

NATURA VIVA cc
Palaeontological Impact Assessments & Heritage Management,
Natural History Education, Tourism, Research

Attn: Ms Margot van Heerden
The Matrix...cc Urban Designers and Architects
22 Lansdowne Place
Port Elizabeth 6001

Date: 16 February 2009

**RECOMMENDED EXEMPTION FROM
PALAEOLOGICAL IMPACT STUDY**

**Proposed SAPS Call Centre Building, Richmond Hill,
Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape Province**

The proposed development of a four storey building on erven 530 and 4126 off Richmond Crescent, Port Elizabeth is underlain by Orodvcian sediments of the Peninsula Formation, lower Table Mountain Group (Toerien & Hill 1989, Le Roux 2000). In the Western Cape this geological unit is predominantly fluvial and unfossiliferous, but has yielded sparse trace fossils (*eg* trilobite burrows) from sporadic marine-influenced successions (Almond 1998). In the Eastern Cape similar fossil occurrences have not yet been reported and may have been largely destroyed by the more intense folding and faulting of the Table Mountain Group within the eastern portion of the Cape Fold Belt. Minor mudrock intervals within the Peninsula Formation are likely to have originally contained marine microfossils such as acritarchs, as reported from the underlying Sardinia Bay Formation, though again these may have been mostly destroyed by tectonism in the Port Elizabeth area (Gaucher & Germs 2006, Almond *et al.* 2008).

The proposed development is not considered to pose a significant threat to palaeontological heritage and in my view no further palaeontological impact studies are required.

Should fossil remains be encountered during development, however, the responsible ECO should inform SAHRA at the earliest opportunity to consider possible mitigation measures.

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