Archaetnos



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21 September 2017 The SA HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

Commercial Development - Portion 55 of Blesboklaagte 296 JS, Witbank: CaseID: 9719 – additional motivation

Our various telephonic and e-mail communications with your Mrs J Gribble and P Hine refers. Herewith the additional motivation requested.

The report was not accepted and the reason given that I did not do a pedestrian survey. I can only assume that it was believed to be a vehicular survey since it looks on the track route that I did stick to roads. This in fact is not true. At first I did drive around the area to obtain a good idea thereof. Thereafter I walked through the area. I think the track route I have attached create the impression that I only stayed on roads, but if one zooms in it is clear that it is not the case. The area consist of open land with only regrowth vegetation. Certain section in-between are without vegetation, perhaps creating the impression that there are roads, but this is not the case. I fact walked into the vegetation on a few places and realised that it is regrowth in an entirely disturbed area and therefore did not go in deeper as it would serve no purpose.

However, the above mentioned should not matter as the area is extremely small (about 10 ha) and an entirely disturbed area, with only pioneer plant species visible, weeds and regrowth. It therefore would have been possible to view the entire area without even having to go inside.

Please also note the following:

- Point 1 of report indicated that survey was also done on foot (this is repeated in point 4.5)
- Point 4.2 area is described as being entirely disturbed and in the central business and commercial area of eMalahleni
- Point 6 assumption no's 7 and 8 indicates the area as a low risk one for containing heritage resources due to the disturbances.
- Point 7 It is again mentioned that the area is totally disturbed, vegetation consist of pioneer species and the area in general is open with a good view across the entire area

I believe this is clear enough to warrant no change to the report and that approval should be granted.

Thank you for your attention and willingness to change your decision

Yours Faithfully

Prof. AC van Vollenhoven: Director