



Final Comment

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

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PROPOSED LOG CABINS AND OTHER ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES AT OORLOGSKLOOF NATURE RESERVE, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE. (Reference Number: DEAT 1/2000/1764)

Webley, L. and Orton, J. October 2012. *Archaeological Impact Assessment: Proposed Construction of Chalets and Associated Infrastructure on Existing Camp Sites in the Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve, Nieuwoudtville, Northern Cape Province*

Groenewald, G. October 2012. *Palaeontological Desktop Assessment for the Proposed Development of Log Cabins and Associated Infrastructure within the Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve, Northern Cape Province*

The Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation has proposed the upgrade of the tented campsites along the hiking trails within the Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve near Nieuwoudtville, Northern Cape. Eight of the ten tented campsites are to be replaced with log cabins, three new boreholes will be sunk and ten new wooden boardwalks will be built across streams along the trail, with concrete drifts built across the rivers. The cabins will accommodate 15 people and be 80.5m², each with its own water and sewer reticulation, septic tank, solar energy and ablution facilities.

Background research conducted by the authors revealed that, while there is little information on the region's pre-colonial archaeology, several rock art sites have been documented in the area, and possible herder kraals have been recorded. Historically, the area was settled from the 1730s onwards and saw several Khoisan massacres at the hands of commandos. The authors note that the relatively higher rainfall of the area has always attracted human settlement, resulting in much competition over land.

The archaeologists also conducted a field survey and note that in many instances, it became clear that the proposed cabin sites were some distance from the existing tent sites. They further noted that time constraints and heavy vegetation impeded their ability to survey all areas thoroughly. The archaeologists were presented with a list of known heritage resources, which included graveyards and graves, grindstones, lynx traps, threshing floors, rock art sites, antique items and ruined structures. The survey revealed one further rock art site, and the archaeologists noted that all the sites are close to the hiking trails and regularly visited by hikers. The Olienhoutbos cabin is proposed for an area adjacent to a large boulder with rock art on it. Very few stone tools were identified, with only a small quantity of LSA material being found in two locations.

Two of the tented campsites are situated within historical stone-walled structures, Kameel se Gat and





Swartkliphuis. These structures consist of walling no higher than 1m and consist of rectangular and circular features, but contained no associated artefacts. The Reserve Manager indicated that they were related to rooibos farming operations in the 1930s. An eroded mudbrick structure together with a rusted plough was recorded at Doltuin and three lower grindstones were noted in the Reserve, evidence for historic subsistence wheat farming in the area. Only two of the recorded graves in the Reserve were recorded on the survey, both are along the hiking trail and both are maintained by the Reserve Manager.

The palaeontologist compiled a desktop study which revealed that the study area is underlain by the Knersvlakte Subgroup of the Vanrhynsdorp Group (Besonderheid, Kalk Gat and Dolkraals Formations) and the Skurweberg Formation of the Nardouw Subgroup of the Table Mountain Group (part of the Cape Supergroup). Three log cabins and two bridges being situated on the Nardouw rocks which are of low palaeontological sensitivity, containing sparse marine, estuarine and fluvial trace fossils. The remaining interventions will occur on Knersvlakte rocks, which are moderately sensitive, being rich in a low diversity of trace fossils and stromatolites. However, the individual developments have a very small footprint and will require only shallow excavations, thus making the potential impact on the palaeontology minimal.

Case Decision:

SAHRA supports the recommendations of the authors and requires that:

- The proposed Oliehoutbos cabin should be moved at least 40m from the boulder identified with rock art on it. A temporary fence should be erected 5m from the boulder before construction in order to protect it and no access should be allowed within the fenced off area.

The SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves Unit has indicated that as the graves are currently being maintained by the Reserve Manager and no current infrastructural development is planned that may have adverse effects upon the graves, there is no need for the graves to be fenced off. SAHRA's only recommendation is for continued maintenance.

If the recommendations made in the specialist report and in this comment are adhered to, 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). If any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources are found during development, construction or mining, SAHRA and a professional 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



Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve Upgrade

Our Ref: 9/2/017/0020

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CaseID: 273

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ADMIN:
(DEA, Ref: 11/12/20/1764)

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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