

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  
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Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za  
CaseID: 10150

Date: Monday June 19, 2017  
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## Final Comment

### In terms of Section 38(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development

#### **The landowner wishes to develop 21 hectares Rooibos cultivation lands at Sonderwaterkraal, Farm 951/0, Nieuwoudtville in the Hantam Municipality in the Northern Cape.**

Footprint Environmental Services was appointed by the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform: Northern Cape to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process for the proposed establishment of 21 hectares of Rooibos Cultivation Lands on Zonderwaterkraal, Farm 951/0, Nieuwoudtville, Northern Cape Province. A Draft EIA has been submitted in term of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014. The proposed development will comprise 21 ha of rooibos fields. ACRM was appointed to conduct the Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed project.

*Kaplan, J. 2016. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed cultivation of Rooibos Tea, Farm 951 Zonderwaterkraal, near Nieuwoudtville, Hantam Municipality, Northern Cape.*

According to consultation with Dr J Almond, the proposed development is underlain by fluvial sandstones of the Rietvlei Formation that are of low palaeontological sensitivity.

One broken Later Stone Age silcrete flake of low significance was identified within the proposed new fields. No further heritage resources were identified. Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- No archaeological mitigation is required;
- If any other unmarked human remains, or ostrich eggshell caches, for example are exposed or uncovered during excavation, these must be immediately be report to Natasha Higgitt (021 462 4509) or the contracted archaeologist (Jonathan Kaplan 082 321 0172);
- The above recommendation must be incorporated into the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed development.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 06/03/2017, SAHRA requested that a signed letter from Dr Almond be submitted to the case.

*Almond, J. 2017. Proposed rooibos tea agricultural development on farms Zonderwaterkraal and Tweerivier*

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*near Nieuwoudtville, Calvinia District, Northern Cape.*

The proposed development area is underlain by Late Silurian to Early Devonian sandstones and quartzites of the Table Mountain Group. These sediments are of low palaeontological sensitivity with few records of trace fossils. It is unlikely that substantial bedrock excavations will be involved and therefore the development will not pose a significant threat to local fossil heritage.

### **Final Comment**

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objection to the proposed development, and supports the recommendations contained within the heritage specialist reports. The recommendations of the heritage specialists and the following conditions must be included as part of the Final EIA and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the proposed development:

- The Final EIA and appendices must be submitted to SAHRA when submitted to the Competent Authority for record keeping purposes;
- 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/John Gribble 021 462 5402) must be alerted. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (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 subject to permits issued by SAHRA; and
- If the development receives an Environmental Authorisation (EA), SAHRA must be informed and all documents pertaining to the EA must be uploaded to the SAHRIS Case file.

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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John Gribble  
Manager: Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit / Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/369789>  
(DENC, Ref: NC/BA/01/NAM/HAN/NIE1/2017)

**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.