



## BPI for Palaeontological Research

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Mr. Warwick Goosen  
Bethlehem Property Development (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 70406  
Bryanston  
2021  
E-Mail: [warwick@tintswalo.com](mailto:warwick@tintswalo.com)

Dear Mr Goosen,

### **Dihlabeng Mall, Bethlehem - Palaeontological Impact Study**

As requested, I have undertaken a palaeontological desk top study for the proposed Dihlabeng Mall development which will incorporate Erf 3371 and portion of Erf 4752 in Bethlehem, Free State Province (Figure 1).

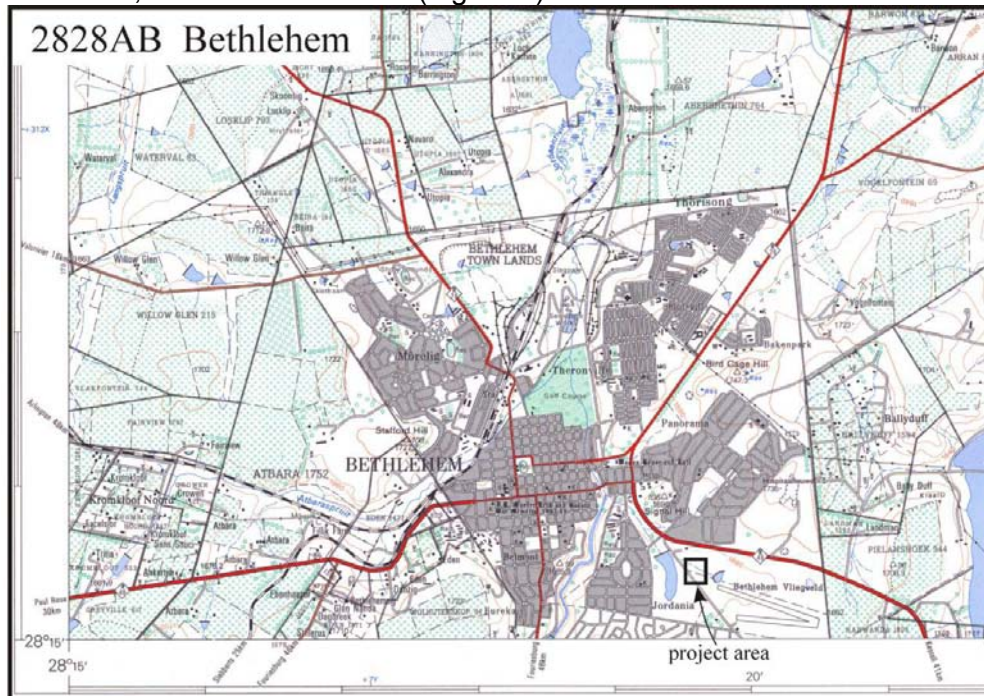


Figure 1: Map showing locality of project within Bethlehem

The town of Bethlehem and the surrounding highland areas are situated on rocks of the Karoo Supergroup. Bethlehem itself is on rocks of the Triassic *Cynognathus* Assemblage Zone of the Burgersdorp Formation of the Beaufort Group. Rocks of this formation, when exposed, are known to be rich in fossil tetrapods.



*Figure 2: Oblique aerial photograph of the site for the proposed Mall development*

Desk top investigation of the proposed site for the Dihlabeng Mall development (Figure 2) shows it to be in an area where the soil profile is very thick and no rocks are exposed (Figure 3).



*Figure 3: Trench showing the thickness of soil cover*

Because of the very thick soil cover in the area to be developed it is very unlikely that excavations for the proposed development will expose fossil-bearing rocks of the Beaufort Group. From a palaeontological perspective I propose that development should

proceed, but if excavations expose red mudrocks of the Beaufort Group a palaeontologist must be consulted to determine whether fossils are present.

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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Rubidge', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

**Bruce Rubidge** PhD, FGSSA, Pr Sci Nat