



## Final Comment

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

Attention: Environomics Environmental Consultants  
PO Box 400  
Midstream Estate  
1692

#### A low to medium density residential township development.

#### **Kusel, U. April 2012. Cultural Heritage Resources Impact Assessment of the Proposed Extension of Midrand Estate Portions 35, 38, a Portion of 48 and 128, remainder of Portion 34 and the remainder of the Farm Olifantsfontein 410 JER, Ekurhuleni, Gauteng**

The proposed development entails a residential development and associated infrastructure over an area of approximately 293ha and will include an estate of 1200 residential stands with roads, drainage channels and water pipes, electricity and gas pipes, gas tanks, street lightning and open space. Mixed use areas will include offices, commercial areas, recreational facilities, religious buildings and entertainment enterprises, along with educational facilities, a transport terminus and public open space. The development property is approximately 300ha in extent and is located east of Midfield Estate in Ekurhuleni.

The impact assessment identified the following heritage resources:

- An open-cast dolomite mine quarry, overgrown by trees and shrubs.
- Lime works and associated structures, including kilns, built from stone, bricks and concrete. The author notes that these lime works were in operation from the beginning of the previous century until approximately 1960.
- The ruins of worker's houses/offices west of the mine.
- Two cemeteries north of the mine: Cemetery 1 has at least 130 graves, one of which carries an inscription of 1940. Cemetery 2 has at least 140 graves and one headstone has an inscription of 1959. Both cemeteries are very overgrown.
- The ruins of the mine manager's house atop a hill north of the mine.
- A water canal leading from a dam in the Kaalspruit.
- A sandstone train bridge, built in 1901 by the Imperial Military Railways using red and yellow, hand-dressed sandstone.

The author notes that the developer plans to incorporate the lime works and its associated infrastructure, the two cemeteries and the sandstone bridge will form part of the public open space and will be preserved and made more accessible.

The author recommends that the lime works and associated structures, the two cemeteries, and the sandstone





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CaseID: 1123

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bridge, all be documented and preserved in situ as part of the development's public open space, after which a decision regarding the possible declaration of the heritage features should be taken. The author further recommends that the sites must have a Heritage Management Plan. However, the archaeological impact assessment does not include any information regarding the proposed development itself and does not explain exactly how it is expected to impact on the identified heritage resources.

### **Case Decision**

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit supports the author's recommendations that the lime works and sandstone bridge be preserved in situ as part of the public open space of the development. The SAHRA APPM Unit further requires that these two sites, as well as the ruins of the worker's houses/offices and the remains of the farm manager's house and the water canal from the Kaalspruit, must have a Heritage Management Plan wherein the heritage resources are recorded in detail and detailing how they will be conserved and protected from secondary impact due to an increased number of visitors to these sites resulting from the proposed development. The Heritage Management Plan must be legally tied into the development.

A palaeontological impact assessment must be undertaken. If deemed unnecessary by a palaeontologist, a letter of exemption from further studies may be submitted to SAHRS for further comments.

For the two cemeteries, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves Unit requires that the graves should be maintained, protected and conserved in perpetuity. A proper fence must be built around the cemeteries, including entry gates. The fence must be placed 2 meters away from the perimeter of the graves. No development is allowed within 15 meters from the fence line surrounding the graves. A site management plan indicating who will be responsible for maintaining the graves and how this is legally tied into the development must be completed.

If any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources are found during development, construction or mining, SAHRA and a professional archaeologist must be alerted immediately.

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

Yours faithfully

Andrew Salomon





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Heritage Officer: Archaeology  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Colette Scheermeyer  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

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.

