

Final Comment

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

Attention: Bokamoso Environmental Consultants

Bokamoso

P.O. Box 11375

Maroelana

0161

Upington River Ridge Resort on Erf 3119 Farm 576 Gordonia

Thank you for informing SAHRA of the S 24 G rectification process for the unlawful construction of the Ridge River Resort.

In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999), any proposed development that requires an application in terms of NEMA or the MPRDA must have an assessment of impacts to heritage resources completed as part of the application process. The relevant heritage authority must determine whether the assessment done in terms of impacts to heritage resources satisfies our requirements and must provide comments or recommendations to the decision-making authority.

Unlawful construction can destroy heritage resources and no rectification process can correct the loss of resources that form part of the national estate.

In this instance, it is noted that a report assessing the impacts of a resort development on archaeological resources was submitted to SAHRA in 2007,

Van Schalkwyk, J. October 2007. Heritage Survey of Erf 3119 and 14700 of the Farm Kameelmond, Upington Area, Northern Cape Province

According to this report, archaeological stone artefacts, mostly from the Middle Stone Age, were identified all over the upper section of the property proposed for development. These artefacts were identified as being part of an ephemeral scatter and thereby have low heritage significance. The report also identified a section of the water canal traversing the property proposed for development. This canal may have some original fabric, however it has been upgraded in the past. According to the report, the development would have no impact on the canal.

It is unlikely that the development impacted on significant palaeontological heritage as the geology of the area has low fossil sensitivity.

Final Comment

Based on the available information, it is unlikely that this unlawful development impacted on significant heritage resources.

Should any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous



ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, marine shell and charcoal/ash concentrations), unmarked human burials, fossils or other categories of heritage resources be found during the proposed activities, or in any future activities, SAHRA APM Unit (Jenna Lavin/Colette Scheermeyer 021 462 4502) must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary.

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

Yours faithfully

Jenna Lavin
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/155504>

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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.

