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CaseID: 15167

Date: Thursday July 09, 2020

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## Final Comment

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

Attention: Mark Tecklenburg  
MS Teck Farming (Pty) Ltd

**MS Teck Farming (Pty) Ltd is proposing to clear approximately 19 hectares of indigenous vegetation to establish an agricultural area for the purpose of macadamia farming activities.**

MS Teck Farming (Pty) Ltd is proposing to clear approximately 19 hectares of indigenous vegetation to establish an agricultural area for the purpose of macadamia farming activities, located on the farm Boerland 631 JT, Mbombela Local Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province.

They have appointed Core Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Basic Assessment (BAR) application process in support of an Environmental Authorisation application in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA), as amended for listed activities in the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended in 2017.

In order to meet the requirements of SAHRA for commenting in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA), a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) by Adonsonia Heritage Consultants cc has been submitted to SAHRA for commenting.

*Van Wyk-Rowe, C. May 2020. Phase 1 Archaeological / Heritage Impact Assessment for the Clearance of Vegetation for the Purpose of Macadamia Farming on Portion 3 of the Farm Boerlands 631 JT, Barberton City of Mbombela, Mpumalanga Province.*

The author undertook a field assessment of the development area and did not find any heritage resources located on the farm. An interview with the farm owner confirmed the lack of heritage resources on the property proposed for clearance. The old homestead no longer exists and the author did not identify any house foundations. The author only identified a small burial grounds containing 15 burials likely belonging to the Hlatshwayo family, who probably lived in the homestead that used to exist on the farm Boerlands. The cemetery is located outside the proposed vegetation clearance area and the author determines that the proposed vegetation clearance will not impact the cemetery negatively. No further mitigation measures are required.



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## 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 on the following conditions:

1. In the unlikely event that fossils are uncovered during construction then construction must cease within the 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.
2. 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.
3. 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).

The SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit accepts the recommendations provided for the burial grounds identified in the HIA report. The burial site, consisting of 15 graves belonging to the Hlatshwayo family is situated on a low ridge, outside of the proposed development. As the graves are located outside the development footprint, well away from any potential disturbances, SAHRA BGG recommends no further mitigation measures.

1. 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 Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490).

The Final Bar and its appendices must be submitted to the case when they are available. Once a 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.

**Clearance of indigenous vegetation for agricultural purposes, farm Boerlands  
631-JT, near Barberton**

**Our Ref: 15167**



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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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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Nokukhanya Khumalo  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine  
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/537471>  
(DARDLEA, Ref: )

**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.