LORNAY
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

Photo Report

Clearance of indigenous vegetation for the establishment of a Nut Grove on Portion 57 of the Farm Rocklands No. 633, Hermanus, Caledon RD

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Consultant:

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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 m^2 / 62.96 ha

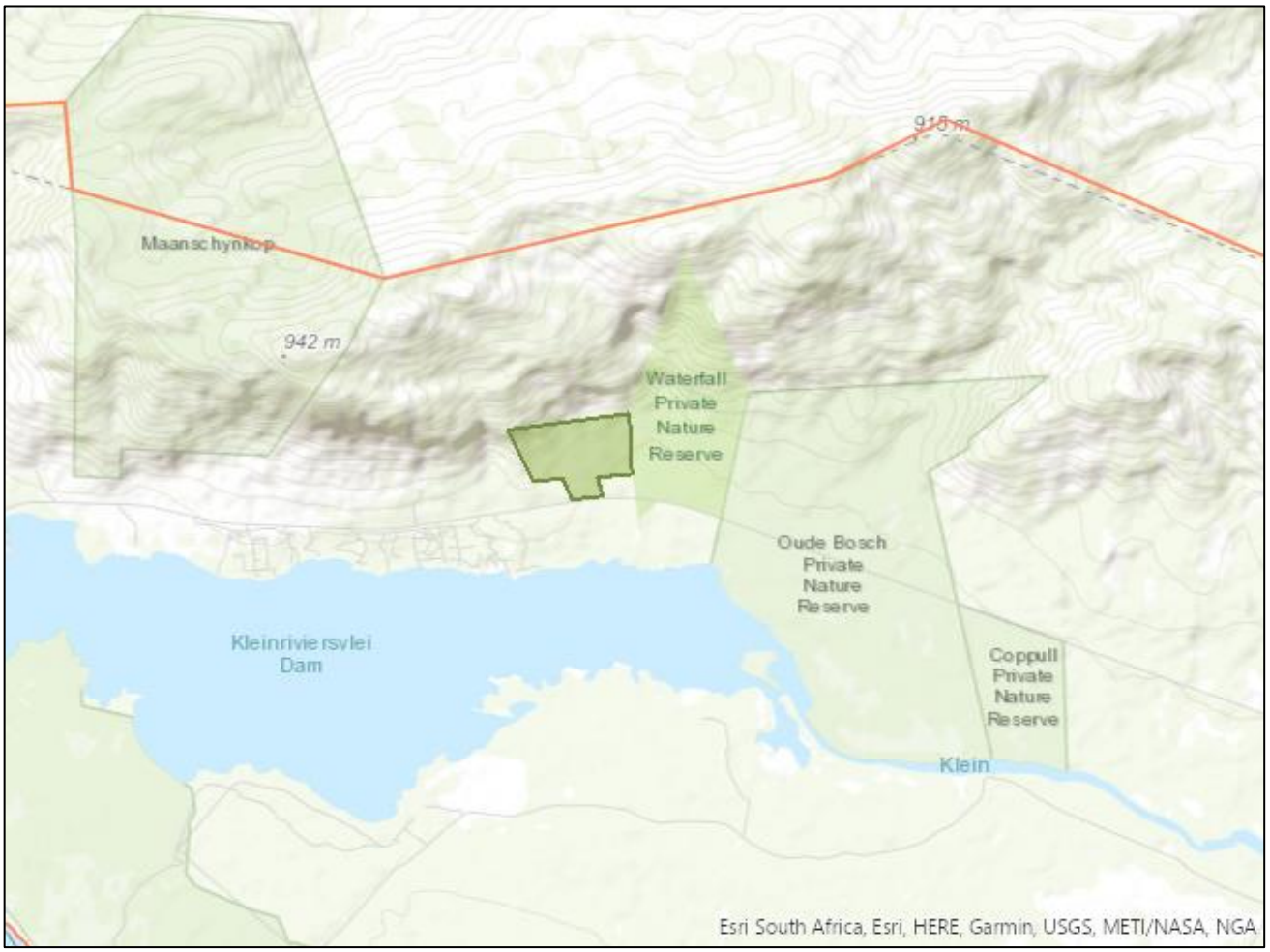


Figure 1. Site location

Figure 2. Site location

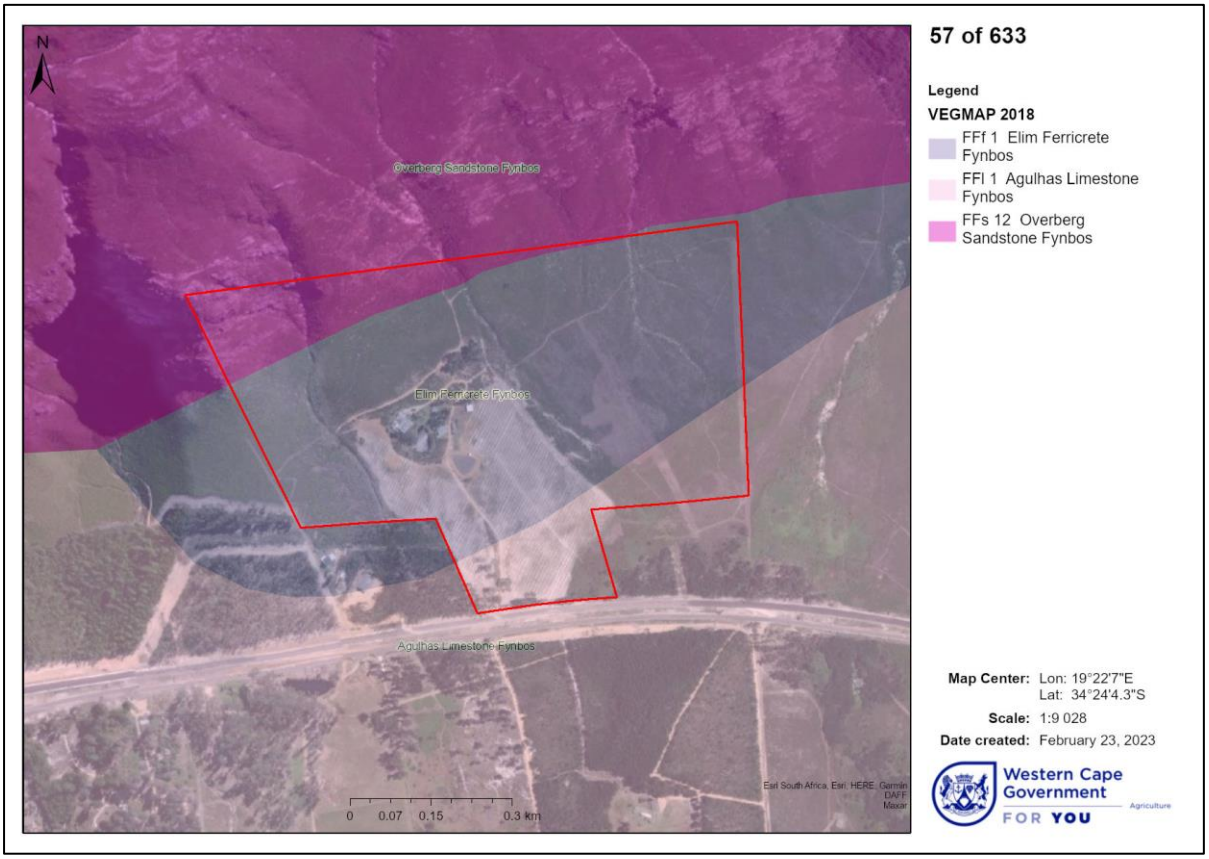


Figure 3. Vegetation Map

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).

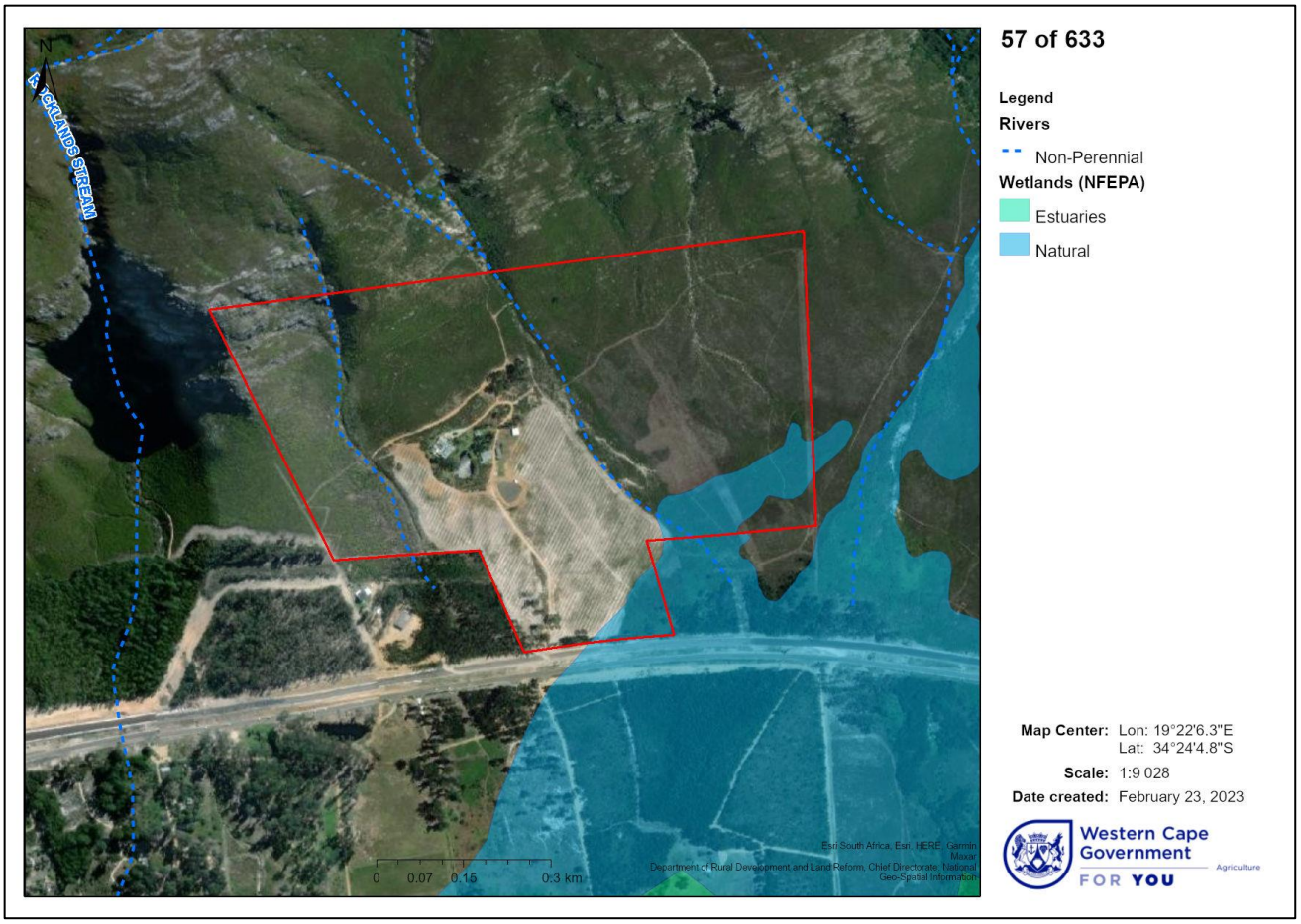
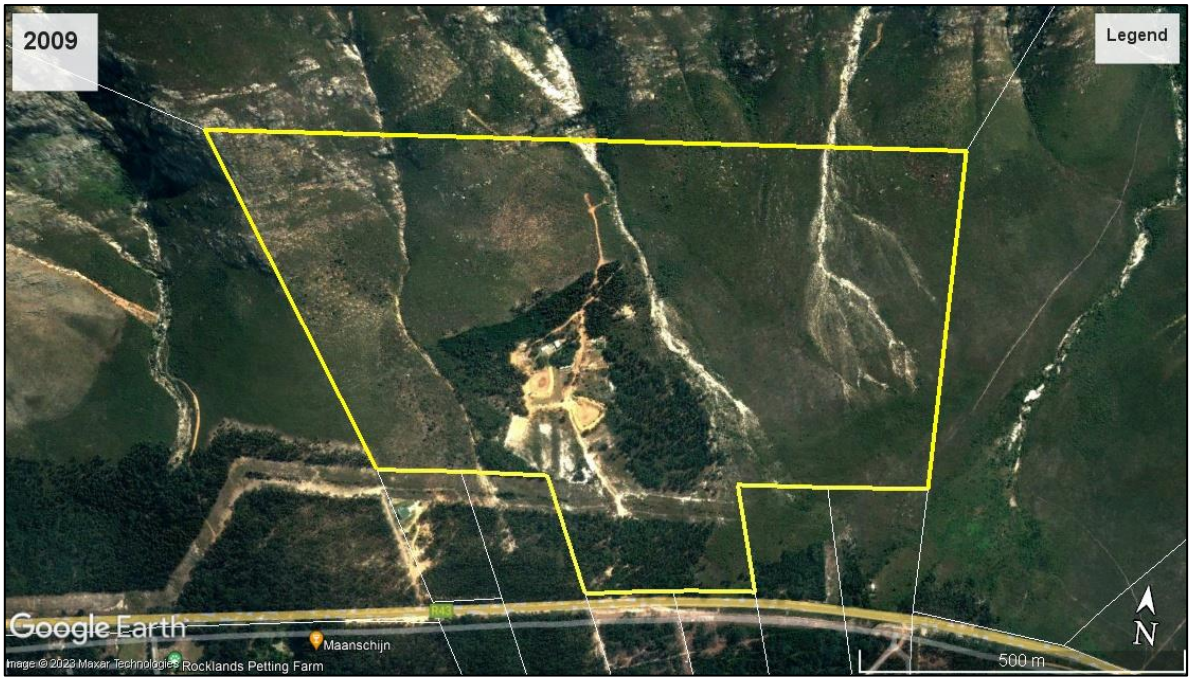


Figure 3. Water course and drainage lines mapped for the site

PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES 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).

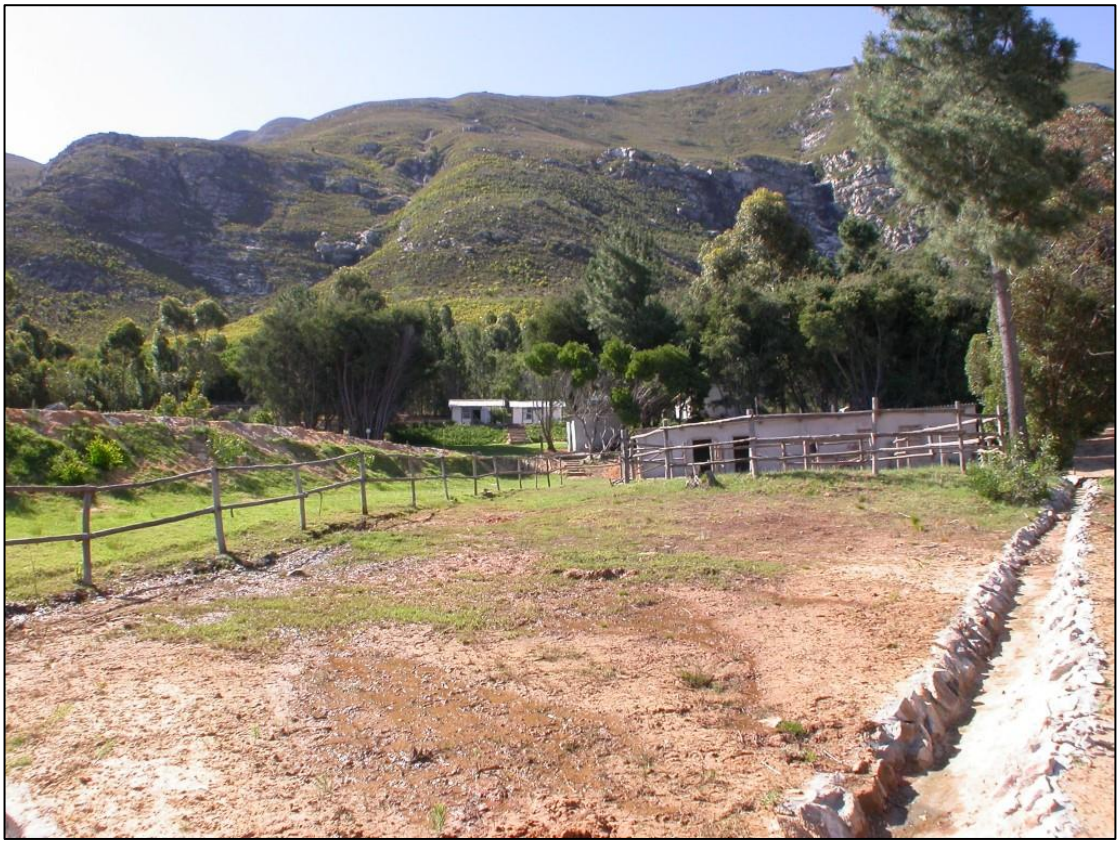


Photo 3. View of paddocks and infrastructure on site (2012). Impacted areas, infrastructure and diversion of water evident in 2012.

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:

The photographs below (September 2025) illustrate the current condition of the site following the establishment of the macadamia orchard. As shown, indigenous vegetation has re-established naturally between the planted macadamia trees, forming a continuous groundcover layer across much of the cultivated area: