

Heritage Statement in support of Heritage Western Cape Notification of Intent to Develop (HWC NID – Section 38[8])

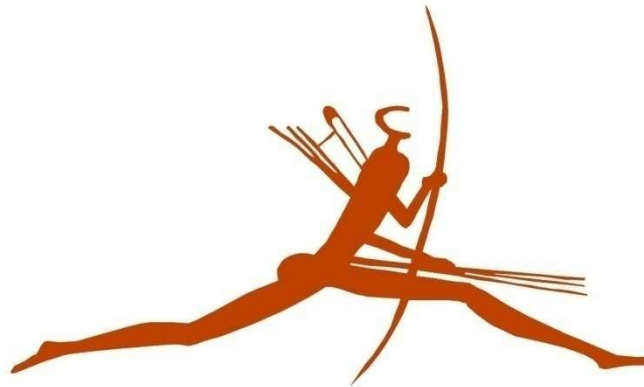
(HWC Case No.: HWC23083106 and DEA&DP Ref. No.: 16/3/3/6/7/1/D2/30/0241/23)

Proposed Development on Erf 1058, Hoekwil, Wilderness, Western Cape Province

for

Eco Route Environmental Consultancy, Ms. Janet Ebersohn, (EAPASA:
2019/1286), PO Box 1252, Sedgefield, 6573, Cell: 082 5577122, , E-mail:
janet@ecoroute.co.za and **The Applicant**, Wealth Spring (Pty) Ltd, Ayton Street,
Clydesdale, Pretoria, Mr Alexander Polson, Cell: 082 4819434, Email:
alexander@polsons.info

by



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18 July 2023

Summary - Conclusions & Recommendations

According to the SAHRIS Paleo Sensitivity Map the palaeontological sensitivity of Erf 1058 is low and no palaeontological studies are required.

The proposed development footprint on Erf 1058 has been impacted by farming activities (ploughing, cultivation, and possible grazing) during the colonial period. As a result, the context of pre-colonial heritage resources in surface sediments was damaged, disturbed or destroyed. No colonial period heritage resources were identified on record or on the property.

Even though none were identified, if present on the property, then isolated Stone Age pieces are considered to be of low heritage value and are Not Conservation Worthy.

Due to the absence of significant heritage resources, the proposed activity will have negligible to no cumulative impacts on the archaeological or heritage value of the area.

This baseline investigation has shown that, if present, heritage resources on the affected part of the property would be of low significance and given a field rating of Not Conservation Worthy. Since there are no significant heritage resources associated with the proposed development footprint, it does not meaningfully contribute to the cultural landscape of the area.

For reasons given above and on heritage grounds, the proposed activity will have negligible to no negative impact on the scenic route (N2) or aesthetic value of the area. A Visual Impact Assessment is being done in terms of NEMA but is not warranted in terms of the NHRA.

The positive socio-economic impact, including some short-, medium- and long-term jobs as well as the provision of accommodation for the tourism industry outweigh the negligible to zero negative impacts this project may have on heritage resources.

Because of the above, and because there is no reason to believe that significant heritage resources will be impacted by the proposed development on Erf 1058, it is recommended that no further heritage-related specialist studies (as listed in the NID) are required and that a Heritage Impact Assessment is not warranted for the project.

Nevertheless, it is recommended that Heritage Western Cape consider and/or require that the following be included in the Environmental Authorisation / Environmental Management Program, if the project is approved:

- if any human remains or significant archaeological materials are exposed during mining activities, then the find should be protected from further disturbance and work in the immediate area should be halted and Heritage Western Cape must be notified immediately. These heritage resources are protected by Section 36(3)(a) and Section 35(4) of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999) respectively and may not be damaged or disturbed in any way without a permit from the heritage authorities. Any work in mitigation, if deemed appropriate, should be commissioned and completed before construction continues in the affected area and will be at the expense of the developer.

1. Name, Biosketch and Declaration of Specialist

I, Peter Nilssen (PhD in archaeology, University of Cape Town, 2000), herewith confirm that I am a Professional member - in good standing - of the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA), including the Cultural Resource Management section of the same association since 1989 (ASAPA professional member # 097). I am an accredited Principal Investigator for archaeozoology (specialist analysis), coastal, shell midden and Stone Age archaeology; Field Director for Colonial Period archaeology; and Field Supervisor for Iron Age archaeology and Rock Art. I have worked as a professional archaeologist in Cultural Resource Management since 1989 and have completed more than 260 heritage-related impact assessments and mitigation projects as Principal Investigator.

As the appointed independent specialist (archaeologist) for this project hereby declare that I:

- act as an independent specialist in this application;
- regard the information contained in this report as it relates to my specialist input/study to be true and correct;
- do not have and will not have any financial interest in the undertaking of the activity, other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the NEMA, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 and any specific environmental management Act;
- have and will not have no vested interest in the proposed activity proceeding;
- have disclosed, to the applicant, EAP and competent authority, any material information that have or may have the potential to influence the decision of the competent authority or the objectivity of any report, plan or document required in terms of the NEMA, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 and any specific environmental management Act;
- am fully aware of and meet the responsibilities in terms of NEMA, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (specifically in terms of regulation 13 of GN No. R. 982) and any specific environmental management Act, and that failure to comply with these requirements may constitute and result in disqualification;
- am aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 of GN No. R. 982.



Signature of the specialist:

Date: **18 July 2023**

2. Introduction & Background

The applicant, Wealth Spring (Pty) Ltd represented by Mr Alexander Polson, is proposing a low density residential / tourism development on Erf 1058, Hoekwil. The moderately south sloping and developable part of the property has been transformed since farming activities began by at least the early- to mid-1900s and possibly as early as the early 1800s (Nilssen 2022). Apart from a small dam in the north-east corner and an overhead power line (Eskom servitude) straddling the property, the site is currently vacant, overgrown with a mixture of indigenous and exotic vegetation, and is surrounded by agricultural and low-density residential development.

The environmental authorisation application process, presently a Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998), is being facilitated by Ms Janet Ebersohn of Eco Route Environmental Consultancy (hereafter Eco Route) who compiled a Screening Tool Report (Ebersohn 2023). Because the property exceeds 5000 m², the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA, Act 25 of 1999) is triggered. Consequently, this author was appointed to assist with a Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) application to Heritage Western Cape (HWC) in terms of the NHRA.

The document presented here is not a Heritage Impact Assessment, but rather, is a heritage scoping report – Heritage Statement - that provides additional information in support of the NID application and motivates the recommendations made therein.

This Heritage Statement and the accompanying NID application form serve to inform HWC about the proposed development activity and to make recommendations regarding the potential impact on heritage resources and the requirement for any further specialist investigations. This report, the NID application form, and accompanying documentation should be read together as information is not always repeated here.

The purpose of this Heritage Statement is to report the results of a site inspection and basic review of background information and previous heritage-related studies with the aim to;

- 1) assist HWC in their decision-making process to ensure that potentially significant heritage resources are investigated and not overlooked, and that unnecessary heritage studies are not undertaken, and
- 2) to assist the applicant with the heritage application process, to avoid expenses on unnecessary specialist studies, and to avoid or minimize later delays and costs resulting from the chance discovery of previously undetected and significant heritage resources.

For the above reasons, HWC recommends that NID applications should be prepared with the assistance of suitably qualified and accredited heritage professionals.

Based on information submitted here as well as its own sources and expertise, HWC will make a decision and will advise on the way forward regarding the protection and management of heritage resources in accordance with the NHRA.

3. Site Location and Development Proposal

Erf 1058 is located about 8 km east of George, 2 km east-north-east of Wilderness, immediately south of Whites Road and north of Waterside Road, Hoekwil, Western Cape Province with the centre of the property at approximately S 33° 59' 22.06" E 22° 35' 57.09"

(WGS 84, see Locality Map and Figures 1, 2 and 3). Erf 1058 is 3,0108 hectares (30108 m²) in extent, while the proposed development footprint (Figure 4) is 2219 m² in extent and is registered to Wealth Spring (Pty) Ltd (Title Deed No.: 4887/23).



Locality Map. General location of the study area (yellow star), Hoekwil, George Municipality, Western Cape Province. Courtesy of Google Earth 2023.



Figure 1. Enlarged from Locality Map showing Erf 1058 ENE of Wilderness. Courtesy of Cape Farm Mapper (<https://gis.elsenburg.com/apps/cfm/>). (A4 version below)

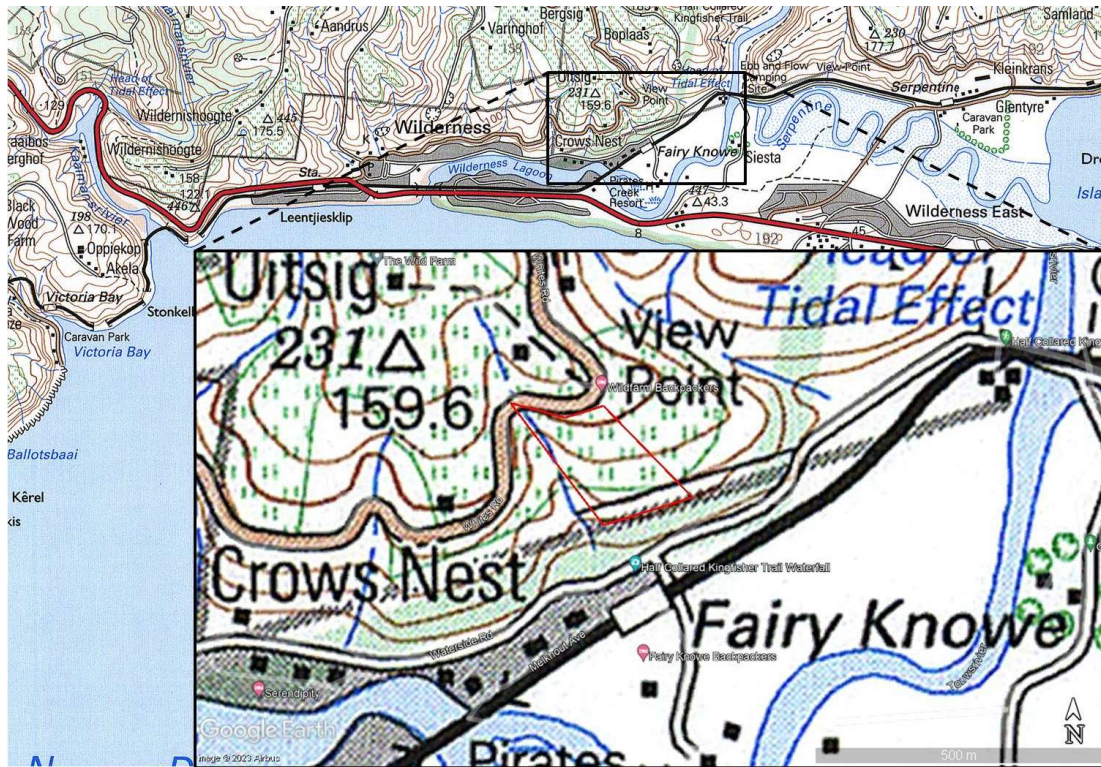


Figure 2. General location of the study area (red polygon in inset) ENE of Wilderness, Western Cape Province. Enlarged portions of 1:50 000 topographic maps 3322 DC and 3422 BA (1998) WILDERNESS, courtesy of The Chief Directorate Surveys and Mapping, Mowbray. (A4 version below)

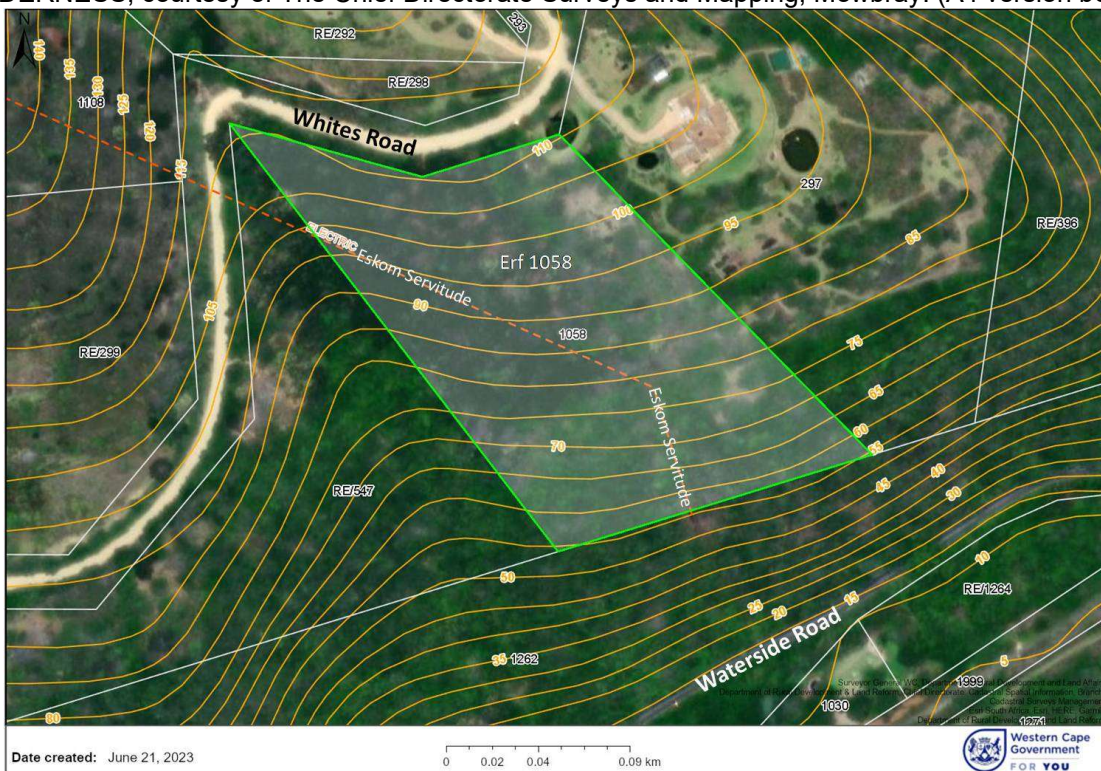


Figure 3. Enlarged from Figure 1 showing Erf 1058 (green polygon) and surrounding properties relative to Whites Road and Waterside Road. Courtesy of Cape Farm Mapper (<https://gis.elsenburg.com/apps/cfm/>). (A4 version below)

The following description of the proposed development is subject to minor changes pending the iterative EIA process and is taken from the Site Development Plan supplied by Mr Alexander Polson (Figure 4 and HWC NID application form). The property will be accessed via a driveway off Whites Road.

In keeping with the surrounding rural character, the proposal is low density and includes:

Buildings (Total Structures 830m² = 2,8% of property);

- Main House (280m²),
- Garage / Office (170m²),
- Tourist Accommodation – Unit 1 (80m²), Unit 2 (80m²), Unit 3 (80m²),
- Sauna House (40m²), and
- Green House (90m²)

Hard Landscaping (Total Landscapes 1,093m² = 3.6% of property):

- Driveway & Parking (291m²),
- Kitchen Yard (35m²),
- Service Road (270m²),
- Swimming Pool (240m²),
- 3 x Jacuzzi Decks (48m²),
- Footpaths (95m²),
- Outdoor Lapa (42m²), and
- Shaded Parking (72m²)

Total Development Footprint of 1,880m² of the total site area of 30,108m² = 6.2% of the property.

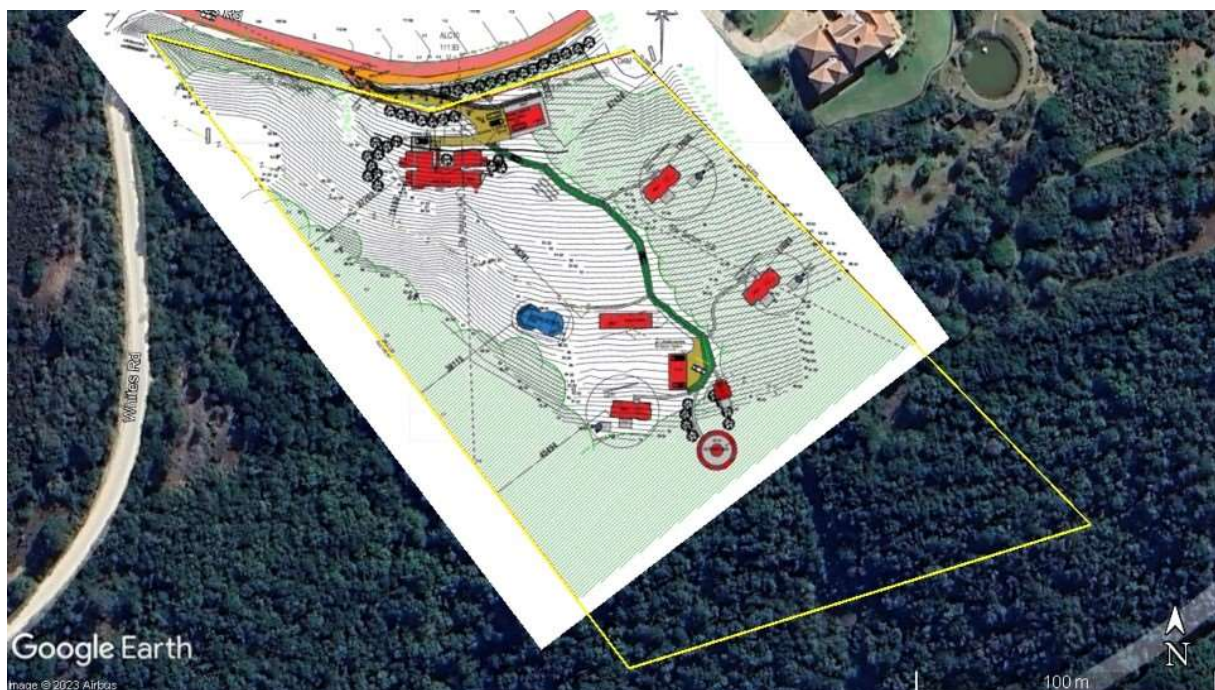


Figure 4. Site Development Plan of July 2023 overlaid on Google Earth imagery. Courtesy of Mr. Polson. (A4 version below).

4. Study Area

Erf 1058 is bordered by and accessible from Whites Road in the North while it is bounded in the West, South and East by RE/547, Erf 1262 and Erf 297 respectively (Figure 3). RE/547 and Erf 1262 are currently undeveloped, but residential development is present on Erf 297 and surrounding properties further West and South. The property is located on moderately south sloping ground with a drainage line to the West (Figure 3). Although mostly overgrown with a mixture of indigenous and exotic vegetation, certain parts of the property were cleared of trees and vegetation in the recent past. An Eskom servitude and overhead powerline run through the property while electrical boxes / “housing” was noted on the eastern boundary. A small dam is located in the NE corner, and it appears that only the northern boundary is partially fenced. Apart from these relatively recent human-related activities, the site is vacant and undeveloped.

Although most of the proposed development footprint is accessible, the bulk of the property is overgrown. Although archaeological visibility is fairly limited due to live and dead vegetation, exposed surfaces in clearings, and disturbances along Whites Road and the dam in the NE corner allowed for archaeological inspection and assessment. Surface sediments consist of soils and angular gravels in quartzitic sandstone. No hard rock geology was seen in the studied area. Examples of the study area and receiving environment are shown in Figures 5 through 16. Where applicable, directions of views are indicated on photographs with abbreviated compass bearing names such as E = East, SE = South-East, and so on.

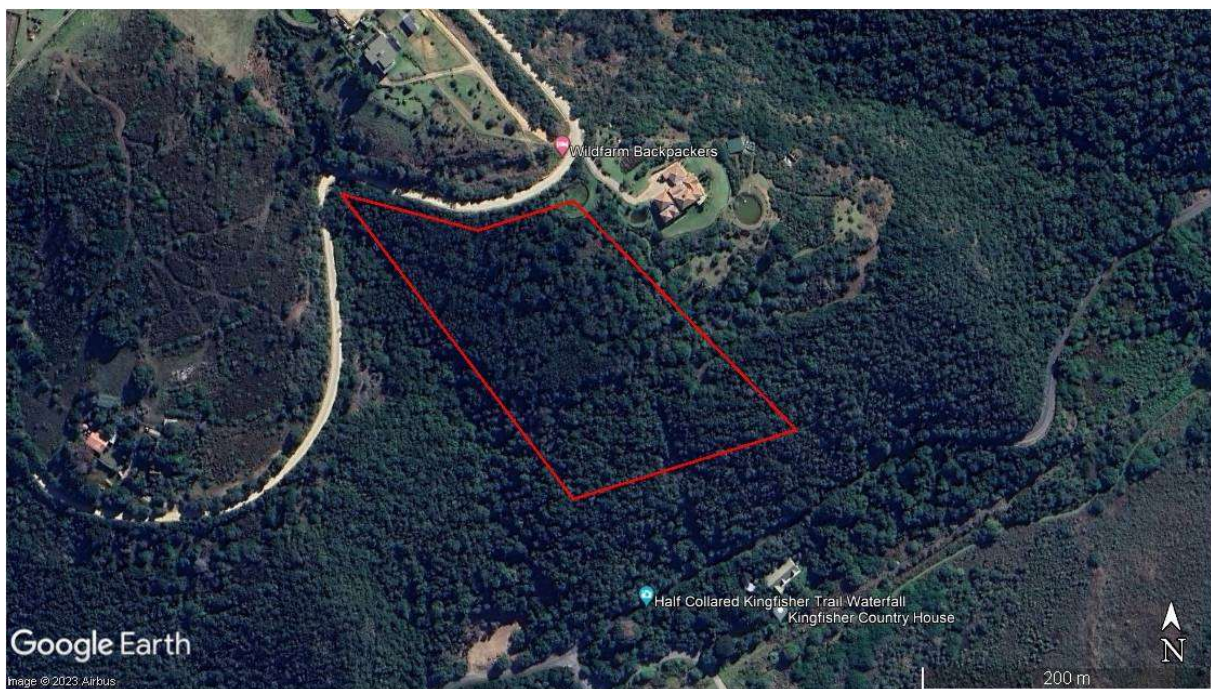


Figure 5. Aerial image of Erf 1058 and immediate surroundings showing overgrown state of site in 2023. Courtesy of Google Earth.

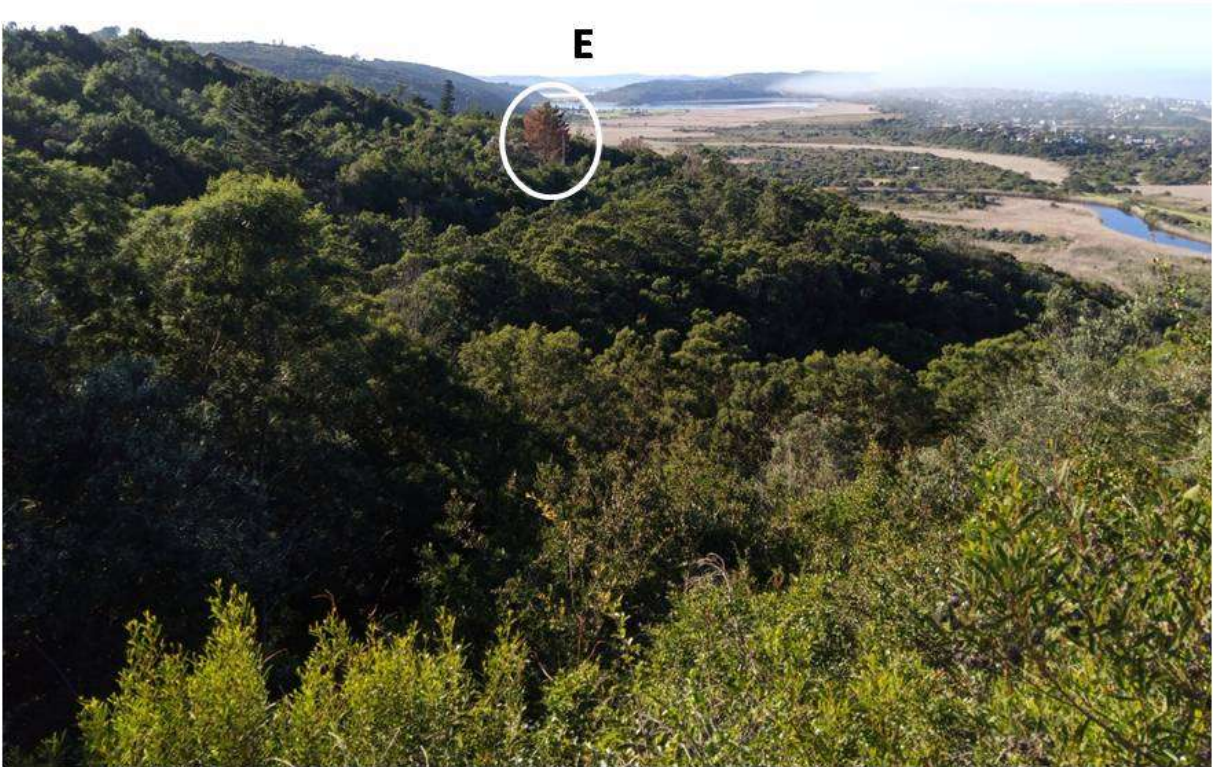


Figure 6. Views towards the study area from Whites Road. Top: Drainage line in foreground and the circled dead pine tree is roughly in the middle of Erf 1058. Bottom: Image taken from point where drainage line meets Whites Road. Note dense vegetation cover and property obscured by vegetation along Whites Road.



ESE



SSE

Figure 7. Views towards Erf 1058 from Whites Road. Note dense vegetation cover and property obscured by vegetation along Whites Road.



Figure 8. Views from Whites Road showing access road to dwelling on Erf 297, East of Erf 1058 (top) and dam in the NE corner of the property (bottom).



Figure 9. Cleared pedestrian track (top) leading to dam in NE corner of Erf 1058 (bottom).



Figure 10. Examples of exposed surfaces and vegetation cover adjacent to dam and Whites Road (top) and within the development footprint (bottom).



Figure 11. Examples of cleared areas and exposed surfaces within the development footprint on Erf 1058.



Figure 12. Top: 180° panorama showing vegetation cover and distant surroundings to the South. Bottom: example of exposed surface amid vegetation and leaf litter.



Figure 13. Examples of cleared areas, exposed surfaces and vegetation within development footprint.



Figure 14. Examples of cleared area and vegetation cover in development footprint. Electrical boxes / "housing" are on the eastern boundary of Erf 1058 (bottom).



Figure 15. Examples of cleared area and vegetation cover in development footprint. Note pylon for overhead transmission line (bottom).

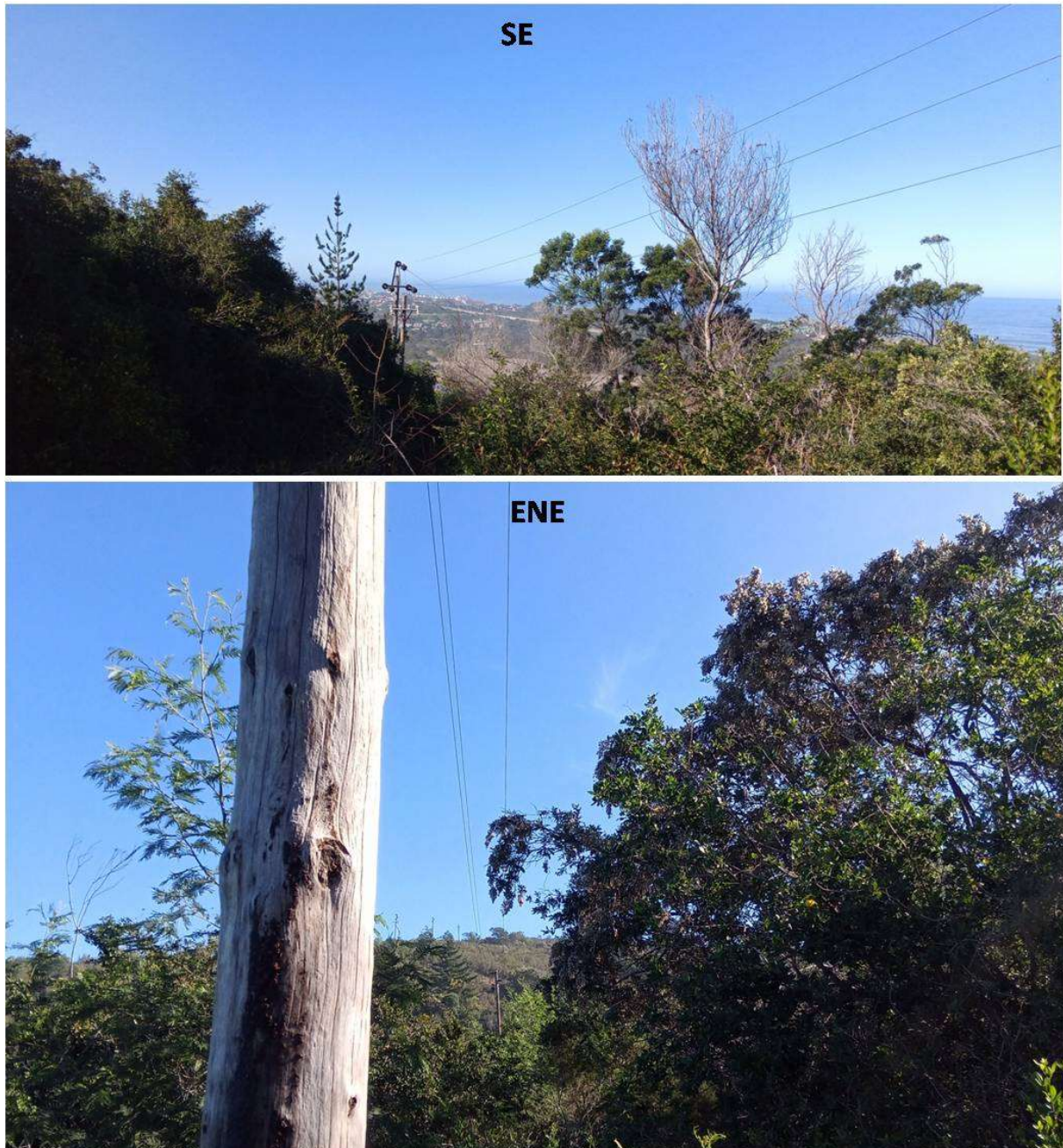


Figure 16. Examples of the overhead power line crossing Erf 1058.

5. History, Development and Heritage Resources

Colonial Period

According to SG Diagram 4904/59 of 1959, Erf 1058 was originally part of the farm Wildernishoogte 157 (1429.1992 morgen in extent) that was likely first granted at the same time as surrounding properties in the early 1800s (Figure 17; Nilssen 2022). SG diagram 4904/59 describes Portion 3 of Oliphants Hoek Forest Reserve as “5. The figure d middle of Touw River cDEFGHJKe”, of which Erf 1058 was a part (Figure 17).

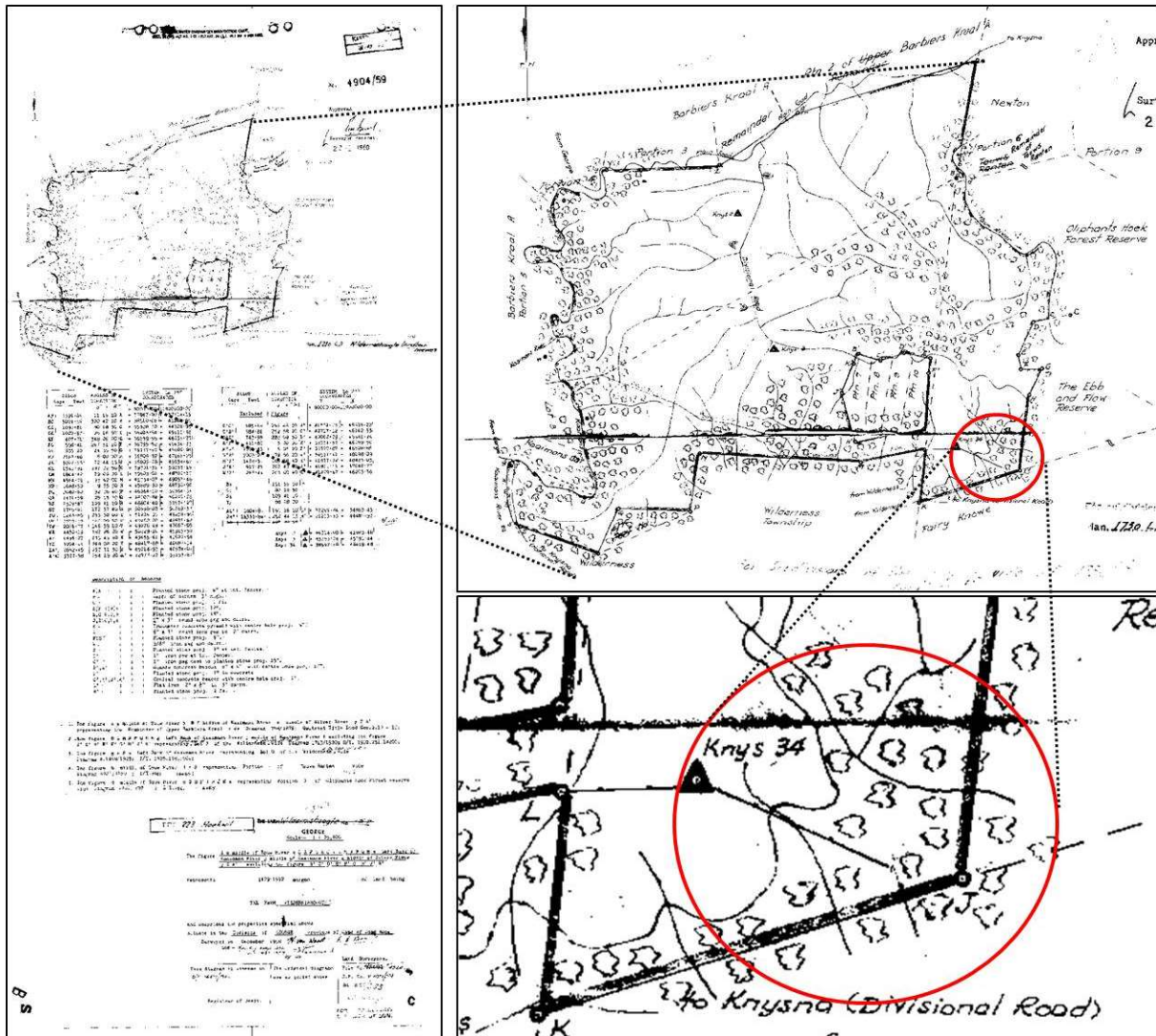


Figure 17. SG Diagram 4904/59 (1959) of farm Wildernishoogte 157 with the location of Erf 1058 indicated by red circles in enlarged portions of the SG Diagram (right). Note Whites Road and Eskom servitude, but no structures are indicated.

According to the SG Diagrams the property was first drawn in its current form in 1961 with an Eskom Servitude (registered in 1944 and also indicated in the 4904/59 diagram) straddling the property. The SG Diagram of 1991 (6233/91) also shows the Eskom servitude, but no structures are depicted. The most recent SG Diagram is that of 2005 (No. 5447/2005; Figure 19). The Title Deed (No. 4887/23) was registered to Wealth Spring (Pty) Ltd in February 2023. A copy of the current Title Deed is submitted with this application.

As is evident from the Title Deed, SG Diagrams, topographic map (Figure 2) and historic aerial photographs (Figures 20 through 24), apart from the 1944 Eskom servitude, vegetation clearing for agricultural purposes prior to 1936 and a small dam built in the late 1950s or early 1960s in the north-east corner, Erf 1058 is undeveloped and no further buildings or infrastructure occur on the property. Consequently, there are no colonial period heritage resources on the property or within its immediate surroundings.

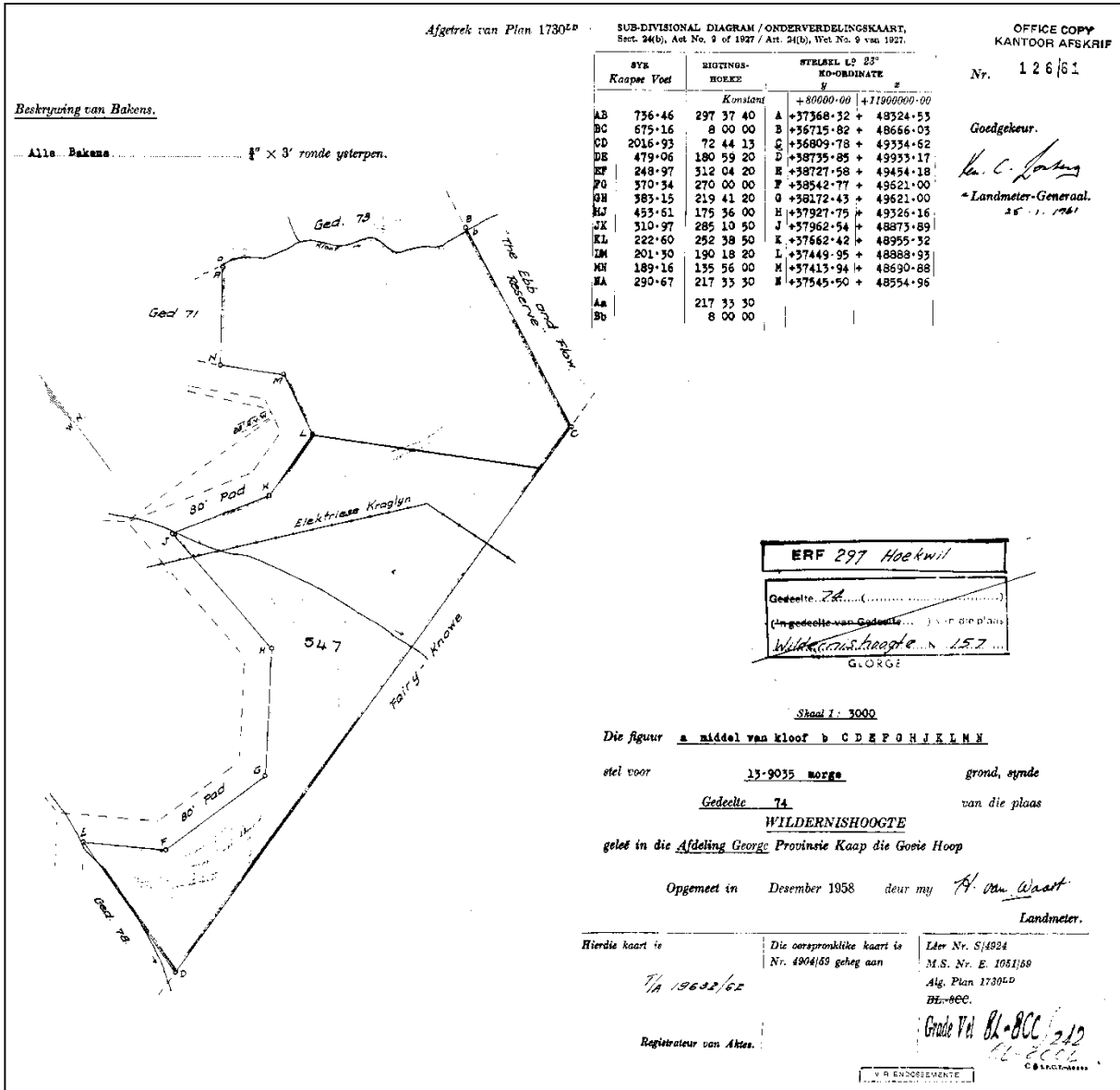


Figure 18. SG Diagram 126/61 (1961) showing Eskom power line running through Erf 1058.

OFFICE COPY

Bailey & le Roux, Land Surveyors, George

| SIDES Metres | ANGLES OF DIRECTION | CO-ORDINATES | | | S.G. No. | |
|------------------|------------------------|--------------|--------|---------------|-------------|--|
| | | Y | System | X | | |
| | Constant: | ± | 0,00 | +3 700 000,00 | 5447/2005 | |
| AB | 97,94 | 285.10.30 | A | + 37 189,42 | + 62 465,26 | Approved <i>[Signature]</i> Surveyor-General 27-10-2005 |
| BC | 70,06 | 252.38.50 | B | + 37 094,89 | + 62 490,90 | |
| CD | 218,47 | 315.15.10 | C | + 37 028,03 | + 62 470,01 | |
| DE | 160,80 | 72.44.10 | D | + 36 874,23 | + 62 625,17 | |
| EA | 263,13 | 142.06.00 | E | + 37 027,78 | + 62 672,89 | |
| Indicatory data: | | | | | | |
| CF | 10,00 | 315.15.10 | F | + 37 020,99 | + 62 477,11 | |
| FG | 93,07 | 315.15.10 | G | + 36 955,46 | + 62 543,21 | |
| GD | 115,40 | 315.15.10 | | | | |
| KNYS 3 (200) | | | | + 39 012,48 | + 61 494,67 | |
| KNYS 34 (231) | | | | + 37 389,38 | + 62 385,18 | |

Beacon Description:

- A, B 20mm Iron peg
- C, D 20mm Iron peg in cairn
- E, G 16mm Iron peg
- F 12mm Iron peg

Servitude Note:

The line A E represents the south-western boundary of a power line servitude, 3,00 metres wide, as shown.

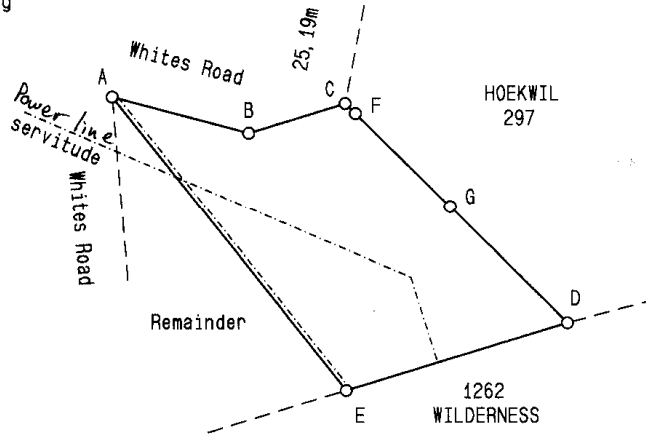
THIS PORTION IS SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS REFERRED TO IN SECT. 11 (b) OF ACT 21/1992.

EXEMPT FROM PROVISIONS OF ACT 70 OF 1970 SECTION 1(a)

APPROVED IN TERMS OF SECT. 25 OF ORD. 15/1985
REF. S. 617 Hoekwil (11) Hoekwil (11) Hoekwil (11)
DATE 2005-7-8



SCALE 1 : 4000



The figure A B C D E represents 3,0108 Hectares of land, being

ERF 1058 (a portion of Erf 547) HOEKWIL, situate in the Municipality and Administrative District of George, Province of the Western Cape Surveyed in July 1991 and August 2005 by us

[Signature]
P.G. Tarboton PLS-0605
Professional Land Surveyor

[Signature]
J.H. Bailey PLS-0019
Professional Land Surveyor

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| This diagram is annexed to No. 199312/2006 | The original diagram is No. 6233/1991 | File No. Geor 157 Vol.2 |
| Dated i.f.o. | annexed to Transfer | S.R. No. E2482/2005 |
| Registrar of Deeds | No. T 5491/1993 | LPI C0270005 BL-8CC/242 (1766) Comp. BL-8CCD (4139) Gen. Plan No. 1730 |

Erf 1058 Hoekwil

Figure 19. Most recent SG Diagram 5447/2005 (2005) showing Eskom power line crossing Erf 1058.



Figure 20. Erf 1058 boundary (yellow polygon) overlaid onto 1936 aerial imagery using Google Earth. Courtesy of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD). The overlay is approximate and not precise. Note area cleared of vegetation for agricultural purposes.



Figure 21. Erf 1058 boundary (yellow polygon) overlaid onto 1957 aerial imagery using Google Earth. Courtesy of DALRRD. The overlay is approximate and not precise. Note area cleared of vegetation (partially ploughed) and Eskom servitude.



Figure 22. Erf 1058 boundary (red polygon) overlaid onto 1968 aerial imagery using Google Earth. Courtesy of DALRRD. The overlay is approximate and not precise. Note area cleared of vegetation and dam in NE corner.

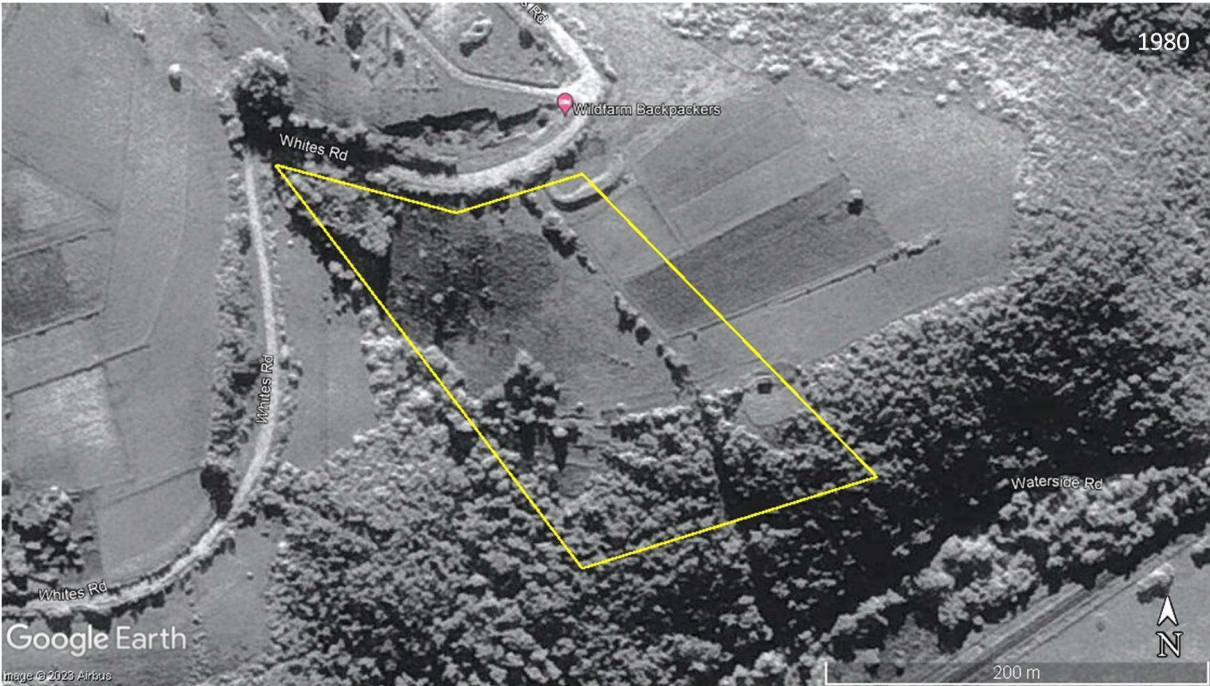


Figure 23. Erf 1058 boundary (yellow polygon) overlaid onto 1980 aerial imagery using Google Earth. Courtesy of DALRRD. The overlay is approximate and not precise. Note area cleared of vegetation (partially ploughed), Eskom servitude and dam in NE corner.



Figure 24. Erf 1058 boundary (yellow polygon) overlaid onto 2003 aerial imagery using Google Earth. Courtesy of DALRRD. The overlay is approximate and not precise. Note vegetation cover, Eskom servitude and dam in NE corner.

Palaeontology

Although the DFFE Screening Tool Report did not include mapping of palaeontological sensitivity (Ebersohn 2023), the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity Map shows that Erf 1058 requires no palaeontological studies because the area is shaded grey and is rated to be of insignificant or zero sensitivity (Figure 25).

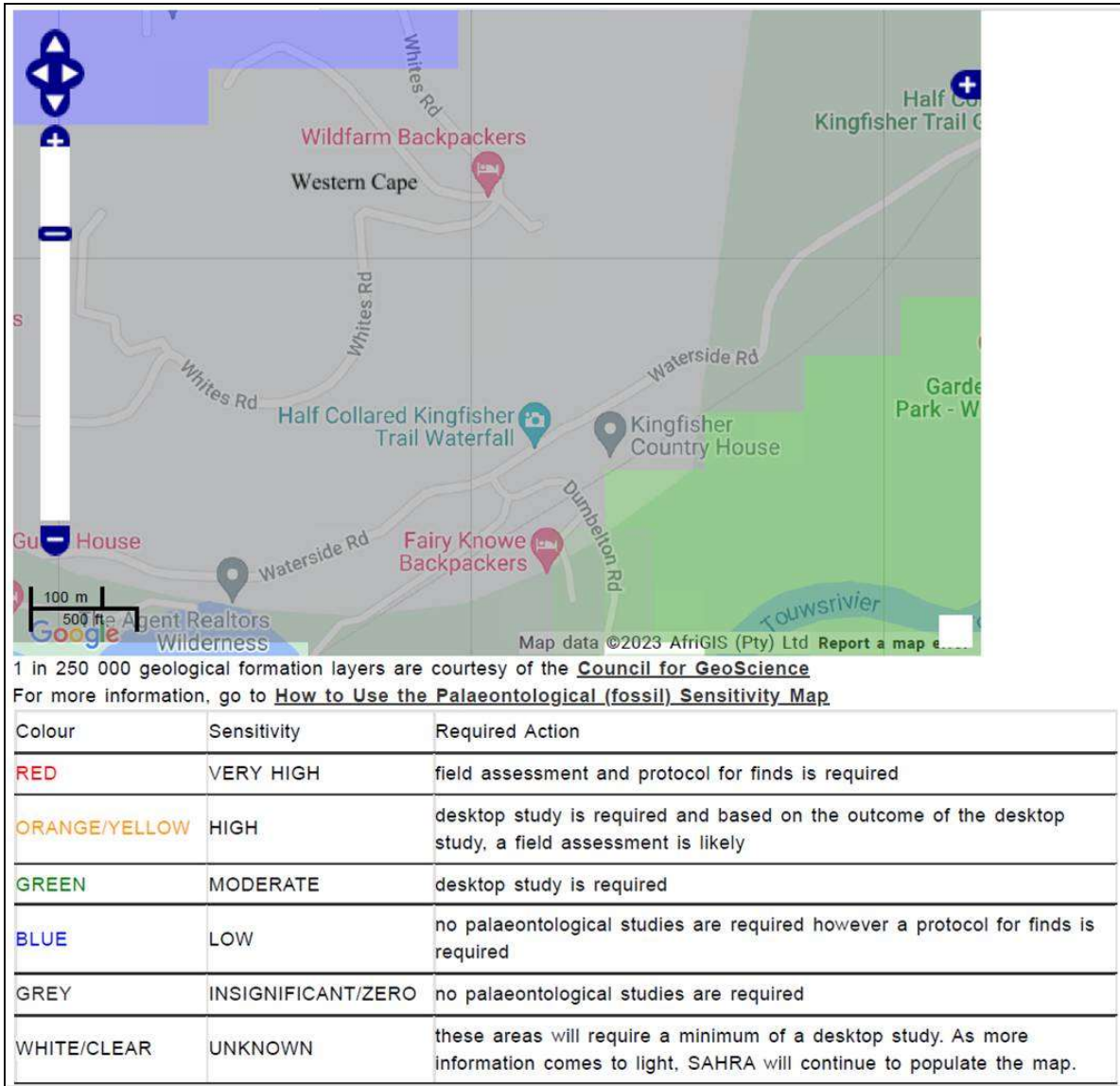


Figure 25. SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity Map showing that Erf 1058 fall within the grey shaded area between Whites Road and Waterside Road.

Archaeology

The DFFE screening tool map and table for the archaeological and cultural heritage theme sensitivity shown in Figure 26 indicates that Erf 1058 falls within an area of low sensitivity (Ebersohn 2023). In this regard, the results of the basic investigation conducted here concur with the DFFE screening tool report’s attribution of low sensitivity with respect to heritage resources.

Although archaeological resources, of both historic and prehistoric origin are common along this stretch of the South African coastline, this specific portion of the Garden Route has not been investigated in detail, and to the best of my knowledge, no heritage-related studies have been conducted on or in the immediate surroundings of the affected property (SAHRIS database). Consequently, we do not know much about the heritage resources in this particular area. Nevertheless, given what occurs to the east and west, it is expected that open air shell

middens and scatters of Stone Age implements may be found in the landscape. If present, rock shelters or caves are likely to contain archaeological materials. Historic structures along the shoreline and outside of commercial centres are most commonly associated with recreational use of the coastal landscape. Historic structures further inland are associated with early colonial settlements and agricultural activities.

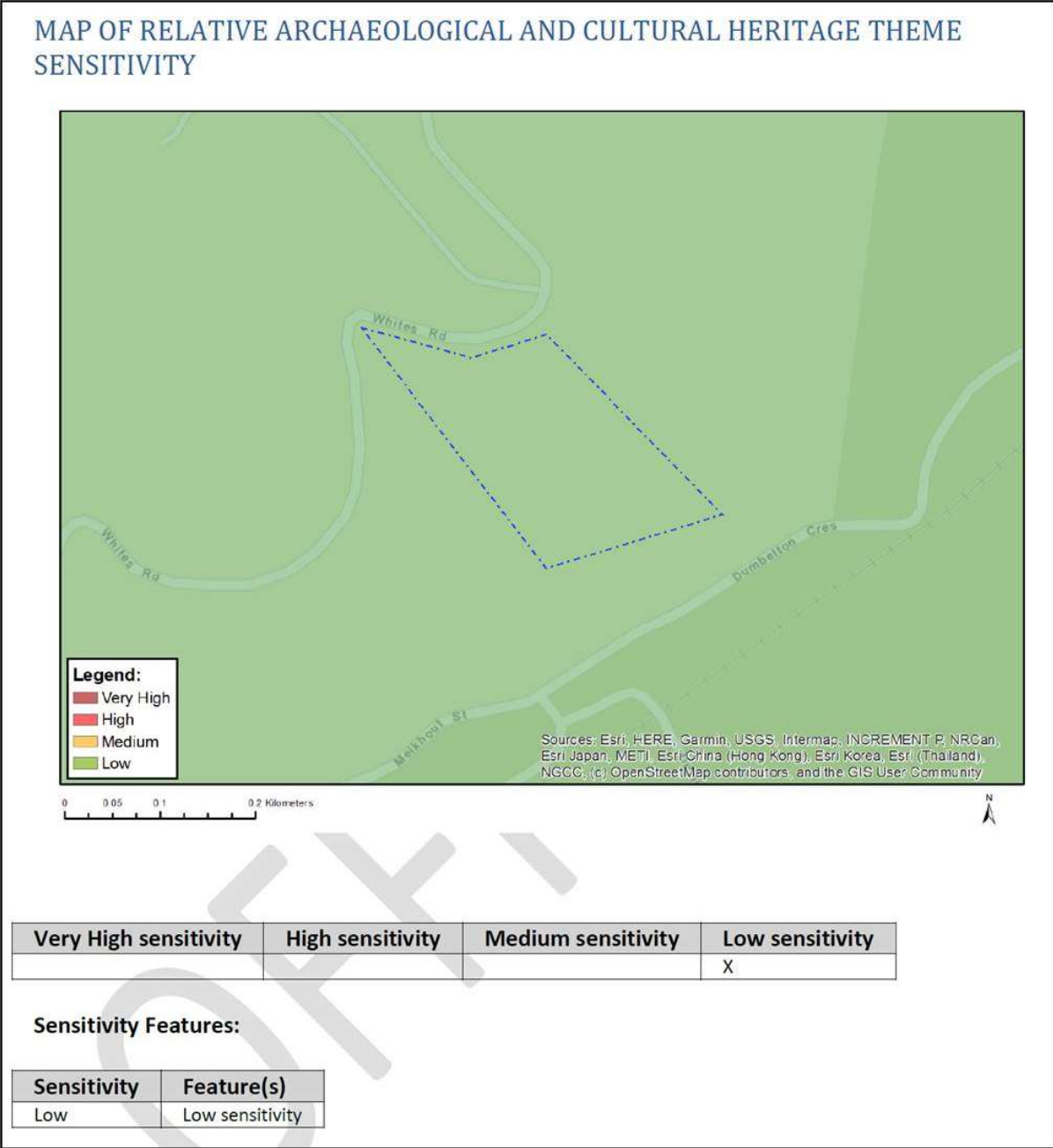


Figure 26. Map of relative archaeological and cultural heritage theme sensitivity from the DFFE screening tool report (Ebersohn 2023). Erf 1058 is represented by the polygon (dashed blue line).

Because of predictable food sources, the coastal zone has been a frequently inhabited environment for many thousands of years. Significant archaeological sites have been found along the coast including the Provincial Heritage Sites of Cape St Blaize Cave and Pinnacle Point Site Complex at Mossel Bay, and Nelson Bay Cave and Matjies River Rock Shelter near

Plettenberg Bay. Nevertheless, to the best of my knowledge, no registered, officially graded, or significant heritage sites occur in the immediate surroundings of the study area.

According to the SAHRIS database, apart from studies in different contexts to the west, only one heritage related study was conducted in the surroundings, about 7km to the north-east, involving the approximately 1000ha extent of the farm Hoogekraal 182 (Hart & Halkett 2003). The finds of this study included a dispersed scatter of Early Stone Age artefacts and historic period structures, including a stone boundary wall of likely late 18th Century origin.

Studies by this author yielded no significant heritage resources near the coast some 3 km to the ESE and in the dunes East of Island Lake (Nilssen 2018 & 2021). A more recent study by this author on Erf 1262, immediately south of Erf 1058, yielded parts of an old road, but no other heritage resources were identified (Nilssen 2022).

This author is aware of a rock shelter with anthropogenic sediments on Erf 271, Wilderness, which is situated along Whites Road and about 2 km to the west of the current study area. It is not known whether any further investigations have been undertaken into the archaeology associated with this rock shelter.

Due to vegetation clearing, ploughing, cultivation, and the likely grazing of domestic stock during the colonial period and in modern times, surface sediments in the proposed development footprint are disturbed. Consequently, the context of any pre-colonial archaeological remains on or in those sediments is also disturbed and thus compromised and of questionable or low heritage value. Furthermore, the uneven, sloped nature of the site makes it less desirable for pre-colonial occupation and is susceptible to erosion.

Overall, based on the above, it is not expected that any significant palaeontological, archaeological or cultural heritage resources occur on Erf 1058. It is anticipated that the only heritage resources, though in disturbed context, that may be found on the property are isolated or very low density scatters of Stone Age pieces (Grade IIIC or Not Conservation Worthy).

6. Site Inspection and Results

After obtaining permission to access the property, an archaeological / heritage site inspection was conducted independently and on foot by this author on 18 June 2023. The survey focused on cleared and accessible parts of the development footprint (Figures 4 & 27). The studied area covers a representative portion of the site.

Survey tracks and observations were fixed with a handheld Garmin Etrex 30x GPS to record the investigated area (Figures 27). A high quality, comprehensive digital photographic record was also made with a DooGee S86 cellular phone, including location data for photographs. All GPS and photographic data are available on request.

The property was examined with a focus on the presence / potential presence and significance of heritage related resources of both colonial and pre-colonial origin. Heritage resources listed in Section D of the NID application form were considered, but are not listed here unless they are present on or in the immediate vicinity of Erf 1058, or if they are anticipated to occur on or in the immediate vicinity of the property. Even though access and archaeological visibility was limited, adequate observations were made for the purpose of informing the NID application process.

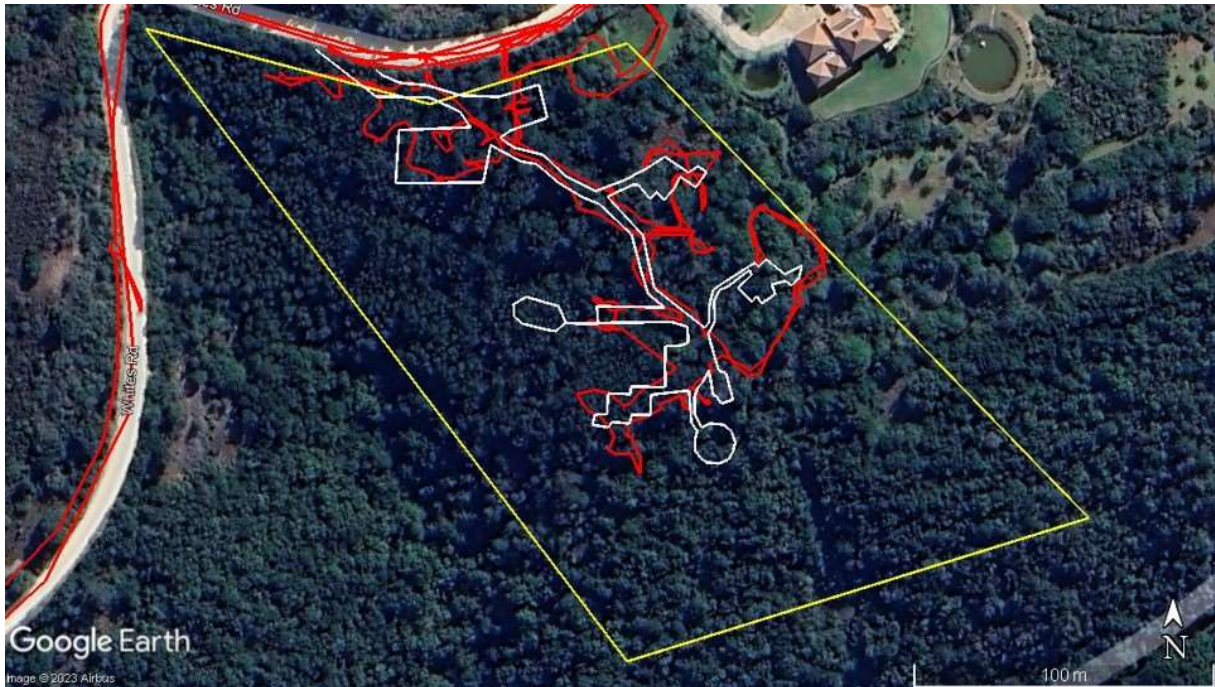


Figure 27: Erf 1058 (yellow polygon) with outline of proposed development footprint (white polygon) and GPS-fixed survey tracks (red lines). (A4 version below)

The approach was to;

- walk and inspect as much of the proposed development footprint as possible to gain an understanding of its archaeological and heritage sensitivity, and
- the site inspection was completed with an evaluation of the visibility of the site from the N2 (scenic route) some 800 m to the South.

Due to previous disturbance of sediments resulting from vegetation clearing and agricultural activities, the moderate slope of the ground, and the absence of any rock shelters or caves, it was considered unlikely to find any evidence of pre-colonial occupation of the site. No heritage resources were identified, and it is not expected that the proposed development will have an impact on heritage resources or the heritage value of the area.

The proposed development site is visible from the N2 (a major scenic route), but only at a distance and as a backdrop (Figure 28 – note that due to poor mid-winter light and over exposure, Google Earth street view imagery was used). The proposed low-density development does not break the ridgeline and is in keeping with developments in the surroundings, which are barely visible in the distance. Nevertheless, there are no heritage resources on Erf 1058 that will be visually impacted by the proposed development. Consequently, from a heritage standpoint, the scenic route or aesthetic value will not be negatively impacted by the proposed development. It is noted that a Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) is being done for the project in terms of NEMA for the BAR, but that a VIA is not warranted in terms of the NHRA.

Furthermore, since there are no significant heritage resources or features associated with Erf 1058, the proposed activity will have a negligible to no impact on the existing cultural landscape of the area.



Figure 28: Erf 1058 (yellow polygon) as seen from the N2. Due to the low winter sun and over exposure at the time of doing the field work, Google Earth street view imagery was used.

7. Conclusions and Recommendations

According to the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity Map the palaeontological sensitivity of Erf 1058 is low and no palaeontological studies are required.

The proposed development footprint on Erf 1058 has been impacted by farming activities (ploughing, cultivation and possible grazing) during the colonial period. As a result, the context of pre-colonial heritage resources in surface sediments was damaged, disturbed or destroyed. No colonial period heritage resources were identified on record or on the property.

Even though none were identified, if present on the property, then isolated Stone Age pieces are considered to be of low heritage value and are Not Conservation Worthy.

Due to the absence of significant heritage resources, the proposed activity will have negligible to no cumulative impacts on the archaeological or heritage value of the area.

This baseline investigation has shown that, if present, heritage resources on the affected part of the property would be of low significance and given a field rating of Not Conservation Worthy.

Since there are no significant heritage resources associated with the proposed development footprint, it does not meaningfully contribute to the cultural landscape of the area.

For reasons given above and on heritage grounds, the proposed activity will have negligible to no negative impact on the scenic route (N2) or aesthetic value of the area. A Visual Impact Assessment is being done in terms of NEMA, but is not warranted in terms of the NHRA.

The positive socio-economic impact, including some short, medium and long term jobs as well as the provision of accommodation for the tourism industry outweigh the negligible to zero negative impacts this project may have on heritage resources.

Because of the above, and because there is no reason to believe that significant heritage resources will be impacted by the proposed development on Erf 1058, it is recommended that no further heritage-related specialist studies (as listed in the NID) are required and that a Heritage Impact Assessment is not warranted for the project.

Nevertheless, it is recommended that Heritage Western Cape consider and/or require that the following be included in the Environmental Authorisation / Environmental Management Program, if the project is approved:

- if any human remains or significant archaeological materials are exposed during mining activities, then the find should be protected from further disturbance and work in the immediate area should be halted and Heritage Western Cape must be notified immediately. These heritage resources are protected by Section 36(3)(a) and Section 35(4) of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999) respectively and may not be damaged or disturbed in any way without a permit from the heritage authorities. Any work in mitigation, if deemed appropriate, should be commissioned and completed before construction continues in the affected area and will be at the expense of the developer.

6. References & Bibliography

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Figure 1. Enlarged from Locality Map showing Erf 1058 ENE of Wilderness. Courtesy of Cape Farm Mapper (<https://gis.elsenburg.com/apps/cfm/>).

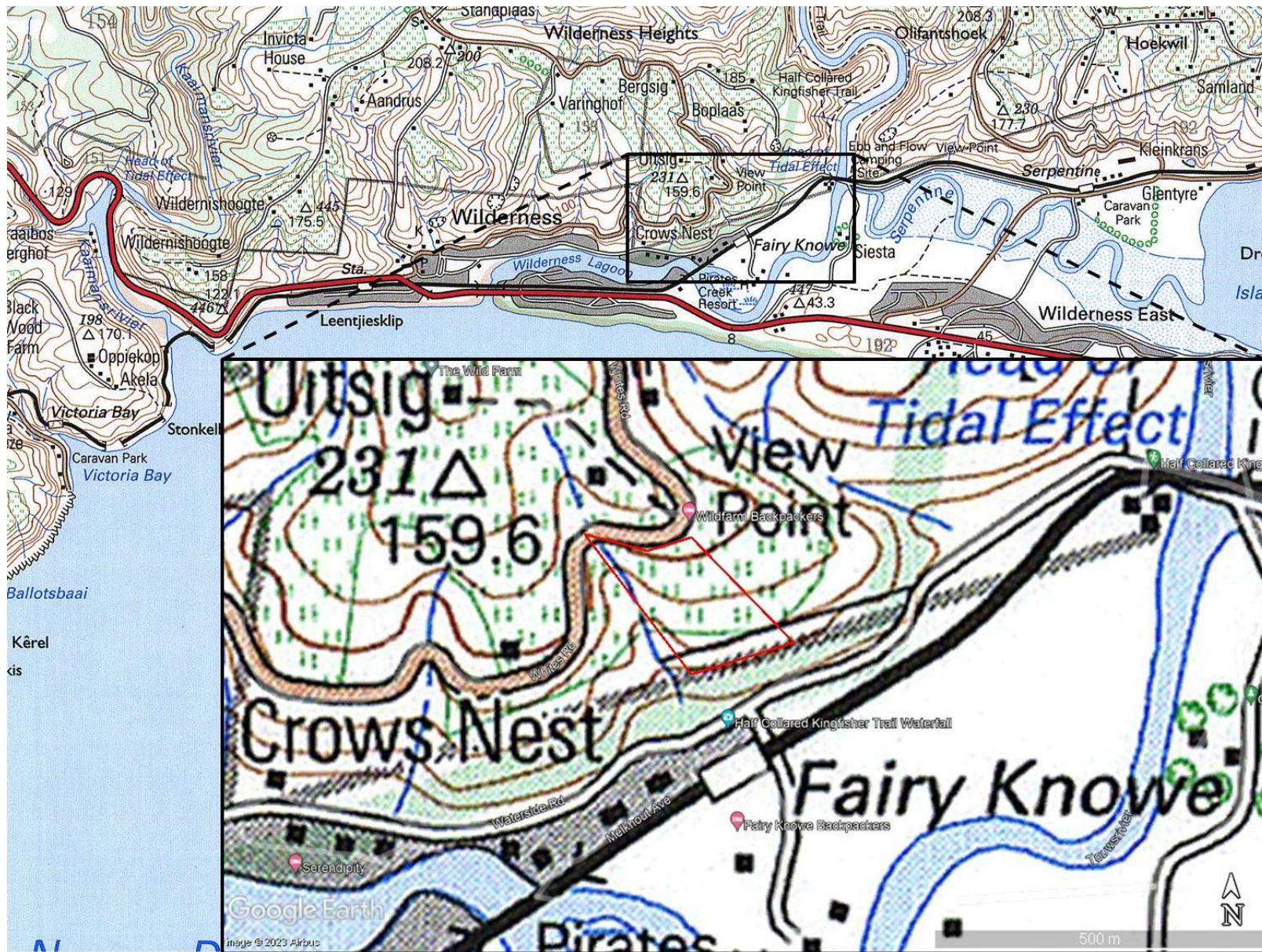


Figure 2. General location of the study area (red polygon in inset) ENE of Wilderness, Western Cape Province. Enlarged portions of 1:50 000 topographic maps 3322 DC and 3422 BA (1998) WILDERNESS, courtesy of The Chief Directorate Surveys and Mapping, Mowbray.



Figure 3. Enlarged from Figure 1 showing Erf 1058 (green polygon) and surrounding properties relative to Whites Road and Waterside Road. Courtesy of Cape Farm Mapper (<https://gis.elsenburg.com/apps/cfm/>).

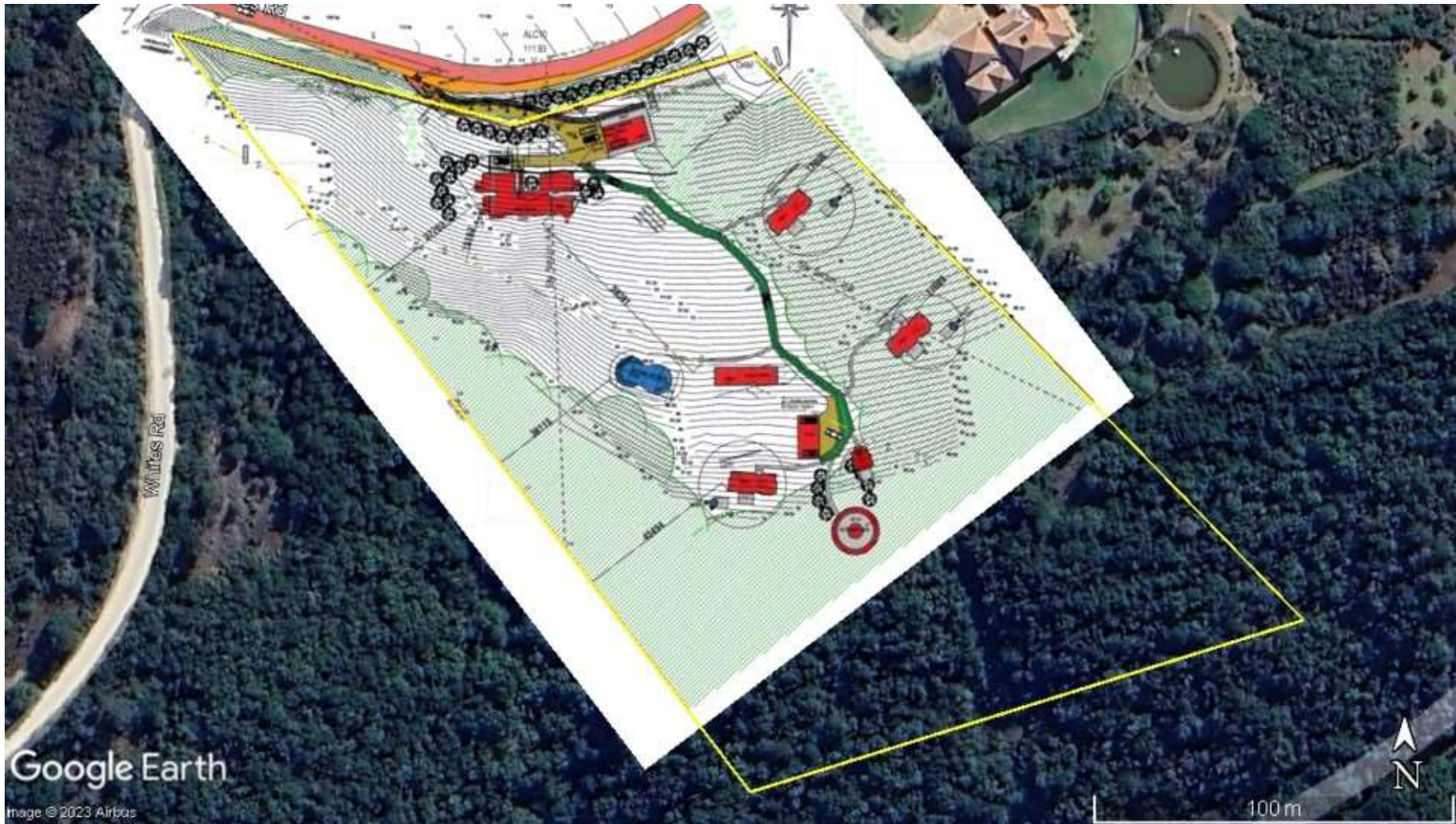


Figure 4. Site Development Plan of July 2023 overlaid on Google Earth imagery. Courtesy of Mr. Polson.

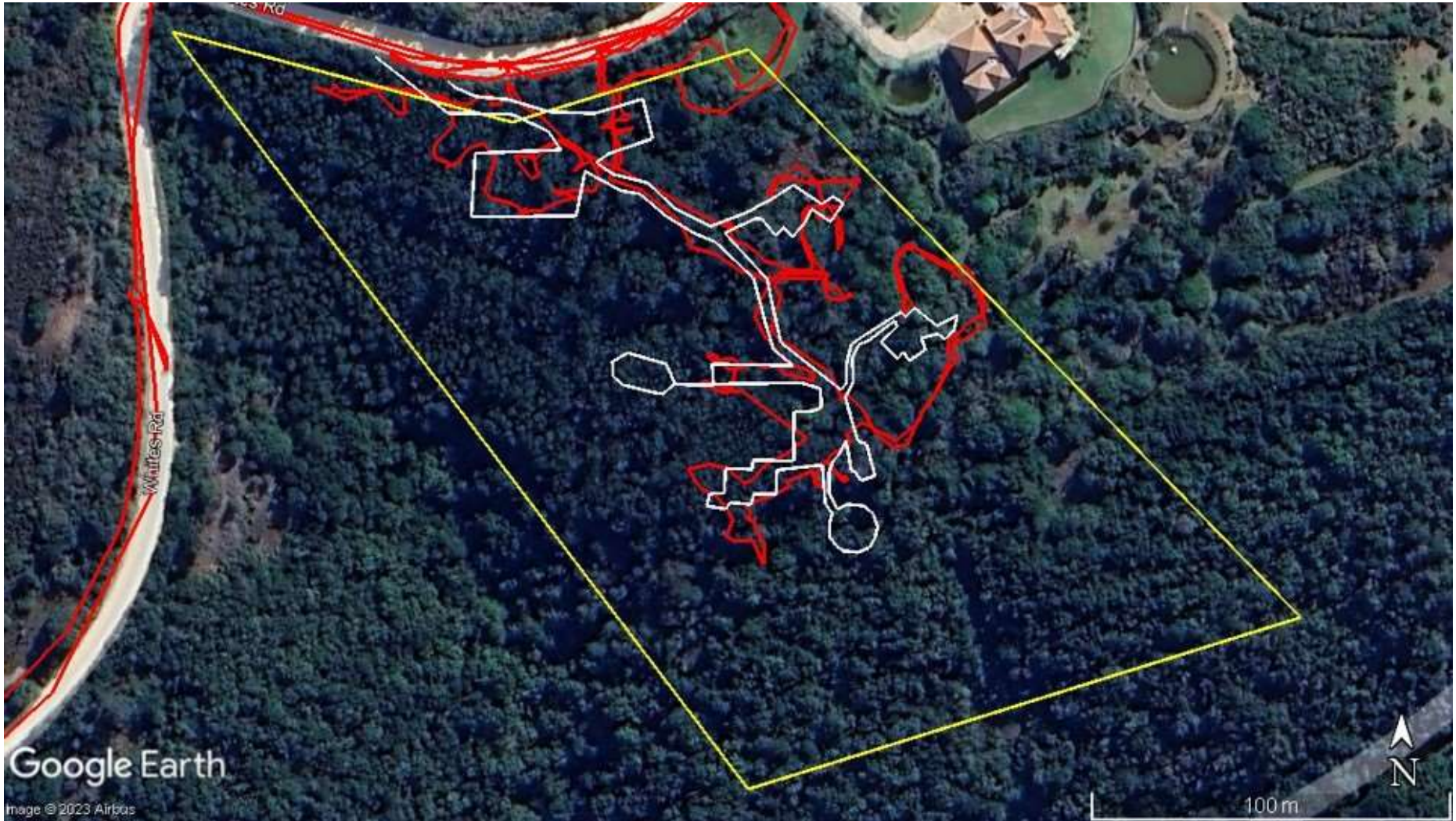


Figure 27: Erf 1058 (yellow polygon) with outline of proposed development footprint (white polygon) and GPS-fixed survey tracks (red lines).