



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: 20640

Date: Wednesday March 01, 2023
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Final Comment

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

Attention: Isquare Environmental Planning and GIS

Palm Ridge X43, Gauteng Province

Van der Walt, J. November 2022. Heritage Impact For The Proposed Residential Township Development On Portion 34 Of The Farm Rietspruit 152-IR, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality

Bamford, M. November 2022. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Palm Ridge X43 township development on Farm Rietspruit 152-IR, Midvaal, Gauteng Province

The proposed development entails a residential township and associated infrastructure.

The archaeological assessment revealed that the study area has been disturbed by cultivation in the 1970s and more recently by surrounding township and road developments. These activities would have impacted on heritage features if any ever occurred in these areas and the project area is considered to be of low heritage potential. This was confirmed during the field survey and no heritage finds of significance were recorded.

The palaeontological assessment concluded that it is extremely unlikely that any fossils would be preserved in the sands and soils of the Quaternary. There is a very small chance that fossils may occur in the Black Reef formation according to the SAHRA Palaeotechnical Report, but the geology and more recent research do not support this claim. The author recommends that a Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the Environmental Management Programme report in case there are fossils well below the ground surface.

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 above specialist reports and this comment are adhered to, and in addition, on the following conditions:

- A palaeontological Chance Find Protocol must be implemented by the Environmental Control Officer or site manager in charge of these developments.
- 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.

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

Andrew Salomon
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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/612655>

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.