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A REPORT ON A PHASE 1 AIA FOR THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT ON PORTION 55 OF THE FARM NAAUWPOORT 335 JS (COMMAND PARK EXT.1) EMALAHLENI, MPUMALANGA

For:

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REPORT: APAC014/09

by:

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SUMMARY

APELSER ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING cc was appointed by Poort Inry Teater (Pty) Ltd, to conduct a Phase 1 AIA for the proposed Command Park Extension 1 Township development on Portion 55 of the farm Naauwpoort, in Emalahleni, Mpumalanga. The AIA was recommended by SAHRA in a letter to the client on the 20th of August 2012.

The development area is located on both sides of the R544 road and is surrounded by various developments including residential (formal & informal) and industrial/commercial. The study area itself has been transformed in the past through agricultural activities (ploughing). The area is flat with little tree cover (except for remnants of bluegum and wattle plantations). Very dense grass cover made visibility difficult during the survey. No sites, features or objects of any archaeological nature were identified in the study area. If these did exist here in the past it would have been disturbed or destroyed to a large degree in the recent past.

If the recommendations put forward at the end of this document are implemented, then, from an Archaeological resources point of view, there would be no objection to the continuation of the proposed development.

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1. INTRODUCTION

APELSER ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING cc was appointed by Poort Inry Teater (Pty) Ltd, to conduct a Phase 1 AIA for the proposed Command Park Extension 1 Township development on Portion 55 of the farm Naauwpoort, in Emalahleni, Mpumalanga. The AIA was recommended by SAHRA in a letter to the client on the 20th of August 2012.

The development area is located on both sides of the R544 road and is surrounded by various developments including residential (formal & informal) and industrial/commercial. No sites, features or objects of any archaeological nature were identified in the study area. If these did exist here in the past it would have been disturbed or destroyed to a large degree in the recent past.

The client indicated the location and boundaries of the study area and the assessment focused on this demarcated portion of land.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Basic Terms of Reference for the study, based on the methodology employed by Heritage Impact Assessors, were to:

- 1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located in the proposed development area;
- 2. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value;
- 3. Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions;
- 4. Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources;
- 5. Review applicable legislative requirements;

3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

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).

3.1 The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the above-mentioned act the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artifacts, 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
- 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
- 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. 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 $5\ 000\text{m}^2$ or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding $10\ 000\ \text{m}^2$
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority

<u>Structures</u>

Section 34 (1) of the mentioned act states that no person may demolish any structure or part thereof which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

A structure means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith.

Alter means any action affecting the structure, appearance or physical properties of a place or object, whether by way of structural or other works, by painting, plastering or the decoration or any other means.

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Section 35(4) of this act deals with archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites. The act states that no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority (national or provincial):

- a. destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;
- b. destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological material or object or any meteorite;
- c. trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- d. bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.
- e. alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years as protected.

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). In order to demolish such a site or structure, a destruction permit from SAHRA will also be needed.

<u>Human remains</u>

Graves and burial grounds are divided into the following:

- a. ancestral graves
- b. royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
- c. graves of victims of conflict
- d. graves designated by the Minister
- e. historical graves and cemeteries
- f. human remains

In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:

- a. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position of otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;
- b. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or
- c. bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are subject to provisions of the Human TissueAct (Act 65 of 1983) and to local regulations. Exhumation of graves must conform to the standards set out in the **Ordinance on Excavations** (**Ordinance no. 12 of 1980**) (replacing the old Transvaal Ordinance no. 7 of 1925).

Permission must also be gained from the descendants (where known), the National Department of Health, Provincial Department of Health, Premier of the Province and local police. Furthermore, permission must also be gained from the various landowners (i.e. where the graves are located and where they are to be relocated to) before exhumation can take place.

Human remains can only be handled by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended).

Unidentified/unknown graves are also handled as older than 60 until proven otherwise.

3.2 The National Environmental Management Act

This act states that a survey and evaluation of cultural resources must be done in areas where development projects, that will change the face of the environment, will be undertaken. The impact of the development on these resources should be determined and proposals for the mitigation thereof are made.

Environmental management should also take the cultural and social needs of people into account. Any disturbance of landscapes and sites that constitute the nation's cultural heritage should be avoided as far as possible and where this is not possible the disturbance should be minimized and remedied.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Survey of literature

A survey of available literature, including previous heritage studies in the area, was undertaken in order to place the development area in an archaeological and historical context. The sources consulted in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

4.2 Field survey

The assessment was conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and in this case was aimed at identifying and recording any possible cultural heritage resources that might be located in the development area, assessing theirarchaeological &historical significance, while taking into consideration the negative impacts of the proposed development on these resources. The location/position of allsites,features and objects are determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS) where possible, while photographs are also taken where needed.

4.3 Oral histories

People from local communities are sometimes interviewed in order to obtain information relating to the surveyed area. It needs to be stated that this is not applicable under all

circumstances. When applicable, the information is included in the text and referred to in the bibliography.

4.4 Documentation

All sites, objects, features and structures identified are documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Co-ordinates of individual localities are determined by means of the Global Positioning System (GPS). The information is added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The proposed Command Park Extension 1 Township Development is located on Portion 55 of the farm Naauwpoort 335JS, in Emalahleni, Mpumalanga Province. The area covered by the development total nearly 26 ha, and is situated on both sides of the R544 tar road that cuts through the area. Large-scale residential as well as industrial and commercial developments surround the study area and as a result the larger landscape has been largely transformed from the earlier agricultural nature of the past. The development area itself has been extensively utilized for agricultural purposes (ploughing/crop growing) in the recent past. An ESKOM powerline and servitude has also impacted on the area in the recent past.

The study area is flat, with no rocky ridges our outcrops visible. There is very little tree cover, except for a few bluegum/wattle stands, but dense grass cover made visibility difficult. However, if any archaeological sites, features or objects would have existed here in the past it would have been extensively disturbed or destroyed by the agricultural and other human activities.



Figure 1: General location of study area (Google Earth 2013 – Image date 2013/08/28).

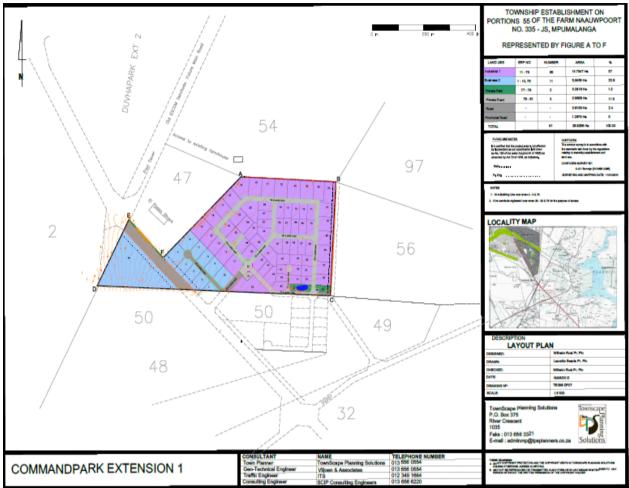


Figure 2: Layout plan of proposed development (courtesy Shangoni Management Services).



Figure 3: Closer aerial view of development area. Note the old ploughed fields, industrial, residential and other developments (Google Earth 2014 – Image date 2013/05/06).



Figure 4: View of a section of the study area. The flat nature of the area, as well as the dense grass cover is visible.



Figure 5: Tree cover is scarce and this is one of only a few clumps of trees in sections of the area.



Figure 6: Another view showing part of the informal settlement that borders a section of the area.



Figure 7: Part of the study area. Note the powerline.

6. **DISCUSSION**

A short background to the archaeology & history of the larger geographical and specific study area is given in the section below before the results of the fieldwork will be discussed.

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 close proximity to the study area, although rock paintings (associated with the Later Stone Age) are known south of Emalahleni (Witbank) near the confluence of the Olifants River and Rietspruit (Bergh 1999: 4-5). Heritage surveys have recorded few outstanding Stone Age sites, rock paintings and engravings in the Eastern Highveld - mainly as a result of limited extensive archaeological surveys. Stone tools have however been recorded around some of the pans which occur on the Eastern Highveld (Pistorius 2010: 16).

No Stone Age occurrences (stone tools) were identified during the 2014 archaeological assessment of the proposed development area.

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce artifacts. 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) indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which are 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.

No Early or Middle Iron Age sites are known to occur in the study area (Bergh 1999: 6-7). According to Pistorius the Eastern Highveld had probably not been occupied by Early Iron Age communities, but was occupied by Late Iron Age farming communities such as the Sotho, Swazi and Ndebele who established stone walled settlement complexes. Seemingly these sites are more common towards the eastern perimeters of the Eastern Highveld. Small, inconspicuous stone walled sites have been observed along the Olifants River but are an exception and not the rule (Pistorius 2010: 16-17).

Once again no Iron Age sites, features or objects were identified during the 2014 assessment of the study area.

The historical period usually starts with the moving into an area of people that were able to read and write and record histories such as early European travellers and/or missionaries. The earliest European group to travel through the area was that of Schoon in 1836. The early travellers were followed closely by the Voortrekkers after 1840 (Bergh 1999: 13).

Witbank (modern-day Emalahleni) started when the railway line between Pretoria and Lourenço Marques (built in 1894) passed close to where the town is located today. The first Europeans who came to the area noticed the abundance of coal, which was evident on the surface or in stream beds. A stage post for wagons close to a large outcrop of whitish stones (a 'white ridge') gave the town its name. Witbank was established in 1903 on a farm known as Swartbos which belonged to Jacob Taljaard (Pistorius 2010:17). During the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) there was a skirmish between British (under Hamilton) and Boer (under Wolmarans) on the 11th of January 1902 at Witbank (Bergh 1999: 54).

The oldest maps for the farm were obtained from the database of the Chief Surveyor General (<u>www.csg.dla.gov.za</u>). From a 1903 map (CSG Document 10179866) indicates that the farm was then known as Naauwpoort 515, was located in the Middelburg District and the Olifants River Ward. The whole farm was apparently originally inspected for one C.P. Cronjee on the 10th of March 1860. It was surveyed between December 1902 and January 1903. The 1952 map for Portion 55 (CSG Document 10178922) shows that the farm was then numbered No.19 and that it was located in the District Witbank. No historical structures or features (such as farmhouses or cemeteries) are indicated on any of these maps, although the R544 road is already visible on the 1952 map.

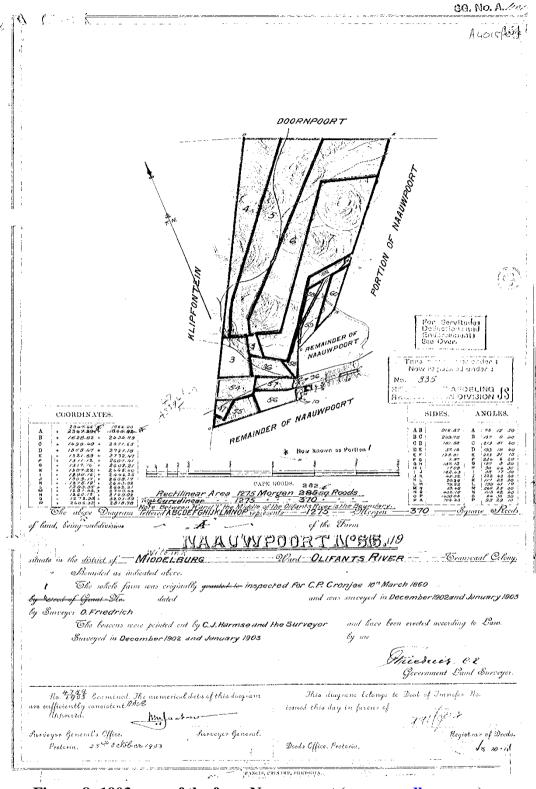


Figure 8: 1903 map of the farm Naauwpoort (<u>www.csg.dla.gov.za</u>).

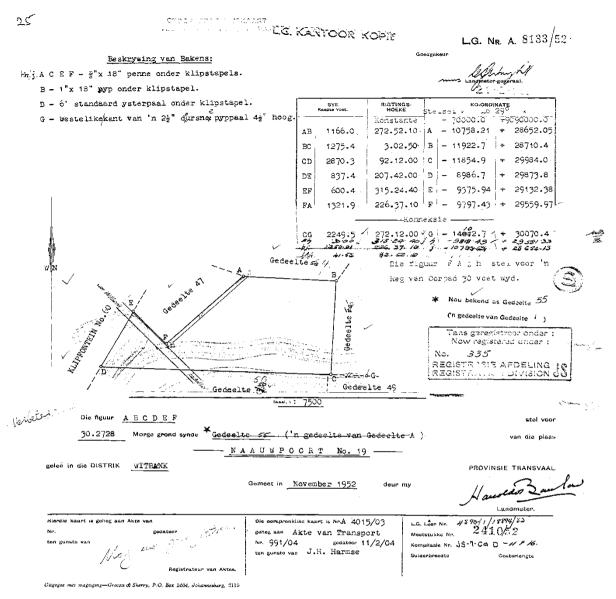


Figure 9: 1952 map of Naauwpoort and Portion 55 of the farm. Note the R544 (ww.csg.dla.gov.za).

Results of Assessment

The assessment was done partially on foot, although certain sections were covered by vehicle as some dirt tracks existed. The area is flat and no rocky ridges or outcrops were visible. Dense grass cover made visibility difficult, although the existence of any archaeological artifacts, features or sites are highly unlikely. Agricultural activities (ploughing and crop growing) in the recent past would have disturbed or destroyed to a large degree any evidence of archaeological resources if it did exist here previously. No historical structures, such as farmhouses and associated buildings, or features such as graves, were observed in the study area as well.

With the dense grass cover there is however a possibility that sites, features or objects could have been missed. Should any be uncovered as a result of development activities then an archaeologist or heritage specialist should be called in to investigate.

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7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it is possible to say that the Phase 1 AIA for the proposed Command Park Extension 1 Township development, located on Portion 55 of the farm Naauwpoort 335JS in Emalahleni (Witbank), Mpumalanga, were conducted successfully. The study area is surrounded by various modern developments including residential (formal & informal), industrial and commercial, that has extensively changed the original farming nature of the larger area. The R544 road that cuts partially through the study area, as well as ESKOM Powerlines and servitude, has also impacted on the area. The study area itself has been largely disturbed through agricultural activities in the past. No known Stone Age, Iron Age or Historical age archaeological sites exist in close proximity to or in the focus area.

If any archaeological or historical sites, features or objects existed here in the past, it would probably have been extensively disturbed or destroyed as a result of various developments and human activities during the recent past.

Finally, from anArchaeological point of view it is recommended that the development be allowed to continue. The possible subterranean presence of archaeological and/or historicalsites, features or artifacts shouldhowever always be kept in mind. This could include low stone packed, unknown and unmarked burials. If during any development activities, any sites, features and objects of a cultural heritage (archaeological or historical) nature, are exposed, an expert should be called in to investigate and suitable mitigation measures are implemented. All development in these areas should be halted until the situation had been satisfactorily resolved.

8. **REFERENCES**

Aerial views of study area location: Google Earth 2013 - Image date: 2013/08/28 & Google Earth 2014.

Study area location and layout plan: Provided by Shangoni Management Service

Bergh, J.S. (red.). 1999. Geskiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika. Die viernoordelike provinsies. Pretoria: J.L. van Schaik.

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Republic of South Africa.1998.**National Environmental Management Act** (no 107 of 1998). Pretoria: The Government Printer.

www.csg.dla.gov.za: Documents 10179866 & 10178922.

APPENDIX A

DEFINITION OF TERMS:

Site: A large place with extensive structures and related cultural objects. It can also be a large assemblage of cultural artifacts, found on a single location.

Structure: A permanent building found in isolation or which forms a site in conjunction with other structures.

Feature: A coincidental find of movable cultural objects.

Object: Artifact (cultural object).

(Also see Knudson 1978: 20).

APPENDIX B

DEFINITION/ STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

Historic value:	Important in the community or pattern of history or has an association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in history.	
Aesthetic value:	Important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.	
Scientific value:	Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural history or is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement of a particular period	
Social value:	Have a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.	
Rarity:	Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage.	
Representivity:	Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or object or a range of landscapes or environments characteristic of its class or of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, province region or locality.	

APPENDIXC

SIGNIFICANCE AND FIELD RATING:

Cultural significance:

- Low A cultural object being found out of context, not being part of a site or without any related feature/structure in its surroundings.
- Medium Any site, structure or feature being regarded less important due to a number of factors, such as date and frequency. Also any important object found out of context.
- High Any site, structure or feature regarded as important because of its age or uniqueness. Graves are always categorized as of a high importance. Also any important object found within a specific context.

Heritage significance:

- Grade I	Heritage resources with exceptional qualities to the extent that they are of
	national significance

- Grade II Heritage resources with qualities giving it provincial or regional importance although it may form part of the national estate
- Grade III Other heritage resources of local importance and therefore worthy of conservation

Field ratings:

i.	National Grade I significance	should be managed as part of the national estate
ii.	Provincial Grade II significance	should be managed as part of the provincial estate
iii.	Local Grade IIIA	should be included in the heritage register and not be
		mitigated (high significance)
iv.	Local Grade IIIB	should be included in the heritage register and may be
		mitigated (high/ medium significance)
v.	General protection A (IV A)	site should be mitigated before destruction (high/
		medium significance)
vi.	General protection B (IV B)	site should be recorded before destruction (medium
		significance)
vii.	General protection C (IV C)	phase 1 is seen as sufficient recording and it may be
		demolished (low significance)

APPENDIXD

PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES:

Formal protection:

National heritage sites and Provincial heritage sites – Grade I and II Protected areas - An area surrounding a heritage site Provisional protection – For a maximum period of two years Heritage registers – Listing Grades II and III Heritage areas – Areas with more than one heritage site included Heritage objects – e.g. Archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, visual art, military, numismatic, books, etc.

General protection:

Objects protected by the laws of foreign states Structures – Older than 60 years Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites Burial grounds and graves Public monuments and memorials

APPENDIX E

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASES

- 1. Pre-assessment or Scoping phase Establishment of the scope of the project and terms of reference.
- 2. Baseline Assessment Establishment of a broad framework of the potential heritage of an area.
- 3. Phase I Impact Assessment Identifying sites, assess their significance, make comments on the impact of the development and makes recommendations for mitigation or conservation.
- 4. Letter of Recommendation for Exemption If there is no likelihood that any sites will be impacted.
- 5. Phase II Mitigation or Rescue Planning for the protection of significant sites or sampling through excavation or collection (after receiving a permit) of sites that may be lost.
- 6. Phase III Management Plan For rare cases where sites are so important that development cannot be allowed.