

# PHASE I & II HIA FOR THE VAALHARTS IRRIGATION PROJECT CANAL RECONSTRUCTION

Our Ref: 8795



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: Ragna Redelstorff  
Tel: +27 (0)21 202 8651  
Email: rredelstorff@sahra.org.za

Date: Friday December 18, 2015  
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## Interim Comment

### In terms of Section of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Vaalharts Water Use Association  
P.O. Box 4, Jan Kempdorp, 8550

### PHASE I CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE VAALHARTS IRRIGATION PROJECT CANAL GANSPAN – PAMPIERSTAD – JAN KEMPDORP – HARTSWATER AND TAUNGH NORTH WEST PROVINCE AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE & PHASE II CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE VAALHARTS IRRIGATION PROJECT CANAL NORTH WEST PROVINCE WITH PHASE 2 DOCUMENTATION FOR THE NORTH CANAL

The proposed project entails the re-building of the North Canal of the Vaalharts Irrigation Scheme between Pudimoe, North West Province, and Warrenton, Northern Cape Province. Phase 1 and phase 2 Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) were submitted with the application:

*Küsel, U. September 2015. Phase II Cultural Heritage Resources Impact Assessment for the Vaalharts Irrigation Project Canal North West Province with Phase 2 Documentation for the North Canal.*

No historical buildings were found to be affected by the development. The nearby tree windbreaks are of local significance and should be avoided. Archaeological, historical or cultural heritage resources that will be affected include:

- The existing canal that is over 60 years old.
- The Hartswater Drawing office house as repository of historical documents. A digital archival record of these should be created and copies should be filed with SAHRA and the National Archives under supervision of a suitably qualified professional.
- The small neglected unfenced (Italian) cemetery located within the existing Water Affairs yard should be fenced.

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The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit agrees with the recommendations by the author of the HIA regarding avoidance of the nearby tree windbreaks, and fencing of the small Italian cemetery. A buffer zone of 20 m should be established around the fenced in cemetery.

Regarding the filing of historical documents of the Hartswater Drawing office house, an archive specialist from the Northern Cape Archives in Kimberley should be contacted, who will inspect and assess the files. The specialist should submit to SAHRA a **letter or assessment report** that includes advice on how the records can be best preserved, and if and when the records should be transferred for permanent preservation in an archives repository.

As the existing canal is older than 60 years, the **Built Environment Unit of the Northern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Agency** should be contacted for commenting.

The PalaeoSensitivity Map on SAHRIS (<http://www.sahra.org.za/sahris/map/palaeo>) indicates an area of moderate palaeontological sensitivity for the proposed footprint area. Therefore, the SAHRA APM Unit requires a **desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment**, conducted by a professional palaeontologist. Please note that if such an assessment has already been conducted, SAHRA APM has a policy of not accepting reports written more than 5 years ago.

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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Ragna Redelstorff  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

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## ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/345564>

## Terms & Conditions:

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.