

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
WITWATERSRAND,  
JOHANNESBURG



Palaeosciences Centre, East Campus, 1 Jan Smuts Avenue, Braamfontein, Johannesburg  
Private Bag 3, WITS 2050, Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA Tel: 011 717 6682

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[Marion.bamford@wits.ac.za](mailto:Marion.bamford@wits.ac.za)

12 July 2020

Dr Ragna Redelstorff  
Heritage Officer Archaeology, Palaeontology & Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency  
111 Harrington Street  
Cape Town 8001

Dear Dr Redelstorff

**RE: Request for Exemption of any Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the  
upgraded Asphalt Plant about 5km west of Malelane, Farm Strathmore,  
Mpumalanga Province**

In my capacity as a professional palaeontologist, I am requesting exemption for palaeontological impact assessment in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) which requires that the proposed development must be preceded by the relevant impact assessment, in this case for palaeontology.

The Asphalt Plant was established on this site without prior authorisation. The site is Portion 57 of the farm Strathmore 214, Nelspruit District, Mpumalanga and has a footprint of approximately 1.4 ha. The Plant is also located on a mine and the site was disturbed and cleared prior to establishment of the Plant. It should also be noted that the Plant is located 3 km from the Kruger National Park. Please note that this is another Section 24G process.

The site is on ancient volcanic rocks, the Kaap Valley Granite, with the Tjakstad Subgroup (Onverwacht Group, Barberton Greenstone Belt) nearby (Figure 1). Neither of these rock types is fossiliferous because they are much too old and of the wrong type to preserve fossils. This is confirmed by the SAHRIS palaeosensitivity map (Figure 2) with the Kaap Valley Granite shown as grey and the Tjakastad Subgroup as blue, so no palaeontological impact is required.

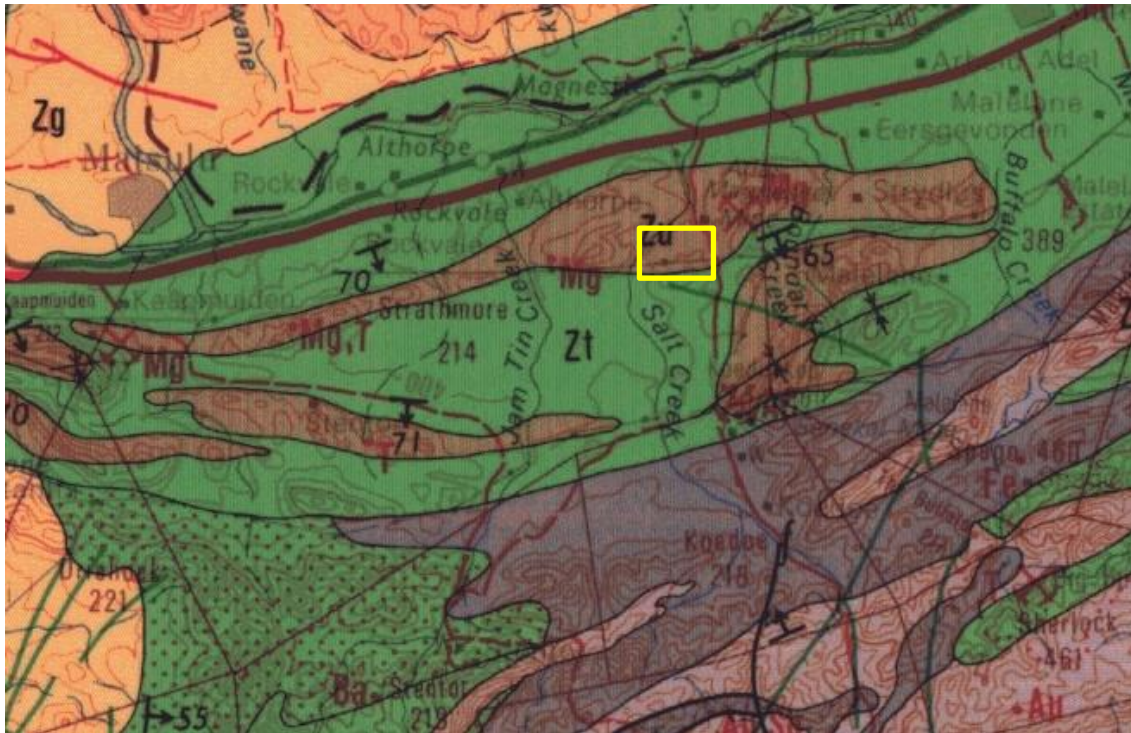


Figure 1: Geological map of the area around Farm Strathmore 214, west of Malelane. The location of the Asphalt Plant is indicated within the yellow rectangle. Abbreviations of the rock types are: Zt = Tjakastad Subgroup (green); Zu = Kaap Valley Granite (brown). Map enlarged from the Geological Survey 1: 250 000 map 2530 Barberton,

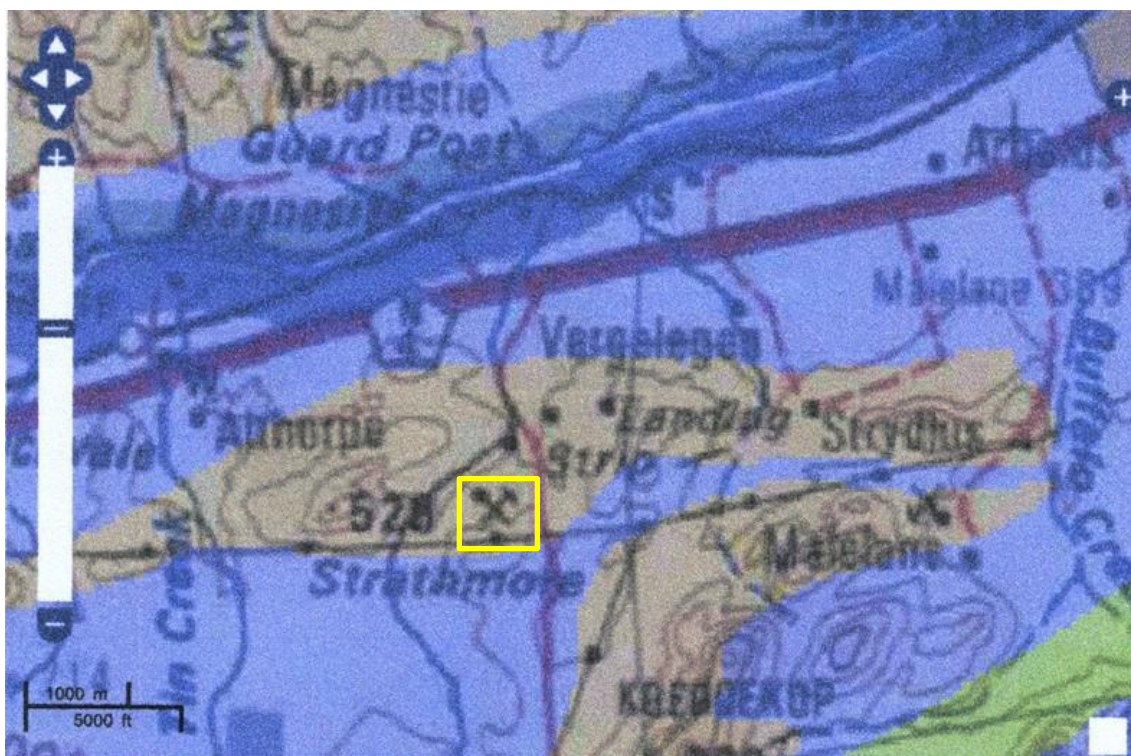


Figure 2: SAHRIS palaeosensitivity map for the site of the Asphalt Plant shown within the yellow rectangle. Background colours indicate the following degrees of sensitivity:

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

As there is no chance whatsoever of finding any fossils in the Asphalt Plat site or its immediate surrounds, we request that no palaeontological impact assessment be required.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Bamford', with a horizontal line underneath.

Prof Marion Bamford  
Palaeobotanist; PhD (Wits 1990)

**Literature consulted:**

Anhaeusser, C.R., 2006. Ultramafic and Mafic Intrusions and the Kaapvaal Craton. In: Johnson, M.R., Anhaeusser, C.R. and Thomas, R.J., (Eds). The Geology of South Africa. Geological Society of South Africa, Johannesburg / Council for Geoscience, Pretoria. Pp 95-134.

Brandl, G., Cloete, M., Anhaeusser, C.R., 2006. Archaean Greenstone belts. In: Johnson, M.R., Anhaeusser, C.R. and Thomas, R.J., (Eds). The Geology of South Africa. Geological Society of South Africa, Johannesburg / Council for Geoscience, Pretoria. pp 9-56.