

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
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Tel: 021 462 4502  
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CaseID: 18757

Date: Thursday August 18, 2022  
Page No: 1

## Final Comment

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

Attention: Zwemkuil Gordonii CC

P O Box 320, Prieska, 8940

**An area of 406Ha will be cleared of vegetation for the establishment of crops on the Remainder and Portion 2 of the Farm Zwem Kuil No. 37 and on the Remainder of the Farm Smitskloof No. 38, division of Prieska in the Northern Cape. The applicant would like to establish another 6-7 pivots for maize/wheat/lucerne crops and utilise the areas between the existing pivots on the farm for either vineyard or pecan nut crops.**

Digital Soils Africa has been appointed by Zwemkuil Gordonii CC to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed clearing of vegetation on portion 2 and the remainder of Farm Zwem Kuil No 37 and remainder of the farm Smitskloof No 38, near Prieska, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include the clearance of 406 ha of vegetation to establish pivots for irrigating maize, wheat/lucerne crops and also vineyards and nut trees. A total of 98.7 ha will be used as an offset area for rescued plants. A total of 504.7 ha will be transformed.

Palaeo Fields Services was appointed to provide heritage specialist input as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

*Rossouw, L. 2022. Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for establishment of new agricultural pivots on the farm Zwemkuil 37, Prieska, NC Province.*

The proposed development area is underlain by sediments of the Mbizane Formation, which is not considered to be highly fossiliferous, however low-diversity non-marine ichnofossil assemblages and remains associated with the *Glossopteris* flora have been recorded. Additionally, the Lower Vaal River gravels are present, from which vertebrate fauna fossils have been recorded. No fossils were identified during the field assessment.

Low density scatters of Stone Age lithics of low heritage significance were identified within Area 5 and 8 as

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described in the HIA. A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be followed.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 01/07/2022, SAHRA noted that no track log of the survey has been provided in the submitted HIA, and requested that the report be revised to include a track log. Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, a revised HIA with a track log and the draft EIA has been submitted.

### Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final EIA and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No further additional specific conditions are provided for the development;
- 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Ngqabutho Madida 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51 of the NHRA for offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
- If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
- The Final EIA and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the

**Clearing of vegetation for an agricultural development, on farm Zwem Kuil No 37 and Smitskloof No 38 near Prieska**

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SAHRIS Case application.

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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Natasha Higgitt  
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: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/598732>  
(, Ref: NC/EIA/03/PIX/SIY/PRI1/2022)

**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.