



ALBANY MUSEUM

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18 January 2008

Dear Antonieta

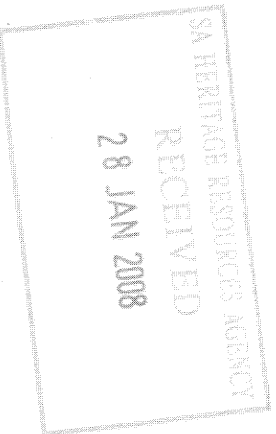
**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR THE EXEMPTION OF A FULL
PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: BORROW PIT,
THORNHILL, TSOLWANA MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE**

Please find attached the archaeology and palaeontology reports on this borrow pit. There is absolutely no need for a full phase 1 report as there is no archaeological material and the likelihood of any being uncovered during bulldozing, is virtually nil.

At the moment, the implementation of archaeological and palaeontological impact assessments for borrow pits is happening in a very uneven fashion, and we did feel very sorry for this contractor, who claims many small operations are going out of business because of the costs of the impact assessments.

Best wishes

Dr Lita Webley



9/2/009/0003

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Legislation

The National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999, Section 38 clearly indicates that any person constructing a road or similar linear developments exceeding 300m in length or developing an area exceeding 5000 square metres in extent is required to notify the responsible heritage resources authority or SAHRA. SAHRA will in turn advise whether a heritage impact assessment report is needed before development can take place.

Background

Development of roads in the Thornhill area of the Tsolwana Municipality, some 25 k from Queenstown on the Queenstown/Tarkastad road (map sheet 3126 DC), requires that an existing borrow pit on the side of the road is extended (Figure 1) by a further 1 ha. The vegetation in this area is sparse as the land has been overgrazed. There are a number of informal settlements in the area and the soil surface is littered with modern debris.

Results of survey

I visited the location of the proposed development on the 16 January 2008 (Figure 2). The soil is shallow and there is a capping of sandstone overlying a substantial layer of mudrock (see palaeontology report). The survey of the area failed to uncover any archaeological remains. It is highly unlikely that any archaeological remains will be found beneath the soil surface. There are no structures or graves on the site and the nearby settlements are all of recent origins.

The GPS co-ordinates of the borrow pit are:

S 31° 58' 45,4"
E 26° 36' 01,8

Recommendations

A full archaeological impact assessment is not necessary as the land has been considerably disturbed and there are clearly no archaeological remains in the area.

It is recommended that development may take place, but that the developers should immediately stop with development, and call an archaeologist, if any of the following are discovered:

- a) Flaked stone artefacts
- b) accumulations of bones
- c) graves or human remains



Figure 3: Surface of the area to be mined for the borrow pit, with sandstone capping visible.

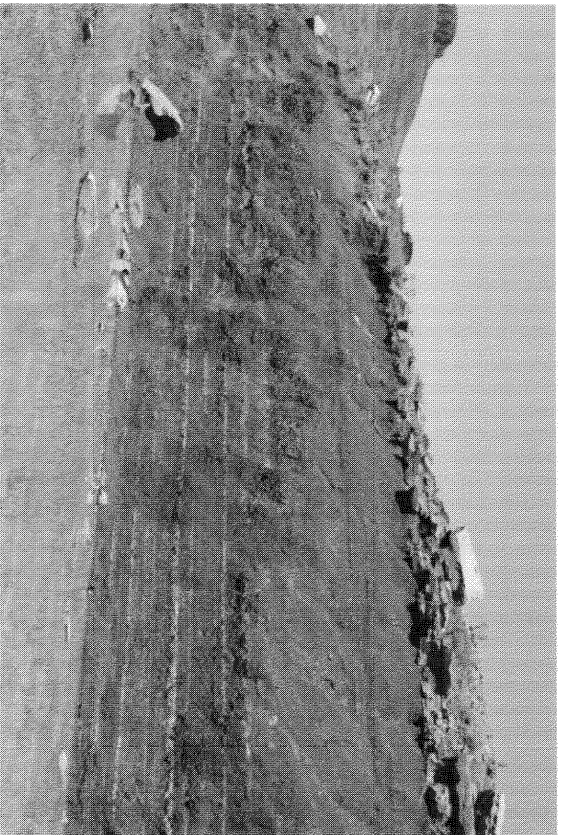


Figure 4: The face of the existing borrow pit with layers of mudrock covered by a sandstone capping.



Figure 2: Location of the borrow pit, in Thornhill, on the Queenstown/Tarkastad Road, Eastern Cape.