



PALAEONTOLOGICAL DESKTOP ASSESSMENT

LEEUDORINGSTAD 132KV
POWER LINE TO VAAL REEF TEN
POWER STATION, NORTH WEST
PROVINCE

2022

COMPILED FOR:

PGS Heritage

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 CONSULTANT: Banzai Environmental (Pty) Ltd

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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: Checklist for Specialist studies in conformance with Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations of 2014 (as amended)

Requirements of Appendix 6 – GN R326 EIA Regulations of 7 April	
2017	Relevant section in report
1 (1) (-) (2) Details of the constitution of th	Page ii and Section 2 of Report - Contact
1.(1) (a) (i) Details of the specialist who prepared the report	details and company and Appendix A
(ii) The expertise of that person to compile a specialist report	Section 2 – refer to Appendix A
including a curriculum vitae	Section 2 – Telef to Appendix A
(b) A declaration that the person is independent in a form as	Page ii of the report
may be specified by the competent authority	r age northe report
(c) An indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the	Section 4 – Objective
report was prepared	Section 4 – Objective
(cA) An indication of the quality and age of base data used for	Section 5 - Geological and
the specialist report	Palaeontological history
(cB) a description of existing impacts on the site, cumulative	
impacts of the proposed development and levels of	Section 9
acceptable change;	
(d) The duration, date and season of the site investigation and	
the relevance of the season to the outcome of the	Desktop Assessment
assessment	
(e) a description of the methodology adopted in preparing the	
report or carrying out the specialised process inclusive of	Section 7 Approach and Methodology
equipment and modelling used	
(f) details of an assessment of the specific identified sensitivity	
of the site related to the proposed activity or activities and	Section 1 and 10
its associated structures and infrastructure, inclusive of a	
site plan identifying site alternative;	
(g) An identification of any areas to be avoided, including	Section 5
buffers	No buffers or areas of sensitivity identified
(h) A map superimposing the activity including the associated	
structures and infrastructure on the environmental	Section 5 - Geological and
sensitivities of the site including areas to be avoided,	Palaeontological history
including buffers;	

Requirements of Appendix 6 – GN R326 EIA Regulations of 7 April 2017	Relevant section in report
(i) A description of any assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge;	Section 7.1 – Assumptions and Limitation
(j) A description of the findings and potential implications of such findings on the impact of the proposed activity, including identified alternatives, on the environment	Section 1 and 10
(k) Any mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr	Section 1 and 10
(l) Any conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation	Section 1 and 10
(m) Any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or environmental authorisation	Section 1 and 10
(n)(i) A reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorised and (n)(iA) A reasoned opinion regarding the acceptability of the proposed activity or activities; and	Section 1 and 10
(n)(ii) If the opinion is that the proposed activity, activities, or portions thereof should be authorised, any avoidance, management and mitigation measures that should be included in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan	Section 1 and 10
(o) A description of any consultation process that was undertaken during the course of carrying out the study	N/A
(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 authority.	N/A
(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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Banzai Environmental was appointed by PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd to conduct the Palaeontological Desktop

Assessment (PDA) for the proposed Leeudoringstad 132 KV Powerline near Leeudoringstad in the North West

Province. To comply with the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999, section 38) (NHRA), this PIA is

necessary to verify if fossil material could potentially be present in the planned development area, to evaluate the

potential impact of the proposed development on the Palaeontological Heritage and to mitigate possible damage

to fossil resources.

The proposed Leeudoringstad 132kV Power Line to Vaal Reef Ten Power Station in North West Province is

underlain by the Allanridge Formation (Ventersdorp Supergroup) and the Rietgat Formation (Platberg Group,

Ventersdorp Supergroup), while Quaternary sediments are also present in the development. Updated geology

(Council for Geosciences, Pretoria) of the proposed development indicates that the development is largely

underlain by the Allanridge Formation (Ventersdorp Supergroup), and Rietgat Formation (Platberg Group,

Venters dorp Supergroup), while a small portion in the west is underlain by alluvium, colluvium, eluvium and gravel.

According to the PalaeoMap on the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) database,

the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the Quaternary sediments and that of the Rietgat Formation is Moderate, while

 $that\ of\ the\ Allanridge\ Formation\ is\ Low\ (Almond\ and\ Pether\ 2008, SAHRIS\ website).\ The\ Environmental\ Screening$

tool differs from the SAHRIS PalaeoMap by indicating that the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the proposed

development is Medium.

It is considered that the proposed development will not lead to detrimental impacts on the palaeontological

resources of the area. The construction and operation of the project may be authorised, as the whole extent of

the development footprint is not considered sensitive in terms of palaeontological heritage. If fossil remains or

trace fossils are discovered during any phase of construction, either on the surface or exposed by excavations

the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) in charge of these developments 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: www.sahra.org.za) so that mitigation can be carry out by a palaeontologist.

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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Appendix A: Curriculum Vitae

1 INTRODUCTION

Upgrade Energy Africa (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as 'Upgrade Energy'), has appointed SiVEST

SA(Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as "SiVEST") to undertake the required BAProcess for the proposed

construction and operation of electricity distribution infrastructure, to connect the proposed

Leeudoringstad solar plants to the Vaal reef ten Power Station. The EA that is required for the

proposed grid connection is as follows:

Leeudoringstad 132kVPower Line to Vaal Reef Ten Power Station, North West Province

The project site falls within the Maquassi Hills Local Municipality within the Dr Kenneth Kaunda

District Municipality in the North West Province. The site is accessible via an existing gravel road

which branches off the tarred R502 Provincial Road.

A new switching station will be constructed next to the existing Leeubosch Traction Substation. A

new IPP substation will be built adjacent to the new switching station to step up the voltage from

33kV to 132kV. From the new switching station, a 132kV powerline will run to Orkney Solar Plant

(Genesis). The line will connect to the Genesis switching station and share a 132kV powerline to

Vaalreef Ten.

The scope of work in IPP substation:

• Install a compact 132/33kV transformer substation with the associated protection

equipment

• Install 2x33kV containerized switchgear

The scope of work in the Leeubosch substation:

• Install 1 x 132kV feeder bays at Leeubosch substation to accommodate the IPP compact

132/33kV substation

• Establish a completely new 132 kV single busbar

• Build approximately 32 km of a single circuit Tern line from Leeubosch substation to New

132kV Collector at Orkney Solar Farm

The scope of work at the 132 kV Collector Station close to the Orkney Solar Farm:

• Establish a new 132kV single busbar collector substation

• Build 2 x 132 kV feeder bays to connect the Leeudoringstad IPP and Orkney Solar Farm.

• Build approximately 10 km of double circuit Twin Tern line from the new collector station to

the VaalReef Ten substation

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The scope of work at the VaalReef Ten substation:

• Equip 1 x 132 kV feeder bay for a 10 km double circuit Twin Tern line

1.1 PROJECT COMPONENTS

The proposed Project involves the construction and operation of electricity distribution infrastructure, to connect the proposed Leeudoringstad solar plants to the Vaal reef ten Power Station.

Preliminary technical details of the respective Powerline are summarized below.

Table 2:Technical Detail Summary

Table 2: Technical Detail Summary Aspect	Description
The applicant (Developer)	ENERTRAG South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Project Name	Leeudoringstad 132kV Powerline to Vaal
	reef ten Power Station
Project location	Located near Leeudoringstad in North West Province., within the Maquassi Hills Local Municipality, of the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality, North West Province
Number/Types of powerlines required	Either Single or Double Circuit
(Single/Double circuit)	(Most likely a single Tern conductor)
Which Eskom Substation or powerline will the facility tie into for electricity evacuation into the grid?	The powerline will comprise of a 132kV powerline to connect the Leeuwbosch Traction Substation to the Vaal Reef ten Substation.
Details of the proposed grid infrastructure and footprints for proposed powerlines	The proposed powerline (up to and including 132kV) to Vaal reef ten Power Station will be ~42km long depending on the exact route options. The servitude width for a 132 kV distribution line is 31 m (15.5 m on either side of the centre line of the power line)
IPP Substation & Eskom switching station	Substation consisting of combined IPP 132/33kV step-up substation and Eskom switching substation. The IPP Substation acts as a collector substation for the 33kV feeders and steps-up the voltage from 33kV to 132kV. This will be connected to an adjacent Vaal ten reef Eskom 132kV Switching Substation. The collected 33kV power will be stepped up to 132kV using a single 1 x 33/132kV 60MVA step-up substation. A new Eskom 132kV switching station will be built adjacent to the step-up substation. The substation will be demarcated into three (3) sections: the 33kV substation, 33/132kV IPP step-up substation and the 132kV

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Eskom Switching Station. Eskom metering and operations will take place inside the Eskom switching yard.

The 33kV collector substation will consist of a prefabricated building mounted on a concrete support beam. The building shall include:

- 33kV Switchgear Room
- Control Room
- Battery Room
- The collector substation shall be air-conditioned building with necessary fire and gas detectors. The cable entry to the building

1.2 ALTERNATIVES

1.2.1 Location Alternatives

Since the proposed Leeudoringstad 132kV powerline is to facilitate the connection for the Leeudoringstad solar plants. No location alternatives exist.

1.2.2 Technology Alternatives

No technology alternatives exist for the distribution of electricity. Therefore, no technology alternatives are being assessed as part of this BA process

1.2.3 Powerlines Layout Alternatives

The client has proposed two alternatives to connect the Leeuwbosch Traction Substation to the Vaal Reef ten Substation, North West Province.

The dedicated 132 kV power line will connect the Solar plant to Vaalreefs Substation. The powerline will be around 42 km long depending on the exact route. The servitude width for a 132kV distribution line is 31m (15.5m on either side of the center line of the power line).



Figure 1: Powerline alternatives

1.2.4 No-Go Alternative

The 'no-go' alternative is the option of not undertaking the proposed Leeudoringstad 132kV powerline. Hence, if the 'no-go' option is implemented, there would be no development. This alternative would result in no environmental impacts from the proposed project on the site or the surrounding local area. It provides the baseline against which other impacts are compared and will be considered throughout the report¹

.

¹ Information provided by SIVEST



Figure 2: Google Earth (2022) image indication the regional locality of the proposed development.

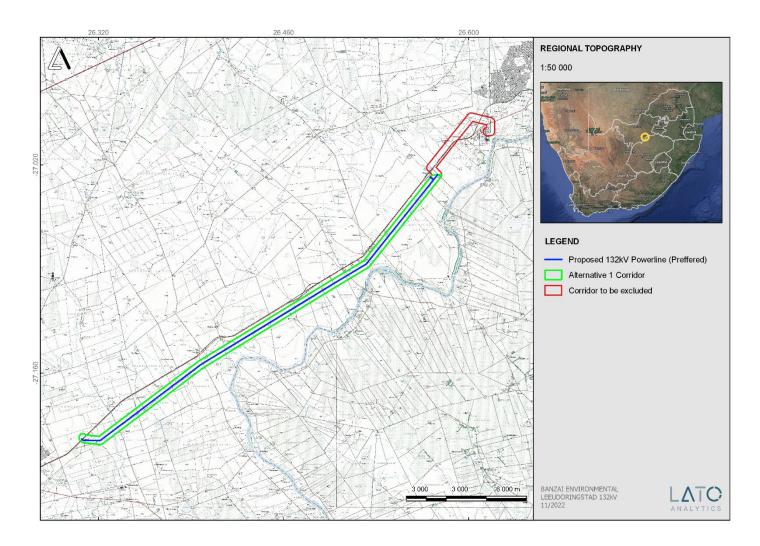


Figure 3: Locality Map.

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

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-nine years. She has experience in

locating, collecting, and curating fossils. 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".

The identification, evaluation and assessment of any cultural heritage site, artefact or finds in the

South African context is required and governed by the following legislation:

National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Act 107 of 1998

National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) Act 25 of 1999

Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) Act 28 of 2002

Notice 648 of the Government Gazette 45421- general requirements for undertaking an

initial site sensitivity verification where no specific assessment protocol has been identified.

The next section in each Act is directly applicable to the identification, assessment, and evaluation

of cultural heritage resources.

GNR 982 (Government Gazette 38282, 14 December 2014) promulgated under the National

Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Act 107 of 1998

Basic Assessment Report (BAR) – Regulations 19 and 23

Environmental Impacts Assessment (EIA) – Regulation 23

Environmental Scoping Report (ESR) – Regulation 21

Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) – Regulations 19 and 23

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National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) Act 25 of 1999

Protection of Heritage Resources – Sections 34 to 36

Heritage Resources Management – Section 38

MPRDA Regulations of 2014

Environmental reports to be compiled for application of mining right – Regulation 48

Contents of scoping report – Regulation 49

• Contents of environmental impact assessment report – Regulation 50

Environmental management programme – Regulation 51

■ Environmental management plan – Regulation 52

The NEMA (No 107 of 1998) states that an integrated EMP should (23:2 (b)) "..identify, predict, and evaluate the actual and potential impact on the environment, socio-economic conditions, and cultural heritage".

In agreement with legislative requirements, EIA rating standards as well as SAHRA policies the following comprehensive and legally compatible PIA report have been compiled.

Palaeontological heritage is exceptional and non-renewable and is protected by the NHRA. Palaeontological resources and 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), an HIA is required to assess any potential impacts to palaeontological heritage within the development footprint where:

• the construction of a road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300 m in length.

• the construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50 m in length.

any development or other activity which will change the character of a site—

• (Exceeding 5 000 m² in extent; or

• involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or

• involving three or more erven or divisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or

• the costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority

• the re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m² in extent.

• or any other category of development provided for in regulations by SAHRA or a Provincial

heritage resources authority.

4 OBJECTIVE

The aim of a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) is to decrease the effect of the development

on potential fossils at the development site.

According to the 'SAHRA APM Guidelines: Minimum Standards for the Archaeological and

Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports" the purpose of the PIA is: 1) to

identify the palaeontological importance of the rock formations in the footprint; 2) to evaluate the

palaeontological magnitude of the formations; 3) to clarify the impact on fossil heritage; and 4) to

suggest how the developer might protect and lessen possible damage to fossil heritage.

The palaeontological status of each rock section is calculated as well as the possible impact of the

development on fossil heritage by a) the palaeontological importance of the rocks, b) the type of

development and c) the quantity of bedrock removed.

When the development footprint has a moderate to high palaeontological sensitivity a field-based

assessment is necessary. The desktop and the field survey of the exposed rock determine the impact

significance of the planned development and recommendations for further studies or mitigation are

made. Destructive impacts on palaeontological heritage usually only occur during the construction

phase while the excavations will change the current topography and destruct or permanently seal-in

fossils at or below the ground surface. Fossil Heritage will then no longer be accessible for scientific

research.

Mitigation usually precede construction or may occur during construction when potentially

fossiliferous bedrock is exposed. Mitigation comprises the collection and recording of fossils.

Preceding excavation of any fossils a permit from SAHRA must be obtained and the material will

have to be housed in a permitted institution. When mitigation is applied correctly, a positive impact

is possible because our knowledge of local palaeontological heritage may be increased

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.

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- 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/kml's) 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 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 Leeudoringstad 132kV Power Line to Vaal Reef Ten Power Station in North West Province is depicted on the 1:250 000 Wes-Rand 2626 (1986) and 2726 Kroonstad Geological map (2000) (Council of Geoscience, Pretoria) (Figure 4). The proposed development is underlain by the Allanridge Formation (Ra-dark green) (Venters dorp Supergroup) and the Rietgat Formation (R-Vr), (Platberg Group, Venters dorp Supergroup), while Quaternary sediments (yellow) are also present in the development. Updated geology (Council for Geosciences, Pretoria) of the proposed development indicates that the development is largely underlain by the Allanridge Formation (Venters dorp Supergroup), and Rietgat Formation (Platberg Group, Venters dorp Supergroup), while a small portion in the west is underlain by alluvium, colluvium, eluvium and gravel (Figure 5). According to the

PalaeoMap on the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) database, the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the Quaternary sediments and that of the Rietgat Formation is Moderate, while that of the Allanridge Formation is Low (Figure 6; Almond and Pether 2008, SAHRIS website). The Environmental Screening tool (Figure 7) differs from the SAHRIS PalaeoMap by indicating that the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the proposed development is Medium.

The Quaternary superficial deposits are the youngest geological deposits formed during the most recent period of geological time (approximately 2.6 million years ago to present). Most of the 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.

The Quaternary deposits are of most importance due to the palaeoclimatic changes that are reflected in the different geological formations (Hunter et al., 2006). During the climate fluctuations in the Cenozoic Era most geomorphologic features in southern Africa where formed (Maud, 2012). Barnosky (2005) indicated that various warming and cooling events occurred in the Cenozoic but states that climatic changes during the Quaternary Period, specifically the last 1.8 Ma, were the most drastic climate changes relative to all climate variations in the past. Climate variations that occurred 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).

Quaternary fossil assemblages are generally rare and low in diversity and occur over a wide-ranging geographic area. These fossil assemblages may in some cases occur in extensive alluvial and colluvial deposits cut by dongas. In the past palaeontologists did not focus on Caenozoic superficial deposits although they sometimes comprise of significant fossil deposits. These fossil assemblages resemble modern animals and may comprise of mammalian teeth, bones and horn corns, reptile skeletons and fragments of ostrich eggs. Microfossils, non-marine mollusc shells are also known from Quaternary deposits. Plant material such as foliage, wood, pollens and peats are recovered as well as trace fossils like vertebrate tracks, burrows, termitaria (termite heaps/mounds) and rhizoliths (root casts).

The Ventersdorp Supergroup comprise of the biggest and most wide-spread system of volcanic rocks in the Kaapvaal Craton. This Supergroup unconformably overlies the Witwatersrand Supergroup and is also unconformably overlain by the Transvaal Supergroup. The elliptical basin is approximately 300 000km² in extent. The type-area is located between Klerksdorp (North West), and Welkom and Bothaville (Free State). This Supergroup mantles most of the distribution area of the Witwatersrand Supergroup as well as the Dominion Group.

The best exposures of the Ventersdorp Supergroup are in the North West Province as well as in the Northern Cape Province, Gauteng, and southern Botswana. This Supergroup is divided in the Klipriviersberg Group (oldest) which is overlain by the Platberg Group followed by the sedimentary

Bothaville Formation and the volcanic Allanridge Formation (uppermost Ventersdorp unit, youngest Formation) (Figure 8).

The Platberg Group is subdivided in four formations namely the Kameeldoorns-, Goedgenoeg-, Makwassie-, and Rietgat Formations. These formations consist of heterogenous rock varying from chemical and classic sediments, to felsic and mafic volcanics. These rocks were deposited in linear vault troughs during grabed developments (Visser et al, 1975-1976, Buck, 1980). These deep intermontane grabens formed in older underlying andesitic terranes and formed areas of alluvial fan deposits and debris as well as scree flows. Ooids and stromatolites accumulated under lacustrine conditions in fine-grained chemical and terrigenous sediments. (Buck, 1980) Stromatolites were identified in the Rietgat Formation between Prieska and Britstown. In time fluvial processes prevailed causing wides pread prograding of alluvial fans across basins (Buck, 1980).

The Platberg is mostly absent in the north-east of the Venters dorp depository while the outcrops are erratic with changes in thickness. The type-area of the Platberg Group is between Welkom and Klerksdorp and was described by Winter (1976), while the Klerksdorp area was described by J.M. Myers (1990). The Rietgat Formation crops out in the, north, northwest, and southwest of Vryburg, south-southeast of Douglas, Taungs-Hartswater area, west of Klerksdorp, T'Kuip in the Northern Cape Province and southwest of Ventersdorp. The Rietgat Formation consist of alternating sedimentary and volcanic rocks which varies in thickness across the basin.

The uppermost volcanic Allanridge Formation crops out in the North West, Northern Cape, and Free State Provinces. Witmer (1976) came to the conclusion that the Allanridge Formation has a conformable relationship with the Bothaville Formation (deeper parts of the basin) while Keyser (1998), found a very prominent unconformable relationship in the direction of the northwestern boundary of the Venters dorp depository. The Allanridge formations consists primary of light greengrey porphyritic lava and pyroclastic rocks as well as dark-green amygdaloidal lava. The dark-green lava is the thickest unit in the Allanridge Formation. Both lava types consist of amygdales but is more wides pread in the dark-green lava.

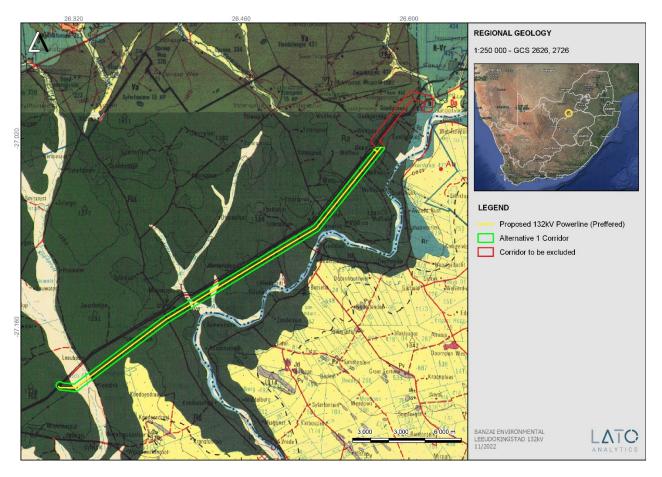


Figure 4: Extract of the 1:250 000 Wes-Rand 2626 (1986) and 2726 Kroonstad Geological map (2000) (Council of Geoscience, Pretoria) indicating the proposed development.

The proposed development is mainly underlain by the Allanridge Formation (Ra/Va, green) (Venters dorp Supergroup), a portion is underlain by the Rietgat Formation R-Vr (Venters dorp Supergroup), while Quaternary sediments (yellow) is also present in the development.

Table 3:Legend of the 1:250 000 Wes-Rand 2626 (1986) Geological map (Council of Geoscience, Pretoria)

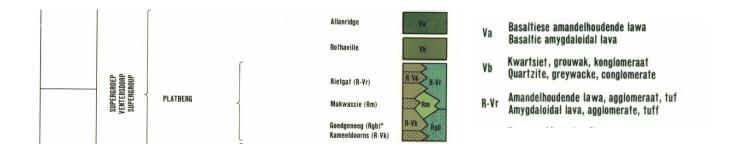


Table 4:Legend of the 1:250 000 Kroonstad 2726 Geological map (2000) Geological map (Council of Geoscience, Pretoria)





Figure 5: Updated geology (Council for Geosciences, Pretoria) of the proposed development indicates that the development is largely underlain by the Allanridge Formation (Venters dorp Supergroup), and Rietgat Formation (Platberg Group, Venters dorp Supergroup), while a small portion in the west is underlain by alluvium, colluvium, eluvium and gravel.

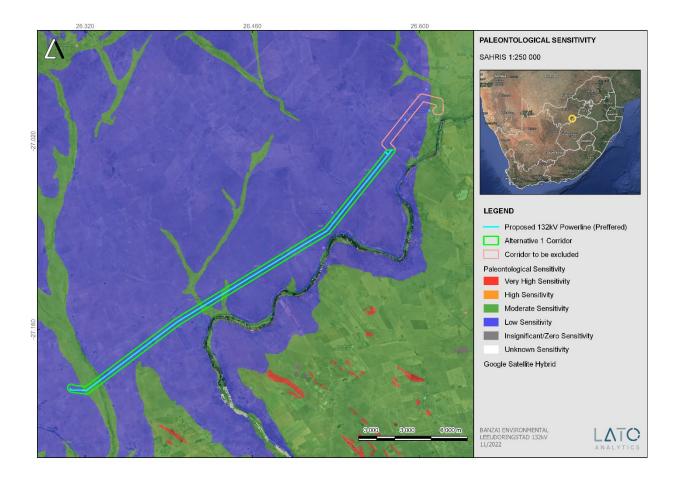


Figure 6: Extract of the 1 in 250 000 SAHRIS PalaeoMap (Council of Geosciences) indicating the location of the proposed development.

According to the SAHRIS Palaeosensitivity map (Figure 6) the proposed development is underlain by sediments with a Moderate (green; Quaternary sediments and Rietgat Formation), and Low (blue, Allanridge Formation) Palaeontological Significance.

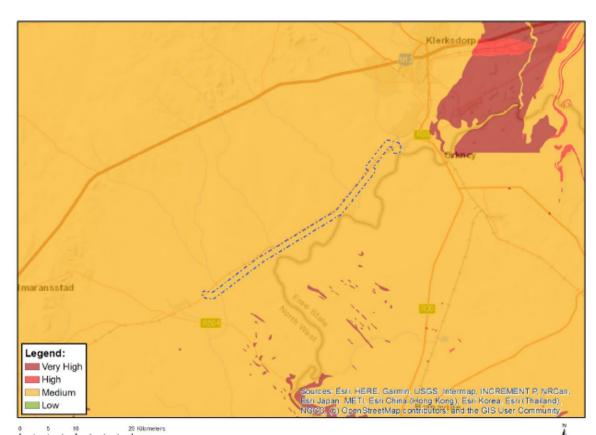


Table 5: SAHRIS Palaeos ensitivity ratings table.

The relevant sensitivities are highlighted

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.





MAP OF RELATIVE PALEONTOLOGY THEME SENSITIVITY

Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
		X	

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Features with a Low paleontological sensitivity
Medium	Features with a Medium paleontological sensitivity

Figure 7: Environmental Screening tool indicates that the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the proposed development is Medium.



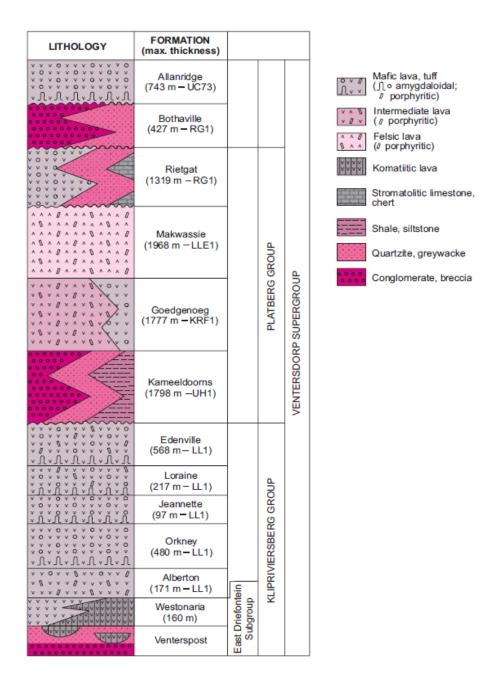


Figure 8: Venters dorp stratigraphy (Taken from Van Der Westhuizen and Bruiyn, 2006 after Winter, 1965, 1976; Linton et al., 1990 Meyers, 1990 and Meintjes, 1978).



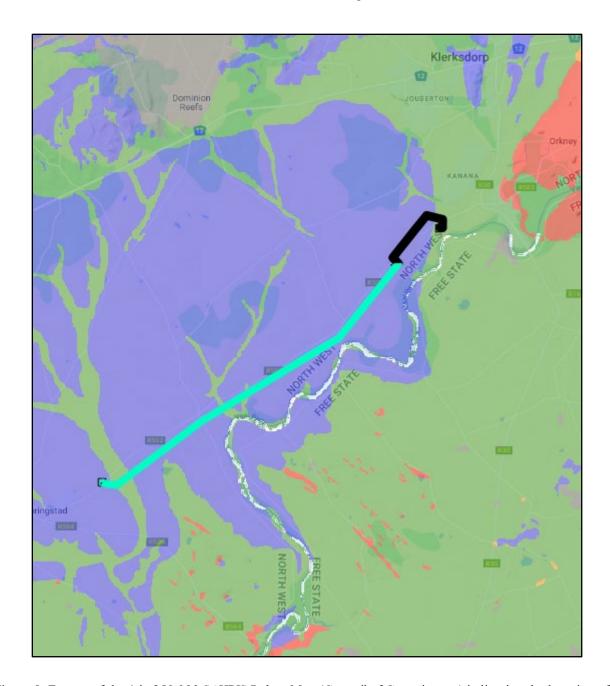


Figure 9: Extract of the 1 in 250 000 SAHRIS PalaeoMap (Council of Geosciences) indicating the location of the proposed development in regional context.

Developments to the immediate north and west of the Leeudoringstad Powerline will have a Zero to moderate Palaeontological Sensitivity and the developments to the north-east and south will have a High to moderate Palaeontological Sensitivity (see SAHRIS Palaeomap Figure 9). However, it is important to note that the quality of preservation of these different sites will most probably vary and it is thus difficult to allocate a

6

Cumulative Sensitivity to the projects. If all the mitigation measures are carried out, a conservative estimate of the Cumulative impacts on fossil Heritage will vary between Low and Medium.

6 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE SITE

The proposed Leeudoringstad Powerline is located about 5.5 km north east of Leeudoringstad, situated almost parallel to the R502 and is located to the west of the Vaal River in the North West Province.

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. Scientific research articles of research conducted in the area is also sourced and included in the Impact Assessment.

7.1 Assumptions and Limitations

When conducting a PIA several factors can affect the accuracy of the assessment. 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 not been reviewed by palaeontologists and data is generally based on aerial photographs. 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 used to provide information on the existence of fossils in an area which was not yet been documented. When similar Assemblage Zones and geological formations for Desktop studies is used it is generally **assumed** that exposed fossil heritage is present within the footprint.

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).
- A Google Earth map with polygons of the proposed development was obtained from SIVEST.
- 1:250 000 Wes-Rand 2626 (1986) and 2726 Kroonstad Geological map (2000) (Council of Geoscience, Pretoria)
- Updated Shape files produced by the Council of Geosciences (Pretoria).



9 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

9.1 1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) METHODOLOGY

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Methodology assists in evaluating the overall effect of a proposed activity on the environment. Determining of the significance of an environmental impact on an environmental parameter is determined through a systematic analysis.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Methodology assists in evaluating the overall effect of a proposed activity on the environment. Determining of the significance of an environmental impact on an environmental parameter is determined through a systematic analysis.

9.2 Determination of Significance of Impacts

Significance is determined through a synthesis of impact characteristics which include context and intensity of an impact. Context refers to the geographical scale (i.e. site, local, national or global), whereas intensity is defined by the severity of the impact e.g. the magnitude of deviation from background conditions, the size of the area affected, the duration of the impact and the overall probability of occurrence. Significance is calculated as shown in **Table 8**.

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 total number of points scored for each impact indicates the level of significance of the impact.

9.3 Impact Rating System

The impact assessment must take account of the nature, scale and duration of effects on the environment and whether such effects are positive (beneficial) or negative (detrimental). Each issue / impact is also assessed according to the various project stages, as follows:

Where necessary, the proposal for mitigation or optimization of an impact should be detailed. A brief discussion of the impact and the rationale behind the assessment of its significance has also been included.

The significance of Cumulative Impacts should also be rated (As per the Excel Spreadsheet Template).

9.3.1 1.2.1 Rating System Used to Classify Impacts

The rating system is applied to the potential impact on the receiving environment and includes an objective evaluation of the possible mitigation of the impact. Impacts have been consolidated into one

(1) rating. In assessing the significance of each issue, the following criteria (including an allocated point system) is used:



Table 6: Rating of Impacts

	ENVIRONMENTAL PARAMETER	
Fossil Heritage.		
	ONMENTAL EFFECT / NATURE	
Loss of Fossil Heritage		
EXTENT (E)		
	a over which the impact will be expressed. Typically, the s	
	scales and as such bracketing ranges are often required.	This is often useful during the detailed assessment of
a project in terms of furth	er defining the determined.	TT 1 1 00 11 1
2	Site Local/district	The impact will only affect the site 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
PROBABILITY (P)	mteriational and i vational	Whatever the entire country
This describes the chance	e of occurrence of an impact	
1	Unlikely	The chance of the impact occurring is
		extremely low (Less than a
2	D 71	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
REVERSIBILITY (R)		occurrence).
	e to which an impact on an environmental parameter can l	pe successfully reversed upon
completion of the propos		se successionly reversed upon
1	Completely reversible	The impact is reversible with
		implementation of minor mitigation
•	7.1	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
IRREPLACEABLE LOSS O	DE DESCUIDCES (I.)	measures exist.
This describes the degree	e to which resources will be irreplaceably lost as a result o	fa 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
	0: 10	resources.
3	Significant loss of resources	The impact will result in significant loss of
4	Complete loss of resources	resources. The impact is result in a complete loss of all
7	Complete loss of fesources	resources.
DURATION (D)	1	1
This describes the duration	on of the impacts on the environmental parameter. Duration	on indicates the lifetime of the
impact as a result of the		
1	Short term	The impact and its effects will either
		disappear with mitigation or will be mitigated
		through natural process in a span shorter than the construction phase $(0-1 \text{ years})$, or
		than the construction phase (0 – 1 years), or the impact and its effects 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 and its effects 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 $(10 - 50 \text{ years})$.
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 transient (Indefinite).
	INTENSITY / MAGNITUDE (I / N	
Describes the severity of	of an impact (i.e. whether the impact has the ab a system permanently or tempora	
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
3	High	integrity (some impact on integrity).
3		
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 (system collapse).
		Rehabilitation and remediation often
		impossible. If possible rehabilitation and
		remediation often unfeasible due to
		extremely high costs of rehabilitation and
	SIGNIFICANCE (S)	remediation.
The average of the different or	itania willimmadusa a mam waiahtad wahua. Du muu	ltiplying this value with the magnitude/intensity, the
	es a weighted characteristic which can be meas	
Points	Impact Significance Rating	Description
5 to 23	Negative Low impact	The anticipated impact will have negligible
3 to 23	regulive Low impact	negative effects and
		will require little to no mitigation.
5 to 23	Positive Low impact	The anticipated impact will have minor positive effects.
24 to 42	Negative Medium impact	The anticipated impact will have moderate
		negative effects and
		will require moderate mitigation measures.
24 to 42	Positive Medium impact	The anticipated impact will have moderate positive effects.
	Negative High impact	The anticipated impact will have significant
43 to 61		
43 to 61		effects and will require
43 to 61		effects and will require significant mitigation measures to achieve
		effects and will require significant mitigation measures to achieve an acceptable level of impact.
43 to 61 43 to 61	Positive High impact	effects and will require significant mitigation measures to achieve
		effects and will require significant mitigation measures to achieve an acceptable level of impact. The anticipated impact will have significant



		able to be mitigated adequately. These impacts
		could be considered "fatal flaws".
62 to 80	Positive Very high impact	The anticipated impact will have highly significant positive effects.

The table below is to be represented in the Impact Assessment section of the report. The excel spreadsheet template can be used to complete the Impact Assessment.

9.4 COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

Key

PREFERRED	The alternative will result in a low impact / reduce the impact / result in a positive impact
FAVOURABLE	The impact will be relatively insignificant
LEAST PREFERRED	The alternative will result in a high impact / increase the impact
NO PREFERENCE	The alternative will result in equal impacts

Alternative	Preference	Reasons (incl. potential issues)
POWERLINE ALTERNATIVES		
Powerline Alternative 1	No preference	The geology of the alternatives is the same and thus there are no preference between the alternatives
Powerline Alternative 2	No preference	The geology of the alternatives is the same and thus there are no preference between the alternatives

9.5 Summary of Impact Tables

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. As fossil heritage will be destroyed the impact is irreversible.

10 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed Leeudoringstad 132kV Power Line to Vaal Reef Ten Power Station in North West Province is underlain by the Allanridge Formation (Venters dorp Supergroup) and the Rietgat Formation (Platberg Group, Venters dorp Supergroup), while Quaternary sediments are also present in the development. Updated geology (Council for Geosciences, Pretoria) of the proposed development indicates that the development is largely underlain by the Allanridge Formation (Venters dorp Supergroup), and Rietgat Formation (Platberg Group, Venters dorp Supergroup), while a small portion in the west is underlain by alluvium, colluvium, eluvium and



gravel. According to the PalaeoMap on the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) database, the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the Quaternary sediments and that of the Rietgat Formation is Moderate, while that of the Allanridge Formation is Low (Almond and Pether 2008, SAHRIS website). The Environmental Screening tool differs from the SAHRIS PalaeoMap by indicating that the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the proposed development is Medium.

It is considered that the proposed development will not lead to detrimental impacts on the palaeontological resources of the area. The construction and operation of the project may be authorised, as the whole extent of the development footprint is not considered sensitive in terms of palaeontological heritage. If fossil remains or trace fossils are discovered during any phase of construction, either on the surface or exposed by excavations the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) in charge of these developments 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: www.sahra.org.za) so that mitigation can be carry out by a palaeontologist.

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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Appendix A

CURRICULUM VITAE

ELIZE BUTLER

PROFESSION: Palaeontologist

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EDUCATION: B.Sc Botany and Zoology, 1988

University of the Orange Free State

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Dissertation title: The postcranial skeleton of the Early Triassic non-mammalian Cynodont Galesaurus planiceps: implications for biology and lifestyle

MEMBERSHIP

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EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Part-time Laboratory assistant Department of Zoology & Entomology University

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Research Assistant National Museum, Bloem fontein 1993 – 1997

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TECHNICAL REPORTS

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