



# PALAEONTOLOGICAL FIELD ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED K147 PROVINCIAL ROAD CONSTRUCTION, GAUTENG PROVINCE

## Compiled for:

Bokamoso Landscape Architects & Environmental Consultants CC
PO Box 11375
Maroelana
0161

Prepared by
Banzai Environmental
29 November 2020

#### **Declaration of Independence**

I, Elize Butler, declare that -

#### General declaration:

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

#### **Disclosure of Vested Interest**

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

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**SIGNATURE:** 

The heritage 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

Table 1. NEMA Table  Comment			
Requirements of Appendix 6 – GN R326 EIA	Relevant section in	where not	
1 .			
Regulations of 7 April 2017	report	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 vita	Appendix A		
(b) A declaration that the person is independent in a form	Page ii of the report	-	
as may be specified by the competent authority	rage if of the report		
(c) An indication of the scope of, and the purpose for	Continue 4 Objective	-	
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 10		
and levels of acceptable change;			
(d) The duration, date and season of the site			
investigation and the relevance of the season to the	Section 1 and 11		
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 11		
(g) An identification of any areas to be avoided, including			
buffers	Section 1 and 11		
(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		

		Comment
Requirements of Appendix 6 – GN R326 EIA	Relevant section in	where not
Regulations of 7 April 2017	report	applicable.
	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	0	
activity, including identified alternatives, on the	Section 1 and 11	
environment		
(k) Any mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr	Section 12	
(I) Any conditions for inclusion in the environmental		
authorisation	Section 12	
(m) Any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the		
EMPr or environmental authorisation	Section 12	
(n)(i) A reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed		
activity, activities or portions thereof should be		
authorised and	Section 1 and 11	
(n)(iA) A reasoned opinion regarding the acceptability		
of the proposed activity or activities; and		
(n)(ii) If the opinion is that the proposed activity,		-
activities or portions thereof should be authorised,		
any avoidance, management and mitigation	Section 1 and 11	
measures that should be included in the EMPr,		
and where applicable, the closure plan		
		Not
		applicable. A
		public
		consultation
		process will
		be conducted
(o) A description of any consultation process that was		as part of the
undertaken during the course of carrying out the		EIA and EMPr
study	N/A	process.
(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.		applicable.
	Section 3 compliance	
(2) Where a government notice by the Minister provides for	with SAHRA	
any protocol or minimum information requirement to be	guidelines	

		Comment
Requirements of Appendix 6 – GN R326 EIA	Relevant section in	where not
Regulations of 7 April 2017	report	applicable.
applied to a specialist report, the requirements as indicated		
in such notice will apply.		

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Banzai Environmental was appointed by Bokomaso Landscape Architects & Environmental Consultants CC to conduct the Palaeontological Field Assessment to assess the proposed K147 Provincial Road Construction, Gauteng Province. The National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999, section 38) (NHRA), states that a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) is necessary to determine the presence of fossil material within the planned development. This study is thus necessary to evaluate the effect of the construction on the palaeontological heritage.

The development footprint is in the Transvaal Basin and is underlain by the Timeball Hill and Hekpoort Formations (Pretoria Group, Transvaal Supergroup). The most western margin of the development falls in the Malmani Subgroup (Chuniespoort Group; Transvaal Supergroup). The igneous rock, diabase, is also present in the proposed development. The diabase would have had a thermal metamorphic effect on the adjoining Timeball Hill Formation and would decrease the chance of fossil preservation in these areas. According to the PalaeoMap of South African Heritage Resources Information System the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the Malmani Subgroup is Very High, the Timeball Hill Formation is High and that of the Hekpoort Formation is Moderate while that of the Boshoek Formation is Low. Diabase is igneous rocks and is considered to have no palaeontological significance. **Three Alternatives** are being considered for this project. These alternatives have the same Geology and there is therefore Palaeontologically **NO Preference** between the three alternatives.

A Palaeontological Desktop Assessment was conducted for the project dated 3 October 2020. This study found that there was a Very High chance of finding fossils in the Malmani Subgroup and a High chance of finding fossils in the Timeball Hill Formation, thus triggering a field assessment. A site-specific field survey of the development footprint was thus conducted on foot and by motor vehicle on 26 October 2020. During the 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: <a href="www.sahra.org.za">www.sahra.org.za</a>) 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.	

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#### 1 INTRODUCTION

Central Plaza Investments 28 (Pty) Ltd on behalf of the Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport (GDRT) plans to construct the new K147 Provincial Road, Gauteng Province (Figure 1-3). This forms part of SIP 24: Human Settlements as published in GN 812 dated 24 July 2020, Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission Council Strategic Integrated Projects designated in terms of Section 8(1)(a) read with Section 7(1) of the Infrastructure Development Act, as amended, 2014 (Act No. 23 of 2014).

The construction of the proposed K147 provincial road will be completed in two phases and will be about 5.5km in extent. Phase 1 will require the construction of one lane per direction form the present entrance to The Hills at Atterbury Road in the north-east to Garsfontein Road in the south-west. The second phase will comprise of the construction of one lane per direction from Delmas Road to Garsfontein Road in a north-easterly direction. All intersections along the route will be upgraded.

Three route alignments have been identified and are depicted in Figure 1:

- Red line represents the Preferred Alternative,
- Blue line represents Alternative 1 and
- Green line represents Alternative 2.

The proposed road will be constructed in the east of Tshwane in the Mooikloof area via The Hills and Mooikloof Manor linking Atterbury Road to Delmas Road. The road construction will be situated on several Portions of Rietfontein 375 JR and Portion 30 of Rietvallei 377 JR. (Figure 1-3).

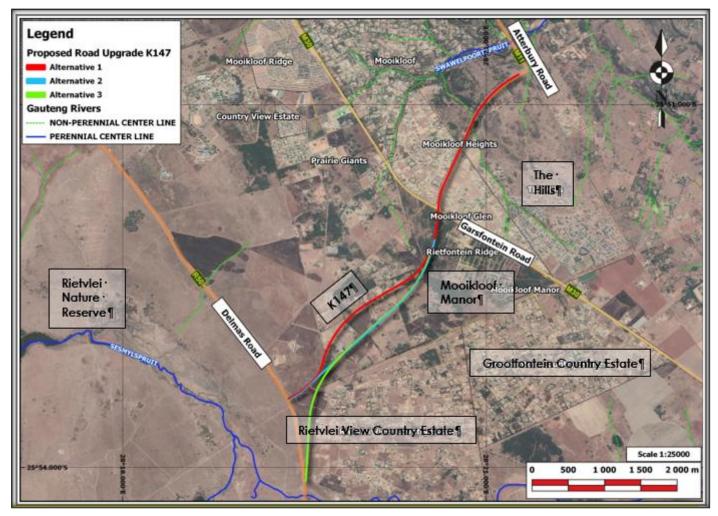


Figure 1:Google Earth Image (2020) indicating the locality of the proposed K147 Provincial Road Construction, Gauteng Province

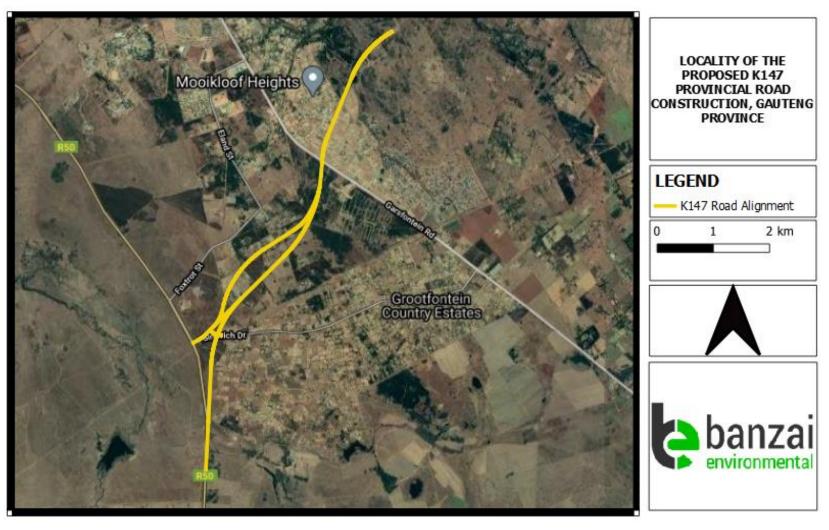


Figure 2: Close-up Google Earth Image (2020) indicating the locality of the proposed K147 Provincial Road Construction, Gauteng Province.

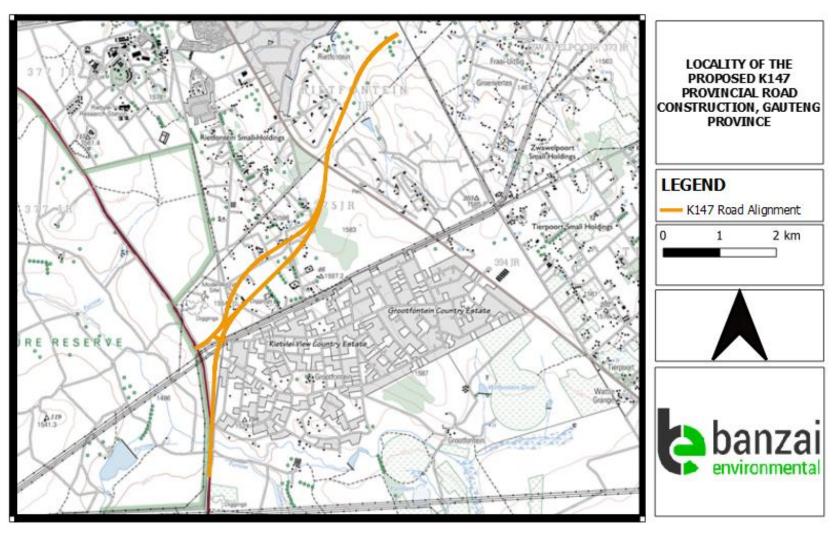


Figure 3: Locality of the proposed K147 Provincial Road Construction, Gauteng Province

#### 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-six 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 for 14 years. She 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 m<sup>2</sup> 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.

#### 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

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

#### 5 GEOLOGICAL AND PALAEONTOLOGICAL HISTORY

The proposed K147 Provincial Road Construction, Gauteng Province is depicted on the 1:250 000 2528 Pretoria Geological map (Council of Geoscience) (Figure 4, Table 2). The development footprint is in the Transvaal Basin and is mainly underlain by the Timeball Hill (Vt) and Hekpoort (Vha) Formations (Pretoria Group, Transvaal Supergroup). The most western margin of the development falls in the Malmani Subgroup (Vmd; Chuniespoort Group; Transvaal Supergroup). The igneous rock (di), diabase, is also present in the proposed development. The diabase would have had a thermal metamorphic effect on the adjoining Timeball Hill and Boshoek Formations and would decrease the chance of fossil preservation in the Timeball Hill Formation. According to the PalaeoMap of South African Heritage Resources Information System the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the Malmani Subgroup is Very High, the Timeball Hill Formation is High and that of the Hekpoort Formation is Moderate while that of the Boshoek Fm is Low. Diabase is igneous rocks and is considered to have no palaeontological significance. The Timeball Hill Formation as well as Malmani Subgroup is known for its stromatolites while subunits in the Pretoria Group (Transvaal Supergroup) containing stromatolites possibly also contain organic-walled microfossils (Groenewald, 2014).

The Hekpoort Formation consists of subaerial volcanic rocks that include (basalts, pyroclastics) as well as minor lacustrine shales. To date no fossils have been recorded from this Formation although organic-walled microfossils may be present. The Boshoek Formation (Vb) comprise of the quartzite, sandstones, conglomerats, diamictite (alluvial fans, slumps) (Groenewald *et al.*, 2014) and underlies a small portion of the development footprint. Fossils is not known from this Formation. The Timeball Hill Formation comprises of conglomerates, diamictite, quartzite, minor lavas with lacustrine and fluvio-deltaic mudrocks, whereas the overlying Klapperkop Member of the Timeball Hill Formation consist of conglomerate, quartzite, shale, and siltstone (Groenewald 2014). Catuneanu & Eriksson (2002) is of the opinion that the Timeball Hill Formation was deposited within a deep marine basin (Figure 5).

The Timeball Hill Formation is known to include stromatolites. The lower part of this Formation is associated with thin carbonate interbeds within turbidite sequences (Catuneanu & Eriksson 2002). Stromatolites have not been documented from the overlying fluvio-deltaic Klapperkop Quartzite Member.

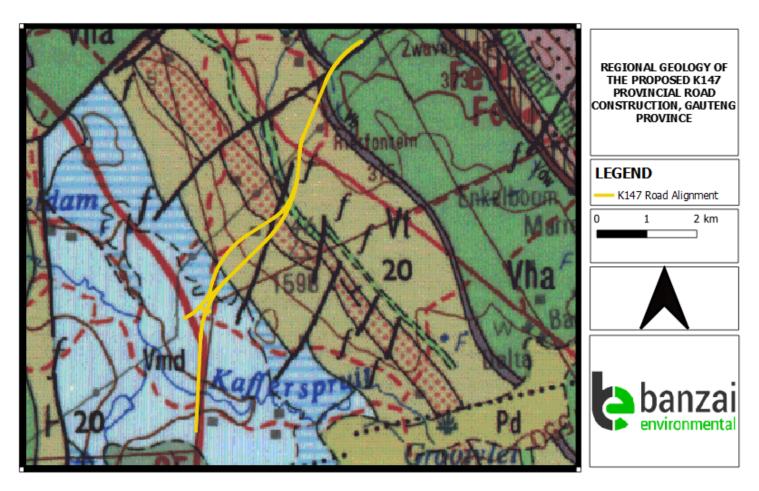


Figure 4: Extract of the 1:250 000 2528 Pretoria Geological map (Council of Geoscience) indicating the locality of the proposed K147 Provincial Road Construction, Gauteng Province. Map drawn by QGIS 2.18.28.

Table 2: Geology and lithology of the development area

Comple	Supergroup/Gro	Formation	Lithology	Fossil Heritage
x	up/Suite			
	Karoo		Conglomerates,	Trace fossil
	Supergroup;		glacial to	assemblage, pre and
	Dwyka Group (Pd)		fluvioglacial	post glacial, possible
			diamictites,	plants and shelly
			sandstones,	invertebrates
			shales	
	Transvaal	Daspoort (Vdq)	Alluvial, fluvial	Stromatolites
	Supergroup		and deltaic	
	Pretoria Group		mudrocks and	
			sandstones;	
			marine sediments	
			in east	
	Transvaal	Hekpoort (Vha)	Volcanics	No Fossils
	Supergroup	green	(including basalts,	
	Pretoria Group		pyroclastics) with	
			minor lacustrine	
			shales	
_	Transvaal	Boshoek (Vb)	Sandstones,	No Fossils
	Supergroup		conglomerats,	
	Pretoria Group		diamictite	
			(alluvial fans,	
			slumps)	
	Transvaal	Timeball Hill	Quartzite,	Stromatolites
	Supergroup	(Vt)	siltstone, shale,	
	Pretoria Group		conglomerate,	
			Fluvio-deltaic and	
			lacustrine	
			mudrocks with	
			diamictite,	
			quartzite, minor	
			lavas.	
	Transvaal	Malmani (Vmd)	Minor secondary	Stromatolites Shallow
	Supergroup;		mudrocks, cherts,	marine to intertidal
	Chuniespoort		containing	stromatolites organic-
	Group		carbonaceous	walled microfossils
			shale,	
			stromatolitic	
	l ngical Field Assessment fo	<u> </u>		l

Comple	Supergroup/Gro	Formation	Lithology	Fossil Heritage
x	up/Suite			
			carbonates	
			(limestones /	
			dolomites),	
	Diabase			None

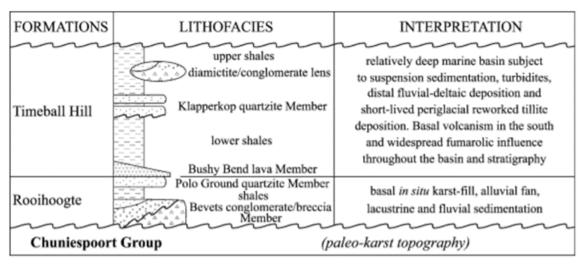


Figure 5: Stratigraphy and depositional settings if the Timeball Hill Formation at the base of the Pretoria succession (Catuneanu and Eriksson 2002).

The Malmani Subgroup platform carbonates of the Transvaal Basin comprise of an assortment of stromatolites (microbial laminites), range from supratidal mats to intertidal columns and large subtidal domes (Eriksson *et al.* 2006). The Malmani Subgroup comprise of an assortment of stromatolites (microbial laminites), ranging from supratidal mats to intertidal columns and large subtidal domes

Stromatolites are layered mounds, columns and sheet-like sedimentary rocks (Figure 6). 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 carbonbases 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.

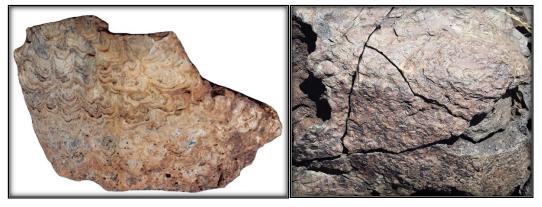


Figure 6: Example of a well-preserved stromatolites from the Archaean Era.

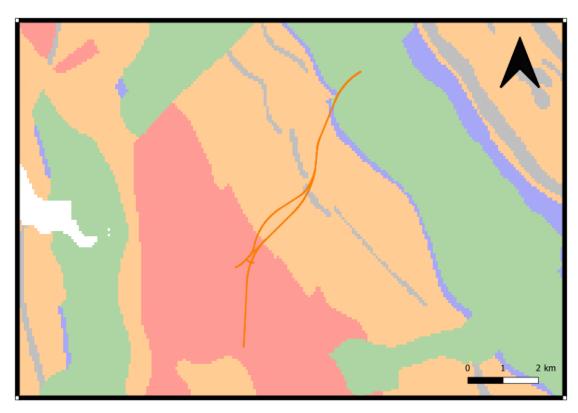


Figure 7: Extract of the 1 in 250 000 SAHRIS PalaeoMap map (Council of Geosciences) indicating the location of the proposed development.

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 palaeo sensitivity map (Figure 7) there is a very High chance of finding fossils in the red area, a high chance in the orange area and a moderate chance in the green area. The grey area is unfossiliferous.

#### 6 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE SITE

The proposed road will be constructed in the east of Tshwane in the Mooikloof area via The Hills and Mooikloof Manor linking Atterbury Road to Delmas Road. The road construction will be situated on several Portions of Rietfontein 375 JR and Portion 30 of Rietvallei 377 JR.

#### 7 METHODS

The aim of a desktop study is to evaluate the risk to palaeontological heritage in the proposed development. This include 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 2528 Pretoria Geological map (Council of Geoscience);
- A Google Earth map with polygons of the proposed development was obtained from Bokomaso Landscape Architects & Environmental Consultants CC.

## 9 SITE VISIT

A one-day site specific field survey of the development footprint and three alternative alignments was conducted on foot and by motor vehicle on 26 October 2020. The following photographs were taken during the site visit. No fossiliferous outcrop was identified in the planned development footprint. However, fossil heritage may be unearthed during the construction phase of the development. A Chance find protocol is thus attached if fossils are found during the construction phase.



Figure 8: Lush vegetation present in the development area with high grasses and trees. No fossiliferous outcrops are present.

GPS Coordinates 25°51'4.00"S 28°20'55.01"E



Figure 9: Big trees present in the proposed development. No fossiliferous outcrops are present. GPS Coordinates 25°51'8.17"S 28°20'52.96"E

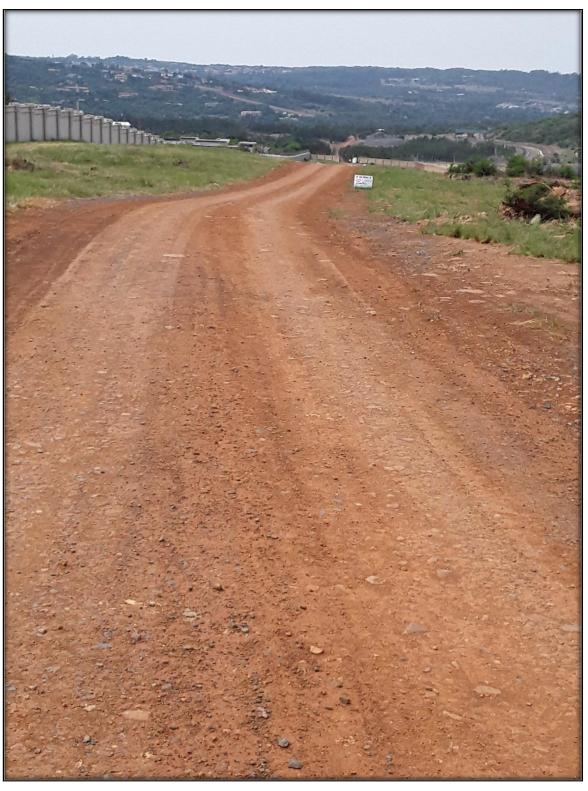


Figure 10: Short grass where site clearance has taken place. No fossiliferous outcrops are present.

GPS Coordinates 25 51 40S 28 20 39E



Figure 11: Wattle plantation with high grass. No fossiliferous outcrops are present. GPS Coordinates 25 52 10S 28 20 35E



Figure 12: Low grass present in the planned development footprint. No fossiliferous outcrops are present.

GPS Coordinates 25°52'20.72"S 28°20'30.28"E



Figure 13: Disturbed agricultural land. No fossiliferous outcrops are present. GPS Coordinates 25°52'32.22"S 28°20'12.03"E

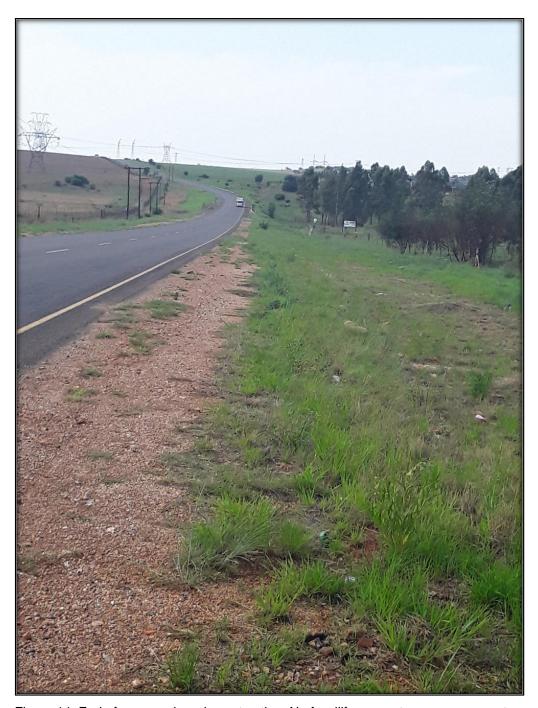


Figure 14: End of proposed road construction. No fossiliferous outcrops are present. GPS Coordinates 25°54'30.57"S 28°19'29.39"E

## 10 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

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:

NOTE: it is important to note the three alternatives proposed for this project has the same Geology and there is therefore NO Preference between the three alternatives. The rating for the alternatives will consequently be the same.

Table 3: The Rating System-

NATUR	NATURE		
The Nat	The Nature of the Impact is the possible destruction of fossil heritage		
GEOGF	APHICAL EXTENT		
This is	defined as the area over which the	e impact will be experienced.	
1	Site	The impact will only affect the site.	
2	Local/district	Will affect the local area or district.	
3	Province/region	Will affect the entire province or region.	
4	International and National	Will affect the entire country.	
PROBA	BILITY		
This de	scribes the chance of occurrence	of an impact.	
1	Unlikely	The chance of the impact occurring is extremely low (Less	
		than a 25% chance of occurrence).	
2	Possible	The impact may occur (Between a 25% to 50% chance of	
		occurrence).	
3	Probable	The impact will likely occur (Between a 50% to 75%	
		chance of occurrence).	
4	Definite	Impact will certainly occur (Greater than a 75% chance of	
		occurrence).	
DURAT	ION		
This des	scribes the duration of the impacts	s. Duration indicates the lifetime of the impact as a result of	
the prop	oosed 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	

		I maried and a limited manner time after construction
		period and a limited recovery time after construction,
		thereafter it will be entirely negated (0 – 2 years).
2	Medium term	The impact will continue or last for some time after the
		construction phase but will be mitigated by direct human
		action or by natural processes thereafter (2 – 10 years).
3	Long term	The impact and its effects will continue or last for the
		entire operational life of the development, but will be
		mitigated by direct human action or by natural processes
		thereafter (10 – 30 years).
4	Permanent	The only class of impact that will be non-transitory.
		Mitigation either by man or natural process will not occur
		in such a way or such a time span that the impact can be
		considered indefinite.
INTEN	ISITY/ MAGNITUDE	
Descri	bes the severity of an impact.	
1	Low	Impact affects the quality, use and integrity of the
		system/component in a way that is barely perceptible.
2	Medium	Impact alters the quality, use and integrity of the
		system/component but system/component still continues
		to function in a moderately modified way and maintains
		general integrity (some impact on integrity).
3	High	Impact affects the continued viability of the system/
		component and the quality, use, integrity and functionality
		of the system or component is severely impaired and may
		temporarily cease. High costs of rehabilitation and
		remediation.
4	Very high	Impact affects the continued viability of the
		system/component and the quality, use, integrity and
		functionality of the system or component permanently
		ceases and is irreversibly impaired. Rehabilitation and
		remediation often impossible. If possible rehabilitation
		and remediation often unfeasible due to extremely high
		costs of rehabilitation and remediation.
REVE	RSIBILITY	
This d	escribes the degree to which an ir	npact can be successfully reversed upon completion of the
	sed activity.	
1	Completely reversible	The impact is reversible with implementation of minor
		mitigation measures.

2	Partly reversible	The impact is partly reversible but more intense mitigation
		measures are required.
3	Barely reversible	The impact is unlikely to be reversed even with intense
		mitigation measures.
4	Irreversible	The impact is irreversible and no mitigation measures
		exist.

#### IRREPLACEABLE LOSS OF RESOURCES

This describes the degree to which resources will be irreplaceably lost as a result of a proposed activity.

1	No loss of resource	The impact will not result in the loss of any resources.
2	Marginal loss of resource	The impact will result in marginal loss of resources.
3	Significant loss of resources	The impact will result in significant loss of resources.
4	Complete loss of resources	The impact is result in a complete loss of all resources.

## **CUMULATIVE EFFECT**

This describes the cumulative effect of the impacts. A cumulative impact is an effect which in itself may not be significant but may become significant if added to other existing or potential impacts emanating from other similar or diverse activities as a result of the project activity in question.

1	Negligible cumulative impact	The impact would result in negligible to no cumulative effects.
2	Low cumulative impact	The impact would result in insignificant cumulative effects.
3	Medium cumulative impact	The impact would result in minor cumulative effects.
4	High cumulative impact	The impact would result in significant cumulative effects

# **SIGNIFICANCE**

Significance is determined through a synthesis of impact characteristics. Significance is an indication of the importance of the impact in terms of both physical extent and time scale, and therefore indicates the level of mitigation required. The calculation of the significance of an impact uses the following formula:

# (Extent + probability + reversibility + irreplaceability + duration + cumulative effect) x magnitude/intensity.

The summation of the different criteria will produce a non-weighted value. By multiplying this value with the magnitude/intensity, the resultant value acquires a weighted characteristic which can be measured and assigned a significance rating.

Points	Impact significance rating	Description
6 to 28	Negative low impact	The anticipated impact will have negligible negative
		effects and will require little to no mitigation.
6 to 28	Positive low impact	The anticipated impact will have minor positive effects.
29 to 50	Negative medium impact	The anticipated impact will have moderate negative
		effects and will require moderate mitigation measures.

29 to 50	Positive medium impact	The anticipated impact will have moderate positive effects.
51 to 73	Negative high impact	The anticipated impact will have significant effects and will require significant mitigation measures to achieve an acceptable level of impact.
51 to 73	Positive high impact	The anticipated impact will have significant positive effects.
74 to 96	Negative very high impact	The anticipated impact will have highly significant effects and are unlikely to be able to be mitigated adequately. These impacts could be considered "fatal flaws".
74 to 96	Positive very high impact	The anticipated impact will have highly significant positive

(Extent (1) + probability (3) + reversibility (4) + irreplaceability (4) + duration (4) + cumulative effect) (3) x magnitude/intensity (1) = 19

### 10.1 Summary of Impact Tables

The development footprint is in the Transvaal Basin and is underlain by the Timeball Hill and Hekpoort Formations (Pretoria Group, Transvaal Supergroup) as well as diabase. According to the PalaeoMap of South African Heritage Resources Information System the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the Timeball Hill Formation is High and that of the Hekpoort Formation is Moderate. Diabase is igneous rocks and is considered to have no palaeontological significance.

Loss of fossil heritage will be a negative impact. Only the site will be affected by the proposed development. The expected duration of the impact is assessed as potentially permanent to long term. In the absence of mitigation procedures, the damage or destruction of any palaeontological materials will be permanent. Impacts on palaeontological heritage during the construction phase could potentially occur and are regarded as having a high probability. The magnitude of the impact on the fossil heritage will be low. The significance of the impact occurring will be low.

#### 11 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The development footprint is in the Transvaal Basin and is underlain by the Timeball Hill and Hekpoort Formations (Pretoria Group, Transvaal Supergroup). The most western margin of the development falls in the Malmani Subgroup (Chuniespoort Group; Transvaal Supergroup). The igneous rock, diabase, is also present in the proposed development. The diabase would have had a thermal metamorphic effect on the adjoining Timeball Hill Formation and would decrease the chance of fossil preservation in these areas. According to the PalaeoMap of South African Heritage Resources Information System the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the Malmani Subgroup is Very High, the Timeball Hill Formation is High and that of the Hekpoort Formation is Moderate while that Palaeontological Field Assessment for the K147 Provincial Road Construction, Gauteng Province

of the Boshoek Formation is Low. Diabase is igneous rocks and is considered to have no palaeontological significance. **Three Alternatives** are being considered for this project. These alternatives have the same Geology and there is therefore Palaeontologically **NO Preference** between the three alternatives.

A Palaeontological Desktop Assessment was conducted for the project dated 3 October 2020. This study found that there was a Very High chance of finding fossils in the Malmani Subgroup and a High chance of finding fossils in the Timeball Hill Formation, thus triggering a field assessment. A site-specific field survey of the development footprint was thus conducted on foot and by motor vehicle on 26 October 2020. During the 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: <a href="www.sahra.org.za">www.sahra.org.za</a>) 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.

#### 12 CHANCE FINDS PROTOCOL

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

#### 12.1 Legislation

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

Palaeontological heritage is unique and non-renewable and is protected by the NHRA and are the property of the State. It is thus the responsibility of the State to manage and conserve fossils on behalf of the citizens of South Africa. Palaeontological resources may not be excavated, broken, *Palaeontological Field Assessment for the* K147 Provincial Road Construction, Gauteng Province

moved, or destroyed by any development without prior assessment and without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority as per section 35 of the NHRA.

## 12.2 Background

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

#### 12.3 Introduction

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

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

#### 12.4 Chance Find Procedure

- If a chance find is made the person responsible for the find must immediately stop working
  and all work that could impact that finding must cease in the immediate vicinity of the find.
- The person who made the find must immediately report the find to his/her direct supervisor which in turn must report the find to his/her manager and the ESO or site manager. The ESO or site manager must report the find to the relevant Heritage Agency (South African Heritage Research Agency, SAHRA). (Contact details: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town. PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000, South Africa. Tel: 021 462 4502. Fax: +27 (0)21 462 4509. Web: <a href="www.sahra.org.za">www.sahra.org.za</a>). 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 ESO (or site manager) whether a rescue excavation or rescue collection by a palaeontologist is necessary.

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

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# Appendix A - Elize Butler CV

**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

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Palaeontological Society of South Africa (PSSA) 2006-currently

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY** 

Part-time Laboratory assistant Department of Zoology & Entomology

University of the Free State Zoology

1989-1992

Part-time laboratory assistant Department of Virology

University of the Free State Zoology

1992

Research Assistant National Museum, Bloemfontein 1993 –

1997

Principal Research Assistant National Museum, Bloemfontein

and Collection Manager 1998–currently

#### **TECHNICAL REPORTS**

**Butler, E. 2014.** Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed upgrade of existing water supply infrastructure at Noupoort, Northern Cape Province. 2014. Bloemfontein.

**Butler, E. 2015.** Palaeontological impact assessment of the proposed consolidation, re-division and development of 250 serviced erven in Nieu-Bethesda, Camdeboo local municipality, Eastern Cape. Bloemfontein.

**Butler, E. 2015.** Palaeontological impact assessment of the proposed mixed land developments at Rooikraal 454, Vrede, Free State. Bloemfontein.

**Butler, E. 2015.** Palaeontological exemption report of the proposed truck stops development at Palmiet 585, Vrede, Free State. Bloemfontein.

**Butler, E. 2015.** Palaeontological impact assessment of the proposed Orange Grove 3500 residential development, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality East London, Eastern Cape. Bloemfontein.

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**Butler, E. 2015.** Palaeontological Heritage Impact Assessment report on the establishment of the 65 MW Majuba Solar Photovoltaic facility and associated infrastructure on portion 1, 2 and 6 of the farm Witkoppies 81 HS, Mpumalanga Province. Bloemfontein.

**Butler, E. 2015.** Palaeontological Impact Assessment of the proposed township establishment on the remainder of portion 6 and 7 of the farm Sunnyside 2620, Bloemfontein, Mangaung metropolitan municipality, Free State, Bloemfontein.

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**Butler, E. 2015.** Palaeontological Impact Assessment of the proposed Orkney solar energy farm and associated infrastructure on the remaining extent of Portions 7 and 21 of the farm Wolvehuis 114, near Orkney, North West Province. Bloemfontein.

**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.

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### **CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS**

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#### **PRESENTATION**

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### **INTERNATIONAL**

Attended the Society of Vertebrate Palaeontology 73<sup>th</sup> Conference in Los Angeles, America.

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- Butler, E., and J. Botha-Brink. Postcranial Cranial skeleton of *Galesaurus planiceps*, implications for biology and lifestyle. University of the Free State Seminar Day, Bloemfontein. South Africa. November 2007.
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#### INTERNATIONAL VISITS

Natural History Museum, London
Paleontological Institute, Russian Academy of Science, Moscow

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