

**AIA FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ORCHARDS ON THE FARM NEWMARK
121MS IN THE WEIPE AREA, VHEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO
PROVINCE**

Our Ref: 16247



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 16247

Date: Thursday May 20, 2021

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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Neels Kruger

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (AIA) FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ORCHARDS ON THE FARM NEWMARK 121MS IN THE WEIPE AREA, VHEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

G3 Citrus Voorspoed Orchards (Pty) Ltd appointed Ages Environmental Limpopo cc (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment application process in support for an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) as amended, for activities that trigger the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 2014 Regulations, as amended.

They wish to clear 500 ha of natural vegetation to establish a citrus orchard on the farm Newmark 121 MS, in the Musina Local Municipality of the Limpopo Province.

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report by Exigo (Pty) Ltd and Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) report has been submitted to SAHRA for commenting in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Kruger, N. March 2021. Ages Limpopo: Proposed G3 Citrus Voorspoed Orchards EIA Project on the Farm Newmark 121MS, Vhembe District Municipality, Limpopo Province.

The author undertook a field assessment of the proposed development area and identified 6 heritage sites. Site EXIGO-G3V-S1 is a Middle Stone Aged site of medium significance; EXIGO-G3V-I1 and I2 are Iron Age farmer settlement remains representative of the K2/Mapungubwe Period located within the project area; EXIGO-G3V-B1 to B3 are burial grounds of high significance that will be impacted by farming activities.

The author recommends the following:

The ECO and construction manager must be informed of historical and archaeological sites on the property and that care must be taken when ground clearance begins. The ECO or a heritage specialist must be present



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during ground clearance activities to prevent damage to sites that may have been concealed by vegetation.

A 100m buffer zone around the burial grounds and sites EXIGO-G3V-I1 and I2 must be maintained at all times.

Site EXIGO-G3V-S1 must be mitigated by a qualified archaeologist specialising in southern African stone age. A mitigation methodology must be developed that considers the history of the broader region. All artefacts uncovered must be analysed and research findings published.

Mitigation of archaeological (Stone Aged and Iron Aged sites) must be done if they cannot be retained in situ with a 100m buffer around the sites. A mitigation methodology must be developed that considers the history of the broader region.

EXIGO-G3V-B1 to B3 should be conserved in situ and fenced with a 1.8m high fence and an access gate. There should be at least a 2m distance between the graves and the fence and 100m buffer zone from the fence line to the nearest farming activities.

Mitigation can only be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist once a mitigation permit from SAHRA is obtained..

Fourie, H. January 2021. G3 Citrus Lands Musina Local Municipality, Vhembe District Municipality, Limpopo Province. Farm: Voorspoed 836-MS. Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Field Study.

The underlying geology of the project area consists mostly of very highly and moderately significant palaeontological Karoo Supergroup. Including multicoloured siltstone, sandstone and mudstone of the Solitude and Bosbokpoort Formations along with red rocks member of Clarens Formation, Beaufort Group, and mudstone, shale, sandstones of the Tshidzi Formation, Dwyka Group. Towards the south, the area is underlain by unfossiliferous dark to light grey Alldays gneiss and igneous rocks of the Mount Dowe Group, Beit Bridge Complex. The area in the south is capped by Quaternary aged sediments which have low palaeontological significance. No fossils were observed during the field visit.

The author recommends the following:

If any palaeontological material is exposed during digging, excavating, drilling or blasting, SAHRA must be

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notified. All development activities must be stopped, a 30 m no-go barrier constructed and a palaeontologist should be called in to determine proper mitigation measures.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, and Meteorites (APM) notes the HIA and PIA reports that were submitted to the case however, a further comments will be provided once the draft EIA report is 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

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/564775>