

P.O.BOX73703

LYNNWOOD RIDGE

0040

Tel: 083 459 3091

Fax: 086 695 7247

Email: apac.heritage@gmail.com



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**VAT NO.: 4360226270**

**APAC022/71**

**2022-08-01**

To: Mr. Andrew Salomon  
**South African Heritage Resource Agency**  
**P O Box 4637**  
**Cape Town**  
**8000**

**RE: Motivation for Exemption from a full Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment & Demolition Permit Application – Erf 69, Sibelius Street 650, Lukasrand, Tshwane – Gauteng Province**

APelser Archaeological Consulting cc (APAC cc) was appointed by Beads Strategic SpacePlanning & Interior Architecture to provide a motivation for Exemption from a Full Phase 1 HIA & Demolition Permit Application for a property located on Erf 69, Sibelius Street 650 in the suburb of Lukasrand. The property and study site is located in Tshwane in the Gauteng Province.

***Background to the Project***

Me. Olivia Wright, of Beads Strategic SpacePlanning & Interior Architecture, on behalf of the Seashore Business Trust (as registered owners of Erf 69 Lukasrand), appointed Anton Pelser of APAC cc to undertake an assessment of the house on Erf 69 (Sibelius Street 650) in order to determine its cultural heritage origin and significance and to advise on their proposed demolition of the house.

“In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999, heritage resources, including archaeological or palaeontological sites over 100 years old, graves older than 60 years, structures older than 60 years are protected. They may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. This means that prior to development it is incumbent on the developer to ensure that a Heritage Impact Assessment is done. This must include the archaeological component (Phase 1) and any other applicable heritage components. Appropriate (Phase 2) mitigation, which involves recording, sampling and dating sites that are to be destroyed, must be done as required.

The quickest process to follow for the archaeological component is to contract an accredited specialist (see the web site of the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists [www.asapa.org.za](http://www.asapa.org.za)) to provide a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report. This must be done before any large development takes place. The Phase 1 Impact Assessment Report will identify the archaeological sites and assess their significance. It should also make recommendations (as indicated in section 38) about the process to be followed. For example, there may need to be a mitigation phase (Phase 2) where the

**AJ Pelser BA (UNISA), BA (Hons) (Archaeology) [WITS], MA (Archaeology) [WITS]**

specialist will collect or excavate material and date the site. At the end of the process the heritage authority may give permission for destruction of the sites.

Where bedrock is to be affected, or where there are coastal sediments, or marine or river terraces and in potentially fossiliferous superficial deposits, a Palaeontological Desk Top study must be undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon palaeontological resources - or at least a letter of exemption from a Palaeontologist is needed to indicate that this is unnecessary. If the area is deemed sensitive, a full Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be required and if necessary a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary. Please note that a nationwide fossil sensitivity map is available on SAHRIS to assist applicants with determining the fossil sensitivity of a study area.

***If the property is very small or disturbed and there is no significant site the heritage specialist may choose to send a letter to the heritage authority motivating for exemption from having to undertake further heritage assessments.*** Any other heritage resources that may be impacted such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed."

Last mentioned option was decided on for this project which entailed desktop research as part of the assessment. Previous work by the author of this Exemption Letter also serves as reference.

### **Relevant Legislation**

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with mainly in two Acts. These are the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998).

### **The National Heritage Resources Act**

According to the Act the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artefacts, structures and sites older than 100 years;
- b. Ethnographic art objects (e.g. prehistoric rock art) and ethnography;
- c. Objects of decorative and visual arts;
- d. Military objects, structures and sites older than 75 years;
- e. Historical objects, structures and sites older than 60 years;
- f. Proclaimed heritage sites;
- g. Grave yards and graves older than 60 years;
- h. Meteorites and fossils; and
- i. Objects, structures and sites of scientific or technological value.

### **The National Estate includes the following:**

- a. Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- b. Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- c. Historical settlements and townscapes;
- d. Landscapes and features of cultural significance;
- e. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- f. Sites of Archaeological and palaeontological importance;
- g. Graves and burial grounds;
- h. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery; and
- i. Movable objects (e.g. archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, military, ethnographic, books etc.).

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is the process to be followed in order to determine whether any heritage resources are located within the area to be developed as well as the possible impact of the proposed development thereon. An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) only looks at archaeological resources. According to Section 38 (1) of the Act an HIA must be done under the following circumstances:

- a. The construction of a linear development (road, wall, power line, canal etc.) exceeding 300m in length.
- b. The construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length.
- c. Any development or other activity that will change the character of a site and exceed 5 000m<sup>2</sup> or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof.
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000m<sup>2</sup>.
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority.

***Results of the Site Assessment: Erf 69, Sibelius Street 650, Lukasrand, Tshwane***

The study site is located in an urban residential setting and is surrounded by similar residential settlements (houses/residences). The larger area and specific study site would have been utilized in the recent historical past firstly for agricultural purposes and then later for extensive urban settlement and these & other related activities, would have impacted on any archaeological and/or historical sites, features or material that might have been present here. The likelihood of any sites, features or material of cultural heritage significance being present, is therefore slim.



**Figure 1: General location of Erf 69, Sibelius Street 650 in Lukasrand, Tshwane (Google Earth 2022).**





**Figure 3: A closer view of the study site location & footprint (Google Earth 2022).**

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic (stone) material was mainly used to produce tools. In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided in basically into three periods. It is however important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for interpretation. A basic sequence for the South African Stone Age (Lombard et.al 2012) is as follows:

Earlier Stone Age (ESA) up to 2 million – more than 200 000 years ago

Middle Stone Age (MSA) less than 300 000 – 20 000 years ago

Later Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 2000 years ago

It should also be noted that these dates are not a neat fit because of variability and overlapping ages between sites (Lombard et.al 2012: 125).

There are no known Stone Age sites in the study area, and no artefacts from that period were identified during the site assessment. The closest known Stone Age sites are those of the well-known Early Stone Age site at Wonderboompoort and a number of sites in the Magaliesberg area (Bergh 1999: 4). Middle Stone Age material has been identified at Erasmusrand and the Groenkloof Nature Reserve (Van Vollenhoven 2006: 183). At the Erasmusrand cave some Late Stone Age tools were also identified as well as at Groenkloof (Van Vollenhoven 2006: 184). LSA material has also been found at Zwartkops and Hennops River (Bergh 1999: 4). This last phase of the Stone Age is associated with the San people.

**If any Stone Age artefacts are to be found in the area then it would more than likely be single, out of context, stone tools. Urbanization over the last 150 years or so would have destroyed any evidence if indeed it did exist.**

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce metal artefacts. In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases (Bergh 1999: 96-98), namely:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D.

Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.

Huffman (2007: xiii) however indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which now seem to be widely accepted in archaeological circles, are:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.

Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.

Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.

According to Delius (1983: 12) and Horn (1996: 23) LIA people moved into the Pretoria area after 1600 A.D. No Early Iron Age sites are known in the larger geographical area of Pretoria, while Later Iron Age sites do occur in the Pretoria area (Bergh 1999: 7). The closest known LIA sites are at Silver Lakes and near Mamelodi on the farm Hatherley (Van Schalkwyk et.al 1996). These sites are related to the Manala Ndebele (Bergh 1999: 10) who was present in the area at the time when the first Europeans arrived here during the mid-19th century.

Iron Age occupation of the area did not start much before the 1500s. By that time, groups of Tswana and Ndebele speaking people were moving into the area, occupying the different hills and outcrops, using the ample resources such as grazing, game and metal ores. During the early decades of the 19th century, the Tswana- and Ndebele-speakers were dislodged by the Matabele of Mzilikazi. Internal strife caused Mzilikazi, a general of King Shaka, and his followers to move away from the area between the Thukela and Mfolozi River (KwaZulu-Natal). Eventually, after a sojourn in the Sekhukhuneland area, followed by a short stay in the middle reaches of the Vaal River, they settled north of the Magaliesberg. One of three main settlements established by them, eKungwini, was on the banks of the Apies River, just north of Wonderboompoort.

The stone walled sites on various farms in the larger area around the east of Pretoria and the Bronberge were inhabited mainly by the southern Ndebele. The former were most probably among the earliest Nguni-speaking people in the immediate area north of the Magaliesberg range north of Pretoria. During the rule of a chief named Musi, they split into five separate migrating groups, namely the Manala, Ndzundza, Kekana, Mhwaduba and Sibasa sections (Van Schalkwyk et.al 1996:47-48). The Manala settled over a wide area towards the east of present-day Pretoria.

**No Iron Age sites, features or cultural material are present on the study site.**

The historical age started with the first recorded oral histories in the area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write. The first Europeans to move through and into the area were the groups of Scoon and McLuckie and the missionaries Archbell and Moffat in 1829 (Bergh 1999: 12). They were followed by others such as Andrew Smith (1835), Cornwallis Harris (1836) and David Livingstone in 1847 (Bergh 1999: 13). These groups were closely followed by the Voortrekkers and Pretoria was established in 1855 (Bergh 1999: 14-17).

**Over and above the existing residential house and related features, there are no other sites or features of historical origin or significance on Erf 69, Sibelius Street 650 in Lukasrand.**

Although the original building plans for the house on Erf 69, Sibelius Street 650, dates to the 1960's and therefore would seem to date the structure to older than 60 years of age, the assessment of the house and related features indicates that the existing house and architectural elements mostly date to the 1970's and later. If the original house was built in the early 1960's, very little if any of this remains intact.



**Figure 3: View of the main front entrance to the house.**



**Figure 4: View of the garage.**





**Figure 5: View of the back garden and swimming pool.**



**Figure 6: View of swimming pool and eastern façade of the house.**



**Figure 7: Closer view of the eastern façade.**



**Figure 8: Modern brick-built braai area.**





**Figure 9: View of the western façade/entrance to the house.**



**Figure 10: Wood and glass panels & internal doors dating to the 1970's.**



**Figure 11: Modern tiling, ceiling and lighting.**



**Figure 12: Modern toilet and tiling in one of the bathrooms.**



**Figure 13: Wooden cupboards characteristic of all the bedrooms. These probably date to the 1970's.**





**Figure 14: A view of the kitchen. According to the owner representative the cupboards were custom built and installed in the 1970's.**



**Figure 15: Modern tiling and ceiling in the lower floor entertainment area.**



**Figure 16: Stairs and railing from the lower floor entertainment area to the upper floor and main entrance.**



**Figure 17: Fire-place and parquet floor in the upper living room. These also most likely date to the 1970's.**



**Figure 18: View of the house from the inner courtyard.**



**Figure 19: Another view of a section of the house.**





**Figure 20: View at the back of the garage.**

To conclude based on the physical assessment of the Erf 69, Sibelius 650 Street study site it is therefore clear that there are not any significant sites, features or material of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) origin present. Recent historical activities (mainly urban residential & related activities) would have impacted on any if they did exist here in the past and would have disturbed or destroyed these to a large degree. The existing house and related features on the property are also deemed to not be of any cultural heritage (historical) origin or significance and that it is younger than 60 years of age. If a structure existed here before 1962 (originally older therefore than 60 years of age) this is no longer present.

**It is therefore recommended that Exemption from a Full Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for be granted to the applicants and that Exemption from a Destruction Permit Application be provided taking into consideration the following:**

**The subterranean nature of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) resources must always be kept in mind. Should any previously unknown or invisible sites, features or material be uncovered during any development actions then an expert should be contacted to investigate and provide recommendations on the way forward. This could include previously unknown and unmarked graves.**

Should there be any questions or comments on the contents of this document please contact the author as soon as possible.

Kind regards

Anton Pelser

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