

Mr John Pether, M.Sc., Pr. Sci. Nat. (Earth Science)

Geological and Palaeontological Consultant

P. O. Box 48318, Kommetjie, 7976.

Tel./Fax: (021) 7833023. Cellphone: 083 744 6295. Email: jpether@iafrica.com. Faxmail: 0866 890732

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Dr A. Jerardino
Archaeological Heritage Impact Assessor
Archaeology, Palaeontology & Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Mr N. Wiltshire
Senior Heritage Officer
Heritage Western Cape

**SUURPLAAT WIND MONITORING MASTS – REVIEW OF NEED FOR PALAEOLOGICAL
DESKTOP ASSESSMENTS**

Email Ref.:

From: "ANTONIETA JERARDINO" <AJERARDINO@sahra.org.za>

To: "John Von Mayer" <john@savannahsa.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2009 11:46 AM

Subject: Re: Proposed Wind Monitoring Masts near Suurplaat

Dear Antonieta, Nic,

I have been contacted by Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd, Ms Karen Jodas, about the need for PIAs for these wind monitoring mast sites.

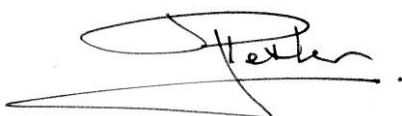
These sites are on flattish areas of stony veld (see <http://www.savannahsa.com/projects/index.php>, page down to Suurplaat Project, Appendix B). The immediately underlying bedrock is Beaufort Group sandstones (Karoo Supergroup). These are often fossiliferous. This contrasts with the masts intended near Darling and Paternoster that are on disturbed agricultural land.

The masts will stand on concrete slab bases <1 m² and ≤0.5 m thick. On stony ground, this involves removal of loose soil and casting a concrete slab directly onto the *in situ* bedrock. Each mast is supported by an array of stays. It is conceivable that securing the stay anchors (pegs) in bedrock terrain might require the drilling of small-diameter holes in the bedrock ~5 cm diameter to ~0.5 m.

In my opinion, the masts have a negligible impact on potential palaeontological heritage due to the small footprint (<1 m²) and shallow topsoil depth of the concrete base plates, and small drilled holes for stay anchors.

Due to the minimal subsurface affected, I respectfully suggest that PIAs are not necessary in the case of these temporary structures.

Yours faithfully,



John Pether