



PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED DECLARATION OF THE DINOSAURS NESTING SITE (ROOIDRAAI); GOLDEN GATE HIGHLANDS NATIONAL PARK; FREE STATE AS A NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE (Section 27 of the National Heritage Resources Act, No. 25 of 1999)

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) intends to declare the Dinosaurs Nesting Site (Rooidraai); Golden Gate Highlands National Park; Free State as a National Heritage Site.

“The Dinosaurs Nesting Site at Rooidraai in Golden Gate Highlands National Park is a place of exceptional national heritage value because it preserves one of South Africa’s most important palaeontological records. Fossils were first discovered in the park in 1957 by James Kitching and Adrian Brink, followed by the discovery of early Jurassic dinosaur eggs and embryos in 1976. In 2005, further scientific study confirmed that some of these fossilised eggs contained near-complete embryos of *Massospondylus*, a sauropodomorph dinosaur. The site contains close to 100 dinosaur eggs and is recognised as the oldest known mass accumulation of dinosaur egg clutches, with evidence that *Massospondylus* dinosaurs returned to nest at the same place on several occasions. Its rare in-situ egg clutches, preserved embryos, body fossils, trackways and eggshell structures make the site highly significant for understanding dinosaur reproduction, nesting behaviour, early dinosaur development and broader evolutionary history.

The heritage value of the site is further strengthened by its connection to the wider Golden Gate landscape, including the establishment of Golden Gate Highlands National Park in 1963, its expansion between 1963 and 1988, and cultural associations with the Kholumolumo/Kgodumodumo tradition, which has been linked by some scholars to dinosaur footprints and fossil heritage in the region. The opening of the Kgodumodumo Visitor Centre in September 2025 has enhanced public education and awareness of this important fossil landscape. SAHRA therefore considers the Rooidraai Dinosaurs Nesting Site to be of special national significance and worthy of declaration as a National Heritage Site. Members of the public are invited to submit comments on the proposed declaration, with comments closing on 6 October 2026.

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

Your comments regarding our intention are highly appreciated. For more information and to send us your comments and opinions, please indicate by ticking the boxes below, or scan the QR code below and visit our website at www.sahra.org.za. Email form to declarationscoms@sahra.org.za

Comments will close on the 06th October 2026



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