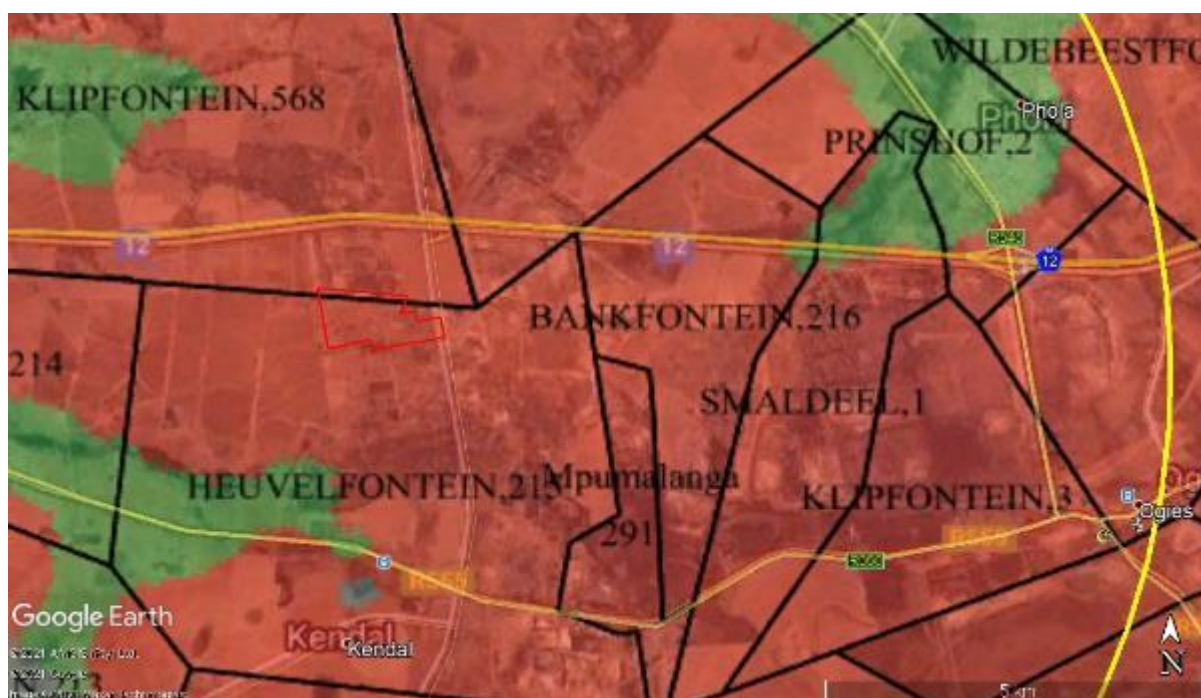


Figure 4: Palaeo-sensitivity map indicating prospecting right area on farm Heuvelfontein 215 JR (© SAHRIS 2021 and Google Earth 2021)

² SAHRIS 2021

³ Mucina and Rutherford 2006 in Van Stormbroek 2021.

5 CURRENT STATE OF LANDSCAPE

Activities including residential development, mining, agriculture, and other commercial enterprises significantly transformed landscape. The proposed prospecting boreholes are located in areas on smallholdings with no visible heritage resources. The smallholdings themselves also constitute negligible heritage value. Refer to figures 5-20 for visual depictions of the landscape.

The only identified heritage resources occur on plot 57. This comprises at least two graves with headstones. Access to this site was, however, not possible. The graves are situated at least 100 m from the proposed borehole

No visible geological outcrops occur at any of the borehole sites. Based on deep excavations in the general study area, the topsoil comprises at least 150 to 200 cm of relatively homogenous red, sandy soil without visible rocks (see figure 21).



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Figures 5 - 20: Photographic documentation of the proposed borehole sites and properties



Figure 21: Deep excavation indicating depth of sandy topsoil and absence of any geological structure

6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The proposed prospecting boreholes and associated activities will not affect any existing, tangible heritage resources. Impacts on fossil heritage are highly unlikely. There remains an inevitable risk that subsurface heritage resources may be exposed during construction. The potential that significant subsurface heritage resources are present is, however, very unlikely.

A Basic Assessment process is required to obtain necessary Environmental Authorisation for the PRA. This process in turn requires a heritage resources management (HRM) process in terms of section 38(8) of the NHRA.

Amber Earth requested the Heritage Foundation to undertake the HRM process, limited to this NID and RfE. The document was prepared following site screening and

a brief desktop review of available heritage reports. The Heritage Foundation undertook site screening to record the current state of the landscape.

Based on the relatively small scale of the proposed development, the low significance of the geology in terms of fossil sensitivity and the absence of visible, recorded surface heritage resources, it is recommended that exemption be granted from all further heritage studies for this project.

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