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**REPORT ON A PHASE 1 HIA FOR THE EXPANSION OF MINING ACTIVITIES
AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A WASTE ROCK DUMP FOR THE
VERGENOEG MINE ON THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM KROMDRAAI 209JR,
CULLINAN MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, GAUTENG**

For:

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REPORT: APAC013/82

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SUMMARY

A Pelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Vergenoeg Mining Company (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Phase 1 HIA for proposed mining expansion and the development of a Waste Rock Dump area at their existing Mining Operations. The mine and study area is located on the Remaining Extent of the farm Kromdraai 209JR, near Rust de Winter in the Cullinan District of Gauteng. The area has been fairly extensively disturbed in the past through mining operations that include various tailings dams, the open pit fluorspar operations, plant, offices and staff housing. As a result any significant archaeological and/or historical sites or features that might have existed here in the past would have been extensively disturbed or destroyed. Dense vegetation in these areas where the assessment was focused made visibility difficult.

This report discusses the results of the field assessment and background study on the archaeology & history of the area. No sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance were identified, while a number are known from previous studies on Kromdraai and the larger Rust de Winter geographical area. A number of recommendations in terms of possible mitigation measures are put forward at the end of this report.

Based on the assessment, from a Heritage perspective, the proposed developments should be allowed to continue, taking cognizance of the conclusions and recommendations put forward at the end of this report.

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1. INTRODUCTION

A Pelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Vergenoeg Mining Company (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Phase 1 HIA for proposed mining expansion and the development of a Waste Rock Dump area at their existing Mining Operations. The mine and study area is located on the Remaining Extent of the farm Kromdraai 209JR, near Rust de Winter in the Cullinan District of Gauteng. The area has been fairly extensively disturbed in the past through mining operations that include various tailings dams, the open pit fluorspar operations, plant, offices and staff housing. As a result any significant archaeological and/or historical sites or features that might have existed here in the past would have been extensively disturbed or destroyed. Dense vegetation in these areas where the assessment was focused made visibility difficult.

No sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance were identified, while a number are known from previous studies on Kromdraai and the larger Rust de Winter geographical area.

The client indicated the location and boundaries of the study area and the fieldwork focused on this.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the study is to:

1. Identify all possible objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the portions of land that will be impacted upon by the proposed development;
2. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value;
3. Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions;
4. Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources;
5. Review applicable legislative requirements;

3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with mainly in two acts. These are the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998).

3.1 The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the above-mentioned act the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artifacts, structures and sites older than 100 years
- b. Ethnographic art objects (e.g. prehistoric rock art) and ethnography
- c. Objects of decorative and visual arts
- d. Military objects, structures and sites older than 75 years
- e. Historical objects, structures and sites older than 60 years
- f. Proclaimed heritage sites
- g. Grave yards and graves older than 60 years
- h. Meteorites and fossils
- i. Objects, structures and sites of scientific or technological value.

The National Estate includes the following:

- a. Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance
- b. Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage
- c. Historical settlements and townscapes
- d. Landscapes and features of cultural significance
- e. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- f. Sites of Archaeological and palaeontological importance
- g. Graves and burial grounds
- h. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery
- i. Movable objects (e.g. archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, military, ethnographic, books etc.)

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is the process to be followed in order to determine whether any heritage resources are located within the area to be developed as well as the possible impact of the proposed development thereon. An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) only looks at archaeological resources. An HIA must be done under the following circumstances:

- a. The construction of a linear development (road, wall, power line, canal etc.) exceeding 300m in length
- b. The construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length
- c. Any development or other activity that will change the character of a site and exceed 5 000m² or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m²
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority

Structures

Section 34 (1) of the mentioned act states that no person may demolish any structure or part thereof which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

A structure means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith.

Alter means any action affecting the structure, appearance or physical properties of a place or object, whether by way of structural or other works, by painting, plastering or the decoration or any other means.

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Section 35(4) of this act deals with archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites. The act states that no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority (national or provincial):

- a. destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;
- b. destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological material or object or any meteorite;
- c. trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- d. bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.
- e. alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years as protected.

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). In order to demolish such a site or structure, a destruction permit from SAHRA will also be needed.

Human remains

Graves and burial grounds are divided into the following:

- a. ancestral graves
- b. royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
- c. graves of victims of conflict
- d. graves designated by the Minister
- e. historical graves and cemeteries
- f. human remains

In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:

- a. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position of otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;
- b. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or

- c. bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are subject to provisions of the Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983) and to local regulations. Exhumation of graves must conform to the standards set out in the **Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980)** (replacing the old Transvaal Ordinance no. 7 of 1925).

Permission must also be gained from the descendants (where known), the National Department of Health, Provincial Department of Health, Premier of the Province and local police. Furthermore, permission must also be gained from the various landowners (i.e. where the graves are located and where they are to be relocated to) before exhumation can take place.

Human remains can only be handled by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the **Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended)**.

Unidentified/unknown graves are also handled as older than 60 until proven otherwise.

3.2 The National Environmental Management Act

This act states that a survey and evaluation of cultural resources must be done in areas where development projects, that will change the face of the environment, will be undertaken. The impact of the development on these resources should be determined and proposals for the mitigation thereof are made.

Environmental management should also take the cultural and social needs of people into account. Any disturbance of landscapes and sites that constitute the nation's cultural heritage should be avoided as far as possible and where this is not possible the disturbance should be minimized and remedied.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Survey of literature

A survey of available literature was undertaken in order to place the development area in an archaeological and historical context. The sources utilized in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

4.2 Field survey

The field assessment section of the study was conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of archaeological significance in the area of the proposed development. The location/position of all sites, features and objects is determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS) where possible, while detail photographs are also taken where needed.

4.3 Oral histories

People from local communities are sometimes interviewed in order to obtain information relating to the surveyed area. It needs to be stated that this is not applicable under all circumstances. When applicable, the information is included in the text and referred to in the bibliography.

4.4 Documentation

All sites, objects, features and structures identified are documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Co-ordinates of individual localities are determined by means of the Global Positioning System (GPS). The information is added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The study area is located on the Remaining Extent of the farm Kromdraai 209JR, near Rust de Winter in the Cullinan District of Gauteng, and at the Vergenoeg Fluorspar Mine. The expansion of mining activities and the development of a Waste Rock Dump Site are proposed. The area totals approximately 397ha in size.

The area has been extensively disturbed since the 1950's when Fluorspar mining started here, while an old Yskor pit from the 1920's is located north of the current pit (Pers.Comm: Mr.Jurie Snyman – Vergenoeg Mine). Very few natural, open areas still exist on this portion of Kromdraai 209JR, with the largest portion covered by the opencast mining operations, plant area, workshops, offices and staff housing. The areas where the expansion and waste rock dump is proposed are characterized by rocky ridges and outcrops, as well as very dense vegetation (tree and grass cover) that made visibility difficult. The topography of the area is also relatively elevated and little flat sections are present.

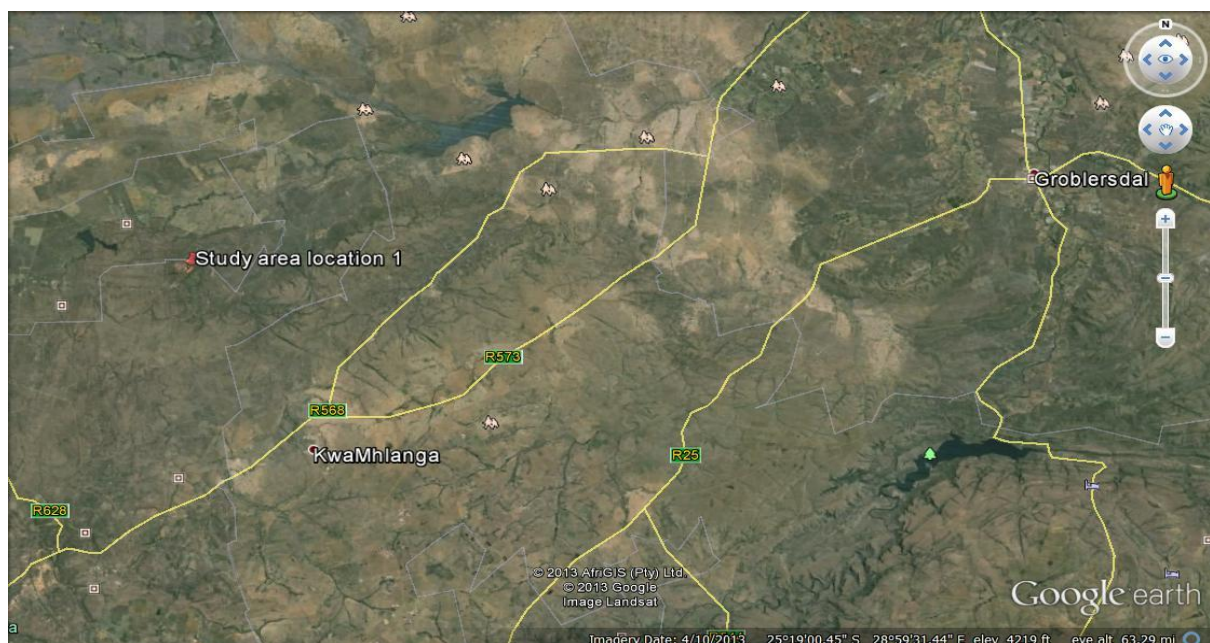


Figure 1: Geographical location of study area (Google Earth 2013 – Image date 2013/04/10).

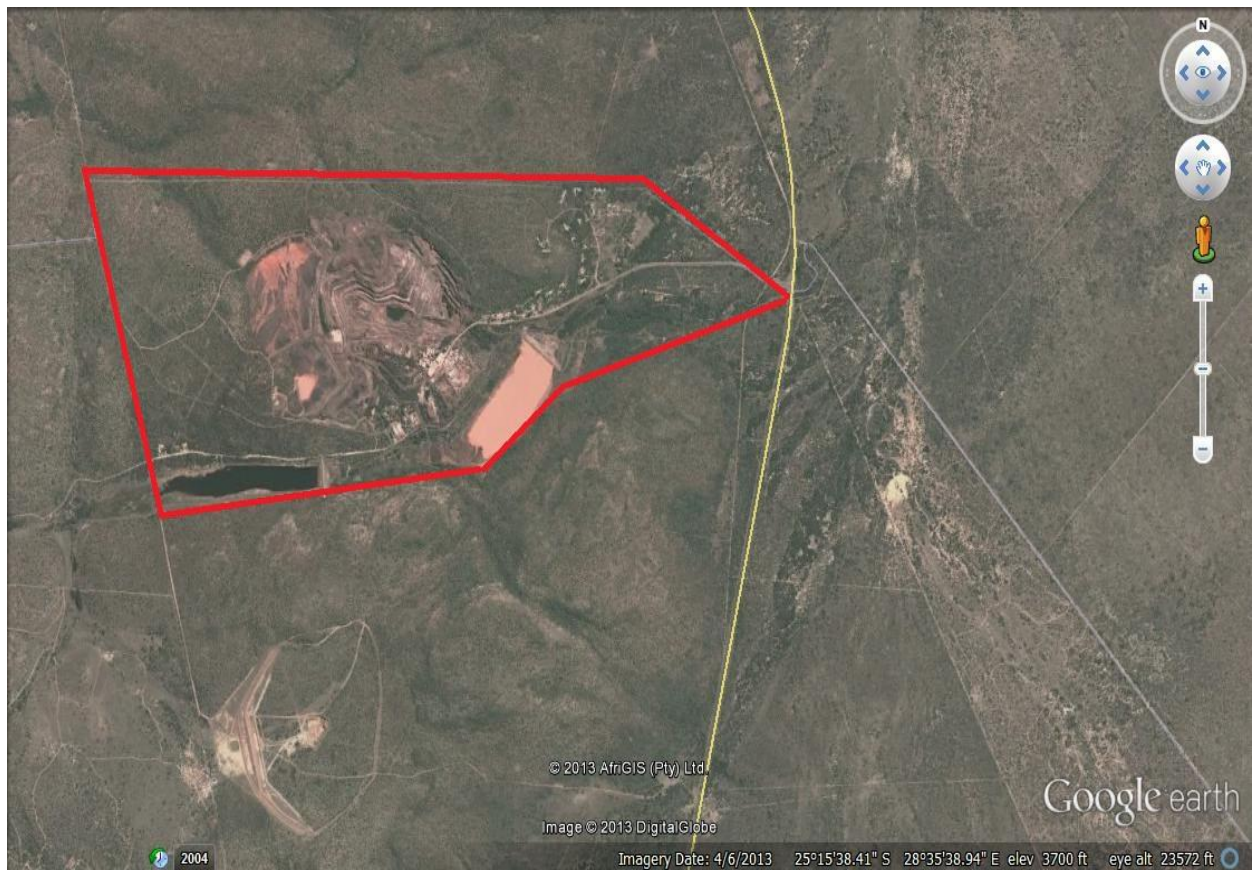


Figure 2: Closer view of location of study area. The extent of the mining is visible here. Only some open sections are available for the waste rock dump site and mining expansion (Google Earth 2013 – Image date 2013/04/06).

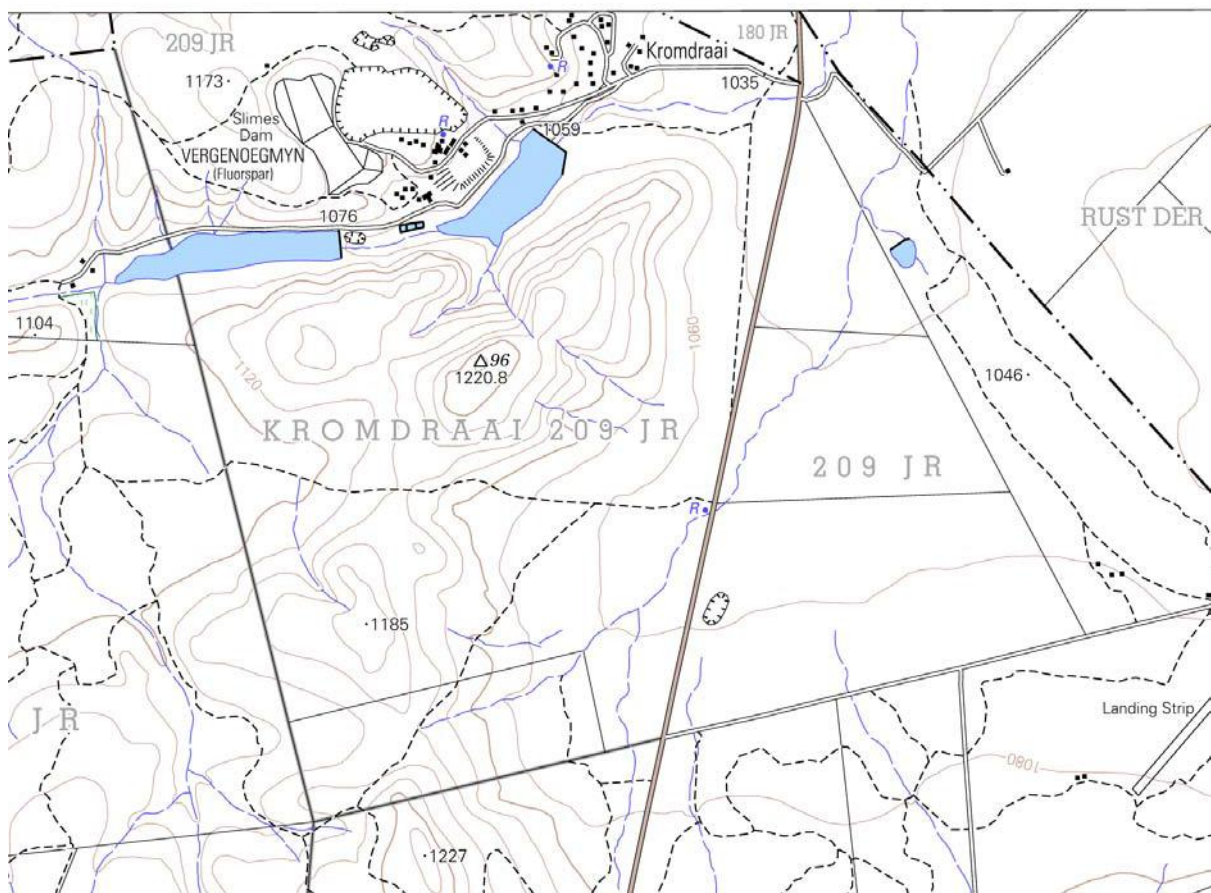


Figure 3: Section of 1:50 000 topographic map showing the location of Vergenoeg Mine (2528BC Moloto 2001)

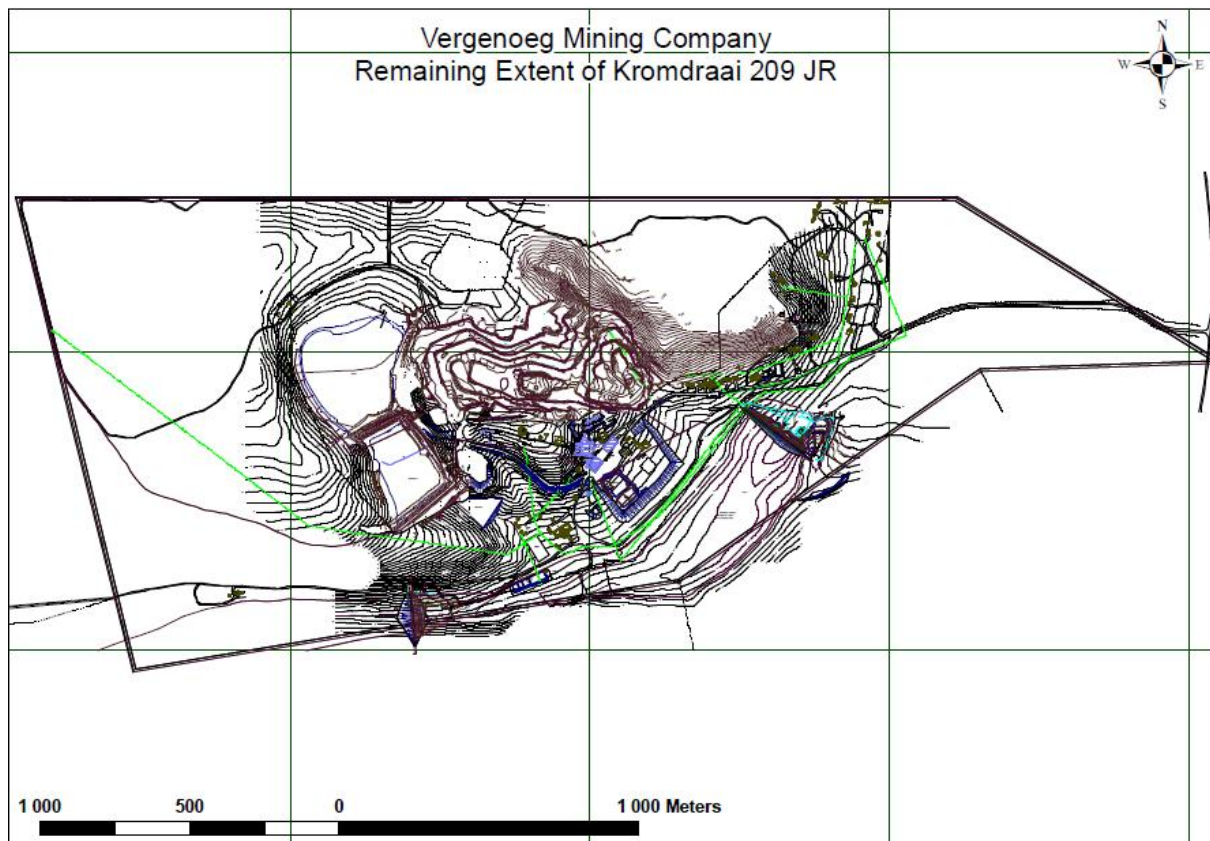


Figure 4: Surface layout plan of Vergenoeg Mine and the R/E of Kromdraai 209JR (courtesy of Vergenoeg Mining Company).



Figure 5: Typical view of area where expansion and waste rock dump is proposed.



Figure 6: The area is also characterized by rocky ridges and outcrops.



Figure 7: A view of one of the large tailings dams at Vergenoeg.



Figure 8: A view over a section of the open pit area.



Figure 9: One of the other smaller dams and more views of mining operations.

6. DISCUSSION

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic (stone) material was mainly used to produce tools. In South Africa the Stone Age can basically be divided into three periods. It is however important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for interpretation. A basic sequence for the South African Stone Age (Lombard et.al 2012) is as follows:

Earlier Stone Age (ESA) up to 2 million – more than 200 000 years ago
 Middle Stone Age (MSA) less than 300 000 – 20 000 years ago

Later Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 2000 years ago

It should also be noted that these dates are not a neat fit because of variability and overlapping ages between sites (Lombard et.al 2012: 125).

No Stone Age sites are known to exist in the study area, with the closest sites located to the north near Settlers and south of the area near Cullinan (Berg 1999: 4). These sites date to between the Middle and Later Stone Age. No sites or objects dating to the Stone Age were identified during the field assessment.

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce artifacts. In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases (Bergh 1999: 96-98), namely:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D.

Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.

Huffman (2007: xiii) indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which are widely accepted in archaeological circles, are:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.

Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.

Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.

Although there are no known EIA or LIA sites in the area (Bergh 1999:7), some stone walled sites and material were identified during recent land claims work in the Rust de Winter area by Archaeos cc (Pelser et.al 2007; 2009). Some of these sites are related to the Litho Ndzundza. Between 2007 and 2009 Anton Pelsaer (as a member of Archaeos cc) conducted some Land Claims research for the so-called Litho-Ndzundza Land Claim in the Rust de Winter area. One of the farms under concern was Kromdraai 209 JR. During the research, which included field assessments, a fairly large number of sites were identified in the larger geographical area. These included graves, kraals, ruins of homesteads and grazing areas. Oral testimonies, as well ethnographic evidence showed that the Litho did settle in the area, and it is indicated that when they moved from Cullinan (near Premier Mine) to the area (prior to 1917 when they were dispossessed) they settled close to the Vergenoeg Mine on Kromdraai. Some of the stone walled settlements in the area, claimed by the Litho as ruins of their various wards or settlement units, could also have an earlier origin (dating to the LIA and possibly related to other Tswana groups), although this could not be confirmed.

No evidence of any stone walled sites was however identified during the recent study on this portion of Kromdraai.

Tom Huffman's research work does show that LIA sites, features or material could be found in the area. This will include the Uitkomst facies of the Urewe Tradition dating to between AD1650 and AD1820 (Huffman 2007: 171); the Rooiberg facies of the same tradition dating to between AD1650 and AD1750 (p.175) and also possibly the Buispoort facies of the Urewe Tradition dating to between AD1700 and AD1840 (p.203).



Figure 10: Some of the sites referred to in the above section. Vergenoeg Mine is circled in red (Google Earth 2010 – Image date 2009/09/02).

The historical age started with the first recorded oral histories in the area. It includes the moving into the area of people who were able to read and write. The earliest Europeans to move through or close to the area were the groups of Hume in 1825, followed by David Livingstone in 1847 (Berg 1999: 12 – 13).

Old maps of the farm and the applicable portions were consulted in the Chief Surveyor General database (www.dla.gov.za). From these maps (dating to around 1909) it is clear that the whole of the original farm was granted to Andries Petrus van der Walt on 21 September 1859. The farm (originally numbered 459) was surveyed in September 1887 by W.H.Gilfillan (CSG document 10FQ7U01). Portion 3 was transferred to the estate of the later J.L.G.Erasmus in 1909 (10FQ7Y01)

SIDES.	ANGLES.	(v) CO-ORDINATES (x)
AB 1250.50	A 92. 54. 30	B -1125.57 -1469.05
BC 1001.54	B 92. 54. 30	C -1125.57 -1469.05
CD 1001.54	C 92. 54. 30	D -1125.57 -1469.05
DE 1001.54	D 92. 54. 30	E -1125.57 -1469.05
EA 1001.54	E 92. 54. 30	A -1125.57 -1469.05
AB 1250.50	A 92. 54. 30	B -1125.57 -1469.05
BC 1001.54	B 92. 54. 30	C -1125.57 -1469.05
CD 1001.54	C 92. 54. 30	D -1125.57 -1469.05
DE 1001.54	D 92. 54. 30	E -1125.57 -1469.05
EA 1001.54	E 92. 54. 30	A -1125.57 -1469.05

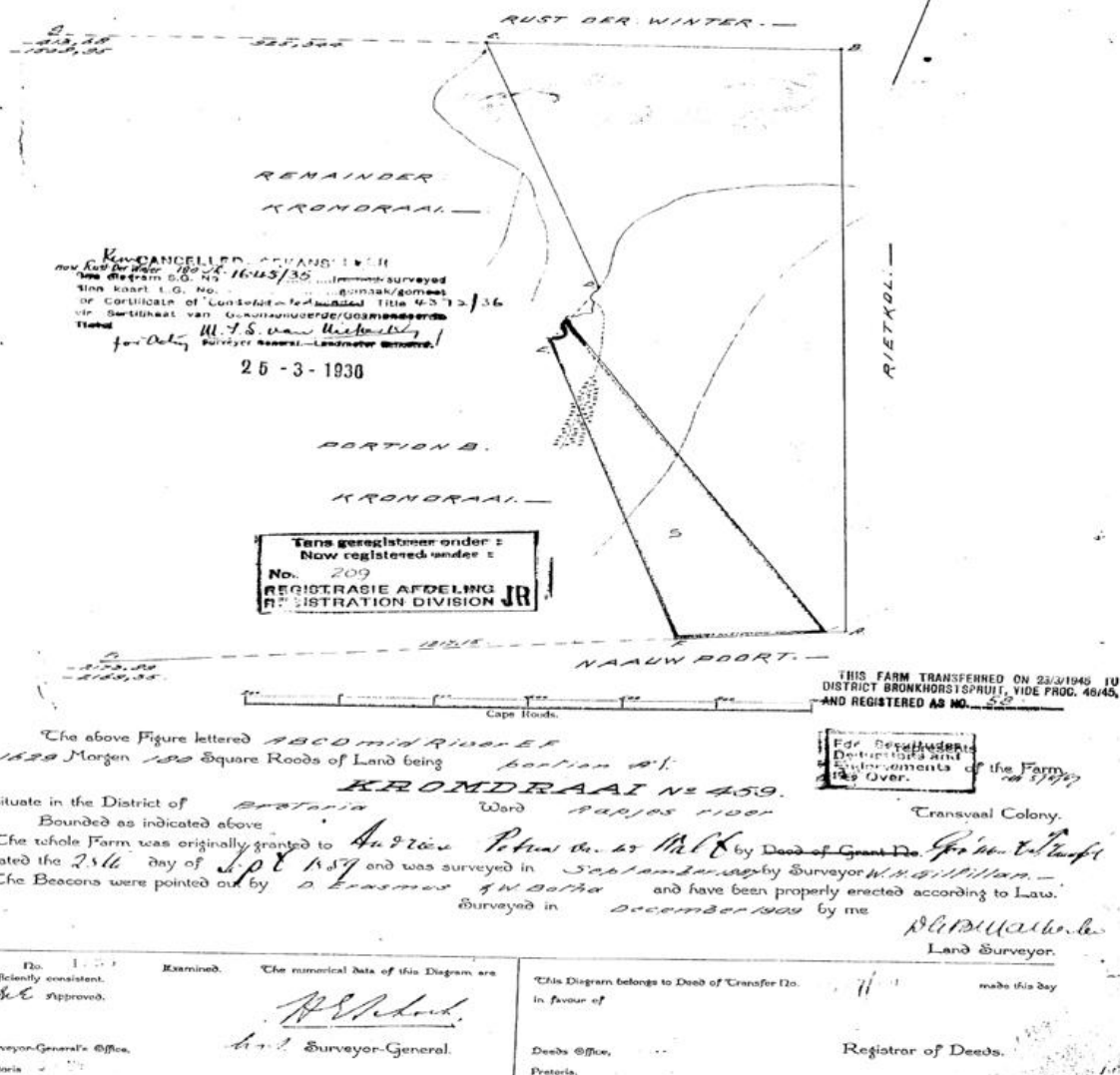


Figure 11: Old map of the farm from the database of the Chief Surveyor General (www.csg.dla.gov.za).

Results of the Fieldwork

No sites, features or objects of cultural heritage (archaeological or historical) origin or significance were identified during the field assessment. The study area has been extensively disturbed since the 1950's when mining operations commenced here. If any did exist here in the past it would have been disturbed or to a large degree destroyed as a result.

The structures (including the staff housing and offices) are not older than 60 years of age and not significant from a heritage point of view. Should there be need to demolish some of these for the purposes of the expansion of mining operations this can be done, taking cognizance of

the fact that relevant permits will have to be obtained. It should also be noted that if these are only to be impacted in a number of years then some could reach the 60 years of age cut-off time. Detailed assessment of the relevant structures and houses should then be undertaken.

Although no sites, features or objects were identified during the survey, it is possible that some might be uncovered during the proposed development and future expansions. This will include low stone packed or unmarked graves. Dense vegetation cover during the survey made visibility difficult and single, small objects such as stone tools could have been missed.



Figure 12: Some of the staff housing in the area.



Figure 13: More structures related to the residential section.



Figure 14: Recreational area and section of offices at the Mine.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it is possible to say that the Phase 1 HIA for the proposed expansion of mining operations and the development of a Waste Rock Dump site on the remaining extent of Kromdraai 209JR (Vergenoeg Mine) was conducted successfully. The study area and mine is situated close to Rust de Winter in the Cullinan District of Gauteng.

The area has been fairly extensively disturbed in the past through mining operations that include various tailings dams, the open pit fluorspar operations, plant, offices and staff housing. As a result any significant archaeological and/or historical sites or features that might have existed here in the past would have been extensively disturbed or destroyed.

No archaeological or historical sites, features or objects were identified in the area where the expansion and waste rock dump area is planned. Some archaeological and historical sites and features are however known from previous studies in the larger area, and include Late Iron Age stone walled sites and later historical sites. Dense vegetation in the study area at the time of the assessment made visibility difficult and it is possible that single, small objects such as Stone Age tools could have been missed, while low stone packed and/or unmarked graves could also have been overlooked. It should be mentioned that all possible efforts were made to identify any sites, but in the event of any being uncovered during the development it should be reported to a relevant specialist.

Finally, from a cultural heritage point of view the development should be allowed to continue taking heed of the above. The subterranean presence of archaeological or historical sites, features or objects is always a possibility. This could include unknown and unmarked burial pits. Should any be uncovered during the development process and archaeologist or heritage specialist should be called in to investigate and recommend on the best way forward.

8. REFERENCES

Aerial views of study area location and boundaries: Google Earth 2013 – Imagery dates 2013/04/10 & 2013/04/06.

Distribution of sites in larger geographical area: Google Earth 2010 – Image date 2009/09/02.

Surface Layout Plan of Vergenoeg Mine: Courtesy Vergenoeg Mine

Topographic Map location of Vergenoeg Mine: 1:50 000 series 2528BC Moloto - 2001

Bergh, J.S. (red.). 1999. **Geskiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika. Die vier noordelike provinsies**. Pretoria: J.L. van Schaik.

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Chief Surveyor General Database (www.csg.dla.gov.za)

APPENDIX A

DEFINITION OF TERMS:

Site: A large place with extensive structures and related cultural objects. It can also be a large assemblage of cultural artifacts, found on a single location.

Structure: A permanent building found in isolation or which forms a site in conjunction with other structures.

Feature: A coincidental find of movable cultural objects.

Object: Artifact (cultural object).

(Also see Knudson 1978: 20).

APPENDIX B

DEFINITION/ STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

Historic value: Important in the community or pattern of history or has an association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in history.

Aesthetic value: Important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.

Scientific value: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural history or is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement of a particular period

Social value: Have a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

Rarity: Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage.

Representivity: Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or object or a range of landscapes or environments characteristic of its class or of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, province region or locality.

APPENDIX C

SIGNIFICANCE AND FIELD RATING:

Cultural significance:

- Low: A cultural object being found out of context, not being part of a site or without any related feature/structure in its surroundings.
- Medium: Any site, structure or feature being regarded less important due to a number of factors, such as date and frequency. Also any important object found out of context.
- High: Any site, structure or feature regarded as important because of its age or uniqueness. Graves are always categorized as of a high importance. Also any important object found within a specific context.

Heritage significance:

- Grade I: Heritage resources with exceptional qualities to the extent that they are of national significance
- Grade II: Heritage resources with qualities giving it provincial or regional importance although it may form part of the national estate
- Grade III: Other heritage resources of local importance and therefore worthy of conservation

Field ratings:

- i. National Grade I significance: should be managed as part of the national estate
- ii. Provincial Grade II significance: should be managed as part of the provincial estate
- iii. Local Grade IIIA: should be included in the heritage register and not be mitigated (high significance)
- iv. Local Grade IIIB: should be included in the heritage register and may be mitigated (high/medium significance)
- v. General protection A (IV A): site should be mitigated before destruction (high/medium significance)
- vi. General protection B (IV B): site should be recorded before destruction (medium significance)
- vii. General protection C (IV C): phase 1 is seen as sufficient recording and it may be demolished (low significance)

APPENDIX D

PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES:

Formal protection:

National heritage sites and Provincial heritage sites – Grade I and II

Protected areas - An area surrounding a heritage site

Provisional protection – For a maximum period of two years

Heritage registers – Listing Grades II and III

Heritage areas – Areas with more than one heritage site included

Heritage objects – e.g. Archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, visual art, military, numismatic, books, etc.

General protection:

Objects protected by the laws of foreign states

Structures – Older than 60 years

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Burial grounds and graves

Public monuments and memorials

APPENDIX E

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASES

1. Pre-assessment or Scoping Phase – Establishment of the scope of the project and terms of reference.
2. Baseline Assessment – Establishment of a broad framework of the potential heritage of an area.
3. Phase I Impact Assessment – Identifying sites, assess their significance, make comments on the impact of the development and makes recommendations for mitigation or conservation.
4. Letter of recommendation for exemption – If there is no likelihood that any sites will be impacted.
5. Phase II Mitigation or Rescue – Planning for the protection of significant sites or sampling through excavation or collection (after receiving a permit) of sites that may be lost.
6. Phase III Management Plan – For rare cases where sites are so important that development cannot be allowed.