



NICK HELME BOTANICAL SURVEYS

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15 Nov 2023

Lornay Environmental Consulting
 Hermanus
 Att: Michelle Lornay

Dear Michelle

Addendum to Specialist Terrestrial Ecology Assessment Erf 1486 - Vermont

This addendum to my specialist Terrestrial Ecology IA report for this site (dated 31 May 2023) was requested to provide an opinion on the updated development layout, developed in response to concern raised in my initial report, and mitigation requirements therein. The revised, final development layout is known as Alternative 4, and is shown in Figure 1 below.

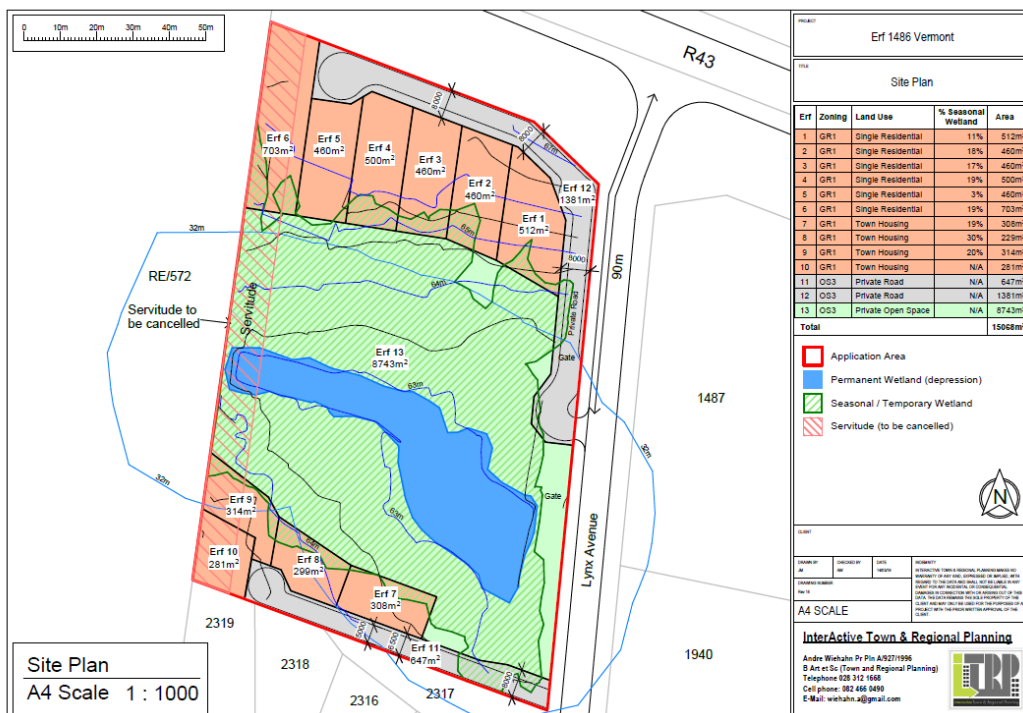


Figure 1: Alternative 4 layout (November 2023).

I believe that the new layout (Alternative 4) is a good compromise and has a substantially lower ecological impact than the alternative assessed in my report of May 2023. The proposed residential erven now exclude most of the High sensitivity areas (as required in my first bullet point of mitigation), and only about 500m² of high sensitivity habitat will now be lost. The private access road now does not need to cross the wetland, as there will now be two access roads instead of one (also a requirement in bullet point one of my mitigation). Some 58% of the total erf will now be conservation area (Private Open Space), up from about 36%.

The ecological significance of the proposed development phase of the project has now been reduced from an unacceptable High negative (Alternative 2) to an acceptable Medium negative (Alternative 4), and I believe that the project may now proceed without undue ecological impact.

All other mitigation in my report of May 2023 still applies, in terms of both the construction and operational phases, and must be effectively and fully implemented. In addition, a further mitigation requirement is as follows:

- The Homeowners Association (HoA, or similar) for the proposed development must ensure that all alien invasive vegetation (as per NEMBA legislation) is removed from the Public Open Space area on an annual basis by qualified contractors, using methodology as prescribed in Martens *et al* (2021; see below for reference). The HoA must ensure that there is adequate funding for this every year.

Yours sincerely



Nick Helme

Reference:

Martens, C., Deacon, G., Ferreira, D., Auret, W., Dorse, C., Stuart, H., Impson, F., Barnes, G. and C. Molteno. 2021. *A practical guide to managing invasive alien plants: A concise handbook for land users in the Cape Floral Region*. WWF South Africa, Cape Town, South Africa.