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18 March 2021

Dr Ragna Redelstorff
Heritage Officer Archaeology, Palaeontology & Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency
111 Harrington Street
Cape Town 8001

Dear Dr Redelstorff

RE: Request for Exemption of any Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Kilo Sands Township on Knoppieslaagte 385JR, Centurion, Gauteng Province.

In my capacity as a professional palaeontologist, I am requesting exemption for palaeontological impact assessment in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) which requires that the proposed development must be preceded by the relevant impact assessment, in this case for palaeontology.

The proposed construction of a residential township and associated amenities on the Kilo Sands property (Fig. 1) that has been greatly disturbed, and partially reclaimed, is on ancient granite-gneiss rocks of the Archaean Granitoids that are about 3340 million year old (Fig. 2). These rocks forming the Johannesburg Dome are part of the Kaapvaal Craton and represent some of the oldest crustal rocks in the world (Robb et al., 2006). Such rocks are volcanic in origin, have been partly metamorphosed (ibid). There is no chance at all of any fossils being preserved in these rocks, and this is confirmed by the grey colour (insignificant to zero) in the SAHRIS palaeosensitivity map (Fig. 3).

Therefore, we request that no palaeontological impact be required, and that as far as the palaeontology is concerned, the proposed project may proceed.



Figure 1: Google Earth map of the proposed site for the Kilo Sands Township indicated within the red outline.

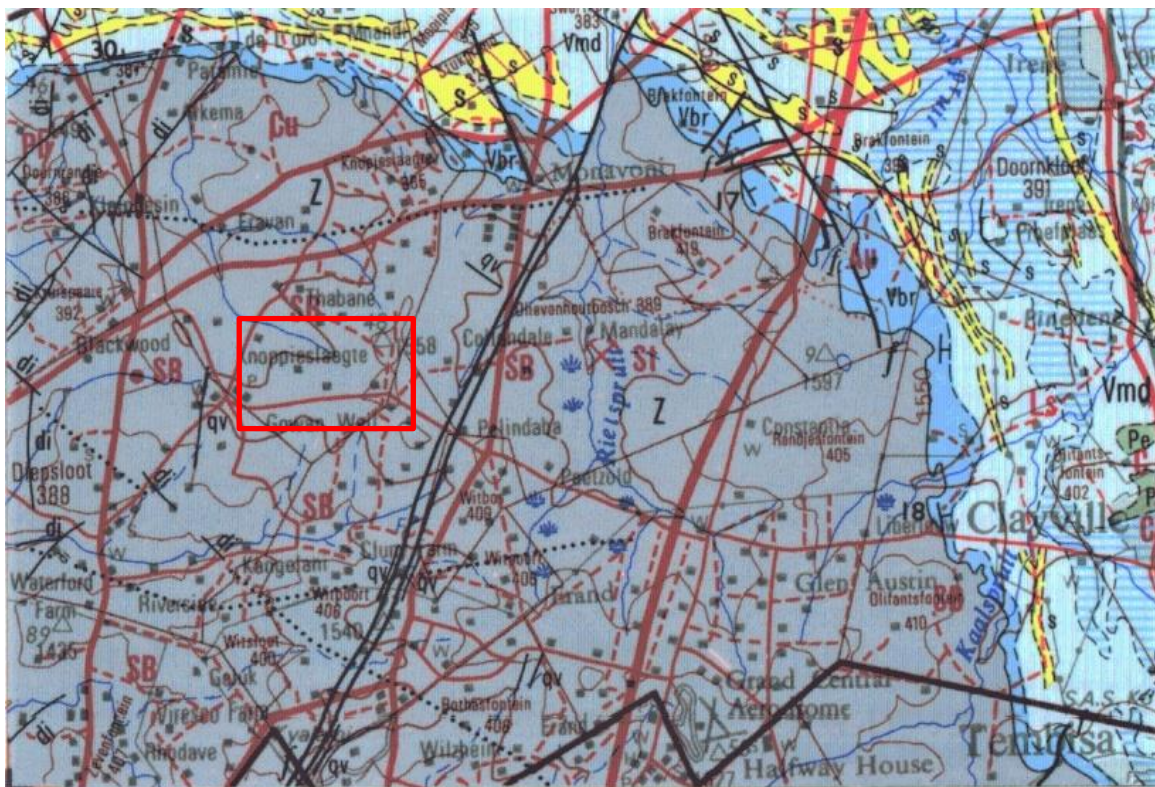


Figure 2: Geological map of the area around the Kilo Sands Residential project as indicated within the red rectangle. Abbreviations of the rock types are: Z = granite, granite gneiss of the Johannesburg dome. Map enlarged from the Geological Survey 1: 250 000 map 2528 Pretoria.



Figure 3: SAHRIS palaeosensitivity map for the site for the proposed Kilo Sands Township shown within the red rectangle. Background colours indicate the following degrees of sensitivity: red = very highly sensitive; orange/yellow = high; green = moderate; blue = low; grey = insignificant/zero.

Yours faithfully

Prof Marion Bamford
Palaeobotanist; PhD (Wits 1990)

Reference cited:

Robb, L.J., Brandl, G., Anhaeusser, C.R., Poujol, M., 2006. Archaean Granitoid Intrusions. In: Johnson, M.R., Anhaeusser, C.R. and Thomas, R.J., (Eds). The Geology of South Africa. Geological Society of South Africa, Johannesburg / Council for Geoscience, Pretoria. Pp 57-94.

Declaration of Independence

This letter has been compiled by Professor Marion Bamford, of the University of the Witwatersrand, sub-contracted by Elemental Sustainability, South Africa. The views expressed in this report are entirely those of the author and no other interest was displayed during the decision making process for the Project.

Specialist: Prof Marion Bamford

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Bamford', with a horizontal line underneath.

Signature: