

APPLICATION FORM

NOTIFICATION FOR INTENT TO DEVELOP (NID)

Section 38(1) and Section 38(8)

Completion of this form is required by Heritage Western Cape for the initiation of all impact assessment processes under Section 38 (1) & (8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA).

As per Section 38(1)(e) of the NHRA, submission of the NID must be initiated at the earliest stage of development. Should the development trigger any other legislation, practitioners may submit the NID without formal submission to other statutory bodies in order to comply with the NHRA.

This form is to be read in conjunction with the HWC Notification of Intent to Develop, Heritage Impact Assessment, (Pre-Application), Basic Assessment Reports, Scoping Reports and Environmental Impact Assessments.

All sections of the form must be completed in order to deem the application to be complete.

Making an incorrect statement or providing incorrect information may result in all or part of the application having to be reconsidered by HWC in the future, or submission of a new application.

HERITAGE WESTERN CAPE REFERENCE NO., AS PROVIDED DURING SCRUTINY:

HWC24110808

SECTION A

APPLICATION MADE IN TERMS OF:

- Section 38(1) of the NHRA (This development will not require a NEMA application)
- Section 38(8) of the NHRA (This development requires an application with another authority)
- Amendment of approved Site Development Plan (SDP) for endorsement. Endorsements are only reviewed upon submission of an assessment by the heritage practitioner confirming heritage design indicators as approved are not compromised by the revision
- Advice in terms of Section 38(1)

APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LEGISLATION:

Specify the authorised department that makes the final decision in terms of NEMA (National Environmental Act.), i.e. Department of Mineral Resources, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Western Cape, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment etc.: _____ Department of Mineral Resources_____

Reference number of authority / government department: _____ not yet available _____

Present phase at which the process with that authority stands: _____ pre-application phase _____

PREVIOUS HWC APPLICATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE SITE AND OR DEVELOPMENT

Provide details of any previous applications submitted to HWC on the site.

HWC Reference No.	NHRA Section	Summary of Proposal	Application Status (Approved, Not Approved, Pending)	Permit / Record of Decision Date

SECTION B

DETAILS OF SITE, PROPERTY OR PLACE

Physical address or Location (e.g., of the R44): Off R44_____

Erf or Farm Name and No. (including the name of the site): Portion 2 of BONNE ESPERANCE 83

Coordinates for logical center point (WGS84): S33° 13' 33.85" E19° 00' 13.00"

Town: between Gouda and Saron District / Municipality: Tulbagh District/Drakenstein Municipality

Property Extent: 553.39 ha Current land Use: agriculture

Current zoning: agriculture

Predominant land uses of surrounding properties: agriculture

SECTION C

APPLICANT / AUTHORISED AGENT – Details of person to receive Record of Decision

Name: Gary Hirst

Company: Power Construction (Pty) Ltd.


Address and postal code: Cnr. Strand (R102) and Wimbledon Roads, Blackheath, 7580

Cellular phone number: 0823016989

E-mail: nbezuidenhout@powergrp.co.za

Signature:  Digitally signed by Gary Hirst Date: 18 November 2024

REGISTERED OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name: A J du Plessis Boenderg (Edms) Bph 

Identity number of applicant: ~~7006165080086~~ 1999/002098/07

Address and postal code: _____

Cellular phone number: 0845155678

E-mail: andredup7004@gmail.com

Declaration: I, A J du Plessis am fully aware of this application and accept its contents and declare that I intend to undertake the actions as proposed in this application.

Signature:  Date: 18/11/2024

SECTION D

DETAIL OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Provide a full description of the nature and extent of the proposed development.

Power Construction (Pty) Ltd intends to applied for a mining permit to mine 5 ha of a portion of portion 2 of the farm Bonne Esperance 83, Tulbagh, Western Cape Province.

The proposed mining footprint will be 5 ha and will be developed over an undisturbed area of the farm occasionally used for agriculture. The mining method will make use of loading insitu material by means of earth moving equipment. The material will be loaded and hauled to the mobile crushing / screening plant where it will be screened to various sized stockpiles and transported to clients via tipper trucks. The silty sand and quartzitic sandstone pebbels will be stockpiled until it is transported from site. All mining related activities will be contained within the approved mining permit boundaries .

The proposed mining area is approximately 5 ha is extent and the applicant, intends to win material from the area for at least 2 years with a possible extension of another 3 years. The silty sand and quartzitic sandstone pebbels to be removed from the borrow pit will be used for construction industry in the vicinity by providing material to the Berg and Zen Wind Farm projects and other related and non-related projects in the area. The proposed borrow pit will therefore contribute to the upgrading / maintenance of infrastructure and building contracts in and around the Gouda / Tulbagh area.

The mining activities will consist out of the following:

- The mining activities will consist out of the following:
- Stripping and stockpiling of topsoil;
- Excavating / Loading of insitu material;
- Stockpiling and transporting;
- Sloping and landscaping upon closure of the site; and replacing the topsoil and vegetation the disturbed area.

The mining site will contain the following:

- Excavating / loading equipment;
- Earth moving equipment;

- Access Roads;
- Site office (Container);
- Site vehicles;
- Parking area for visitors and site vehicles;
- Ablution facilities (Chemical toilet).

The proposed project will not require any additional electricity connections, as power will be supplied, when needed, by generators. All diesel storage will be below the threshold as mentioned in the EIA regulations of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No 107 of 1998) as amended.

Access to the proposed mining area will be via the and existing gravel road of the R44. An entrance road (250m) and internal/haul roads will be constructed to access the mining area.

Haul roads will be extended as the open cast mining progress and will be rehabilitated as part of the final reinstatement of the area. Trucks delivering the materials to the destinations will make use of the R44.

Any water required for the implementation of the project will be bought and transported to site.

DEVELOPMENT DETAILS – Indicate which sections of the NHRA, or other legislation which requires a NID

PLEASE TICK THE APPROPRIATE BOX	
	Section 38(1)(a) Construction of a road, wall, powerline, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier over 300m in length.
	Section 38(1)(b) Construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length.
	Section 38(1)(c) Any development or activity that will change the character of a site:
	(i) exceeding 5 000m ² in extent.
	(ii) involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof.
	(iii) involving three or more erven or divisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years.
	*If (i), (ii) and/or (iii) are marked above, describe how the development will change the character of the site _____ _____ _____
	Section 38(1)(d) Rezoning of a site exceeding 10 000m ² in extent.

X	<p>Other triggers e.g., in terms of other legislation (NEMA, etc.) – Describe the details:</p> <p>____ Under NEMA the proposed mining application needs to be authorised through a Badic Assessment process. _____</p> <p>_____</p>
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ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST AND/ OR VALUE OF DEVELOPMENT UPON COMPLETION: R _____

SECTION E

PROVIDE A SHORT HISTORY OF THE SITE, PROPERTY OR PLACE – Include sources where applicable

Saron began as a mission station in the mid-19th century. The Reverend JH K lpmann started the mission station on a farm called De Leeuwenklip in 1846 and six years later it fell under the control of the Rhenish Mission Society with a church inaugurated one year later (Fransen, 2006).

Gouda does not feature in Fransen's (2006) list of towns originating prior to 1900 and a map of the south-western Cape dating from circa 1902 shows nothing in the vicinity of Gouda . The town started on a farm named Gouda and various origins of the name have been suggested. All share the notion of the word being Khoekhoen. It may have been from a word meaning "antelope" or "honey kloof" (Western Cape Tourism, 2007). The former meaning is also mentioned by Nienaber and Raper (1977) who mention the use of the "Bushman Rock " as a lookout point to scan the area for antelope to hunt. Other sources point towards a meaning along the lines of a dirty road or one with dung or faeces on it. They are certain, however, that the name does not relate to the town of that name in the Netherlands.

A precise date for the beginnings of the settlement at Gouda is unknown but it initially served as a railhead for Porterville until the new line linking Porterville with Riebeeck West through Hermon was constructed in 1929 (Siyabona Africa Travel, 2008). Prior to this the settlement was known as Porterville Road . While all of the northern part of the town is relatively recent, a number of the houses in the southern part are likely more than 60 years of age and thus included as protected heritage.

In recent years the town has been used as a centre for fruit packing with a large warehouse having been built in the eastern part.

Portion 2 of Bonne Esperance 83 was subdivided off in 1953 and registered in 1955.

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS ON HERITAGE RESOURCES

Section 3 of the NHRA sets out the following categories of heritage resource as forming part of the national estate. Please indicate the known presence of any of these by checking the box alongside and then providing a description of each occurrence, including nature, location, size, type

Failure to provide sufficient detail or to anticipate the likely presence of heritage resources on the site may lead to a request for more detailed specialist information.

IDENTIFICATION OF ALL HERITAGE RESOURCES ON THE SITE, PROPERTY OR PLACE AND ITS ENVIRONMENTS

Please indicate where applicable:

X	<p>Places, buildings, structures, and equipment of cultural significance:</p> <p>Description of Heritage Resource: The historical core (mission station) of Saron is more than 4 km from the site. There are a number of historical structures there and in the village to the north.</p> <p>Descriptions of Heritage Impact: No impacts expected.</p>
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	<p>Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage: Description of Heritage Resource: n/a</p> <p>Descriptions of Heritage Impact: n/a</p>
	<p>Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage: Description of Heritage Resource: n/a</p> <p>Descriptions of Heritage Impact: n/a</p>
X	<p>Historical settlements and townscapes: Description of Heritage Resource: The historical core (mission station) of Saron is more than 4 km from the site.</p> <p>Descriptions of Heritage Impact: No impacts expected.</p>
X	<p>Landscapes and natural features of cultural significance: Description of Heritage Resource: The mountains immediately east of the site are a visually significant landscape component.</p> <p>Descriptions of Heritage Impact: The development is small and temporary so will not have any significant impact on the landscape.</p>
	<p>Geological resources of scientific or cultural significance: Description of Heritage Resource: n/a</p> <p>Descriptions of Heritage Impact: n/a</p>
X	<p>Archaeological resources – Incl. archaeological sites and material, rock art, battlefields, and wrecks etc.: Description of Heritage Resource: Archaeological material in the form of Early Stone Age artefacts was present on the site. However, the artefact density was far lower than expected, considering that sufficient material was present on the wind farm site to the south to justify mitigation work. Just eight artefacts were seen on the site (all illustrated in the supporting document).</p> <p>Descriptions of Heritage Impact: No significant impacts expected.</p>
X	<p>Palaeontological resources – i.e., fossils, geological formations etc.: Description of Heritage Resource: Because the site is shown as largely unknown sensitivity, a palaeontological statement was obtained to inform this NID. Prof. Marion Bamford notes that “the project footprint lies on the Quaternary sand and terrace gravels and on the phyllites, schist and greywacke of the Porterville Formation... of the Malmesbury Group.” She continues that “the Malmesbury Group rocks have been metamorphosed by pressure and uplift so if they had originally contained any fossils they would have been destroyed.”</p> <p>The mining will target the unconsolidated surficial materials. Of these, Bamford notes “the overlying mantle of sands, gravels and alluvium were eroded from the surrounding rocks and deposited in low-lying or catchment areas. Such mobile materials do not preserve fossils because low energy, fine-grained, oxygen-excluded materials are required to preserve organic material.”</p> <p>Descriptions of Heritage Impact: No significant impacts expected. No significant impacts expected.</p>

	<p>Graves and burial grounds – e.g.: ancestral graves, graves of victims of conflict, historical graves, cemeteries etc.:</p> <p>Description of Heritage Resource: n/a</p> <p>Descriptions of Heritage Impact: n/a</p>
	<p>Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa:</p> <p>Description of Heritage Resource: n/a</p> <p>Descriptions of Heritage Impact: n/a</p>
	<p>Other heritage resources:</p> <p>Description of Heritage Resource: n/a</p> <p>Descriptions of Heritage Impact: n/a</p>

PROVIDE A SUMMARY OF THE ANTICIPATED IMPACTS ON HERITAGE RESOURCES

No significant impacts are expected.

SECTION F

RECOMMENDATION

In your opinion, do you believe that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is required?

Yes
 No

Specialist studies to be provided as part of the HIA:

	Architectural (i.e., fabric analysis, historical analysis, material analysis etc.)
	Archaeological Impact Assessment
	Paleontological Impact Assessment
	Townscape Assessment
	Cultural Assessment
	Social Historical Study
	Visual Impact Assessment
	Other:

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Recommendations made by: _____ Dr Jayson Orton _____

Capacity: _____ **Archaeologist and Heritage Consultant** _____

PLEASE NOTE

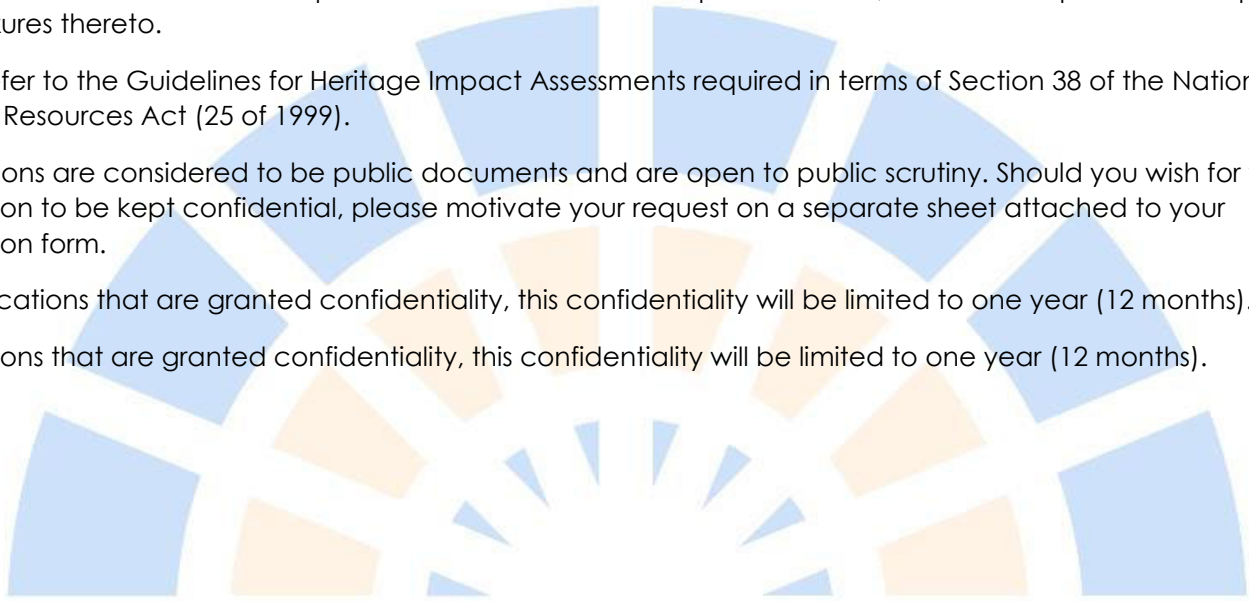
Any further studies which HWC requires should be submitted in the form of a single, consolidated report with a single set of recommendations. Specialist studies must be incorporated in full, either as chapters of the report, or as annexures thereto.

Please refer to the Guidelines for Heritage Impact Assessments required in terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999).

Applications are considered to be public documents and are open to public scrutiny. Should you wish for your application to be kept confidential, please motivate your request on a separate sheet attached to your application form.

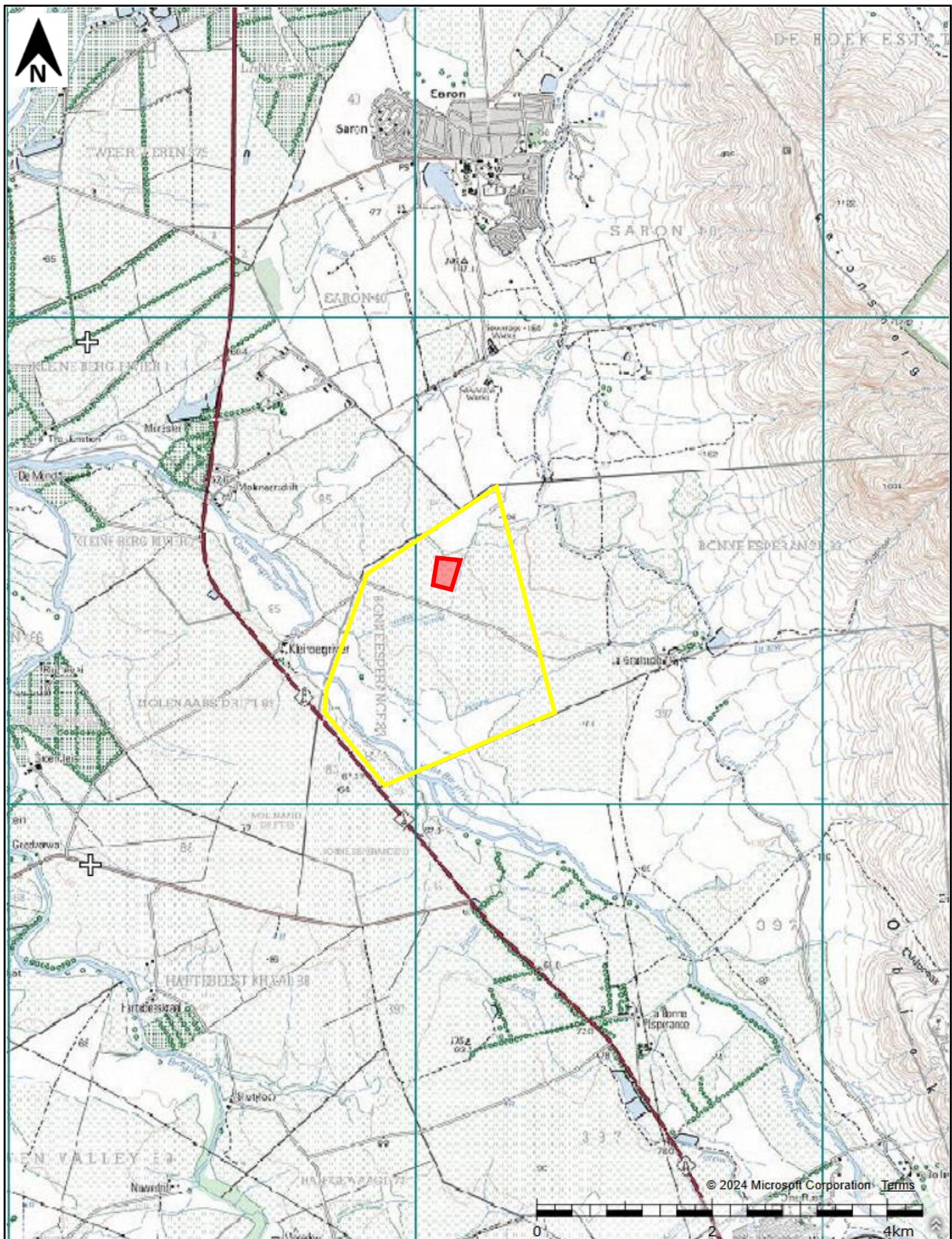
For applications that are granted confidentiality, this confidentiality will be limited to one year (12 months).

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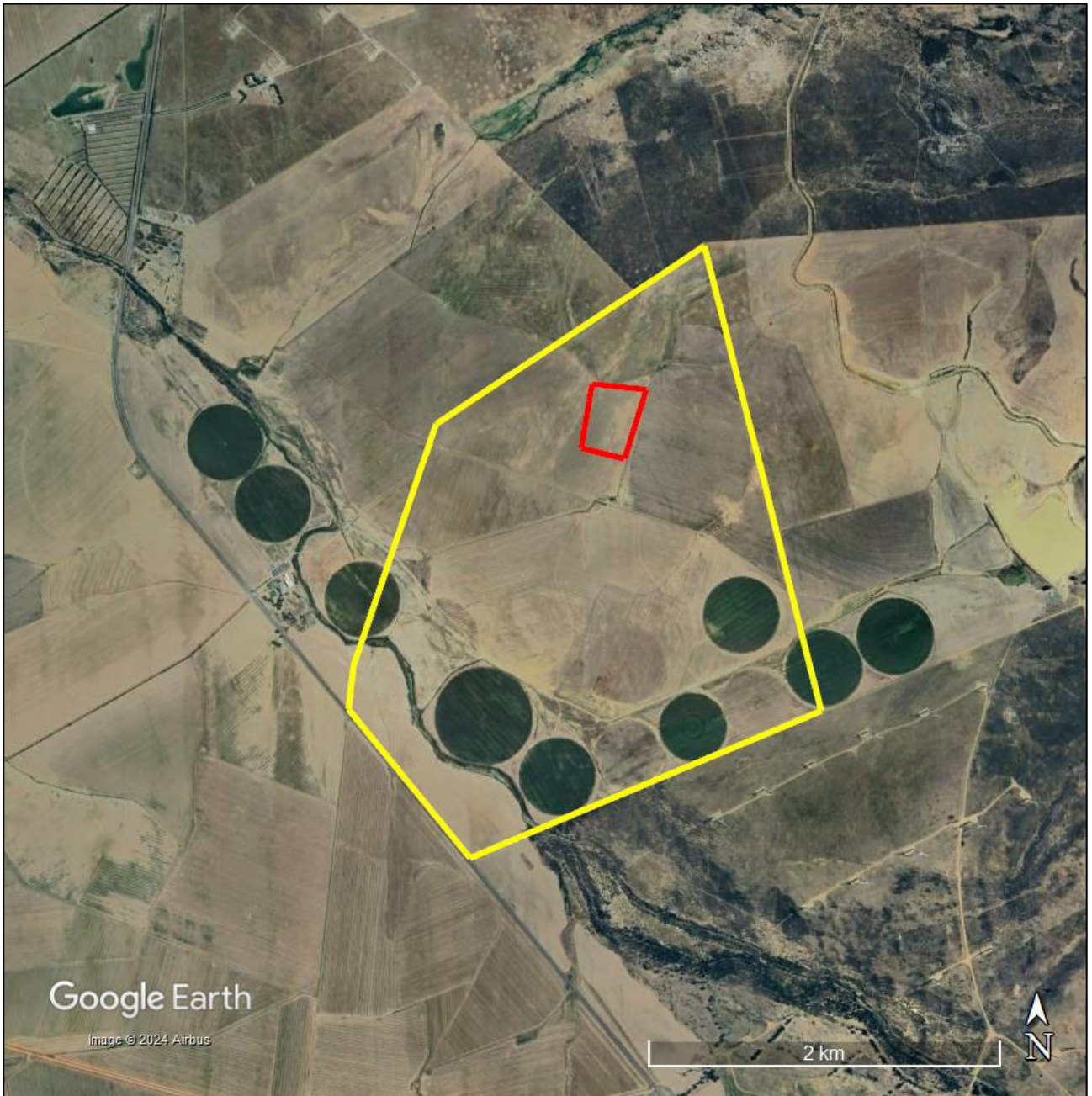


iLifa leMveli leNtshona Koloni
Erfenis Wes-Kaap
Heritage Western Cape

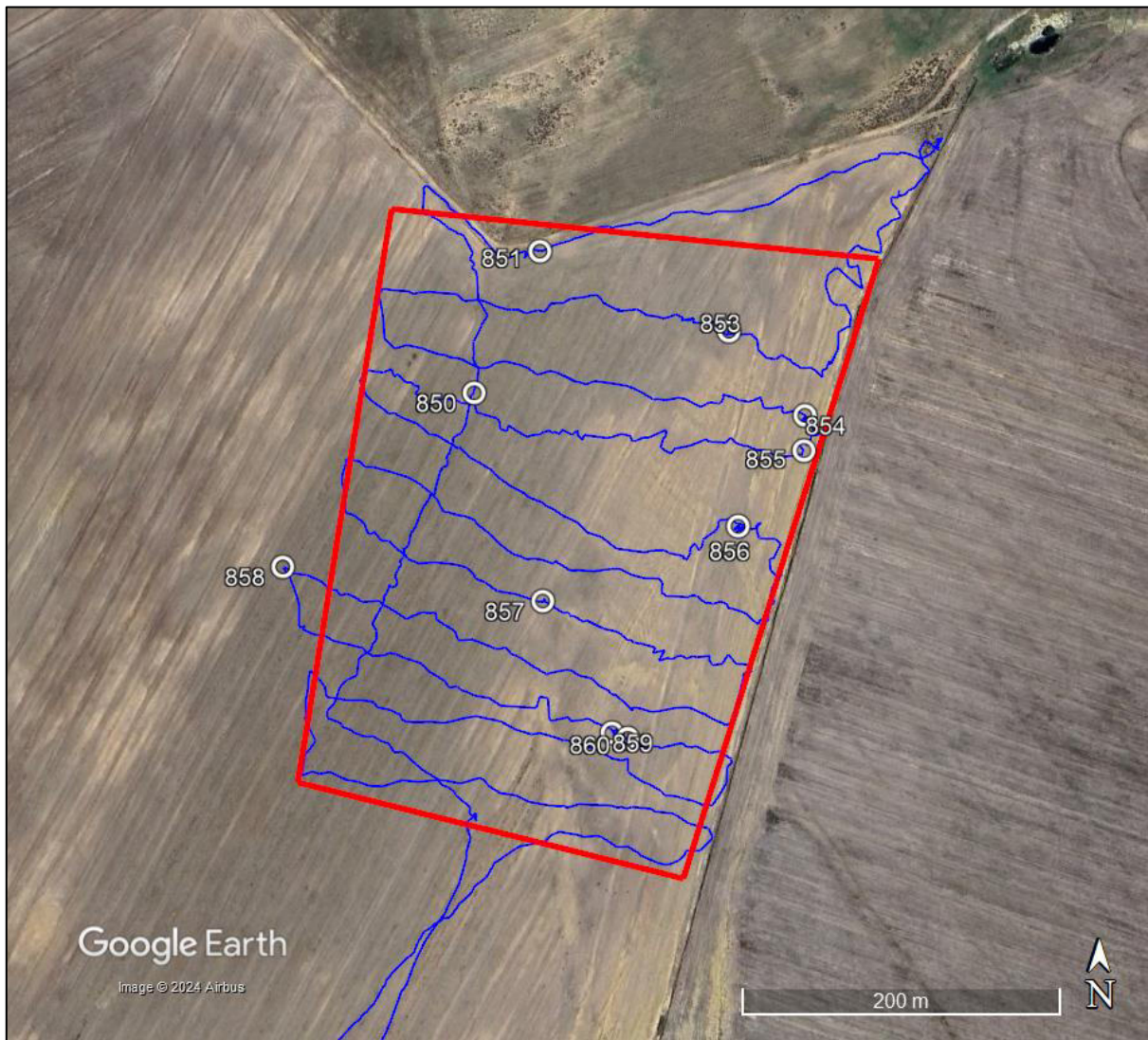
NID supporting document: proposed borrow pit on Portion 2 of Bonne Esperance 83, Tulbagh



Extract from 1:50 000 mapsheets 3318BD and 3319AC showing the location of the site (red shaded polygon) and farm portion (yellow polygon).



Aerial view showing the study area (red polygon) and farm portion (yellow polygon) and their surrounding rural context. Note the wind farm just to the southeast.



Aerial view of the study area (red polygon) showing field survey tracks (blue lines) and the locations of stone artefacts (white numbered circles).



Extract from the SAHRIS Palaeosensitivity map showing the study area to be of unknown (clear) and low (blue shading) palaeontological sensitivity.



1955 aerial photograph (371_007_05144) showing that the farm road to the south of the site has been realigned and additional area has been ploughed to the north of the site. Otherwise the general character of the area is much the same as it is today.

Site photographs (05 November 2024)



Looking north from just south of the edge of the study area.



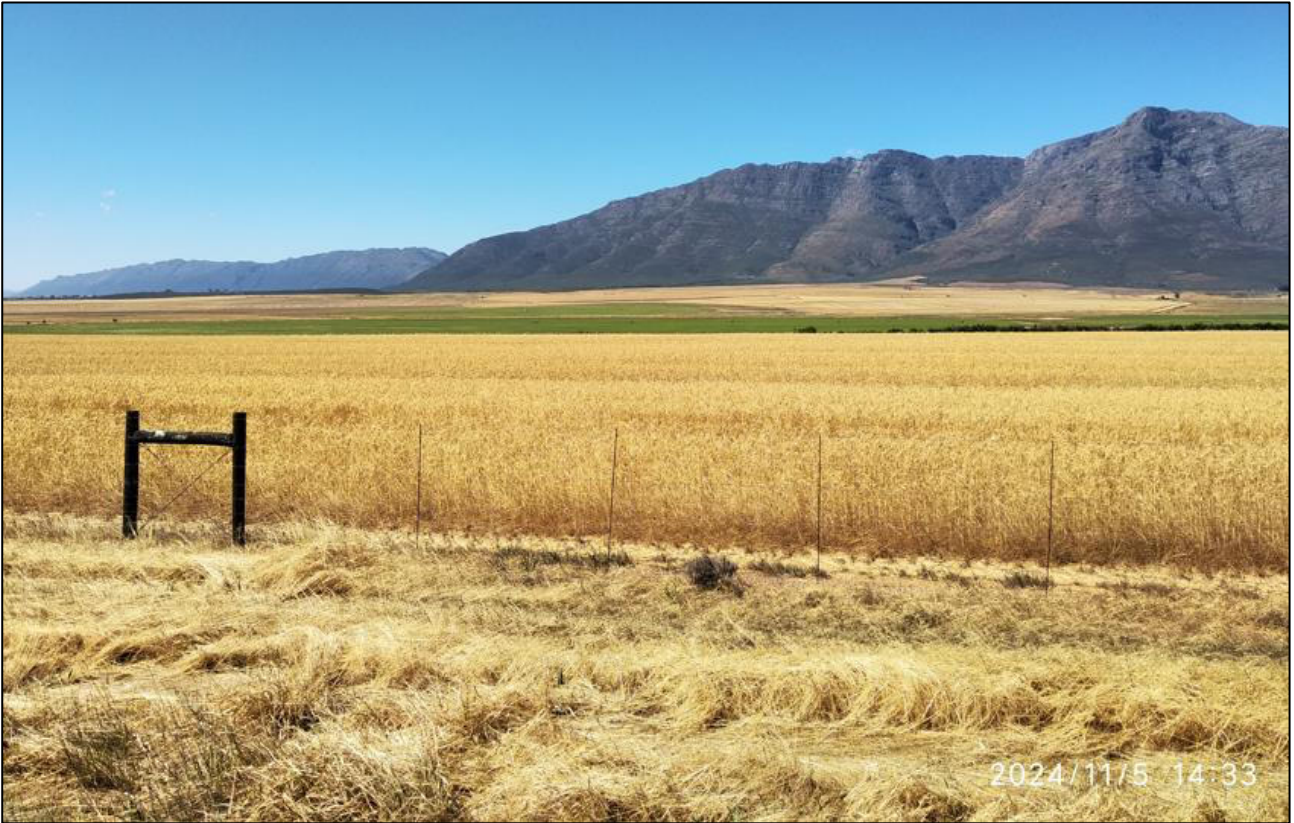
Looking towards the southeast from the northern edge of the study area. The neighbouring Gouda Wind Energy Facility is visible in the background.



Looking south in the eastern part of the study area.



Looking west through the centre of the study area.



Looking northeast from the R44 towards the study area which is located 2.1 km from this point.

Archaeological finds

854
A Weathered
quartzite core



855
A quartzite flake
and a core



856
A quartzite core



857
A weathered
quartzite core



858
A weathered
quartzite flake
used as a core

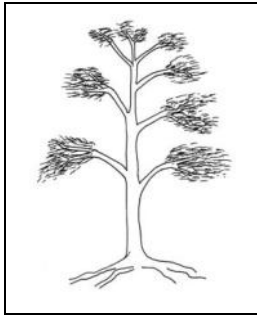


860
A heavily
weathered
quartzite core
or handaxe
(left)



859
A quartzite core
(right)





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04 November 2024

Palaeontological Comment for the proposed Mining for aggregate on Farm Bonne Esperance 83, R44, Witzenberg District, Western Cape Province

In my capacity as a professional palaeontologist, I am providing a comment on the potential palaeontological impact for a Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) to be submitted in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998).

Project information

The owner of the property, A. J. Du Plessis Boerdery (Pty) Ltd, is proposing to mine for aggregate on Portion 2 of Farm Bonne Esperance 83, on the R44. The area of the property is 554.2101 Ha (Fig. 1). The site is at 33° 13' 34"S and 19° 00' 12"E, between Gouda and Saron. It is completely ploughed.

Geology and Palaeontology

The project footprint lies on the Quaternary sand and terrace gravels and on the phyllites, schist and greywacke of the Porterville Formation (Fig. 2 & 3). The Porterville Formation of the Malmesbury Group are related to the opening of a Mesoproterozoic supercontinent and Pan-African orogenesis (mountain building) about 550 million years ago (Gresse et al., 2006).

At this time invertebrates (trilobites, bivalves, ostracods) were present and early plants but the Malmesbury Group rocks have been metamorphosed by pressure and uplift so if they had originally contained any fossils they would have been destroyed.

The overlying mantle of sands, gravels and alluvium were eroded from the surrounding rocks and deposited in low-lying or catchment areas. Such mobile materials do not preserve fossils because low energy, fine-grained, oxygen-excluded materials are required to preserve organic material (Cowan, 1995).

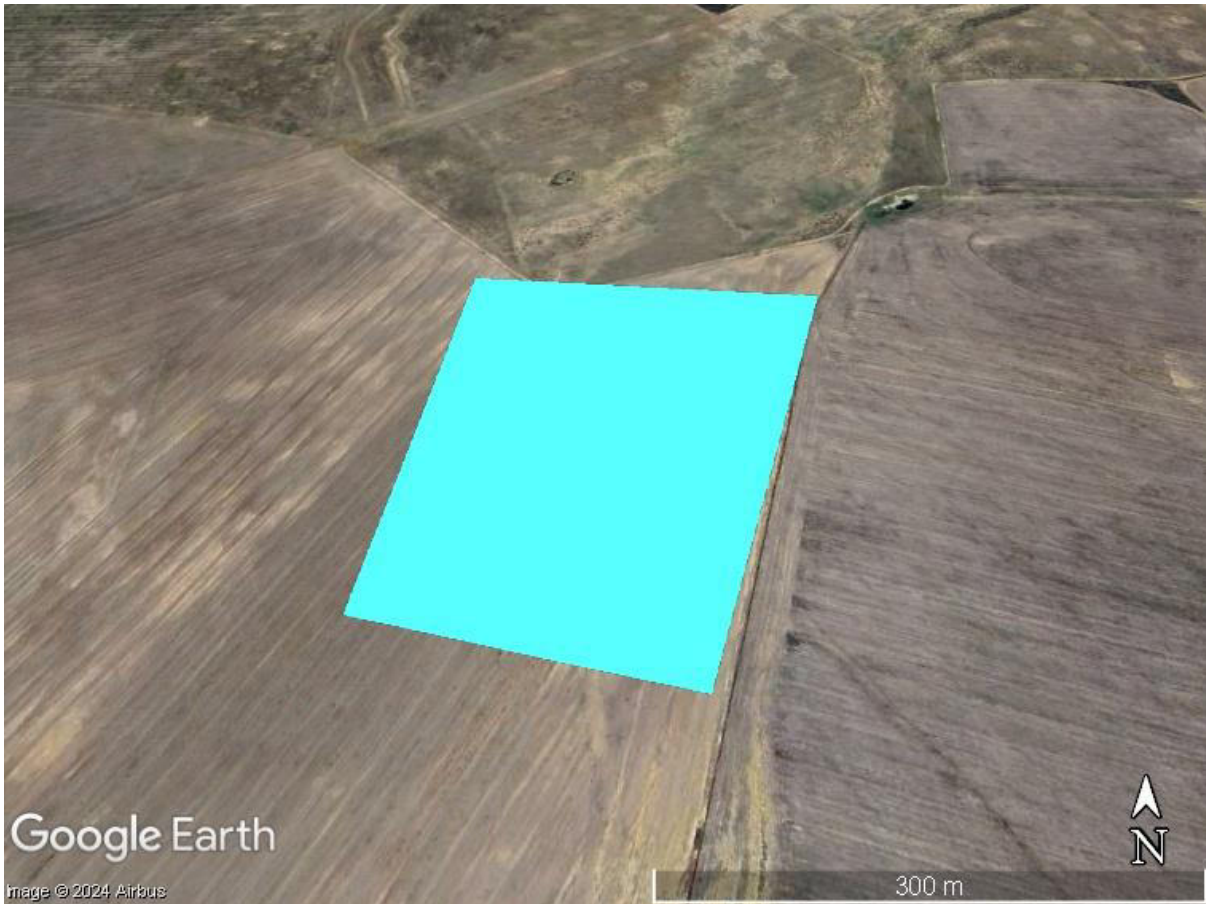


Figure 1: Google Earth map of the proposed aggregate quarry on Portion 2 of Farm Bonne Esperance 83 (blue polygon).



Figure 2: Geology map of the area around the proposed quarry (blue polygon) on Farm Bonne Esperance with the site indicated within the blue outline. Symbols in Table 1 below. Map enlarged from the Council for Geosciences 1:250 000 map 33218 Worcester.

Table 1: Explanation of symbols for the geological map and approximate ages (Roberts et al., 2006; Partridge et al., 2006). SG = Supergroup; Fm = Formation; Ma = million years; grey shading = formations impacted by the project.

Symbol	Group/Formation	Lithology	Approximate Age
Qs	Quaternary	Sandy soil	Quaternary ca 1.0 Ma to Present
Qg	Quaternary	Loam and sandy	Quaternary ca 1.0 Ma to Present
Qm	Quaternary	Terrace gravels	Quaternary ca 2.5 Ma to Present
Npo	Porterville Fm, Malmesbury Group	Phyllite, shale, Schist, greywacke, conglomerate	Neoproterozoic
Nm	Morreesberg Fm, Malmesbury Group	Greywacke and phyllite	Neoproterzoic



Figure 3. View of the cobbles on site targeted for gravel mining. Photograph: Anja Huisamen (archaeologist).

Palaeosensitivity

According to the online SAHRIS palaeosensitivity map (Fig. 4) the project lies on low sensitivity (blue) rocks and on sands and gravel of unknown palaeosensitivity (white). The DFFE palaeosensitivity map (Fig. 5) incorrectly shows the sands and alluvium to have a moderate sensitivity (yellow). As explained above the sands and gravels do not preserve fossils.

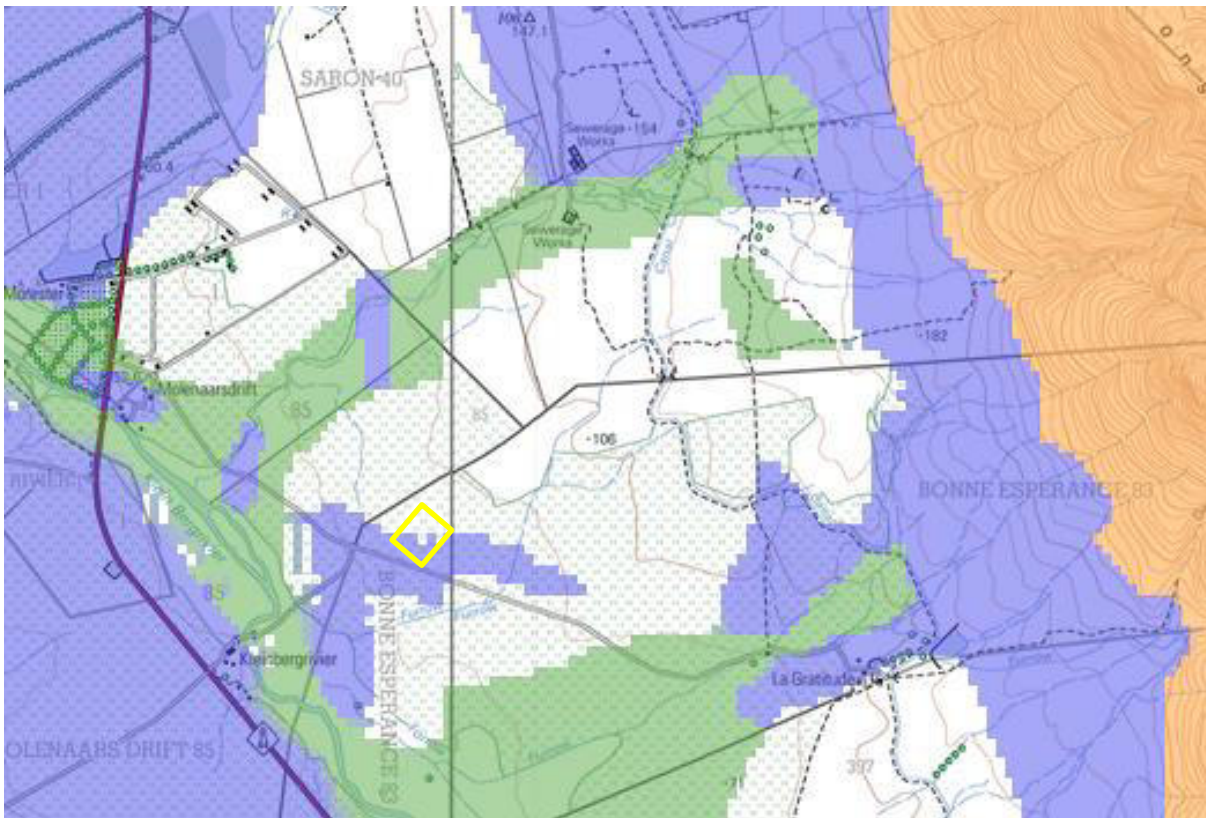


Figure 4: SAHRIS palaeosensitivity map for the project area (yellow outline). Background colours indicate the following degrees of sensitivity: red = very highly sensitive; orange/yellow = high; green = moderate; blue = low; grey = insignificant/zero.



Figure 5: DFFE palaeosensitivity map for the quarry on Farm Bonne Esperance.

ASPECT	SCREENING TOOL SENSITIVITY	VERIFIED SENSITIVITY	OUTCOME STATEMENT/ PLAN OF STUDY	RELEVANT SECTION MOTIVATING VERIFICATION
Palaeontology	Low to unknown	Zero	Paleontological Impact Assessment	Section 7.2. SAHRA Requirements

Recommendation

Since there is very low to zero chance of fossils occurring in the rocks to be mined, it is recommended that, as far the palaeontology is concerned, the project should be authorised. There is a very small chance that fossil shells might be present so a Fossil Chance Find Protocol is included in this comment.

References cited

Cowan, R., 1995. History of Life. 2nd Edition. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Boston. 462pp.

Gresse, P.G., von Veh, M.W., Frimmel, H.E., 2006. Namibian (Neoproterozoic) to Early Cambrian Successions. In: Johnson, M.R., Anhaeusser, C.R. and Thomas, R.J., (Eds). The Geology of South Africa. Geological Society of South Africa, Johannesburg / Council for Geoscience, Pretoria. Pp 395-420.

Palaeosensitivity map:

<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/map/palaeo>

Declaration of Independence

This comment has been compiled by Professor Marion Bamford, (PhD Palaeontology; Wits, 1990; Member of PSSA), sub-contracted by ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd, 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.

Fossil Chance Find Protocol

Monitoring Programme for Palaeontology – to commence once the excavations / drilling/mining activities begin.

HWC PROCEDURE: CHANCE FINDS OF PALAEONTOLOGICAL MATERIAL

Introduction

This document is aimed to inform workmen and foremen working on a construction and/or mining site. It describes the procedure to follow in instances of accidental discovery of palaeontological material (please see attached poster with descriptions of palaeontological material) during construction/mining activities. This protocol does not apply to resources already identified under an assessment undertaken under s. 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (no 25 of 1999).

Fossils are rare and irreplaceable. Fossils tell us about the environmental conditions that existed in a specific geographical area millions of years ago. As heritage resources that inform us of the history of a place, fossils are public property that the State is required to manage and conserve on behalf of all the citizens of South Africa. Fossils are therefore protected by the National Heritage Resources Act and are the property of the State. Ideally, a qualified person should be responsible for the recovery of fossils noticed during construction/mining to ensure that all relevant contextual information is recorded.

Heritage Authorities often rely on workmen and foremen to report finds, and thereby contribute to our knowledge of South Africa's past and contribute to its conservation for future generations.

Training

Workmen and foremen need to be trained in the procedure to follow in instances of accidental discovery of fossil material, in a similar way to the Health and Safety protocol. A brief introduction to the process to follow in the event of possible accidental discovery of fossils should be conducted by the designated Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the project, or the foreman or site agent in the absence of the ECO. It is recommended that copies of the attached poster and procedure are printed out and displayed at the site office so that workmen may familiarise themselves with them and are thereby prepared in the event that accidental discovery of fossil material takes place.

Actions to be taken

One person in the staff must be identified and appointed as responsible for the implementation of the attached protocol in instances of accidental fossil discovery and must report to the ECO or site agent. If the ECO or site agent is not present on site, then the responsible person on site should follow the protocol correctly in order to not jeopardize the conservation and well-being of the fossil material.

Once a workman notices possible fossil material, he/she should report this to the ECO or site agent.

Procedure to follow if it is likely that the material identified is a fossil:

- i The ECO or site agent must ensure that all **work ceases** immediately in the vicinity of the area where the fossil or fossils have been found;
- ii The ECO or site agent must **inform HWC of the find immediately**. This information must include photographs of the findings and GPS co-ordinates;
- iii The ECO or site agent must compile a **Preliminary Report and fill in the *Fossil Discoveries: HWC Preliminary Record Form*** within 24 hours without removing the fossil from its original position. The **Preliminary Report** records basic information about the find including:
 - The date
 - A description of the discovery
 - A description of the fossil and its context (e.g. position and depth of find) Where and how the find has been stored
 - Photographs to accompany the preliminary report (the more the better):
 - A scale must be used
 - Photos of location from several angles Photos of vertical section should be provided
 - Digital images of hole showing vertical section (side);
 - Digital images of fossil or fossils.
- iv Upon receipt of this **Preliminary Report**, HWC will inform the ECO or site agent whether or not a rescue excavation or rescue collection by a palaeontologist is necessary.
- v **Exposed finds must be stabilized where they are unstable and the site capped, e.g. with a plastic sheet or sand bags**. This protection should allow for the later excavation of the finds with due scientific care and diligence. HWC can advise on the most appropriate method for stabilization.
- vi If the find cannot be stabilized, **the fossil may be collect with extreme care** by the ECO or the site agent and put aside and protected until HWC advises on further action. Finds collected in this way must be safely and securely stored in tissue paper and an appropriate box. Care must be taken to remove the all fossil material and any breakage of fossil material must be avoided at all costs.

No work may continue in the vicinity of the find until HWC has indicated, in writing, that it is appropriate to proceed.

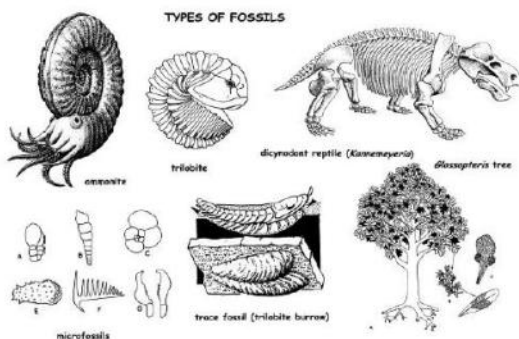
FOSSIL DISCOVERIES: HWC PRELIMINARY RECORDING FORM

FOSSIL DISCOVERIES: HWC PRELIMINARY RECORDING FORM		
Name of project		
Name of fossil location		
Date of discovery		
Description of situation in which the fossil was found:		
Description of context in which the fossil was found:		
Description and condition of fossil identified:		
GPS coordinates:	Lat:	Long:
If no co-ordinates available then please describe the location:		
Time of discovery:		
Depth of find in hole:		
Photographs (tick as appropriate and indicate number of the photograph)	Digital image of vertical section (side)	
	Fossil from different angles	
	Wider context of the find	
Temporary storage (where it is located and how it is conserved)		
Person identifying the fossil	Name:	
	Contact:	
Recorder:	Name:	
	Contact:	
Photographer	Name:	
	Contact:	

Palaeontology: what is a fossil?

Fossils are the traces of ancient life (animal, plant or microbial) preserved within rocks and come in two forms:

- Body fossils preserve parts, casts or impressions of the original tissues of an organism (e.g. bones, teeth, wood, pollen grains); and
- Trace fossils such as trackways and burrows record ancient animal behaviour.



How to report chance fossil finds: What should I do if I find a fossil during construction/mining?

If you think you have identified a fossil:

Immediately inform the ECO or Site Agent. He/she will then contact HWC and write a report and if necessary operations will stop in that specific area until the fossil is recovered



Types of palaeontological finding - What does a fossil look like?

Fossils vary in size, from fossilised tree trunks and dinosaur bones down to very small animals or plants. Finds can be **individual fossils** (one isolated wood log or bone) or **clusters and beds** (several bones, teeth, animal or plant remains, trace fossils in close proximity or bones resembling part of a skeleton). A bed of fossils is a layer with many fossil remains.

Below there is a list of few examples of fossils which may be identified during excavations in the Western Cape.

Image	Description	Image	Description
	Leaves		Snail shells and other shells
	Fossil wood		Bones of larger animals
	The remains of fish and marine life (e.g. teeth, scales, starfish)		Large burrows made by moles and other animals
	Stromatolites		Traces made by burrowing insects (ants, wasps, dung-beetles etc.).
	Animal footprints		

Images provided by Dr John Almond
 Text by HWC's Archaeology, Palaeontology & Meteorites Committee June 2016

