



**SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE  
RESOURCES AGENCY**

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DATE: 7 November 2005  
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COPY: SAHRA Mpumalanga

**EXCLUSIVE RESIDENTIAL ESTATE – THE REST PORTIONS 30, 73, 74,  
217, 218 & 219 OF THE FARM THE REST 454 JT.**

Thank you for the scoping report for this project that we have received from our Mpumalanga office, on 26 August 2005. Unfortunately, this scoping report contains no assessment of the archaeological heritage on the areas to be developed.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) no archaeological or palaeontological sites may be disturbed without a permit. This means that before such sites are disturbed by development it is incumbent on the developer, if it is not to find itself in contravention of the legislation, to ensure that an archaeological and if applicable a palaeontological assessment has been done and that appropriate mitigation has happened.

The quickest process to follow for the archaeological component is to contract an accredited specialist (see attached accreditation lists) and have them provide a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report. SAHRA would also accept a letter from a specialist to indicate that the Phase 1 may be done later (for example as part of an EIA). If the property is severely disturbed and there is no site the specialist may choose to send a letter to the heritage authority to indicate that there is no necessity for any further assessment.

If a Phase 1 Impact Assessment Report is relevant, it will identify the archaeological sites and assess their significances. It will make recommendations (as indicated in section 38 of the Act) about the process to be followed. For example there may need to be a mitigation phase (Phase 2) where the specialist will collect or excavate material and date the site. At the end of the process the heritage authority may give permission for destruction of the sites.

If any road cuttings or disturbance of the country rock or of ancient sediments such as old river gravels is to be undertaken, a palaeontologist must be asked whether or not it is important to assess the area and again provide Impact Assessment Reports.

Of course if there are other heritage resources that may be impacted such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes that require protection, these must also be assessed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Leslie', written in a cursive style.

pp Mary Leslie

SAHRA: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorite Unit