

PALAEONTOLOGICAL DESKTOP ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED MAIDENHEAD FARMING DEVELOPMENT ON FARM MAIDENHEAD 170, PORTION 9 OF FARM MAIDENHEAD 169, REMAINDER OF PORTION 5 OF FARM ASHBY MANOR 171 NEAR QUEENSTOWN, CHRIS HANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE.

> Compiled for: isi-Xwiba Consulting CC PO Box 2097 Komani 5322

Prepared by Banzai Environmental April 2021

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.

Palaeontological Desktop Assessment for assessing the proposed Maidenhead Farm on Farm Maidenhead 170, Portion 9 of Farm Maidenhead 169 and Remainder of Portion 5 of Farm Ashby Manor 171 near Queenstown, Chris Hani District Municipality, Eastern Cape

PALAEONTOLOGICAL CONSULTANT: CONTACT PERSON:

Eutor.

SIGNATURE:

Banzai Environmental (Pty) Ltd Elize Butler Tel: +27 844478759 Email: <u>elizebutler002@gmail.com</u>

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.
	Page ii and Section 2	-
	of Report – Contact	
	details and company	
1.(1) (a) (i) Details of the specialist who prepared the report	and Appendix A	
(ii) The expertise of that person to compile a specialist	Section 2 - refer to	-
report including a curriculum vitae	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	-
	Section 5 –	-
	Geological and	
(cA) An indication of the quality and age of base data	Palaeontological	
used for the specialist report	history	
(cB) a description of existing impacts on the site,		-
cumulative impacts of the proposed development	Section 9	
and levels of acceptable change;		
(d) The duration, date and season of the site		
investigation and the relevance of the season to the	Desktop Assessment	
outcome of the assessment		
(e) a description of the methodology adopted in		-
preparing the report or carrying out the specialised	Section 7 Approach	
process inclusive of equipment and modelling used	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 10	
		No buffers or
		areas of
(g) An identification of any areas to be avoided, including		sensitivity
buffers	Section 5	identified

		Comment
equirements of Appendix 6 – GN R326 EIA	Relevant section in	where not
egulations of 7 April 2017	report	applicable.
(h) A map superimposing the activity including the	Section 5 –	
associated structures and infrastructure on the	Geological and	
environmental sensitivities of the site including areas	Palaeontological	
to be avoided, including buffers;	history	
	Section 7.1 –	-
(i) A description of any assumptions made and any	Assumptions and	
uncertainties or gaps in knowledge;	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	Section 1 and 10	
environment		
(k) Any mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr	Section 1 and 10	
(I) Any conditions for inclusion in the environmental		
authorisation	Section 11	
(m) Any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the		
EMPr or environmental authorisation	Section 11	
(n)(i) A reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed	Section 11	
activity, activities or portions thereof should be		
authorised and		
(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	Section 1 and 10	
measures that should be included in the EMPr,		
and where applicable, the closure plan		
		Not
		applicable.
		public
		consultation
		process wi
		be conducte
(o) A description of any consultation process that was		as part of the
undertaken during the course of carrying out the		EIA and EMP
, , , ,		

Palaeontological Desktop Assessment for assessing the proposed Maidenhead Farm on Farm Maidenhead 170, Portion 9 of Farm Maidenhead 169 and Remainder of Portion 5 of Farm Ashby Manor 171 near Queenstown, Chris Hani District Municipality, Eastern Cape

		Comment
Requirements of Appendix 6 – GN R326 EIA	Relevant section in	where not
Regulations of 7 April 2017	report	applicable.
(p) A summary and copies if any comments that were		
received during any consultation process	N/A	
(q) Any other information requested by the competent		Not
authority.	N/A	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	

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Banzai Environmental was appointed by **isi-Xwiba Consulting CC** to conduct the Palaeontological Desktop Assessment assessing the proposed Maidenhead Farm on Farm Maidenhead 170, Portion 9 of Farm Maidenhead 169 and Remainder of Portion 5 of Farm Ashby Manor 171 near Queenstown, Chris Hani District Municipality, Eastern Cape. In 2015, Spectra Foods (Pty) Ltd proposed the development of broiler houses and an abattoir on Maiden Manor 170 and Portion 5 of Ashby Manor 171. However, the proposed development, subject to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, was not implemented. For the new Maidenhead Farming development, the additional Portion 9 of Farm Maidenhead 169 will be assessed as it is the farm portion excluded from the 2015 Spectra Foods study site. In agreement with the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999, section 38) (NHRA), a Palaeontological Assessment is necessary to establish if fossil material is present within the planned development.

The development footprint is underlain by the Quaternary alluvium. However, Shape files of the Council of Geosciences (presented in the 2015 report) indicate that the development is underlain by the Tarkastad Subgroup (Beaufort Group, Karoo Supergroup). According to the PalaeoMap of the South African Heritage Resources Information System the Palaeontological Sensitivity of Quaternary sediments is low, but local high, and that of the Tarkastad Subgroup is Very High.

During a one-day site visit no fossiliferous outcrops were identified. The scarcity of fossil heritage at the proposed development footprint indicates that the impact of the development footprint will be of a low significance in palaeontological terms. It is therefore considered that the proposed development is deemed appropriate and feasible and will not lead to detrimental impacts on the palaeontological reserves of the area.

If fossil remains are discovered during any phase of construction, either on the surface or exposed by excavations the **Chance Find Protocol** must be implemented by the ESO (Environmental Site Officer) in charge of these developments. These discoveries ought to be protected (if possible, *in situ*) and the ESO must report to 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: <u>www.sahra.org.za</u>) so that correct mitigation (recording and collection) can be carry out by a paleontologist.

It is consequently recommended that no further palaeontological heritage studies, ground truthing and/or specialist mitigation are required pending the discovery of newly discovered fossils.

Palaeontological Desktop Assessment for assessing the proposed Maidenhead Farm on Farm Maidenhead 170, Portion 9 of Farm Maidenhead 169 and Remainder of Portion 5 of Farm Ashby Manor 171 near Queenstown, Chris Hani District Municipality, Eastern Cape

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 geology indicates that the development footprint is underlain by the Quaternary alluvium with

 underlying sediments of the Tarkastad Subgroup.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Mr. Jan du Plessis proposes the development of Maidenhead Farm on Farm Maidenhead 170, Portion 9 of Farm Maidenhead 169 and Remainder of Portion 5 of Farm Ashby Manor 171 near Queenstown, Chris Hani District Municipality, Eastern Cape. The owner (and developer) intends to develop the property through cultivation; planting pastures for livestock, grazing and cutting/baling of hay on approximately 20ha of the 38ha property (Figure 1-3).

Isi-Xwiba Consulting has been appointed as independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to apply for the Environmental Authorization (EA), including the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and Environmental Management Plan (EMPr) to the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) for the development of Maidenhead Farm.

The above-mentioned property has recently been bought by Maidenhead Farm (Pty) Ltd from Spectra Foods (Pty) Ltd. In 2015, Spectra Foods (Pty) Ltd proposed to develop broiler houses and an abattoir on the property. However, the proposed development, subject to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, was not implemented.

In agreement with the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999, section 38) (NHRA), a Palaeontological Assessment was conducted to establish if fossil material was present within the planned development. The author, E. Butler, conducted the study in 2015.

 Butler, E. 2015. Palaeontological Impact Assessment of the proposed Spectra foods broiler houses and abattoir on the farm Maiden Manor 170 and Ashby Manor 171, Lukhanji Municipality, Queenstown, Eastern Cape Province. Bloemfontein.

During the site visit no fossiliferous outcrops were identified. It was therefore considered that the proposed development would not lead to detrimental impacts on the palaeontological heritage of the area. It was recommended that the development proceed without further palaeontological compliance requirements.

Please note:

For this study, the additional Portion 9 of Farm Maidenhead 169 will be assessed as it is the farm portion excluded from the 2015 Spectra Foods study site.

2 QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF THE AUTHOR

This present study has been conducted by Mrs Elize Butler. She has conducted approximately 300 palaeontological impact assessments for developments in the Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern, Central, and Northern Cape, Northwest, Gauteng, Limpopo, and Mpumalanga. She has an MSc (*cum*

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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, 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 Palaeontological Impact Assessment forms part of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and adhere to the conditions of the Act. According to **Section 38 (1)**, a 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 300m in length;
- the construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length;
- any development or other activity which will change the character of a site
 - a. (exceeding 5 000 m² in extent; or
 - b. involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or
 - c. involving three or more erven or divisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or
 - d. the costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority
 - e. the re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000m² in extent;
- or any other category of development provided for in regulations by SAHRA or a Provincial heritage resources authority.

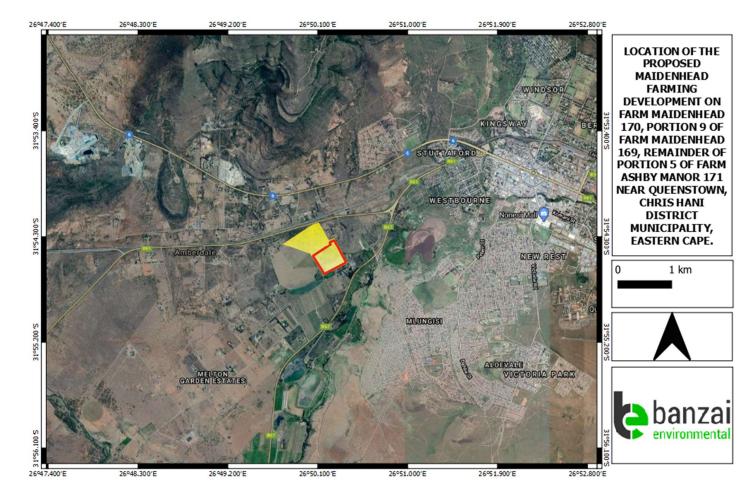


Figure 1: Google Earth Image (2020) indicating the locality (yellow) of the proposed Maidenhead Farm on Farm Maidenhead 170 and Remainder of Portion 5 of Farm Ashby Manor 171 near Queenstown, Chris Hani District Municipality, Eastern Cape. The additional development on Portion 9 of Farm Maidenhead 169 is outlined in red.

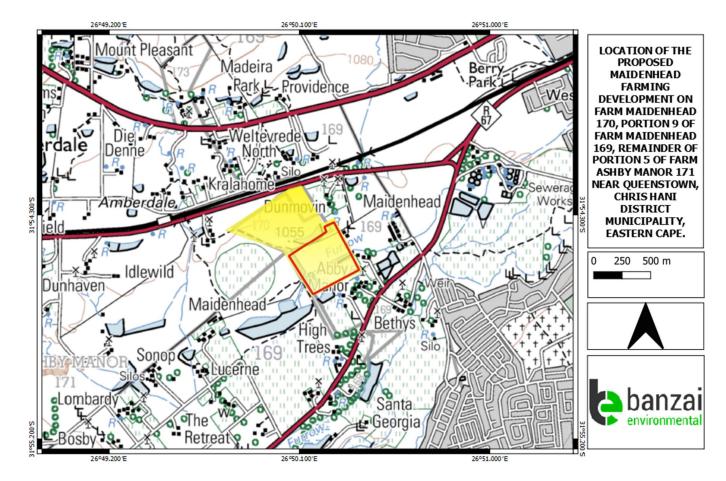


Figure 2: Locality (in yellow) of the proposed Maidenhead Farm on Farm Maidenhead 170 and Remainder of Portion 5 of Farm Ashby Manor 171 near Queenstown, Chris Hani District Municipality, Eastern Cape. The additional development on Portion 9 of Farm Maidenhead 169 is outlined in red.



Figure 3: Relevant farm portions to the proposed development. (map provided by Isi-Xwiba).:

4 OBJECTIVE

The objective of a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) 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 **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 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/kmls) 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 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

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 Implications of specialist findings for the proposed development (such as permits, licenses etc).

5 GEOLOGICAL AND PALAEONTOLOGICAL HISTORY

The proposed Maidenhead Farm on Farm Maidenhead 170, Portion 9 of Farm Maidenhead 169 and Remainder of Portion 5 of Farm Ashby Manor 171 near Queenstown, Chris Hani District Municipality, Eastern Cape. is depicted on the 1:250 000 3126 Queenstown Geological Map (1982) (Council of Geoscience, Pretoria) (Figure 4). On this Geological map the development footprint is underlain by the Quaternary Alluvium (indicated by yellow single bird image). However, the Shape files of the Council of Geosciences (presented in the 2015 report; Figure 5) indicate that the development is underlain by the Tarkastad Subgroup (Beaufort Group, Karoo Supergroup). Both Maps are presented here. Large areas surrounding the development is underlain by Jurassic dolerite.

According to the PalaeoMap of the South African Heritage Resources Information System the Palaeontological Sensitivity of Quaternary sediments is moderate, but local high, and that of the Tarkastad Subgroup is Very High (Figure 6). Jurassic dolerite is igneous in origin and the Palaeontological Sensitivity is zero as it is unfossiliferous.

Quaternary superficial deposits indicated by the yellow single bird image on the map is the youngest geological deposits formed during the most recent period of geological time namely the Quaternary (approximately 2.6 million years ago to present). These sediments mantle the underlaying Tarkastad Subgroup. Most of the Quaternary superficial deposits are unconsolidated sediments and consist of gravel, sand, silt and clay, and they form relatively thin, often discontinuous patches of sediments or larger spreads onshore. These sediments may include stream, channel and floodplain deposits, beach sand, talus gravels and glacial drift sediments.

The Quaternary deposits reveal palaeoclimatic changes in the different geological formations (Hunter et al., 2006). The climatic fluctuations in the Cenozoic Era were responsible for the formation of most geomorphologic features in southern Africa (Maud, 2012). Various warming and cooling events occurred in the Cenozoic but climatic changes during the Quaternary, specifically the last 1.8 Ma, were the most drastic climate changes relative to all climate variations in the past Barnosky (2005). Climate in the Quaternary Period were both drier and wetter than the present and resulted in changes in river flow patterns, sedimentation processes and vegetation variation (Tooth et al., 2004).

The fossil assemblages of this Group are generally very low in diversity and occur over a wide range). These fossils represent terrestrial plants and animals with a close resemblance to living

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forms. Fossil assemblages include bivalves, diatoms, gastropod shells, ostracods and trace fossils. The palaeontology of the Quaternary superficial deposits has 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.

The **Jurassic dolerite** (Jd- red/orange) present in the area surrounding the development belongs to the Karoo Igneous Province that is a classic continental flood basalt province formed during the Early Jurassic. This province occurs over a large area in southern Africa and comprises a widespread system well developed igneous bodies (dykes, sills) that invaded the sediments of the Main Karoo Basin. Flood basalts do not typically form any visible volcanic structures, but with a series of outbursts form a suite of fissures of sub-horizontal lava flows that may vary in thickness. The Karoo is an old flood basalt province and is preserved today as erosional remnants of a more extensive lava cap that covered much of southern Africa in the geological past. As this Suite consist of igneous rocks it is unfossiliferous.

The **Tarkastad Subgroup** is mantled by the Quaternary deposits and can be divided in the Katberg and an Burgersdorp Formations. The Katberg formation is indicated in green with red dots on the geological map while the Burgersdorp Formation is indicated in green with red dashes on the geological map. The Katberg Formation is primarily arenaceous unit, which consisted of a braided fluvial deposit. The mostly argillaceous Burgersdorp Formation can be interpreted as a meandering fluvial to lacustrine deposit (Johnson et al, 2006; Groenewald, 1996). The Assemblage Zones present in the Triassic Tarkastad Subgroup is the *Lystrosaurus* and *Cynognathus* Assemblage Zones. The Tarkastad Subgroup consists of a major deposition of sandstones and vertebrate fossils as well as well-preserved casts of vertebrate burrows (Groenewald, 1991) are present.

GEOLOGICAL	ROCK TYPES	FOSSIL	COMMENTS	
UNIT	& AGE	HERITAGE		
JURASSIC	Dolerite,	Zero		
DOLERITE	dolerite dykes,			
	grabbo			
NEOGENE-	Sediments etc	Pollens,	Hofmeyer Man,	
PLEISTOCENE	in the interior	freshwater	Karoo (36 000	
DRIFT -	<i>eg</i> Kudu's Kloof	molluscs,	BP)	
ALLUVIUM ETC	Formation			

 Table 2: Fossil Heritage of the Eastern Cape (Almond et al (2009))

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	Late Miocene	mammal bones		
	and younger	and teeth <i>etc</i>		
	(correlated with			
	Alexandria Fm			
	<i>etc</i> , Algoa			
	Group)			
BEAUFORT	Tarkastad	Continental	Diverse terrestrial	Biozonation of
GROUP	Subgroup:	(fluvial,	and freshwater	Beaufort Group
	Katberg,	lacustrine)	tetrapods of	in
	Burgersdorp	siliciclastic	Tapinocephalus	some areas of
	Fms (TRt)	sediments,	to	E. Cape still
		pedocretes	Cynognathus	requires
	Late Permian –	(calcretes)	Biozones	resolution
	Early Triassic		(amphibians, true	richest
	<i>c</i> . 266 – 250 Ma		reptiles,	Permotriassic
			synapsids –	tetrapod
			especially	fauna from
			therapsids),	Pangaea /
			palaeoniscoid	Gondwana
			fish,	key evidence for
			freshwater	evolution of
			bivalves, trace	mammalian
			fossils	characters
			(including	among
			tetrapod	therapsids
			trackways),	continental
			sparse vascular	record of Late
			plants	Permian Mass
			(Glossopteris	Extinction
			Flora, including	Events
			petrified wood)	

The *Lystrosaurus* AZ (Katberg Formation, approximately 250 million years old) is named after the dicynodont *Lystrosaurus* which contributes up to 95% of fossils found in this biozone (Botha & Smith 2007). The *Lystrosaurus* AZ is also known for the small captorhinid parareptiles *Procolophon*and a crocodile-like early archosaur, *Proterosuchus*. Armour-plated "labyrinthodont" amphibians (e.g. *Lydekkerina*) are also represented in this biozone as well as small true reptile owenettids, therocephalians, and early cynodonts (*e.g. Galesaurus, Thrinaxodon*). This biozone is also characterized by vertebrate and invertebrate burrows. Invertebrate burrows are represented

by aquatic and land-living organisms while tetrapod burrows include various cynodonts, procolophonids and *Lystrosaurus* (Groenewald 1991, Groenewald and Kitching, 1995, Damiani *et al.* 2003, Abdala *et al.* 2006). Vascular plants in this biozone are generally rare but petrified wood ("*Dadoxylon*") and leaves of glossopterid progymnosperms and arthrophyte ferns (*Schizoneura*, *Phyllotheca*) are present.

The *Cynognathus* AZ (Burgersdorp Formation is approximately 249 to 237 million years old [(Kitching 1995, Rubidge 2005]) and document the recovery of life on land following the catastrophic end-Permian mass extinction event (Benton 2003). The Burgersdorp fauna is dominated by amphibians, reptiles and therapsids ("mammal-like reptiles"). The Burgersdorp biotas include a rich freshwater vertebrate fauna, with a range of fish groups as well as large capitosaurid and trematosuchid amphibians. The reptile fauna includes lizard-like sphenodontids, rhynchosaurs, and primitive archosaurs. Therapsids include *Kannemeyeria and* numerous small to medium-sized carnivorous and herbivorous therocephalians and advanced cynodonts. Tetrapod trackways and burrows are also present.

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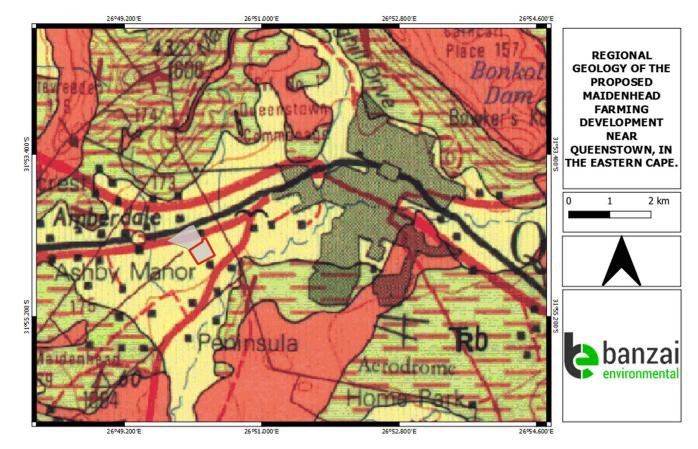


Figure 4: Extract of the 1:250 000 1:250 000 3126 Queenstown Geological Map (1982) (Council of Geoscience, Pretoria) indicating the proposed development in grey. Surface geology indicates that the development footprint is underlain by the Quaternary alluvium with underlying sediments of the Tarkastad Subgroup.

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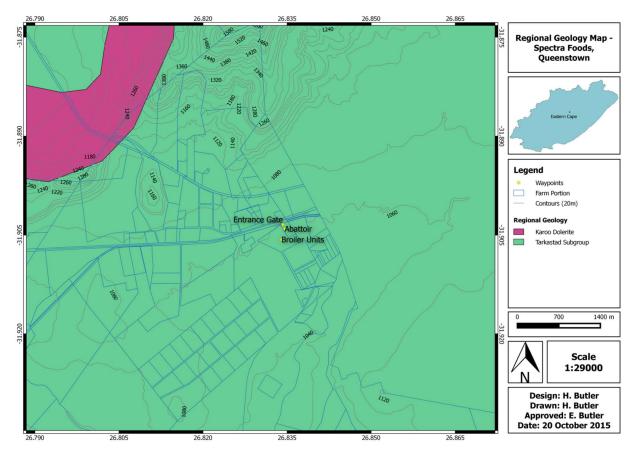
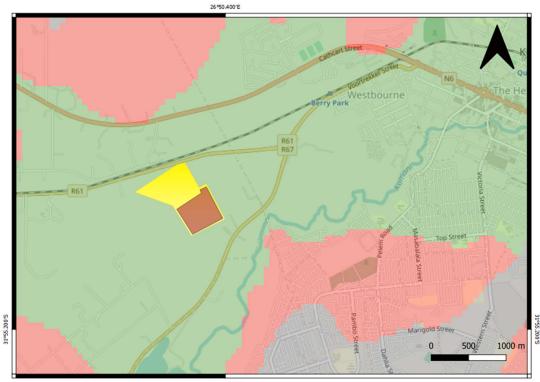


Figure 5: The surface geology of the Queenstown development area on Maiden Manor 170 and Portion 5 of Ashby Manor 171 in the Lukhanji Municipality, Queenstown, Eastern Cape Province. The development area is underlain by Early to Middle Triassic Katberg Formation (Tarkastad Subgroup, Beaufort Group, Karoo Supergroup) Geological Survey data was superimposed on the topographic map and the development area added.

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26°50,400'E

Figure 6: Extract of the 1 in 250 000 SAHRIS PalaeoMap map (Council of Geosciences). Location of the proposed development is indicated in brown.

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 6) there is a moderate chance (green) of finding fossils in this area.

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6 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE SITE

The proposed development is situated approximately 4km out of town next to the R61. The approximate middle GPS coordinate of the development is 31°54'24.69"S 26°50'8.95"E. while that of Portion 9 of the Farm Maidenhead 169 is S31°54'32.4"S 26°50'15.8" E. The total extent of the proposed development is about 38ha.

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: Palaeontological Impact Assessment reports in the same area; aerial photos and Google Earth images, topographical as well as geological maps.

7.1 Assumptions and Limitations

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 never been reviewed by palaeontologists and data is generally based on aerial photographs alone. 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 sourced to provide information on the existence of fossils in an area which was not documented in the past. When using similar Assemblage Zones and geological formations for Desktop studies it is generally **assumed** that exposed fossil heritage is present within the footprint. **A field-assessment will thus improve the accuracy of the desktop assessment.**

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 3126 Queenstown Geological Map (1982) (Council of Geoscience, Pretoria)
- A Google Earth map with polygons of the proposed development was obtained from isi-Xwiba Consulting CC
- 1:50 000 Topographical Maps 3126DD.

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The following photographs were obtained by the Archaeologist for the project, Ms Karen van Ryneveld of ArchaeoMaps.

No fossiliferous outcrops were identified during her site visit which corresponds with the findings of the previous palaeontological report (2015).



Figure 7: Grassy vegetation on Quaternary deposits. No fossiliferous outcrops are present.

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Figure 8: An area of high grassy vegetation with disturbed Quaternary deposits in the front. No fossiliferous outcrops are present.

9 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

9.1 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; and
- 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:

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Table 3: The Rating System-

NATU	NATURE		
The N	The Nature of the Impact is the possible destruction of fossil heritage		
GEOC	GRAPHICAL EXTENT		
This is	s defined as the area over which t	he impact will be experienced.	
<mark>1</mark>	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.	
PROE	BABILITY		
This d	lescribes the chance of occurrenc	e 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).	
<mark>3</mark>	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).	
	ATION		
		cts. Duration indicates the lifetime of the impact as a result of	
-	oposed 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 $(0 - 1 \text{ years})$, 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 $(0 - 2 \text{ years})$.	
2	Medium term	The impact will continue or last for some time after the	
		construction phase but will be mitigated by direct human	
3	L ong term	action or by natural processes thereafter (2 – 10 years). The impact and its effects will continue or last for the	
3	Long term	entire operational life of the development, but will be	
		mitigated by direct human action or by natural processes	
		thereafter (10 – 30 years).	

<mark>4</mark>	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.
INTE	NSITY/ MAGNITUDE	
Desc	ribes the severity of an impact.	
<mark>1</mark>	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.
REVE	ERSIBILITY	
This	describes the degree to which a	an impact can be successfully reversed upon completion of the
	osed 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.
<mark>4</mark>	Irreversible	The impact is irreversible and no mitigation measures
		exist.
IRRE	PLACEABLE LOSS OF RESO	URCES
This o	describes the degree to which	resources will be irreplaceably lost as a result of a proposed
activit	-	

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.
<mark>4</mark>	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.
<mark>2</mark>	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
<mark>6 to 28</mark>	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

9.1.1 Summary of Impacts

Only the site will be affected (1). It is probable that the impact will occur (3). The expected duration of the impact is assessed as potentially permanent to long term (4). The impact on fossil heritage will be irreversible and a complete loss of fossil heritage will take place (4). The cumulative effect of the impact will be Low (1). The magnitude of the impact happening will be low (1)

Significance = (Extent (1) + probability (3 + reversibility (4) + irreplaceability (4) + duration (4) + cumulative effect) (2) x magnitude/intensity (1) = 18.

The Impact significance will therefore be a negative low Impact.

10 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The development footprint is underlain by the Quaternary alluvium. However, Shape files of the Council of Geosciences (presented in the 2015 report) indicate that the development is underlain by the Tarkastad Subgroup (Beaufort Group, Karoo Supergroup). According to the PalaeoMap of the South African Heritage Resources Information System the Palaeontological Sensitivity of Quaternary sediments is low, but local high, and that of the Tarkastad Subgroup is Very High.

During a one-day site visit no fossiliferous outcrops were identified. The scarcity of fossil heritage at the proposed development footprint indicates that the impact of the development footprint will be of a low significance in palaeontological terms. It is therefore considered that the proposed development is deemed appropriate and feasible and will not lead to detrimental impacts on the palaeontological reserves of the area.

If fossil remains are discovered during any phase of construction, either on the surface or exposed by excavations the **Chance Find Protocol** must be implemented by the ESO (Environmental Site Officer) in charge of these developments. These discoveries ought to be protected (if possible, *in situ*) and the ESO must report to 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: <u>www.sahra.org.za</u>) so that correct mitigation (recording and collection) can be carry out by a paleontologist.

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It is consequently recommended that no further palaeontological heritage studies, ground truthing and/or specialist mitigation are required pending the discovery of newly discovered fossils.

11 CHANCE FINDS PROTOCOL

A following procedure will only be followed if 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.

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 Site Officer (ESO) or site manager of the project to train the workmen and foremen in the procedure to follow when a fossil is accidentally uncovered. In the

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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.

11.4 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 (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

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

2006-currently
Department of Zoology & Entomology University of the Free State Zoology 1989- 1992
Department of Virology University of the Free State Zoology 1992
National Museum, Bloemfontein 1993 – 1997
National Museum, Bloemfontein 1998–currently

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INTERNATIONAL VISITS

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