Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the Section 102 amendment for Kendal Plots expansion, north of Kendal, Mpumalanga Province

Site Visit Report (Phase 2)

For

Amber Earth (Pty) Ltd

19 November 2022

Prof Marion Bamford
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Expertise of Specialist

The Palaeontologist Consultant: Prof Marion Bamford
Qualifications: PhD (Wits Univ, 1990); FRSSAf, ASSAf
Experience: 33 years research; 25 years PIA studies

Declaration of Independence

This report has been compiled by Professor Marion Bamford, of the University of the Witwatersrand, sub-contracted by Amber Earth (Pty) Ltd, Tigerpoort, 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

Signature: 

Executive Summary

A site visit Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) is required for a Section 102 Mining Right amendment on Kendal Plots in order to begin opencast mining. The site is used for agriculture and the previously cleared and ploughed lands are now covered in short secondary grassland. The Mzimkhulu Colliery is between the N4 and the R555, north of Kendal and West of Ogies, Mpumalanga Province.

To comply with the regulations of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA), a site visit (Phase 2) Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) was completed for the proposed development.

The site lies on the potentially very highly sensitive Vryheid Formation (Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup) that could have fossils of the *Glossopteris* flora in the carbonaceous lenses associated with the coal seams. The site visit and walk through on 15th November 2022 by palaeontologists confirmed that there are NO FOSSILS visible on the surface which is disturbed from earlier clearing and ploughing by current and is now covered by secondary short grassland. There were no rocky outcrops that could have fossils. Therefore, a Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the EMPr. Based on this information it is recommended that no further palaeontological impact assessment is required unless fossils are found by the contractor, developer, environmental officer or other designated responsible person once excavations, drilling or mining activities have commenced. Since the impact will be low to moderate, as far as the palaeontology is concerned, the project should be authorised provided that the Fossil Chance Find Protocol is followed.

Table of Contents

1. Background

A site visit Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) is required for a Section 102 Mining Right amendment on behalf of Mzimkhulu Mining (Pty) Ltd in order to mine on the southern part of the Mining Right on Kendal Plots or agricultural holdings. The active quarry is between the N4 highway and R555 provincial road, just north of Kendal and west of Ogies, (Figures 1-2). The proposed area for new mining operations is adjacent to and south of the Mzimkhulu colliery (yellow polygon in Figure 2) and the mine office is on the northwest corner.

A Palaeontological Impact Assessment was requested for the amendment to the Kendal Plots Mining Right. To comply with the regulations of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA), a site visit and walkthrough (Phase 2) Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) was completed for the proposed development and is reported herein.

Table 1: National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended) - Requirements for Specialist Reports (Appendix 6).

	A specialist report prepared in terms of the Environmental Impact Regulations of 2017 must contain:	**Relevant section in report**
ai	Details of the specialist who prepared the report,	Appendix B
aii	The expertise of that person to compile a specialist report including a curriculum vitae	Appendix B
b	A declaration that the person is independent in a form as may be specified by the competent authority	Page 2
c	An indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the report was prepared	Section 1
ci	An indication of the quality and age of the base data used for the specialist report: SAHRIS palaeosensitivity map accessed – date of this report	Yes
cii	A description of existing impacts on the site, cumulative impacts of the proposed development and levels of acceptable change	Section 5
d	The date and season of the site investigation and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment	June; winter
e	A description of the methodology adopted in preparing the report or carrying out the specialised process	Section 2
f	The specific identified sensitivity of the site related to the activity and its associated structures and infrastructure	Section 4
g	An identification of any areas to be avoided, including buffers	N/A

	A specialist report prepared in terms of the Environmental Impact Regulations of 2017 must contain:	**Relevant section in report**
h	A map superimposing the activity including the associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the site including areas to be avoided, including buffers;	N/A
i	A description of any assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge;	Section 5
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 4
k	Any mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr	Section 8, Appendix A
l	Any conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation	N/A
m	Any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or environmental authorisation	Section 8, Appendix A
ni	A reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed activity or portions thereof should be authorised	Section 6
nii	If the opinion is that the proposed activity 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	Sections 6, 8
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 of 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 gazetted 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.	N/A

Figure 1: Google Earth map of the proposed development by Mzimkhulu on Kendal Plots (pale yellow polygons) showing the relevant land marks.

Figure 2: Aerial map for the Mzimkhulu Mining right area extension on Kendal Plots south of the N4 highway. Map supplied by Amber Earth.

2. Methods and Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for this study were to undertake a PIA and provide feasible management measures to comply with the requirements of SAHRA.
The methods employed to address the ToR included:

1. Consultation of geological maps, literature, palaeontological databases, published and unpublished records to determine the likelihood of fossils occurring in the affected areas. Sources included records housed at the Evolutionary Studies Institute at the University of the Witwatersrand and SAHRA databases;
2. Where necessary, site visits by a qualified palaeontologist to locate any fossils and assess their importance, as is the case here;
3. Where appropriate, collection of unique or rare fossils with the necessary permits for storage and curation at an appropriate facility (*not applicable to this assessment*); and
4. Determination of fossils' representivity or scientific importance to decide if the fossils can be destroyed or a representative sample collected (*not applicable to this assessment*).

3. Geology and Palaeontology

i. Project location and geological context

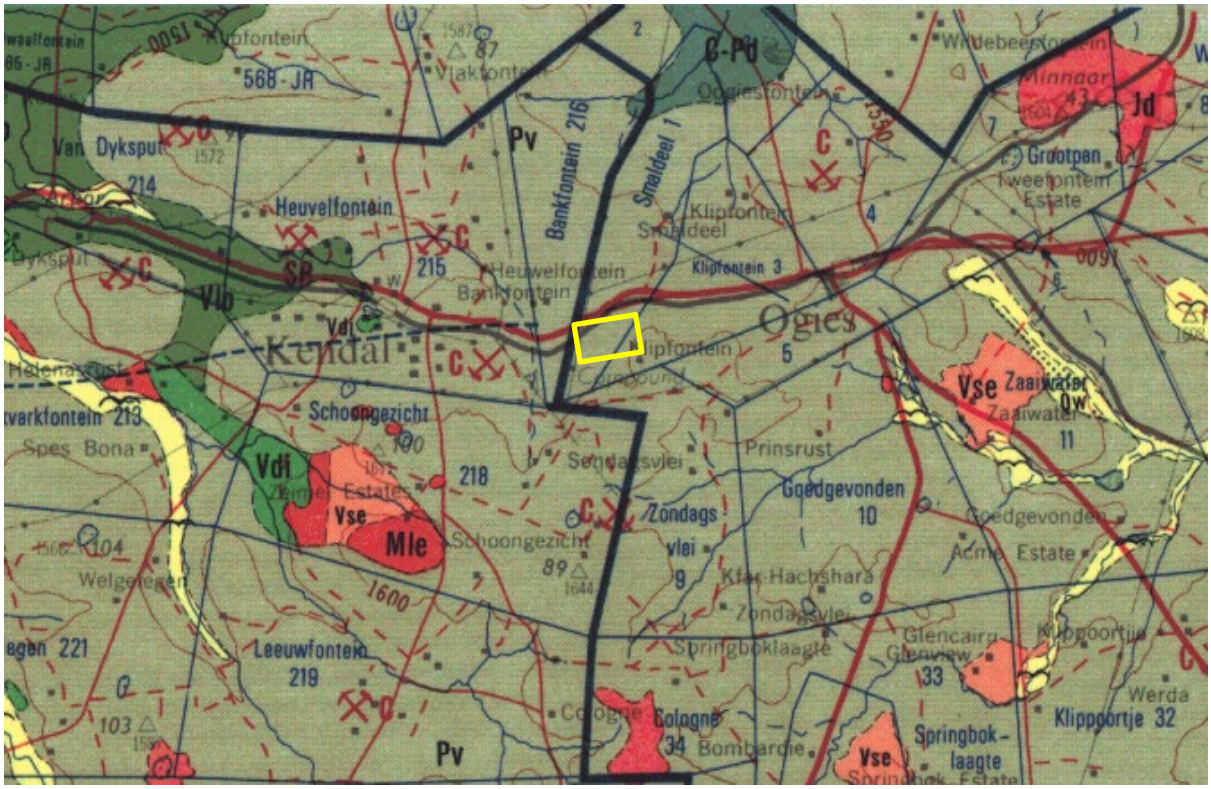

Figure 3: Geological map of the area around the Kendal Plots Collieries with the project area within the yellow outline. Abbreviations of the rock types are explained in Table 2. Map enlarged from the Geological Survey 1: 250 000 map 2628 East Rand.

Table 2: Explanation of symbols for the geological map and approximate ages (Johnson et al., 2006; Partridge et al., 2006). SG = Supergroup; Fm = Formation; Ma = million years; grey shading = formations impacted by the project.

Symbol	Group/Formation	Lithology	Approximate Age
Qs	Quaternary	Alluvium, sand, calcrete	Quaternary, ca 1.0 Ma to present
Pv	Vryheid F, Ecca Group, Karoo SG	Siltstone, shale, sandstone, coal	Early Permian ca 290-280 Ma
C-Pd	Dwyka Group, Karoo SG	Tillites, diamictite, mudstones	Late Carboniferous to Early Permian. Ca 290 Ma
Mle	Lebowa Granite Suite, Bushveld Igneous Complex	granite	Palaeoproterozoic Ca 2080-1880 Ma
Vdi	diabase	Intrusive volcanic rocks	Post-Transvaal SG
Vse	Selons River Fm (now Schrikkloof Fm), Rooiberg Group, Transvaal SG	Porphyritic rhyolite, interbedded mudstone, sandstone	Palaeoproterozoic Ca 2202 Ma

The site lies in the north-central part of the Karoo basin where the early Karoo Supergroup strata unconformably overlie the much older quartzites of the Transvaal Supergroup, in the Transvaal Basin. Intruding through the Pretoria Group rocks are sills and dykes composed of diabase, a volcanic and non-fossiliferous rock. The southeastern extension of the Selons River Formation (Rooiberg Group) outcrops in this area. Along the rivers and streams much young reworked sands and alluvium overly the older strata (Figure 3).

The Karoo Supergroup rocks cover a very large proportion of South Africa and extend from the northeast (east of Pretoria) to the southwest and across to almost the KwaZulu Natal south coast. It is bounded along the southern margin by the Cape Fold Belt and along the northern margin by the much older Transvaal Supergroup rocks. Representing some 120 million years (300 – 183Ma), the Karoo Supergroup rocks have preserved a diversity of fossil plants, insects, vertebrates and invertebrates.

During the Carboniferous Period South Africa was part of the huge continental landmass known as Gondwanaland and it was positioned over the South Pole. As a result, there were several ice sheets that formed and melted, and covered most of South Africa (Visser, 1986, 1989; Isbell et al., 2012). Gradual melting of the ice as the continental mass moved northwards and the earth warmed, formed fine-grained sediments in the large inland sea. These are the oldest rocks in the system and are exposed around the outer part of the ancient Karoo Basin, and are known as the **Dwyka Group** (Johnson et al., 2006).

Overlying the Dwyka Group rocks are rocks of the Ecca Group that are Early Permian in age. There are eleven formations recognised in this group but they do not all extend throughout the Karoo Basin. In the Free State, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu Natal, from the base upwards are the Pietermaritzburg Formation, **Vryheid Formation** and the

Volksrust Formation. All of these sediments have varying proportions of sandstones, mudstones, shales and siltstones and represent shallow to deep water settings, deltas, rivers, streams and overbank depositional environments.

ii. Palaeontological context

Figure 4: SAHRIS palaeosensitivity map for the Mzimkhulu Colliery S102 expansion shown within the yellow rectangle. Background colours indicate the following degrees of sensitivity: red = very highly sensitive; orange/yellow = high; green = moderate; blue = low; grey = insignificant/zero.

The palaeontological sensitivity of the area under consideration is presented in Figure 4. The site for development is in the very highly sensitive Vryheid Formation (red).

The Dwyka Group has fragmentary material of the early *Glossopteris* flora and some fish and invertebrates, but there are no records from the eastern Karoo Basin. The Vryheid Formation contains the main coal reserves of South Africa. Coals are the product of the alteration of buried peats by heat and pressure to form amorphous organic matter. No fossil plants are visible in the coal itself but can sometimes be found in the carbonaceous lenses between and adjacent to the coal seams. Here the original plants can be seen, the *Glossopteris* flora. This flora is dominated by the extinct seed fern, *Glossopteris*, but other plants were also present such as lycopods, sphenophytes, ferns, cordaitaleans and early gymnosperms (Plumstead, 1969; Anderson and Anderson, 1985; Bamford, 2004). Vertebrate fossils seldom are found with plant fossils because they require different environments for preservation. Plants require a more reducing environment while bones need a more oxidizing environment (Cowan, 1995).

Although the *Glossopteris* flora is widespread in Gondwana, the occurrence is sporadic and difficult to predict. In this area, the Witbank Coalfield, there are usually five coal seams, from bottom to top called 1-5 (Snyman, 1988). The uppermost seam is overlain by sandstone in most areas and is 20 or meters below the lands surface (Snyman, 1998; fig 16).

Figure 5: Google Earth map of the Kendal Plots S102 area to be mined. Yellow pins indicate the observation stops (see Table 3; Figures 6-11; Appendix C).

iii. Site visit observations

The area was walked through by palaeontologists Rick Tolchard and Bailey Weiss Montgomery on 15 November 2022. They searched for rocky outcrops because soils do not preserve fossils. The area has been disturbed by agricultural and peri-urban buildings and is covered by secondary vegetation. There were no outcrops or fossils visible on the surface and no fossils in the discard. Photographs of the area and walk through observations are given in Table 3 and Figures 5-11. The GPS coordinates of the route are given in Appendix C. Observations started at the mine office in the northwest, proceeded due south, then from the northwest, due east then south.

There were no rocky outcrops at all that might have fossils. The entire area is disturbed and has a cover of sandy soil and short secondary grassland. Looking at eh adjacent mine, the uppermost coal seam is only a few metres below the land surface.

Table 3: Site observations and relevant figures. The long list of the route map GPS points is in Appendix C.

Observations	Figures
South of the existing Mzimkhulu Colliery and start of the survey at the mine offices. View south showing the disturbed grasslands that have been cleared and ploughed in the past. Note the generally flat topography, very short grass and lack of any rocky outcrops. Dilapidated fences are common in the area.	6A-D.
Heading southwards to see more flat farmlands and exotic vegetation of gum trees and wattles along the fence lines. The short grasses reveal rather sandy soils. No rocky outcrops and no fossils.	7AD
Heading eastwards along the northern boundary. Same flat grasslands on abandon ploughed fields. D – existing excavation shows deep, rather oxidised, sandy soils with no rocks and no fossils.	8A-D
Close-up of the gravel and sandy soil mix that is common on the site. B – one larger cobble is dolerite, not shale. No carbonaceous shale and no fossils.	9A-D
Southeast corner with the same secondary, short grassland on flat fields. Old walling around a dwelling with exotic trees in the "garden". No rocky outcrops. More walling and sandy road showing native soils and sand.	10A-D
More secondary short grassland. Unpaved road shows the sandy nature of the soil. Some busier roads have what appears to be coal dust laid down on them, adding to the disturbance. No rocky outcrops and no fossils.	11A-D

Figure 6: Photographs from the site visit for the proposed S102 Amendment for Kendal Plots Mining Right. Northwest corner. See Table 3 for information.

Figure 7: Photographs from the site visit for the proposed S102 Amendment for Kendal Plots Mining Right. South west. See Table 3 for information.

Figure 8: Photographs from the site visit for the proposed S102 Amendment for Kendal Plots Mining Right. North central. See Table 3 for information

Figure 9: Photographs from the site visit for the proposed S102 Amendment for Kendal Plots Mining Right. Northwest corner. See Table 3 for information.

Figure 10: Photographs from the site visit for the proposed S102 Amendment for Kendal Plots Mining Right. Southeast corner. See Table 3 for information.

Figure 11: Photographs from the site visit for the proposed S102 Amendment for Kendal Plots Mining Right. Northwest corner. See Table 3 for information.

Summary of site observations

No fossils and no rocky outcrops of shales that could preserve fossils were visible in the unmined areas. These fields have been cleared and planted in the past. They have deep sandy soils coving the underground strata. No shales or carbonaceous shales were evident in the area, and no fossils were seen.

4. Impact assessment

An assessment of the potential impacts to possible palaeontological resources considers the criteria encapsulated in Table 4:

Table 4a: Criteria for assessing impacts

PART A: DEFINITION AND CRITERIA		
Criteria for ranking of the SEVERITY/NATURE of environmental impacts	**H**	Substantial deterioration (death, illness or injury). Recommended level will often be violated. Vigorous community action.
	M	Moderate/ measurable deterioration (discomfort). Recommended level will occasionally be violated. Widespread complaints.
	L	Minor deterioration (nuisance or minor deterioration). Change not measurable/ will remain in the current range. Recommended level will never be violated. Sporadic complaints.
	L+	Minor improvement. Change not measurable/ will remain in the current range. Recommended level will never be violated. Sporadic complaints.
	M+	Moderate improvement. Will be within or better than the recommended level. No observed reaction.
	H+	Substantial improvement. Will be within or better than the recommended level. Favourable publicity.
Criteria for ranking the DURATION of impacts	**L**	Quickly reversible. Less than the project life. Short term
	M	Reversible over time. Life of the project. Medium term
	H	Permanent. Beyond closure. Long term.
Criteria for ranking the SPATIAL SCALE of impacts	**L**	Localised - Within the site boundary.
	M	Fairly widespread – Beyond the site boundary. Local
	H	Widespread – Far beyond site boundary. Regional/ national
PROBABILITY (of exposure to impacts)	**H**	Definite/ Continuous
	M	Possible/ frequent
	L	Unlikely/ seldom

Table 4b: Impact Assessment

PART B: Assessment		
SEVERITY/NATURE	**H**	-
	M	-

PART B: Assessment		
	L	Soils and sands do not preserve plant fossils; so far there are no records from the Vryheid formation of plant or animal fossils in this site so it is very unlikely that fossils occur on the site. The impact would be very unlikely.
	L+	-
	M+	-
	H+	-
DURATION	**L**	-
	M	-
	H	Where manifest, the impact will be permanent.
SPATIAL SCALE	**L**	Since the only possible fossils within the area would be fossil plants from the *Glossopteris* flora in the shales, the spatial scale will be localised within the site boundary.
	M	-
	H	-
PROBABILITY	**H**	**-**
	M	It is extremely unlikely that any fossils would be found in the loose sand and soil that cover the area but there might be fossils below the ground. Therefore, a Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the eventual EMPr.
	L	

Based on the nature of the project, surface activities may impact upon the fossil heritage if preserved in the development footprint. The geological structures suggest that the rocks are the correct age and type to preserve fossils. The site visit and walk through confirmed that there were NO FOSSILS on the surface of the project footprint. Since there is a chance that fossils from the Vryheid Formation may occur below ground and be disturbed a Fossil Chance Find Protocol has been added to this report. Taking account of the defined criteria, the potential impact to fossil heritage resources is low to moderate.

5. Assumptions and uncertainties

Based on the geology of the area and the palaeontological record as we know it, it can be assumed that the formation and layout of the dolomites, sandstones, shales and sands are typical for the country and do contain fossil plant, insect, invertebrate and vertebrate material. The site visit and walk through on 15 November 2022 by palaeontologists Rick Tolchard and Bailey Weiss confirmed that there were no fossils on the surface. fossils. It is not known if there are fossils below the surface associated with the deeper coal seams.

6. Recommendation

Based on the fossil record but confirmed by the site visit and walk through there are NO FOSSILS of the *Glossopteris* flora on the surface even though fossils have been collected and recorded from rocks of a similar age and type in South Africa. It is extremely unlikely that any fossils would be preserved in the overlying soils and sands of the Quaternary. There is a chance that fossils may occur in below the ground surface in the shales of the Vryheid Formation so a Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the EMPr. If fossils are found by the environmental officer, or other responsible person once mining, excavations or drilling have commenced, then they should be rescued and a palaeontologist called to assess and collect a representative sample.

7. References

Anderson, J.M., Anderson, H.M., 1985. Palaeoflora of Southern Africa: Prodromus of South African megafloras, Devonian to Lower Cretaceous. A.A. Balkema, Rotterdam. 423 pp.

Bamford, M.K. 2004. Diversity of woody vegetation of Gondwanan southern Africa. Gondwana Research 7, 153-164.

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Isbell, J.L., Henry, L.C., Gulbranson, E.L., Limarino, C.O., Fraiser, F.L., Koch, Z.J., Ciccioli, P.l., Dineen, A.A., 2012. Glacial paradoxes during the late Paleozoic ice age: Evaluating the equilibrium line altitude as a control on glaciation. Gondwana Research 22, 1-19.

Johnson, M.R., van Vuuren, C.J., Visser, J.N.J., Cole, D.I., Wickens, H.deV., Christie, A.D.M., Roberts, D.L., Brandl, G., 2006. Sedimentary rocks of the Karoo Supergroup. 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 461 – 499.

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Snyman, C.P., 1998. Coal. In: Wilson, M.G.C., and Anhaeusser, C.P., (Eds). The Mineral Resources of South Africa: Handbook, Council for Geosciences 16, 136-205.

Visser, J.N.J., 1986. Lateral lithofacies relationships in the glacigene Dwyka Formation in the western and central parts of the Karoo Basin. Transactions of the Geological Society of South Africa 89, 373-383.

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8. Chance Find Protocol

Monitoring Programme for Palaeontology – to commence once the excavations / drilling / mining activities begin.

1. The following procedure is only required if fossils are seen on the surface and when drilling/excavations/mining commence.
2. When excavations begin the rocks and must be given a cursory inspection by the environmental officer or designated person. Any fossiliferous material (trace fossils, fossils of plants, insects, bone or coalified material) should be put aside in a suitably protected place. This way the project activities will not be interrupted.
3. Photographs of similar fossils must be provided to the developer to assist in recognizing the fossil plants, vertebrates, invertebrates or trace fossils in the shales and mudstones (for example see Figure 12). This information will be built into the EMP's training and awareness plan and procedures.
4. Photographs of the putative fossils can be sent to the palaeontologist for a preliminary assessment.
5. If there is any possible fossil material found by the developer/environmental officer/miners then the qualified palaeontologist sub-contracted for this project, should visit the site to inspect the selected material and check the dumps where feasible.
6. Fossil plants or vertebrates that are considered to be of good quality or scientific interest by the palaeontologist must be removed, catalogued and housed in a suitable institution where they can be made available for further study. Before the fossils are removed from the site a SAHRA permit must be obtained. Annual reports must be submitted to SAHRA as required by the relevant permits.
7. If no good fossil material is recovered then no site inspections by the palaeontologist will be necessary. A final report by the palaeontologist must be sent to SAHRA once the project has been completed and only if there are fossils.
8. If no fossils are found and the excavations have finished then no further monitoring is required.

Appendix A – Examples of fossils from the Vryheid Formation

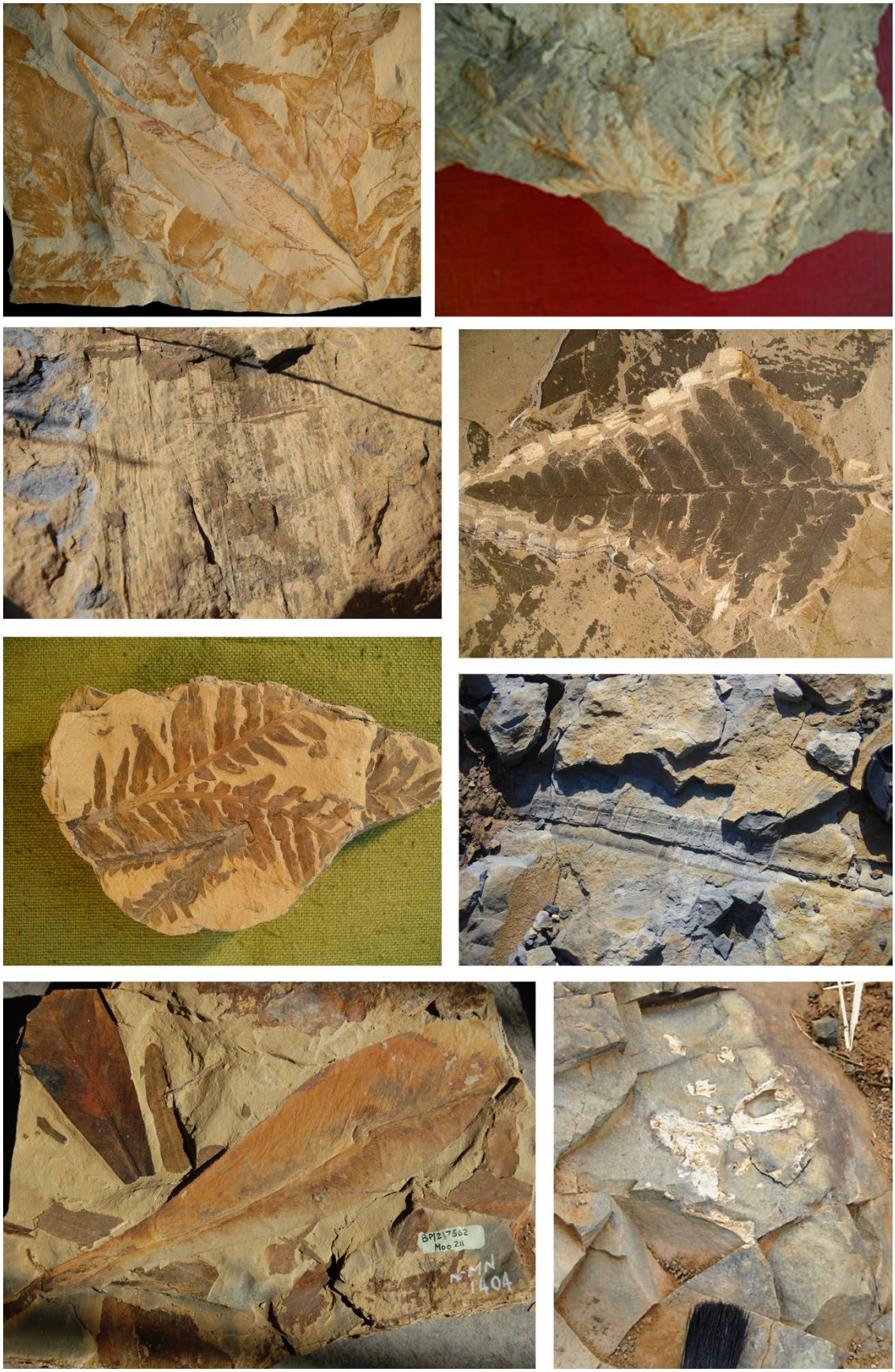

Figure 12: Photographs of fossil plants from the Vryheid Formation. Bottom right shows fossils bones still in the rocks of a river bed.

9. Appendix B – Details of specialists

Marion Bamford (PhD)

Short CV for PIAs – July 2022

I) **Personal details**

Present employment: Professor; Director of the Evolutionary Studies Institute. Member Management Committee of the NRF/DST Centre of Excellence Palaeosciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

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Cell : 082 555 6937
E-mail : marion.bamford@wits.ac.za ; marionbamford12@gmail.com

ii) **Academic qualifications**

Tertiary Education: All at the University of the Witwatersrand:
1980-1982: BSc, majors in Botany and Microbiology. Graduated April 1983.
1983: BSc Honours, Botany and Palaeobotany. Graduated April 1984.
1984-1986: MSc in Palaeobotany. Graduated with Distinction, November 1986.
1986-1989: PhD in Palaeobotany. Graduated in June 1990.

iii) **Professional qualifications**

Wood Anatomy Training (overseas as nothing was available in South Africa):
1994 - Service d'Anatomie des Bois, Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgium, by Roger Dechamps
1997 - Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France, by Dr Jean-Claude Koeniguer
1997 - Université Claude Bernard, Lyon, France by Prof Georges Barale, Dr Jean-Pierre Gros, and Dr Marc Philippe

iv) **Membership of professional bodies/associations**

Palaeontological Society of Southern Africa
Royal Society of Southern Africa - Fellow: 2006 onwards
Academy of Sciences of South Africa - Member: Oct 2014 onwards
International Association of Wood Anatomists - First enrolled: January 1991
International Organization of Palaeobotany – 1993+
Botanical Society of South Africa
South African Committee on Stratigraphy – Biostratigraphy - 1997 - 2016
SASQUA (South African Society for Quaternary Research) – 1997+
PAGES - 2008 –onwards: South African representative
ROCEEH / WAVE – 2008+
INQUA – PALCOMM – 2011+onwards

vii) **Supervision of Higher Degrees**

All at Wits University

Degree	Graduated/completed	Current
Honours	11	0
Masters	14	1
PhD	11	6
Postdoctoral fellows	12	2

viii) **Undergraduate teaching**
Geology II – Palaeobotany GEOL2008 – average 65 students per year
Biology III – Palaeobotany APES3029 – average 25 students per year
Honours – Evolution of Terrestrial Ecosystems; African Plio-Pleistocene Palaeoecology; Micropalaeontology – average 12 - 20 students per year.

ix) **Editing and reviewing**
Editor: Palaeontologia africana: 2003 to 2013; 2014 – Assistant editor
Guest Editor: Quaternary International: 2005 volume
Member of Board of Review: Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology: 2010 –
Associate Editor: Cretaceous Research: 2018-2020
Associate Editor: Royal Society Open: 2021 -
Review of manuscripts for ISI-listed journals: 25 local and international journals

x) **Palaeontological Impact Assessments**

Selected from recent project only – list not complete:

- Mala Mala 2017 for Henwood
- Modimolle 2017 for Green Vision
- Klipoortjie and Finaalspan 2017 for Delta BEC
- Ledjadja borrow pits 2018 for Digby Wells
- Lungile poultry farm 2018 for CTS
- Olienhout Dam 2018 for JP Celliers
- Isondlo and Kwasobabili 2018 for GCS
- Kanakies Gypsum 2018 for Cabanga
- Nababeep Copper mine 2018
- Glencore-Mbali pipeline 2018 for Digby Wells
- Remhoogte PR 2019 for A&HAS
- Bospoort Agriculture 2019 for Kudzala
- Overlooked Quarry 2019 for Cabanga
- Richards Bay Powerline 2019 for NGT
- Eilandia dam 2019 for ACO
- Eastlands Residential 2019 for HCAC
- Fairview MR 2019 for Cabanga
- Graspan project 2019 for HCAC
- Lieliefontein N&D 2019 for Enviropro
- Skeerpoort Farm Mast 2020 for HCAC
- Vulindlela Eco village 2020 for 1World
- KwaZamakhule Township 2020 for Kudzala
- Sunset Copper 2020 for Digby Wells
- McCarthy-Salene 2020 for Prescali
- VLNR Lodge 2020 for HCAC
- Madadeni mixed use 2020 for Enviropro

- Frankfort-Windfield Eskom Powerline 2020 for 1World
- Beaufort West PV Facility 2021 for ACO Associates
- Copper Sunset MR 2021 for Digby Wells
- Sannaspos PV facility 2021 for CTS Heritage
- Smithfield-Rouxville-Zastron PL 2021 for TheroServe
- Glosam Mine 2021 for AHSA

Xi) **Research Output**
Publications by M K Bamford up to January 2022 peer-reviewed journals or scholarly books: over 160 articles published; 5 submitted/in press; 10 book chapters.
Scopus h-index = 30; Google Scholar h-index = 36; -i10-index = 95
Conferences: numerous presentations at local and international conferences.

Mr Frederick Tolchard
Brief Curriculum Vitae – March 2022

Academic training
BA Archaeology – University of the Witwatersrand, graduated 2015
BSc (Honours) Palaeontology – University of the Witwatersrand, 2017 with distinction
MSc Palaeontology – University of the Witwatersrand, 2018 – 2019. Graduated 2020 with Distinction
PhD Palaeontology – Wits – 2020 - current

Field Experience
Honours Fieldtrip – Karoo biostratigraphy – April 2017
Research fieldwork – Elliot Formation with Prof Choiniere – April 2018, Nov 2018; April 2019; Sept 2021

Publications
Tolchard, F., Nesbitt, S.J., Desojo, J.B., Viglietti, P.A., Butler, R.J. and Choiniere, J.N., 2019. 'Rauisuchian' material from the lower Elliot Formation of South Africa: Implications for late Triassic biogeography and biostratigraphy. Journal of African Earth Sciences, 160, 103610.

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PIA fieldwork projects
2018 May – Williston area – SARAO project, Digby Wells
2018 September – Lichtenburg PVs – CTS Heritage
2018 November – Nomalanga farming – Digby Wells

2019 January – Thubelisha coal – Digby Wells
2019 March – Matla coal – Digby Wells
2019 March – Musina-Machado SEZ – Digby Wells
2019 June – Temo coal – Digby Wells
2019 September – Makapanstad Agripark – Plantago
2020 January – Hendrina, Kwazamakuhle – Kudzala
2020 February – Hartebeestpoort Dam - Prescali
2020 March – Twyfelaar Coal mine – Digby Wells
2020 March – Ceres Borrow Pits – ACO Associates
2020 March – Copper Sunset Sand – Digby Wells
2020 October – Belfast loop and Expansion – Nsovo
2020 October – VLNR lodge Mapungubwe – HCAC
2020 November – Delmore Park BWSS - HCAC
2020 December – Kromdraai commercial – HCAC
2021 January – Welgedacht Siding – Elemental Sustainability
2021 March – Shango Kroonstad – Digby Wells
2021 May – Copper Sunset sand mining – Digby Wells
2021 August – New Largo Pit – Golder
2021 August – Khutsong Ext 8 housing, Carletonville, for Afzelia
2021 September – Lichtenburg PV facility – CTS Heritage
2021 October – Ogies South MR – beyondgreen
2021 October – Nooitgedacht Colliery MR – Shangoni
2022 January – Sigma PVs Sasolburg – CTS Heritage
2022 March – Taaibosch Puts PVs – CTS Heritage
2022 March – Modder East Operations – Prime Resources
2022 March – Driefontein mine revised infrastructure – Amber Earth
2022 March – Transnet MPP Access routes, inland and coastal for ENVASS
2022 June – Roodepoort MRA, Kriel for Eco-Elementum

Bailey M. Weiss CV

October 2022

I am currently enrolled as a PhD student at the University of the Witwatersrand, Evolutionary Studies Institute under the supervision of Prof Jonah Choiniere. The title of my thesis is "*The origin of crocodilians: functional anatomy, growth history, systematics, and phenotypic variation*." In 2021 I completed an MSc at the University of the Free State (UFS), on a research project entitled: *Bone microanatomy of Anomodontia (Synapsida: Therapsida) from the Karoo Basin of South Africa*. That project was supervised by Dr Jennifer Botha (National Museum, Bloemfontein) and Co-Supervised by Dr Alexandra Houssaye (Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris). I completed my BSc honours degree in which I completed a research project entitled: *Limb bone histology of theropod dinosaurs from the Early Jurassic of South Africa*. This project was supervised by Dr Jennifer Botha. I majored in Genetics and Zoology for my BSc degree. I have worked as an Osteohistology Technician at the National Museum, Bloemfontein, as well as a Laboratory Assistant at the UFS. I have been on two Palaeontological field trips one with the National Museum in the Balfour and

Katberg Formations. The other with the University of the Witwatersrand in the Lower Elliot Formation of South Africa.

Qualifications

BSc – Majors: Genetics and Geology - University of the Free State – 2018
BSc Honours – Palaeontology – University of the Free State – 2019
MSc – Palaeontology – University of the Free State – 2021.
PhD – Palaeontology – University of the Witwatersrand – registered Jan 2022

PIA fieldwork Experience

July 2021 – Sannaspos PV Facility, Free State for CTS Heritage
October 2021 – Beatrix Mine-Theunissen Eskom powerline for 1World
March 2022 – Taaibosch Puts PV – for CTS Heritage
March 2022 – Transnet MPP Coastal access routes – for ENVASS
October 2022 – Nndanganeni Colliery – for Eco-Elementum

References:

Dr Jennifer Botha, Head of Palaeontology, National Museum, Bloemfontein
jbotha@nasmus.ac.za

Prof Jonah Choiniere, Evolutionary Studies Institute, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
Jonah.choiniere@wits.ac.za

10. Appendix C – GPS points for walkthrough.

General location	GPS points
Northwest corner	26° 01’ 36.16” S; 28° 57’ 35.75”E
Southwest corner	26° 01’ 51.88” S; 28° 56’ 57.51” E
Northeast corner	26° 01’ 34.89” S; 28° 57’ 27.26” E
Southeast corner	26° 01’ 53.35” S; 28° 57’ 20.51” E