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EVOLUTIONARY STUDIES INSTITUTE

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03 March 2022

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 clearing of indigenous vegetation for agriculture on Farm Uguhleni 698 JT, west of Barberton, Mpumalanga 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 farm (Fig. 1) lies on ancient, igneous rocks of the Kaap Valley Granite (hornblende-biotite granite) and undifferentiated granite that are too old of the incorrect type to preserve any fossils at all (Fig. 2). This is confirmed by the grey colouration in the SAHRIS palaeosensitivity map (Fig. 3). Since there is no chance of any fossils occurring in the area to be cleared or environs, we request exemption from any further palaeontological studies, as far as the palaeontology is concerned, that the project may be authorised.

Figure 1: Google Earth site map for the proposed clearing for agriculture on Uguhleni 698 JT indicated by the thin black outline. Coordinates: 25° 47' 02.36"S and 30° 55' 20.47"E.

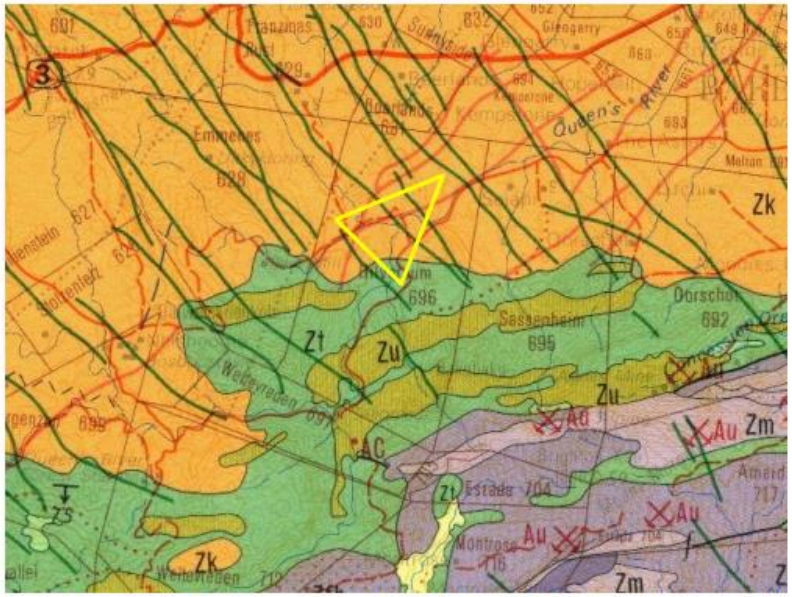

Figure 2: Geological map of the area around the farm Uguhleni 698 JT. The location of the proposed project is indicated within the yellow triangle. Abbreviations of the rock types are: Zk = Kaap Valley Granite; Zt = undifferentiated granites. Map enlarged from the Geological Survey 1: 250 000 map 2530 Barberton.

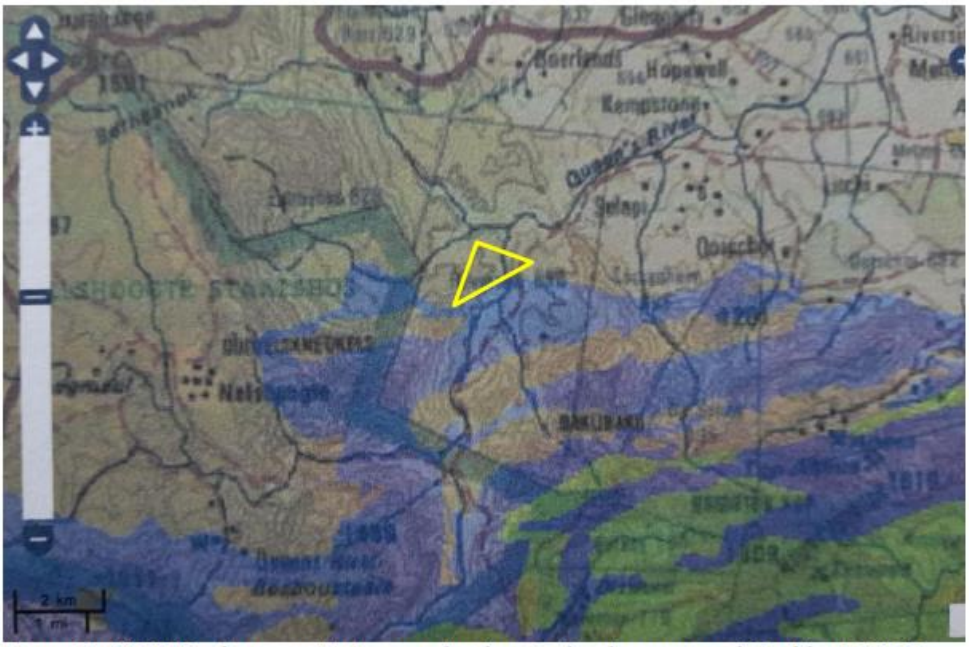

Figure 3: SAHRIS palaeosensitivity map for the site for the proposed Uguhleni 698 JT clearing for agriculture shown within the yellow triangle. Background colours indicate the following degrees of sensitivity: red = very highly sensitive; orange/yellow = high; green = moderate; blue = low; grey = insignificant/zero.

Yours faithfully

MKBamford

Prof Marion Bamford
Palaeobotanist; PhD (Wits 1990)

Declaration of Independence

This letter has been compiled by Professor Marion Bamford, of the University of the Witwatersrand, sub-contracted by Henwood Environmental Services, Mbombela, 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

MKBamford

Signature: