



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 11069

Date: Wednesday June 21, 2017
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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Akani Properties

This environmental application is for the proposed Autumn Leaf Shopping Mall, a hotel with conference centre, free stander drive thru's, a Taxi rank, and a distribution centre.

Setala Environmental was appointed by Akani Properties (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation Application for the proposed Autumn Leaf Shopping Centre on Portion 24 (a Portion of Portion 5) of the farm Hazia 240 JP, approximately 2km east of the Zeerust CBD, and is situated within the Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality, North West Province. A draft Basic Assessment Report (dBAR) has been completed in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998(Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014. The proposed development will include the construction of a shopping centre with parking bays, three drive through restaurants, a Taxi Rank and ablution facilities, a hotel, and associated infrastructure such as access roads, water, sewer, storm water reticulation and electricity.

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was submitted as part of the application to SAHRA that will form part of the BAR. The HIA was written by Integrated Specialist Services (Pty) Ltd.

This application has reference to a previous SAHRIS Application (SAHRIS Case ID 10029) which was closed as the Environmental Authorisation was withdrawn. This is a second application of the same development.

Mlilo, T. and Bandama, F. 2017. Phase 1 Archaeological/Heritage Impact Assessment Report for the Proposed Autumn Leaf Shopping Centre at Zeerust in Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality of North West Province.

No heritage resources were identified within the proposed project area; however a historical pioneer burial site is located 1.3 km to the east. The project area appears to have been the site of a brick making facility and is severely disturbed. Recommendations provided as part of the report include but are not limited to the following:

- The Project Public Participation Process should ensure that any cultural heritage related matters for this project are given due attention whenever they arise and are communicated to the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (PHRA) throughout the proposed project development. This form of



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extended community involvement would pre-empt any potential disruptions that may arise from previously unknown cultural heritage matter that may have escaped the attention of this study;

- Location of the Shopping Centre should be restricted to minimum footprint impact especially where such infrastructure fall within bushy area. Some bushy sections have local ethno-botany significance as sources of traditional herbs and medicines. As such, disruption and vegetation clearance should be minimal;
- Preserved bushveld area should be protected for ethnobotany significance. As such this development should avoid excessive vegetation clearance during the development;
- The footprint of the proposed Shopping Centre and associated infrastructure development should be kept to minimal to limit the possibility of encountering chance finds within the servitude;
- In situations where unpredicted impacts occur (such as accidentally disturbing a previously unknown grave), construction activities should be stopped and the heritage authority should be notified immediately. In the unlikely event of chance archaeological material or previously unknown human remains being disturbed during subsurface construction, the finds should be left in situ subject to further instruction from the project archaeologist or heritage authorities. The overriding objective, where remedial action is warranted, is to minimize disruption in construction scheduling while recovering archaeological and any affected cultural heritage data as stipulated by the PHRA and NHRA regulations.

Fourie, H. 2016. Palaeontological Impact Assessment Desktop Study: Autumn Leaf Shopping Mall Project

The proposed development is underlain by the Time Ball Hill Formation of the Pretoria Group, Transvaal Supergroup and the intrusive diabase. The Time Ball Hill formation is highly sensitive (as it usually contains stromatolites) for palaeontological heritage and the impact of the development on fossil heritage is high.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The impact on the development on fossil heritage is high and therefore a field survey or further mitigation or conservation measures may be necessary for this development. A Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment and or mitigation may be recommended;
- The overburden and inter-burden must always be surveyed for fossils;
- Special case must be taken during digging, drilling, blasting and excavation of foundations, trenches, channels and footings and removal of overburden not to intrude fossiliferous layers; and
- If any palaeontological material is exposed during digging, drilling, blasting and excavation, SAHRA must be notified. All construction activities must be stopped and a palaeontologist should be called in to determine proper mitigation measures.

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The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit sent the desktop PIA for an independent review as it was felt that the report did not provide enough information in order to issue a comment. An extract from the review is as follows:

The Desktop Survey Report is difficult to assimilate and, although highly technical and extremely detailed in Geological content, it is difficult to distinguish the facts regarding the real significance of the Palaeontology from the geological background information provided.

The SAHRA APM Unit requests that the Palaeontological Specialist study be revised to address the following concerns:

- The depth of the excavations for the foundations of the development must be taken into account for the impact assessment;
- There must be a discussion of the Quaternary soil layer and the potential fossils it may contain, as well as the highly sensitive formations below the Timeball Hill formation;
- The highly sensitive areas must be mapped out in detail by the PIA specialist, using the geological map;
- **Clear** recommendations for mitigation of impacts must be provided by the specialist.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the revised report.

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

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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John Gribble
Manager: Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit / Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and
Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/398649>