



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
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CaseID: 16936

Date: Tuesday November 02, 2021  
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## Final Comment

### In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Steve Tshwete Local Municipality

PO Box 14  
Middelburg  
1050

**Steve Tshwete Local Municipality is proposing to clear approximately 18.7 hectares of vegetation on portion 87 of the farm Rondebosch 403-JS and portion 65 of the farm Rondebosch 403-JS for the development of the Middelburg Dam Precinct Plan.**

Steve Tshwete Local Municipality is upgrading and expanding the Middelburg dam recreational facility, the expansion will include a mini golf course and country estate, conference facilities, caravan park, and accommodation facilities in the Mpumalanga Province.

Core Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd have been appointed by the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality to undertake an environmental assessment as part of a Basic Assessment process in support of an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environment Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) for activities that trigger the NEMA EIA 2014 Regulations.

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) by Adonsonia Heritage cc was submitted to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for commenting in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

*Van wyk-Rowe, C. June 2021. Phase 1 Archaeological / Heritage Impact Assessment For The Development Of Middelburg Dam Precinct Plan, (18ha) On A Portion Of Portion 87 Of The Farm Rondebosch 403-JS, Middelburg, Mpumalanga Province.*

The author undertook a field assessment of the proposed development area and identified a few structures that have been constructed recently. These structures were constructed by the Middelburg municipality around 1965 and they are not protected under the NHRA. The author recommends no further mitigation measures. It is noted that these recommendations have been included in the DBAR.



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The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) accepts the HIA report. Furthermore, we grant the development exemption from undertaking an assessment of impacts to palaeontological resources, as it is located in a very low palaeo sensitivity zone according to the SAHRIS Palaeomap. The SAHRA has no objection to the development going ahead on the following conditions:

The Mpumalanga Heritage Resources Authority (MPHRA) must be contacted for further comments and permit application for amendment or destruction of the historical structures.

In the unlikely event that fossils are uncovered during construction then construction must cease within the immediate vicinity, a buffer of 30 m must be established, and a palaeontologist called in to inspect the finds. The palaeontologist must obtain a section 35(4) permit in terms of NHRA and Chapter IV NHRA Regulations, before any fossils are collected.

If there are any new heritages resources are discovered during construction and operation phases of the proposed development, then a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings at the expense of the developer.

If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required at the expense of the developer. Mitigation will only be carried out after the archaeologist or palaeontologist obtains a permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999). You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8654).

If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the police find them to be heritage graves, then mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be contacted for processes to follow (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490).

This comment must be forwarded to the competent authority and once a Record of Decision from the competent authority is issued, it must be submitted to the case.

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

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Yours faithfully

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Nokukhanya Khumalo  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine  
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

## ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/579750>  
(STLM, Ref: )

## 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.