



LORNAY

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

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SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF VINEYARDS, REMAINDER FARM 585, HEMEL AND AARDE VALLEY, CALEDON RD

DEADP Ref. 16/3/3/6/7/1/E2/27/1169/22

INTRODUCTION

The establishment of approximately 19 ha of new vineyards is proposed for a portion of the Remainder of Farm 585, Hemel and Aarde Valley, Caledon RD.

The first round of public participation has been completed on the Pre-Application Basic Assessment Report. In the Pre-Application BAR, Alternative 1 (No Go) and Alternative 2 (Previously preferred) alternatives were assessed:

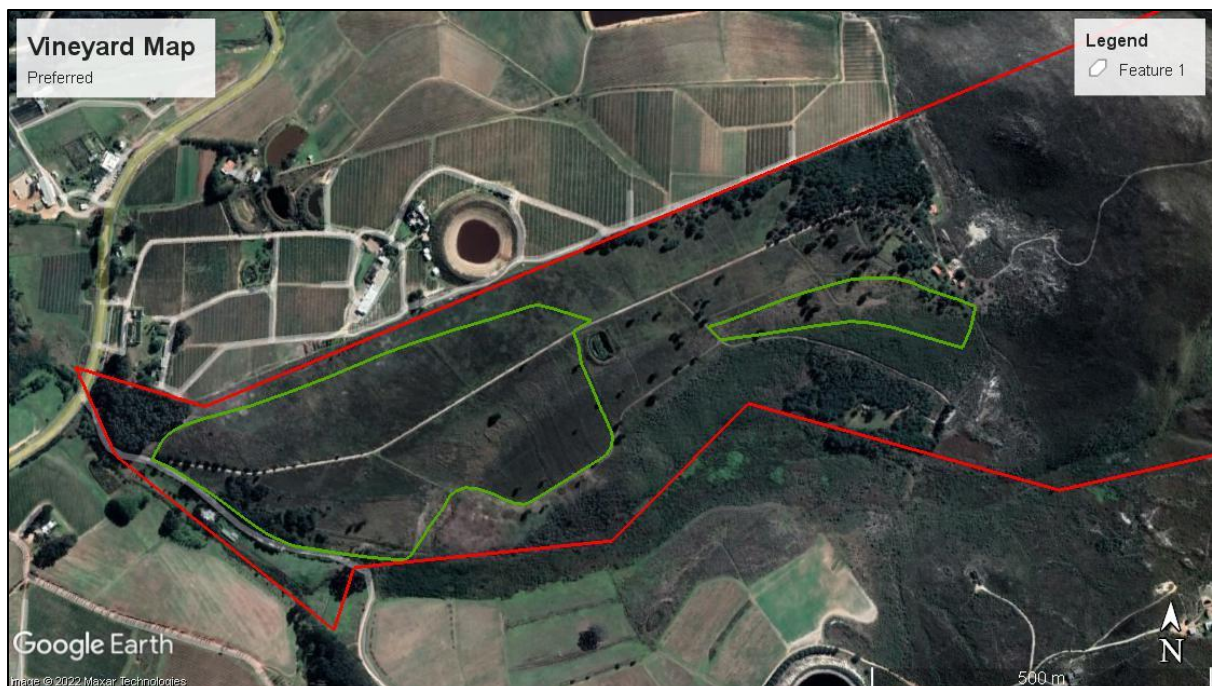


Figure 1. Alternative 2 (Previously preferred)

During the Pre-Application phase it was noted that there are potential wetland areas which may be located within the proposed vineyard areas, therefore a Freshwater / Aquatic Specialist was appointed to delineate the wetlands on site. It was found that there are wetland areas which extend further up the farm than previously indicated on the SANBI BGIS mapping. As result, a new layout has been developed which avoids all wetland areas as well as adding the buffer zone as required by the National Water Act. The Freshwater Specialist has issued a letter confirming that the new Alternative, being Alternative 3 is the new preferred alternative with limited perceived impacts. The Risk matrix is ranked as low and therefore only a GA is applicable in terms of 21c&l water uses.

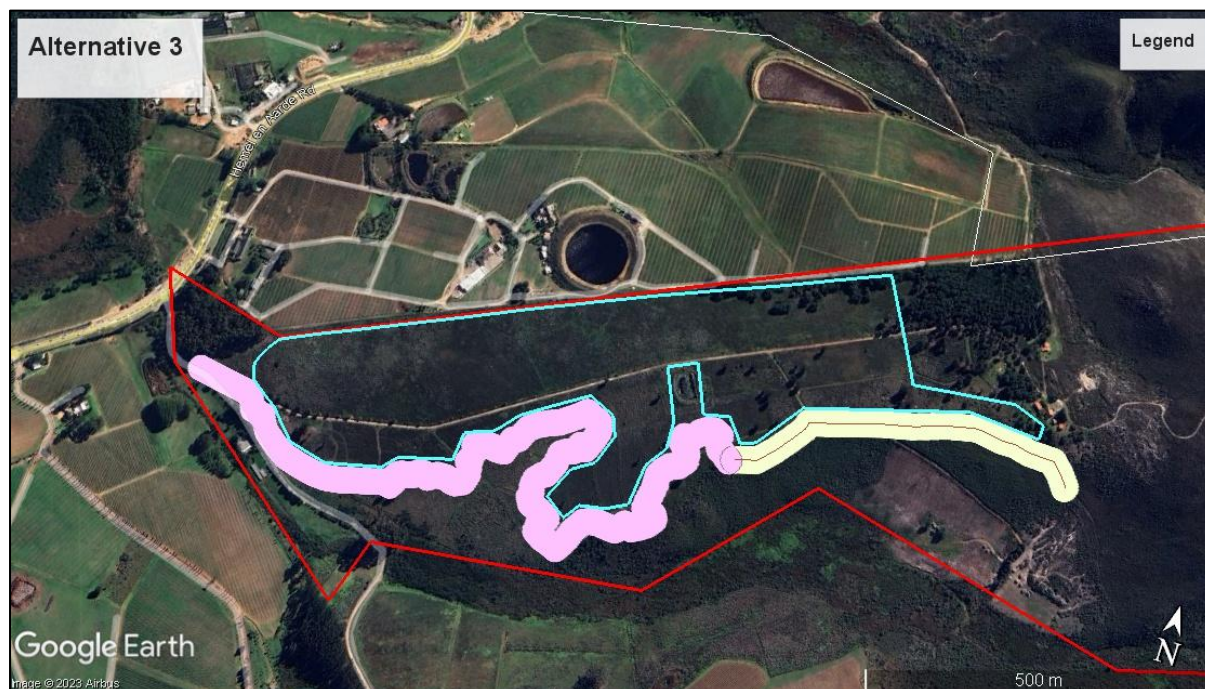


Figure 2. Alternative 3 – New preferred alternative. 19.5 ha, outside wetland areas, with buffer

Both these alternatives are satisfactory from a Botanical Perspective.

The permit in terms of CARA has been issued by the DOA.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

Lornay Environmental Consulting (Pty) Ltd, was appointed to undertake the required Environmental Authorisation (EA) application process in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended) promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (No. 107 of 1998; NEMA), for the proposed project.

A Screening Tool Report was generated as part of the environmental application process. According to the Screening Tool Report, the following specialist assessments were identified and recommended to be undertaken as part of the environmental process:

- Landscape / Visual Impact Assessment
- Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment
- Civil Aviation
- Palaeontology impact assessment
- Terrestrial Impact Assessment
- Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment

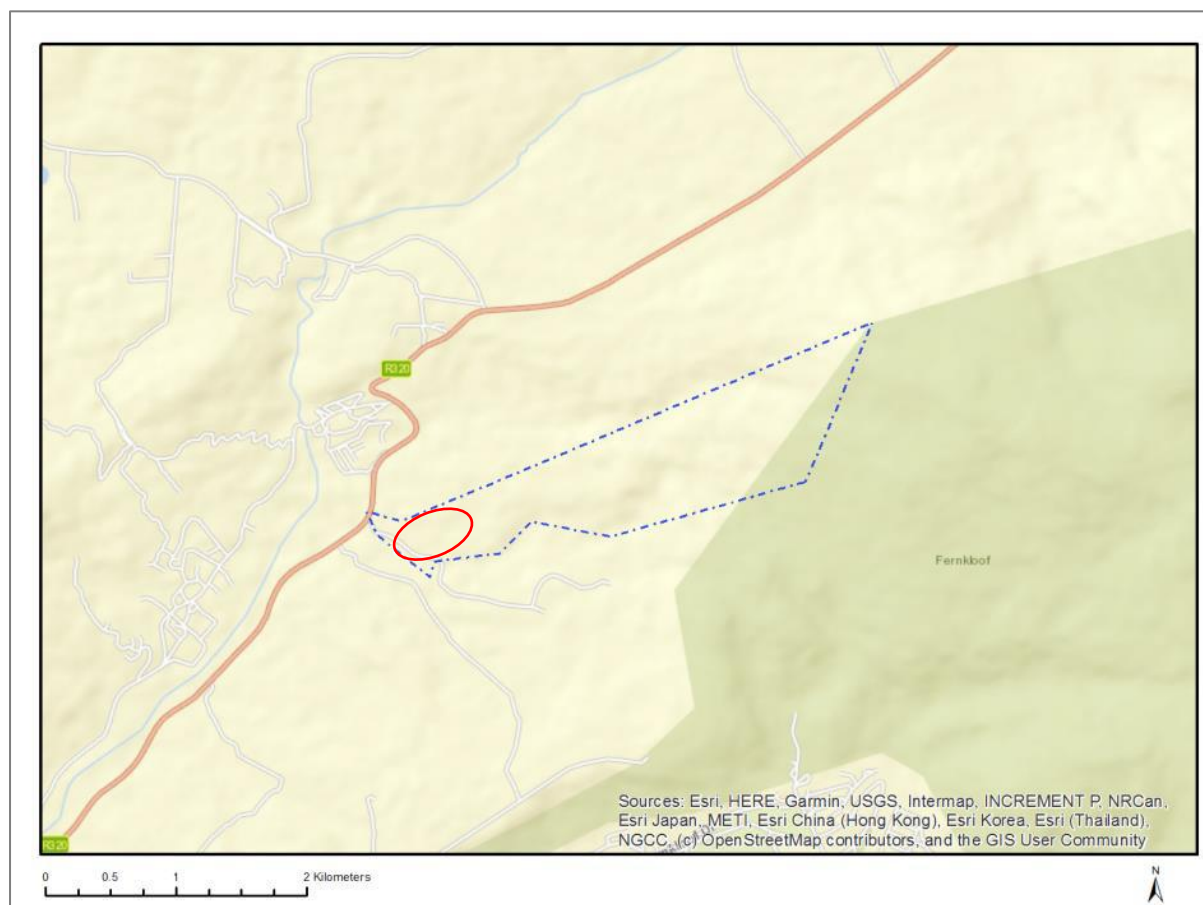
- Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
- Plant Species Assessment
- Animal species assessment

Agricultural Theme

Very High Sensitivity. The site is located in prime agricultural landscape, specifically for wine grapes. The permit in terms of CARA has already been issued. The proposal for agricultural development is in line with the theme and therefore ***no further input is required.***

Animal species theme

High sensitivity. The farm is 156 ha in extent, with the majority of the site located outside any development areas. The establishment 19.5 ha of vineyards on previously impacted and cultivated fields, on the most western extent is proposed, with the remaining area which is mountain, adjacent to Fernkloof Nature Reserve, to remain untouched. The Terrestrial and Plant species (Botanical and Conservation Assessment) assessment alludes to this. It is important to note that the Screening tool was generated for the entire property and not specifically to areas which have been impacted. The proposed development area is located on the most southwestern end of the farm within a impacted zone, alongside existing agricultural activities in a valley which is well known for its vineyards.



Furthermore, the list of sensitive species is predominantly birds which would already experience general transformed landscape of the Hemel and Aarde Valley and therefore frequent the more intact areas on the northeastern end of the farm adjacent to Fernkloof Nature Reserve. In addition, the site specific wetland areas have been delineated and completely avoided, with a buffer, in the final

preferred alternative. Based on the information above, we confirm that no further assessment in terms of the Animal species theme is required.

Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme

Low sensitivity. The Heritage assessment process is complete as confirmed by Heritage Western Cape. No further assessment is required under this theme.

Civil aviation

Medium. The vineyards are proposed for the most impacted area of the site which is located in close proximity to the R 320 Hemel and Aarde Road. The landuse is in line with surrounding landuse. There are no large structures proposed or infrastructure which may affect telecommunications. Therefore no further assessment required to civil aviation.

Palaeontology

Low sensitivity. The Heritage assessment process is complete as confirmed by Heritage Western Cape. No further assessment is required under this theme.

Plant Species theme

Medium – Botanical and Conservation **Assessment conducted by Sean Privett**, Impact findings are low due to impacted nature of the size being old, cultivated fields. No further assessment required in terms of this theme.

Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme

Very high - **conducted by Sean Privett**

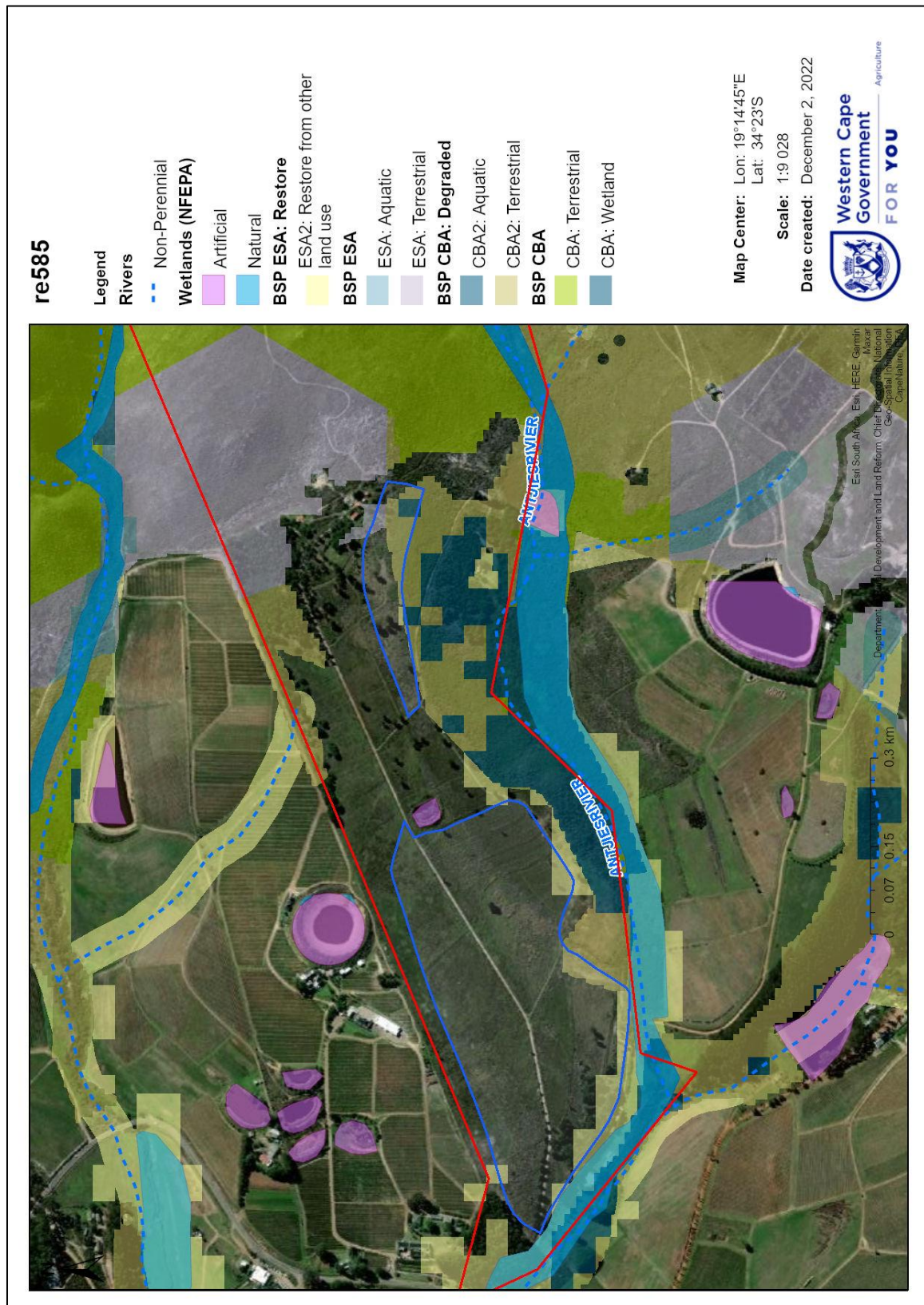
Based on the selected classification, and the environmental sensitivities of the proposed development footprint, the following list of specialist assessments have been identified in the Screening Report for inclusion in the Basic Assessment report:

- Landscape / Visual – this has been covered in the Heritage Impact Assessment – no further action required
- Archaeological, cultural heritage and palaeontology – covered in HIA – no further action required
- Terrestrial Biodiversity – covered in Terrestrial / Plant report by Sean Privett
- Aquatic Biodiversity – Freshwater Impact Assessment is completed, preferred alternative avoid all delineated wetland areas
- Socio-Economic – the proposal has a positive contribution to the area in general and allows for job creation, skills transfer tourism, investment in the area. The proposal is in line with surrounding activities and does not have a negative impact on sense of place. No further assessment is therefore required.
- Plant and Animal Species – covered on Terrestrial assessment as outlined above

In accordance with the Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of NEMA, this Site Sensitivity Verification Report (SSRVR) has essentially been compiled to provide a rationale for the specialist studies undertaken as part of the environmental process.

SITE ASSESSMENT

Please see attached Photo Report. The areas proposed for cultivation are degraded and previously impacted.



CONCLUSION

- One round of Pre-Application Public Participation has been undertaken on the Pre-Application BAR
- A Heritage Impact Assessment with Cultural Landscape study has been undertaken in consultation with HWC and it was confirmed by HWC that no further heritage assessment is required – see App J of the BAR
- A Paleontological Impact Assessment has been undertaken by John Pether and formed part of the above
- A Botanical Assessment and Conservation report has been undertaken by Sean Privett. Letter of support of new preferred Alternative provided.
- A Freshwater / Wetland Delineation was undertaken as well as a Full Freshwater Impact Assessment. All wetlands have been delineated and are completely avoided in the final preferred alternative. Risk Matrix provided by the specialist confirmed a low impact risk rating.

WAY FORWARD

One final round of In-Process public participation will be conducted, after which the final BAR will be submitted to DEA&DP for the decision-making process.

Kind regards,



MICHELLE NAYLOR