

**Heritage Impact Statement concerning prospecting rights over the  
Remaining Extent of the Farm Rooifontein No 1722 (formerly known  
as Speculatie No 217) in the Boshof Magisterial District, Free State  
Province.**

**Introduction**

Affordable Outcome CC submitted a Section 102 (S102) amendment application in terms of the MPRDA, 2002 to include ~5 ha area (red polygon, **Fig. 1**) into their approved prospecting footprint (333.0435 ha, white polygon, **Fig. 1**) over the Remaining Extent of the farm Rooifontein No 1722 (formerly known as Speculatie No 217). The S102 application was submitted to include the ~5 ha area that was previously excluded from the approved prospecting right due to a mining permit application by Wheatfields Investments 168 (Pty) Ltd (**Fig. 2**). According to the applicant, prospecting will involve drilling of boreholes and the opening of one bulk sampling trench at the site.

GPS Coordinates of the excluded ~5 ha area

- A) 28°48'13.89"S 24°52'7.69"E
- B) 28°48'12.46"S 24°52'16.28"E
- C) 28°48'18.69"S 24°52'18.67"E
- D) 28°48'19.94"S 24°52'9.90"E

**Background**

An earlier Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, carried out as part of a mining permit application over the excluded ~5 ha area of the Remaining Extent of the Farm Rooifontein No 1722 (formerly known as Speculatie No 217), established that:

- the site is located within a historical mining area that forms part of a historically significant landscape central to the Kimberley Diamond Rush of the 1870's,
- the site is located within an area considered to be of high historical and archaeological significance.
- mining or mining related activities will likely have an adverse effect on the integrity of Kimberley's historical landscape (Rossouw 2017).

The report recommended that mining or mining related activities are not advised within the area (SAHRA CaseID: 15731).

It is reiterated that the site forms part of the eastern periphery of a large area (the latter currently encompassing the farms Alexanderfontein 129, Benauwdheidfontein 124, Dutoitspan 119 and Rooifontein 1722), that probably represent some of the last untouched vestiges of the historical Diamond Fields landscape (**Fig. 3**):

*'The multitude that flocked from the River Diggings was here met by the throngs crowding in from every other direction, and soon a seething population of 40,000 people built up a town around the [Du Toit's Pan] mine' (Morton 1877 : 71).*

*'Attention had hardly been called to the diggings at Jagersfontein when a still more remarkable discovery was made in the month of September, 1870, at Dutoitspan on the farm of Dorstfontein' (Williams 1902 : 165).*

*'Only a few months from the day when the first diamond was picked up near du Toit's pan, the camp at Dorstfontein was proudly claiming the title of the " City of the Pan." A spacious market square was laid out on the ground between the pan and the ridge covered with diamond diggers, and around this square were ranged the white walls of the aspiring camp. Streets radiating from the central square gave open access to the market-place, and the white tent blocks were soon dotted near the square with shops of brick and iron and wood, rivalling the pioneer diamond-digging town of Klipdrift on the Vaal'(Williams 1902 : 191).*

### **Statement**

Affordable Outcome CC wants to include plans for the disturbance of an area of around 200 m<sup>2</sup>, allowing for one bulk sampling and drilling of boreholes within the previously excluded ~5 ha area. Drilling and bulk sampling (trenching) at the site will intensify the negative aspects brought on by the accumulative impact of multiple prospecting in an already encroached historical landscape. GPS coordinates for a no-go zone is presented below (**Fig 2**). However, it is recommended that the original footprint should remain

off-limits to invasive prospecting activities in order to preserve the integrity of some of the last remaining remnants of a dry diggings mine on the historical Diamond Fields landscape.

Proposed No-go Zone:

- a) 28°48'14.18"S 24°52'8.21"E
- b) 28°48'12.75"S 24°52'14.52"E
- c) 28°48'15.04"S 24°52'15.95"E
- d) 28°48'18.99"S 24°52'16.26"E
- e) 28°48'20.05"S 24°52'9.72"E

## References

- Miller, R.W. 1873. Life in the new diamond diggings. Scribner's Monthly Magazine.
- Morton, W.J. 1877. The South African Diamond Fields, and a Journey to the Mines Journal of the American Geographical Society of New York (9): 66-83
- Rossouw, L. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a mining permit application on the Remainder of the farm Speculatie 217 (now Rooifontein 1722), Boshof District, FS Province. Report submitted to SAHRA.
- Williams, G.F. 1902. The diamond mines of South Africa. The MacMillan Company. London.

## DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

I, Lloyd Rossouw, declare that I act as an independent specialist consultant. I do not have or will not have any financial interest in the undertaking of the activity other than remuneration for work as stipulated in the terms of reference. I have no interest in secondary or downstream developments as a result of the authorization of this project and have no conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity.



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## Figures



Figure 1. Aerial view of the proposed prospecting footprints.

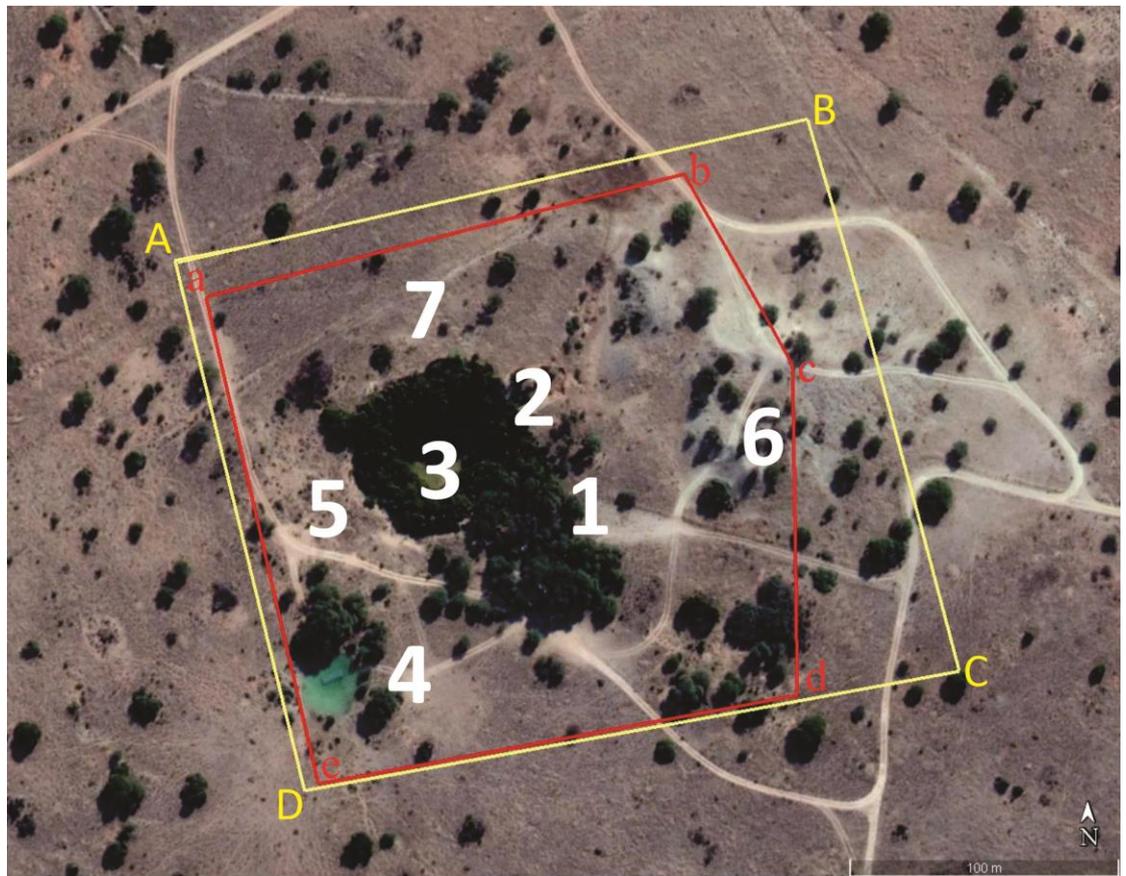


Figure 2. Historical features previously located within the 5 ha footprint:

1. Olifantsfontein Hotel site
2. Old mining trench
3. Main excavation area
- 4 & 5. Old mine shaft area
- 6 & 7. Spoil heaps

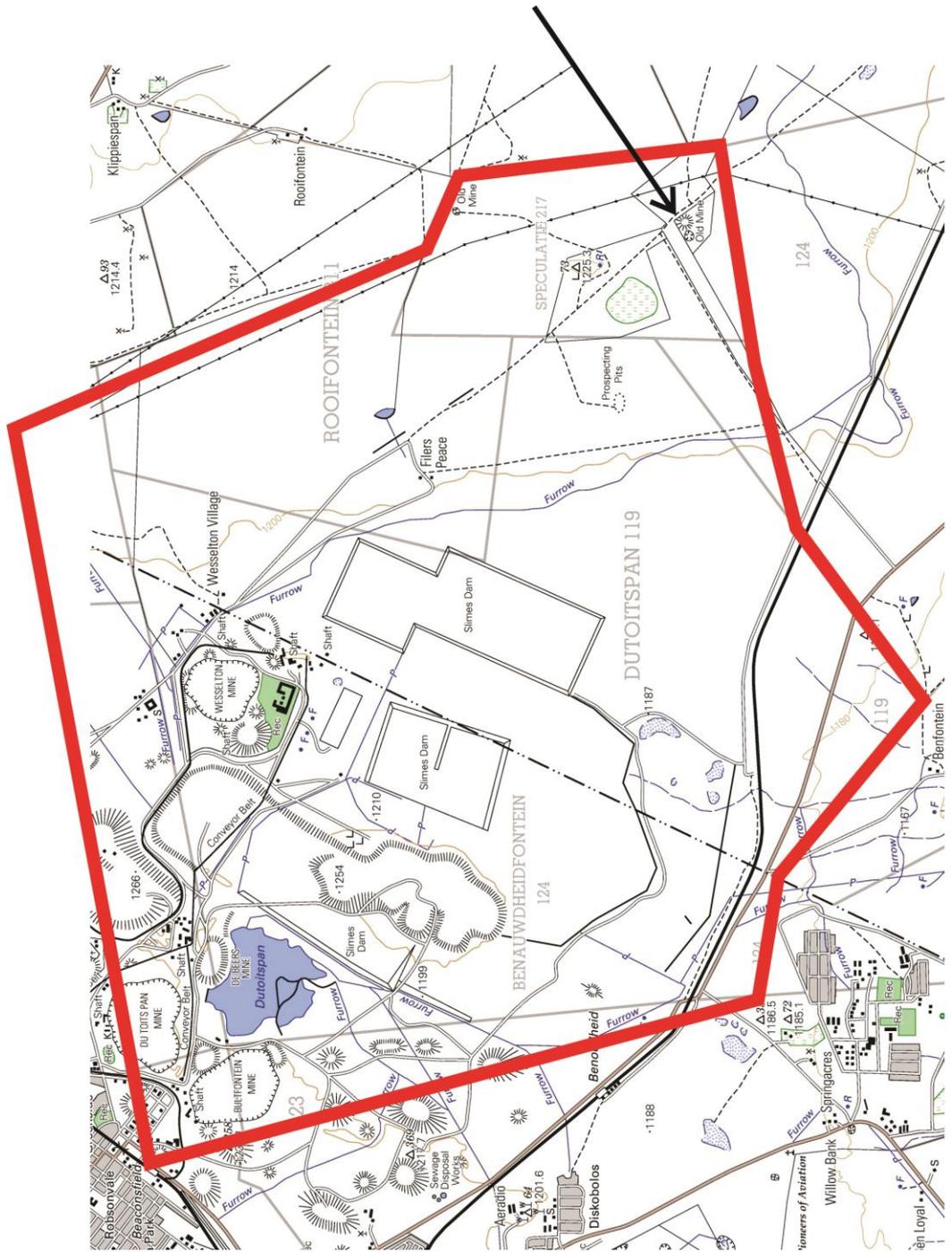


Figure 3. The site (arrow) forms part of the eastern periphery of a large area (red polygon) that form part of the historical Diamond Fields landscape (portion of 1:50 000 scale topographical map 2824 DD Kimberly).