

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt  
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CaseID: 12028

Date: Thursday August 02, 2018  
Page No: 1

## Final Comment

**In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

Attention: Idstone Farming (Pty) Ltd

**The company Idstone Farming (Pty) Ltd. is proposing to commence with the process of procuring the Remaining Extent of the Farm Banks Drift no 164 and Portion 1 of the Farm Christians Drift no 166 respectively near the town of Douglas in the Northern Cape Province (450 ha). The reason for the intended procurement is for establishing eighteen (18) 25 ha seed potato farming pivots on the farm of natural previously uncultivated land.**

Eco-Con Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Idstone Farming (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) Process in support of an Environmental Authorisation Application for the proposed cultivation of 450ha virgin soil for the establishment of 18 seed potato farming pivots and associated water pipelines on the remaining extent of the farm Banks Drift no 164 and portion 1 of the farm Christians Drift no 166 respectively near Douglas, Northern Cape Province. A draft Scoping Report has been submitted to SAHRA in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 EIA Regulations.

Dr Lloyd Rossouw of the National Museum in Bloemfontein was appointed to conduct the Heritage Component of the S&EIA process.

*Rossouw, L. 2017. Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment of proposed installation of new irrigation pivots and associated infrastructure on the farm Banks Drift 163 near Douglas, Northern Cape Province.*

The geology mostly likely to be impacted by the proposed project area consists of a thick mantle of aeolian Kalahari sands which are of recent age. No heritage resources were identified within the proposed agriculture area, and the terrain is not considered to be archaeological vulnerable. No recommendations were provided.

In an Interim Comment issued on 09/01/2018, SAHRA requested that the Scoping Report appendices, the draft EIA and all appendices must be submitted to the case application on SAHRIS so that an informed comment can be issued.

The draft EIA report and appendices have been uploaded which incorporated the recommendations of the heritage specialist and provided additional recommendations.

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The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objection to the development and supports the recommendations of the specialists and the recommendations in the draft EIA. The recommendations of the specialists and the following conditions apply to the development and must be included in the Environmental Management Programme:

- The final EIA must be submitted to SAHRA for record 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/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/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;
- Should the project be granted Environmental Authorisation, SAHRA must be notified and all relevant documents submitted to the 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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Phillip Hine  
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/487337>  
(DENC, Ref: NC/EIA/15/PIX/SIY/DOU5/2017)

**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.