



Final Comment

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

Attention: Ronel Naude
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Proposed Residential Development on Portion 14 and the Remainder of Portion 3 of the Farm Vluytjeskraal Noord 149, Orania

Opperman, M. No date. *The Residential Development on the Farm Vluytjes Kraal Noord, Orania Heritage Report*

Opperman, H. November 2012. *First Phase Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Proposed Development of Portions 14 and 3 of the Farm Vluytjeskraal 149, District: Hopetown, Province: Northern Cape*

The owners of Vluytjes Kraal Noord Boerdery and Ontwikkeling Beperk have proposed to establish an eco-development and a residential development on the Remainder of Portion 3 and Portion 14, respectively, on the 284,964ha farm Vluytjes Kraal Noord 149, Hopetown Magisterial District. The development will comprise 37 erven next to the Orange River on Portion 14 and a further 68 small erven on Portion 14. The eco-development on the Remainder of Portion 3 will consist of 26 medium to high class residential stands and 14 self-sufficient sites which will not be provided with electricity. The ten existing workers' cottages will be redeveloped. The development will also include roads, storm water drainage, water supply, sewerage systems and electrification.

A heritage report documenting the history of the area as well as a Phase 1 archaeological impact assessment were submitted to SAHRA. These documents show that the area has been inhabited since the Stone Age, with much Middle Stone Age material and Later Stone Age rock art known in the area. The area was progressively settled by white farmers from the early 1800s. The farm Vluytjeskraal, on which the town Orania is located, was bought in 1882 by Stephen Ockert Vermeulen who marked his years at the farm by engraving dates on a stone; his farm house and the family graveyard still exist.

The field survey identified surface scatters of Stone Age material, with a concentration of predominantly MSA artefacts, consisting of blade flakes and pointed flakes on hornfels, covering an area of approximately 50m by 70m. The family graveyard was identified: this consists of the graves of S.O. Vermeulen and his wife, and is fenced and still visited by Vermeulen family members. A further cemetery, with the graves of farm workers in a state of neglect, is located beyond the project area, however, given the proximity to the development, the preservation of the cemetery will be jeopardised by increased trafficking in the area.

A pump station built on the river bank for flood irrigation in the 1920s was largely rebuilt in 1960, and still





stands, although it is in a state of disrepair; this feature falls within the development footprint, but is below the floodline where permanent structures are not permitted. The original farmhouse, possibly of 1885, was renovated 10 years ago, retaining the basic layout; the surrounding farm buildings are substantially altered, although they could incorporate older fabric; these fall outside the development footprint.

SAHRA supports the following measures which are to be adopted with regard to the heritage resources:

- A palaeontologist must be consulted regarding the possible impact of the development on palaeontological resources. The outcome of this consultation, in the form of a letter of exemption from further studies or a palaeontological impact assessment, must be submitted to SAHRA APM Unit for comments.
- The MSA site should be avoided by the development. A temporary fence should be erected 20m from the perimeter of the site before and during development and the fenced off area should be treated as a no-go zone. A Management Plan for the site should be drafted in order to ensure the site's conservation, inclusive of interpretive material and possibly protective infrastructure; this plan should be submitted to SAHRA APM Unit. If the development cannot be altered and will impact on this site, SAHRA requests that mitigation measures are implemented in terms of Section 38(4)b&c of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999), for which the specialist will require a mitigation permit in terms of Section 35 of the NHRA. Mitigation in the form of systematic excavation and sampling must be undertaken before trenching and any other earth-moving activity resulting from this proposed project begins. The visible material boundaries of the sites to be mitigated must be surveyed with the aid of a surveying instrument and a photographic record must be established immediately before, during and after mitigation. On receipt of a satisfactory mitigation (Phase 2) permit report from the archaeologist, SAHRA will make further recommendations in terms of the site such as its final destruction or additional sampling.
- The pump station should be fenced off prior to development and the fence should be located 10m from the structure. No access should be allowed within the fenced off area for the duration of development. An enquiry should be made with the Northern Cape PHRA, NBKB, in order to establish how best to proceed with regard to this structure and the historic Vermeulen farm house.
- The Vermeulen graveyard is already fenced off and well maintained. This practice should be continued into the future and the site should be marked as a no-go zone on all construction maps for the duration of development activities on site.
- The graves in the workers' graveyard should be restored since these are dilapidated, and they should





be protected and conserved. For this purpose, a proper fence must be built around them including entry gates to allow visits. The fence must be placed 5 meters away from the perimeter of the graves and no development is allowed within 15 meters from the fence line surrounding the graves. A Heritage Management Plan for the maintenance of the graveyard must be drawn and submitted to SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves Unit for approval.

- If 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 are found during construction, SAHRA APM Unit (Katie Smuts/Colette Scheermeyer 021 462 4502) must be alerted immediately, and an accredited professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, according to the findings, 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

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South African Heritage Resources Agency

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South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
(DENC, Ref: NC/EIA/PIX/THE/HOPE/2012)



Residential development Orania

Our Ref: 9/2/043/0001

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CaseID: 622

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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.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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