

PALAEONTOLOGICAL COMPLIANCE STATEMENT FOR
EXPANSION OF AN EXISTING TRUCKSTOP ON ERF 1/24813
IN UPINGTON NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.



Report prepared for

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Declaration of Independence

Paleo Field Services remains financially independent, with no vested interest in project activities or outcomes except for professional fees. Its sole remuneration comes from agreed-upon services for each project. Paleo Field Services accepts client-provided information as accurate.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Rossouw", written over a faint, larger blue ink signature.

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SUMMARY

A desktop review of palaeontological heritage was carried out for expansion of an existing Truckstop facility in Upington, Northern Cape Province. The planned expansion will extend the Truckstop facility east across a 5.3-hectare site situated about 1 km west of Rondon Street and ~200 m north of the N14 going through Upington. The site is capped by well-developed Quaternary windblown sands of the Gordonia Formation and bedrock-derived eluvium, which overlie ~1000-million-year-old intrusive granitic rocks that do not have any palaeontological significance. As far as palaeontological heritage is concerned, anticipated impact will have negligible negative effects on heritage resources and will require no further mitigation.

INTRODUCTION

A desktop review of palaeontological heritage was carried out for expansion of an existing Truckstop facility on Erf 1/24813 in Upington, Northern Cape Province (**Fig. 1**).

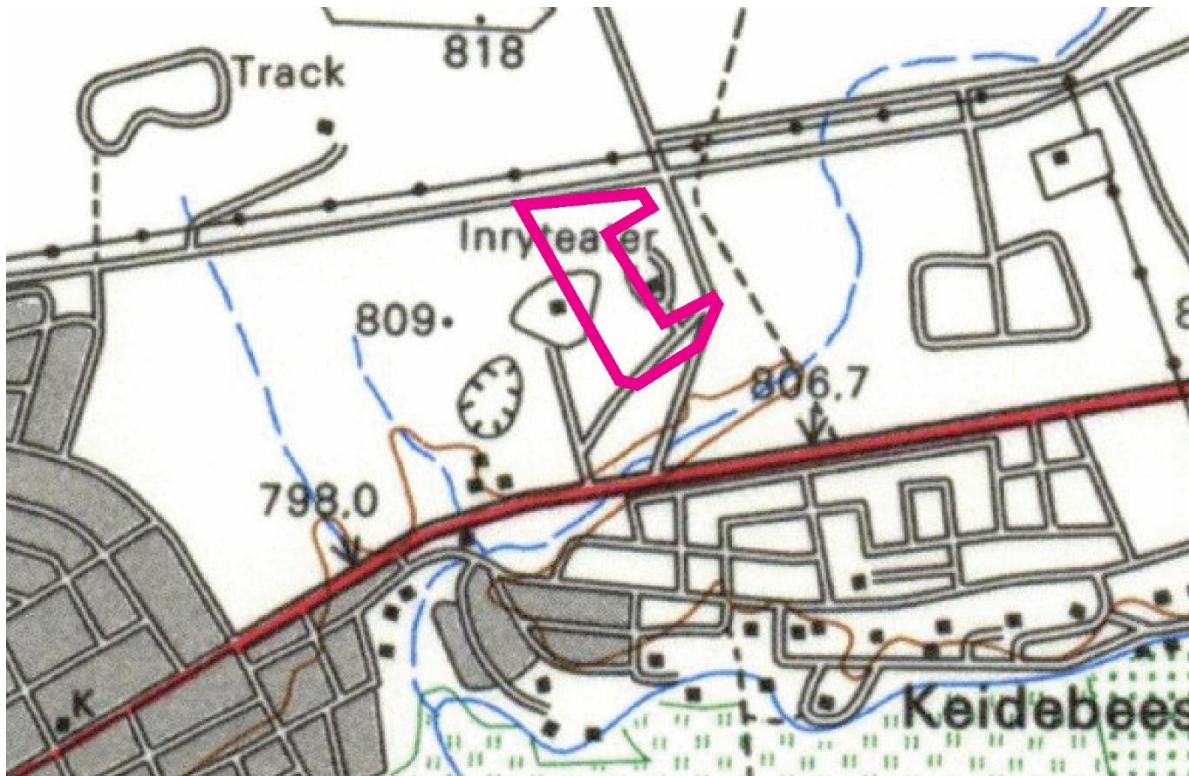


Figure 1. Study area marked on portion of 1:50 000 scale topographic map 2821AD Upington Oos.

The assessment is required as a prerequisite for new development in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) 25 of 1999. The NHRA identifies what is defined as a heritage resource, the criteria for establishing its significance and lists specific activities for which a heritage specialist study may be required. The NHRA prescribes a system of grading of places/objects via Section 7 and makes provision for the general protection of heritage resources via Sections 34, 35, 36, and 37 (in respect of the built environment, archaeology/palaeontology, burial grounds/graves and monuments/memorials, respectively), while Section 38 sets out guidelines under which heritage impact assessments are required when new developments may impact upon heritage resources.

METHODOLOGY

The site assessment was conducted in accordance with the NHRA (No 25 of 1999) and SAHRA Minimum Standards for Archaeological and Palaeontological components of Impact

Assessment Reports. The site was rated using existing field data, database information, published literature and geological maps. GPS coordinates are presented in *Degrees, Decimal Minutes* format in the report.

The online SAHRIS Palaeosensitivity map was unavailable at the time this report was prepared.

Terms of Reference

- Conduct a desktop review to identify and map heritage sites and occurrences in the affected area(s) and provide an assessment of their significance.
- Recommend mitigation measures to minimize potential impacts associated with the proposed development, if any.

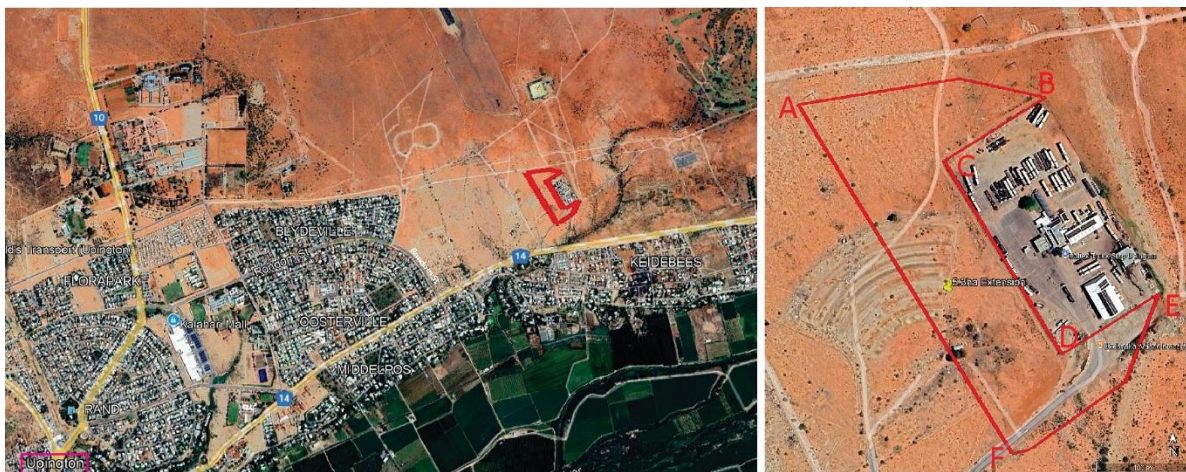


Figure 2. Aerial view of the site.

DEFINITIONS

Palaeontology refers to the scientific study of ancient life on Earth by studying fossilized remains and traces of organisms—from microscopic life to the rise of mammals—to understand evolutionary history, biodiversity and past environments across geological time.

LOCALITY DATA

Map Reference: 1:50 000 topographic map 2727BA Upington and 1:250 000 scale geological map 2820 Upington.

GPS Coordinates (Fig 2):

A) 28° 25.919'S 21° 16.897'E

- B) 28° 25.914'S 21° 17.054'E
- C) 28° 25.951'S 21° 16.989'E
- D) 28° 26.058'S 21° 17.066'E
- E) 28° 26.026'S 21° 17.128'E
- F) 28° 26.114'S 21° 17.036'E

Planned expansion by AHB Logistics will extend the existing Truckstop facility east across a 5.3-hectare site situated about 1 km west of Rondon Street and ~200 m north of the N14 going through Upington (Fig. 2).



Figure 3. The study area, marked on portion of 1:250 000 scale geological map 2820 Upington, is underlain by Mesoproterozoic intrusive rocks (granites *Ms*, below left) that are capped by red aeolian sand (*Qg*) and a down-weathered gravel clast (below right).
Scale 1 = 10 cm.

IMPACT STATEMENT

Potential findings in the region may include late Neogene mammalian fossils associated with undisturbed Orange River terrace gravels or well-preserved late Pleistocene alluvial deposits. However, the site is capped by well-developed Quaternary windblown sands of the Gordonia Formation and bedrock-derived eluvium, which overlie ~1000-million-year-old intrusive granitic rocks that do not have any palaeontological significance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The chances of palaeontological impact resulting from the proposed expansion are improbable. As far as palaeontological heritage is concerned, anticipated impact will have negligible negative effects on heritage resources and will require no further mitigation.

REFERENCES

Cornell, D.H. et al. 2006 *The Namaqua-Natal Province*. In: M.R. Johnson, C. J. Anhaeusser and R.J. Thomas (Eds). The Geology of South Africa. Geological Society of South Africa.

SAHRA, 2005. Minimum Standards for the Archaeological and the Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports.