



**PALAEONTOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE SEWAGE TREATMENT
PACKAGE PLANT FOR THE PROPOSED LUSAKA COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE
FACILITY, PHUTHADITJHABA, THABO MOFUSANYANA DISTRICT, FREE STATE
PROVINCE**

Compiled for:

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March 2022

Declaration of Independence

I, Elize Butler, declare that –

General declaration:

- I act as the independent palaeontological specialist in this application
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favorable to the applicant
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work.
- I have expertise in conducting palaeontological impact assessments, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity.
- I will comply with the Act, Regulations, and all other applicable legislation.
- I will take into account, to the extent possible, the matters listed in section 38 of the NHRA when preparing the application and any report relating to the application.
- I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity.
- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan, or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority.
- I will ensure that information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application is distributed or made available to interested and affected parties and the public and that participation by interested and affected parties is facilitated in such a manner that all interested and affected parties will be provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and to provide comments on documents that are produced to support the application.
- I will provide the competent authority with access to all information at my disposal regarding the application, whether such information is favorable to the applicant or not
- All the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct.
- I will perform all other obligations as expected a palaeontological specialist in terms of the Act and the constitutions of my affiliated professional bodies; and
- I realize that a false declaration is an offense in terms of regulation 71 of the Regulations and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the NEMA.

Disclosure of Vested Interest

I do not have and will not have any vested interest (either business, financial, personal, or other) in the proposed activity proceeding other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the Regulations.

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SIGNATURE:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elize Butler'.

This Palaeontological Impact Assessment report has been compiled considering the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA) and Environmental Impact Regulations 2014 as amended, requirements for specialist reports, Appendix 6, as indicated in the table below.

Table 1 - NEMA Table

Requirements of Appendix 6 – GN R326 EIA Regulations of 7 April 2017	Relevant section in report	Comment where not applicable.
1.(1) (a) (i) Details of the specialist who prepared the report	Page ii and Section 2 of Report – Contact details and company and Appendix A	-
(ii) The expertise of that person to compile a specialist report including a curriculum vita	Section 2 – refer to Appendix A	-
(b) A declaration that the person is independent in a form as may be specified by the competent authority	Page ii of the report	-
(c) An indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the report was prepared	Section 4 – Objective	-
(cA) An indication of the quality and age of base data used for the specialist report	Section 5 – Geological and Palaeontological history	-
(cB) a description of existing impacts on the site, cumulative impacts of the proposed development and levels of acceptable change;	Section 10	-
(d) The duration, date and season of the site investigation and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment	Section 1 and 11	
(e) a description of the methodology adopted in preparing the report or carrying out the specialised process inclusive of equipment and modelling used	Section 7 Approach and Methodology	-
(f) details of an assessment of the specific identified sensitivity of the site related to the proposed activity or activities and its associated structures and infrastructure, inclusive of a site plan identifying site alternatives;	Section 1 and 11	
(g) An identification of any areas to be avoided, including buffers	Section 5	No buffers or areas of sensitivity identified

Requirements of Appendix 6 – GN R326 EIA Regulations of 7 April 2017	Relevant section in report	Comment where not applicable.
(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;	Section 5 – Geological and Palaeontological history	
(i) A description of any assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge;	Section 7.1 – Assumptions and Limitation	-
(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 1 and 11	
(k) Any mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr	Section 12	
(l) Any conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation	Section 12	
(m) Any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or environmental authorisation	Section 12	
(n)(i) A reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorised and	Section 1 and 11	
(n)(iA) A reasoned opinion regarding the acceptability of the proposed activity or activities; and		
(n)(ii) If the opinion is that the proposed activity, activities 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	Section 1 and 11	-
(o) A description of any consultation process that was undertaken during the course of carrying out the study	N/A	Not applicable. A public consultation process will be conducted as part of the EIA and EMPr process.
(p) A summary and copies if any comments that were received during any consultation process	N/A	

Requirements of Appendix 6 – GN R326 EIA Regulations of 7 April 2017	Relevant section in report	Comment where not applicable.
(q) Any other information requested by the competent authority.	N/A	Not applicable.
(2) Where a government notice 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.	Section 3 compliance with SAHRA guidelines	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Banzai Environmental was appointed by GA Environment (Pty) Ltd to conduct the Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) assessing the proposed Sewage Treatment Package Plant for the proposed Lusaka Community Healthcare Facility, Phuthaditjhaba, Thabo Mofusanyana District, Free State Province. This PIA is compiled to comply with the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999, section 38) (NHRA), to confirm if fossil material could potentially be present in the planned development area and to evaluate the impact of the proposed development on the Palaeontological Heritage.

The proposed development is underlain by the Elliot Formation (Stormberg Group, Karoo Supergroup). According to the South African Heritage Resources Information System, the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the Elliot Formation is Very High. A 1-day site-specific field survey of the development footprint was therefore conducted on foot and by a motor vehicle on 8 March 2022. No fossiliferous outcrops were detected in the development footprint.

An overall medium palaeontological sensitivity is allocated to the development footprint. It is therefore considered that the proposed development will not lead to detrimental impacts on the palaeontological reserves of the area and construction of the development may be authorised in its whole extent. **No further palaeontological heritage studies, ground-truthing and/or specialist mitigation are required pending the discovery of newly discovered fossils.**

Recommendations:

- The ECO for this project must be informed that sediments of the Elliot Formation of the Karoo Supergroup have a Very High Palaeontological Sensitivity.
- If Palaeontological Heritage is uncovered during surface clearing and excavations the **Chance find Protocol** attached should be implemented immediately. Fossil discoveries ought to be protected and the ECO/site manager must report to South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) (Contact details: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town. PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000, South Africa. Tel: 021 462 4502. Fax: +27 (0)21 462 4509. Web: www.sahra.org.za) so that mitigation (recording and collection) can be carried out.
- Before any fossil material can be collected from the development site the specialist involved would need to apply for a collection permit from SAHRA. Fossil material must be housed in an official collection (museum or university), while all reports and fieldwork should meet the minimum standards for palaeontological impact studies proposed by SAHRA (2012).
- These recommendations should be incorporated into the Environmental Management Plan for the proposed development.

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Appendix A: CV

1 INTRODUCTION

Coega Development Corporation (CDC) proposes the development of a sewage treatment package plant in Lusaka, Phuthaditjhaba, Thabo Mofutsanyana District, Free State (**Figure 1-2**). Due to the inadequate infrastructure in the area a new sewage treatment plant will be constructed to cater for the planned new clinic.

The following information was provided by GA Environmental

The area around the site for the proposed clinic currently has 150mm diameter pipes installed, running east and north of the site to a sewer pump station. The pump station is however not in working condition and has not been for a significant period of time. For this reason, a package plant is being proposed which will discharge treated wastewater into the nearest natural watercourse (Metsi Matsho Tributary). CDC is applying for both an Environmental Authorisation and Water Use Authorisation.

The Information received from the design engineers regarding the package plant are as follows:

- Design flow: 18200 l/d
- Peak Flow: 0.6 l/s

The proposed Package Plant will comprise a number of a gravity trunk sewer main pipe, which feeds into the pre-digestion chamber before it enters the bioreactor. The following basic components are included in the plant:

- Pre-digestion Chamber
- Balancing Chamber
- Bioreactor Chamber
- Clarifier
- Two Disinfection Tanks
- Power supply for the pumps
- Air Blower Pump
- Discharge Pump and Transfer Pump

2 QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF THE AUTHOR

This present study has been conducted by Mrs Elize Butler. She has conducted approximately 300 PIAs for developments in the Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern, Central, and Northern Cape, Northwest, Gauteng, Limpopo, and Mpumalanga Provinces. She has an MSc (*cum laude*) in Zoology (specializing in Palaeontology) from the University of the Free State, South Africa and has been working in Palaeontology for more than twenty-five years. She has experience in locating, collecting, and curating fossils, including exploration field trips in search of new localities in the Karoo Basin. She has been a member of the Palaeontological Society of South Africa (PSSA) since 2006 and has been conducting PIAs since 2014.

3 LEGISLATION

3.1 National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999)

Cultural Heritage in South Africa, including all heritage resources, is protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) (NHRA). Heritage resources as defined in Section 3 of the Act include **“all objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens”**.

The identification, evaluation and assessment of any cultural heritage site, artefact or finds in the South African context is required and governed by the following legislation:

- National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Act 107 of 1998
- National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) Act 25 of 1999
- Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) Act 28 of 2002
- Notice 648 of the Government Gazette 45421- general requirements for undertaking an initial site sensitivity verification where no specific assessment protocol has been identified.

The next section in each Act is directly applicable to the identification, assessment, and evaluation of cultural heritage resources.

GNR 982 (Government Gazette 38282, 14 December 2014) promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Act 107 of 1998

- Basic Assessment Report (BAR) – Regulations 19 and 23
- Environmental Impacts Assessment (EIA) – Regulation 23
- Environmental Scoping Report (ESR) – Regulation 21
- Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) – Regulations 19 and 23

National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) Act 25 of 1999

- Protection of Heritage Resources – Sections 34 to 36
- Heritage Resources Management – Section 38

MPRDA Regulations of 2014

Environmental reports to be compiled for application of mining right – Regulation 48

- Contents of scoping report – Regulation 49
- Contents of environmental impact assessment report – Regulation 50
- Environmental management programme – Regulation 51
- Environmental management plan – Regulation 52

The NEMA (No 107 of 1998) states that an integrated EMP should (23:2 (b)) “...*identify, predict and evaluate the actual and potential impact on the environment, socio-economic conditions and cultural heritage*”.

In agreement with legislative requirements, EIA rating standards as well as SAHRA policies the following comprehensive and legally compatible PIA report have been compiled. Palaeontological heritage is exceptional and non-renewable and is protected by the NHRA. Palaeontological resources and may not be unearthed, broken moved, or destroyed by any development without prior assessment and without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority as per section 35 of the NHRA.

This Palaeontological Impact assessment forms part of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and adhere to the conditions of the Act. According to **Section 38 (1)**, an HIA is required to assess any potential impacts to palaeontological heritage within the development footprint where:

- the construction of a road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300 m in length.
- the construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50 m in length.
- any development or other activity which will change the character of a site—
 - (Exceeding 5 000 m² in extent; or
 - involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or
 - involving three or more erven or divisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or
 - the costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority
- the re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m² in extent.
- or any other category of development provided for in regulations by SAHRA or a Provincial heritage resources authority.

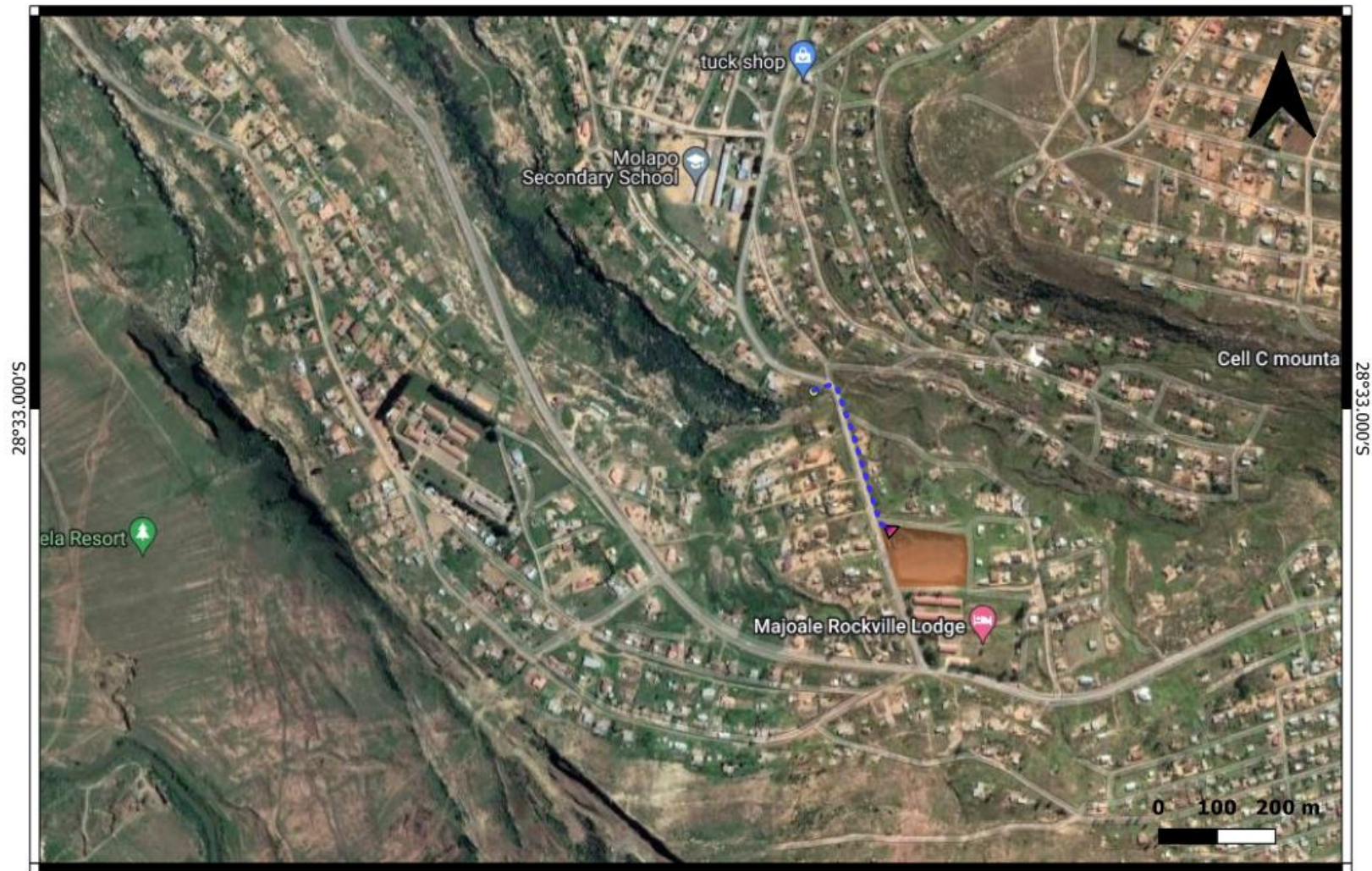


Figure 1: Google Earth Image (2022) indicating the locality of the proposed development of a sewage treatment package plant in Lusaka, Phuthaditjhaba, Thabo Mofutsanyana District, Free State.

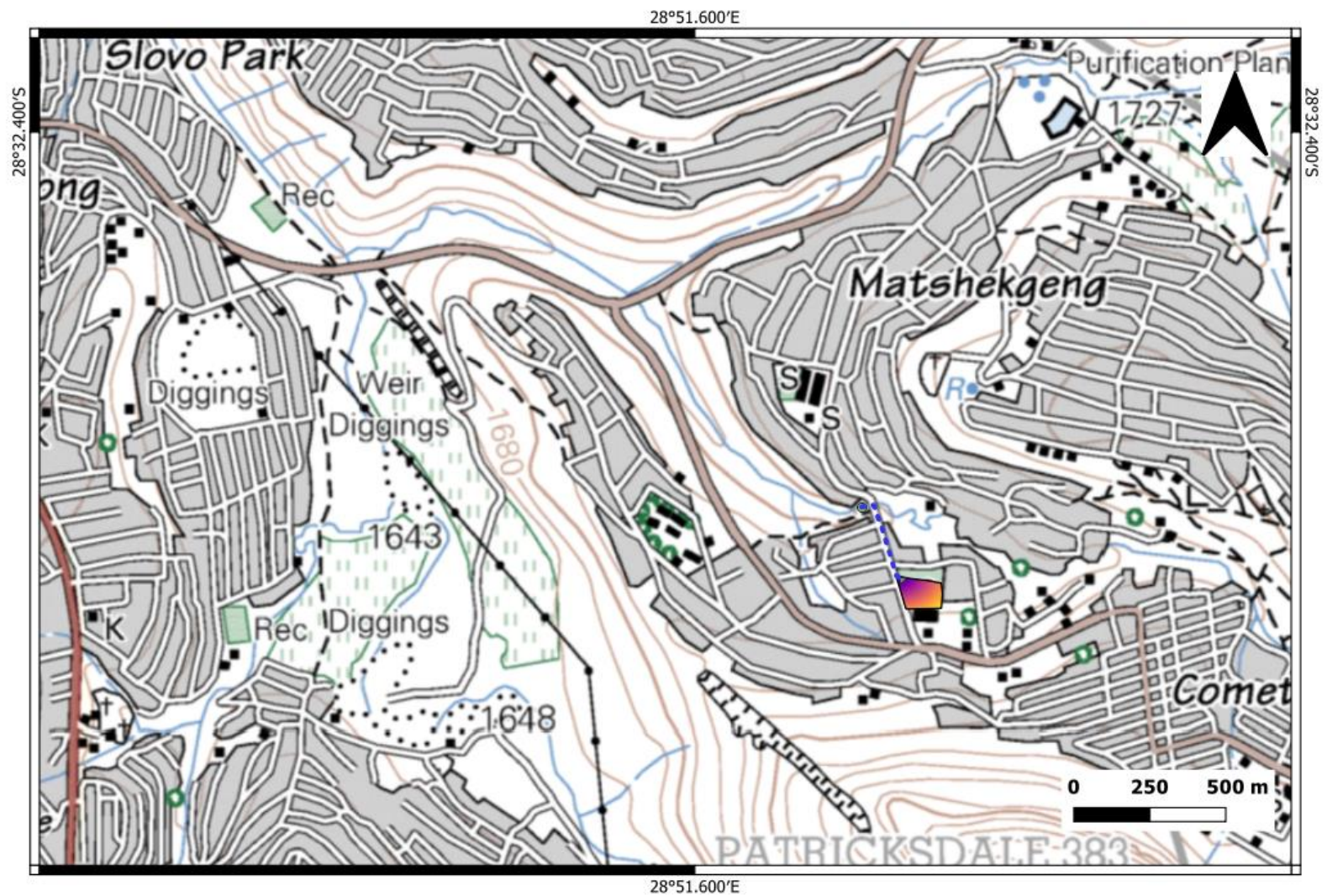


Figure 2: Locality of the proposed development.

4 OBJECTIVE

The aim of a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) is to minimise the impact of the development on potential fossils at the development site.

According to the “SAHRA APM Guidelines: Minimum Standards for the Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports” the purpose of the PIA is: 1) to identify the palaeontological importance of the rock formations in the footprint; 2) to evaluate the palaeontological magnitude of the formations; 3) to clarify the impact on fossil heritage; and 4) to suggest how the developer might protect and lessen possible damage to fossil heritage.

The palaeontological status of each rock section is calculated as well as the possible impact of the development on fossil heritage by a) the palaeontological importance of the rocks, b) the type of development and c) the quantity of bedrock removed.

When the development footprint has a moderate to high palaeontological sensitivity a field-based assessment is necessary. The desktop and the field survey of the exposed rock determine the impact significance of the planned development and recommendations for further studies or mitigation are made. Destructive impacts on palaeontological heritage usually only occur during the construction phase while the excavations will change the current topography and destruct or permanently seal-in fossils at or below the ground surface. Fossil Heritage will then no longer be accessible for scientific research.

Mitigation usually precede construction or may occur during construction when potentially fossiliferous bedrock is exposed. Mitigation comprises the collection and recording of fossils. Preceding excavation of any fossils a permit from SAHRA must be obtained and the material will have to be housed in a permitted institution. When mitigation is applied correctly, a positive impact as possible because our knowledge of local palaeontological heritage may be increased

The terms of reference of a PIA are as follows:

General Requirements:

- Adherence to the content requirements for specialist reports in accordance with Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- Adherence to all applicable best practice recommendations, appropriate legislation, and authority requirements.
- Submit a comprehensive overview of all appropriate legislation, guidelines.
- Description of the proposed project and provide information regarding the developer and consultant who commissioned the study.

- Description and location of the proposed development and provide geological and topographical maps.
- Provide Palaeontological and geological history of the affected area.
- Identification sensitive areas to be avoided (providing shapefiles/kml's) in the proposed development.
- Evaluation of the significance of the planned development during the Pre-construction, Construction, Operation, Decommissioning Phases and Cumulative impacts. Potential impacts should be rated in terms of the direct, indirect, and cumulative:
 - a. **Direct impacts** are impacts that are caused directly by the activity and occur at the same time and at the place of the activity.
 - b. **Indirect impacts** of an activity are indirect or induced changes that may occur as a result of the activity.
 - c. **Cumulative impacts** result from the incremental impact of the proposed activity on a common resource when added to the impacts of other past, present, or reasonably near future activities.
- Fair assessment of alternatives (infrastructure alternatives have been provided):
- Recommend mitigation measures to minimise the impact of the proposed development; and
- Implications of specialist findings for the proposed development (such as permits, licenses etc).

5 GEOLOGICAL AND PALAEONTOLOGICAL HISTORY

The proposed development of a sewage treatment package plant in Lusaka, Phuthaditjhaba, Thabo Mofutsanyana District, Free State is depicted on the 1:250 000 Harrismith 2828 Geological Map (1998) (Council of Geosciences, Pretoria) (**Figure 3-4, Table 2**). This map indicates that the proposed development is underlain by the Triassic Elliot Formation (Stormberg Group, Karoo Supergroup). According to the PalaeoMap of the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the Elliot Formation is Very high (Figure 5).

The Elliot formation is known as the red beds of South Africa and is Upper Triassic and Lower Jurassic in age. This succession comprises of immature, fine- to medium-grained sandstones, mudstone, and siltstone. The strong red-purple-maroon diagenetic colouration is primarily argillaceous lithologies and lacks extensive marker beds. The Elliot Formation is 460 to 480m thick in the south of the Basin thinning towards the Free State Drakensberg and KwaZulu-Natal where it varies between 28 and 150m. The formation was generally deposited in a fluviolacustrine environment that consists of two different types of sandstone (lower and upper part of the Formation). These different sandstones formed by different fluvial depositional styles. The upper part of the Formation generally comprises of tabular, multi-storey sheet sandstones and associated facies caused by loessic, aeolian ephemeral, fluvial, and playa lake processes (Visser and Botha,

1980; Eriksson, 1984, 1985; Smith et al., 1993; Bordy et al., 2004b). In the lower part of the Formation the sandstones consist of multi-storey, asymmetrical channelfills. Scientists believe that these sediments were deposits in a perennial, moderately meandering fluvial systems (Botha, 1968; Visser and Botha, 1980; Smith et al., 1993; Bordy et al., 2004b). In the distal Drakensberg regions, the lower part of the Formation diminished in thickness. This part of the Formation is dominated by an association of seasonal to ephemeral anastomosing rivers with loessic floodplain fines, and semi-arid sheetflood deposits (Eriksson, 1984, 1985). The differences in fluvial style were generated by changes in the tectonic setting (like tectonic pulses and associated subsidence) as well as climatic conditions.

The Elliot Formation is represented by two Assemblage Zones. The *Scalenodontoides* Assemblage Zone (SAZ) is present in the Lower Elliot Formation (Stormberg Group, Karoo Supergroup) (Viglietti et al 2020a) while the *Massospondylus* Assemblage Zone (MAZ) is present in the Upper Elliot Formation (Viglietti et al 2020b). The SAZ is known for the traversodontid cynodont *Scalenodontoides macrodontes*, as well as the sauropodomorphs *Blikanasaurus cromptoni* and *Melanorosaurus readi* (Viglietti et al 2020a). The MAZ is the youngest Assemblage Zone tetrapod biozone in the Karoo Basin (upper Stormberg Group, Karoo Supergroup). This AZ is dominated by dinosaurs present in southern Gondwana. The crocodylomorph *Protosuchus haughtoni*, ornithischian *Lesothosaurus diagnosticus* as well as the sauropodomorph *Massospondylus carinatus* (Viglietti et al 2020b).

This Formation is palaeontologically very important as it is known for its early dinosaur fauna that includes prosauropods, the richest known sauropodomorphs (McPhee, McPhee 2017), ornithischians, rare amphibians, turtles, crocodilians and crocodylomorphs, fish, cynodont therapsids and early mammals. Other fossils include crustaceans, insects, woods, and tetrapod trackways (ichnofossils) (Bordy et al., 2015).

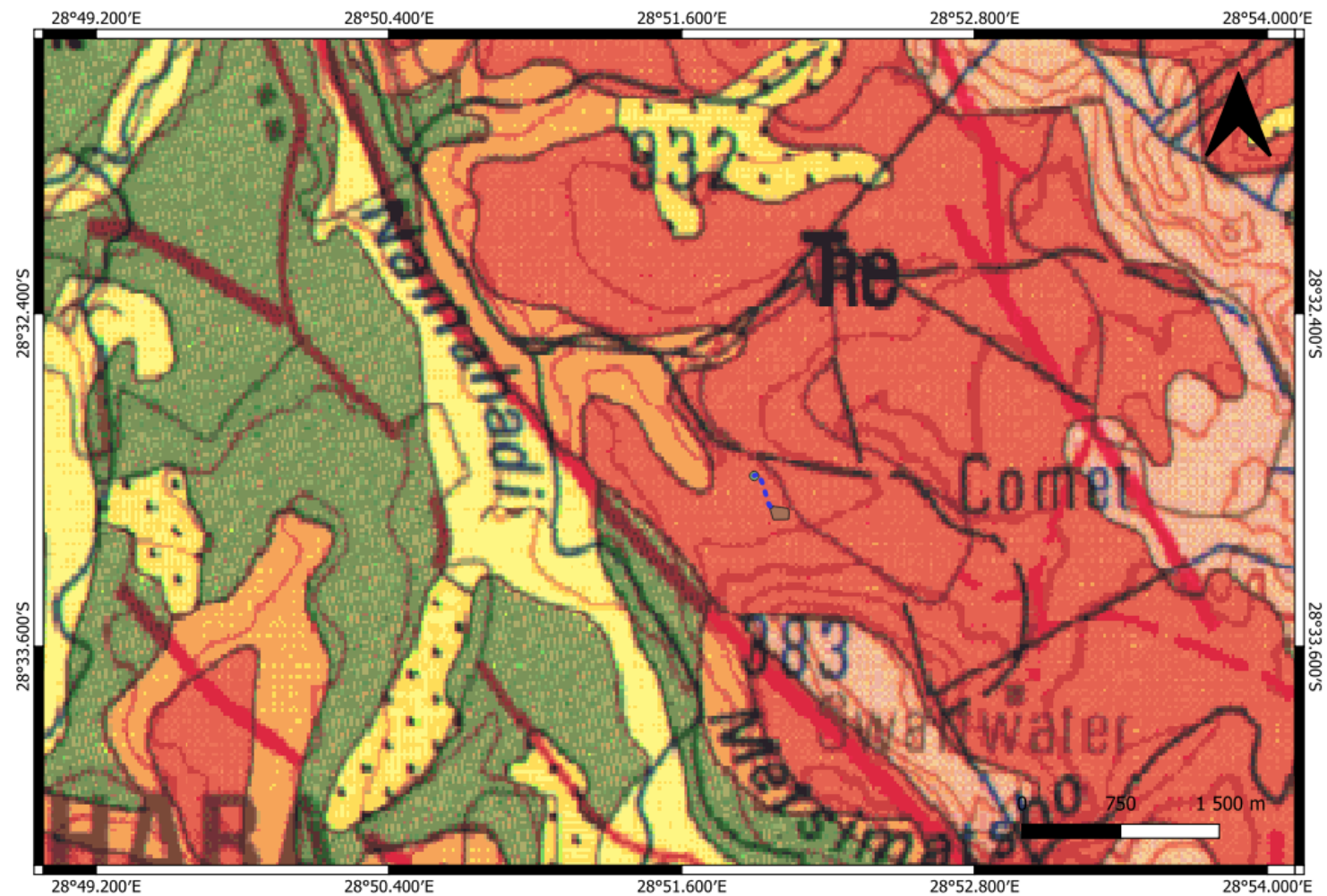
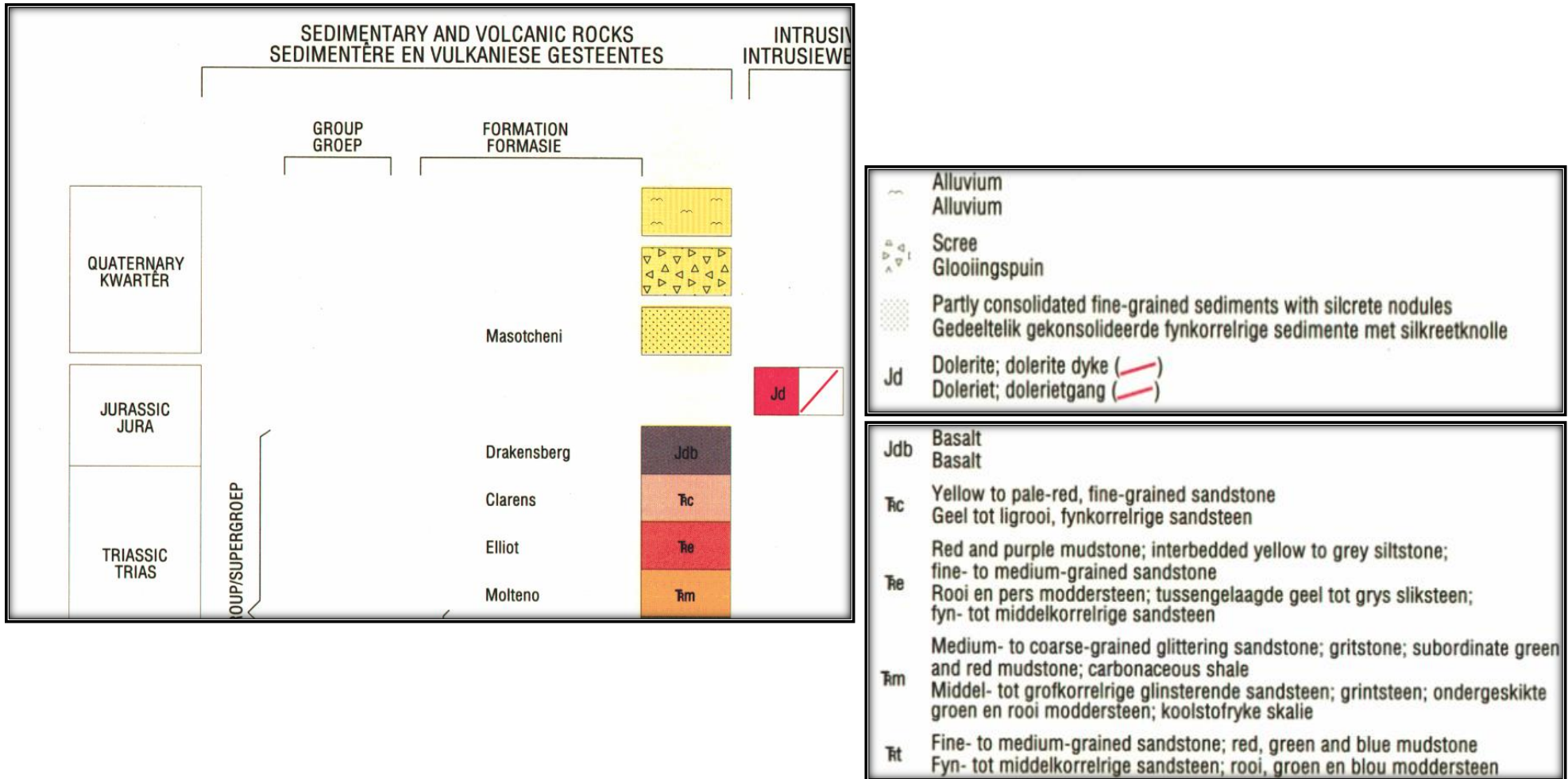


Figure 3: Extract of the 1:250 000 2828 Harrismith Geological map (1998) (Council of Geoscience, Pretoria) indicating the proposed development in blue and brown.

Table 2: Legend of the 1:250 000 Harrismith 2828 Geological map (1998) (Council of Geoscience, Pretoria)



Age	Gp		West of 24° E	East of 24° E	Free State / KwaZulu-Natal	Vertebrate Assemblage Zones	Vertebrate Subzones
JURASSIC	STORMBERG			Drakensberg Gp	Drakensberg Gp		
				Clarens Fm	Clarens Fm		
				upper Elliot Fm	upper Elliot Fm	Massospondylus	
				lower Elliot Fm	lower Elliot Fm	Scalenodontoides	
TRIASSIC	Tarkastad Subgp			Molteno Fm	Molteno Fm		
				Burgersdorp Fm	Driekoppen Fm	Cynognathus	Cricodon-Ufudocyclops Trirachodon-Kannemeyeria Langbergia-Gargainia
				Katberg Fm	Verkykerskop Fm	Lystrosaurus declivis	
				Palingkloof M.			
PERMIAN	BEAUFORT	Adelaide Subgp		Balfour Fm	Normandem Fm	Harrismith M. Schoondraai M. Rooinekke M. Frankfort M.	Lystrosaurus maccaigi-Moschorhinus
				Teekloof Fm		Daptocephalus	Dicynodon-Theriongnathus
				Steenkampsvlakte M. Oukloof M. Hoedemaker M. Poortjie M.	Middleton Fm	Cistecephalus	
				Abrahamskraal Fm	Koonap Fm	Volksrust Fm	Tropidostoma-Gorgonops Lycosuchus-Eumotosaurus Diictodon-Styracocephalus Eosimops-Glanosuchus
ECCA				Waterford Fm	Waterford Fm		
				Tierberg/Fort Brown	Fort Brown		

Figure 4: Vertebrate biozonation range chart for the Main Karoo Basin of South Africa. Solid lines indicate known ranges, dotted lines indicate suspected but not confirmed ranges, single dot represents the stratigraphic position of the taxa that have only been recovered from a single bed. Wavy lines indicate unconformities. (PLYCSR=Pelycosauria and MAMMFMES+Mammaliaformes. Gp=group, Subgp=Subgroup, Fm=Formation, M=Member. Elliot Formation is indicated by the red arrow.

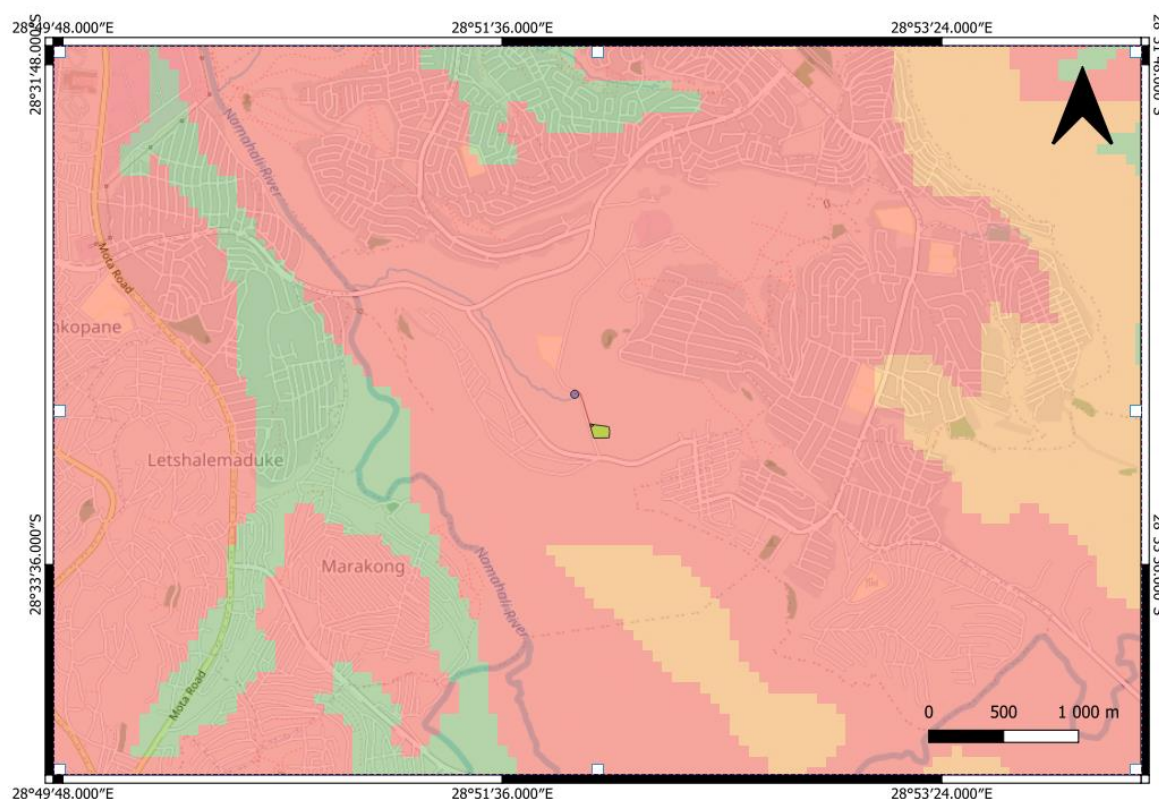


Figure 5: Extract of the 1 in 250 000 SAHRIS PalaeoMap map (Council of Geosciences).

According to the SAHRIS Palaeosensitivity map (**Figure 5**) the proposed development is underlain by sediments with a Very High (Red) Palaeontological Sensitivity.

The colours on the PalaeoMap indicate the following degrees of sensitivity: red = very highly sensitive; orange/yellow = high; green = moderate; blue = low; grey = insignificant/zero

Table 3: Palaeontological Sensitivity

Colour	Sensitivity	Required Action
RED	VERY HIGH	field assessment and protocol for finds is required
ORANGE/YELLOW	HIGH	desktop study is required and based on the outcome of the desktop study; a field assessment is likely
GREEN	MODERATE	desktop study is required
BLUE	LOW	no palaeontological studies are required however a protocol for finds is required
GREY	INSIGNIFICANT/ZERO	no palaeontological studies are required
WHITE/CLEAR	UNKNOWN	these areas will require a minimum of a desktop study. As more information becomes known, SAHRA will continue to populate the map.

Legend:

- Very High
- High
- Medium
- Low

Source: ERI, HERE, Google, OpenStreetMap, INCREMENT P, NGS, ERI, Open, APT, ERI, China, Hong Kong, ERI, Korea, ERI, Thailand, APT, (a) road network, and the GIS User community

0 0.015 0.3 Kilometers

Sensitivity Features:

Figure 6: Palaeontological Sensitivity generated by the DFFE Screening

The SAHRIS PalaeoMap indicates that the proposed development has a Very High (red) Palaeontological Sensitivity that corresponds with that of the DFFE Screening tool.

6 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE SITE

GPS Coordinates

Northern border of sewage pipeline	28°32'59.30"S	28°51'53.90"E
Southern border of sewage pipeline	28°33'5.82"S	28°51'57.92"E
Centre coordinate of the clinic	28°33'7.18"S	28°52'0.04"E

7 METHODS

The aim of a desktop study is to evaluate the risk to palaeontological heritage in the proposed development. This includes all trace fossils and fossils. All available information is consulted to compile a desktop study and includes PIA reports in the same area, aerial photos, and Google Earth images, topographical as well as geological maps.

7.1 Assumptions and Limitations

When conducting a PIA, several factors can affect the accuracy of the assessment. The focal point of geological maps is the geology of the area, and the sheet explanations were not meant to focus on palaeontological heritage. Many, inaccessible regions of South Africa have not been reviewed by palaeontologists and data is based on aerial photographs. Locality and geological information of museums and universities databases have not been kept up to date or data collected in the past have not always been accurately documented.

Comparable Assemblage Zones in other areas is used to provide information on the existence of fossils in an area that was not yet been documented. When similar Assemblage Zones and geological formations for Desktop studies is used it is assumed that exposed fossil heritage is present within the footprint.

8 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONSULTED

In compiling this report the following sources were consulted:

- Geological map 1:100 000, Geology of the Republic of South Africa (Visser 1984)
- 1: 250 000 Harrismith 2828 Geological map (1987) (Council of Geoscience, Pretoria)
- A Google Earth map with polygons of the proposed development was obtained from GA Environmental.

9 SITE VISIT

Due to the exceptional high rainfall this summer the proposed development was very overgrown with lush vegetation. A 1-day site-specific field survey of the development footprint was therefore conducted on foot and by a motor vehicle on 8 March 2022. No fossiliferous outcrops were detected in the development footprint.



Figure 7: Northern portion of the proposed sewage pipeline



Figure 8: Centre portion of the proposed sewage pipeline

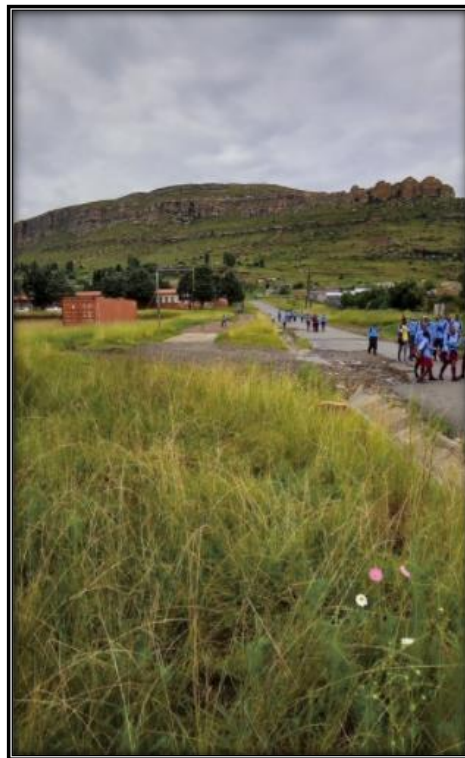


Figure 9: Southern portion of the proposed sewage pipeline



Figure 10: View from the southern margin overlooking the proposed clinic development



Figure 11: View from the western margin overlooking the proposed clinic development

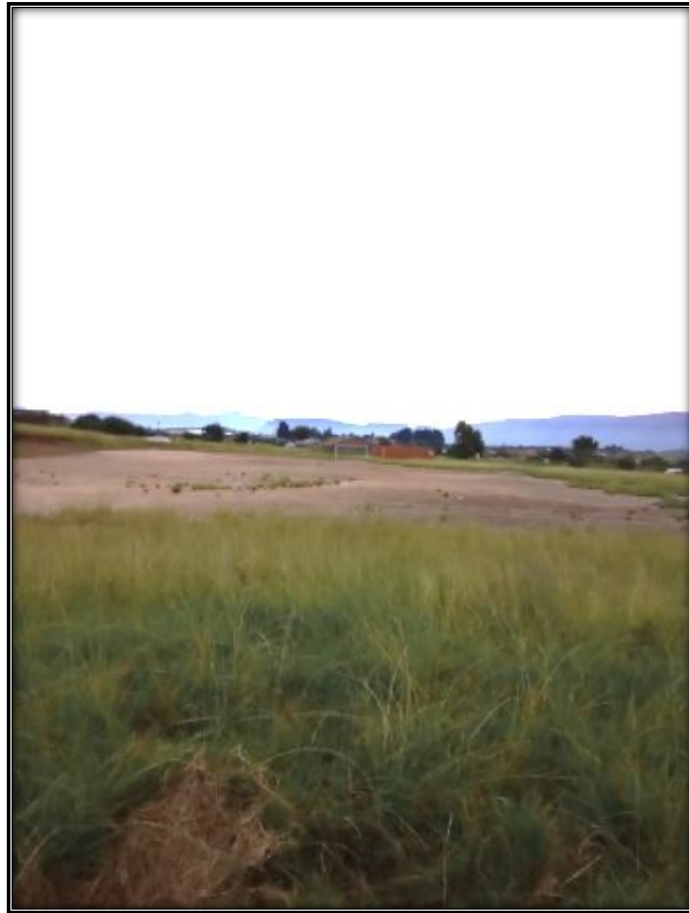


Figure 12: View from the eastern margin overlooking the proposed clinic development

10 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

10.1 Impact Rating System

Impact assessment must take account of the nature, scale, and duration of impacts on the environment whether such impacts are positive or negative. Each impact is also assessed according to the following project phases:

- Construction
- Operation
- Decommissioning

Where necessary, the proposal for mitigation or optimisation of an impact should be detailed. A brief discussion of the impact and the rationale behind the assessment of its significance should also be included. The rating system is applied to the potential impacts on the receiving environment and includes an objective evaluation of the mitigation of the impact. In assessing the significance of each impact, the following criteria is used:

Table 4: *The rating system*

NATURE		
Destruction of fossil Heritage.		
GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT		
This is defined as the area over which the impact will be experienced.		
1	Site	The impact will only affect the site.
2	Local/district	Will affect the local area or district.
3	Province/region	Will affect the entire province or region.
4	International and National	Will affect the entire country.
PROBABILITY		
This describes the chance of occurrence of an impact.		
1	Unlikely	The chance of the impact occurring is extremely low (Less than a 25% chance of occurrence).
2	Possible	The impact may occur (Between a 25% to 50% chance of occurrence).
3	Probable	The impact will likely occur (Between a 50% to 75% chance of occurrence).
4	Definite	Impact will certainly occur (Greater than a 75% chance of occurrence).
DURATION		
This describes the duration of the impacts. Duration indicates the lifetime of the impact as a result of the proposed activity.		
1	Short term	The impact will either disappear with mitigation or will be mitigated through natural processes in a span shorter than the construction phase (0 – 1 years), or the impact will last for the period of a relatively short construction period and a limited recovery time after construction, thereafter it will be entirely negated (0 – 2 years).
2	Medium term	The impact will continue or last for some time after the construction phase but will be mitigated by direct human action or by natural processes thereafter (2 – 10 years).
3	Long term	The impact and its effects will continue or last for the entire operational life of the development but will be mitigated by direct human action or by natural processes thereafter (10 – 30 years).

4	Permanent	The only class of impact that will be non-transitory. Mitigation either by man or natural process will not occur in such a way or such a time span that the impact can be considered indefinite.
INTENSITY/ MAGNITUDE		
Describes the severity of an impact.		
1	Low	Impact affects the quality, use and integrity of the system/component in a way that is barely perceptible.
2	Medium	Impact alters the quality, use and integrity of the system/component but system/component still continues to function in a moderately modified way and maintains general integrity (some impact on integrity).
3	High	Impact affects the continued viability of the system/component, and the quality, use, integrity and functionality of the system or component is severely impaired and may temporarily cease. High costs of rehabilitation and remediation.
4	Very high	Impact affects the continued viability of the system/component, and the quality, use, integrity and functionality of the system or component permanently ceases and is irreversibly impaired. Rehabilitation and remediation often impossible. If possible rehabilitation and remediation often unfeasible due to extremely high costs of rehabilitation and remediation.
REVERSIBILITY		
This describes the degree to which an impact can be successfully reversed upon completion of the proposed activity.		
1	Completely reversible	The impact is reversible with implementation of minor mitigation measures.
2	Partly reversible	The impact is partly reversible but more intense mitigation measures are required.
3	Barely reversible	The impact is unlikely to be reversed even with intense mitigation measures.
4	Irreversible	The impact is irreversible, and no mitigation measures exist.
IRREPLACEABLE LOSS OF RESOURCES		
This describes the degree to which resources will be irreplaceably lost as a result of a proposed activity.		
1	No loss of resource	The impact will not result in the loss of any resources.

2	Marginal loss of resource	The impact will result in marginal loss of resources.
3	Significant loss of resources	The impact will result in significant loss of resources.
4	Complete loss of resources	The impact is result in a complete loss of all resources.
CUMULATIVE EFFECT		
This describes the cumulative effect of the impacts. A cumulative impact is an effect which in itself may not be significant but may become significant if added to other existing or potential impacts emanating from other similar or diverse activities as a result of the project activity in question.		
1	Negligible cumulative impact	The impact would result in negligible to no cumulative effects.
2	Low cumulative impact	The impact would result in insignificant cumulative effects.
3	Medium cumulative impact	The impact would result in minor cumulative effects.
4	High cumulative impact	The impact would result in significant cumulative effects
SIGNIFICANCE		
Significance is determined through a synthesis of impact characteristics. Significance is an indication of the importance of the impact in terms of both physical extent and time scale, and therefore indicates the level of mitigation required. The calculation of the significance of an impact uses the following formula: (Extent + probability + reversibility + irreplaceability + duration + cumulative effect) x magnitude/intensity. The summation of the different criteria will produce a non-weighted value. By multiplying this value with the magnitude/intensity, the resultant value acquires a weighted characteristic which can be measured and assigned a significance rating.		
Points	Impact significance rating	Description
6 to 28	Negative low impact	The anticipated impact will have negligible negative effects and will require little to no mitigation.
6 to 28	Positive low impact	The anticipated impact will have minor positive effects.
29 to 50	Negative medium impact	The anticipated impact will have moderate negative effects and will require moderate mitigation measures.
29 to 50	Positive medium impact	The anticipated impact will have moderate positive effects.
51 to 73	Negative high impact	The anticipated impact will have significant effects and will require significant mitigation measures to achieve an acceptable level of impact.
51 to 73	Positive high impact	The anticipated impact will have significant positive effects.
74 to 96	Negative very high impact	The anticipated impact will have highly significant effects and are unlikely to be able to be mitigated adequately. These impacts could be considered "fatal flaws".

74 to 96	Positive very high impact	The anticipated impact will have highly significant positive
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10.1.1 Summary of Impacts

Only the site will be affected. It is probable that the impact will occur. The expected duration of the impact is assessed as potentially permanent to long term. The impact on fossil heritage will be irreversible and a complete loss of fossil heritage will take place. The cumulative effect of the impact will be low. The magnitude of the impact happening will be Medium.

The Impact significance will therefore be a negative medium Impact.

Table 5: Summary of Impacts

Site	Probability	Duration	Magnitude	Reversibility	Irreparable Loss	Cumulative Effect	Significance
1	2	4	2	4	4	2	32

11 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE

The proposed development is underlain by the Elliot Formation (Stormberg Group, Karoo Supergroup). According to the South African Heritage Resources Information System, the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the Elliot Formation is Very High. A 1-day site-specific field survey of the development footprint was therefore conducted on foot and by a motor vehicle on 8 March 2022. No fossiliferous outcrops were detected in the development footprint.

An overall medium palaeontological sensitivity is allocated to the development footprint. It is therefore considered that the proposed development will not lead to detrimental impacts on the palaeontological reserves of the area and construction of the development may be authorised in its whole extent. **No further palaeontological heritage studies, ground-truthing and/or specialist mitigation are required pending the discovery of newly discovered fossils.**

Recommendations:

- The ECO for this project must be informed that sediments of the Elliot Formation of the Karoo Supergroup have a Very High Palaeontological Sensitivity.
- If Palaeontological Heritage is uncovered during surface clearing and excavations the **Chance find Protocol** attached should be implemented immediately. Fossil discoveries

ought to be protected and the ECO/site manager must report to South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) (Contact details: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town. PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000, South Africa. Tel: 021 462 4502. Fax: +27 (0)21 462 4509. Web: www.sahra.org.za) so that mitigation (recording and collection) can be carried out.

- Before any fossil material can be collected from the development site the specialist involved would need to apply for a collection permit from SAHRA. Fossil material must be housed in an official collection (museum or university), while all reports and fieldwork should meet the minimum standards for palaeontological impact studies proposed by SAHRA (2012).

These recommendations should be incorporated into the Environmental Management Plan for the proposed development..

12 CHANCE FINDS PROTOCOL

A following procedure will only be followed if fossils are uncovered during excavation.

12.1 Legislation

Cultural Heritage in South Africa (includes all heritage resources) is protected by the **National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) (NHRA)**. According to Section 3 of the Act, all Heritage resources include “**all objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens**”.

Palaeontological heritage is unique and non-renewable and is protected by the NHRA and are the property of the State. It is thus the responsibility of the State to manage and conserve fossils on behalf of the citizens of South Africa. Palaeontological resources may not be excavated, broken, moved, or destroyed by any development without prior assessment and without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority as per section 35 of the NHRA.

12.2 Background

A fossil is the naturally preserved remains (or traces) of plants or animals embedded in rock. These plants and animals lived in the geologic past millions of years ago. Fossils are extremely rare and irreplaceable. By studying fossils, it is possible to determine the environmental conditions that existed in a specific geographical area millions of years ago.

12.3 Introduction

This informational document is intended for workmen and foremen on construction sites. It describes the actions to be taken when mining or construction activities accidentally uncovers fossil material.

The Environmental Site Officer (ESO) [an internal appointment who is on site permanently during construction, to ensure legal compliance] is responsible to train the workmen and foremen in the procedure to follow when a fossil is accidentally uncovered. The ESO reports to the ECO (Environmental Compliance Officer) which is an external appointment to ensure legal compliance and is only on site occasionally. In the absence of the ESO, a member of the staff must be appointed to be responsible for the proper implementation of the chance find protocol as not to compromise the conservation of fossil material.

12.4 Chance Find Procedure

- If a chance find is made the person responsible for the find must immediately **stop working** and **all work** that could impact that finding **must cease in the immediate vicinity of the find**.
- The person who made the find must immediately **report** the find to his/her direct supervisor which in turn must report the find to his/her manager and the ESO or site manager. The ESO or site manager must report the find to the relevant Heritage Agency (South African Heritage Research Agency, SAHRA). (Contact details: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town. PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000, South Africa. Tel: 021 462 4502. Fax: +27 (0)21 462 4509. Web: www.sahra.org.za). The information to the Heritage Agency must include photographs of the find, from various angles, as well as the GPS co-ordinates.
- A preliminary report must be submitted to the Heritage Agency within **24 hours** of the find and must include the following: 1) date of the find; 2) a description of the discovery and a 3) description of the fossil and its context (depth and position of the fossil), GPS co-ordinates.
- Photographs (the more the better) of the discovery must be of high quality, in focus, accompanied by a scale. It is also important to have photographs of the vertical section (side) where the fossil was found.

Upon receipt of the preliminary report, the Heritage Agency will inform the ESO (or site manager) whether a rescue excavation or rescue collection by a palaeontologist is necessary.

- The site must be secured to protect it from any further damage. **No attempt** should be made to remove material from their environment. The exposed finds must be stabilized and covered by a plastic sheet or sand bags. The Heritage agency will also be able to advise on the most suitable method of protection of the find.
- In the event that the fossil cannot be stabilized the fossil may be collected with extreme care by the ESO or site manager. Fossils finds must be stored in tissue paper and in an appropriate box while due care must be taken to remove all fossil material from the rescue site.
- Once Heritage Agency has issued the written authorization, the developer may continue with the development on the affected area.

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Appendix A – Elize Butler CV

ELIZE BUTLER

PROFESSION: Palaeontologist

YEARS' EXPERIENCE: 26 years in Palaeontology

EDUCATION: B.Sc. Botany and Zoology, 1988
University of the Orange Free State

B.Sc. (Hons) Zoology, 1991
University of the Orange Free State

Management Course, 1991
University of the Orange Free State

M. Sc. *Cum laude* (Zoology), 2009
University of the Free State

Dissertation title: The postcranial skeleton of the Early Triassic non-mammalian Cynodont *Galesaurus planiceps*: implications for biology and lifestyle

Registered as a PhD fellow at the Zoology Department of the UFS

2013 to current

Dissertation title: A new gorgonopsian from the uppermost *Daptocephalus Assemblage Zone*, in the Karoo Basin of South Africa

MEMBERSHIP

Palaeontological Society of South Africa (PSSA) 2006-currently

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Part-time Laboratory assistant Department of Zoology & Entomology
University of the Free State Zoology 1989-1992

Part-time laboratory assistant Department of Virology
University of the Free State Zoology 1992

Research Assistant National Museum, Bloemfontein 1993 – 1997

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