



SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

SAHRA

SECOND NOTIFICATION OF THE INTENTION DECLARE: CANTEEN KOPJE

December 2021



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AN AGENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE



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Enquiries: A. Solomon / H. Weldon

15 December 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTIFICATION OF THE INTENTION TO DECLARE CANTEEN KOPJE, ERF 91, BARKLY WEST, NORTHERN CAPE (AS REPRESENTED BY FIGURE ABCDEF OF SURVEY DIAGRAM F2393/47) AS A NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE IN TERMS OF SECTION 27 OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT NO. 25 OF 1999.

Following a letter dated 20th June 2017 sent you/your entity and in the interest of all parties concerned, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) is hereby withdrawing the letter and issuing you with this notification of its intention to declare Canteen Kopje, Barkly West, Northern Cape in terms of Sections 27 (1) of the National Heritage Resources Act No 25 of 1999 ("the NHRA").

South African Heritage Resources Agency has identified Canteen Kopje as having qualities so exceptional that it is of special national significance and warrants the declaration as a National Heritage Site.

Statement of Significance:

The archaeological site of Canteen Kopje in the Northern Cape has yielded evidence of human and human-ancestor occupation stretching as far back as 2.3 million years. The site also suggests a period of continuous occupation for possibly a million years. These aspects make Canteen Kopje one of the most unique and significant Stone Age archaeological sites in the world, comparable to sites found within the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site. The site has exceptionally deep archaeological deposits, of which many are undisturbed, and has yielded – and may continue to yield – invaluable information about the culture and way of life of our shared human ancestors.

Canteen Kopje was also the site of the first alluvial diamond mining in interior Africa, predating the diamond rush in Kimberley.

In the 1940s, the eminent South African archaeologist C. van Riet Lowe was of the opinion that: "When the last diamond claim has been abandoned, archaeologists throughout the world will be interested in

Canteen Kopje, in the Vaal River diggings, where lie the prehistoric remains of a million years of human evolution." His encouraging prediction has proved to be correct.

In terms of Section 27 (10) of the NHRA, Canteen Kopje shall be deemed to be protected as a heritage site for six (6) months from the date of service of this notice or until the notice is withdrawn or the place is declared to be a heritage site by notice of a Government Gazette, whichever is the shorter period.





Implications of Declaration:

SAHRA is responsible for the protection of all National Heritage Sites and will, therefore, be the responsible heritage resources authority to ensure the protection of Canteen Kopje according to section 27 (15) of the NHRA. In terms of Section 27 (18), no person may destroy, damage, deface, excavate, alter, remove from its original position, subdivide or change the planning status of any heritage site declared a National Heritage Site without a permit from SAHRA, and, in terms of section 27 (22) of the NHRA, no person may damage any fence, wall or gate constructed or sign erected by SAHRA in terms of subsection (21).

You are hereby given sixty (60) calendar days until Friday **18th February 2022** to make representations or written submissions regarding the proposed declaration and to propose, if any, conditions under which the declaration will be acceptable to you, in accordance to Section 27 (8) (b) or (c) of the NHRA.

Please make written submissions to the following postal address: **SAHRA, P.O. Box 4637, Cape Town, 8001**. Alternatively you may submit via email to the following email addresses: asalomon@sahra.org.za or hweldon@sahra.org.za

Should you have any queries with regards to the above, please contact Mr. Andrew Salomon on 021-462-4502 or Ms Heidi Weldon on 012-941-4960.

We look forward to your response.

Yours Faithfully

Adv Lungisa Malgas

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

