Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Prospecting Right Application for the remainder of Farm Barst Vley 192, west of Kenhardt, Northern Cape Province

Desktop Study (Phase 1)

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Prepared for



(AHSA) Archaeological and Heritage Services Africa (Pty) Ltd Reg. No. 2016/281687/07

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Expertise of Specialist

The Palaeontologist Consultant: Prof Marion Bamford Qualifications: PhD (Wits Univ, 1990); FRSSAf, mASSAf Experience: 33 years research and lecturing in Palaeontology 25 years PIA studies and over 300 projects completed

Declaration of Independence

This report has been compiled by Professor Marion Bamford, of the University of the Witwatersrand, sub-contracted by Archaeological and Heritage Services Africa (Pty) Ltd, Pretoria, South Africa. The views expressed in this report are entirely those of the author and no other interest was displayed during the decision making process for the Project.

Specialist: Prof Marion Bamford

MKBamford

Signature:

Executive Summary

A Palaeontological Impact Assessment was requested for a Mine Prospecting Right Application on the Remainder of Barst Vley 192 west of Kenhardt Town, in the Kai !Garib Municipality, Northern Cape.

To comply with the regulations of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA), a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) was completed for the proposed development.

The proposed site lies on the potentially fossiliferous Dwyka Group (Karoo Supergroup) diamictites and tillites and the aeolian Quaternary sands. The former might preserve fragmentary plant fossils, silicified wood or invertebrates of Late Carboniferous to early Permian age. Aeolian sands do not preserve fossils but they might cover fossils trapped in palaeo-pans or palaeo-springs if such features are present. In both strata fossils are unlikely to occur. In this region there are Miocene palaeo-channels that could trap silicified wood as well as diamonds. Therefore, a Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the EMPr. Based on this information it is recommended that no further palaeontological impact assessment is required unless fossils are found by the contractor, environmental officer or other designated responsible person once excavations, drilling or mining activities have commenced. Since the impact will be moderate to low, as far as the palaeontology is concerned, the project should be authorised.

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1. Background

Newnite (Pty) Ltd is applying for a mine Prospecting Right on the remainder of Farm Barst Vley 192, about 30 km west of the town of Kenhardt, in the Kai !Garib Municipality, Northern Cape.

A Palaeontological Impact Assessment was requested for the Barst Vley project. To comply with the regulations of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA), a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) was completed for the proposed development and is reported herein.

Table 1: National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended) - Requirements for Specialist Reports (Appendix 6).

	A specialist report prepared in terms of the Environmental Impact Regulations of 2017 must contain:	Relevant section in report
ai	Details of the specialist who prepared the report,	Appendix B
aii	The expertise of that person to compile a specialist report including a curriculum vitae	Appendix B
b	A declaration that the person is independent in a form as may be specified by the competent authority	Page 1
с	An indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the report was prepared	Section 1
ci	An indication of the quality and age of the base data used for the specialist report: SAHRIS palaeosensitivity map accessed – date of this report	Yes
cii	A description of existing impacts on the site, cumulative impacts of the proposed development and levels of acceptable change	
d	The date and season of the site investigation and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment	N/A
e	A description of the methodology adopted in preparing the report or carrying out the specialised process	Section 2
f	The specific identified sensitivity of the site related to the activity and its associated structures and infrastructure	Section 4
g	An identification of any areas to be avoided, including buffers	N/A
h	A map superimposing the activity including the associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the site including areas to be avoided, including buffers;	N/A

	A specialist report prepared in terms of the Environmental Impact Regulations of 2017 must contain:	Relevant section in report
i	A description of any assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge;	Section 5
j	A description of the findings and potential implications of such findings on the impact of the proposed activity, including identified alternatives, on the environment	Section 4
k	Any mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr	Section 8, Appendix A
1	Any conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation	N/A
m	Any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or environmental authorisation	Section 8, Appendix A
ni	A reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed activity or portions thereof should be authorised	Section 6
nii	If the opinion is that the proposed activity or portions thereof should be authorised, any avoidance, management and mitigation measures that should be included in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan	Sections 6, 8
0	A description of any consultation process that was undertaken during the course of carrying out the study	N/A
р	A summary and copies of any comments that were received during any consultation process	N/A
q	Any other information requested by the competent authority.	N/A
2	Where a government notice gazetted by the Minister provides for any protocol or minimum information requirement to be applied to a specialist report, the requirements as indicated in such notice will apply.	N/A



Figure 1: Google Earth map of the general area to show the relative land marks and previous survey. The Barst Vley 192 project area is shown by the green outline.

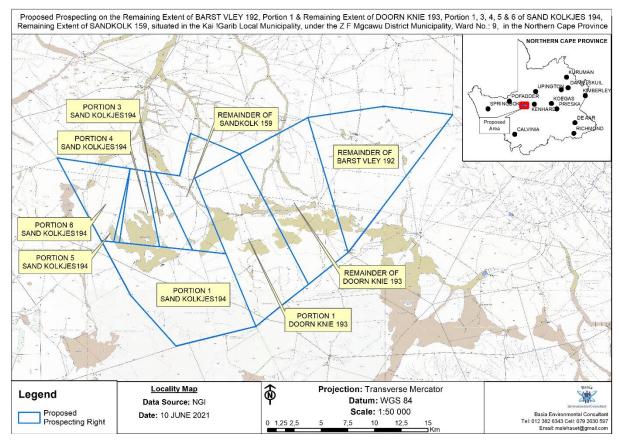


Figure 2: Topographic Map of the proposed Prospecting Rights area as labelled.

2. Methods and Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for this study were to undertake a PIA and provide feasible management measures to comply with the requirements of SAHRA. The methods employed to address the ToR included:

- 1. Consultation of geological maps, literature, palaeontological databases, published and unpublished records to determine the likelihood of fossils occurring in the affected areas. Sources included records housed at the Evolutionary Studies Institute at the University of the Witwatersrand and SAHRA databases;
- 2. Where necessary, site visits by a qualified palaeontologist to locate any fossils and assess their importance (*not applicable to this assessment*);
- 3. Where appropriate, collection of unique or rare fossils with the necessary permits for storage and curation at an appropriate facility (*not applicable to this assessment*); and
- 4. Determination of fossils' representivity or scientific importance to decide if the fossils can be destroyed or a representative sample collected (*not applicable to this assessment*).

3. Geology and Palaeontology

i. Project location and geological context

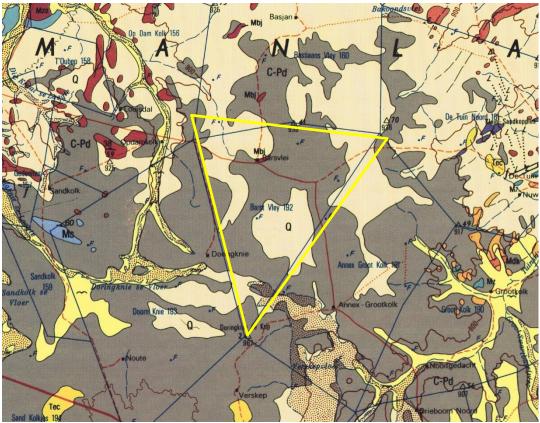


Figure 3: Geological map of the area around Farm Barst Vley 192 indicated within the yellow triangle. Abbreviations of the rock types are explained in Table 2. Map enlarged from the Geological Survey 1: 250 000 map 2920 Kenhardt.

Table 2: Explanation of symbols for the geological map and approximate ages (Johnson et al., 2006; McCarthy et al., 2006). SG = Supergroup; Fm = Formation; Ma = million years; grey shading = formations impacted by the project.

Symbol	Group/Formation	Lithology	Approximate Age	
0	Gordonia Fm, Kalahari	Aeolian sands, dune	Quaternary, ca 2.5 Ma to	
Q	Group	sands	present	
C-Pd	Vryheid Fm, Ecca	Tillites, diamictite,	Fauly Doursian Middle Face	
C-Pu	Group, Karoo SG	musdtone, sandstone,	Early Permian, Middle Ecca	

The site lies in the north-western margin of the Main Karoo Basin with the basal Karoo Supergroup rocks exposed, and overlain by much younger sands and alluvium of the Kalahari Group.

During the Carboniferous Period South Africa was part of the huge continental landmass known as Gondwanaland and it was positioned over the South Pole. As a result, there were several ice sheets that formed and melted, and covered most of South Africa (Visser, 1986, 1989). Gradual melting of the ice as the continental mass moved northwards and the earth warmed, formed fine-grained sediments in the large inland sea. These are the oldest rocks in the system and are exposed around the outer part of the ancient Karoo Basin, and are known as the Dwyka Group. They comprise tillites, diamictites, mudstones, siltstones and sandstones that were deposited as the basin filled. This group has been divided into two formations with Elandsvlei Formation occurring throughout the basin and the upper Mbizane Formation occurring only in the Free State and KwaZulu Natal (Johnson et al., 2006).

Overlying the Dwyka Group rocks are rocks of the Ecca Group that are Early Permian in age. There are eleven formations recognised in this group but they do not all extend throughout the Karoo Basin. In the west and central part are the following formations, from base upwards: Prince Albert Formation, Whitehill Formation, Collingham Formation, Laingsburg / Ripon Formations, Tierberg / Fort Brown Formations, and Waterford Formation. In the Free State and KwaZulu Natal, from the base upwards are the Pietermaritzburg Formation, Vryheid Formation and the Volksrust Formation. All of these sediments have varying proportions of sandstones, mudstones, shales and siltstones and represent shallow to deep water settings, deltas, rivers, streams and overbank depositional environments.

Overlying the Ecca Group are the rocks of the Beaufort Group that has been divided into the lower Adelaide Subgroup for the Upper Permian strata, and the Tarkastad Subgroup for the Early to Middle Triassic strata. As with the older Karoo sediments, the formations vary across the Karoo Basin. Neither these rocks nor the overlying Stormberg Group rocks are present in this area. Jurassic aged dolerite has intruded through the Karoo Supergroup strata in a wide area around the Drakensberg Mountains, and signalled the end of the Karoo sedimentation. The Quaternary Kalahari sands form an extensive cover of much younger deposits over much of the Northern Cape Province and Botswana. Haddon and McCarthy (2005) proposed that the Kalahari basin formed as a response to down-warp of the interior of the southern Africa, probably in the Late Cretaceous. This, along with possible uplift along epeirogenic axes, back-tilted rivers into the newly formed Kalahari basin and deposition of the Kalahari Group sediments began. Sediments included basal gravels in river channels, sand and finer sediments. A period of relative tectonic stability during the mid-Miocene saw the silcretisation and calcretisation of older Kalahari Group lithologies, and this was followed in the Late Miocene by relatively minor uplift of the eastern side of southern Africa and along certain epeirogenic axes in the interior. More uplift during the Pliocene caused erosion of the sand that was then reworked and redeposited by aeolian processes during drier periods, resulting in the extensive dune fields that are preserved today.

There are numerous pans in the Kalahari, generally 3–4 km in diameter (Haddon and McCarthy, 2005). According to Goudie and Wells (1995) there are two conditions required for the formation of pans. Firstly, the fluvial processes must not be integrated, and second, there must be no accumulation of aeolian material that would fill the irregularities or depressions in the land surface. Favoured materials or substrates for the formation of pans in South Africa are Dwyka and Ecca shales and sandstones (ibid).

Most pans in the Kalahari Basin are filled by a layer of clayey sand or calcareous clays and are flanked by lunette dunes formed as a result of deflation of the pan floor during arid periods (Lancaster, 1978a, b; Haddon and McCarthy, 2005). At some localities in the south western Kalahari spring-fed tufas have formed at the margins of pans during periods where groundwater discharge was high (Lancaster, 1986). These tufas may contain evidence of algal mats and stromatolites and may also be associated with calcified reed and root tubes (Lancaster, 1986). Many of the pans are characterised by diatomaceous earth, diatomite or kieselguhr, a white or grey, porous, light-weight, finegrained sediment composed mainly of the fossilised skeletons of diatoms. Associated with some palaeo-pans and palaeo-springs are fossil bones, root casts, pollen and archaeological artefacts.

ii. Palaeontological context

The palaeontological sensitivity of the area under consideration is presented in Figure 4. The site for development is in the Dwyka Group and the Quaternary aeolian sands of the Gordonia Formation, both indicated as moderately sensitive (green) on the map (Figure 4).

The **Dwyka Group** is made up of seven facies that were deposited in a marine basin under differing environmental settings of glacial formation and retreat (Visser, 1986, 1989; Johnson et al., 2006). In the north and east these are called the Mbizane Formation, and the Elandsvlei Formation in the south and west. Described below are the seven facies (Johnson et al., 2006 p. 463-465):

The <u>massive diamictite facies</u> comprises highly compacted diamictite that is clast-poor in the north. It was deposited in subaqueous or subglacial positions.

The <u>stratified diamictite</u> comprises alternating diamictite, mudrock, sandstone and conglomerate beds. They are interpreted as being rapidly deposited, sediment gravity flows but with some possible reworking of the subglacial diamictites.

The <u>massive carbonate-rich diamictite facies</u> is clast-poor and was formed by the rainout of debris, with the carbonate probably originating by crystallisation from interstitial waters.

The <u>conglomerate facies</u> ranges from single layer boulder beds to poorly sorted pebble and granule conglomerates. The boulder beds are interpreted as lodgement deposits whereas the poorly sorted conglomerates are a product of water-reworking of diamicton by high-density sediment gravity flows.

The <u>sandstone facies</u> were formed as turbidite deposits.

The <u>mudrock with stones facies</u> represents rainout deposits in the distal iceberg zone.

The <u>mudrock facies</u> consists of dark-coloured, commonly carbonaceous mudstone, shale or silty rhythmite that was formed when the mud or silt in suspension settled. This is the only fossiliferous facies of the Dwyka Group.

The Dwyka *Glossopteris* flora outcrops are very sporadic and rare. Of the seven facies that have been recognised in the Dwyka Group fossil plant fragments have only been recognised from the mudrock facies. They have been recorded from around Douglas only (Plumstead, 1969; Anderson and Anderson, 1985; Johnson et al., 2006) although the Dwyka Group exposures are very extensive. Jurassic Dolerites do not contain fossils as they are igneous intrusives.

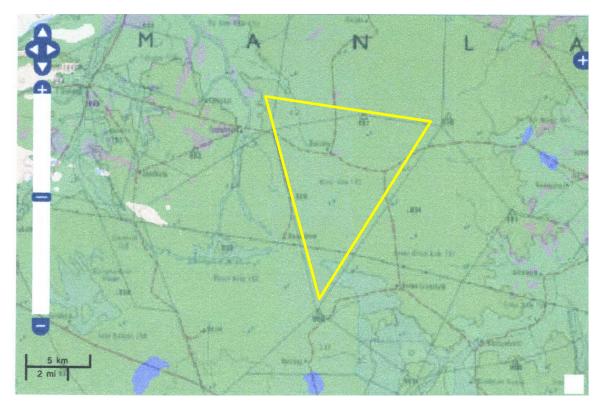


Figure 4: SAHRIS palaeosensitivity map for the site for the proposed PRA on Farm Bast Vley 192 shown within the yellow triangle. Background colours indicate the following

degrees of sensitivity: red = very highly sensitive; orange/yellow = high; green = moderate; blue = low; grey = insignificant/zero.

Along some of the palaeo-drainage channels, where the alluvial diamonds are usually found, fossil wood of Miocene age occurs and has been used to date these channels. Such silicified woods have been found just south of Barst Vley in Piet Louws Vley, and along the Sak River and Brandvlei (Bamford and de Wit, 1993; De Wit, 1993, 1999; De Wit and Bamford, 1993).

Palaeo-pans and palaeo-springs are visible in satellite imagery because of their topography and often are associated with lunette dunes. Vegetation changes are also common. No such features are seen in the Google Earth images. Aeolian sediments that cover most of the region, do not preserve fossils because they have been reworked and windblown.

4. Impact assessment

An assessment of the potential impacts to possible palaeontological resources considers the criteria encapsulated in Table 3:

PART A: DEFINITION AND CRITERIA				
	H	Substantial deterioration (death, illness or injury). Recommended level will often be violated. Vigorous community action.		
	М	Moderate/ measurable deterioration (discomfort). Recommended level will occasionally be violated. Widespread complaints.		
Criteria for ranking of the SEVERITY/NATURE of environmental	L	Minor deterioration (nuisance or minor deterioration). Change not measurable/ will remain in the current range. Recommended level will never be violated. Sporadic complaints.		
impacts	L+	Minor improvement. Change not measurable/ will remain in the current range. Recommended level will never be violated. Sporadic complaints.		
	M+	Moderate improvement. Will be within or better than the recommended level. No observed reaction.		
	H+	Substantial improvement. Will be within or better than the recommended level. Favourable publicity.		
Criteria for ranking	L	Quickly reversible. Less than the project life. Short term		
the DURATION of	Μ	Reversible over time. Life of the project. Medium term		
impacts	Н	Permanent. Beyond closure. Long term.		
Criteria for ranking	L	Localised - Within the site boundary.		
the SPATIAL SCALE	Μ	Fairly widespread – Beyond the site boundary. Local		
of impacts	Н	Widespread – Far beyond site boundary. Regional/ national		

Table 3a: Criteria for assessing impacts

PROBABILITY	Н	Definite/ Continuous
(of exposure to	Μ	Possible/ frequent
impacts)	L	Unlikely/ seldom

Table 3b: Impact Assessment

PART B: Assessment				
	Н	-		
	Μ	-		
SEVERITY/NATURE	L	Aeolian sands do not preserve fossils; so far there are no records of pans from below the Gordonia Fm of plant or animal fossils in this region so it is very unlikely that fossils occur on the site. The impact would be negligible		
	L+	-		
	M+	-		
	H+	-		
	L	-		
DURATION	Μ	-		
	Н	Where manifest, the impact will be permanent.		
SPATIAL SCALE	L	Since the only possible fossils within the area would be fossil plants of the Glossopteris flora and invertebrates, silicified wood or fragmented bones, wood or plants in the Gordonia Fm and palaeo-channels, the spatial scale will be localised within the site boundary.		
	Μ	-		
	Н	-		
	Н	-		
PROBABILITY	М	It is extremely unlikely that any fossils would be found in the loose soils and sands that cover the area or in the Dwyka Group mudstones, however, there might be Miocene silicified wood in the palaeo-channels that will be targeted for diamonds. Therefore, a Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the eventual EMPr.		
	L	-		

Based on the nature of the project, surface activities may impact upon the fossil heritage if preserved in the development footprint. The geological structures suggest that the rocks are the correct age and type to contain fossils. Since there is a chance that fossils of silicified wood from the Miocene palaeo-channels may be disturbed a Fossil Chance Find Protocol has been added to this report. Taking account of the defined criteria, the potential impact to fossil heritage resources is moderate to low.

5. Assumptions and uncertainties

Based on the geology of the area and the palaeontological record as we know it, it can be assumed that the formation and layout of the sandstones, shales, mudstones and sands are typical for the country and do contain fossil wood, fossil plant, insect, invertebrate and vertebrate material. The sands of the Quaternary period would not preserve fossils but they might obscure fossils below in traps such as palaeo-pans, palaeo-springs or palaeo-channels because fossils have been found to the south of the site.

6. Recommendation

Based on experience and the lack of any previously recorded fossils from the area, it is extremely unlikely that any fossils would be preserved in the Dwyka Group diamaictite of in the aeolian sands of the Quaternary. There is a chance that fossils may occur in the palaeo-channels of Miocene age beneath the aeolian sands so a Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the EMPr. If fossils are found by the contractor, environmental officer, or other responsible person once prospecting activities have commenced then they should be rescued and a palaeontologist called to assess and collect a representative sample. The impact on the palaeontological heritage would be low, therefore as far as the palaeontology is concerned, the prospecting right can be granted as long as the Fossil Chance Find Protocol is followed (Section 8; Appendix A).

7. References

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8. Chance Find Protocol

Monitoring Programme for Palaeontology – to commence once the excavations / drilling mining activities begin.

- 1. The following procedure is only required if fossils are seen on the surface and when drilling/excavations commence.
- 2. When excavations begin the rocks and must be given a cursory inspection by the environmental officer or designated person. Any fossiliferous material (silicified wood, plants, insects, bone or coal) should be put aside in a suitably protected place. This way the project activities will not be interrupted.
- 3. Photographs of similar fossils must be provided to the developer to assist in recognizing the fossil plants, vertebrates, invertebrates or trace fossils in the shales and mudstones (for example see Figure 5-7). This information will be built into the EMP's training and awareness plan and procedures.
- 4. Photographs of the putative fossils can be sent to the palaeontologist for a preliminary assessment.
- 5. If there is any possible fossil material found by the developer/environmental officer then the qualified palaeontologist sub-contracted for this project, should visit the site to inspect the selected material and check the dumps where feasible.
- 6. Fossil plants or vertebrates that are considered to be of good quality or scientific interest by the palaeontologist must be removed, catalogued and housed in a suitable institution where they can be made available for further study. Before the fossils are removed from the site a SAHRA permit must be obtained. Annual reports must be submitted to SAHRA as required by the relevant permits.
- 7. If no good fossil material is recovered then no site inspections by the palaeontologist will be necessary. A final report by the palaeontologist must be sent to SAHRA once the project has been completed and only if there are fossils.
- 8. If no fossils are found and the excavations have finished then no further monitoring is required.

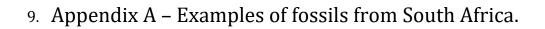




Figure 5: Photographs of fossil plants from the Dwyka Group.



Figure 6: Photographs of fossils that could be found trapped in palaeo-pans or palaeosprings of the Quaternary deposits.



Figure 7: Photograph of fossil wood from the Sak River collected in 1992.

Curriculum vitae (short) - Marion Bamford PhD January 2022

I) Personal details

Surname	:	Bamford	
First names	:	Marion Kathleen	
Present employment	nt:	Professor; Director of the Evolutionary Studies Institute.	
		Member Management Committee of the NRF/DST Centre of	
		Excellence Palaeosciences, University of the Witwatersrand,	
		Johannesburg, South Africa	
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		marionbamford12@gmail.com	

ii) Academic qualifications

Tertiary Education: All at the University of the Witwatersrand: 1980-1982: BSc, majors in Botany and Microbiology. Graduated April 1983. 1983: BSc Honours, Botany and Palaeobotany. Graduated April 1984. 1984-1986: MSc in Palaeobotany. Graduated with Distinction, November 1986. 1986-1989: PhD in Palaeobotany. Graduated in June 1990. NRF Rating: C-2 (1999-2004); B-3 (2005-2015); B-2 (2016-2020); B-1 (2021-2026)

iii) Professional qualifications

Wood Anatomy Training (overseas as nothing was available in South Africa): 1994 - Service d'Anatomie des Bois, Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgium, by Roger Dechamps 1997 - Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France, by Dr Jean-Claude Koeniguer 1997 - Université Claude Bernard, Lyon, France by Prof Georges Barale, Dr Jean-Pierre

Gros, and Dr Marc Philippe

iv) Membership of professional bodies/associations

Palaeontological Society of Southern Africa Royal Society of Southern Africa - Fellow: 2006 onwards Academy of Sciences of South Africa - Member: Oct 2014 onwards International Association of Wood Anatomists - First enrolled: January 1991 International Organization of Palaeobotany – 1993+ Botanical Society of South Africa South African Committee on Stratigraphy – Biostratigraphy - 1997 - 2016 SASQUA (South African Society for Quaternary Research) – 1997+ PAGES - 2008 –onwards: South African representative

vii) Supervision of Higher Degrees

All at Wits University				
Degree	Graduated/completed	Current		
Honours	13	0		
Masters	11	3		
PhD	11	6		
Postdoctoral fellows	15	1		

viii) Undergraduate teaching

Geology II – Palaeobotany GEOL2008 – average 65 students per year Biology III – Palaeobotany APES3029 – average 45 students per year Honours – Evolution of Terrestrial Ecosystems; African Plio-Pleistocene Palaeoecology; Micropalaeontology – average 12-20 students per year.

ix) Editing and reviewing

Editor: Palaeontologia africana: 2003 to 2013; 2014 – Assistant editor Guest Editor: Quaternary International: 2005 volume Member of Board of Review: Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology: 2010 –

Associate Editor Open Science UK: 2021 -

Review of manuscripts for ISI-listed journals: 30 local and international journals Reviewing of funding applications for NRF, PAST, NWO, SIDA, National Geographic, Leakey Foundation

x) Palaeontological Impact Assessments

Selected from the past five years only – list not complete:

- Mala Mala 2017 for Henwood
- Modimolle 2017 for Green Vision
- Klipoortjie and Finaalspan 2017 for Delta BEC
- Ledjadja borrow pits 2018 for Digby Wells
- Lungile poultry farm 2018 for CTS
- Olienhout Dam 2018 for JP Celliers
- Isondlo and Kwasobabili 2018 for GCS
- Kanakies Gypsum 2018 for Cabanga
- Nababeep Copper mine 2018
- Glencore-Mbali pipeline 2018 for Digby Wells
- Remhoogte PR 2019 for A&HAS
- Bospoort Agriculture 2019 for Kudzala
- Overlooked Quarry 2019 for Cabanga
- Richards Bay Powerline 2019 for NGT
- Eilandia dam 2019 for ACO
- Eastlands Residential 2019 for HCAC
- Fairview MR 2019 for Cabanga
- Graspan project 2019 for HCAC
- Lieliefontein N&D 2019 for EnviroPro
- Skeerpoort Farm Mast 2020 for HCAC

- Vulindlela Eco village 2020 for 1World
- KwaZamakhule Township 2020 for Kudzala
- Sunset Copper 2020 for Digby Wells
- McCarthy-Salene 2020 for Prescali
- VLNR Lodge 2020 for HCAC
- Madadeni mixed use 2020 for EnviroPro
- Frankfort-Windfield Eskom Powerline 2020 for 1World
- Beaufort West PV Facility 2021 for ACO Associates
- Copper Sunset MR 2021 for Digby Wells
- Sannaspos PV facility 2021 for CTS Heritage
- Smithfield-Rouxville-Zastron PL 2021 for TheroServe

xi) Research Output

Publications by M K Bamford up to January 2022 peer-reviewed journals or scholarly books: over 160 articles published; 5 submitted/in press; 10 book chapters. Scopus h-index = 30; Google scholar h-index = 35; -i10-index = 92 Conferences: numerous presentations at local and international conferences.