

**Proposed cultivation of 15 ha virgin soil for the establishment of organic pumpkin farming or grazing pastures and associated water pipeline on the Remaining Extent of the Farm Donegal no 217 near Hopetown, Northern Cape**

**Overview**



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  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za  
CaseID: 12564

Date: Monday July 09, 2018  
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## **Final Comment**

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

Attention: Olyf Trust

**Olyf Trust is proposing to commence with the establishment of organic pumpkin farming or grazing pastures on the Remaining Extent of the Farm Donegal no 217 near the town of Hopetown in the Northern Cape Province (15 ha). The purpose of the cultivation will either be for commercial organic pumpkin planting for export purposes or for planting of grazing pastures.**

Eco-Con Environmental was appointed by Olyf Trust to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application process for the proposed cultivation of 15 ha of virgin soil for the establishment of organic pumpkin farming or grazing pastures and associated water pipeline on the remaining extent of the farm Donegal no 217 near Hopetown, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations.

Palaeo Field Services was appointed to provide heritage input for the EA application process.

*Rossouw, L. 2018. Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed cultivation of 16 ha farmland on the farm Donegal 217 near Hopetown, NC Province.*

The proposed development area is underlain by igneous rocks of the Allanridge Formation (Ventersdorp Supergroup) that are overlain by Dwyka Group tillites of the Mbizane Formation (Dwyka Group, Karoo Supergroup). Outcrops of the Whitehill Formation (Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup) occur locally near Jurassic dolerite contact zones and may contain fossils. These rocks are capped by superficial Quaternary deposits made of calcretes and surface limestones and Kalahari Group sands and surface gravels. No impacts to significant palaeontological resources are expected. A modern rubbish dump was identified on the farm; however, no heritage resources were identified. No recommendations were provided in the specialist report.

Recommendations provided in the draft BAR and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) include the following:

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- Should any heritage resources (including but not limited to fossils, coins, indigenous and/or colonial ceramics, any articles of value or antiquity, stone artefacts or bone remains, structures and or built features, rock art and rock engravings) be exposed during excavations for the purpose of construction, construction in the vicinity of the finding must be stopped. A trained palaeontologist or heritage specialist must be notified to assess the finds, and this must then be reported to the applicable heritage authority;
- Heritage remains uncovered or disturbed during earthworks must not be disturbed further until the necessary approval has been obtained from the heritage authority. A registered heritage specialist must be called to the site for inspection and removal once authority to do so, has been given;
- Under no circumstances shall any heritage material be destroyed or removed from site;
- Excavations must be limited to the footprint area and be maintained in a narrow corridor; and
- All operations of excavation equipment must be made aware of the possibility of the occurrence of sub-surface heritage features and the following procedures must be followed: All construction in the immediate 50 metre vicinity of the site must be ceased; The heritage practitioner must be informed as soon as possible; In the event of obvious human remains SAPS must be notified; Mitigation measures (such as refilling) must not be attempted; The area in a 50 metre radius of the find must be barricaded with visible taping; and Public access must be limited and the area must be placed under guard.

## Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeological, Palaeontological and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objection to the development and supports the results of the specialists reports and recommendations in the draft BAR and EMP. The following additional conditions apply to the development and must be included in the EMP:

- The Final BAR and EMP 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.

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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

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/505251>  
(DENC, Ref: NC/BA/12/PIX/SIY/HOP1/2018)

**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.