

Photo report

Farm Rocklands, Portion 57 of the Farm 633, Hermanus, Caledon RD

DEADP Ref No. 14/1/1/E2/7/9/3/0733/22

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Consultant:

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Lornay Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd | Reg 2015/445417/07

The Farm, Portion 57 of Farm No. 633, is located on the northern side of the R43 which runs between Hermanus and Stanford. The landowner purchased the farm in 2020.

SG Code: C0130000-00000633-00057 Landowner: Aevitas Beleggings Pty Ltd Size: 629675 m² / 62.96 ha

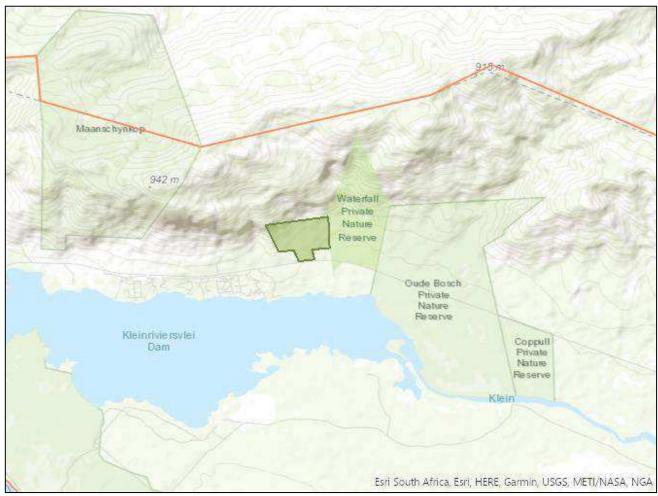


Figure 1. Site location



Figure 2. Site location

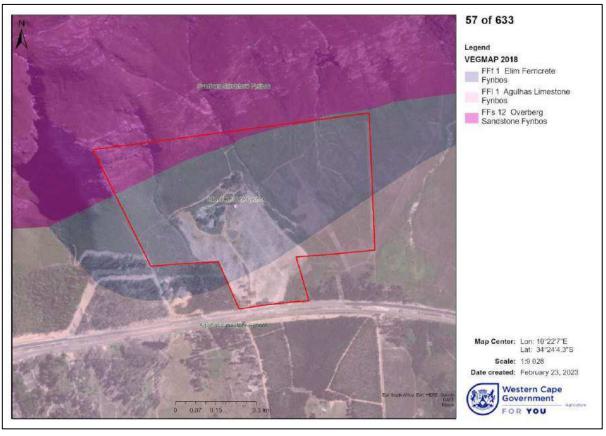


Figure 3. Vegetation Map

According to the SANBI BGIS database, the vegetation on the site and surrounds is classified partly Overberg Sandstone Fynbos (EN), Elim Ferricrete Fynbos (EN) and Agulhas Limestone Fynbos (CR) (South).

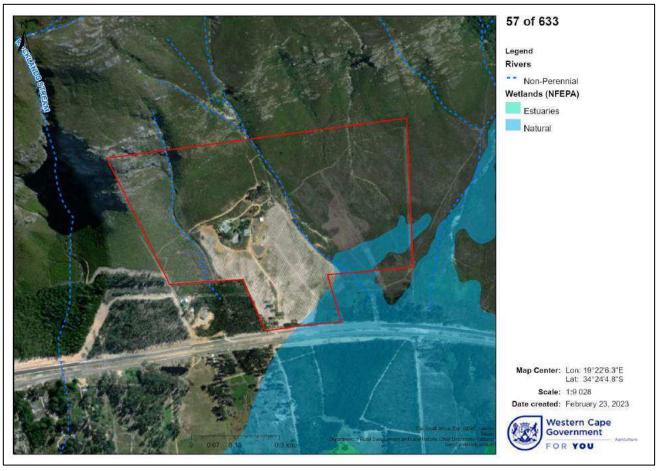


Figure 3. Water course and drainage lines mapped for the site

PREVIOUS ACTVITIES ON SITE

Aerial photographs from 2003 indicate that the site was vacant and not disturbed. Large stands of blue gum are evident on aerial photography. Aerial photographs show that the clearance of vegetation and establishment of infrastructure commenced on site in and around 2006.



Aerial photo 1 - 2009

The site was developed, used as a homestead, with various roads traversing it. There were also horse paddocks in several places across the lower end of the site. The site was severely infested with alien vegetation.

The following photographs show the state of the property in 2012:



Photo 1. View towards the R 43 (2012)



Photo 2. View of paddocks and infrastructure in site (2012)



Photo 3. View of paddocks and infrastructure on site (2012). Impacted areas, infrastructure and diversion of water evident in 2012.



Photo 4. View of dams and infrastructure in site, looking towards the R43 and Kleinrivier (2012). Impacted areas, infrastructure and diversion of water evident in 2012.



Photo 5. Aerial photo of the site dated 18/11/2012. The photograph clearly shows the impacted areas on the property. Red circle indicates impacted and transformed areas below the paddocks, dams and homestead. Internal roads already existing.



Photo 6. Aerial footage of the site 2012 – the property is extensively disturbed. Internal roads evident.



Photo 7. Aerial footage of the site 2012 – the property is extensively disturbed. Internal roads evident.



Photo 8. Aerial footage of the site 2012 – the property is extensively disturbed. Internal roads evident.

TIMELINE AND DETAILS OF ACTIVITY

The applicant purchased the property in October 2020. The activities commenced in December 2020. The applicant has planted Macadamia Nut trees covering an area of approximately 9 ha, which was completed in September 2021.

The site was prepared by brush cutting only. No ploughing or mechanical intervention was implemented. The trees were then planted. No chemicals have been applied and the aim is to create a natural orchard where the fynbos thrives amongst the trees.

Landbouweekblad issued an article about the mechanism of environmentally friendly and the use of the natural vegetation between the trees as a natural windbreak (Landbouweekblad, 9 Februarie 2023, Landbou.com).



Photo 9. Current status of the site – photographs from March 2023. Nut trees with natural vegetation between the trees circled in red.



Photo 10. Current status of the site – photographs from March 2023. View towards the Kleinriver and R43. Nut trees with natural vegetation between the trees.



Photo 10. Current status of the site – photographs from March 2023. View towards the Kleinriver and R43. Nut trees with natural vegetation between the trees.

PHOTOS OF THE SITE FROM APRIL 2024:

