

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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CaseID: 14989

Date: Monday March 30, 2020

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Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: LEAP -Landscape Architectural and Environmental Planning

The project site is located on Part of Portion 7 of the Farm Boerboomkraal 353-KT within the Burgersord Area, Limpopo Province. The entire property which include Portion 7 measures 500.288 hectares. The area planned for clearance is approximately 24 hectares and will be used for the expansion of the citrus farm operations. Portion 8 was cleared and used for agriculture as far back as 1984 and earlier. Portion 8 was thus disturbed prior tot he ECA legislation being promulgated and no new listed activities are triggered. It is thus not necessary to apply for authorisation on Portion 8.

Landscape Architectural and Environmental Planning (LEAP) was appointed by Waterval Citrus to undertake the Environmental Authorisation (EA) application for the expansion citrus farm operations on portions 7 of farm Boerboomkraal 353 in the Burgersfort Area within the Greater Tubatse Local Municipality of Sekhukhune District, Limpopo Province.

A draft Scoping Report is submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act and EIA 2014 Regulation, as amended. The development activities include clearance of approximately 24ha of indigenous vegetation KT for planting of citrus varieties on portion 7. Farm roads will be less than 3.5m wide and will be designed to allow for a gradual controlled run off water using mitre drains and speed humps. Modern irrigation systems (micro-jet/dripline) will be installed to each orchard.

Portion 8 was previously cleared and used for agricultural purposes, and it cultivated all the way up to the river. It is thus not necessary to apply for authorisation on portion 8. The proposed development area is 90ha in total including farm road network, to access the various fields.

Adansonia Heritage Consultants was appointed to provide the heritage specialist input as part of the EA process as per section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA.

C, Van Wyk Rowe. 2014. Phase 1 Archaeological / Heritage Impact Assessment for Proposed Debushing Of Natural Land for Agricultural Use: Portions 7 And 8 of the Farm Boerboomkraal 353kt Burgersfort Limpopo Province

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The development area is divided into five sections (A, B, C, D, E) of which section D and E are highly disturbed. Heritage resources found in section A include grave sites (G1 & G2) of approximately 40 graves. Fencing is recommended for the sites. Clay potsherds, along with upper and lower grinders associated with recent settlement are also found in section A, but these are of low significance.

Deteriorated Later Iron Age (LIA) stone walls are found in section B which will be impacted on by the development and an application should be made to SAHRA for a phase 2 excavation and destruction permit these sites.

It is noted that the proposed development is associated with a development (Case ID 7007: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/debushing-natural-land-agricultural-use-farm-boerboomkraal-burgersfort-limpopo>) that was made on the adjacent portions of the farm Boerboomkraal 353. It must be noted that most of the development area for the referenced case is of low palaeontological significance as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity Map. This development was therefore exempted from undertaking a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA). Where as the current case is located on a highly sensitive palaeontological zone and the potential impacts must be assessed.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA notes the recommendation provided in the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) Report, however, the study area is located mostly in an area of high palaeontological significance.

Therefore, the SAHRA APM Unit requests that a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment be conducted by a qualified palaeontologist. The SAHRA 2006 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Component of Impact Assessments and SAHRA 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Component of Heritage Impact Assessments makes reference to a Letter of Recommendation for Exemption that is to be submitted if there is no likelihood that heritage will be impacted. The appointed palaeontologist may choose to submit such a letter should they deem it appropriate.

The palaeontological studies must be undertaken as part of the EIA phase and must be submitted to the case along with the environmental documents and their appendices. Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above.

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

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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: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/535411>
(LEDET, Ref: LIM/EIA/000125/2020)

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.