



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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CaseID: 15536

Date: Tuesday March 02, 2021  
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## **Final Comment**

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

Attention: Johannesburg Roads Agency

**Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) has determined that Benmore Dam has become unsafe as a result of years of neglect which resulted in it silting up, causing erosion and breaching of the dam wall. Unchecked plant growth taking place also contribute to the dam not functioning properly. Therefore, some remedial measures are proposed.**

Van Schalkwyk, J. May 2020. Phase 1 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: The Rehabilitation Of Benmore Dam, Benmore Gardens, Sandton Region, City Of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality, Gauteng Province

The proposed development entails rehabilitation of the existing Benmore Dam.

The author notes that the dam is older than 60 years and therefore enjoy general protection under the National Heritage Resources Act, No. 25 of 1999. All the current structures forming part of the dam, apart from the original wall, was added recently due to the action of local residents. It has some significance to the local community, which is much involved in its maintenance and protection and is used by them for recreational purposes. Due to neglect, some repairs were done in the past, which would have altered the original structures. In addition, erosion and plant growth completely obliterated the older structures. As a result of the current state of neglect, the dam has become a serious hazard to local property owners, especially those downstream of the dam. The author is of the opinion that the Diepkloof Dam requires no further recording before destruction, and as the dam will be retained and the proposed activities is largely remedial in nature and intent, the recording done for this report is seen as sufficient for such purposes.

The SA Palaeontological Sensitivity Map indicates that the study area has Insignificant fossil sensitivity.

### **Final Comment**

In terms of archaeological and palaeontological heritage, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit has no objections to this proposed development, provided that the recommendations in the specialist reports and this comment are adhered to, and in addition. on the following conditions:

- If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous



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ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments and charcoal/ash concentrations) or palaeontological remains are found during the proposed activities, SAHRA must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, based on the nature of the finds, must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary.

In terms of the dam itself, as this is a Built Environment feature, any comments or permissions relating to any alteration must be obtained from the Gauteng Provincial Heritage Resources Authority.

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, mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be contacted for processes to follow.

Should the project be granted Environmental Authorisation, SAHRA must be notified and all relevant documents submitted to the case on SAHRIS.

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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Andrew Salomon  
Heritage Officer: Archaeology  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

**The Rehabilitation of Benmore Dam, City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality, Gauteng.**

**Our Ref: 15536**



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

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/540334>

**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.