



LORNAY

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION REPORT (SSVR)

Unauthorised Clearance of indigenous vegetation for
the establishment of Macadamia grove on Portion 57
of the Farm Rocklands No. 633, Caledon RD

03 August 2026

Compiled by:

Lornay Environmental Consulting (Pty) Ltd

Client:

INTRODUCTION

This rectification process is undertaken to address the unlawful clearance of indigenous vegetation on Portion 57 of the Farm Rocklands No. 633, located between Hermanus and Stanford. The site is situated within an Agricultural Zone 1 zoning category that typically prioritizes agricultural activities while requiring compliance with environmental regulations to ensure sustainable land use. The clearance occurred to establish a Macadamia grove, which involved removing native vegetation without the necessary environmental authorizations. A Site Screening Verification Report has been compiled by an Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to evaluate the environmental sensitivity of the area and the impacts of the unauthorized activity.



Figure 1. Locality of subject property

The preliminary layout alternative is as follows and was assessed by all specialists.

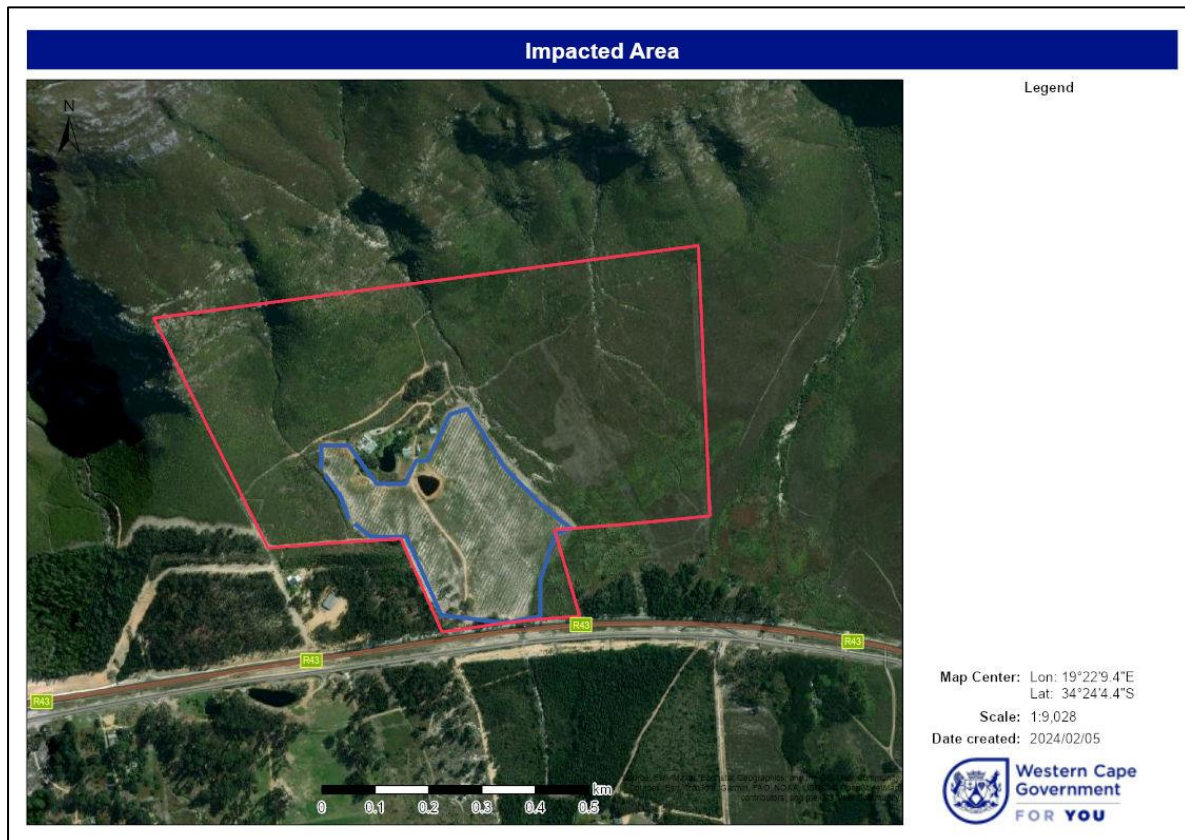


Figure 2. Alternative 2 (preferred) – proposed site plan for the residential development

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.

Based on the classification selected and the known impacts with the proposed development, the Screening Tool lists the following specialist assessments to be included in the BAR process and / or motivation as to why these specialists are not applicable to the site

- Landscape / Visual Impact Assessment
- Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment
- Palaeontology impact assessment
- Terrestrial Impact Assessment
- Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment
- Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
- Plant Species Assessment
- Animal species assessment

Table 1: Environmental Sensitivities on the property

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
Paleontology Theme		X		
Plant Species Theme			X	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X			

Agricultural Theme – Medium Sensitivity

According to the Web-Based Environmental Screening Tool the agricultural sensitivity of the site is Medium Sensitivity. A portion of the site also considered Medium Sensitivity with a Land Capability between Low-Moderate to Moderate. However, the site is largely of low sensitivity with the Land Capability between Low-Very Low to Low. The property is located within Agricultural Zone 1 and is formally zoned for agricultural use. The clearance of indigenous vegetation and establishment of macadamia nut orchards occurred within the designated agricultural zone, in alignment with the property's zoning rights. Given that the agricultural activity was consistent with the land-use designation and did not involve land-use change or conversion to non-agricultural purposes, no further agricultural assessment is required.

Animal Species Theme – High Sensitivity

The Web-Based Environmental Screening Tool characterised the property to be High Sensitivity for animal species due to likelihood occurrence of nine (9) animal species of conservation concern as per **Table 2** below.

Table 2: Animal species of conservation concern identified in the Screening Tool Report.

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Aves-Circus ranivorus
High	Aves-Circus maurus
High	Aves-Neotis denhami
Medium	Aves-Sarothrura affinis
Medium	Aves-Aquila verreauxii
Medium	Insecta-Aloeides egerides
Medium	Reptilia-Bitis armata
Medium	Invertebrate-Brinckiella aptera
Medium	Invertebrate-Aneuryphymus montanus

African Marsh Harrier (*Circus ranivorus*)

According to SANBI (2015) the African Marsh Harrier is classified as Vulnerable in South Africa and listed as a high sensitivity species due to its dependence on wetland habitats, which are under increasing threat from land transformation. This medium-sized raptor favours permanent wetlands, marshes, reedbeds, vlei margins, floodplains, and seasonally inundated grasslands (SANBI, 2015). It may also forage in adjacent Fynbos, croplands and drier grasslands. The species primarily preys on small mammals, birds, reptiles, frogs, and large insects. While nesting typically occurs in reedbeds over water, rare breeding records exist in fynbos and agricultural fields (SANBI, 2015). Given the site's proximity to wetland systems and fynbos habitat, the presence or transient use of the area by this species is considered possible.

Black Harrier (*Circus maurus*)

The Black Harrier is endemic to southern Africa and is listed as Endangered. It prefers coastal and mountain fynbos, highland grasslands, and Karoo scrub. During the breeding season, it is strongly associated with damp sites near vleis, marshes, and riverine vegetation, with nests usually concealed in tall shrubs or reeds. The species is highly sensitive to habitat fragmentation and disturbance. The property falls within the broader fynbos biome, and while no direct observations were made, the presence of suitable habitat indicates a moderate likelihood of occurrence, particularly for foraging or seasonal movement.

Denham's Bustard (*Neotis denhami*)

Denham's Bustard is a large terrestrial bird listed as Vulnerable. It inhabits mosaics of cultivated pastures, croplands, and natural vegetation, often responding seasonally to habitat availability. Although generally solitary or in small groups, it is known to aggregate occasionally. The historical presence of natural vegetation on site could have supported this species before the establishment of the macadamia nuts. Habitat transformation may have reduced its local suitability, but nearby open areas and remnant patches could still be used for foraging or movement.

Striped Flufftail (*Sarothrura affinis*)

This elusive species is regionally listed as Vulnerable due to ongoing habitat loss and fragmentation. It inhabits montane and moist grasslands with dense ground cover. Although uncommon and difficult to detect, it is often overlooked due to its cryptic behaviour.

While the species typically favours higher altitude grasslands, fragments of suitable moist habitat may still persist within the re-established indigenous vegetation, especially in less-disturbed portions of the site. The site is therefore considered to have a low to moderate likelihood of supporting this species, especially if suitable ground cover and grassland conditions are maintained.

Verreaux's Eagle (*Aquila verreauxii*)

Verreaux's Eagle is dependent on mountainous terrain, particularly cliffs, ledges, and rocky outcrops where it nests and forages for prey, mainly hyraxes. Although listed on the screening tool due to its conservation significance, the development area is situated in a low-lying landscape lacking the steep or rocky terrain required by this species. Therefore, the likelihood of occurrence is low, and it is unlikely to be impacted by the proposed activity.

Red Hill copper (*Aloeides egerides*)

The Red Hill Copper is a butterfly species endemic to the Western Cape, occurring in small, isolated subpopulations from Red Hill in Simonstown (Cape Peninsula) eastwards to Quaggaskloof Dam (Worcester), south to Struisbaai, and north to the Pella Mission Station near Mamre. This species is listed as Endangered due to its highly fragmented distribution and vulnerability to habitat loss. It is typically associated with flat, sandy, open areas within low-growing fynbos vegetation, generally from just above sea level up to 300 metres in elevation. The site is located within a low-lying landscape, which may historically have supported suitable habitat for this species (2018).

However, past clearance and ploughing activities on the farm may have negatively impacted the fynbos structure and the microhabitat conditions required for the species' lifecycle. Despite this, the regrowth of indigenous vegetation observed on the site suggests a potential for partial habitat recovery. The likelihood of occurrence is

considered low to moderate, but conservation precautions should still be taken, particularly in undisturbed or regenerating areas.

Southern Adder (*Bitis armata*)

The Southern Adder is endemic to the Western Cape and is found in two disjunct coastal regions: around the Langebaan Peninsula (West Coast) and from the Bot River area to the Breede River mouth (South Coast). Remnant subpopulations may persist between Somerset West and Danger Point, including areas near Gansbaai. This species is strongly associated with coastal fynbos on limestone geology, where it shelters under rock slabs and dense shrubs. Remarkably, it also exhibits arboreal behaviour, having been recorded in bushes up to 2 m above the ground. While typically occurring in low-lying areas, individuals have been observed at elevations of up to 300 m. Given the site's fynbos context and low-lying terrain, it falls within the broader potential range of this species. Although no individuals were recorded during the site visit, the species is considered to have a moderate likelihood of occurrence, particularly if limestone outcrops or dense shrub layers are present.

Mute Winter Katydid (*Brinckiella aptera*)

This highly unusual katydid is endemic to the Fynbos and Succulent Karoo biomes and is notable for being the first known katydid in its subfamily to lack stridulatory organs, rendering it mute. It likely feeds on a very narrow range of host plants, favouring low, herbaceous shrubs. The Mute Winter Katydid is active primarily from August to October, during which time it can be found basking on sunny days, although it is nocturnal in behaviour. Its presence often signals well-preserved or intact fynbos shrublands. Given the site's recovering indigenous vegetation and fynbos composition, the potential for occurrence is moderate, and further disturbance should be avoided during the active season.

Yellow-winged Agile Grasshopper (*Aneuryphymus montanus*)

Endemic to the Cape region, this grasshopper species is associated with fynbos vegetation, particularly in partly burnt stands of evergreen Sclerophyll in rocky foothill areas. It has a known preference for south-facing cool slopes (Kinvig 2005). Although no individuals were observed on-site, the regenerating vegetation and presence of rocky areas and south-facing slopes increase the likelihood of habitat suitability for this species. The probability of occurrence is considered moderate, especially in microhabitats resembling post-fire fynbos recovery zones.

Extract from the Terrestrial Species Assessment Report 2025:

According to the National Web-based Environmental Screening Tool, the property is rated as having High Sensitivity for animal species. The Animal Species theme is considered to be of High Sensitivity due to the possible presence of *Aves-Circus maurus* (Black harrier Hawk), *Aves-Neotis denhami* (Denham's bustard) and *Aves-Circus ranivorus* (African marsh harrier). The survey conducted however indicates that the latter 2 species have not been observed or officially recorded on the property nor in the area for many years now (Crabtree, 2025). However, the observation in respect of the *Falco peregrinus* (Peregrine falcon) has been recorded (Crabtree, 2025).

It is with the assistance of suitable, competent specialist and enthusiasts the lists of observations in respect of both the Fauna & Flora species were completed.

Avian species List

Sensitivity	Feature(s)	Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Black Harrier (R)	Medium	Horus Swift
High	Peregrin Falcon (R)	Medium	Little Swift
High	Victorin's Warbler (R)	Medium	Alpine Swift
Medium	Hadea Ibis	Medium	Speckled Mousebird
Medium	Yellow billed Kite	Medium	White backed Mousebird
Medium	Black Shouldered Kite	Medium	Red-faced Mousebird
Medium	Black Eagle	Medium	Brown hooded Kingfisher
Medium	Steppe Buzzard	Medium	African Hoopoe
Medium	Jackal Buzzard	Medium	Greater Honeyguide
Medium	African Goshawk	Medium	Ground Woodpecker
Medium	Lanner Falcon	Medium	Cardinal Woodpecker
Medium	Rock Kestrel	Medium	Olive Woodpecker
Medium	Cape Francolin	Medium	European Swallow
Medium	Helmeted Guinea fowl	Medium	White throated Swallow
Medium	Striped Flufftail	Medium	Greater Striped Swallow
Medium	Rock Pigeon	Medium	Rock Martin
Medium	Redeye Dove	Medium	House Martin
Medium	Cape Turtle Dove	Medium	Black Saw wing Swallow
Medium	Red chested Cuckoo	Medium	Black Cuckoo Shrike
Medium	Klaas's Cuckoo	Medium	Fork tailed Drongo
Medium	Spotted Eagle Owl	Medium	Pied Crow
Medium	Fiery necked Nightjar	Medium	White necked Raven
Medium	Black Swift	Medium	Cape Bulbul
Medium	White-rumped Swift	Medium	Sombre Bulbul

Sensitivity	Feature(s)	Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Medium	Olive Thrush	Medium	Cape Sugarbird
Medium	Cape Rock Thrush	Medium	Malachite Sunbird
Medium	Familiar Chat	Medium	Orangebreasted Sunbird
Medium	Stone Chat	Medium	Lesser D- collar Sunbird
Medium	Cape Robin	Medium	Greater D-C Sunbird
Medium	Cape Rockjumper	Medium	Cape White-eye
Medium	Barthroated Apalis	Medium	Cape Sparrow
Medium	Greybacked Cisticola	Medium	Cape Weaver
Medium	Neddicky	Medium	Yellowrumped Widow
Medium	Karoo (Spotted) Prinia	Medium	Common Waxbill
Medium	Spotted Flycatcher	Medium	Pintailed Wydah
Medium	Dusky Flycatcher	Medium	Cape Canary
Medium	Fiscal	Medium	Cape Siskin
Medium	Cape Batis	Medium	Cape Bunting
Medium	Bluemantled Flycatcher		
Medium	Paradise Flycatcher		
Medium	Cape Wagtail		
Medium	Grassveld Pipit		
Medium	Fiscal Shrike		
Medium	Southern Boubou		
Medium	Southern Tchagra		
Medium	Bokmakierie		
Medium	Eurasian Starling		

Mammals

Sensitivity	Feature(s)	Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Medium	Tatera afra	Medium	Crocidura flavescens
Medium	Panthera pardus	Medium	Myosorex varius
Medium	Felis caracal	Medium	Chrysochloris asiatica
Medium	Aonyx capensis	Medium	Eptesicus capensis
Medium	Genetta tiorina	Medium	Lepus saxatilis
Medium	Atilax paludinosus	Medium	Pronolagus rupestris
Medium	Galerella pulverulenta	Medium	Cryptomys hottentotus
Medium	Herpestes ichneumon	Medium	Georchus capensis
Medium	Procavia capensis	Medium	Hystrix africaeaustralis
Medium	Silvicapra grimmia	Medium	Acomys subspinosus
Medium	Oreotragus oreotragus	Medium	Rhabdomys pumilio
Medium	Raphiceros melanotis	Medium	Mus minutoides
Medium	Pelea capreolus	Medium	Praomys verreauxii
Medium	Papio ursinus		

Reptiles

Sensitivity	Feature(s)	Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Psammobates geometricus (R)	Medium	Mabuya capensis
Medium	Lamprophis aurora	Medium	Afrogecko paryhyreus
Medium	Bitis atropos	Medium	Pachydactylus geitje
Medium	Dispholidus typus	Medium	Mabuya homalocephala
Medium	Lamprophis fuliginosus	Medium	Tetradactylus seps
Medium	Naja nivea	Medium	Agama atra.a.
Medium	Lycodonomorphus rufus	Medium	Chersina angulata
Medium	Dasyplexis scabra		
Medium	Duberria lutrix		
Medium	Psammophis crucifer		
Medium	Philithamus hoplogaster		
Medium	Pseudaspis cana		
Medium	Causus rhombeatus		
Medium	Lamprophis inornatus		
Medium	Bitis arietans		
Medium	Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia		
Medium	Hemachatus haemachatus		
Medium	Homoroselaps lacteus		
Medium	Psammophylax rhombeatus		
Medium	Prosymna sundevalli		
Medium	Pseudocordylus microlepidotus		
Medium	Bradypodion pumilum		
Medium	Chamaesaura anguina		
Medium	Cordylus cordylus		
Medium	Acontias meleagris..m.		

Amphibians

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Medium	Capensibufo sp.
Medium	Bufo rangeri
Medium	Bufo gariepensis
Medium	Breviceps montanus
Medium	Xenopus laevis
Medium	Heleophryne purcelli
Medium	Semnodactylus wealii
Medium	Arthroleptella drewesii

Invertebrate

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Medium	Zosteraeschna minuscula
Medium	Anax imperator
Medium	Anax speratus
Medium	Syncordulia venator
Medium	Orthetrum caffrum
Medium	Orthetrum chrysostigma
Medium	Crocothemis erythraea
Medium	Crocothemis sanguinolenta
Medium	Trithemis arteriosa
Medium	Trithemis furva
Medium	Trithemis kirbyi
Medium	Trithemis stictica
Medium	Chlorolestes umbrata
Medium	Chlorolestes conspicua
Medium	Ceragrion glabrum
Medium	Pseudagrion massaicum
Medium	Ischnura senegalensis

Scorpions

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Uroplectes lineatus
Low	Opisthophthalmus macer

Crabs

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
	Potamonantes perlatus

Lepidoptera

Sensitivity	Feature(s)	Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	Low	<i>Capys alphaeus</i>
Low	<i>Pseudonympha magus</i>	Low	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>
Low	<i>Pseudonympha trimenii</i>	Low	<i>Lepidochrysops methymna</i>
Low	<i>Cassionympha detecta</i>	Low	<i>Lepidochrysops robertsoni</i>
Low	<i>Charaxes pelias</i>	Low	<i>Tarucus thespis</i>
Low	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Low	<i>Colias electo electo</i>
Low	<i>Aloeides thyra</i>	Low	<i>Pontia helice</i>
Low	<i>Aloeides almeida</i>	Low	<i>Papilio demodocus</i>
Low	<i>Aloeides aranda</i>		

Arachnids

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	<i>Araneus apricus</i>
Low	<i>Argiope australis</i>
Low	<i>Caerostris sexcupidata</i>
Low	<i>Euprosthenopsis pulchella</i>
Low	<i>Cyrtophora citricola</i>
Low	<i>Gasteracantha sanguinolenta</i>
Low	<i>Gnaphosidae</i> sp.
Low	<i>Latrodectus geometricus</i>
Low	<i>Palystes kreutzmanni</i>
Low	<i>Menemerus bivittatus</i>
Low	<i>Steatoda capensis</i>
Low	<i>Smeringopus</i> sp.
Low	<i>Thomisus citrinellus</i>

Aquatic Biodiversity Theme – Very High Sensitivity – The Aquatic Biodiversity Theme for Portion 57 of the Farm 633 has been classified as having Very High Sensitivity according to the National Web-Based Environmental Screening Tool. This classification is triggered by the presence of a mapped National Wetland Map Version 5 (NWM5) seep wetland within the South Coast Fynbos Bioregion, which coincides with an Aquatic Critical Biodiversity Area 1 (CBA1) as delineated in the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (WCBSP, 2017). Furthermore, the site is located within a Strategic Water Source Area (SWSA) for surface water (Boland), emphasizing its hydrological and ecological significance within the regional catchment context.

A Freshwater Risk and Impact Assessment, conducted by Delta Ecology (2024), confirmed the presence of multiple aquatic features on the site. These include a natural seep wetland (referred to as Seep Wetland 1) associated with an ephemeral stream on the eastern boundary of the agricultural activity, an artificial seep wetland (Seep Wetland 2) located below farm dams and associated with irrigated return flows, and two ephemeral drainage lines situated approximately 10–15 metres to the east and west of the cleared macadamia nut orchard. These features were delineated and assessed using best-practice field methods, including soil analysis and hydrophytic vegetation indicators.

The assessment determined that Seep Wetland 1 had been moderately impacted by vegetation clearance and ploughing activities during the establishment of the orchard, particularly in the southwestern portion where macadamia trees were planted. However, partial habitat recovery was observed in the form of sparse re-establishment of indigenous wetland vegetation, suggesting that the hydrological function of the wetland remains at least partially intact. In contrast, Seep Wetland 2 is considered an artificial system resulting from historical farm dam overflow and irrigation, and although it now supports some indigenous vegetation, it is not considered a naturally occurring watercourse. The two ephemeral drainage lines were found to be largely unimpacted by the development, remaining in a near-natural condition with limited signs of sedimentation or flow modification.

In terms of ecological assessment metrics, Seep Wetland 1 prior to orchard establishment was rated as having a high Present Ecological State (Category C), high Ecological Importance and Sensitivity (EIS), and moderately high Wetland Ecosystem Services (WES), resulting in a Recommended Ecological Category (REC) of B. After the development, the PES declined but still remained within Category C, and the REC remained the same. Seep Wetland 2, being artificial, was not rated for PES or REC, but was found to have low EIS and marginal WES. The ephemeral drainage lines maintained a consistent Category B rating before and after the orchard development, with moderate EIS and moderately high WES, and were assigned a REC of B.

The assessment found that construction and operational phase impacts on Seep Wetland 1, such as habitat disturbance, flow alteration, and sedimentation, were of medium significance both before and after mitigation. In contrast, impacts on Seep Wetland 2 and the ephemeral streams were of low or very low significance. Nonetheless, due to the medium significance of the impacts on Seep Wetland 1 and the fact that the agricultural activities occurred within 500 m of a delineated wetland and 100 m of a drainage line, a Water Use Licence Application (WULA) in terms of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) is required.

Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme – Low sensitivity – According to the Web-Based Environmental Screening Tool, the Archaeological and Cultural Heritage is considered of Low sensitivity. The property is situated within Agricultural zoned land and is in line with the current land use of the property for agricultural purposes.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999),

As required in Part A of the Government Gazette 43110, GN 320, a site sensitivity verification was undertaken in order to confirm the current land use and environmental sensitivity of the Macadamia project area. The details of the site sensitivity verification are noted below:

Method of the Site Sensitivity Verification - the site sensitivity verification was undertaken using the following means:

- desktop analysis, using satellite imagery and spatial datasets.
- preliminary on-site inspection (fieldwork).

The study area was initially examined on aerial photography to determine whether any obvious heritage resources (such as buildings) could be seen.

No such locations were noted. No desktop study was carried out at this point; a field survey was carried out over a period. The survey never set out to study the area comprehensively, since that would take many weeks to accomplish. The aims were:

Civil Aviation Theme – Low sensitivity – the proposed development is located within

Defence Theme – Low Sensitivity – No impacts envisaged. No further assessment required.

Palaeontology – High Sensitivity – The potential impact has a moderate influence upon the proposed project, consisting of implemented mitigation measures recommended below, to be followed during the Construction Phase.

Plant Species Theme – Medium

The Screening Tool Report notes that the Plant Species is of Medium Sensitivity as a result of the identified plant species in table below (Crabtree, 2025). Based on the revised vegetation mapping (Crabtree, 2025), approximately 80–90% of the orchard footprint (± 7.65 ha) supported Agulhas Sand Fynbos (Critically Endangered) and the remainder (± 1.35 ha) supported Elim Ferricrete Fynbos (Endangered).

The composition of the natural vegetation does vary across the site because of differing drainage and soil moisture conditions - but all the vegetation, with exception of the seep wetland vegetation can be broadly defined as Agulhas Sand Fynbos. Diagnostic species in terms of defining these moisture gradients are *Leucadendron xanthoconus* and *Erica laeta* in the better drained areas and *Erica perspicua latifolia* and *Berzelia lanuginosa* in wetter areas. The most abundant species recorded on site in the Agulhas Sand Fynbos were:

Shrubs and Herbs

Sensitivity	Feature(s)	Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	<i>Leucospermum prostratum</i>	Medium	<i>Nemesia versicolor</i>
High	<i>Protea longifolia</i>	Medium	<i>Orphium frutescens</i>
High	<i>Protea scabra</i>	Medium	<i>Dimorphotheca nudicaulis</i>
High	<i>Lachnaea densiflora</i>	Medium	<i>Orbea variegata</i>
Medium	<i>Anthospermum aethiopicum</i>	Medium	<i>Plecotachys serpyllifolia</i>
Medium	<i>Aspalathus microphylla</i>	Medium	<i>Aspalathus angustifolia angustifolia</i>
Medium	<i>Athanasia trifurcata</i>	Medium	<i>Senecio subcanescens</i>
Medium	<i>Erica barbigeroides</i>	Medium	<i>Senecio halimifolius</i>
Medium	<i>Erica discolor</i>	Medium	<i>Senecio triqueter</i>
Medium	<i>Erica quadrangularis</i>	Medium	<i>Pelargonium candicans</i>
Medium	<i>Erica villosa</i>	Medium	<i>Seriphium plumosum</i>
Medium	<i>Erica muscosa</i>	Medium	<i>Centella macrocarpa</i>
Medium	<i>Erica laeta</i>	Medium	<i>Lobelia pinifolia</i>
Medium	<i>Erica nudiflora</i>	Medium	<i>Prismatocarpus brevilobus</i>
Medium	<i>Erica imbricata</i>	Medium	<i>Senecio elegans</i>
Medium	<i>Erica plukenetii plukenetii</i>	Medium	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>
Medium	<i>Erica rhopalantha</i>	Medium	<i>Searsia laevigata</i>
Medium	<i>Oxalis polyphylla</i>	Medium	<i>Passerina vulgaris</i>
Medium	<i>Aulax umbellata</i>	Medium	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
Medium	<i>Leucadendron salignum</i>	Medium	<i>Pelargonium cucullatum</i>
Medium	<i>Serruria fasciflora</i>	Medium	<i>Cliffortia sp.</i>
Medium	<i>Gnidia pinifolia</i>	Medium	<i>Osteospermum moniliferum</i>
Medium	<i>Erepsia anceps</i>	Medium	<i>Metalasia muricata</i>
Medium	<i>Oedera pungens</i>	Medium	<i>Artopus echinata</i>
Medium	<i>Diosma hirsute</i>	Medium	<i>Chrysocoma ciliata,</i>
Medium	<i>Orbea variegata</i>	Medium	<i>Crassula sp.</i>
Medium	<i>Muraltia heisteria</i>	Medium	<i>Plecotachys serpyllifolia</i>
Medium	<i>Arctotis scabra</i>	Medium	<i>Penaea mucronate</i>
Medium	<i>Lobelia erinus</i>	Medium	<i>Gnidia oppositifolia</i>
Medium	<i>Phyllica plumosa</i>	Medium	<i>Muraltia filiformis</i>
Medium	<i>Pelargonium capitatum</i>	Medium	<i>Complex Oxalis multicaulis-reticulis</i>
Medium	<i>Stoebe plumosa</i>	Medium	<i>Complex Oxalis eckloniana -nidulans</i>
Medium	<i>Stoebe capitata</i>	Medium	<i>Oxalis truncatula</i>
Medium	<i>Plecotachys serpyllifolia,</i>	Medium	<i>Polygala garcinia</i>
Medium	<i>Cliffortia ruscifolia</i>	Medium	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>
Medium	<i>Protea nitida</i>	Medium	<i>Asparagus rubicundus</i>
Medium	<i>Myrsine africana.</i>		

Geophytes

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Medium	Gladiolus carneus
Medium	Haemanthus sanguineus
Medium	Eriospermum nanum
Medium	Strumaria spiralis
Medium	Euphorbia ecklonii
Medium	Watsonia sp.
Medium	Wachendorfia paniculata
Medium	Aristea glauca.

Graminoids

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Medium	Pteridium aquilinum
Medium	Zantedeschia aethiopica
Medium	Rapanea melanophloes
Medium	Nidorella sp.
Medium	Searsia laevigata
Medium	Prionium serratum.

Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme – Very high – The Screening Tool Report notes that the vegetation on site is of Very-High Sensitivity. This classification is based on the type of vegetation present, namely Agulhas Limestone Fynbos, which is Critically Endangered as well as Elim Ferricrete Fynbos which is Endangered. However, during site survey, Crabtree (2025) notes that the vegetation onsite is the representative of Agulhas Sand Fynbos which is Critically Endangered. Additionally, Approximately five species of conservation concern have been recorded on the property with the likelihood of more species being present.

Specialist Assessment Identified as per Screening Tool:

Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment: A Landscape / Visual Impact Assessment was not undertaken. The property is located within Agricultural Zone 1, and the activity undertaken — the establishment of a macadamia nut orchard — is consistent with the existing agricultural land-use rights of the property. The activity does not introduce visually intrusive infrastructure or structures that would significantly alter the existing rural landscape character. The development therefore remains compatible with the surrounding agricultural landscape, and a visual impact assessment is not considered necessary.

Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: A full Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment was not required. A site sensitivity verification and field inspection confirmed that no heritage resources occur within the development footprint. The activity involved agricultural planting within a previously disturbed landscape and did not expose or impact any heritage features. The site is therefore considered to be of low heritage sensitivity, and no further assessment was required.

Palaeontological Impact Assessment: A Palaeontological Impact Assessment was not undertaken. The establishment of the macadamia orchard did not involve ploughing, deep excavation, or large-scale soil disturbance, and no fossils or palaeontological material were exposed during planting activities. Planting was

undertaken using localized planting holes only, with vegetation largely brush-cut rather than removed through mechanical soil preparation. The likelihood of palaeontological impacts is therefore considered low.

Terrestrial Biodiversity Impacts Assessment: The specialist assessment has been undertaken and is attached under Appendix F1 and Appendix F3 of the BAR.

Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment: Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment has been undertaken and completed, refer to Appendix F4.

Socio-Economic Impact Assessment: A Socio-Economic Impact Assessment was not undertaken. The activity involves continued agricultural use of the property and does not introduce land-use change or infrastructure that would result in significant socio-economic impacts. The agricultural activity contributes positively to local agricultural productivity and employment, and no negative socio-economic impacts are anticipated.

Plant Species Assessment: The assessment is covered under the Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached under Appendix F1 and Appendix F3 of the BAR.

Animal Species Assessment: Animal species considerations were assessed as part of the Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment. However, the specialist confirmed that while the broader landscape may support species of conservation concern, no faunal species have been identified during site visit.

PRELIMINARY SITE ASSESSMENT

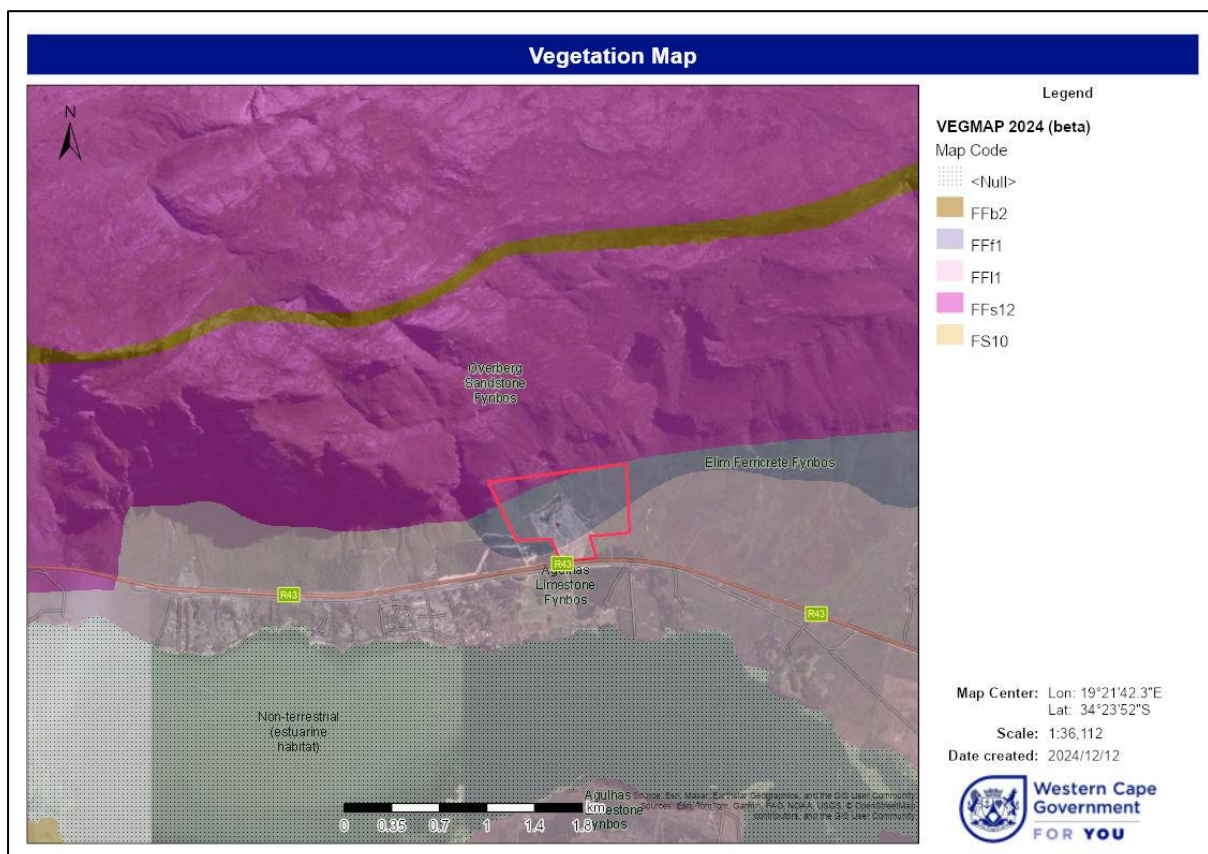


Figure 3-1: Cape Farm Mapper shows that the vegetation type that was impacted onsite is Elim Ferricrete Fynbos and Agulhas Limestone Fynbos.

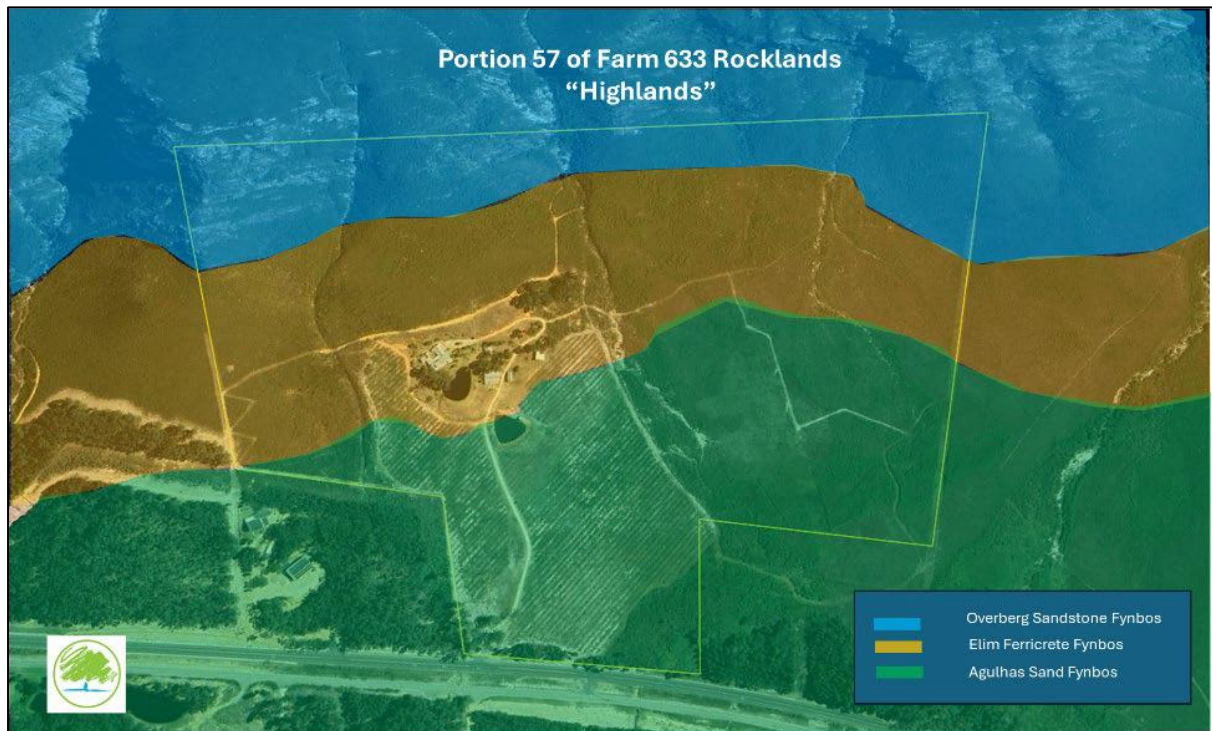


Figure 3-2: The botanical specialist highlights that the cleared are consisted of Elime Ferricrete Fynbos and Agulhas Sand Fynbos.

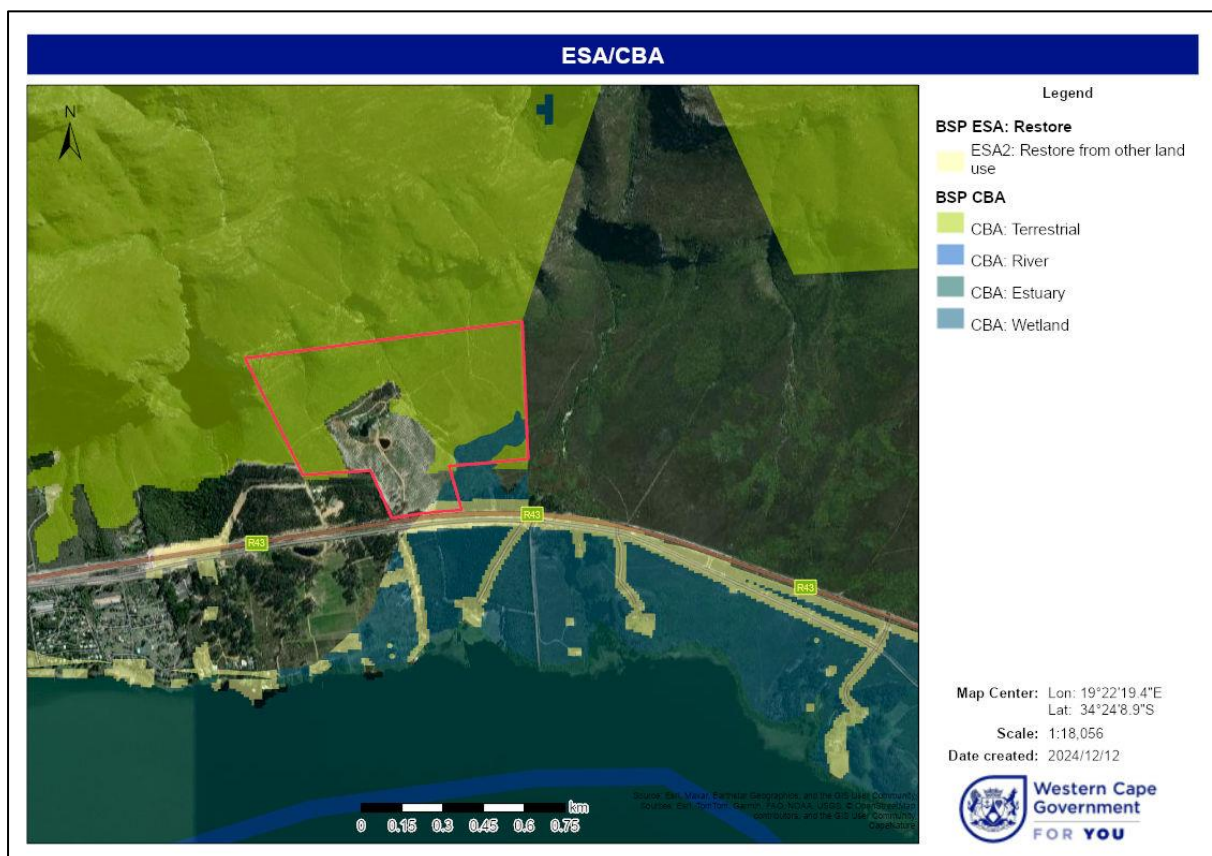


Figure 4: CBA/ ESA Mapping associated with the subject property.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the Screening Tool Report, the specialist inputs, and the site verification undertaken by Crabtree (2025), the site is confirmed to support predominantly Agulhas Sand Fynbos, with smaller portions of Elim Ferricrete Fynbos. Although the Screening Tool initially identified Agulhas Limestone Fynbos, the site-specific botanical assessment provides a more accurate representation of the vegetation present.

The vegetation on site is classified as Critically Endangered, and the broader terrestrial biodiversity sensitivity is therefore appropriately regarded as Very High. The presence of approximately five species of conservation concern further reinforces the ecological importance of the site, with the potential for additional species to occur.

Despite the high biodiversity sensitivity, the activity undertaken namely the establishment of a macadamia orchard occurred within an agricultural context and involved relatively low-impact methods, including brush-cutting and localized planting, rather than extensive mechanical transformation. However, it is acknowledged that the clearance of indigenous vegetation has resulted in a loss of natural habitat within a threatened ecosystem.

The specialist studies included in the BAR (Terrestrial and Aquatic Biodiversity Assessments) adequately assess the impacts associated with the activity and provide appropriate mitigation measures

Kind regards,



MICHELLE NAYLOR