

Physical address
Room 8-26
Department of Anthropology & Archaeology
Humanities Building
University of Pretoria
Lynnwood Road
Pretoria
0002

Postal address
Department of Anthropology & Archaeology
University of Pretoria Lynnwood Road
Pretoria
0002



<http://www.archaic.za.net>

Members: J Nel & GC de Kamper

Company Registration no.: 1999-019984-23CK
Tax registration no.: 9451097647
VAT registration no.: 4350228880

Contact numbers
Office: 012 420 5169
Fax: 086 618 3744
Email: info@archaic.za.net
johan.archaic@up.ac.za

Vox Populi cc t/a

Archaic Heritage Project Management

FOR ATTENTION:

Ms. Precious Ngeleka
Environmental Engineer – Airport Link

22 Milkyway Avenue
Linbro Business Park
Marlboro

PO Box 1177
Kelvin
2054

14 April 2008

Dear Ms. Ngeleka,

RE: REPORT ON SKELETAL MATERIAL FOUND AT PIER 30, R21-JONES STREET OFF-RAMP, KEMPTON PARK

Herewith a concise report on the skeletal material found during excavation and construction of Pier 30 as part of the Gautrain Rapid Rail Link infrastructure.

We were glad to have been of service and look forward to your future contact.

Yours sincerely,

Johan Nel
(Manager – Archaic HPM)

REPORT

Archaic HPM was contacted by Ms Precious Ngeleka (Environmental Engineer for Bombela CJV (Pty) Ltd) on 14 April 2008 regarding the discovery of skeletal material at a construction site. Mr Johan Nel (manager-Archaic HPM), Ms Anja Meyer (MA student specialising in physical anthropology) and Mr Renier van der Merwe (MA student) subsequently visited the site on the same day.

The remains were found during excavation and/or construction of the foundation pit of Pier 30. According to Bombela protocol, all work was immediately suspended, awaiting expert opinion. The remains were found in the south-eastern corner wall of the excavation approximately 200 to 25 cm below the current surface level of Jones Street off-ramp.



Figure 1: Detail of area where remains were found

The remains seemed to be those of a small mammal, possibly a sheep/goat, and consisted of long bones (femora, scapulae, a tibia, ribs and vertebrae. No other material (e.g. ash, charcoal, material culture) was found to indicate the context of the remains. The disturbed material was removed by Johan Nel for expert analysis at the University of Pretoria, whilst the undisturbed material was left *in situ*.

As evidenced by the stratigraphy of the excavation, it is possible that the remains were deposited some time before the current road was constructed. A homogenous red layer (associated with fill and stabilisation of roads) exist from approximately 20 cm above the area where the remains were found to the current road surface. The remains were probably deposited in the original topsoil, and later covered by the road fill.



Figure 2: South-western wall/corner of excavation. Note stratigraphy (arrow)

The remains were very well preserved. No butcher or other marks were found on any of the bones. This may indicate that the remains were deposited naturally, and does not form part of any site or area of major heritage significance.



Figure 3: Detail of disturbed remains

Johan Nel stated on site that work may go ahead, as the skeletal material:

- a) were identified as non-human on site
- b) no evidence of any archaeological/historical heritage was found
- c) the remains were probably deposited naturally.

CONCLUSION

The skeletal material found at Pier 30 is that of an animal, probably sheep/goat. No evidence was found that may suggest the remains be in context of any archaeological or historical heritage resources. No evidence was found on the remains that would suggest butchering (suggesting human agency, therefore possibly an historical or archaeological context). It was recommended that construction could continue based on the above observations.