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17 September 2013

Mr Brian Gardner  
**Seaton Thomson & Associates**  
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Dear Mr Gardner,

**Palaeontological Scoping Report – Wits Rural Facility**

As requested, herewith a letter of exemption with regard to the palaeontological aspect of environmental management relevant to the proposed upgrade of the Wits Rural Facility on portion 175 of the farm Guernsey 81 KU near Acornhoek, Limpopo Province.

As is evident from my report, the proposed upgrade will not have any impact on palaeontological heritage.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Rubidge".

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

# PALAEONTOLOGICAL SCOPING REPORT

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a scoping Palaeontological Impact Assessment report on the proposed upgrade of the Wits Rural Training Facility which includes the demolition of disused structures, the use of existing structures and the development of new Infrastructure on Portion 175 of the farm Guernsey 81 KU near Acornhoek, Limpopo Province. The entire area is underlain by the Precambrian Klaserie Gneiss.

In my opinion this development will not negatively affect palaeontological heritage as it overlies plutonic igneous rock and will not contain fossils.

## INTRODUCTION

The study area is located close to Acornhoek, Limpopo Province and is situated on Portion 175 of the farm Guernsey 81 KU

The University of the Witwatersrand wishes to upgrade its building facilities on the property. This paleontological assessment is part of several specialist investigations to be done.

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- a. Specialist Expertise  
Palaeontology/ Stratigraphy/ Geology
- b. Declaration of Independence



Signature:

Date: 18 September 2013

**1. Developer:**

The University of the Witwatersrand  
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**Report Date: 17 September 2013**

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The study area is located between Acornhoek and Klaserie in Limpopo Province. The University of the Witwatersrand wishes to upgrade its building facilities for educational and research purposes and is undertaking the necessary environmental impact analyses.

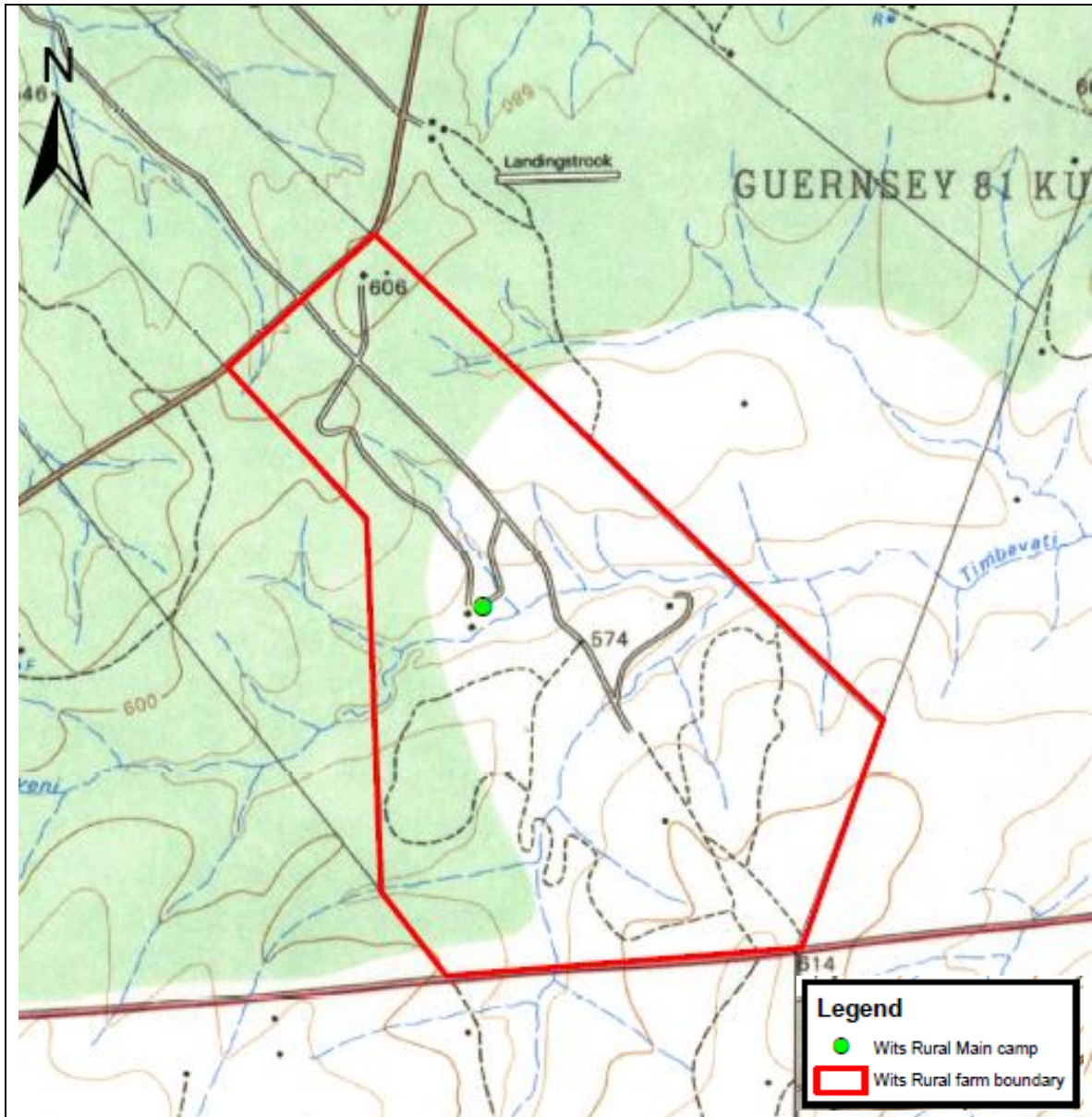


Figure 1. Topographic map (1:50 000) showing the geographic locality of the Wits Rural Facility.

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

The Wits Rural Facility is situated on Portion 175 of the farm Guernsey 81 KU near Acornhoek, Limpopo Province (Fig 1).

## GEOLOGICAL SETTING

Following the published 1:250 000 Geological Map Series of South Africa (Sheet 2430 Pilgrim's Rest 1986) (Figure 2) the area for the proposed development is situated on the Swazian Klaserie Gneiss which is a coarse grained Quartz Veldspar Biotite Gneiss and is of plutonic igneous origin.

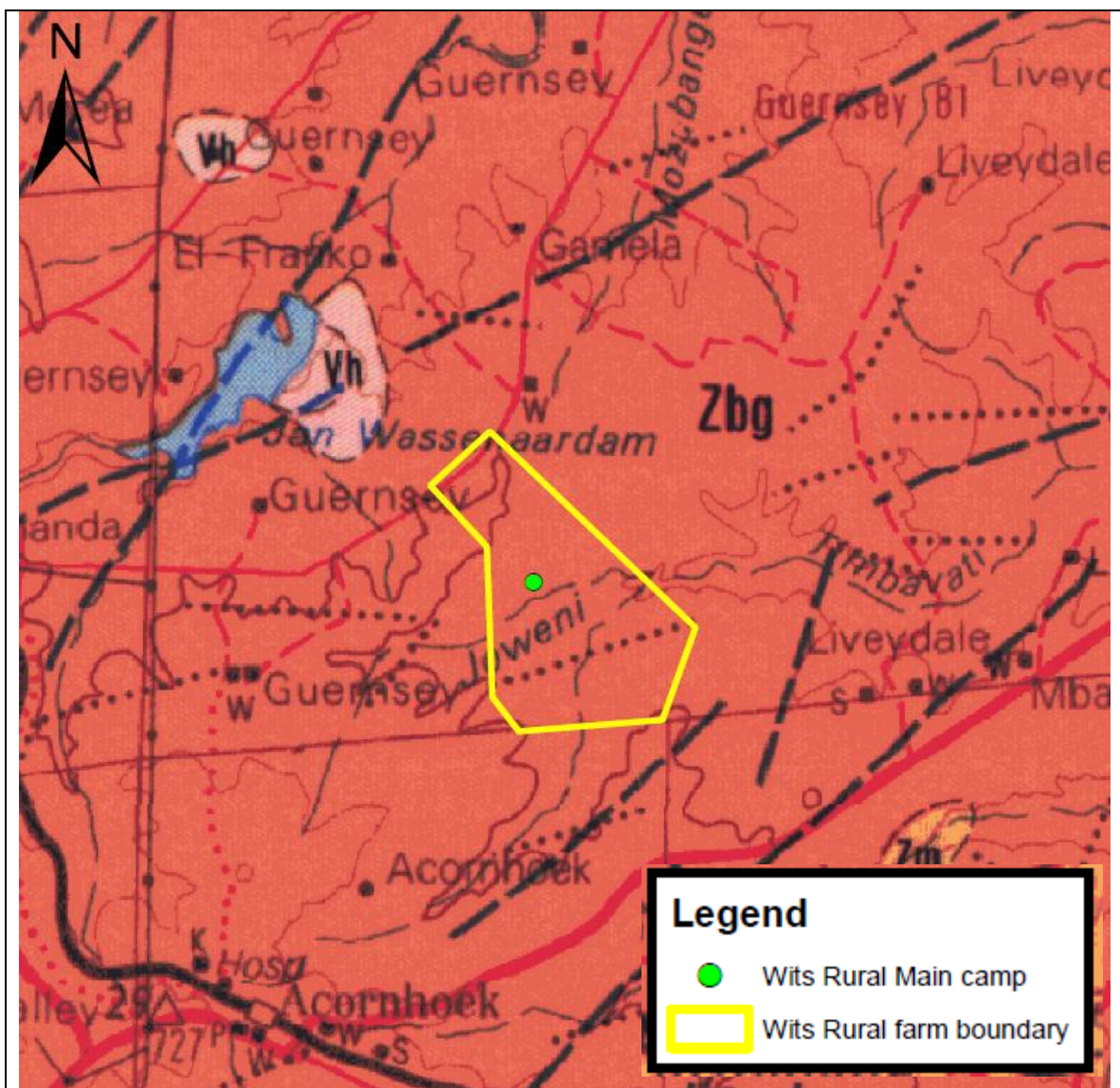


Figure 2: Geological map of the study area showing the position of the Wits Rural Facility relative to the geology.

## **BACKGROUND TO PALAEOLOGY OF STUDY AREA**

As the Klaserie Gneiss, which underlies the study area, is of plutonic igneous origin there is no possibility of fossils being present.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

In my opinion this development will not negatively affect palaeontological heritage and suggest that, from a paleontological perspective, this development should proceed without any mitigating clauses.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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