NATURA VIVA cc Palaeontological Impact Assessments & Heritage Management, Natural History Education, Tourism, Research

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PALAEONTOLOGICAL HERITAGE COMMENT:

Rondawel Kaolien CC kaolin mine, Portion 1 Farm Rondawel 638, Namaqualand District, Northern Cape (Reference NC30/5/1/2/2/10638MP)

The existing kaolin pit is located approximately 2.5 km south of the Groenrivier and 32 km SW of Garies, Namaqualand District, Northern Cape. The region is largely mantled by reddish aeolian sands of the Late Caenozoic (probably Pleistocene) **Koekenaap Formation** (Qkk, brown in Fig. 1) and **Hardevlei Formation** (Qh, blue in Fig. 1) (**West Coast Group**) (De Beer 2010). The kaolin deposits represent highly weathered underlying basement rocks of Precambrian age (**Namaqualand Metamorphic Province**) (Cornell *et al.* 2006). These kaolinitized bedrocks are entirely unfossiliferous and the mining project, including the rehabilitation phase, is consequently of no palaeontological heritage significance.

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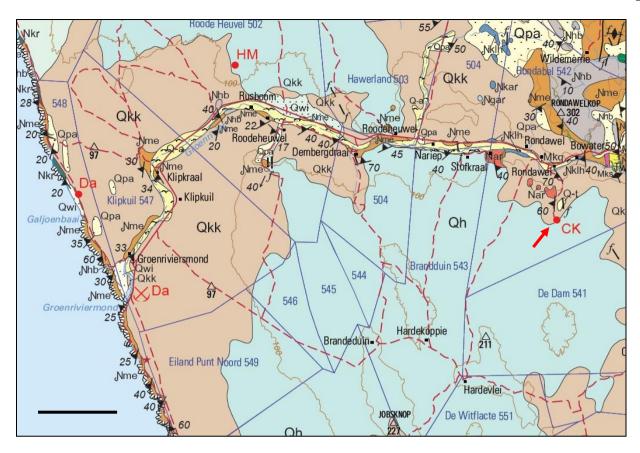


Figure 1: Extract from 1: 250 000 geological sheet 3017 Garies (Council for Geoscience, Pretoria) showing the location of the kaolin pit (arrowed, CK) on the southern side of the Groenrivier, *c*. 32 km SW of Garies, Namaqualand. Scale bar = 4 km. Qh (blue) = Hardevlei Fm; Qkk (brown) = Koekenaap Fm. CK = kaolin deposit.

REFERENCES

CORNELL, D.H. *et al.* 2006. The Namaqua-Natal Province. In: Johnson, M.R., Anhaeusser, C.R. & Thomas, R.J. (Eds.) The geology of South Africa, pp 325-379. Geological Society of South Africa, Johannesburg & Council for Geoscience, Pretoria.

DE BEER, C.H. 2010. The geology of the Garies area. Explanation to 1: 250 000 geology sheet 3017 Garies. 100 pp. Council for Geoscience, Pretoria.