



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 13263

Date: Monday September 09, 2019

Page No: 1

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(8) 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 Orchard. The orchards will cover land over 1300 ha that was previously used as 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:



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Page No: 2

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

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

The Farm managers house is recent and has no historical 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.

In an Interim Comment dated 25/01/2019, SAHRA requested the environmental documents to be submitted to the case, 16/09/2019 SAHRA issued a Final Comment objecting the project as a decision could not be made without the submission of the environmental documents to the case. The Final EIA report was submitted on 05/09/2019, stating that the graves will be fenced and a 15 m buffer zone maintained around the graveyards. The LIA site will not be impacted as it is located outside the development footprint area. The ECO will monitor all project related activities and if any sites or heritage artefacts are uncovered, then all development activities must cease and the find reported to the project manager and ECO.

Final Comment

South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the HIA report submitted to the case for commenting, and has no objection to the development going ahead.

If any historical buildings will be impacted or altered by the proposed development, then comment and permits in terms of section 34 must be sort from the Mpumalanga Heritage Resources Authority (MPHRA). Please contact Benjamin Moduka at bmoduka@mpg.gov.za or call the offices at 013 766 5196.

The following conditions must be included in the EMPr:

The Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit accepts the recommendations for the burial grounds identified in the HIA report. Before fencing may occur, permission from the family members must be sort. This must be done by undertaking a social consultation process to identify the family members of the site. This must be done in terms of Chapter IX of the NHRA Regulations and section 36(3) of the NHRA.

In the unlikely event that fossils are uncovered during construction then construction must cease within the

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Page No: 3

immediate vicinity, a buffer of 30 m must be established, and a palaeontologist called in to inspect the finds. The palaeontologist must obtain a section 35(4) permit in terms of NHRA and Chapter IV NHRA Regulations, before any fossils are collected.

If there are any new heritages resources are discovered during construction and operation phases of the proposed development, then a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings at the expense of the developer.

If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required at the expense of the developer. Mitigation will only be carried out after the archaeologist or palaeontologist obtains a permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999). You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8654).

If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the police find them to be heritage graves, then mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be contacted for processes to follow (Thingahangwi Tshivase/Mimi Seetelo 072 802 1251).

The Final EIA appendices must be submitted to the case and once the Record of Decision from the competent authority is issued, it must also be submitted to the case.

This comment must be forwarded to the competent authority and proof of submission must be uploaded 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

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Date: Monday September 09, 2019
Page No: 4

Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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>

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.