## Agricultural development on the farm Krokodilspruit, White River

Our Ref: 13263



an agency of the Department of Arts and Culture

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## **Interim Comment**

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

Attention: Rhengu Environmental Services

P O Box 1046 MALELANE 1320

## Proposal for an agricultural development on the farm Krokodilspruit 248JT, White River Mpumalanga

Adansonia Heritage Consultants have submitted a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report to South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for commenting, in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999. They have submitted on behalf of their client, Rhengu Environmental Services cc who have been appointed by the landowner (DANROC (Pty) Ltd), to conduct an environmental assessment for the establishment of Macadamia and Avocado Orchards over 1300 ha of previously agricultural fields. New roads will be constructed as well as existing roads will be used during the vegetation clearance and operations of the farm. This proposed development is located on the farm Krokodilspruit 248 JT, Mbombela Local Municipality of the Mpumalanga Province.

Van Wyk-Rowe, C. November 2018. Phase 1 Archaeological/ Heritage Impact Assessment for Proposed Agricultural Development on the farm Krokodilspruit 248 JT, White River, Mpumalanga province.

The author undertook a field assessment of the proposed development and identified a total of 18 heritage sites and features within the study area and just outside the study area. Of the identified heritage sites, 7 sites were of cemeteries, single graves, and unknown graves pointed out during consultation with local communities. These sites are of very high significance. Another 4 sites were of remains from the Later Iron Age (LIA), consisting of circular stone walled site, scatters of potsherds, iron smelting slag and lower grinding stones. The stone walled site will not be affected by the development as its located outside of the development footprint area and the other finds are listed as low significance. The remaining 7 sites identified during the survey are the remains of historic and modern buildings, water canal, hydro electric power station, Prisoners workshop residence, Farm managers house and the Beckenstrater residence.

The author recommends the following mitigation measures:

fencing is given and they are provided with access to the graves.

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All identified graves and/cemeteries must be fenced and a buffer of 15 m maintained around them. Then a social consultation process must be undertaken to find the family of the deceased. This is so consent for

No mitigation measures are required for the LIA sites identified within the development footprint, as they are of low significance.

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The Farm managers house is recent and has no historic significance, the Beckenstrater house and workshop have been remodeled in 1968. The water canal is still in use and the hydro electric power station is located within a stream, both will not be affected by the proposed development.

## **Interim Comment**

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit cannot provide comments on this HIA as the case is not complete. As this is a section 38(8) application, all the environmental documents were supposed to be submitted along with the HIA report. Comments on all historic buildings must be obtained from the Mpumalanga Heritage Resources Authority (MPHRA), please contact Mr Benjamin Moduka at <a href="mailto:bmoduka@mpg.gov.za">bmoduka@mpg.gov.za</a>.

SAHRA will comment on this development once all the environmental documents compiled for this development application are submitted to the case.

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

Yours faithfully

Nokukhanya Khumalo 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/518784