

PALAEONTOLOGICAL DESKTOP ASSESSMENT

PROPOSED GLENCORE LYDENBURG
SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY, IN
THE THABA CHWEU LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA,
SOUTH AFRICA

COMPILED FOR: PGS HERITAGE CONSULTANTS



Declaration of Independence

I, Elize Butler, declare that –

General declaration:

- I act as the independent palaeontological specialist in this application
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favorable to the applicant
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting palaeontological impact assessments, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I will take into account, to the extent possible, the matters listed in section 38 of the NHRA when preparing the application and any report relating to the application;
- I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;
- I will ensure that information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application is distributed or made available to interested and affected parties and the public and that participation by interested and affected parties is facilitated in such a manner that all interested and affected parties will be provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and to provide comments on documents that are produced to support the application;
- I will provide the competent authority with access to all information at my disposal regarding the application, whether such information is favorable to the applicant or not
- All the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct;



- I will perform all other obligations as expected a palaeontological specialist in terms of the Act and the constitutions of my affiliated professional bodies; and
- I realize that a false declaration is an offense in terms of regulation 71 of the Regulations and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the NEMA.

Disclosure of Vested Interest

I do not have and will not have any vested interest (either business, financial, personal or other) in the proposed activity proceeding other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the Regulations.

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SIGNATURE:



The heritage impact assessment report has been compiled considering the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA) and Environmental Impact Regulations 2014 as amended, requirements for specialist reports, Appendix 6, as indicated in the table below.

Table 1: Checklist for Specialist studies conformance with Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations of 2014 (as amended)

Requirements of Appendix 6 – GN R326 EIA Regulations of 7 April 2017	The relevant section in the report	Comment where not applicable.
1.(1) (a) (i) Details of the specialist who prepared the report	Page ii and Section 2 of Report – Contact details and company and Appendix A	-
(ii) The expertise of that person to compile a specialist report including a curriculum vita	Section 2 – refer to Appendix A	-
(b) A declaration that the person is independent in a form as may be specified by the competent authority	Page ii of the report	-
(c) An indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the report was prepared	Section 4– Methods and TOR	-
(cA) An indication of the quality and age of base data used for the specialist report	Section 5 – Geological and Palaeontological history	-
(cB) a description of existing impacts on the site, cumulative impacts of the proposed development and levels of acceptable change;	Section 7	-



Requirements of Appendix 6 – GN R326 EIA Regulations of 7 April 2017	The relevant section in the report	Comment where not applicable.
(d) The duration, date and season of the site investigation and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment		Desktop Assessment
(e) a description of the methodology adopted in preparing the report or carrying out the specialised process inclusive of equipment and modelling used	Section 4- Approach and Methodology	-
(f) details of an assessment of the specifically identified sensitivity of the site related to the proposed activity or activities and its associated structures and infrastructure, inclusive of a site plan identifying site alternatives;	Section 1;5 & 8	
(g) An identification of any areas to be avoided, including buffers	Section 1 & 8	
(h) A map superimposing the activity including the associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the site including areas to be avoided, including buffers;	Section 5 – Geological and Palaeontological history	
(i) A description of any assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge;	Section 4.1 – Assumptions and Limitation	-
(j) A description of the findings and potential implications of such findings on the impact of the proposed activity, including identified alternatives, on the environment	Section 1 and 8	
(k) Any mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr	Section 9	
(l) Any conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation	Section 1 and 8	



Requirements of Appendix 6 – GN R326 EIA Regulations of 7 April 2017	The relevant section in the report	Comment where not applicable.
(m) Any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or environmental authorisation	Section 1 and 8	
(n)(i) A reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorised and	Section 1 and 8	
(n)(iA) A reasoned opinion regarding the acceptability of the proposed activity or activities; and		
(n)(ii) If the opinion is that the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorised, any avoidance, management and mitigation measures that should be included in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan	Section 1 and 8	-
(o) A description of any consultation process that was undertaken during the course of carrying out the study	N/A	Not applicable. A public consultation process was handled as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) process.
(p) A summary and copies of any comments that were received during any consultation process	N/A	Not applicable. To date, no



Requirements of Appendix 6 – GN R326 EIA Regulations of 7 April 2017	The relevant section in the report	Comment where not applicable.
		comments regarding heritage resources that require input from a specialist have been raised.
(q) Any other information requested by the competent authority.	N/A	Not applicable.
(2) Where a government notice by the Minister provides for any protocol or minimum information requirement to be applied to a specialist report, the requirements as indicated in such notice will apply.	Section 3-compliance with SAHRA guidelines	



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Banzai Environmental was commissioned to conduct the Palaeontological Desktop Assessment (PDA) for the proposed **Glencore Lydenburg Solar Photovoltaic Facility**, in the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality, Mpumalanga, South Africa. This PDA is required to confirm whether fossil material may potentially be present in the planned development area and to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on the local palaeontological heritage in order to comply with the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999, section 38) (NHRA).

The proposed Glencore Lydenburg PV Facility is largely underlain by the Silverton Formation of the Pretoria Group (Transvaal Supergroup) as well as Quaternary superficial sediments. The Pretoria Group sedimentary rocks in and near the study area are extensively intruded, and locally metamorphosed, by sills of diabase. The diabase has no palaeontological significance. However, the existence of the diabase rocks would have had a thermal metamorphic effect on nearby sediments and would decrease the chance of fossil preservation. According to the PalaeoMap of the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the Silverton Formation (Pretoria Group, Transvaal Supergroup) is High, that of the Quaternary Superficial sediments are Low, while that of the diabase is Zero. Updated geology (2014, Council of Geosciences, Pretoria) indicates that the proposed study area is only underlain by the Silverton Formation (Pretoria Group, Transvaal Supergroup).

Based on desktop research it is concluded that fossil heritage of scientific and conservational interest in the development footprint is rare. This is in contrast with the High Sensitivity allocated to the development area by the SAHRIS Palaeosensitivity Map and DFFE Screening Tool. **A medium Palaeontological Significance has been allocated for the construction phase of the PV development pre-mitigation and a low significance post mitigation.** The construction phase will be the only development phase impacting Palaeontological Heritage and **no significant impacts are expected to impact the Operational and Decommissioning phases.** The No-Go Alternative considers the option of 'do nothing' and maintaining the status quo, will have a Neutral impact on the Palaeontological Heritage of the development. **The Cumulative impacts of the development is considered to be medium pre- mitigation and Low post mitigation and falls within the acceptable limits for the project.** It is therefore considered that the proposed development will not lead to damaging impacts on the palaeontological resources of the area. **The construction of the development may thus be permitted in its whole extent, as the development footprint is not considered sensitive in terms of palaeontological resources.** It is



consequently recommended that no further palaeontological heritage studies, ground truthing and/or specialist mitigation are required pending the discovery of newly discovered fossils.

If fossil remains are discovered during any phase of construction, either on the surface or exposed by excavations the **Chance Find Protocol** must be implemented by the ECO/site manager in charge of these developments. These discoveries ought to be protected (if possible, *in situ*) and the ECO/site manager must report to SAHRA (Contact details: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town. PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000, South Africa. Tel: 021 462 4502. Fax: +27 (0)21 462 4509. Web: www.sahra.org.za) so that mitigation (recording and collection) can be carry out by a paleontologist.

Preceding any collection of fossil material, the specialist would need to apply for a collection permit from SAHRA. Fossil material must be curated in an accredited collection (museum or university collection), while all fieldwork and reports should meet the minimum standards for palaeontological impact studies suggested by SAHRA.



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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Fossil

A fossil is the preserved remnants of a long-dead organism, generally from millions of years ago. Fossils can be mineralized skeletons, shells, or other hard pieces of ancient animals and plants, as well as impressions, moulds, and casts left in sedimentary rock when the organism's remains decomposed and left an impression. Fossils provide valuable insights into the evolution and biodiversity of ancient species, allowing scientists to study and understand their evolution and biodiversity.

Heritage

That which is inherited and forms part of the National Estate (historical places, objects, fossils as defined by the National Heritage Resources Act No 25 of 1999).

Heritage resources

This means any place or object of cultural significance and can include (but not limited to) as stated under Section 3 of the NHRA,

- places, buildings, structures, and equipment of cultural significance.
- places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage.
- historical settlements and townscapes.
- landscapes and natural features of cultural significance.
- geological sites of scientific or cultural importance.
- archaeological and palaeontological sites.
- graves and burial grounds, and
- sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.

Palaeontology

Any fossilised remains or fossil trace of animals or plants which lived in the geological past (other than fossil fuels or fossiliferous rock intended for industrial use) and any site which comprises of fossilised remains or traces of past life.



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BA	Basic Assessment
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
EIMS	Environmental Impact Management Services
EA	Environmental Authorization
CA	National Competent Authority
ECO	Environmental Control Officer
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
ESO	Environmental Site Officer
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
Ma	Millions of years ago
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act
National Water Act	Nation National Water Act
PIA	Palaeontological Impact Assessment
PSSA	Palaeontological Society of South Africa
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
SAHRIS	South African Heritage Resources Information System
S&EIA	Scoping & Environmental Impact Assessment
ToR	Terms of Reference
WUL	Water Use Licence



1 INTRODUCTION

Glencore Operations South Africa (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as the applicant) has appointed Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS) as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist with undertaking the required authorisation processes (including the statutory public participation), and to compile and submit the required documentation in support of application for:

- Environmental Authorisation (EA) in accordance with the NEMA- Listed activity/ies:
 - Listing Notice 1 (GNR 983): Activity 11 and 14.
 - Listing Notice 2 (GNR 984): Activity 1 and 15.
 - Listing Notice 3 (GN 985): Activity 12 and 14.
- Water Use Licence (WUL) in accordance with the National Water Act – NWA (Act 36 of 1998) - Listed activity/ies: Section 21 (c) and Section 21 (i).

Additional listed activities and/or water uses may be identified during the process.

The applicant wishes to develop a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Generation Facility at the Lydenburg Smelter. The generation capacity will be up to 200 megawatts. All power generated from the facility will be used at the smelter. Other possible infrastructure will include an on-site substation / switching station, access roads, battery energy storage system and an 88kV power line.

The proposed project is located on Portion 143 of Farm 30 Potloodspruit, Portions 114, 457 and 471 of Farm 31 Townlands of Lydenburg, Portion 1 of Lydenburg Smelter Erf 6099, Lydenburg Smelter Erf 2540 and Lydenburg Smelter Erf 2541 within the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality, Mpumalanga. The site is located approximately 2km north of Lydenburg town central area.

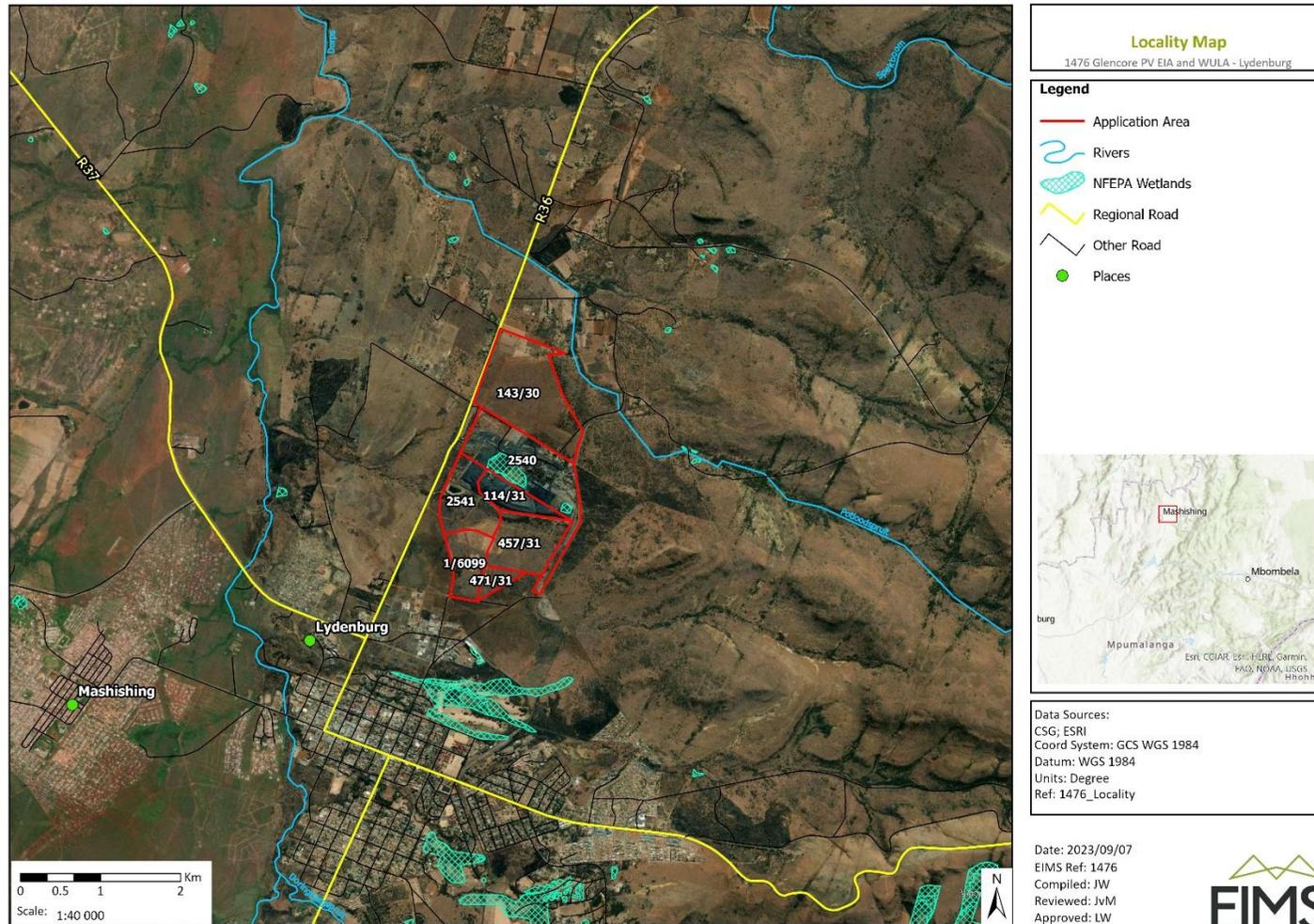


Figure 1: Regional Locality of the proposed Glencore Lydenburg PV Facility.

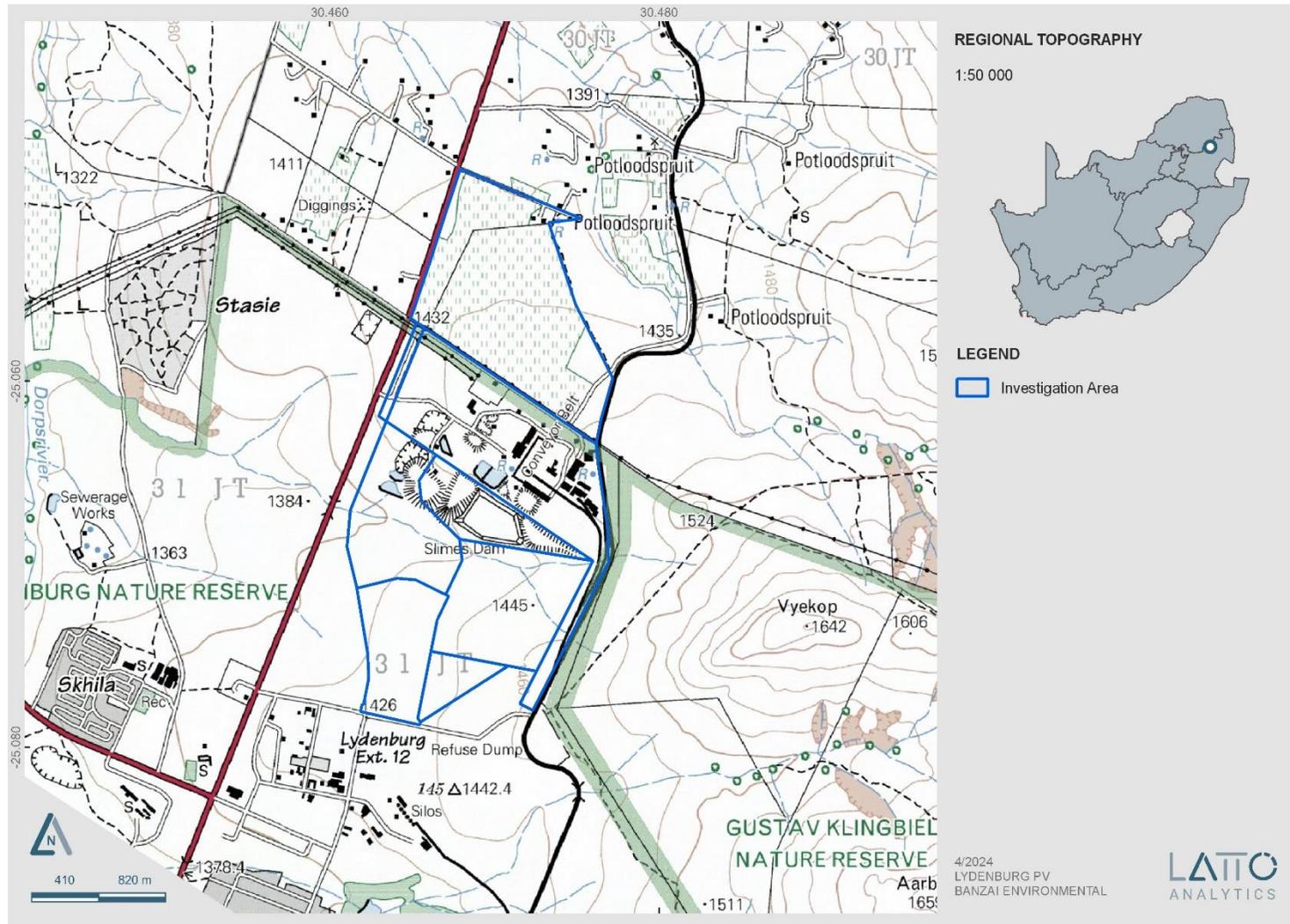


Figure 2: Locality Map of the study area.



2 QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF THE AUTHOR

Mrs. Elize Butler conducted the current study. For developments in the Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern, Northern Cape, Northwest, Gauteng, Limpopo, and Mpumalanga, she has completed almost 700 palaeontological impact assessments. She has an MSc (*cum laude*) in Zoology with a focus in Palaeontology from the University of the Free State in South Africa, and she has more than 30 years of experience in the field. She has knowledge of finding, collecting, and curating fossils. She began conducting PIAs in 2014 and has been a member of the Palaeontological Society of South Africa (PSSA) since 2006.

3 NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT (25 OF 1999)

Cultural Heritage in South Africa, includes all heritage resources, is protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA). Heritage resources as defined in Section 3 of the Act include **“all objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens”**.

The identification, evaluation and assessment of any cultural heritage site, artefact or finds in the South African context is required and governed by the following legislation:

- National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Act No. 107 of 1998
- National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) Act No. 25 of 1999
- Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) Act No. 28 of 2002
- Notice 648 of the Government Gazette 45421- general requirements for undertaking an initial site sensitivity verification where no specific assessment protocol has been identified.

The next section in each Act is directly applicable to the identification, assessment, and evaluation of cultural heritage resources.

GNR 982 (Government Gazette 38282, 14 December 2014) promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Act No. 107 of 1998

- Basic Assessment Report (BAR) – Regulations 19 and 23
- Environmental Impacts Assessment (EIA) – Regulation 23
- Environmental Scoping Report (ESR) – Regulation 21
- Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) – Regulations 19 and 23

National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) Act No. 25 of 1999

- Protection of Heritage Resources – Sections 34 to 36
- Heritage Resources Management – Section 38

The NEMA (No. 107 of 1998) states that an integrated EMP should (23:2 (b)) “...*identify, predict and evaluate the actual and potential impact on the environment, socio-economic conditions and cultural*



heritage".

In agreement with legislative requirements, EIA rating standards as well as SAHRA policies a comprehensive and legally compatible PIA report has been compiled.

Palaeontological heritage is exceptional and non-renewable and is protected by the NHRA. Palaeontological resources and may not be unearthed, broken moved, or destroyed by any development without prior assessment and without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority as per section 35 of the NHRA.

This Palaeontological Impact assessment forms part of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and adhere to the conditions of the Act. According to **Section 38 (1)**, an HIA is required to assess any potential impacts to palaeontological heritage within the development footprint where:

- the construction of a road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300 m in length.
- the construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50 m in length.
- any development or other activity which will change the character of a site—
 - exceeding 5 000 m² in extent; or
 - involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or
 - involving three or more erven or divisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or
 - the costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority or
 - the re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m² in extent or

any other category of development provided for in regulations by SAHRA or a Provincial heritage resources authority.

4 METHODS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

This PDA assesses the development's potential impact on the fossil heritage. This Palaeontological Assessment is part of the HIA Report. The PIA's goals are to: 1) identify the palaeontological significance of the rock formations in the footprint; 2) evaluate the palaeontological magnitude of the formations; 3) clarify the impact on fossil heritage; and 4) make recommendations for how the developer might protect and minimize potential harm to fossil heritage, according to the "SAHRA APM Guidelines: Minimum Standards for the Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports".

Calculations of the palaeontological state of each rock segment and the potential impact of development on fossil history take into account the palaeontological status of the rocks, the type of development, and the amount of bedrock removed.



The Provisional DFFE Screening Tool, the SAHRIS Palaeosensitivity map, all Palaeontological Impact Assessment reports for the same area, Google Earth images, topographical and geological maps, as well as academic articles about specimens from the development area and Assemblage Zones, are all used to create scoping reports.

When the development footprint has a moderate to high palaeontological sensitivity, a field-based assessment is necessary. A desktop or field assessment of the exposed rock is used to evaluate the significance of the proposed development's impact, and recommendations for more research or mitigation are made. Excavations for the project often only take place during the building phase, changing the terrain and destroying or permanently encasing fossils at or below the ground surface. Then, access to Fossil Heritage will no longer be available for academic study.

When doing a site investigation, a palaeontologist examines the local development as well as the quantity and variety of fossils found there. This can be demonstrated by looking at representative fossiliferous rock exposures (most igneous and metamorphic rocks are not fossiliferous, whereas sedimentary rocks contain fossil heritage). Examined rock exposures frequently contain a sizeable portion of the stratigraphic unit, which is primarily made up of recently exposed (unweathered) rock. These exposures may be man-made (such as quarries, open building excavations, even railway and road cuttings) or natural (such as cliffs, and dongas as well as rocky outcrops along stream or river banks). It is usual practice for palaeontologists to record well-preserved fossils (GPS, and stratigraphic data) during field assessment examinations.

Although mitigation is often done prior to construction, it may take place if potentially fossiliferous bedrock is revealed. Fossil collection and documentation are examples of mitigation. A permit from SAHRA must be obtained before beginning any fossil excavation, and the material must be stored at an authorized facility. When mitigation is properly used, it is possible to have a positive impact by raising awareness of the palaeontological past of the area.

By physically evaluating bedrock outcrops to determine their lithology and fossil richness and crisscrossing the development footprint, one can assess an area's fossil potential. Because the presence of fossils at the surface is so unexpected, an average sample size of the region is investigated. To be clear, however, the lack of fossils in a development footprint does not automatically suggest that there is no palaeontologically important material present on the site (on or below the ground surface).

The terms of reference of a PIA are as follows:

General Requirements:

- Adherence to the content requirements for specialist reports in accordance with Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended;



- Adherence to all applicable best practice recommendations, appropriate legislation and authority requirements;
- Submit a comprehensive overview of all appropriate legislation, guidelines;
- Describe of the proposed project and provide information regarding the developer and consultant who commissioned the study;
- Describe location of the proposed development and provide geological and topographical maps
- Provide palaeontological and geological history of the affected area;
- Identify sensitive areas to be avoided (providing shapefiles/kmls) in the proposed development;
- Evaluate the significance of the planned development during the Pre-construction, Construction, Operation, Decommissioning Phases and Cumulative impacts. Potential impacts should be rated in terms of the direct, indirect and cumulative:
 - a. **Direct impacts** are impacts that are caused directly by the activity and generally occur at the same time and at the place of the activity.
 - b. **Indirect impacts** of an activity are indirect or induced changes that may occur as a result of the activity.
 - c. **Cumulative impacts** are impacts that result from the incremental impact of the proposed activity on a common resource when added to the impacts of other past, present or reasonably foreseeable future activities.
- Fair assessment of alternatives (infrastructure alternatives have been provided);
- Recommend mitigation measures to minimise the impact of the proposed development; and
- Detail the implications of specialist findings for the proposed development (such as permits, licenses etc).

4.1 Assumptions and Limitations

The geology of the area is the focal point of geological maps, and the sheet explanations of the Geological Maps were not intended to focus on palaeontological heritage. Many inaccessible areas of South Africa have never been examined by palaeontologists, and data is typically dependent solely on aerial pictures. Locality and geological information in museums and university databases is out of date, and data acquired in the past is not always adequately documented.

Comparable Assemblage Zones in other places are also used to provide information on the existence of fossils in areas that have not before been recorded. When similar Assemblage Zones and geological formations are used for Desktop studies, it is commonly assumed that exposed fossil exists within the footprint.



5 GEOLOGICAL AND PALAEOLOGICAL HISTORY

The geology of the proposed Glencore Lydenburg PV Facility is indicated on the 1:250 000 Baberton 2530 (1986) Geological Map (Council for Geosciences, Pretoria) (**Figure 3, Table 2**). The proposed development is underlain by Quaternary sands (Q, yellow) as well as by the Silverton Formation (Pretoria Group, Transvaal Supergroup). The latter is extensively intruded, and locally metamorphosed, by sills of diabase (Vdi, green; **Figure 3**). The diabase has no palaeontological significance. However, the existence of the diabase rocks would have had a thermal metamorphic effect on the nearby Silverton Formation (Pretoria Group) and would decrease the chance of fossil preservation.

According to the PalaeoMap of the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the Quaternary is Low (blue), that of the Silverton Formation (Pretoria Group, Transvaal Supergroup) is High (orange, **Figure 4**), while that of the diabase is Zero (grey). Updated geology (2014, Council of Geosciences, Pretoria) indicates that the proposed study area is entirely underlain by the Silverton Formation (Pretoria Group, Transvaal Supergroup) (**Figure 6**).

The Transvaal Supergroup is preserved in three structural basins on the Kaapvaal Craton of South Africa namely the Griqualand West Basin, Transvaal Basin, as well as the Kanye Basin in Botswana. The Griqualand West Basin can be subdivided into the Ghaap Plateau and Prieska sub basins. The geometry of the three basins is mostly stratiform with the exclusion of the volcanic precursor of the Kanye Basin and parts of the Griqualand West Basin. Extensive deformation has taken place in the south-western portion of the Griqualand West Basin. Rocks of the Transvaal Supergroup in the Transvaal Basin were intruded by the Bushveld Complex approximately 2060 million years ago. The Transvaal Supergroup overlays the Archaean basement as well as the Witwatersrand and Ventersdorp Supergroups. In the far western and Kanye Basins rocks belonging to the Kanye Formation and Gaborone Granite Suite is also overlain by the Transvaal Supergroup.

The Precambrian Transvaal Supergroup is approximately 2550-2050 Ma years old (Bekker et al. 2008; Catuneanu et al 1999), (Late Archaean to Early Proterozoic) and is about 15 km thick. This Supergroup consists of sedimentary, volcanic and unmetamorphosed clastic rocks. The sandstone dominated Magaliesberg Formation overlies the mudrocks of the Silverton Formation, and in turn the Silverton Formation overlies the sandstone Daspoort Formation.

The Daspoort Formation overlies the Strubenkop (Eriksson et al., 1993b). The Daspoort Formation is characterised by subordinate mudrocks and ironstones in the east of the basin (Button, 1973a), and mature quartz arenites. Erikson et al (1993b) also describes pebbly arenites, immature sandstones, conglomerates and mudrocks in this formation that reflects the beginning of a major marine transgression that deposited the Silverton and Magaliesberg Formations (Eriksson et al., 1995). Thin stromatolitic cherts and carbonates (top of formation) normally changes into a condensed, transgressive dolomite or chert and is finally covered by the Silverton Shales. The Silverton Formation is a lithologically varied, mudrock-dominated sequence that was deposited on an offshore shelf along the borders of the



Kaapvaal Craton (Eriksson et al. 2002, 2009). Volcanic ash-rich intervals are common as well as minor beds of carbonate and chert. Sandstones become more regular in the upper part of the sequence and was deposited under shallower conditions. In the eastern part of the Pretoria Basin, the Machadodorp Member lies in the middle of the Silverton Formation and is represented by a conspicuous interval of volcanic rocks (including agglomerates basaltic lavas as well as tuffs). The presence the volcanic pillow lavas and water-lain tuffs indicates that they were formed beneath the sea. The deep-water Silverton mudrocks were deposited in high sea levels and was followed by shallowing fluvial and deltaic sandstones in low sea levels of the overlying Magaliesberg Formation. The Hekpoort formation consists of Basaltic andesite and pyroclastic rocks and is volcanic in origin. In the south the basaltic andesitic lavas are more than 1100m thick thinning to 800m in the west and is less than 50m thinning in the north.

Subaerial fissure eruptions are dominant, with local pyroclastic systems (Oberholzer, 1995). Small lacustrine shale deposits are present between recurrent hiatuses in volcanism. Button (1973a) suggested an uppermost, widespread palaeosol.

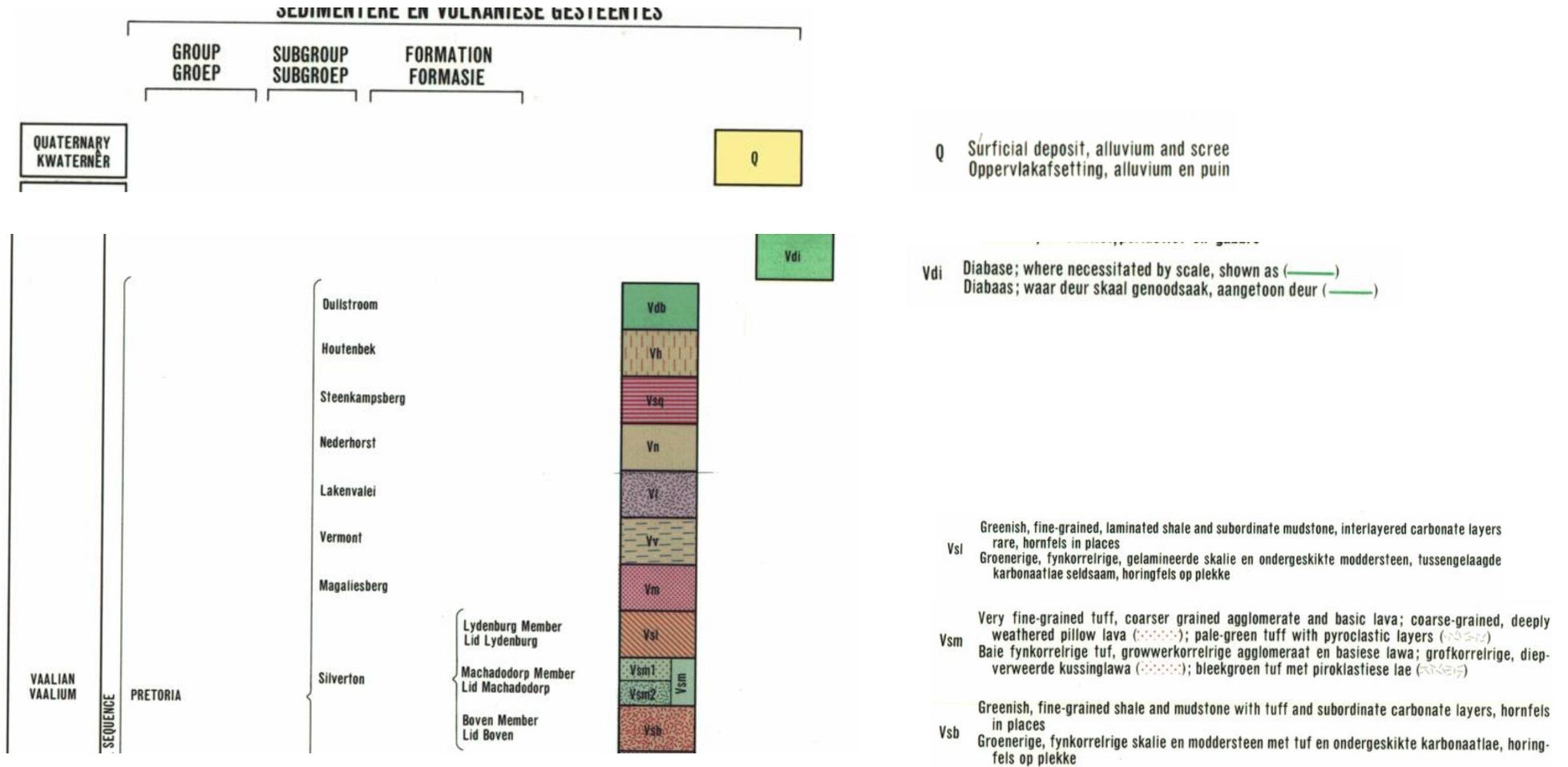
In the eastern part of the Transvaal Basin the Silverton Formation is approximately 1-3 km thick and consists of recessive weathering producing a topography of rolling hills and valleys (Visser 1989). Carbonate rocks are present at the top of the Silverton Formation. Research indicated that microbial activity under low oxygen conditions causes organic carbon within the shales (Eriksson et al. 1989). Organic-walled microfossils thus may be present in these carbon-rich mudrocks of the Silverton Formation while the chert horizons may contain other microbial assemblages.



Figure 3: Extract of the 1:250 000 Barberton 2530 (1986) Geological Map (Council for Geosciences, Pretoria) indicates that the study area is underlain Quaternary sands (Q, yellow), the Silvertown Formation (Vsi, brown; Pretoria Group, Transvaal Supergroup) intruded by diabase (Vdi, green).



Table 2: Legend of the Barberton 2530 (1986) Geological Map (Council for Geosciences, Pretoria)



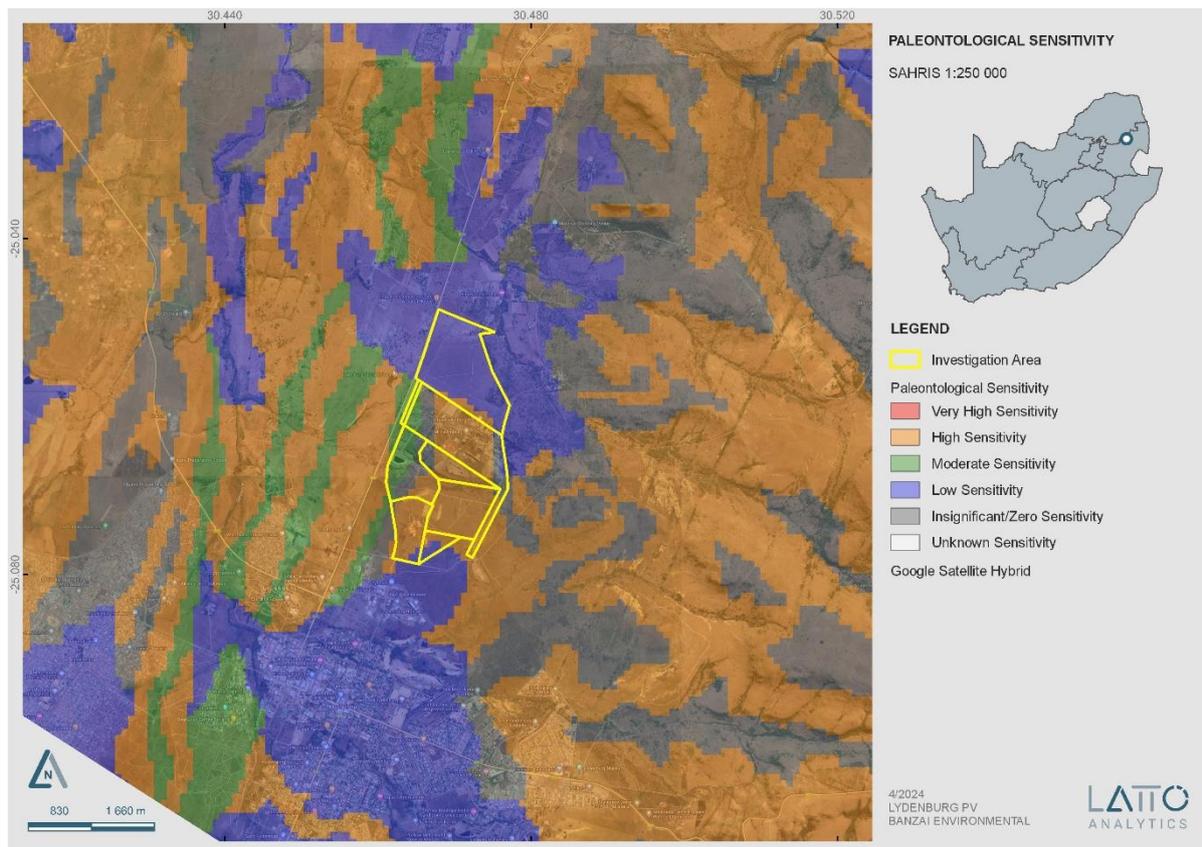


Figure 4: Extract of the 1 in 250 000 SAHRIS PalaeoMap map (Council of Geosciences) indicating the study area is underlain by sediments with a High (orange), Moderate (green), Low (blue) and Zero (grey).

Table 3: Palaeontological Sensitivity according to the SAHRIS PalaeoMap (Almond et al, 2013; SAHRIS website)		
Colour	Sensitivity	Required Action
RED	VERY HIGH	Field assessment and protocol for finds is required
ORANGE/YELLOW	HIGH	Desktop study is required and based on the outcome of the desktop study, a field assessment is likely
GREEN	MODERATE	Desktop study is required
BLUE	LOW	No palaeontological studies are required however a protocol for finds is required
GREY	INSIGNIFICANT/ZERO	No palaeontological studies are required



WHITE/CLEAR	UNKNOWN	These areas will require a minimum of a desktop study. As more information comes to light, SAHRA will continue to populate the map.
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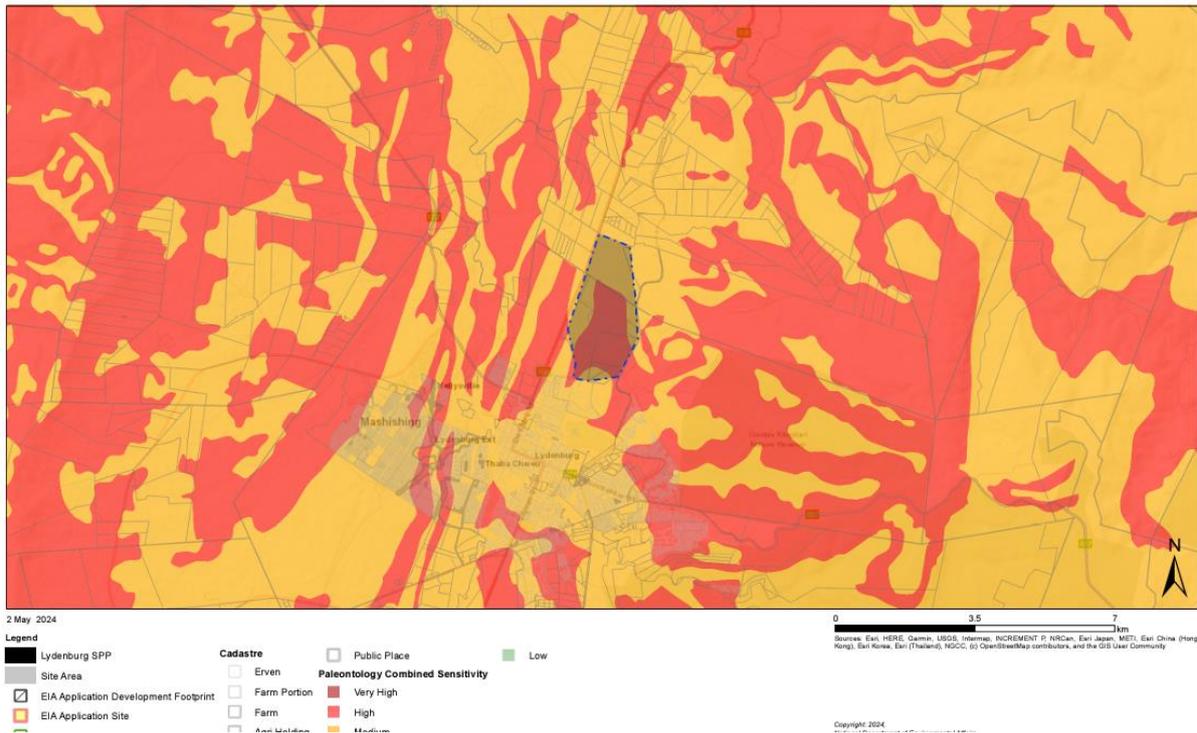


Figure 5: Palaeontological Sensitivity of Glencore Lydenburg PV Facility by the National Environmental Web-based Screening Tool indicates a Very High Palaeontological Sensitivity.

The SAHRIS PalaeoMap (**Figure 4**) indicates a High (red) Palaeontological Sensitivity which is in agreement with the DFFE Screening Tool (**Figure 5**).

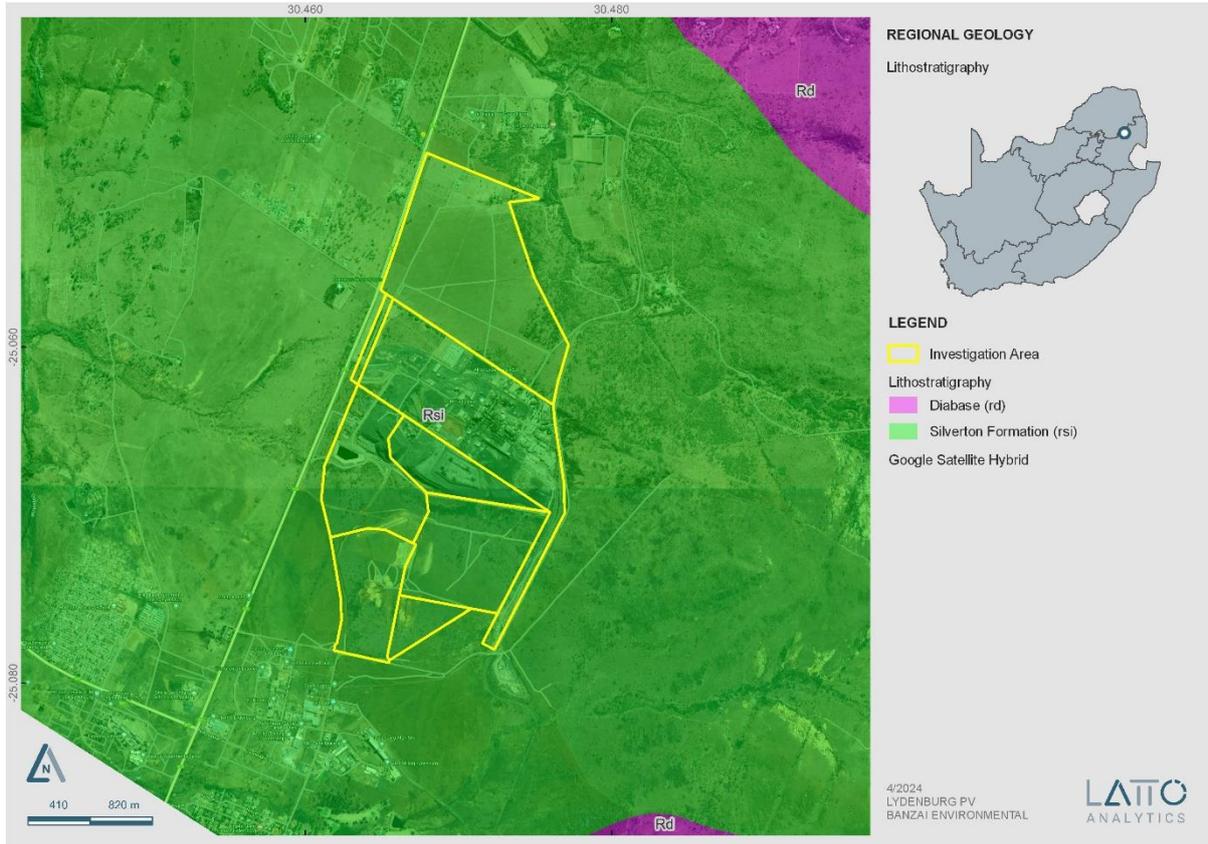


Figure 6: Updated Geology (Council of Geosciences, Pretoria) of the proposed study area indicates that the development is underlain by the Silverton Formation (rsi).

6 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONSULTED

In compiling this report the following sources were consulted:

- Geological map 1:100 000, Geology of the Republic of South Africa (Visser 1984)
- A Google Earth map with polygons of the proposed development was obtained from Solis Environmental.
- 1: 250 000 Barberton 2830 (1986) Geological Map (Council for Geosciences, Pretoria)
- Palaeotechnical report of the North West Province (Groenewald et al, 2014)
- The site sensitivity is established through the National Environmental Web-Based Screening Tool (DFFE)
- The site is mapped on the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) PalaeoMap, to established the Palaeontological Sensitivity
- Palaeontological Impact Assessments and Desktop Assessments of projects in the same area are studied.



7 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Impact assessment must take account of the nature, scale and duration of impacts on the environment whether such impacts are positive or negative. Each impact is also assessed according to the following project phases:

- Construction.
- Operation; and
- Decommissioning.

Where necessary, the proposal for mitigation or optimisation of an impact should be detailed. A brief discussion of the impact and the rationale behind the assessment of its significance should also be included. The rating system is applied to the potential impacts on the receiving environment and includes an objective evaluation of the mitigation of the impact. In assessing the significance of each impact, the following criteria is used:

Table 4: The rating system

NATURE		
The Nature of the Impact is the possible destruction of fossil heritage		
GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT		
This is defined as the area over which the impact will be experienced.		
1	Site	The impact will only affect the site.
2	Local/district	Will affect the local area or district.
3	Province/region	Will affect the entire province or region.
4	International and National	Will affect the entire country.
PROBABILITY		
This describes the chance of occurrence of an impact.		
1	Unlikely	The chance of the impact occurring is extremely low (Less than a 25% chance of occurrence).
2	Possible	The impact may occur (Between a 25% to 50% chance of occurrence).
3	Probable	The impact will likely occur (Between a 50% to 75% chance of occurrence).
4	Definite	Impact will certainly occur (Greater than a 75% chance of occurrence).
DURATION		



This describes the duration of the impacts. Duration indicates the lifetime of the impact as a result of the proposed activity.		
1	Short term	The impact will either disappear with mitigation or will be mitigated through natural processes in a span shorter than the construction phase (0 – 1 years), or the impact will last for the period of a relatively short construction period and a limited recovery time after construction, thereafter it will be entirely negated (0 – 2 years).
2	Medium term	The impact will continue or last for some time after the construction phase but will be mitigated by direct human action or by natural processes thereafter (2 – 10 years).
3	Long term	The impact and its effects will continue or last for the entire operational life of the development, but will be mitigated by direct human action or by natural processes thereafter (10 – 30 years).
4	Permanent	The only class of impact that will be non-transitory. Mitigation either by man or natural process will not occur in such a way or such a time span that the impact can be considered indefinite.
INTENSITY/ MAGNITUDE		
Describes the severity of an impact.		
1	Low	Impact affects the quality, use and integrity of the system/component in a way that is barely perceptible.
2	Medium	Impact alters the quality, use and integrity of the system/component but system/component still continues to function in a moderately modified way and maintains general integrity (some impact on integrity).
3	High	Impact affects the continued viability of the system/ component and the quality, use, integrity and functionality of the system or component is severely impaired and may temporarily cease. High costs of rehabilitation and remediation.
4	Very high	Impact affects the continued viability of the system/component and the quality, use, integrity and functionality of the system or component permanently ceases and is irreversibly impaired. Rehabilitation and remediation often impossible. If possible rehabilitation and remediation often unfeasible due to extremely high costs of rehabilitation and remediation.



REVERSIBILITY		
This describes the degree to which an impact can be successfully reversed upon completion of the proposed activity.		
1	Completely reversible	The impact is reversible with implementation of minor mitigation measures.
2	Partly reversible	The impact is partly reversible but more intense mitigation measures are required.
3	Barely reversible	The impact is unlikely to be reversed even with intense mitigation measures.
4	Irreversible	The impact is irreversible, and no mitigation measures exist.
IRREPLACEABLE LOSS OF RESOURCES		
This describes the degree to which resources will be irreplaceably lost as a result of a proposed activity.		
1	No loss of resource	The impact will not result in the loss of any resources.
2	Marginal loss of resource	The impact will result in marginal loss of resources.
3	Significant loss of resources	The impact will result in significant loss of resources.
4	Complete loss of resources	The impact is result in a complete loss of all resources.
CUMULATIVE EFFECT		
This describes the cumulative effect of the impacts. A cumulative impact is an effect which in itself may not be significant but may become significant if added to other existing or potential impacts emanating from other similar or diverse activities as a result of the project activity in question.		
1	Negligible cumulative impact	The impact would result in negligible to no cumulative effects.
2	Low cumulative impact	The impact would result in insignificant cumulative effects.
3	Medium cumulative impact	The impact would result in minor cumulative effects.
4	High cumulative impact	The impact would result in significant cumulative effects
SIGNIFICANCE		
Significance is determined through a synthesis of impact characteristics. Significance is an indication of the importance of the impact in terms of both physical extent and time scale, and therefore indicates the level of mitigation required. The calculation of the significance of an impact uses the following formula: (Extent + probability + reversibility + irreplaceability + duration + cumulative effect) x magnitude/intensity = X.		



The summation of the different criteria will produce a non-weighted value. By multiplying this value with the magnitude/intensity, the resultant value acquires a weighted characteristic which can be measured and assigned a significance rating.

Points	Impact significance rating	Description
6 to 28	Negative low impact	The anticipated impact will have negligible negative effects and will require little to no mitigation.
6 to 28	Positive low impact	The anticipated impact will have minor positive effects.
29 to 50	Negative medium impact	The anticipated impact will have moderate negative effects and will require moderate mitigation measures.
29 to 50	Positive medium impact	The anticipated impact will have moderate positive effects.
51 to 73	Negative high impact	The anticipated impact will have significant effects and will require significant mitigation measures to achieve an acceptable level of impact.
51 to 73	Positive high impact	The anticipated impact will have significant positive effects.
74 to 96	Negative very high impact	The anticipated impact will have highly significant effects and are unlikely to be able to be mitigated adequately. These impacts could be considered "fatal flaws".
74 to 96	Positive very high impact	The anticipated impact will have highly significant positive

7.1 Summary of Impact Tables

Loss of fossil heritage will be a negative impact. Only the site will be affected by the proposed development. The expected duration of the impact is assessed as potentially permanent. In the absence of mitigation procedures, the damage or destruction of any palaeontological materials will be permanent. Impacts on palaeontological heritage during the construction phase could potentially occur and are regarded as having a Low probability. As fossil heritage will be destroyed the impact is irreversible. The significance of the impact occurring will be Low.

Table 5: Summary of Impact Tables

IMPACTS	Site	Probability	Duration	Magnitude	Reversibility	Irreplicable Loss	Cumulative Effect	Significance



Pre-mitigation	1	2	4	2	4	4	2	34
Post-mitigation	1	2	4	1	4	4	1	16

8 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed Glencore Lydenburg PV Facility is largely underlain by the Silverton Formation of the Pretoria Group (Transvaal Supergroup) as well as Quaternary superficial sediments. The Pretoria Group sedimentary rocks in and near the study area are extensively intruded, and locally metamorphosed, by sills of diabase. The diabase has no palaeontological significance. However, the existence of the diabase rocks would have had a thermal metamorphic effect on nearby sediments and would decrease the chance of fossil preservation. According to the PalaeoMap of the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the Silverton Formation (Pretoria Group, Transvaal Supergroup) is High, that of the Quaternary Superficial sediments are Low, while that of the diabase is Zero. Updated geology (2014, Council of Geosciences, Pretoria) indicates that the proposed study area is only underlain by the Silverton Formation (Pretoria Group, Transvaal Supergroup).

Based on desktop research it is concluded that fossil heritage of scientific and conservational interest in the development footprint is rare. This is in contrast with the High Sensitivity allocated to the development area by the SAHRIS Palaeosensitivity Map and DFFE Screening Tool. **A medium Palaeontological Significance has been allocated for the construction phase of the PV development pre-mitigation and a low significance post mitigation.** The construction phase will be the only development phase impacting Palaeontological Heritage and **no significant impacts are expected to impact the Operational and Decommissioning phases.** The No-Go Alternative considers the option of ‘do nothing’ and maintaining the status quo, will have a Neutral impact on the Palaeontological Heritage of the development. **The Cumulative impacts of the development is considered to be medium pre-mitigation and Low post mitigation and falls within the acceptable limits for the project.** It is therefore considered that the proposed development will not lead to damaging impacts on the palaeontological resources of the area. **The construction of the development may thus be permitted in its whole extent, as the development footprint is not considered sensitive in terms of palaeontological resources.** It is consequently recommended that no further palaeontological heritage studies, ground truthing and/or specialist mitigation are required pending the discovery of newly discovered fossils.

If fossil remains are discovered during any phase of construction, either on the surface or exposed by excavations the **Chance Find Protocol** must be implemented by the ECO/site manager in charge of these developments. These discoveries ought to be protected (if possible, *in situ*) and the ECO/site manager must report to SAHRA (Contact details: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town. PO Box 4637, Cape



Town 8000, South Africa. Tel: 021 462 4502. Fax: +27 (0)21 462 4509. Web: www.sahra.org.za) so that mitigation (recording and collection) can be carry out by a paleontologist.

Preceding any collection of fossil material, the specialist would need to apply for a collection permit from SAHRA. Fossil material must be curated in an accredited collection (museum or university collection), while all fieldwork and reports should meet the minimum standards for palaeontological impact studies suggested by SAHRA.

9 CHANCE FINDS PROTOCOL

The following procedure will only be followed if fossils are uncovered during the excavation phase of the development.

9.1 Legislation

Cultural Heritage in South Africa (includes all heritage resources) is protected by the **National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999) (NHRA)**. According to Section 3 of the Act, all Heritage resources include **“all objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens”**.

Palaeontological heritage is unique and non-renewable and is protected by the NHRA and are the property of the State. It is thus the responsibility of the State to manage and conserve fossils on behalf of the citizens of South Africa. Palaeontological resources may not be excavated, broken, moved, or destroyed by any development without prior assessment and without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority as per section 35 of the NHRA.

A fossil is the naturally preserved remains (or traces thereof) of plants or animals embedded in rock. These organisms lived millions of years ago. Fossils are extremely rare and irreplaceable. By studying fossils, it is possible to determine the environmental conditions that existed in a specific geographical area millions of years ago.

This informational document is intended for workmen and foremen on construction sites. It describes the actions to be taken when mining or construction activities accidentally uncovers fossil material.

It is the responsibility of the Environmental Site Officer (ESO) or site manager of the project to train the workmen and foremen in the procedure to follow when a fossil is accidentally uncovered. In the absence of the ESO, a member of the staff must be appointed to be responsible for the proper implementation of the chance find protocol as not to compromise the conservation of fossil material.



9.2 Chance Find Procedure

- If a chance find is made the person responsible for the find must immediately **stop working** and all work that could impact that finding must cease in the immediate vicinity of the find.
- The person who made the find must immediately **report** the find to his/her direct supervisor which in turn must report the find to his/her manager and the ESO or site manager. The ESO or site manager must report the find to the relevant Heritage Agency (South African Heritage Research Agency, SAHRA). (Contact details: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town. PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000, South Africa. Tel: 021 462 4502. Fax: +27 (0)21 462 4509. Web: www.sahra.org.za). The information to the Heritage Agency must include photographs of the find, from various angles, as well as the GPS co-ordinates.
- A preliminary report must be submitted to the Heritage Agency within **24 hours** of the find and must include the following: 1) date of the find; 2) a description of the discovery and a 3) description of the fossil and its context (depth and position of the fossil), GPS co-ordinates.
- Photographs (the more the better) of the discovery must be of high quality, in focus, accompanied by a scale. It is also important to have photographs of the vertical section (side) where the fossil was found.
- Upon receipt of the preliminary report, the Heritage Agency will inform the ESO (or site manager) whether a rescue excavation or rescue collection by a palaeontologist is necessary.
- The site must be secured to protect it from any further damage. **No attempt** should be made to remove material from their environment. The exposed finds must be stabilized and covered by a plastic sheet or sand bags. The Heritage agency will also be able to advise on the most suitable method of protection of the find.
- If the fossil cannot be stabilized the fossil may be collected with extreme care by the ESO. Fossils finds must be stored in tissue paper and in an appropriate box while due care must be taken to remove all fossil material from the rescue site.
- Once the Heritage Agency has issued the written authorization, the developer may continue with the development on the affected area.

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APPENDIX A

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MEMBERSHIP

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Part time Laboratory assistant	Department of Zoology & Entomology University of the Free State Zoology 1989-1992
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Research Assistant	National Museum, Bloemfontein 1993 – 1997
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