

**Our Ref:**



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Date: Wednesday March 16, 2016

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Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 9175

## **Interim Comment**

**In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

**Attention:** Enviroafrica CC

PO Box 5367  
Heilderberg  
7135

**Project Description & Location:** It is proposed that the bulk water supply system in Onseepkans be re-constructed. This will include the construction of a storage reservoir (with a capacity of 100 000m<sup>3</sup> and an area of approximately 2.5ha in size) and a Solar plant (consisting of PV panels, which will generate between 750 KVA and 1MVA, with an area not larger than 1 ha, as well as distributions cables) on Farm No. 88. Approximate location of the storage reservoir: 28°45'40.02"S, 19°17'00.74"E. Approximate location of the solar farm: 28°45'11.88"S, 19°16'51.43"E

The Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Development Planning appointed EnviroAfrica CC to complete a Basic Assessment (BA) process for the proposed Bulk Water Supply System at Onseepkans, Khai Ma Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province. A Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) was completed in compliance with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended (NEMA) and the EIA Regulations, 2014. EnviroAfrica CC appointed Ubique Heritage Consultants to complete the required Heritage Studies for the project. The proposed project includes infrastructure such as an earth dam, pump and filter system, a 2 ha 1 megawatt (MW) Solar Photo Voltaic (SPV) generator, a 33kV overhead power line, and mainline pipes to and from the dam (2200 m and 1800 m long).

*Engelbrecht, 2016. Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed bulk water supply at Onseepkans in the Northern Cape Province.*

The Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) identified one Stone Age microlith outside of the activities as described in the DBAR. No other features, structures or gravestones were identified within the proposed development footprint. Recommendations provided in the AIA state that if during construction any finds such as stone tool scatters, artefacts or bone and fossil remains are made, the operations must be stopped and a qualified archaeologist must be contacted for an assessment of the find.

It must be noted that the AIA assessed other areas that are not part of the BA Process as described in the submitted DBAR i.e. OSK Area 1, OSK Area 2 and OSK Area 3.

Recommendations regarding heritage resources within the EMP included the following:

**PROPOSED BULK WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM ONSEEPKANS, ONSEEPKANS  
SETTLEMENT, KHAI MA MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE**

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- If heritage resources are identified during construction, a 20 m buffer should be established and the site clearly marked. A guard should be appointed to enforce the no-go area;
- No efforts should be taken to cover up the heritage resources with soil;
- A heritage practitioner should be contacted to inspect this site as soon as possible and SAHRA should be notified;
- If a large cache of stone tools are uncovered, a Stone Age specialist should be appointed to inspect the find;
- If human remains are uncovered, the South African Police Services (SAPS) should be notified, and no SAPS official may disturb the remains. The sensitive and confidential nature of the heritage resources, particularly human remains must be respected; and
- Any extension of the project beyond its current footprint must be assessed by a qualified heritage practitioner.

### **Interim Comment**

The proposed project area is located within an area of moderate palaeontological sensitivity. A desktop Palaeontological assessment or a Letter of Motivation for Exemption must be completed by a qualified palaeontologist before Final Comments can be issued.

Based on the information provided, it is unlikely that significant archaeological resources will be impacted by the proposed Onseepkans Bulk Water Supply project. It must be noted that if the additional areas assessed in the AIA (OSK Area 1, OSK Area 2 and OSK Area 3) form part of a separate Environmental Authorisation (EA) process, separate cases must be created on SAHRIS so that comments may be issued. The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections against the development as described in the DBAR and accepts and promotes the recommendations within the submitted AIA.

The following additional conditions must be adhered to and must form part of the final EMP:

- In future, should the licensed activities require any extension, expansion or a borrow pit larger than 5 000 m<sup>2</sup> is required for material, SAHRA must be notified of the development in terms of section 38 (1) and 38 (8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA).

If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the

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SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Itumeleng Masiteng/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately. A professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

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Natasha Higgitt  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist (Acting)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/357139>

(, Ref: )

**Terms & Conditions:**

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1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.