

## Bram Fischerville Ext 7 – Heritage Impact Assessment

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

DACEL Reference Number:

Gaut 002/639

Project Name:

Bram Fischerville Ext 7 - Rand Leases Property Development

Site location:

The proposed development is located between Soweto and the Roodepoort Central Business District on what used to be Durban Roodepoort Deep Mining Land. It is approximately 397,2706 ha in extent.

Magisterial or municipal district:

Western Metropolitan Council Area / Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality.

Name and contact details of developer:

Rand Leases Properties Limited  
PO Box 1  
Florida  
1710

Tel 011 837 7544  
Fax 011 830 1377

Name and contact details of environmental consultant:

Globecon Environmental Management Services  
P.O. Box 11928  
Erasmuskloof  
0048

Tel : 012 347 2051  
Fax : 012 347 2069

e-mail: [fanle@globecon.co.za](mailto:fanle@globecon.co.za)

Name and contact details of owner if not the same as developer:

N.A.

Date when the development was first mooted:

The proposed development is part of a greater focus area in which the first development already took place in 1997. The EIA application for the present development was submitted in January 2001.

Date of this report:

November 2001

ICRM Africa  
2001

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#### Proposed date of commencement of development:

On instruction of the Director, Gauteng Department of Housing and Land Affairs the development commenced during September 2001. This early commencement was due to the urgent relocation of 1500 residents from Alexander East Bank who were relocated from the Jukskei Flood Plain.

#### Name and contact details of specialist used to compile any specialist reports:

CRM Africa cc  
PO Box 12966  
Hatfield  
0028

Tel (012) 342 3062/3  
Fax (012) 342 3066

#### Findings and recommendations:

This report represents the Heritage Impact Assessment as part of the Scoping Report for the development of Bram Fischerville Ext 7 between Soweto and the Roodepoort Central Business District.

On 14 November 2001 a foot survey of the proposed development area was undertaken. During this survey only one site (containing stone artefacts) was found and documented (refer Annexure A for locality of site on map, as well as Annexure B Figures 3-5)

Housing is one of the key needs in South Africa today. It can therefore be envisaged that the construction of a residential development consisting of some 6500 even stands is a much-needed development for the area.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

CRM Africa cc was commissioned by Globecon Environmental Management to undertake a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment of the areas to be affected by the construction of the proposed Bram Fischerville Ext 7 residential development on the Durban Roodepoort Deep Mining land between Soweto and the Roodepoort Central Business District (refer Annexure A).

This development consists of the establishment of a residential township consisting of some 6500 even stands and involves an area of approximately 397,2706 ha.

The site is largely disturbed and contains features such as tracks, roads, tailings complexes, old opencast areas, pipelines, reservoirs and power lines. The construction activities have already commenced, with approximately half of the proposed development site affected. This early commencement in the construction was undertaken under the instruction of the Director, Gauteng Department of Housing and Land Affairs in an attempt to accommodate the 1500 residents from Alexandra East Bank who had to be urgently relocated from the Jukskei Flood Plain.

Housing is seen as one of the key needs in South Africa today, and as such the proposed development of Bram Fischerville Ext 7 represents a much-needed development for the area.

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**1. METHODOLOGY**

On Thursday 22 February 2001 Globecon Environmental Management Services informed the South African Heritage Resources Agency – Gaurieng Branch about the development via fax, and asked for any objectives or comments regarding the proposed development.

On Monday 15 October 2001 Globecon Environmental Management Services sent an email to SAHRA – Gaurieng enquiring about the necessity for a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment to be conducted in light of the disturbed nature of the proposed development site.

During November 2001 CRM Africa cc was commissioned by Globecon to undertake a walkthrough of the proposed development site.

An archaeologist from CRM Africa visited the study area on Wednesday 14 November 2001, accompanied by Mr. Fanie Coetzee from Globecon. Mr. Coetzee indicated the development site to the CRM Africa archaeologist, after which the survey was undertaken.

The survey methodology consisted of a foot survey of the study area. As the construction activities have already commenced (refer Annexure B Figure 1), and due to the disturbed nature of some portions of the site (Annexure B Figure 2), priority in the survey was placed on the more undisturbed areas.

The foot survey was augmented with informal discussions with some local residents as well as construction workers encountered during the walkthrough on site.

**1. FINDINGS**

The survey revealed only one site.

Site 1  
26° 11' 19.5" S  
27° 51' 05.9" E

At least two lithic artifacts were observed on top of a heap of excavated soil some 20 m from the edge of one of the two water pans situated within the study area. As these pieces were found on top of the excavated soil, it can be assumed that they originated from the bottom of the adjacent excavation. This excavation was approximately 1.6 m deep. As such it can be assumed that these artifacts were situated at a depth of approximately 1.6 m (refer Annexure B Figures 3-5).

Some old mine shafts are located directly to the north of the proposed development area (refer Annexure B Figure 6). Although these are situated outside the perimeter of the development site, they pose a threat to the safety of children from the proposed residential units, and as such it has been suggested that these shafts and workings must be filled up.

Informal consultation with local residents, construction workers etc. yielded no further information on archaeological or heritage resources from within the study area. The only information that could be obtained was the existence of an old cemetery to the north (and outside the perimeters) of the development site. The Durban Roodepoot Deep Mine is situated to the north of the site, consisting of

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buildings, mining towers etc. These are all situated outside the study area.

## **1. REQUIREMENTS**

The few sites found during the field survey do not necessarily represent the full heritage resource manifestation of the area. As such, whenever heritage material such as archaeological features and objects are uncovered during the course of the development, it is imperative that an archaeologist be contacted in order for mitigation to take place.

A number of options can be proposed on the way to proceed regarding Site 1. These are:

- The demarcation of a wide enough area surrounding the place where the worked stone pieces were found, and by so doing to try and minimize the impact of the development on the site.
- The second possibility would be for limited excavations to be undertaken in order to obtain as much information as possible before destruction of the site takes place. Once sufficient information is obtained, a destruction permit must be obtained from SAHRA before destruction may take place.
- The third possibility would be for a destruction permit to be issued directly by SAHRA without any further work being required.

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**ANNEXURE A  
MAP**

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6CRM Africa  
2001

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**ANNEXURE B  
FIGURES**

7 CRM Africa  
2001

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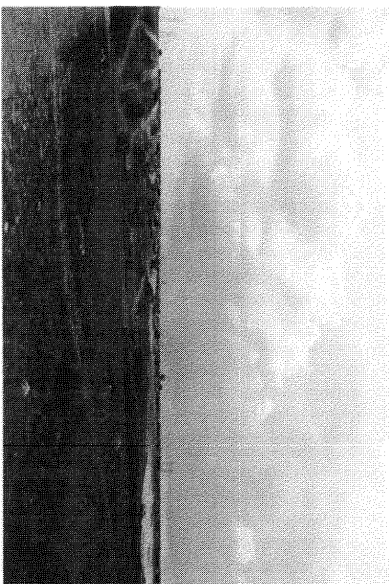


Figure 1. View of study area.

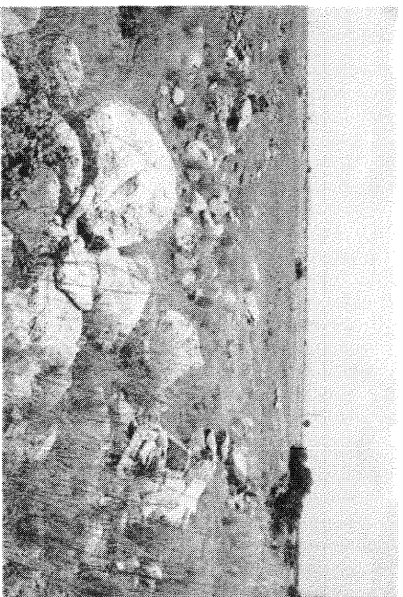


Figure 2. Some of the disturbance present within the study area.