



Final Comment

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

Attention: Ms Marquerite Geldenhuys
MEG Environmental Impact Studies
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8801

PROPOSED CHANGE OF LANDUSE ON 140 HA FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ON A PORTION OF FARM SCHUITDRIFT-WES 5, KAKAMAS

Beaumont, P. February 2008. *Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment Report on a Portion of the Farm Schuitdrift West 5, WNW of Kakamas, Siyanda District Municipality, Northern Cape Province.*

Schuitdrift East Game Park (PTY) Ltd has proposed the establishment of a date palm plantation on 140 ha of Farm 425. Environmental Authorisation had previously been granted for an application to farm *Hoodia gordonia* on the property, but this had lapsed. The draft Scoping Report variously refers to the cultivation of *Hoodia* and dates, while the heritage report refers only to the cultivation of *Hoodia*. The DSR variously states that water will be obtained from "the existing dam on the adjacent property, Southern Farm Trust" (page 10) and that "[a] new dam of less than 50 000 cubic metres will be developed at this site" (page 22). The Scoping Report further provides no specific information on the density of the proposed plantation or the nature of the resulting disturbance.

Given this lack of clarity in the Scoping Report, it is unclear which information is correct, or what the actual impacts of the application will be.

The heritage report makes mention of graves located near the Orange River, but these are well outside the proposed project area. Although the heritage report does not address the development proposed in this application, as no heritage resources were identified, SAHRA will consider this report as a letter of exemption from further heritage studies.

Please note that, except in exceptional circumstances, SAHRA does not accept heritage reports that are older than 5 years.

Case Decision:

As there is apparently no evidence of any significant archaeological material in this area, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit has no objection to the development (in terms of the archaeological and palaeontological components of the heritage resources) on condition that, if any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources is found during development, construction or mining, SAHRA and an archaeologist and/or palaeontologist,





depending on the nature of the finds, must be alerted immediately.

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

Yours faithfully

Kathryn Smuts
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
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/120097>

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.

