

**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE  
DEPARTEMENT VAN KUNS EN KULTUUR**

No. 599

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THE SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCE AGENCY

**DECLARATION OF THE TAUNG HERITAGE RESOURCE AS A NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE**

1. The Council of the South African Heritage Resource Agency hereby declare the Taung heritage resource as a National Heritage Site.

2. **DESCRIPTION**

The site, the Taung Heritage Resource, which includes the old mine barracks mine shaft, blue pool and the area where a stone cairn was erected in 1985 to mark the spot where the Child skull is assumed to have been dug out, described as follows on the Surveyor-General's Diagram: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A1 B1 C1 D1 E1 F1 G1 H1 J1 K1 L1 M1 N1 P1 Q1 R1 S1 represents 158,7429 hectares of land, being declared a national heritage site over the remainder of farm Taung 894 HN situated in the North West Province.

3. The Deed of Transfer for this site is No. T57/1969.

4. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Taung Heritage Resource's significance is based around the discovery of a child specimen in 1924 which Raymond Dart of the University of the Witwatersrand gave the scientific name *Australopithecus Africanus*. Since this discovery, the site continues to be an international important site for scientific investigation of the origins of humanity. In addition, to the foregoing, the cave deposits at the site delivered most fossils of extinct species of baboon, *Parapapio antiquus*.

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