

**SCREENING REPORT FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION AS
REQUIRED BY THE 2014 EIA REGULATIONS – PROPOSED SITE
ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY**

EIA Reference number: N/A

Project name: Erf 1058

Project title: Erf 1058

Date screening report generated: 18/05/2023 10:51:20

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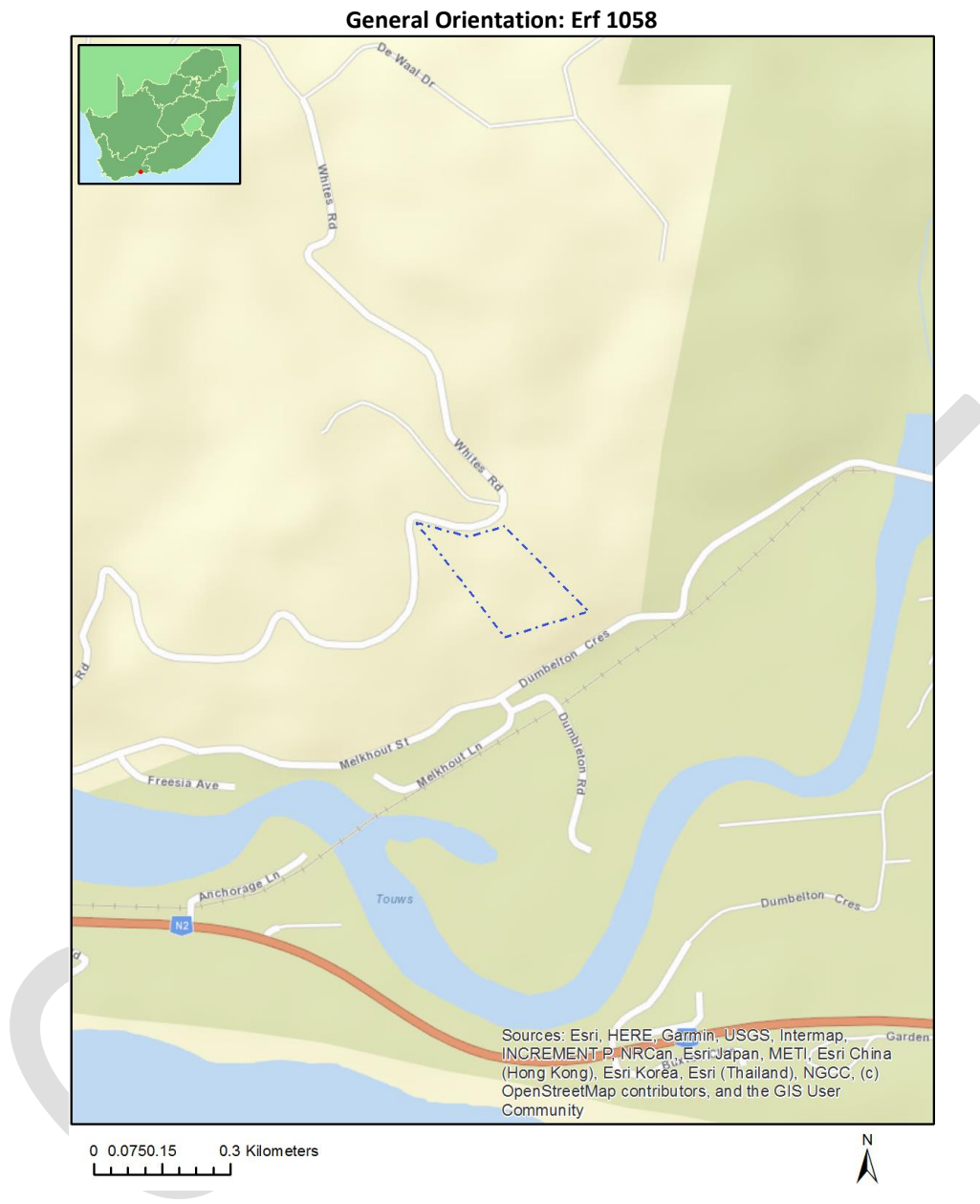
Application Category: Transformation of land | Indigenous vegetation

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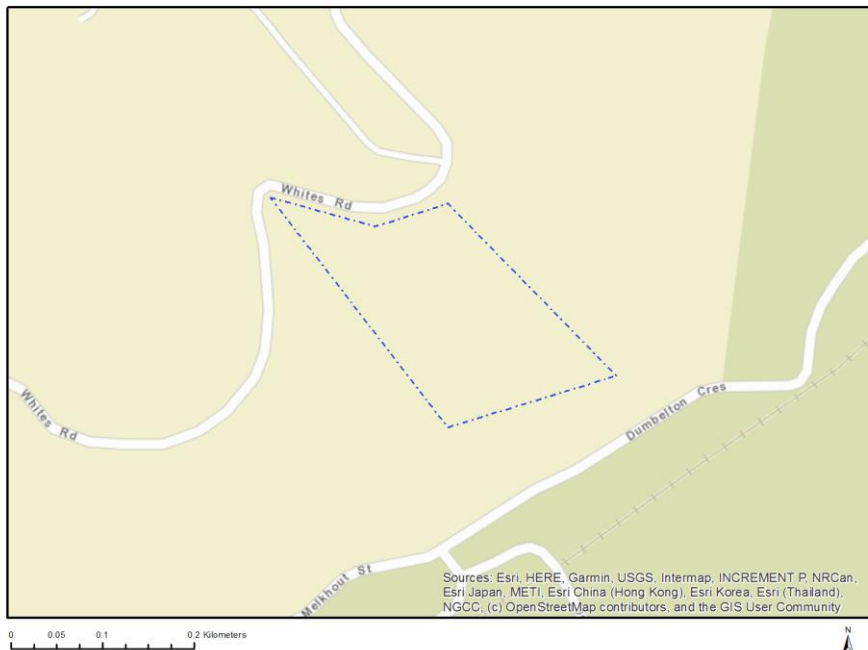
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Proposed Project Location

Orientation map 1: General location



Map of proposed site and relevant area(s)



Cadastral details of the proposed site

Property details:

No	Farm Name	Farm/ Erf No	Portion	Latitude	Longitude	Property Type
1	HOEKWIL	1058	0	33°59'22.14S	22°35'57.37E	Erven

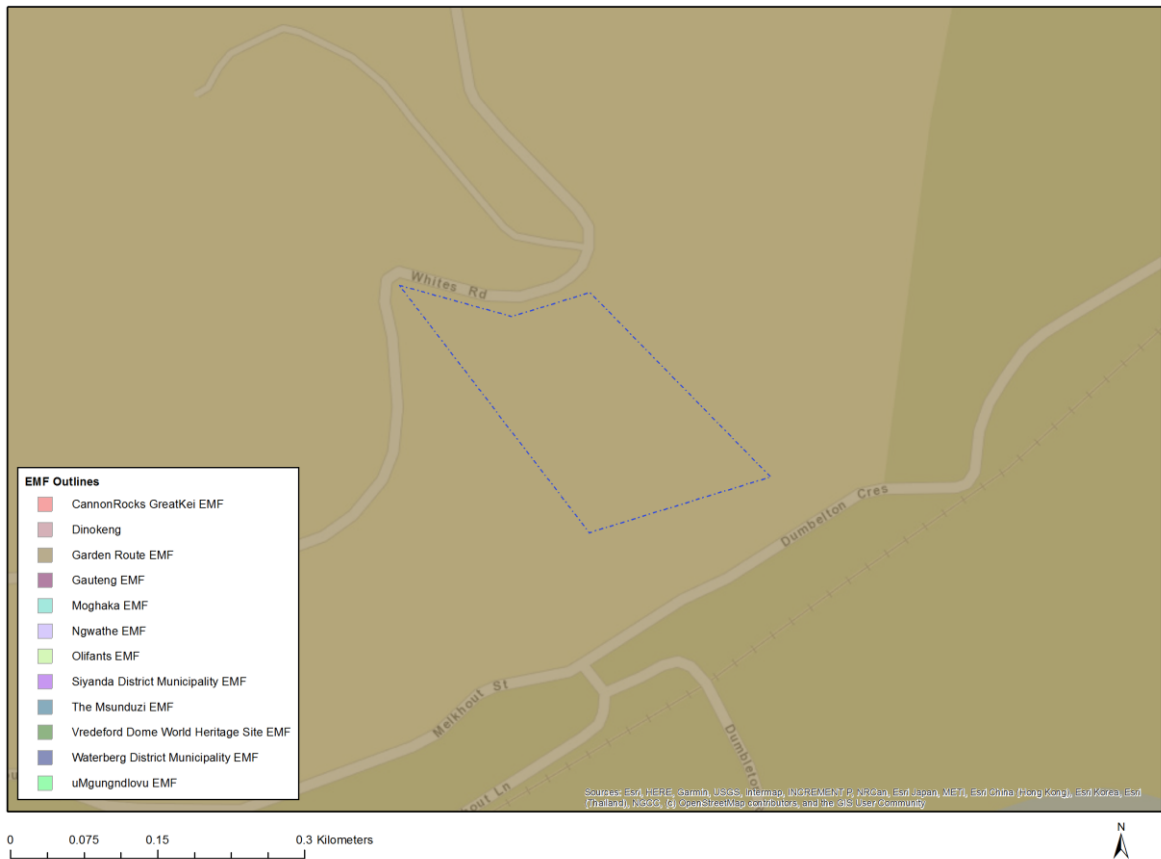
Development footprint¹ vertices:
No development footprint(s) specified.

Wind and Solar developments with an approved Environmental Authorisation or applications under consideration within 30 km of the proposed area

No	EIA Reference No	Classification	Status of application	Distance from proposed area (km)
1	14/12/16/3/3/1/1292	Solar PV	Approved	23.3

¹ “development footprint”, means the area within the site on which the development will take place and includes all ancillary developments for example roads, power lines, boundary walls, paving etc. which require vegetation clearance or which will be disturbed and for which the application has been submitted.

Environmental Management Frameworks relevant to the application



Environmental Management Framework	LINK
Garden Route EMF	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/EMF/garden_route_finalreport.pdf

Environmental screening results and assessment outcomes

The following sections contain a summary of any development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions that apply to the proposed development site as well as the most environmental sensitive features on the site based on the site sensitivity screening results for the application classification that was selected. The application classification selected for this report is: **Transformation of land | Indigenous vegetation.**

Relevant development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions

The following development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions and their implications that apply to this site are indicated below.

Incentive, restriction or prohibition	Implication
South African Conservation Areas	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/Developmen

Proposed Development Area Environmental Sensitivity

The following summary of the development site environmental sensitivities is identified. Only the highest environmental sensitivity is indicated. The footprint environmental sensitivities for the proposed development footprint as identified, are indicative only and must be verified on site by a suitably qualified person before the specialist assessments identified below can be confirmed.

Theme	Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
Agriculture Theme			X	
Animal Species Theme		X		
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	X			
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme				X
Civil Aviation Theme			X	
Defence Theme				X
Plant Species Theme			X	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X			

Specialist assessments identified

Based on the selected classification, and the known impacts associated with the proposed development, the following list of specialist assessments have been identified for inclusion in the assessment report. It is the responsibility of the EAP to confirm this list and to motivate in the assessment report, the reason for not including any of the identified specialist study including the provision of photographic evidence of the site situation.

No	Specialist assessment	Assessment Protocol
1	Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
2	Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
3	Palaeontology Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
4	Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Terrestrial_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
5	Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Aquatic_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
6	Socio-Economic Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
7	Plant Species Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Plant_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf

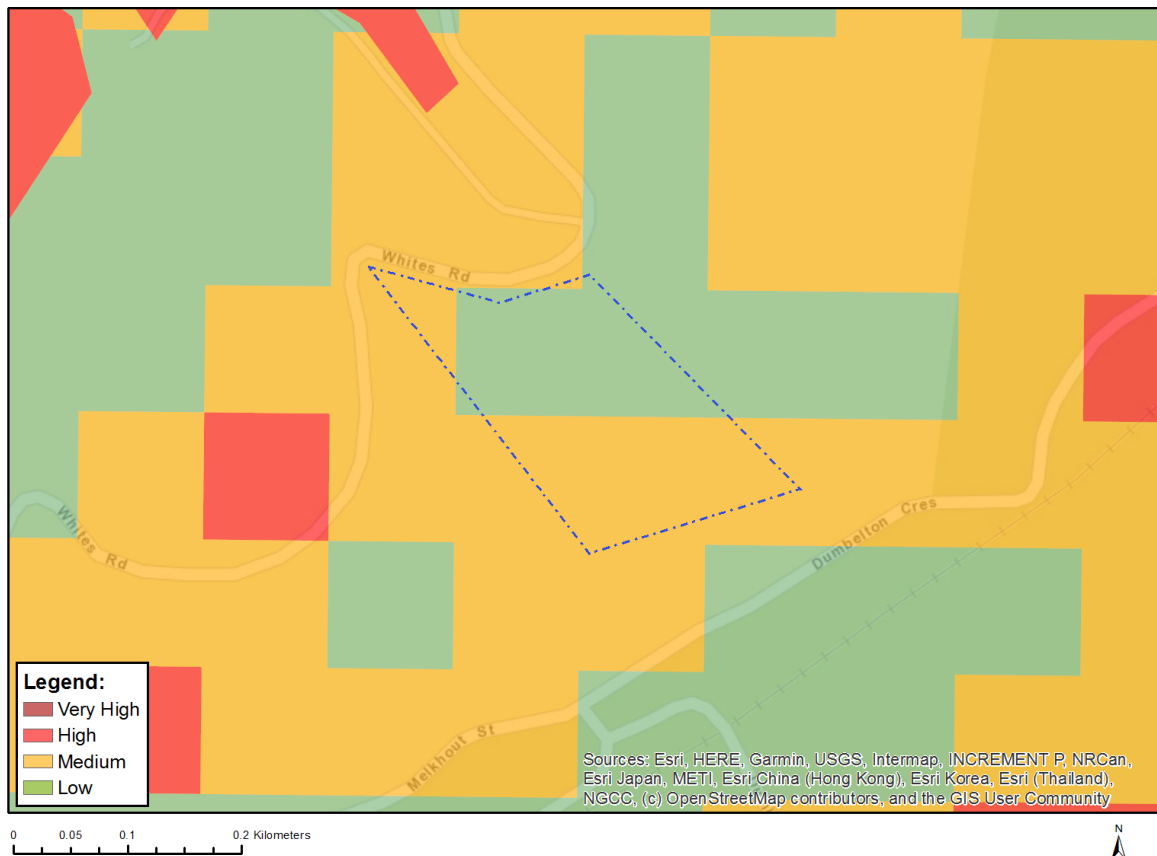
		pdf
8	Animal Species Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Animal_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf

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Results of the environmental sensitivity of the proposed area.

The following section represents the results of the screening for environmental sensitivity of the proposed site for relevant environmental themes associated with the project classification. It is the duty of the EAP to ensure that the environmental themes provided by the screening tool are comprehensive and complete for the project. Refer to the disclaimer.

MAP OF RELATIVE AGRICULTURE THEME SENSITIVITY

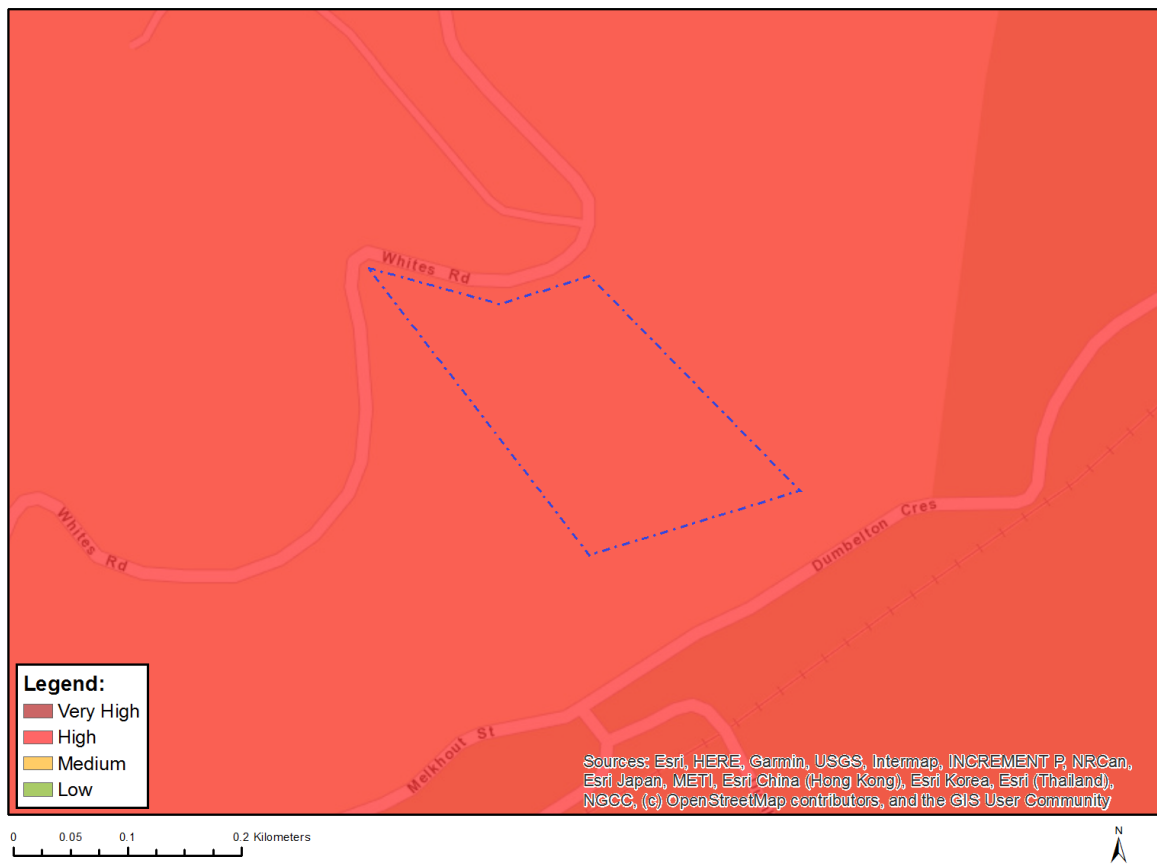


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
		X	

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Land capability;01. Very low/02. Very low/03. Low-Very low/04. Low-Very low/05. Low
Medium	Land capability;06. Low-Moderate/07. Low-Moderate/08. Moderate

MAP OF RELATIVE ANIMAL SPECIES THEME SENSITIVITY



Where only a sensitive plant unique number or sensitive animal unique number is provided in the screening report and an assessment is required, the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) or specialist is required to email SANBI at eiadatarequests@sanbi.org.za listing all sensitive species with their unique identifiers for which information is required. The name has been withheld as the species may be prone to illegal harvesting and must be protected. SANBI will release the actual species name after the details of the EAP or specialist have been documented.

Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
	X		

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Aves-Circus ranivorus
High	Aves-Stephanoaetus coronatus
High	Aves-Bradypterus sylvaticus
High	Aves-Polemaetus bellicosus
Medium	Amphibia-Afrixalus knysnae
Medium	Insecta-Aloeides thyra orientis
Medium	Mammalia-Chlorotalpa duthieae
Medium	Sensitive species 8
Medium	Invertebrate-Aneuryphymus montanus

MAP OF RELATIVE AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY



Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Very High	FEPA Subcatchment
Very High	SWSA (SW) _Outeniqua

MAP OF RELATIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE THEME SENSITIVITY

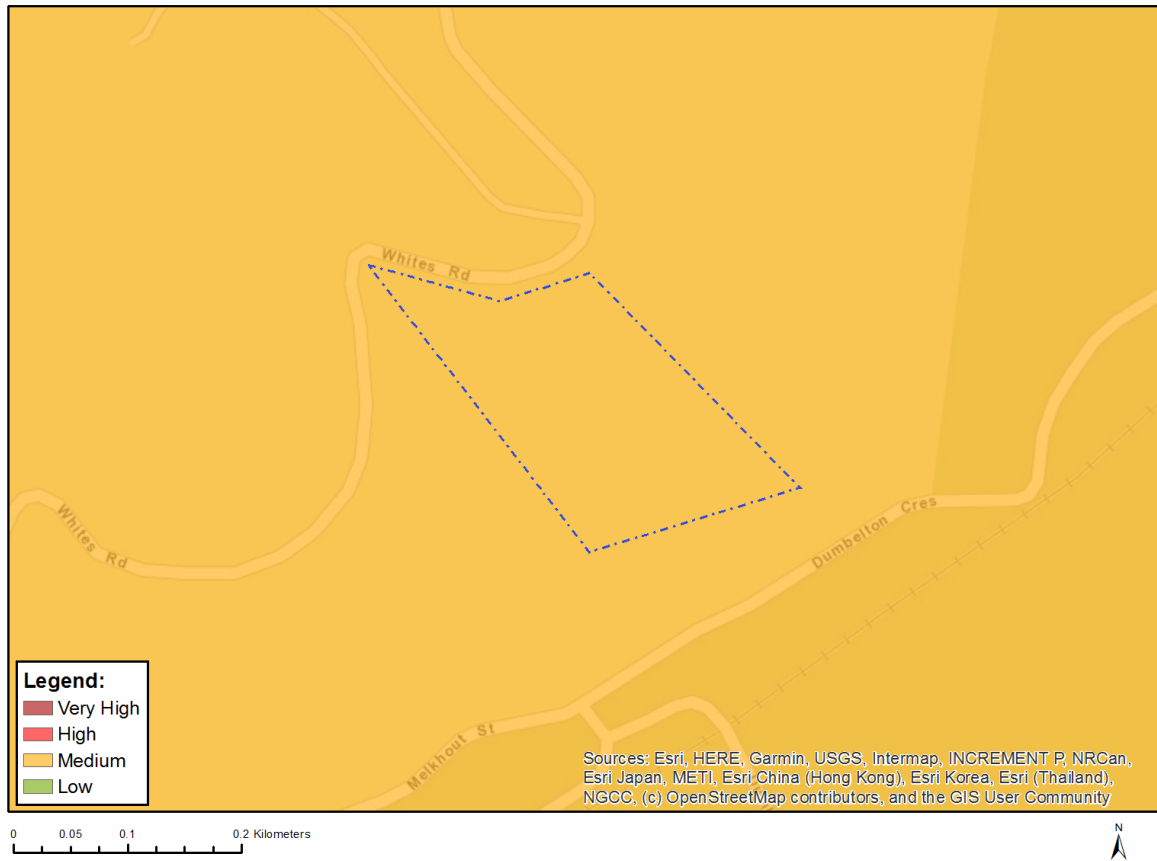


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
			X

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low sensitivity

MAP OF RELATIVE CIVIL AVIATION THEME SENSITIVITY



Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
		X	

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Medium	Between 15 and 35 km from a civil aviation radar
Medium	Between 15 and 35 km from a major civil aviation aerodrome
Medium	Between 8 and 15 km of other civil aviation aerodrome

MAP OF RELATIVE DEFENCE THEME SENSITIVITY

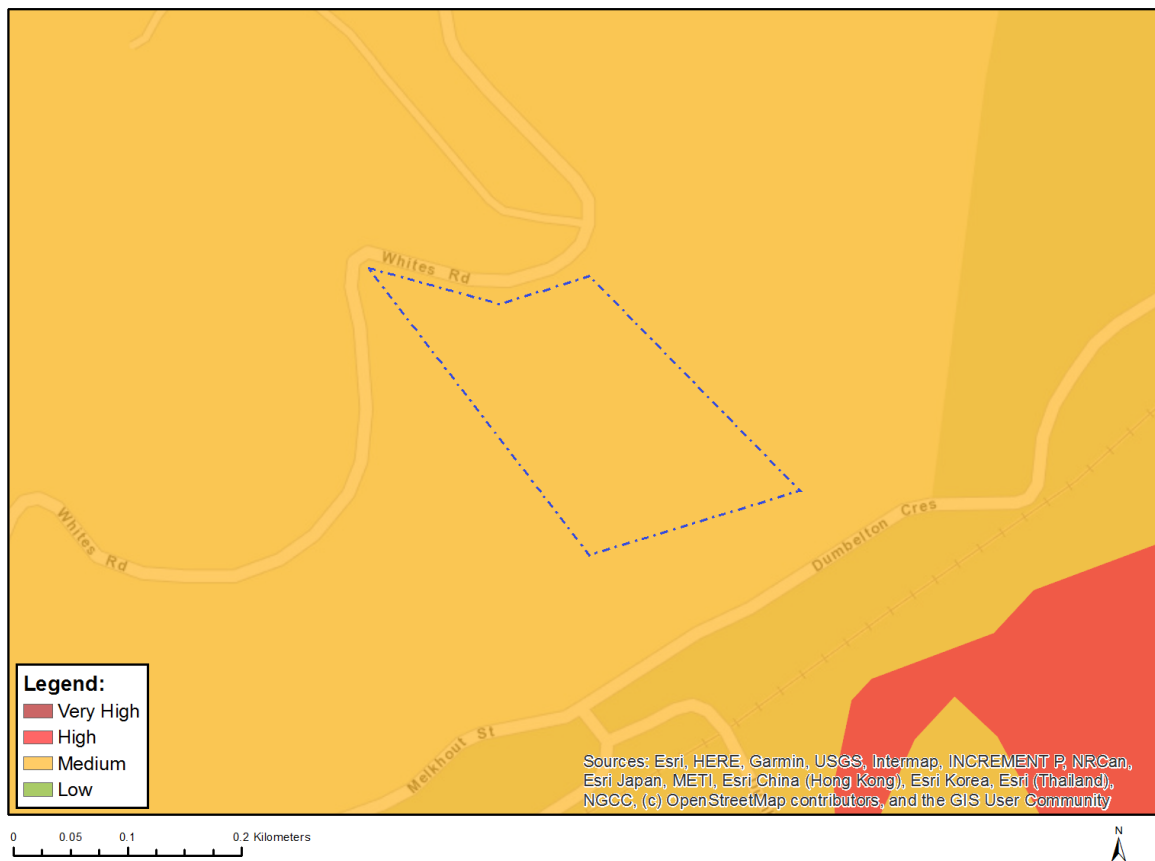


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
			X

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low Sensitivity

MAP OF RELATIVE PLANT SPECIES THEME SENSITIVITY



Where only a sensitive plant unique number or sensitive animal unique number is provided in the screening report and an assessment is required, the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) or specialist is required to email SANBI at eiadatarequests@sanbi.org.za listing all sensitive species with their unique identifiers for which information is required. The name has been withheld as the species may be prone to illegal harvesting and must be protected. SANBI will release the actual species name after the details of the EAP or specialist have been documented.

Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
		X	

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Medium	Lampranthus fergusoniae
Medium	Lampranthus pauciflorus
Medium	Lebeckia gracilis
Medium	Leucospermum glabrum
Medium	Wahlenbergia polyantha
Medium	Selago burchellii
Medium	Selago villicaulis
Medium	Sensitive species 1081
Medium	Sensitive species 419
Medium	Erica chloroloma
Medium	Erica glandulosa subsp. fourcadei
Medium	Hermannia lavandulifolia
Medium	Sensitive species 657

Medium	Sensitive species 1024
Medium	Sensitive species 1032
Medium	Cotula myriophylloides
Medium	Agathosma muirii
Medium	Muraltia knysnaensis
Medium	Nanobubon hypogaeum
Medium	Sensitive species 800
Medium	Erica glumiflora
Medium	Sensitive species 500
Medium	Sensitive species 763
Medium	Diosma passerinoides
Medium	Zostera capensis

MAP OF RELATIVE TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY



Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Very High	Critical biodiversity area 1
Very High	Ecological support area 2
Very High	FEPA Subcatchments
Very High	Strategic Water Source Areas
Very High	Critically Endangered ecosystem_Garden Route Granite Fynbos

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SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION REPORT

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF ERF 1058, WHITES ROAD, HOEKWIL (WILDERNESS HEIGHTS) GEORGE MUNICIPALITY & DIVISION, WESTERN CAPE.



11 August 2023

Joclyn Marshall for Eco Route Environmental Consultancy
MSc Environmental Science
EAPASA reg no.: 2022/5006

EAP Signature: _____



(1) Introduction and Terms of Reference

As required to compliment a Basic Assessment application the national web-based screening tool was used to generate an environmental screening report. The screening report lists a variety of specialist studies to be undertaken based on the data informants of the tool at the study area. This site sensitivity verification report, following ground-truthing of the site, motivates why certain specialist studies will not be required or conducted for the proposed development application.



Figure 1: Location of Erf 1058 Hoekwil, George, Western Cape.

(2) The proposed development at the property

Eco Route Environmental Consultancy were appointed by the applicant, **Wealth Spring (Pty) Ltd**, as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner to conduct a Basic Assessment application process for the proposed development on Erf 1058 Hoekwil, George.

The proposed development will consist of 830m² of building structures (houses, accommodation units, etc), and 1093m² of landscaped areas (roads, parking, pool, deck areas, etc).

The following is proposed on Erf 1058:

- ❖ Main residential dwelling for the property owner (280m²).
- ❖ Outbuilding with homer office, garage, and storage space (170m²).
- ❖ Kitchen Yards(35m²).
- ❖ Driveway and parking for main dwelling (291m²).
- ❖ Three tourist accommodation units of 80m² each (240m²).
- ❖ Three jacuzzi decks for tourist accommodation units of 16m² each (48m²).
- ❖ Outdoor Lapa (42m²).
- ❖ Sauna House (40m²).



- ❖ Natural outdoor pool (240m²).
- ❖ Access to tourist accommodation and facilities (270m²).
- ❖ Parking for tourist accommodation and facilities (72m²).
- ❖ Footpaths (95m²).
- ❖ Green House (90m²).

The property owner's home is proposed to be located on the northwestern side of the property closer to Whites Road. Abutting this primary dwelling an outbuilding with home office above is proposed which will also provide garaging and storage space. Following an existing route on the property, access is to be provided centrally for the vehicles of visitors to the proposed three tourist accommodation units which will each consist of 2 bedrooms. Each tourist accommodation unit will have a small deck with a jacuzzi. The aim is to position the tourist accommodation units with their facilities to be hidden from each other between the vegetation (Figure 2).

A green house is proposed where plants are to be grown for the rehabilitation of the property. For the visitors to the property a communal outdoor lapa and sauna room is also proposed, close to the communal parking area. On the western side of the property in a natural clearing, a natural pool is proposed to be developed. This pool will have a double purpose as a retention pond for stormwater runoff in accordance with the recommendation contained in the 'Aquatic Compliance Statement'. An important aim of the draft Site Development Plan (SDP) is to use existing disturbed spaces on the property for construction and therefore providing privacy for the visitors.

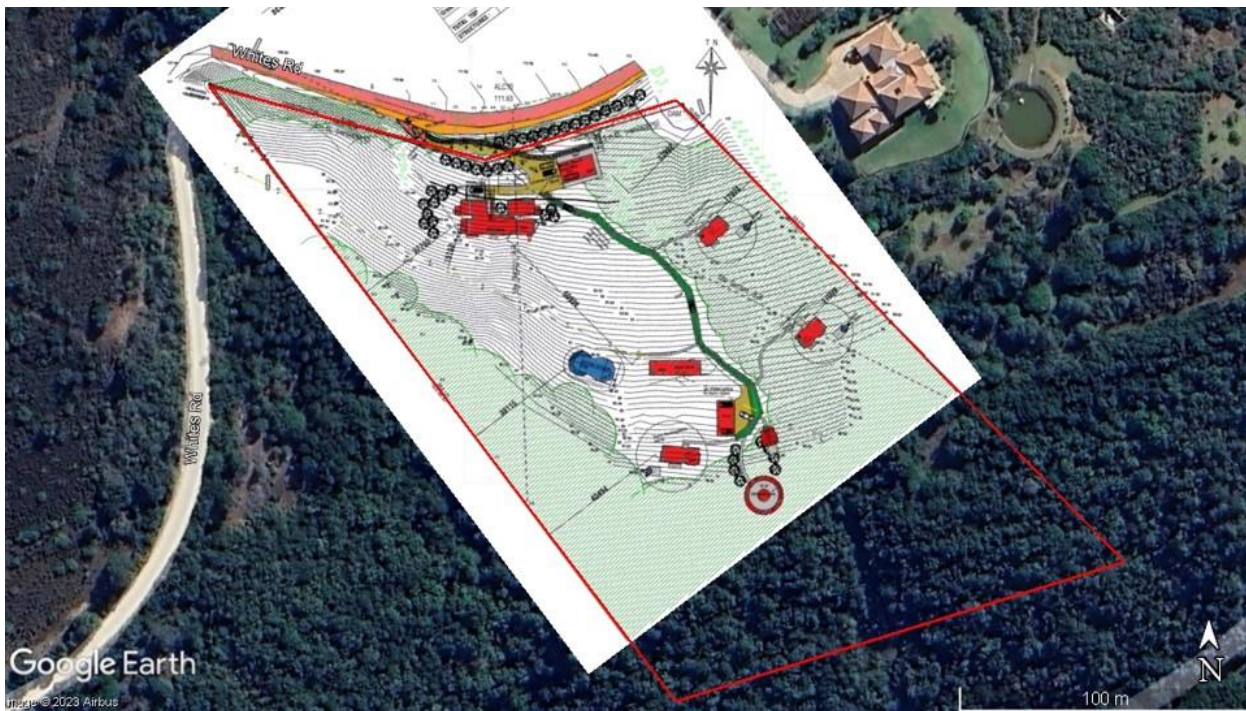


Figure 2: Proposed draft Site Development Plan.

The Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (WCBSP) shows that the property is marginally within a Critical biodiversity Area (CBA). The property is within a Critically Endangered Ecosystem Threat Status. The Ecosystem Threat Status, as per the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan 2017, reflects the current threat status of ecosystems in the Western Cape Province, especially in terms of habitat loss. Ecosystems are based on the SA Vegetation Map (2018 version) and relevant indigenous forest types (DFFE, 2010), as per the national approach to assessing ecosystem threat.



Eco Route

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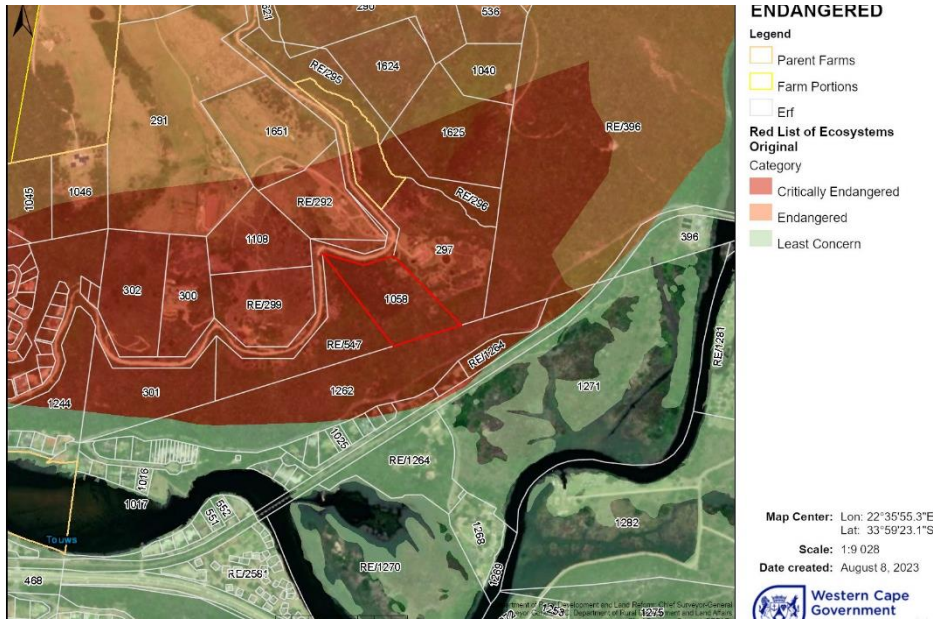


Figure 3: Erf 1058 Hoekwil within a Critically Endangered Ecosystem Threat Status.

The vegetation Type according to the SA Vegetation Map (2018 version) is Garden Route Granite Fynbos which is described as Critically Endangered. Only about 1% conserved in the proposed Garden Route National Park. About 70% has been transformed for cultivation (56%), pine plantations (7%) and by urban development (6%). Remnants are largely confined to isolated pockets on steeper slopes. Very few patches of this type remain in a pristine condition as most of it has been converted to pasture by liming, bush-cutting and frequent burning, and augmented with pasture grasses. Western remnants suggest that proteoid fynbos might have been dominant historically. It is easily converted to graminoid fynbos by regular fires and augmentation with pasture grasses.

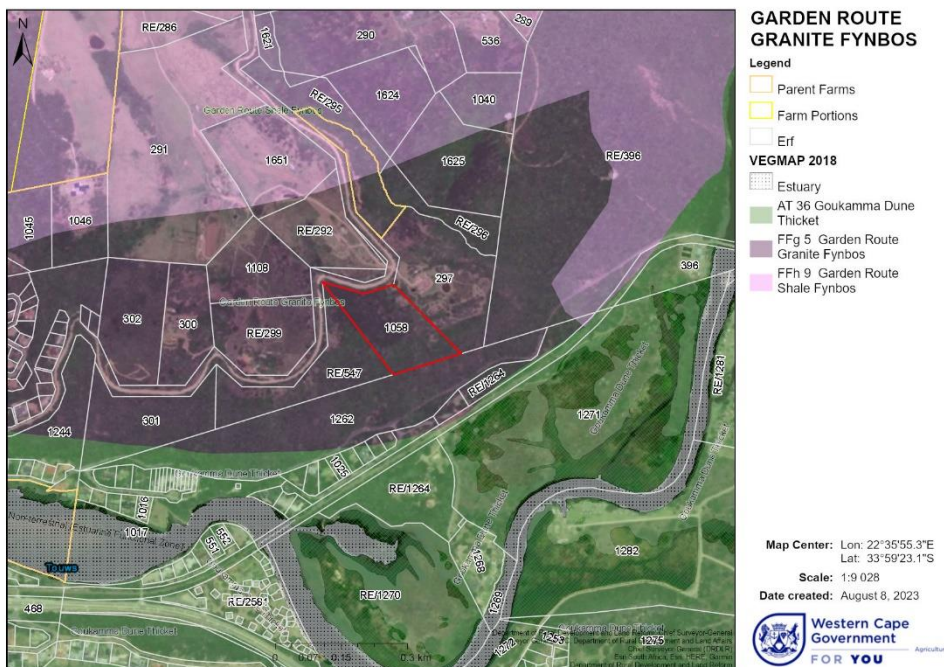


Figure 4: Erf 1058 Hoekwil within Critically Endangered Garden Route Granite Fynbos.



(3) Environmental screening results and assessment outcomes:

The following sections contain a summary of any development incentives, restrictions, exclusions, or prohibitions that apply to the proposed development footprint as well as the most environmental sensitive features on the footprint based on the footprint sensitivity screening results for the application classifications that were selected. The application classifications selected for the screening reports are: *Transformation of land* | *Indigenous vegetation*.

(4) Relevant Development Incentives, Restrictions, Exclusions or Prohibitions:

The proposed site is within a South African Conservation Area (SACAD).

(5) Proposed Development Area Environmental Sensitivity:

The following summary of the development site environmental sensitivities is identified by the Screening Tool Reports. Only the highest environmental sensitivity is indicated. The environmental sensitivities for the proposed development footprint as identified, are indicative only and must be verified on site by a suitably qualified person before the specialist assessments identified below can be confirmed.

Table 1: Identified Environmental Sensitivities.

Theme	Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
Agriculture			X	
Animal Species		X		
Aquatic Biodiversity	X			
Archaeological & Cultural Heritage				X
Civil Aviation			X	
Defence				X
Plant Species			X	
Terrestrial Biodiversity	X			

(6) Identified Specialist assessments:

Based on the selected classification, and the environmental sensitivities of the proposed development footprint, the following list of specialist assessments have been identified for inclusion in the assessment report. It is the responsibility of the EAP to confirm this list and to motivate in the assessment report, the reason for not including any of the identified specialist study including the provision of photographic evidence of the site situation.



Table 2: Identified specialist assessments for Transformation of Land Screening Tool Report.

No:	Specialist Assessment	Assessment Protocol
1	Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment	Specialist Assessment
2	Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	General
3	Palaeontology Impact Assessment	General
4	Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Compliance Statement
5	Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Compliance Statement
6	Socio-Economic Assessment	General
7	Plant Species Assessment	Compliance Statement
8	Animal Species Assessment	Compliance Statement

(7) Results of the verification of the environmental sensitivity and specialist assessments identified of the proposed area:

7)(1) Agriculture

The screening report indicates that the receiving environment has a **MEDIUM** Relative Agricultural Sensitivity. 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. It can be seen from figure 5 that the area historically used for agriculture activities has since been subdivided, creating a smaller erf.



Figure 5: Map illustrating Project Area overlaid onto 1936 aerial imagery. Source - the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD).

Recommendations:

It is not envisaged that any agricultural features will be impacted given the size and slope of the property. The sensitivity for Agricultural should therefore be **LOW**, and an agricultural compliance statement is **disputed**.



(7)(2) Archaeological & Cultural Heritage

The screening report indicates that the receiving environment has a **LOW** Relative Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Sensitivity.

A Notice of Intent to Develop (NID) under *Section 38(1)* and (8) of the NHR Act will be submitted to Heritage Western Cape by Dr. Nilssen. In the Heritage Statement compiled by Dr. Nilssen, he concluded that because of the findings in the Heritage Statement 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.

(7)(3) Palaeontology

The screening report indicates that the receiving environment had **NO** Relative Palaeontological Sensitivity.

A Notice of Intent to Develop (NID) under *Section 38(1)* and (8) of the NHR Act will be submitted to Heritage Western Cape by Dr. Nilssen. In the Heritage Statement compiled by Dr. Nilssen, he concluded that because of the findings in the Heritage Statement 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.

(7)(4) Landscape/Visual

A Visual Impact Assessment Report was compiled by Paul Buchholz. The report concluded that the well positioned and designed development infrastructure allows for it to blend in very well with its surroundings and create minimal contrast in the landscape. With the effective implementation of mitigation measures, the visual impact of the proposed development will be further reduced.

A Notice of Intent to Develop (NID) under *Section 38(1)* and (8) of the NHR Act will be submitted to Heritage Western Cape by Dr. Nilssen.

(7)(5) Civil Aviation

The screening reports indicate that the receiving environment has a **MEDIUM** Sensitivity for this theme as the proposed development property is approximately 19km from the George Airport.

Recommendations:

The development will not have any impact on civil aviation as it is a residential development. Aircraft should be restricted from flying low over residential areas. The South African Civil Aviation Authority will be included in the I&AP Register. Comments will be included in the BAR. The sensitivity should therefore be **LOW**, and no further assessments will be required.



(7)(6) Defence

The screening reports indicate that the receiving environment has a **LOW** Sensitivity for this theme. As no specific protocol exists for this theme, the General Requirements Protocol is assigned to this sensitivity.

Recommendations:

The EAP confirms that the Defence Sensitivity of the proposed development property is **LOW** and no further assessments will be required.

(7)(7) Socio-Economical

Tourism and recreation are ways to achieve economic growth and adds to the sense of place of the greater George municipal area as the gateway to the Garden Route. The GMSDF states that tourism accommodation and uses in varying formats in the urban and rural environments is a generally accepted principle. The proposed development will have socio-economic benefits in maintaining the natural environment and creating employment opportunities. The visitors to this property will support economic opportunities created in the nodes and precincts, e.g. restaurants and recreational facilities in and around the Village of Wilderness.

Recommendations:

The Planning Statement by Marlize de Bruyn Planning (July 2023) addresses socio-economic aspects. A separate Socio-Economical Assessment for a development of this size and associated impacts is therefore **disputed**.

(7)(8) Aquatic

The screening reports indicate that the receiving environment has a **VERY HIGH** Aquatic Biodiversity Sensitivity. An Aquatic biodiversity Compliance Statement was compiled by Confluent Environmental. The report concluded that while the development is located within a FEPA and SWSA, the implementation of the proposed management recommendations, together with the implementation (and maintenance) of the recommended buffer will prevent impacts to aquatic biodiversity and the ability of the land to continue to produce high quantities of good quality water. Given that the entire footprint is located outside of the watercourse and its associated buffer, the sensitivity of aquatic biodiversity on the property can be regarded as Low.

Recommendations:

The development will have no impacts on aquatic biodiversity and the theme sensitivity is regarded as **LOW** as assessed by the Aquatic Specialist. It is recommended that no further Aquatic Biodiversity Assessments be undertaken.

(7)(9) Animal Species

The screening reports indicate that the receiving environment has a **HIGH** Relative Animal Species Sensitivity due to the possible presence of several Species of Conservation Concern, as indicated below.



Table 3: Animal Sensitivity Features.

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Aves-Circus ranivorus
High	Aves-Stephanoaetus coronatus
High	Aves-Bradypterus sylvaticus
High	Aves-Polemaetus bellicosus
Medium	Amphibia-Afrixalus knysnae
Medium	Insecta-Aloeides thyra orientis
Medium	Mammalia-Chlorotalpa duthieae
Medium	Sensitive species 8
Medium	Invertebrate-Aneuryphymus montanus

A Terrestrial Ecological Compliance Statement was compiled by The Biodiversity Company, which concluded that Animal Theme should be LOW as habitat is heavily degraded and modified with high anthropogenic activity in close proximity to the majority of the Project Area. No SCC were recorded, nor expected.

Recommendations:

Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) are not likely to occur in the development area. It is therefore recommended that an Animal Species Assessment / Compliance Statement not be undertaken, and the Relative Animal Species Sensitivity be **LOW**, as confirmed by the Terrestrial Ecological Compliance Statement.

(7)(10) Plant Species

The screening reports indicate that the receiving environment has a **MEDIUM** Relative Plant Species Sensitivity due to the possible presence of several Species of Conservation Concern, as indicated below.

Table 4: Plant Species Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Medium	Lampranthus fergusoniae
Medium	Lampranthus pauciflorus
Medium	Lebeckia gracilis
Medium	Leucospermum glabrum
Medium	Wahlenbergia polyantha
Medium	Selago burchellii
Medium	Selago villicaulis
Medium	Sensitive species 1081
Medium	Sensitive species 419
Medium	Erica chloroloma
Medium	Erica glandulosa subsp. fourcadei
Medium	Hermannia lavandulifolia
Medium	Sensitive species 657
Medium	Sensitive species 1024
Medium	Sensitive species 1032
Medium	Cotula myriophylloides
Medium	Agathosma muirii
Medium	Muraltia knysnaensis
Medium	Nanobubon hypogaeum
Medium	Sensitive species 800
Medium	Erica glumiflora
Medium	Sensitive species 500
Medium	Sensitive species 763
Medium	Diosma passerinoides
Medium	Zostera capensis



The National Vegetation Map (VegMap 2018) describes the proposed development area as Garden Route Granite Fynbos (status = Critically Endangered). A Terrestrial Ecological Compliance Statement was compiled by The Biodiversity Company, which concluded that Plant Theme should be LOW as habitat is heavily degraded and modified with high anthropogenic activity in close proximity to the majority of the Project Area. No SCC were recorded, nor expected.

Recommendations:

Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) are not likely to occur in the development area. It is therefore recommended that a Plant Species Assessment / Compliance Statement not be undertaken, and the Relative Plant Species Sensitivity be **LOW**, as confirmed by the Terrestrial Ecological Compliance Statement.

(7)(11) Terrestrial Biodiversity

The screening report indicate that the receiving environment has a **VERY HIGH** Terrestrial Biodiversity Sensitivity.

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Very High	Critical biodiversity area 1
Very High	Ecological support area 2
Very High	FEPA Subcatchments
Very High	Strategic Water Source Areas
Very High	Critically Endangered ecosystem_Garden Route Granite Fynbos

The project area marginally overlaps a Critical Biodiversity Area (figure 6). The Project Area presently comprises of modified and severely degraded habitat types. This habitat unit is characterised by high levels of disturbance owing to its proximity to historical land-use and anthropogenic activities and main roads. Accordingly, the landcover is not congruent with the expected natural vegetation and therefore possesses low biodiversity value. The Project Area has been cleared for agricultural purposes, as shown in figure 5, and consequently does not possess natural primary vegetation¹.

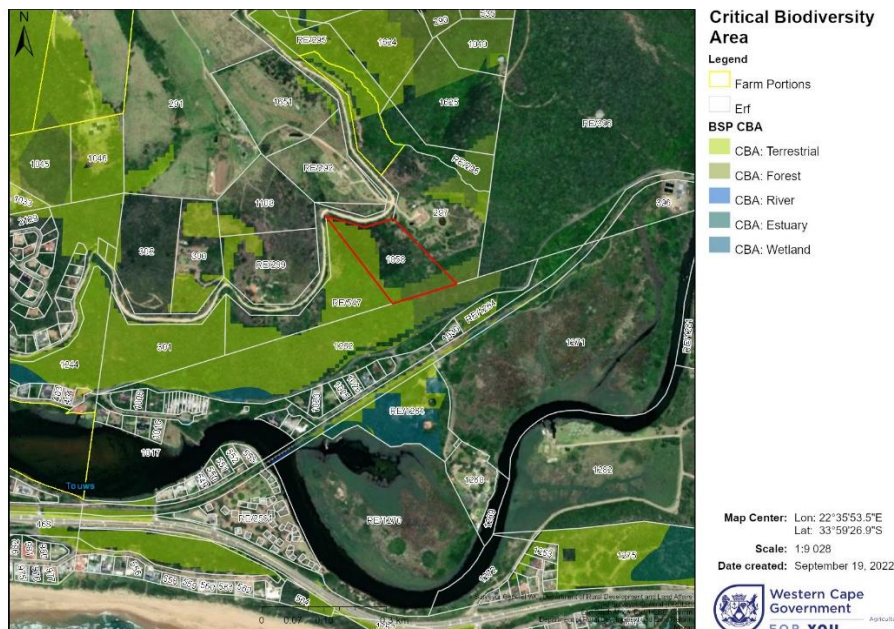


Figure 6: Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas.

¹ Terrestrial Ecological Compliance Statement for the proposed development on Erf 1058, Whites Road, Hoekwil. The Biodiversity Company, July 2023.



Eco Route

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Recommendations:

A Terrestrial Ecological Compliance Statement was compiled by The Biodiversity Company, which concluded that Terrestrial Theme should be **LOW** as habitat is heavily degraded and modified with high anthropogenic activity in close proximity to the majority of the Project Area. Habitat is highly resilient to change from activities. It is recommended that no further Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessments be undertaken.