



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: 19233

Date: Tuesday November 15, 2022  
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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

#### **Absaland Development on Portion 55 of the Farm Rietspruit 152 IR, within the jurisdiction of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality**

**Van der Walt, J. April 2022. Heritage Impact For The Proposed Absaland Development On Portion 55 Of The Farm Rietspruit 152 IR, Within The Jurisdiction Of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality.**

**Bamford, M. April 2022. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Absa Sky City, northern Vereeniging, Gauteng Province**

The proposed development entails a township and associated infrastructure.

The archaeological assessment revealed that the study area has been disturbed by cultivation in the 1970's 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; the field survey revealed that finds were limited to disused farming infrastructure, stone cairns attributed to clearing of cultivated fields, building rubble and the remains of demolished structures younger than 60 years and an isolated Middle Stone Age flake.

The palaeontological assessment revealed 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. Nonetheless, a Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the Environmental Management Plan report.

#### **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:

**Absalnd Development on Portion 55 of the Farm Rietspruit 152 IR, within the jurisdiction of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality**

**Our Ref: 19233**



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- 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 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

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Andrew Salomon  
Heritage Officer: Archaeology  
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/602731>

**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.