

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ROMANSBAAI ABALONE FARM, PORTION 2 OF THE FARM 711, GANSBAAI.=



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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Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo

Tel: 021 462 4502

Email: nkhumalo@sahra.org.za

Case ID: 22123

Date: Wednesday, 21 May, 2025

Final Comment

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

Chantelle Fourie
Aqunion (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 965
PO Box 965
Gansbaai
7220

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) would like to thank you for submitting the Notice of Intent to Develop (NID): Proposed Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm, on Portion 2 of the Farm 711, in Gansbaai, Western Cape as part of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, No. 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

The applicant has submitted the NID to Heritage Western Cape as part of a trigger of section 38(1) of the NHRA, and Heritage Western Cape (HWC) has requested a formal comment from SAHRA's Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage (MUCH) unit to be added to the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in line with section 38(5) of the NHRA, as a small portion of the development falls in the coastal zone and MUCH resources could be affected by the proposed works.

The proposed work's impact(s) to the coastal zone is limited to the installation of additional pipelines alongside existing pipelines within a previously disturbed area. Although the area has already been disturbed, the coastal zone is highly dynamic and previous disturbances may not have impacted on or uncovered unknown heritage resources. MUCH resources, like ship wreck debris or fossils, may have washed up since the last disturbance or may have been buried too deep to have been disturbed previously. Evidence of a nearby shell-midden, which is already in a no-go zone, highlights that this part of the coastline has been used by people for many years and there may be buried heritage resources nearby.

The SAHRA issued an Interim Comment dated 04/04/2024, requesting the submission of a HIA that assesses MUCH resources. A HIA and PIA reports on 25/04/2025.

Kaplan, J. April 2024. Proposed expansion of the Romansbaai Aqunion Abalone Farm on Re Portion 2 of Farm Klip Fonteyn No. 711, Gansbaai, Overstrand Local Municipality.

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The author undertook a field assessment of the expansion of the abalone farm and noted some surface scatter of shell middens and later stone aged tools. The report notes the pipelines that will be drawing water to the abalone farm will not have a significant impact to cultural heritage, archaeological resources, and other heritage resources below the high water line. The author provides the following recommendation relevant to the coast:

- No archaeological mitigation is required prior to construction phase excavations commencing.
- Vegetation clearing and Construction Phase excavations (at the coast) must be monitored by a professional archaeologist.
- A protocol for finds of buried fossil bones, the Fossil Finds Procedure (FFP), must be included in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed development. The Fossil Finds Procedure provides guidelines to be followed in the event of fossil bone finds in the excavations.
- Regarding the Cultural and Heritage Landscape, 'no mitigation measures are deemed necessary' (Lategan 2024).
- Regarding underwater cultural heritage, if any evidence of maritime heritage resources or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA DAU (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660 / NHiggitt@sahra.org.za) and SAHRA MUCH (Nokukhanya Khumalo 021 202 8654 / Nkhumalo@sahra.org.za) must be alerted without delay as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Noncompliance with this section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule.

Pethers, J. March 2024. PALAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ROMANSBAAI ABALONE FARM Farm Klip Fonteyn RE/2/711, Van Dyk Rd, Overstrand Municipality Hermanus Magisterial District, Western Cape.

Peninsula Formation of the Table Mountain Group. The author assesses that the *possible presence of fossils in the subsurface does not have an a priori influence on the decision to proceed with the proposed development, and there are no NO-GO Zones identified*. They further recommends the training of the construction crew in identifying potential fossils and trace fossils in the field and the Fossil Finds Procedure (FFP) in the report (Appendix 2) must be included in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed development.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) notes and accepts the submission of the draft BAR, PIA,

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and HIA reports. SAHRA has no objections to the proposed development on the following conditions:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations provided by the heritage specialists are supported and must be adhered to. The following additional comments include:
 - An archaeologist must be appointed to undertake monitoring of vegetation and ground clearance activities, and a monitoring report must be submitted to SAHRA regarding any monitoring activities below the high water mark;
- 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development below the high water mark, SAHRA DAU (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Natasha Higgitt021 202 8660) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered below the high water mark, the SAHRA DAU (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Natasha Higgitt021 202 8660), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
 - This comment must be forwarded to the competent authority;
 - The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

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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Date: Wednesday, 21 May, 2025

Nokukhanya Khumalo
Senior Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Natasha Higgitt
Manager: Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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.

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.org.za/node/348229>