

Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment on the farm Sterkspruit 296 JT in respect of proposed agricultural development, Mpumalanga Province.

Our Ref: 16298



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: Nokukhanya Khumalo

Tel: 021 462 4502

Email: nkhumalo@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 16298

Date: Friday June 11, 2021

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Final Comment

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

Attention: Henwood Environmental Services

PO Box 12340
Steitlies
Nelspruit, 1213

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Rooikrans Broerdery (Pty) Ltd have appointed Henwood Environmental Solution (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Basic 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.

Rooikrans Broerdery are proposing to clear 15.5 ha of natural vegetation to make way for a macadamia orchard. The orchard will be on Portion 1 of the farm Sterkspruit 296 JT in Mbombela Local Municipality of Mpumalanga Province.

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) by Kudzala Antiquity cc has been submitted to SAHRA for commenting in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA)

Celliers, J.P. May 2020. Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment on the farm Sterkspruit 296 JT in respect of the proposed agricultural development, Mpumalanga Province.

The author undertook a field assessment of the proposed development area and identified 3 sites. Site RS 1 is a 3m long stone walled feature that may be the remains of a dwelling or stones cleared whilst ploughing fields. Site RS 2 is a historical building currently used as staff quarters. Site RS 3 is a recent building used as a functions venue.

The author recommends the following:

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An archaeologist must be present to monitor vegetation clearance by site RS 1 due to dense vegetation during the field survey.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) accepts the HIA report and the recommendations contained in the report. The SAHRA has no objection to the development going ahead on the following conditions:

A Chance Finds Fossil Procedures must be developed by a palaeontologist and it must be included in the EMPr.

An archaeologist must be appointed to undertake monitoring of the area around site RS 1 during vegetation clearance. A report on the monitoring must be submitted to the case.

In the 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.

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).

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

It is noted that this comment is issued after the commenting period as such SAHRA requires the EAP to forward this letter to the competent authority.

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

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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/567456>

(, 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.