





PALAEONTOLOGICAL DESKTOP ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED NEW RAILWAY BRIDGE, AND RAIL LINE BETWEEN HOTAZEL AND THE GLORIA MINE, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

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Client: **SLR Consulting**

PGS Project No: 393PIA







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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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ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

Report Title	Palaeontological Desktop Assessment for the proposed new railway bridge,				
	and a rail line between Hotazel and the Gloria Mine, Northern Cape				
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The heritage impact assessment report has been compiled taking into account 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.

NENAA	D (004 () . A	Relevant section in
NEMA	Regs (2014) - Appendix 6	report
1. (1) A	specialist report prepared in terms of these Regulations must	
contain	-	
a)	details of-	Page ii of Report -
	i. the specialist who prepared the report; and	Contact details and
	ii. the expertise of that specialist to compile a specialist	company and
	report including a curriculum vitae;	Appendix A
b)	a declaration that the specialist is independent in a form as	
	may be specified by the competent authority;	Page ii
c)	an indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the	Section 4 -
	report was prepared;	Objective
	(cA) an indication of the quality and age of base data used for	Section 5 -
	the specialist report;	Geological and
		Palaeontological
		history
	(B) a description of existing impacts on the site, cumulative	
impact	s of the proposed development and levels of acceptable	
change);	Section 9
d)	the date, duration and season of the site investigation and	
	the relevance of the season to the outcome of the	N/A Desktop Study
	assessment;	
e)	a description of the methodology adopted in preparing the	
	report or carrying out the specialized process inclusive of	Section 7
	equipment and modeling used;	Methodology
f)	details of an assessment of the specifically 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 9
g)	an identification of any areas to be avoided, including	Not identified,
	buffers;	Section 8
h)	a map superimposing the activity including the associated	Section 5 -
	structures and infrastructure on the environmental	Geological and
	sensitivities of the site including areas to be avoided,	Palaeontological
	including buffers;	history
	logical Desiston Assessment of the proposed new railway bridge, and rail line	<u> </u>

Palaeontological Desktop Assessment of the proposed new railway bridge, and rail line near Hotazel, Northern Cape Province.

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	Relevant section in
NEMA Regs (2014) - Appendix 6	report
i) a description of any assumptions made and any	Section 7.1 -
uncertainties or gaps in knowledge;	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 or	
activities;	Section 10
k) any mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr;	Section 10
I) any conditions for inclusion in the environmental	
authorization;	N/A
m) any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or	N/A
environmental authorization;	
n) a reasoned opinion-	
i. as to whether the proposed activity, activities or portions	
thereof should be authorized;	
(iA) regarding the acceptability of the proposed activity or	
activities; and	
ii. if the opinion is that the proposed activity, activities or	
portions thereof should be authorized, any avoidance,	
management and mitigation measures that should be	
included in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan;	Section 10
o) a description of any consultation process that was	
undertaken during the course of preparing the specialist	
report;	Not applicable.
p) a summary and copies of any comments received during any	
consultation process and where applicable all responses	
thereto; and	Not applicable.
q) any other information requested by the competent authority.	Not applicable.
2) Where a government notice gazetted by the Minister provides for	
any protocol or minimum information requirement to be applied to a	Section 3
specialist report, the requirements as indicated in such notice will	compliance with
apply.	SAHRA guidelines

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Banzai Environmental was appointed by PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd to conduct the **Palaeontological Desktop Assessment** (DIA) to assess the planned Black Rock Mining Operation's proposed new railway bridge, and rail line between Hotazel and the Gloria Mine. The National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999, section 38) (NHRA), states that a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) is key to detect the presence of fossil material within the planned development footprint. This DIA is thus necessary to evaluate the effect of the construction on the palaeontological resources.

The proposed new railway bridge, and rail line between Hotazel and the Gloria Mine is located in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality, Hotazel, Northern Cape. This development is underlain by Quaternary to Recent sediments [Quaternary, Kalahari Group)], and underlying Griqualand West Basin rocks, Transvaal Supergroup of Vaalian age. According to the PalaeoMap of South African Heritage Resources Information System the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the Kalahari Group is low and the Griqualand West rocks of the Transvaal Supergroup is moderate.

It is thus considered that the development of the new railway bridge, and rail line between Hotazel and the Gloria Mine is deemed appropriate and feasible and will not lead to detrimental impacts on the palaeontological resources of the area. Thus, the construction and operation of the facility may be authorised as the whole extent of the development footprint is not considered sensitive in terms of palaeontological resources.

In the event that fossil remains are discovered during any phase of construction, either on the surface or exposed by fresh excavations the **Chance Find Protocol** must be implemented by the ECO in charge of these developments. These discoveries ought to be secured (preferably *in situ*) and the ECO ought to alert SAHRA so that appropriate mitigation (e.g. documented and collection) can be undertaken by a professional palaeontologist.

The specialist would need a collection permit from SAHRA. Fossil material must be curated in an approved collection (museum or university) and all fieldwork and reports should meet the minimum standards for palaeontological impact studies developed by SAHRA.

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TERMINOLOGY AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeological resources

This includes:

- material remains resulting from human activity which are in a state of disuse and are in or on land and which are older than 100 years including artifacts, human and hominid remains, and artificial features and structures;
- rock art is any form of painting, engraving or other graphic representation on a fixed rock surface or loose rock or stone, which was executed by human agency and which is older than 100 years, including any area within 10m of such representation;
- wrecks, being any vessel or aircraft, or any part thereof, which was wrecked in South Africa, whether on land, in the internal waters, the territorial waters or in the maritime culture zone of the Republic as defined in the Maritimes Zones Act, and any cargo, debris or artefacts found or associated therewith, which is older than 60 years or which SAHRA considers to be worthy of conservation;
- features, structures, and artifacts associated with a military history which are older than
 75 years and the site on which they are found.

Cultural significance

This means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance

Development

This means any physical intervention, excavation, or action, other than those caused by natural forces, which may in the opinion of the heritage authority in any way result in a change to the nature, appearance or physical nature of a place or influences its stability and future well-being, including:

- construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change in use of a place or a structure at a place;
- carrying out any works on or over or under a place;
- subdivision or consolidation of land comprising a place, including the structures or airspace of a place;
- constructing or putting up for display signs or boards;
- any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land; and
- any removal or destruction of trees, or removal of vegetation or topsoil

Fossil

Mineralized bones of animals, shellfish, plants, and marine animals. A trace fossil is the track or footprint of a fossil animal that is preserved in stone or consolidated sediment.

Heritage

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That which is inherited and forms part of the National Estate (historical places, objects, fossils as defined by the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999).

Heritage resources

This means any place or object of cultural significance and can include (but not limited to) as stated under Section 3 of the NHRA,

- places, buildings, structures, and equipment of cultural significance;
- places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- historical settlements and townscapes;
- landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- archaeological and palaeontological sites;
- graves and burial grounds, and
- sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;

Holocene

The most recent geological time period which commenced 10 000 years ago.

Palaeontology

Any fossilised remains or fossil trace of animals or plants which lived in the geological past, other than fossil fuels or fossiliferous rock intended for industrial use, and any site which contains such fossilised remains or trace.

Table 1: Abbreviations

Abbreviations	Description
ASAP	Association of South African Professional Archaeologists
CRM	Cultural Resource Management
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DIA	Desktop Impact Assessment
ECO	Environmental Control Officer
EIA practitioner	Environmental Impact Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESA	Early Stone Age
GPS	Global Positioning System
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
I&AP	Interested & Affected Party
LSA	Late Stone Age
LIA	Late Iron Age
MSA	Middle Stone Age

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Abbreviations	Description
MIA	Middle Iron Age
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act
PIA	Palaeontological Impact Assessment
PHRA	Provincial Heritage Resources Authority
PSSA	Palaeontological Society of South Africa
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency

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1 INTRODUCTION

Banzai Environmental was appointed by PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd to conduct the Palaeontological Assessment for the planned Black Rock Mining Operation's (BRMO) proposed new railway bridge and rail line between Hotazel and the Gloria Mine. The proposes project is located near the town of Hotazel in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality, Northern Cape

An existing rail link line runs from BRMO to the Hotazel mainline. The link line passes over the Gamagara River to the south east of the Gloria mine. The rail bridge over the Gamagara River is lower than the surrounding land and therefore trains run through a dip as they cross the river. This significant change in elevation restricts the loads that can practically be transported by the mine due to the train engine power required to push trains through the dip.

BRMO thus proposes to build a new rail bridge adjacent to the existing bridge that will enable heavier loads to be transported via the rail link. The rail link will also be upgraded by building a new adjacent line within the existing rail line servitude of the link line¹.

The proposed new bridge will be built next to to the existing rail bridge. The new rail line will be built next to the present rail line and within the railway line servitude.

Some basic information on the bridge include:

1. The proposed bridge will be parallel to the existing bridge.

- 2. It will be start 5m upstream of the current bridge (i.e. a minimum horizontal gap of 5m between bridges).
- 3. It will be approximately 75m long (i.e. a bit longer than the existing bridge but still to be confirmed exactly).
- 4. It will 6.7m wide, similar to existing bridge.

1.1 Technical description

Manganese ore are mined by Assmang (Pty) Ltd near Black Rock in the Northern Cape Province. The operations consist mainly of 3 mines and ancillary activities and developments. The three mines are:

- Black Rock mine
- o Gloria mine, and
- Nchwaning mine

Black Rock mine comprises mostly of supporting and additional services for the active mining and ore processing facilities at the Nchwaning and Gloria mines. Procedures commenced at Gloria in 1975 and at Nchwaning II in 1981. Both Gloria and Nchwaning II complex consists of several mining and

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mining related activities. Surface operations at Nchwaning III take place within the Black Rock operations. Typical mining operations include:

- A back-up diesel power generation plant
- A landing strip and hangars
- Bulk fuel storage and refuelling stations
- Contractor laydown areas
- Engineering services
- Explosives magazines
- Offices, administration and support facilities
- Ore laydown areas
- Other ancillaries typical of such a mining operation
- Potable water and process water storage and management facilities
- Processing Plant
- Rail facilities, unpaved and paved roads connecting the above and other BRMO operations.
- Salvage Yards
- Sub-stations and electrical works
- The mined ore is handled at the Gloria and Nchwaning II surface plants preceding being transferred to product stockpiles for transport. Product is loaded from the stockpiles onto train wagons and transported to the market by rail.
- Top soil stockpiles
- · Waste management facilities, including a general landfill
- Waste water treatment plants¹

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Cape

¹ Information provided by SRK Consulting (Pty) Ltd

2 QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF THE AUTHOR

The author (Elize Butler) has an MSc in Palaeontology from the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa. She has been working in Palaeontology for more than twenty-four years. She has extensive 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 for 13 years. She has been conducting PIAs since 2014.

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Cape

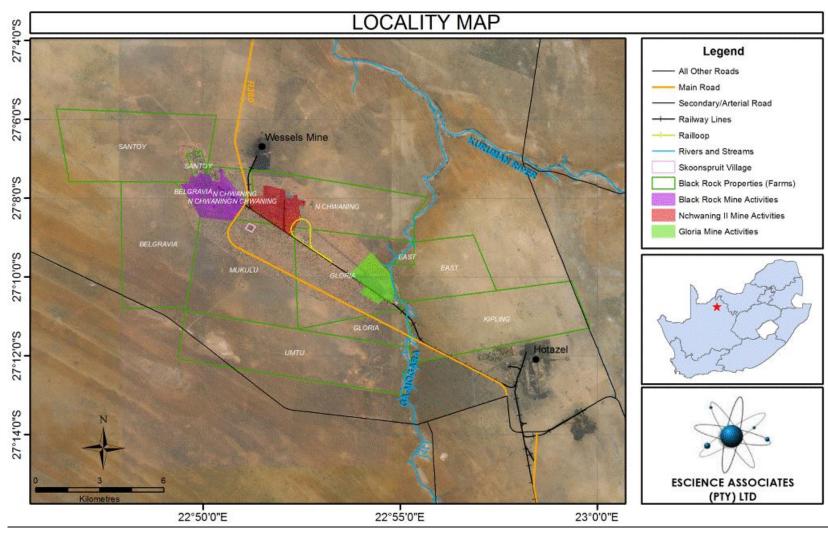


Figure 1: Proposed railway map and alignment near the Glorai mine, Hotazel, Northern Cape. Map provided by ESCIENCE Associates (Pty) Ltd.

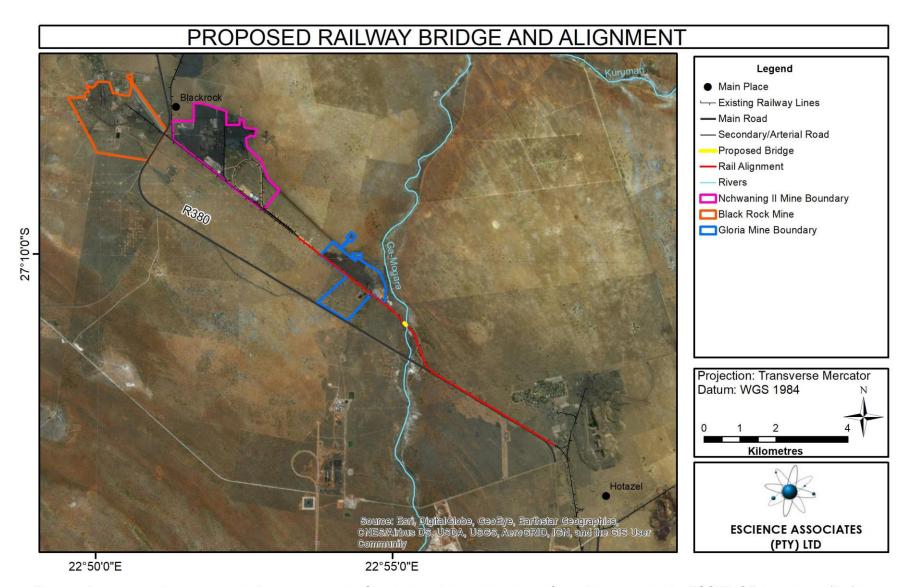


Figure 2: Proposed railway map and alignment near the Glorai mine, Hotazel, Northern Cape. Map provided by ESCIENCE Associates (Pty) Ltd.

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3 LEGISLATION

3.1 National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999)

Cultural Heritage in South Africa, includes 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".

Palaeontological heritage is unique and non-renewable and is protected by the NHRA. Palaeontological resources 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 DIA 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.

4 OBJECTIVE

The objective of a DPIA is to determine the impact of the development on potential palaeontological material at the site.

According to the "SAHRA APM Guidelines: Minimum Standards for the Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports" the aims of the PIA are: 1) to

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identify the palaeontological status of the exposed as well as rock formations just below the surface in the development footprint 2) to estimate the **palaeontological importance** of the formations 3) to determine the **impact** on fossil heritage; and 4) to recommend how the developer ought to protect or mitigate damage to fossil heritage.

The terms of reference of a DPIA 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/kmls) in the proposed dvelopment;
- 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 generally 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 are impacts that result from the incremental impact of the proposed activity on a common resource when added to the impacts of other past, present or reasonably foreseeable 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).

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5 GEOLOGICAL AND PALAEONTOLOGICAL HISTORY

The planned Black Rock Mining Operation's proposed new railway bridge and rail line between Hotazel and the Gloria Mine, in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality, Hotazel, Northern Cape is underlain by Quaternary to Recent sediments [Quaternary, Kalahari Group)], and underlying Griqualand West Basin rocks, Transvaal Supergroup of Vaalian age (Table 2-3).

The Cenozoic Kalahari Group is the most widespread body of terrestrial sediments in southern Africa. The Cenozoic sands and calcretes of the Kalahari Group range in thickness from a few metres to more than 180m (Partridge et al., 2006). The youngest formation of the Kalahari group is the Gordonia Formation which is generally termed Kalahari sand and comprises of red aeolian sands that covers most of the Kalahari Group sediments. The pan sediments of the area originated from the Gordonia Formation and contains white to brown fine grained silts, sands and clays. Some of the pans consist of clayey material mixed with evaporates that shows seasonal effects of shallow saline groundwaters. Quaternary alluvium, aolian sands, surface limestone, silcrete, and terrace gravels are also included in the Kalahari Group (Kent 1980)

Partridge et al., (2006) describes numerous types of superficial deposits of Late Caenozoic (Miocene to Pliocene to Recent) age throughout the Karoo Basin. Sands and gravel in the development footprint has a possible fluvial origin.

The fossil assemblages of the Kalahari are generally very low in diversity, and occur over a wide range and thus the palaeontological diversity of this Group is low (SAHRIS website). These fossils represent terrestrial plants and animals with a close resemblance to living forms. Fossil assemblages include bivalves, diatoms, gastropod shells, ostracods and trace fossils. The palaeontology of the Quaternary superficial deposits have been relatively neglected in the past. Late Cenozoic calcrete may comprise of bones, horn corns as well as mammalian teeth. Tortoise remains have also been uncovered as well as trace fossils which includes termite and insect's burrows and mammalian trackways. Amphibian and crocodile remains have been uncovered where the depositional settings in the past were wetter.

Hotazel is located in the Griqualand West Basin, Northern Cape Province which consists of clastic sediments as well as volcanic rocks, diamictites and banded iron formations. Manganese deposits is present in the Hotazel Formation, upper Postmasburg Group (approximately 2222 Ma). The Vryburg Formation is the basal unit and overlies unconformably the granite and rocks of the Ventersdorp Supergroup. The Campbell Group overlies the Vryburg Formation and consists of the Schmidtsdrif Formation and the upper Ghaap Plateau Formation. The Griquatown Group is divided into two formations namely the Asbestos Hills and Koegas Formations. The Gamagara Formation follows and is positioned on the Maremane Anticline, and is overlain by the Makganyene Formation. The Cox Group comprises of the lower Ongeluk Formation and the upper Voëlwater Formation. Palaeontological Desktop Assessment of the proposed new railway bridge, and rail line near Hotazel, Northern Cape

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The Ongeluk Formation was deposited under water and reaches a thickness of between 400 and 900 m. This Formation is basal and is mainly volcanic (Visser 1989). Manganese is present in the upper Voëlwater Formation (Snyman 1996). According to Kent (1980) and Snyman (1996) Griqualand West Basin attains a maximum thickness of 4500 m.

Algal growth structures, also known as "Stromatolites", are fossil structures described from the dolomites of the Transvaal Supergroup (Figure 3). Stromatolites are layered mounds, columns and sheet-like sedimentary rocks. These structures were originally formed by the growth of layer upon layer of cyanobacteria, a single-celled photosynthesizing microbe. Cyanobacteria are prokaryotic cells (simplest form of modern carbon-bases life). Stromatolites are first found in Precambrian rocks and are known as the earliest known fossils. The oxygen atmosphere that we depend on was generated by numerous cyanobacteria photosynthesizing during the Archaean and Proterozoic Era.



Figure 3: Example of a well preserved stromatolite from the Archaean Era.

Almond & Pether 2008, allocated a low significance to the Kalahari Group because fossil assemblages are generally rare and low in diversity and occur over a wide-ranging geographic area. In the past palaeontologists did not focus on Cenozoic superficial deposits although they sometimes comprise of significant fossil biotas.

Table 2: Generalised Stratigraphic Column and Associated Geology

Stratigraphy			Lithology	
Kalahari Formation (Qs and Q)		Clay, limestone and sand		
Transvaal Supergroup	Postmansburg Group	Voelwater Subgroup	Hotazel Formation	Iron Formation Upper Mn ore body Middle Mn ore body Iron Formation Lower Mn ore body Mn-rich iron formation Iron Formation
			Ongeluk Formation	Basaltic lava

Table 3: Table modified from Palaeotechnical Report (Almond and Pether 2009).

Subgroup/	Group	Formation	Fossil	Comment
sequence			Heritage	
Tertiary-	Kalahari		Terrestrial	Trace fossils, ostracods,
Quaternary			organisms	bivalves, gastropod shells,
				diatoms, bones horn corns,
				mammalian teeth, Tortoise
				shells
Griqualand	Campbell	Ghaapplato	Stromatolites	Cyanobacterial microfossils are
West Super		(Vgh)		present
Group				
	Griquastad	Asbestos	Stromatolites	Cynanobacterial microfossils are
		Hills		present

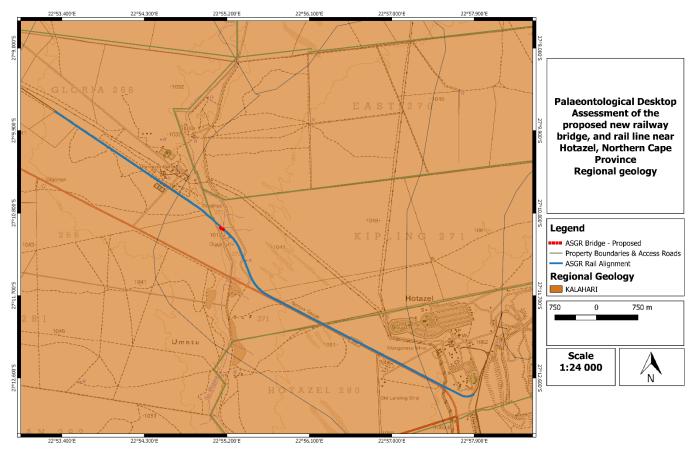


Figure 4: The surface geology of the proposed new railway bridge and rail line between Hotazel and the Gloria Mine, in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality, Hotazel, Northern Cape. The site is completely underlain by Quaternary to Recent sediments [Quaternary, Kalahari Group)], and underlying Griqualand West Basin rocks, Transvaal Supergroup (not shown on this map). The map was drawn by QGIS Desktop 2.18.18,

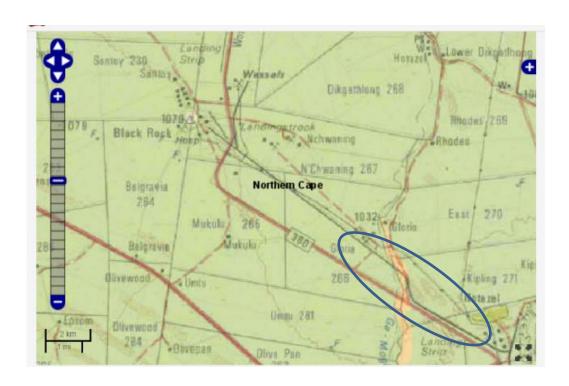


Figure 5: Extract of the 1 in 250 000 SAHRIS PalaeoMap map (Council of Geosciences).

Approximate location of the proposed development is indicated in blue

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 comes to light,
		SAHRA will continue to populate the map.

According to the SAHRIS palaeosensitivity map (Figure 5) there is a small chance of finding fossils in this area.

6 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE SITE

The Black Rock Mine Operations (BRMO) are approximately 80 kilometres (km) north-west of the town of Kuruman and 12 kilometres north-west of Hotazel. The development footprint falls within the jurisdiction of the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality, Northern Cape Province

7 METHODS

A desktop study was assembled to evaluate the possible risk to palaeontological heritage (this includes fossils as well as trace fossils) in the proposed development area. In compiling the desktop report aerial photos, Google Earth 2018, topographical and geological maps and other reports from the same area as well as the author's experience were used to assess the proposed development footprint.

7.1 Assumptions and Limitations

The accuracy of DIA is reduced by several factors which may include the following: the databases of institutions are not always up to date and relevant locality and geological information were not accurately documented in the past. Various remote areas of South Africa have not been assessed by palaeontologists and data is based on aerial photographs alone. Geological maps concentre on the geology of an area and the sheet explanations were never intended to focus on palaeontological heritage.

Similar Assemblage Zones, but in different areas is used to provide information on the presence of fossil heritage in an unmapped area. Desktop studies of similar geological formations and Assemblage Zones generally **assume** that exposed fossil heritage is present within the development area. The accuracy of the Palaeontological Impact Assessment is thus improved considerably by conducting a field-assessment.

8 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONSULTED

In compiling this report the following sources were consulted:

- The Palaeosensitivity Map from the SAHRIS website.
- 2722 BB Topographical map
- Geological map 1:100 000, Geology of the Republic of South Africa (Visser 1984)
- Geological Map 1: 250 000 2722 Kuruman, (Moen 1979).
- A Google Earth map with polygons of the proposed development was obtained from SRL.

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Other Impact Studies in the same area is listed in the references and include Almond 2010;
 2012a,b; 2013a,b; 2016; Bamford, 2017; Fourie, 2018, Groenewald 2013, 2014.

9 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

An assessment of the impact significance of the proposed BRMO upgrade on local fossil heritage is presented here:

9.1 Methodology for Impact Assessment

In order to ensure uniformity, a standard impact assessment methodology has been utilised so that a wide range of impacts can be compared. The impact assessment methodology makes provision for the assessment of impacts against the following criteria:

- Significance;
- Spatial scale;
- Temporal scale;
- Probability; and
- Degree of certainty.

A combined quantitative and qualitative methodology was used to describe impacts for each of the aforementioned assessment criteria. A summary of each of the qualitative descriptors, along with the equivalent quantitative rating scale for each of the aforementioned criteria, is given in **Table 4: 2.**

Table 4: Quantitative rating and equivalent descriptors for the impact assessment criteria

RATING	SIGNIFICANCE	EXTENT SCALE	TEMPORAL SCALE
1	VERY LOW	Isolated site/ proposed corridor	<u>Incidental</u>
2	LOW	Study area	Short-term
3	MODERATE	Local	Medium-term
4	HIGH	Regional / Provincial	Long-term
5	VERY HIGH	Global / National	Permanent

A more detailed description of each of the assessment criteria is given in the following sections.

9.2 Significance Assessment

The Significance rating (importance) of the associated impacts embraces the notion of extent and magnitude, but does not always clearly define these, since their importance in the rating scale is very relative. For example, the magnitude (i.e. the size) of an area affected by atmospheric pollution may be extremely large (1000 km²) but the significance of this effect is dependent on the concentration or level of pollution. If the concentration is great, the significance of the impact would be HIGH or VERY HIGH, but if it is diluted it would be VERY LOW or LOW. Similarly, if 60 ha of a grassland type are destroyed, the impact would be VERY HIGH if only 100 ha of that grassland type were known. The impact would be VERY LOW if the grassland type was common.

A more detailed description of the impact significance rating scale is given in **Table** 5: 3 below.

Table 5: Description of the significance rating scale

RATING		DESCRIPTION	
5	VERY HIGH	Of the highest order possible within the bounds of impacts which could	
		occur. In the case of adverse impacts: there is no possible mitigation	
		and/or remedial activity which could offset the impact. In the case of	
		beneficial impacts, there is no real alternative to achieving this benefit.	
4	HIGH	Impact is of substantial order within the bounds of impacts which could	
		occur. In the case of adverse impacts: mitigation and/or remedial activity	
		is feasible but difficult, expensive, time-consuming or some combination	
		of these. In the case of beneficial impacts, other means of achieving this	
		benefit are feasible but they are more difficult, expensive, time-consuming	
		or some combination of these.	
3	MODERATE	Impact is real but not substantial in relation to other impacts, which might	
		take effect within the bounds of those which could occur. In the case of	
		adverse impacts: mitigation and/or remedial activity are both feasible and	
		fairly easily possible. In the case of beneficial impacts: other means of	
		achieving this benefit are about equal in time, cost, effort, etc.	
2	LOW	Impact is of a low order and therefore likely to have little real effect. In the	
		case of adverse impacts: mitigation and/or remedial activity is either	
		easily achieved or little will be required, or both. In the case of beneficial	
		impacts, alternative means for achieving this benefit are likely to be easier,	
		cheaper, more effective, less time consuming, or some combination of	
		these.	
1	VERY LOW	Impact is negligible within the bounds of impacts which could occur. In	
		the case of adverse impacts, almost no mitigation and/or remedial activity	
		are needed, and any minor steps which might be needed are easy, cheap,	

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RATING		DESCRIPTION	
		and simple. In the case of beneficial impacts, alternative means are	
		almost all likely to be better, in one or a number of ways, than this means	
		of achieving the benefit. Three additional categories must also be us	
		where relevant. They are in addition to the category represented on the	
		scale, and if used, will replace the scale.	
0	NO IMPACT	There is no impact at all - not even a very low impact on a party or system.	

9.3 Spatial Scale

The spatial scale refers to the extent of the impact i.e. will the impact be felt at the local, regional, or global scale. The spatial assessment scale is described in more detail in the table below.

Table 6: Description of the Spatial significance rating scale

RATING		DESCRIPTION	
5	Global/National	The maximum extent of any impact.	
4	Regional/Provincial	The spatial scale is moderate within the bounds of possible	
		impacts, and will be felt at a regional scale (District Municipality to	
		Provincial Level). The impact will affect an area up to 50 km from	
		the proposed site.	
3	Local	The impact will affect an area up to 5 km from the proposed site.	
2	Study Area	The impact will affect an area not exceeding the boundary of the	
		study area.	
1	Isolated Sites /	The impact will affect an area no bigger than the site.	
	proposed site		

9.4 Temporal/Duration Scale

In order to accurately describe the impact, it is necessary to understand the duration and persistence of an impact in the environment. The temporal or duration scale is rated according to criteria set out in **Table 7**: **5**.

Table 7: Description of the temporal rating scale

RATING		DESCRIPTION
1	Incidental	The impact will be limited to isolated incidences that are expected to occur very sporadically.

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RATING		DESCRIPTION	
2	Short-term	The environmental impact identified will operate for the duration of the construction phase or a period of less than 5 years, whichever is the greater.	
3	Medium-term	The environmental impact identified will operate for the duration of life of the project.	
4	Long-term	The environmental impact identified will operate beyond the life of operation of the project.	
5	Permanent	The environmental impact will be permanent.	

9.5 Degree of Probability

The probability, or likelihood, of an impact occurring will be described as shown in **Table** 8: 6 below.

Table 8: Description of the degree of probability of an impact occurring

RATING	DESCRIPTION		
1	Practically impossible		
2	Unlikely		
3	Could happen		
4	Very likely		
5	It's going to happen/has occurred		

9.6 Degree of Certainty

As with all studies, it is not possible to be 100% certain of all facts, and for this reason a standard "degree of certainty" scale is used, as discussed in **Table** 9: . The level of detail for specialist studies is determined according to the degree of certainty required for decision-making. The impacts are discussed in terms of affected parties or environmental components.

Table 9: Description of the degree of certainty rating scale

RATING	DESCRIPTION	
Definite	More than 90% sure of a particular fact.	
Probable	Between 70 and 90% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of that impact occurring.	

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RATING	DESCRIPTION	
Possible	Between 40 and 70% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of an impact	
	occurring.	
Unsure	Less than 40% sure of a particular fact or the likelihood of an impact occurring.	
Can't know	The consultant believes an assessment is not possible even with additional	
	research.	

9.7 Quantitative Description of Impacts

To allow for impacts to be described in a quantitative manner, in addition to the qualitative description given above, a rating scale of between 1 and 5 was used for each of the assessment criteria. Thus the total value of the impact is described as the function of significance, spatial and temporal scale, as described below:

An example of how this rating scale is applied is shown below:

Table 10: Example of Rating Scale

IMPACT	SIGNIFICANCE	SPATIAL	TEMPORAL	PROBABILITY	RATING
		SCALE	SCALE		
	Moderate	Study area	Permanent	Could Happen	LOW
Impact on	3	2	5	2	1.3
heritage					
sites					

Note: The significance, spatial and temporal scales are added to give a total of 10, which is divided by 3 to give a criterion rating of 3.3. The probability (2) is divided by 5 to give a probability rating of 0.4. The criteria rating of 3.3 is then multiplied by the probability rating (0,4) to give the final rating of 1,3.

The impact risk is classified according to 5 classes as described in the table below.

Table 11: Impact Risk Classes

RATING	IMPACT CLASS	DESCRIPTION
0.1 – 1.0	1	Very Low
1.1 – 2.0	2	Low

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2.1 – 3.0	3	Moderate
3.1 – 4.0	4	High
4.1 – 5.0	5	Very High

An impact rating of 1.04 will fall in the Impact Class 2, which will be considered to be a low impact.

9.8 Summary of Impact Tables

The proposed new railway bridge and rail line between Hotazel and the Gloria Mine, in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality, Hotazel, Northern Cape, is underlain by Quaternary to Recent sediments [Quaternary, Kalahari Group)], and underlying Griqualand West Basin rocks, Transvaal Supergroup of Vaalian age. According to the PalaeoMap of South African Heritage Resources Information System the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the Kalahari Group is low and the Griqualand West rocks of the Transvaal Supergroup is moderate. The expected duration of the impact is assessed as potentially permanent to long term. In the absence of mitigation procedures (should fossil material be present within the affected area) the damage or destruction of any palaeontological materials will be **permanent**. Impacts on palaeontological heritage during the construction phase could potentially occur but are regarded as having a moderate possibility.

The significance, spatial and temporal scales are added to give a total of 10, which is divided by 3 to give a criterion rating of 3.3. The probability (2) is divided by 5 to give a probability rating of 0.4. The criteria rating of 3.3 is then multiplied by the probability rating (0,4) to give the final rating of 1,3 and falls Impact Class 2.

10 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed new railway bridge and rail line between Hotazel and the Gloria Mine, in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality, Hotazel, Northern Cape, is underlain by Quaternary to Recent sediments [Quaternary, Kalahari Group)], and underlying Griqualand West Basin rocks, Transvaal Supergroup of Vaalian ageAccording to the PalaeoMap of South African Heritage Resources Information System the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the Kalahari Group is low and the Griqualand West rocks of the Transvaal Supergroup is moderate.

It is thus considered that the proposed development, near Hotazel, Northern Cape is deemed appropriate and feasible and will not lead to detrimental impacts on the palaeontological resources of the area. Thus, the construction and operation of the facility may be authorised as

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the whole extent of the development footprint is not considered sensitive in terms of palaeontological resources.

In the event that fossil remains are discovered during any phase of construction, either on the surface or exposed by fresh excavations the **Chance Find Protocol** must be implemented by the ECO in charge of these developments. These discoveries ought to be secured (preferably *in situ*) and the ECO ought to alert SAHRA so that appropriate mitigation (*e.g.* documented and collection) can be undertaken by a professional palaeontologist.

The specialist would need a collection permit from SAHRA. Fossil material must be curated in an approved collection (museum or university) and all fieldwork and reports should meet the minimum standards for palaeontological impact studies developed by SAHRA.

11 CHANCE FINDS PROTOCOL

A following procedure will only be followed in the event that fossils are uncovered during excavation.

11.1 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.

11.2 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.

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11.3 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.

It is the responsibility of the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) of the project to train the workmen and foremen in the procedure to follow when a fossil is accidentally uncovered. In the absence of the ECO, 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.

11.4 Chance Find Procedure

- If a chance find is made the person responsible for the find must immediately stop working and all work 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 ECO or site manager. The ECO 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 coordinates.
- 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 ECO (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 ECO (site manager). Fossils finds must be stored in tissue paper and in an

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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.

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Appendix A - Elize Butler CV

CURRICULUM VITAE

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

Palaeontological Desktop Assessment of the proposed new railway bridge, and rail line near Hotazel, Northern Cape Province.

Research Assistant National Museum, Bloemfontein 1993 -

1997

Principal Research Assistant National Museum, Bloemfontein

and Collection Manager 1998–currently

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water supply infrastructure at Noupoort, Northern Cape Province. 2014. Bloemfontein.

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