ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING REPORT

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FOR THE

ALHEIT VAN DER MERWE PRIMARY SCHOOL IN THE JOE GQABI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE

Dark Horse Project and Investment Group

Aliwal North, Eastern Cape Province

Report details

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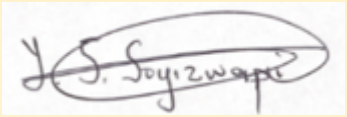
Prepared by	Yamkela Sipho Soyizwapi Environmental Assessment Practitioner *EAPASA Registered: 2021/4362* Cell: 073 350 6816 Email: yamkelasoyizwa@gmail.com 
Project tile	Construction of a new school building and refurbish existing facilities at Alheit van der Merwe Junior Secondary School
Date finished	01 November 2024
Report status	Final

Glossary of terms and acronyms

BAR	Basic Assessment Report
CBA	Critical Biodiversity Area
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
IEM	Integrated Environmental Management
GN R	Government Notice Regulation
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998
NEM:BA	National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act
NEM: WA	National Environmental Management: Waste Act
NWA	National Waste Act, 2008
S&EIr	Scoping and Environment Impact Report
SAHRA	South African National Heritage Resources Act
EA	Environmental Authorisation
ONA	Other Natural Areas
HPA	Health Professions Act
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme Report
ECO	Environmental Control Officer
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
MPRDA	Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act

1 Purpose of the screening report

In line with the principles of Integrated Environmental Management (IEM), it is crucial to integrate environmental considerations into the development planning process from the outset. The onus is on the proponent and the supporting planners to proactively and comprehensively address the environmental implications of a proposed development. This proactive approach should ideally occur before submitting an application for environmental authorisation or initiating any formal environmental assessment processes.

Environmental Screening serves as an early-stage process designed to anticipate key environmental issues associated with a proposed development. By incorporating these considerations into the formulation of the site development plan, potential environmental impacts can be identified and addressed early in the design phase. This preliminary environmental evaluation ensures that potential significant impacts are anticipated, and mitigation measures are incorporated into the initial development designs.

One of the key objectives of pre-application environmental screening is to assess whether any aspects of the proposal are technically flawed or could lead to significant or unacceptable environmental consequences. This process, known as the identification of potential "fatal flaws," focuses on detecting critical environmental risks that could jeopardize the feasibility of the project. In particular, the analysis should cover:

- **Ecological fatal flaws:** These involve identifying and evaluating the ecological assets within the target area and predicting how the proposed development might impact these assets.

Environmental screening, therefore, seeks to determine if a proposed development has inherent environmental challenges that may compromise its viability. Depending on the outcomes of this screening process, the following actions may be taken:

- **Abandonment of the proposal:** If a fatal flaw analysis reveals significant environmental risks, the development may be abandoned, eliminating the need for further environmental assessment.
- **No environmental authorisation required:** In some cases, the screening process may establish that the proposed development does not require environmental authorisation, which could streamline the approval process.
- **Adjustments to the proposal:** If environmental concerns are identified but are not severe enough to abandon the project, the proposal may be adjusted to incorporate mitigation measures before being submitted for authorisation.

By ensuring environmental screening takes place early in the development process, potential risks are mitigated, and the project is more likely to proceed efficiently through the regulatory framework.

2 Introduction

The **proposed Aliwal North School project** is proposed to be developed in Aliwal North, located in the Eastern Cape province. Strategically within the Maletswai community hub, the school's site is conveniently placed to serve the surrounding township communities. This area falls under the jurisdiction of the Maletswai Local Municipality, which operates as part of the Joe Gqabi District Municipality.

Key points of interest and accessibility:

i. **Nearby Infrastructure**:

- The proposed school is accessible from R58, a major regional road, enhancing connectivity for students, staff, and visitors from adjacent areas.
- Limakatsao Boutique Hotel is in close proximity, providing potential lodging options for visiting stakeholders or staff.
- Nearby amenities such as Sasko and other community facilities make it a practical location within the township.

ii. **Community and Surrounding Facilities**:

- The proposed school is centrally located within the Maletswai community, making it a vital educational establishment within the township's social infrastructure.
- Surrounded by residential neighbourhoods, the school is expected to be a key institution serving the local community and fostering educational growth in the area.

iii. **Geographic Setting**:

- Positioned relatively close to natural features, including a river to the north of the township, which might influence environmental assessments and infrastructure planning.
- The site is primarily urban, embedded within a community hub but bordered by some open land and green spaces, providing a balance of accessibility and environmental quality.

iv. **Municipal and District Context**:

- The proposed project is under the jurisdictional control of the Joe Gqabi District Municipality, the project aligns with regional development goals, aiming to enhance educational infrastructure within the district.

- Maletswai Local Municipality’s governance over the area underscores the importance of engaging local authorities in the planning and development process.

Additional Considerations:

- Community Engagement: The school’s centrality in Maletswai suggests it could be an important community project, necessitating community involvement and possibly addressing local employment opportunities during and after construction.

3 Background information

Dark Horse Projects and Investment Group is developing an infrastructure upgrade and refurbishment, as well as constructing new facilities, with a strong commitment to improving accessibility to educational institutions for local residents. This environmental screening aims to identify any significant environmental risks associated with the proposed project, focusing on potential environmental impacts triggered by various project activities.

Based on the information provided, the project will incorporate, among others, the following spaces:

- Administration block
- Library + Computer
- Multi-Purpose
- Nutrition Centre
- 16 Classrooms
- Science Lab
- Gate House
- Refuse
- Waiting Area
- Required site area being 2442m^2 (Less than 1ha of physical clearance).

Refer to **Appendix A** for the provided designs. As mentioned above, constructing new facilities, has a strong commitment to improving accessibility to educational institutions for local residents

3.1 Key objectives

The key objectives of this site report are to:

- Identify and assess the need and the desirability of the proposed project.
- To ensure that the site that has been developed is environmentally acceptable and that it provides for simple, cost-effective design, this in turn provides for good operation;
- Ensure that the site has enough topsoil for cover during the on-going rehabilitation process;
- Draft a way forward to securing the preferred development site;
- To identify any environmentally related fatal flaws prior to washing and discharging.

4 The receiving environment

4.1 Locality

The project is situated and located under the juridistional control of Maletswai Local Municipality, Eastern Cape Province. The figure below illustrates the locality of the project which is the best viable option for the respective development.

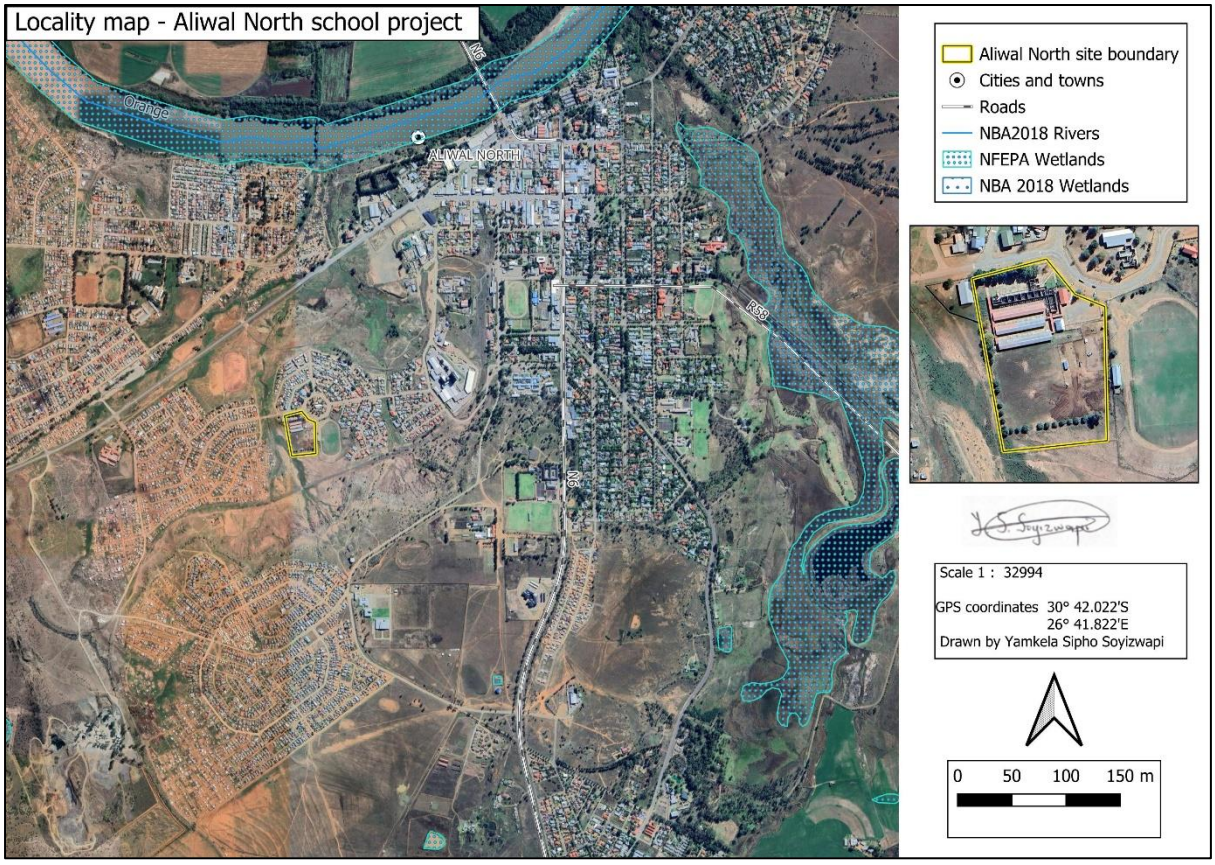


Figure 1: Locality map of the proposed Aliwal North school project, Eastern Cape Province.

4.2 Critical biodiversity

The proposed project site falls under the category state of Other Natural Areas. These are Natural or semi-natural areas that are not required to meet biodiversity targets or support natural ecological processes and from a biodiversity perspective, these areas can be used for a range of intensive land uses which subsequently speaks to the proposed development. **(Refer to figure 2).** Simultaneously, the proposed development site slightly encroaches under the category state of Ecological Support Area's. These are area's that give support to the ecological functioning of the protected areas or CBAs (Critical Biodiversity Area's) or provide important ecological infrastructure *(SANBI 2017).*

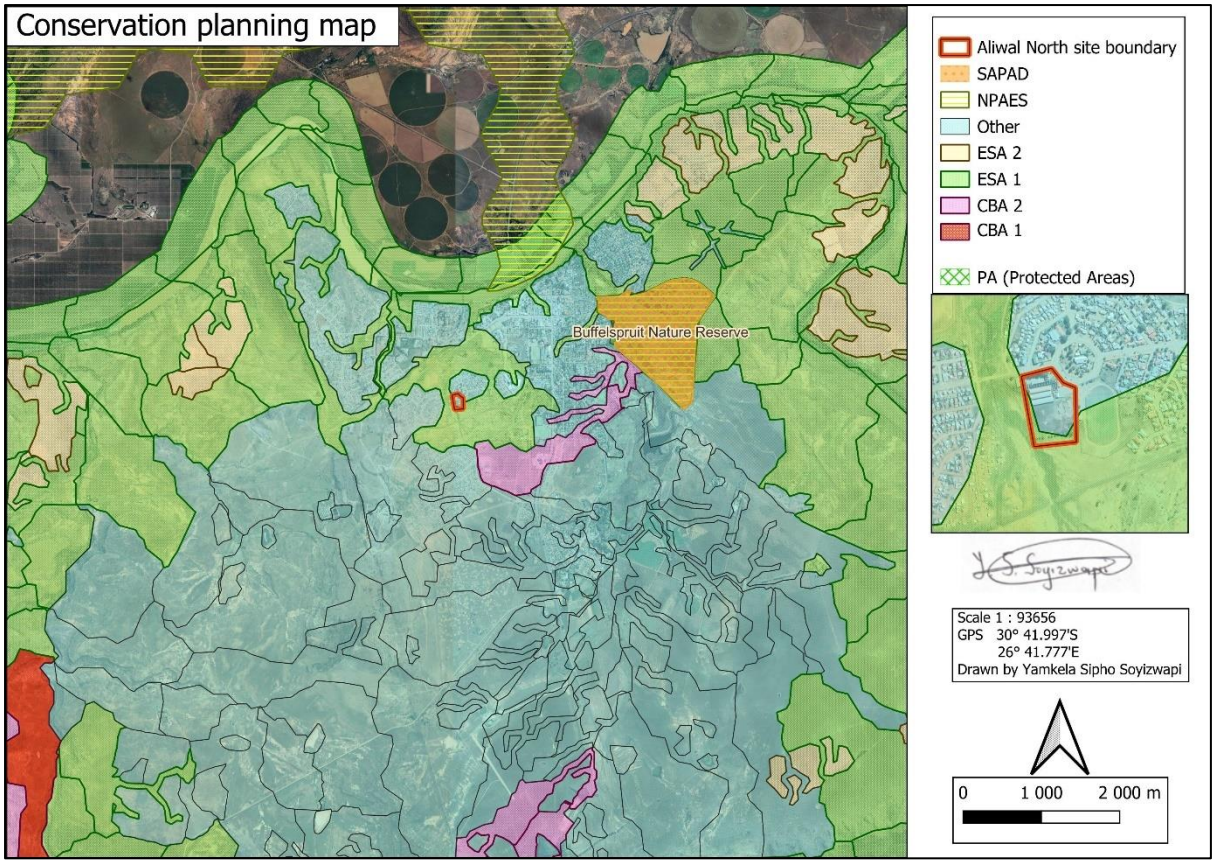


Figure 2: Critical Biodiversity and Environmental Sensitive Areas Map of the Aliwal North school project, Eastern Cape province.

4.3 Broad scaled vegetation type

The area around Aliwal North showcases a fascinating blend of vegetation types, each with unique ecological characteristics adapted to the region's specific climate and geography. The **Aliwal North Dry Grassland** is predominantly characterized by hardy grasses and low shrubs that thrive in its dry conditions, offering essential grazing habitats. Adjacent to this, the **Besemkaree Koppies Shrubland** is distinguished by scattered shrubs on rocky outcrops, providing habitat for diverse small fauna and bird species, as well as serving as a natural barrier against soil erosion.

Moving towards riverine zones, the **Upper Gariep Alluvial Vegetation** comprises lush plant life that benefits from periodic flooding along the Orange River. These alluvial zones support richer soil nutrients and a variety of flora adapted to both wet and dry cycles. The **Eastern Upper Karoo** and **Xhariep Karroid Grassland** contribute to the region's biodiversity with unique grass and succulent species that are well-adapted to arid, semi-desert conditions. Together, these vegetation types form a mosaic of ecosystems that support diverse wildlife, provide critical resources for agriculture, and play a vital role in soil and water conservation in the area.

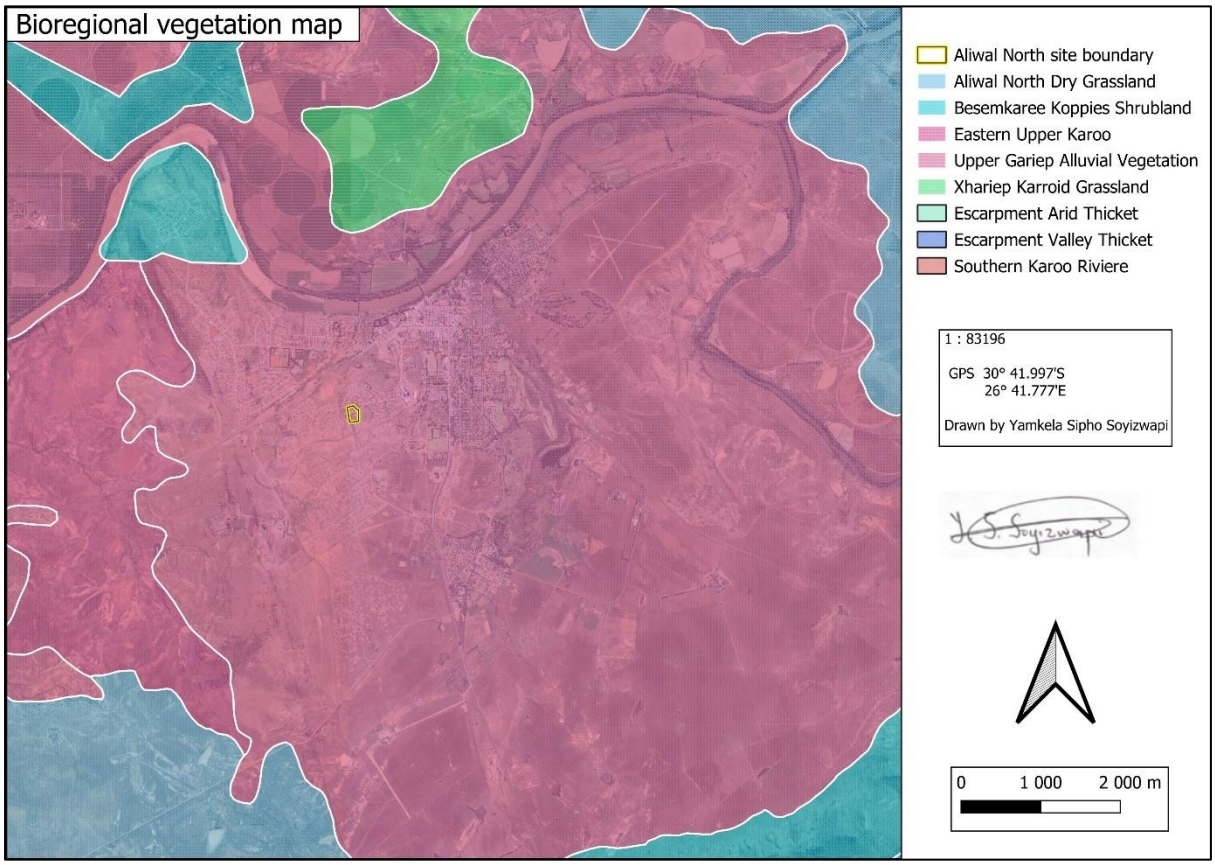


Figure 3: Broad scale vegetation map of the Aliwal North school project, Eastern Cape province.

4.4 The in-situ environment

The receiving environment for the proposed school project in Aliwal North consists of a densely populated residential area, as indicated by the numerous houses in the surrounding vicinity. The primary infrastructure includes a network of streets like Angerie, Protea, Marcow, and Pioneer, forming a structured grid that supports local traffic flow. The residential areas are closely packed, showing an established community, and suggest that the school will be easily accessible for nearby families. The proximity of the school to existing neighbourhoods highlights the importance of creating a safe, convenient learning environment that meets the educational needs of the local population.

In addition, the landscape surrounding the proposed project area includes open green spaces and what appears to be a sports field or recreational area adjacent to the school site. This greenery not only enhances the aesthetic of the environment but also provides potential recreational opportunities for students. The area lacks substantial vegetation beyond the immediate greenery around the sports field, reflecting an urbanized setting with limited natural cover. The existing infrastructure and open

spaces suggest that the area is suitable for school development, with the capacity to integrate new facilities in harmony with the local environment.

4.5 Geology

The project site is located within a region characterized by the Tarkastad Subgroup, a geological formation of the Karoo Supergroup. This subgroup comprises sedimentary rocks, including sandstones and mudstones, which were deposited in fluvial and lacustrine environments during the late Permian to early Triassic period. These rocks often display evidence of ancient river systems and floodplains, adding both historical and geological significance to the area.

Overlaying the Tarkastad formation, the Karoo Dolerite intrusions are prominent throughout the region. These dolerite dykes and sills, formed during widespread volcanic activity in the Jurassic period, add structural complexity and variation to the landscape. The dolerite is known for its resilience and forms distinct ridges and outcrops, which influence local topography and drainage patterns. This combination of sedimentary and igneous formations provides a unique geological setting, essential for understanding both the area's natural history and its suitability for project development.

Figure 5: Geological Map of the Aliwal North school project, Eastern Cape province.

5 Methodology

The Environmental Assessment Practitioner conducted a thorough desktop assessment for the Aliwal North school project, taking into consideration all relevant key objectives and environmental consequences. The assessment process included gathering information from the client, analysing remote sensing data, including vegetation type, topographical, and sensitive species distribution data. The Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) screening tool was also consulted, and a review of relevant environmental legislation was conducted. Subsequently, a site visit will be made for ground-truthing purposes of this process.

6 Applicable legislation and guidelines

6.1 National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (ACT 107 of 1998)

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) provides the legislative framework for Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) in South Africa. Section 24 provides that all activities that may significantly affect the environment and require authorisation by law must be assessed prior to approval. NEMA also provides for co-operative environmental governance by establishing principles for decision making on matters affecting the environment, institutions that will promote co-operative governance and procedures for co-ordinating environmental functions exercised by organs of the State and to provide for matters connected therewith. Section 2 of NEMA establishes a set of principles that apply to the activities of all organs of state that may significantly affect the environment. These include the following:

- Development must be sustainable;
- Pollution must be avoided or minimised and remedied;
- Waste must be avoided or minimised, reused or recycled;
- Negative impacts must be minimised; and
- Responsibility for the environmental health and safety consequences of a policy, project, product or service exists throughout its life cycle.

These principles are taken into consideration when a government department exercises its powers, for example during the granting of permits and the enforcement of existing legislation or conditions of approval. Section 28(1) of NEMA states that “every person who causes, has caused may cause significant pollution or degradation of the environment must take reasonable measures to prevent such pollution or degradation from occurring, continuing or recurring”. If such pollution cannot be prevented, then appropriate measures must be taken to minimise or rectify such pollution. These measures may include:

- Assessing the impact on the environment;

- Informing and educating employees about the environmental risks of their work and ways of minimising these risks;
- Ceasing, modifying or controlling actions which cause pollution/degradation;
- Containing pollutants or preventing movement of pollutants;
- Eliminating the source of pollution; and
- Remedying the impacts of the pollution.

The authorities may direct an industry to rectify or remedy a potential or actual pollution problem. If such a directive is not complied with, the authorities may undertake the work and recover the costs from the responsible industry. The statutory mechanism of issuing environmental authorisations, which follow after the undertaking of an environmental assessment process, is a tool utilised by the relevant authorities to ensure that activities undertaken do not cumulatively have an unacceptable negative impact on the environment. The current listed activities and authorisation process promulgated in terms of section 24 of the NEMA commenced on 04 December 2014. Section 24 of the NEMA, headed "Environmental Authorisations", sets out the provisions which are to give effect to the general objectives of Integrated Environmental Management ("IEM"), as laid down in Chapter 5 of the NEMA. In terms of section 24(2), the potential impact on the environment of listed activities must be considered, investigated, assessed and reported on to the competent authority charged by the NEMA with granting of the relevant environmental authorisation. Accordingly, the listed activities for which an environmental authorisation is required have been promulgated in three different government notices, namely:

- **Government Notice R 327** in Government Gazette No. 40772 dated 07 April 2017 **("Listing Notice 1"),** which identifies those activities for which a basic assessment ("BA") must be undertaken in accordance with the procedure set out in GNR 326 in Government Gazette No. 40772 of 07 April 2017 ("GNR 326");
- **Government Notice R 325** in Government Gazette No. 40772 dated 07 April 2017 **("Listing Notice 2"),** which identifies those activities for which a scoping and environmental impact reporting ("S&EIR") must be undertaken in accordance with the procedure set out in regulations GNR 326 in Government Gazette No. 40772 of 07 April 2017 ("GNR 326"); and
- **Government Notice R 324** in Government Gazette No. 40772 dated 07 April 2017 **("Listing Notice 3"),** which identifies those activities within specific geographical areas for which a BA must be undertaken in accordance with the procedure set out in regulations 19 to 20 of GNR 324.

It must be noted that **Listing Notice 1** and **Listing Notice 3** pertain to those activities which are deemed to have a lesser environmental impact whilst those listed in **Listing Notice 2** have a more significant impact on the environment and accordingly, a more detailed and extensive level of assessment is required to be undertaken.

6.1.1 Listed activities applicable to the project and way forward

Based on the information that was provided and received by the EAP highlighting the actual footprint size of the proposed development and interpreting the Listed Activities in accordance with NEMA for Listing Notice 1, Listing Notice 2 and Listing Notice 3, **there are no listed activity/s in all of the respective Listed Notices that the proposed development will trigger**. **So therefore, the proposed development will not require an application for environmental authorization**. However, it is the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), recommendation that there should be **an implementation of monthly environmental audits conducted during the construction phase for monitoring purposes** and ensuring that all appropriate construction works and activities are undertaken and executed in a compliant, monitored and environmentally sustainable manner.

6.2 National Water Act (Act No. 35 of 1998)

The National Water Act (NWA) administered by The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) aims to manage and protect the national water act resources to achieve sustainable use of water for the benefit of all water users. The purpose of the Act is to ensure that the nation's water resources are protected, used, developed, conserved, and managed in ways that consider:

- Promoting equitable access to water;
- Redressing the results of past racial discrimination;
- Promoting the efficient, sustainable, and beneficial use of water in the public interest;
- Facilitating social and economic development;
- Providing for the growing demand water use;
- Protecting aquatic and associated ecosystems their biological diversity;
- Reducing and preventing pollution and degradation of water resources;
- Meeting international obligations;
- Promoting dam safety; and
- Managing floods and drought.

Section 21 of the NWA sets out water uses that may require registration or licencing. In terms of the NWA, water uses include any activity involving the following:

a) Taking water from a water resource.
b) Storing water.
c) Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse.
d) Engaging in a stream flow reduction activity contemplated in section 36.
e) Engaging in a controlled activity identified as such in section 37(1) or declared under section 38(1).
f) Discharging waste or water containing waste into a water resource through a pipe, canal, sewer, sea outfall or other conduit.

g) Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource.
h) Disposing in any manner of water which contains waste from or which has been heated in, any industrial or power generation process.
i) Altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse.
j) Removing, discharging or disposing of water found underground if it is necessary for the efficient continuation of an activity or for the safety of people.
k) Using water for recreational purposes.

6.2.1 Listed activities applicable to the project and way forward

Based on the information provided to the EAP, on the various land uses that are taken up by the proposed development, the development does not trigger any water use/s which requires authorisation from the Department of Water and Sanitation (in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act (Act no. 35 of 1998)). **So therefore, the proposed development will not require any application for a Water-Use license.**

6.3 National Environmental Management: Waste Act (ACT NO. 59 of 2008)

The purpose of the Waste Act is to change the law regulating the management of waste in order to protect the health of people as well as the environment (plants, animals, land, air, water etc.). The Waste Act does this by putting minimum requirements for any person who undertakes an activity which produces waste or a person who handles any waste which has already been produced to comply with. This includes storage of waste, transportation, processing, including people who are reusing or recycling waste. The State has an obligation required by the Constitution, to protect the environment and prevent ecological degradation and it does that by making different Regulations which everyone must comply to.

The Waste Act has several objectives which include:

- Minimising the utilisation of natural resources
- Preventing and minimising the generation of waste
- Reducing, re-using, recycling and recovering waste
- Treating and safely disposing of waste as a last resort
- Preventing pollution and environmental degradation
- Protecting the environment while promoting justifiable economic and social development;
- Promoting and ensuring effective delivery of waste services;
- Achieving integrated waste management reporting and planning;
- Generally, to give effect to section 24 of the Constitution in order to secure an environment that is not harmful to health and well-being.

The National Environmental Management: Waste Act (NEM:WA) aims to reform the law regulating waste management to protect health and the environment. This is achieved by:

- Providing reasonable measures for the prevention of pollution, ecological degradation and, securing ecologically sustainable development;
- providing for the national norms and standards for regulating the management of waste by all spheres of government;
- providing for specific waste management measures;
- providing for the licensing and control of waste management activities;
- providing for the remediation of contaminated land;
- providing for the national waste information system; and
- providing for compliance and enforcement thereof.

The NEM:WA indicates that certain waste management activities must be licensed, and according to Section 44 of the Act, the licensing procedure must be integrated with an environmental impact assessment process per the EIA Regulations promulgated in terms of the NEMA. Government Notice 921, published in Government Gazette No. 37083, on 29 November 2013, lists the waste management activities that require licensing. A distinction is made between Category A waste management activities, which require a Basic Assessment, and Category B waste management activities, which require the S&EIr process to be followed.

6.3.1 Listed activities applicable to the project and way forward

According to the information provided to the EAP, there are no **listed waste management activities that will require an application for licensing**, which are triggered by the proposed development. In terms of the above information and based on the nature and scope of the proposed development, there are no Waste Categories according to NEM: WA that will be of relevance to the proposed development project.

6.4 National Heritage Resource Act (ACT 25 of 1999)

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) (NHRA) introduces an integrated and interactive system for managing national heritage resources. The NHRA also includes landscapes and natural features of cultural significance as heritage resources.

Section 38 of the NHRA indicates that *"any person who intends to undertake a development categorised as-*

a) the construction of a road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300 m in length;
b) the construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50 m in length;
c) any development or other activity which will change the character of the site –
    i). exceeding 5000 m^2 in extent, or

ii). involving three or more erven or subdivisions thereof; or
iii). involving three or more erven or divisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or
iv). the costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA, or a provincial resources authority;

d) the costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA, or a provincial resources authority;
e) any other category of development provided for in regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority, must at the very earliest stages of initiating such a development, notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development."

6.4.1 Listed activities applicable to the project and way forward

Based on the Screening Tool Report, the project area demonstrates a very high sensitivity regarding Archaeological and Cultural themes. Given the site's existing degradation and established infrastructure, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) does not recommend conducting a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment at this stage. However, it remains essential to consult the EAP immediately should any fossil records be discovered on site.

6.5 The Constitution of South Africa Act, 1996 (ACT NO. 108 of 1996)

The Constitution is the supreme law of the Republic, and all law and conduct must be consistent with the Constitution. The Bill of Rights emphasises several provisions relevant to securing the protection of the environment. Section 24 states that *"Everyone has the right –*

a) To an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and
b) To have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that –
i). prevent pollution and ecological degradation;
ii). promote conservation; and
iii). secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development."

The Constitution, therefore, compels the government to give effect to the people's environmental rights and places the government under a legal duty to act as a responsible custodian of the country's natural environment. The Constitution compels the government to pass legislation which protects the environment, prevents pollution and ecological degradation, promotes conservation, and secures sustainable development.

The proponent must ensure that the project does not contravene the Constitution by ensuring that no pollution or ecological degradation results from the activities

undertaken and by undertaking the development in an ecologically sustainable manner.

Note: *It is however important to note that though an activity may be allowed in terms of an Act of Parliament, or a permit issued under a statute, it may still be declared unlawful if it is harmful to human health or well-being*

6.5.1 Listed activities applicable to the project and way forward:

The proponent must ensure that the projects construction or operation does not contravene the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. The proponent should comply with the Constitution by providing that no pollution or ecological degradation occurs due to the project and by conducting environmentally sustainable developmental practices.

6.6 Environmental Conservational Act, (ACT NO. 73 of 1989)

In terms of section 20 (1) of the Environmental Conservation Act, 1989, (Act 73 of 1989), waste can only be disposed of at a facility that has a permit issued by the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry. The facility must be sited, designed, operated, and monitored strictly in accordance with the permit conditions. These conditions will include the requirements, standards and procedures set out in the DWS waste management series.

It should be noted that section 20 (1) of the Environmental Conservation Act, 1989 has been amended in terms of the issuing of waste disposal permits and exemptions is now the responsibility of the minister of Environmental Affairs.

Section 24 of the Act allows the Minister to make regulation with respect to several waste management issues and include the following regulations:

- Disposal site application;
- Directions for control and management of general and small waste disposal sites;
- Noise control regulations; and plastic bag Regulations; and
- The waste will thus be subject to a permit issued under section 20 of the ECA.

6.7 The White Paper on Integrated Pollution and Waste Management of South Africa

Integrated pollution and waste management is a holistic and integrated system and process of management aimed at pollution prevention and minimisation of source, managing the impact of pollution and waste of the receiving environment and remediation damaged environments.

The White Paper on Integrated Pollution and Waste management for South Africa represent a paradigm shift from dealing with waste only after it is generated (i.e.,” end of pipe towards):

- Pollution prevention;
- Waste minimisation;
- Cross media integration;
- Institution integrated both horizontal and vertical, of department and spheres of government; and
- Involvement of all sectors of society in pollution and waste management.

The government believes that pollution prevention is one of the most effective means of protecting South Africa people and environment. Pollution prevention eliminates costly and unnecessary waste and promotes sustainable development. It aims to reduce risks to human health and environment by trying to eliminate the causes rather than treating the symptoms of pollution.

This Integrated Pollution and Waste Management for South Africa apply to all government institutions, society at large and to all activities that impact on pollution and waste management. One of the fundamental approaches of this policy is to prevent pollution, minimise waste and to control and remediate impacts. The management of waste will be implemented in a holistic and integrated manner, and will extend over the entire waste cycle, from “cradle to grave” including the generation, storage, collection, transportation, treatment, and final disposal of waste.

The government aims to:

- Encourage the prevention and minimisation of waste generation and thus pollution at source;
- Encourage the management and minimization of the impact of unavoidable waste from its generation to its final disposal;
- Ensure the integrity and sustained “fitness for use” of all environmental media, i.e., air, water, and land;
- Ensure that any pollution of the environment is remediated by holding the responsible parties accountable;
- Ensure environmental justice by integrating environmental considerations with the social, political and development needs and rights of all sectors, communities, and individuals; and
- Prosecute non-compliance with authorizations and legislation.

6.8 National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No.10 of 2004)

To provide for the management and conservation of South Africa’s biodiversity within the framework of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998; the protection of species and ecosystems that warrant national protection; the sustainable use of indigenous biological resources; the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from bioprospecting involving indigenous biological resources; the establishment and

functions of a South African National Biodiversity Institute; and for matters connected therewith.:

Objectives of Act

The objectives of this Act are- ~

(a) Within the framework of the National Environmental Management Act, to provide for-

i). the management and conservation of biological diversity within the Republic and of the components of such biological diversity;
ii). the use of indigenous biological resources in a sustainable manner; and
iii). the fair and equitable sharing among stakeholders of benefits arising from bioprospecting involving indigenous biological resources;

(b) to give effect to ratified international agreements relating to biodiversity which are binding on the Republic;

(c) to provide for co-operative governance in biodiversity management and conservation; and

(d) to provide for a South African National Biodiversity Institute to assist in achieving the objectives of this Act.

6.8.1 Listed activities applicable to the project and way forward:

The EAP recommends that a site visit be conducted to ground-truth the ecological interaction and all relevant specialists will be consulted for verification statements and as per with the aid of the screening tool report which has identified that the area is off very high sensitivity in the terrestrial sensitivity theme.

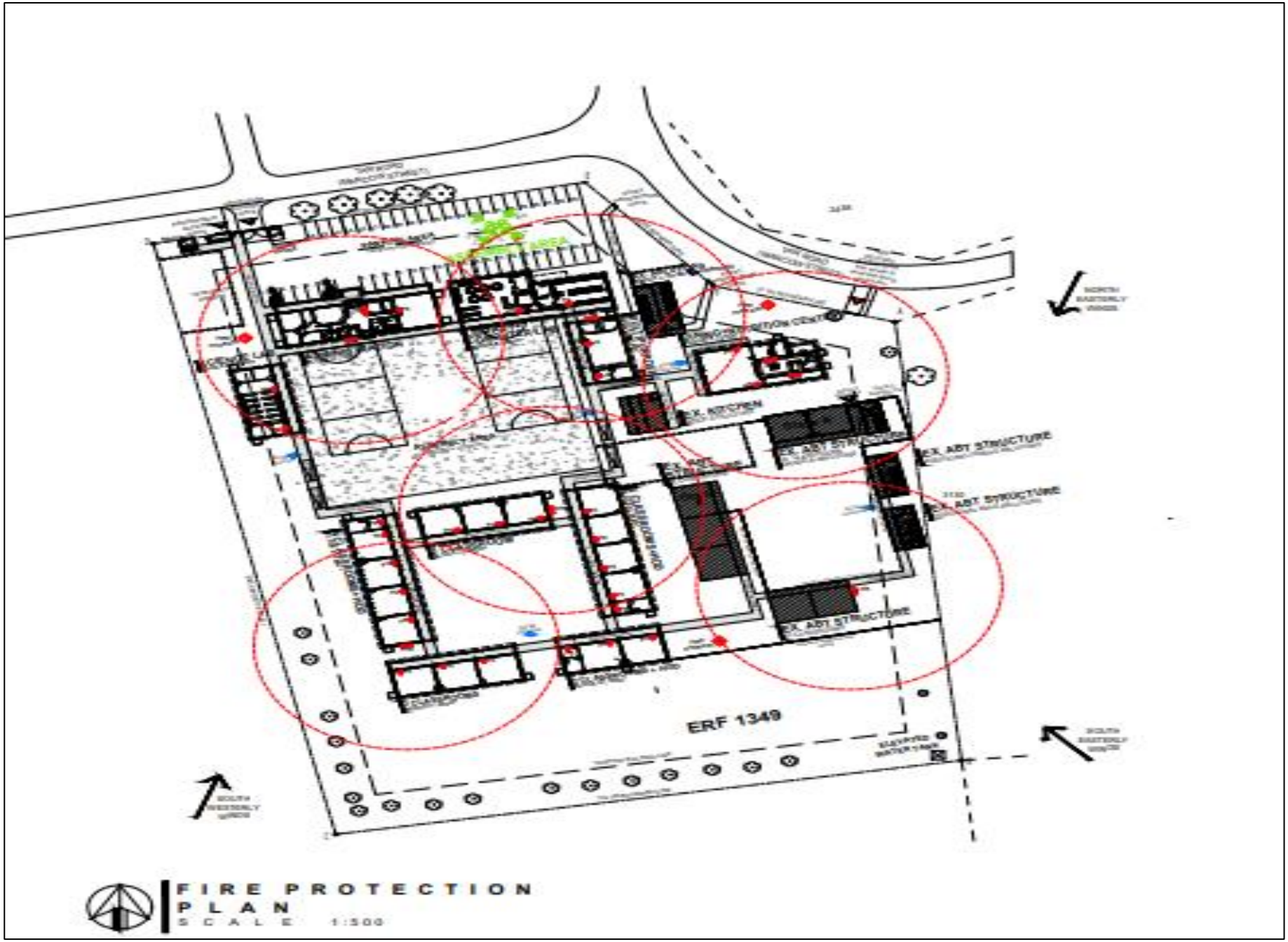
7 Conclusions and recommendations

According to the information that was provided and received by the EAP, a desktop assessment was conducted. The recommendations from the EAP are grounded on the fact that the clients inputs, the nature, the actual sizing of the project. The project does not require an EIA process for it does not trigger any of the NEMA listing notice, as such, the contractor may proceed with construction.

8 Way forward

The way forward will comprise of the following:

- Basic Assessment / Scoping and EIR is not required for environmental authorisation;
- The EAP will compile an Environmental Management Plan (EMPr) and facilitate the requisite processes for obtaining the Flora permit if required for tree removal;
- EMPr will be used for environmental monitoring purposes in the construction phase;
- Conduction of monthly environmental audits is advised.


ERF 1349
FIRE PROTECTION PLAN
SCALE 1:500

SCREENING REPORT FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION AS REQUIRED BY THE 2014 EIA REGULATIONS – PROPOSED SITE ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY

EIA Reference number: Not Applicable

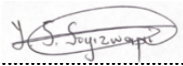
Project name: Construction of new school facilities at Alheit van der Merwe Pimary School, Joe Gqabi District Municipality

Project title: Construction of new school facilities at Alheit van der Merwe Pimary School, Joe Gqabi District Municipality

Date screening report generated: 19/09/2024 10:35:17

Applicant: Dark Horse Projects and Investment Group

Compiler: Yamkela Sipho Soyizwapi

Compiler signature: 

Application Category: Transformation of land|Indigenous vegetation

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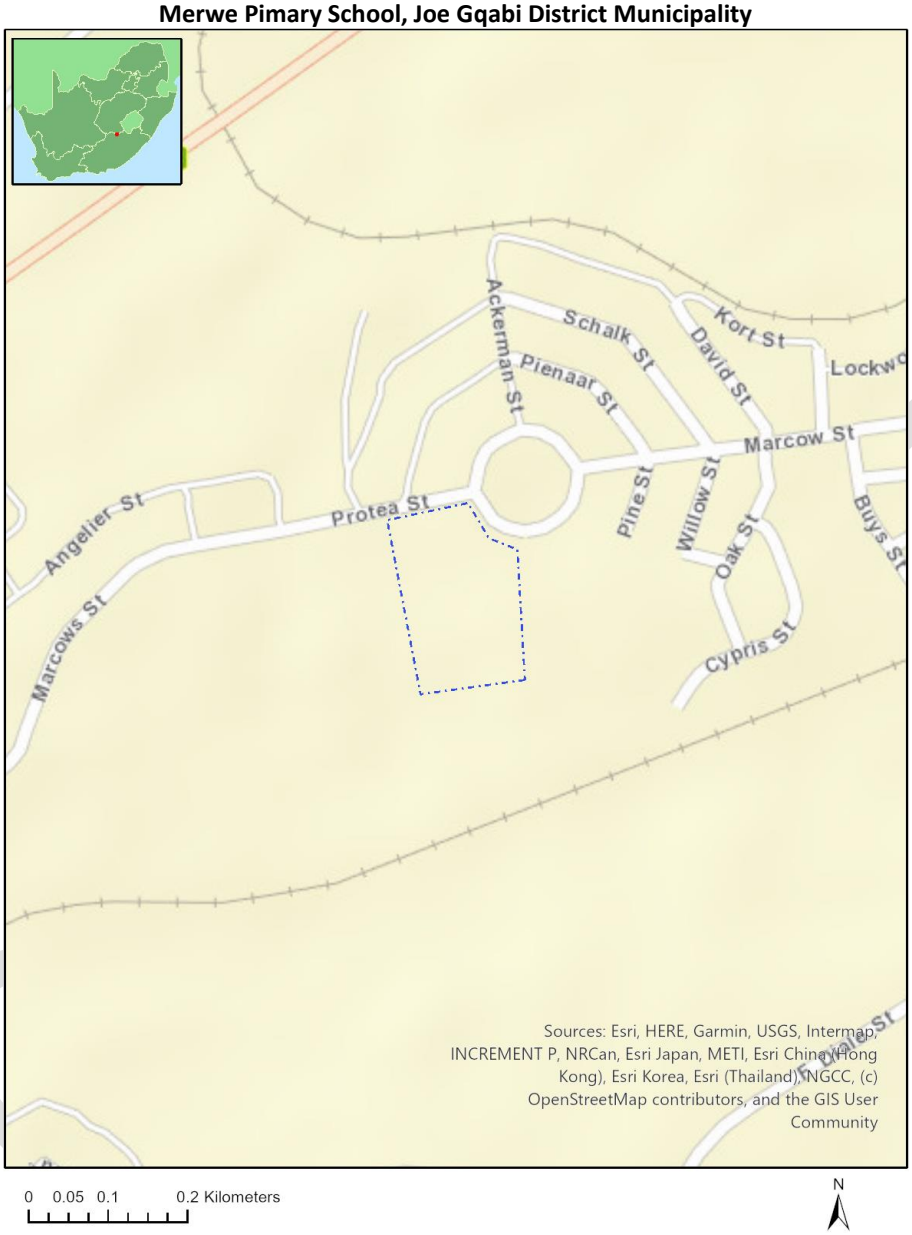
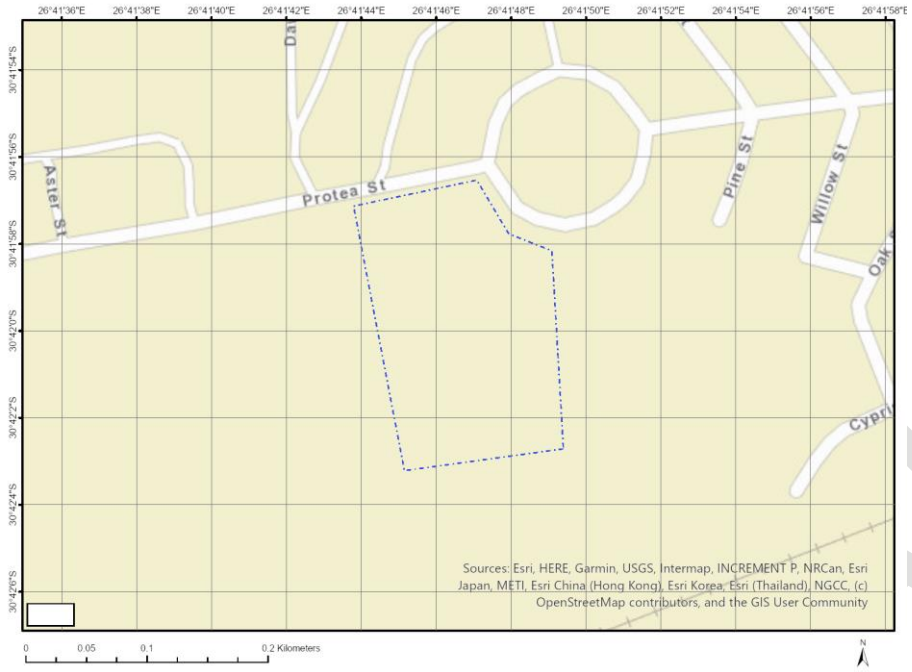
Proposed Project Location

Orientation map 1: General location

General Orientation: Construction of new school facilities at Alheit van der Merwe Pimary School, Joe Gqabi District Municipality



Map of proposed site and relevant area(s)



Cadastral details of the proposed site

Property details:

No	Farm Name	Farm/ Erf No	Portion	Latitude	Longitude	Property Type
1	BUFFELS VALLEI	60	0	30°42'57.67S	26°43'37.27E	Farm

Development footprint[1] vertices:
No development footprint(s) specified.

Wind and Solar developments with an approved Environmental Authorisation or applications under consideration within 30 km of the proposed area

No nearby wind or solar developments found.

Environmental Management Frameworks relevant to the application

No intersections with EMF areas found.

[1] "development footprint", means the area within the site on which the development will take place and incudes all ancillary developments for example roads, power lines, boundary walls, paving etc. which require vegetation clearance or which will be disturbed and for which the application has been submitted.

Environmental screening results and assessment outcomes

The following sections contain a summary of any development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions that apply to the proposed development site as well as the most environmental sensitive features on the site based on the site sensitivity screening results for the application classification that was selected. The application classification selected for this report is: **Transformation of land|Indigenous vegetation**.

Relevant development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions

The following development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions and their implications that apply to this site are indicated below.

No intersection with any development zones found.

Proposed Development Area Environmental Sensitivity

The following summary of the development site environmental sensitivities is identified. Only the highest environmental sensitivity is indicated. The footprint environmental sensitivities for the proposed development footprint as identified, are indicative only and must be verified on site by a suitably qualified person before the specialist assessments identified below can be confirmed.

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			

Specialist assessments identified

Based on the selected classification, and the known impacts associated with the proposed development, the following list of specialist assessments have been identified for inclusion in the assessment report. It is the responsibility of the EAP to confirm this list and to motivate in the assessment report, the reason for not including any of the identified specialist study including the provision of photographic evidence of the site situation.

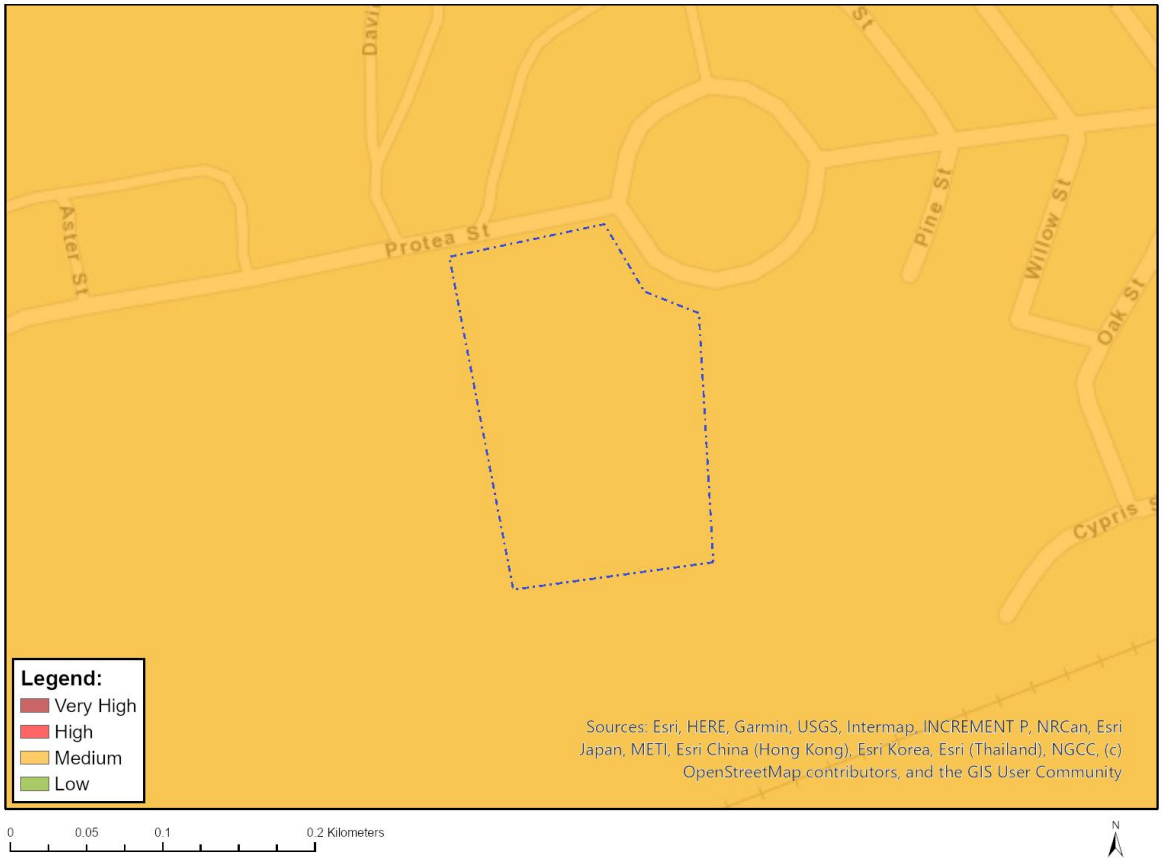
No	Specialist assessment	Assessment Protocol
1	Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
2	Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf

3	Palaeontology Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
4	Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Terrestrial_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
5	Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Aquatic_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
6	Socio-Economic Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
7	Plant Species Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Plant_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
8	Animal Species Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Animal_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf

Results of the environmental sensitivity of the proposed area.

The following section represents the results of the screening for environmental sensitivity of the proposed site for relevant environmental themes associated with the project classification. It is the duty of the EAP to ensure that the environmental themes provided by the screening tool are comprehensive and complete for the project. Refer to the disclaimer.

MAP OF RELATIVE AGRICULTURE THEME SENSITIVITY

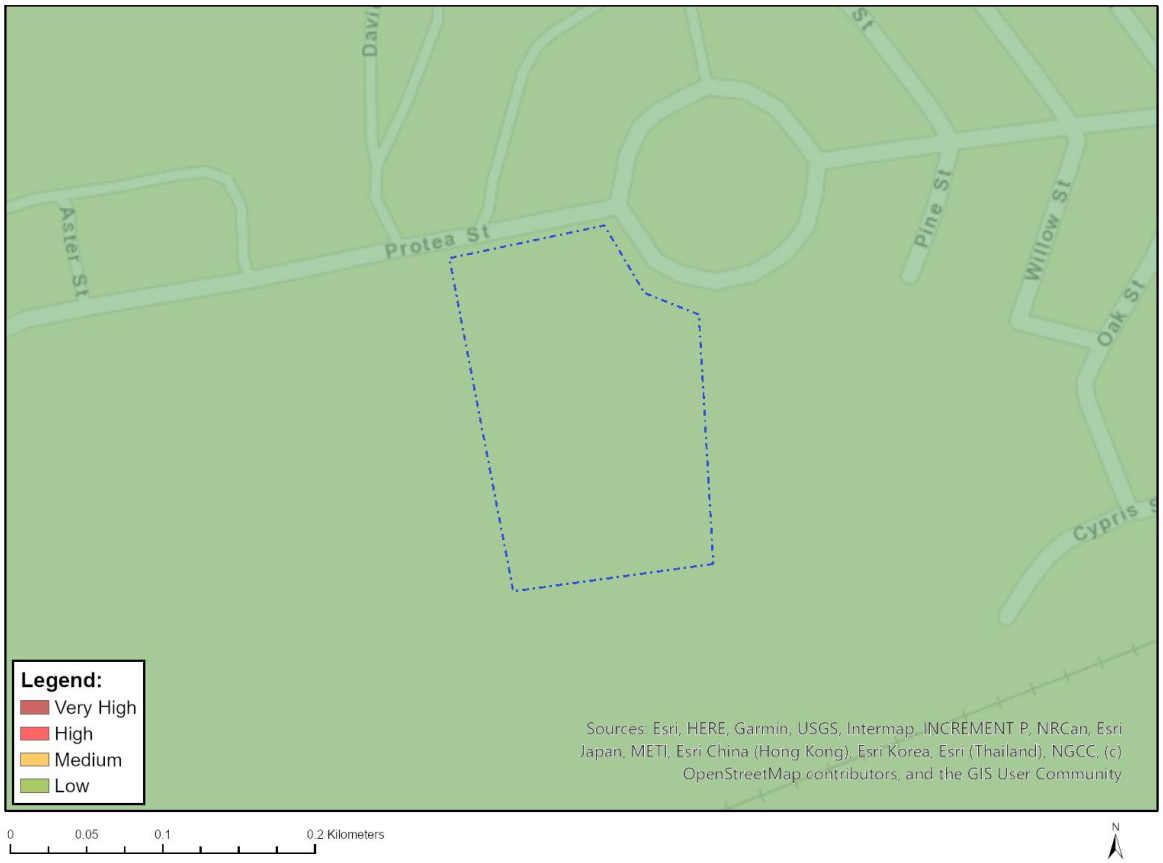


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
		X	

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Medium	Land capability;06. Low-Moderate/07. Low-Moderate/08. Moderate

MAP OF RELATIVE ANIMAL SPECIES THEME SENSITIVITY



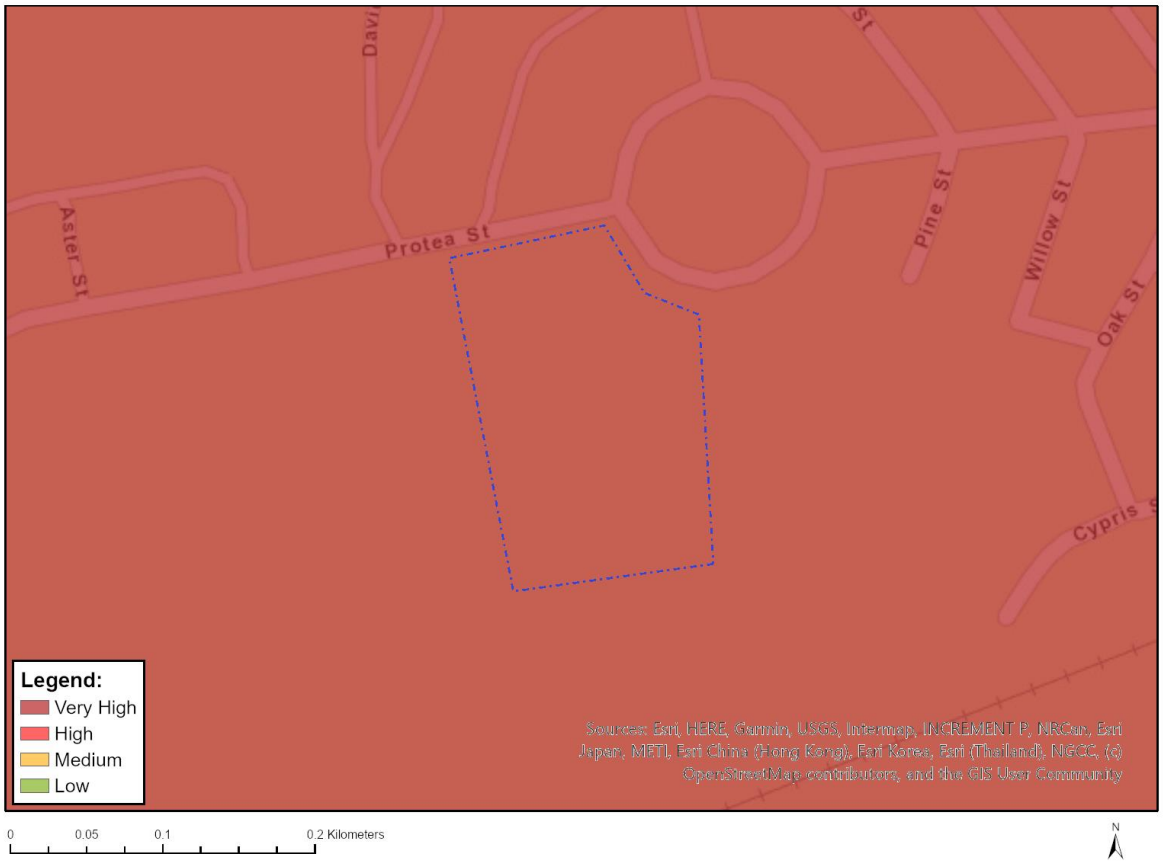
Where only a sensitive plant unique number or sensitive animal unique number is provided in the screening report and an assessment is required, the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) or specialist is required to email SANBI at eiadatarequests@sanbi.org.za listing all sensitive species with their unique identifiers for which information is required. The name has been withheld as the species may be prone to illegal harvesting and must be protected. SANBI will release the actual species name after the details of the EAP or specialist have been documented.

Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
			X

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Subject to confirmation

MAP OF RELATIVE AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY

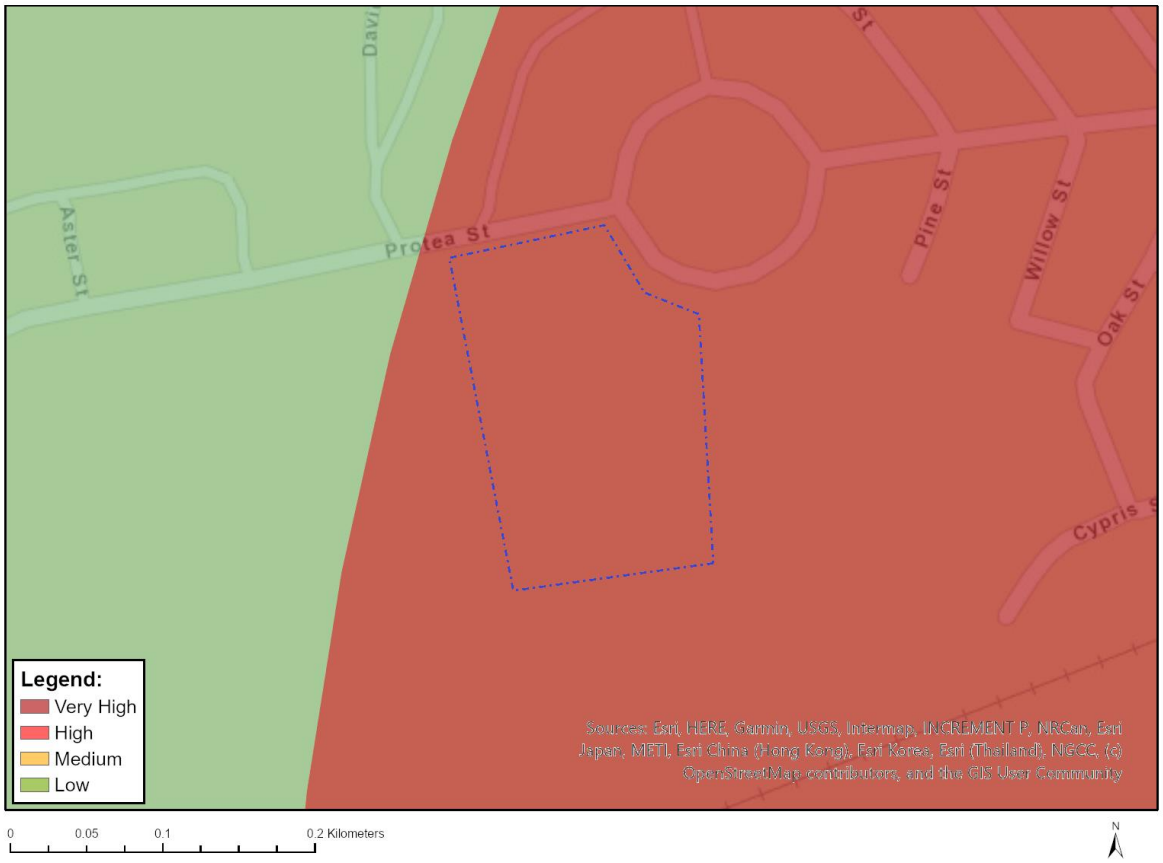


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Very High	FEPA Subcatchment

MAP OF RELATIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE THEME SENSITIVITY

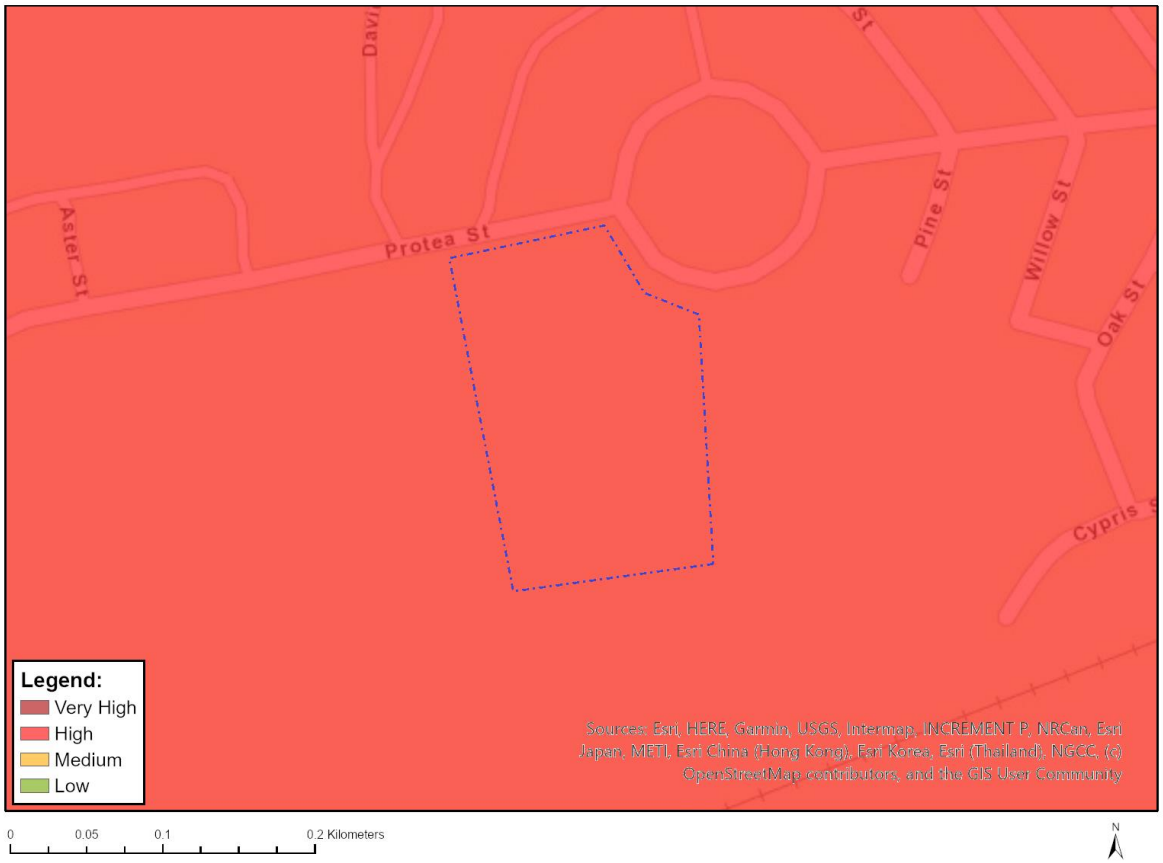


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Very High	Within 2km of a Grade II Heritage site

MAP OF RELATIVE CIVIL AVIATION THEME SENSITIVITY

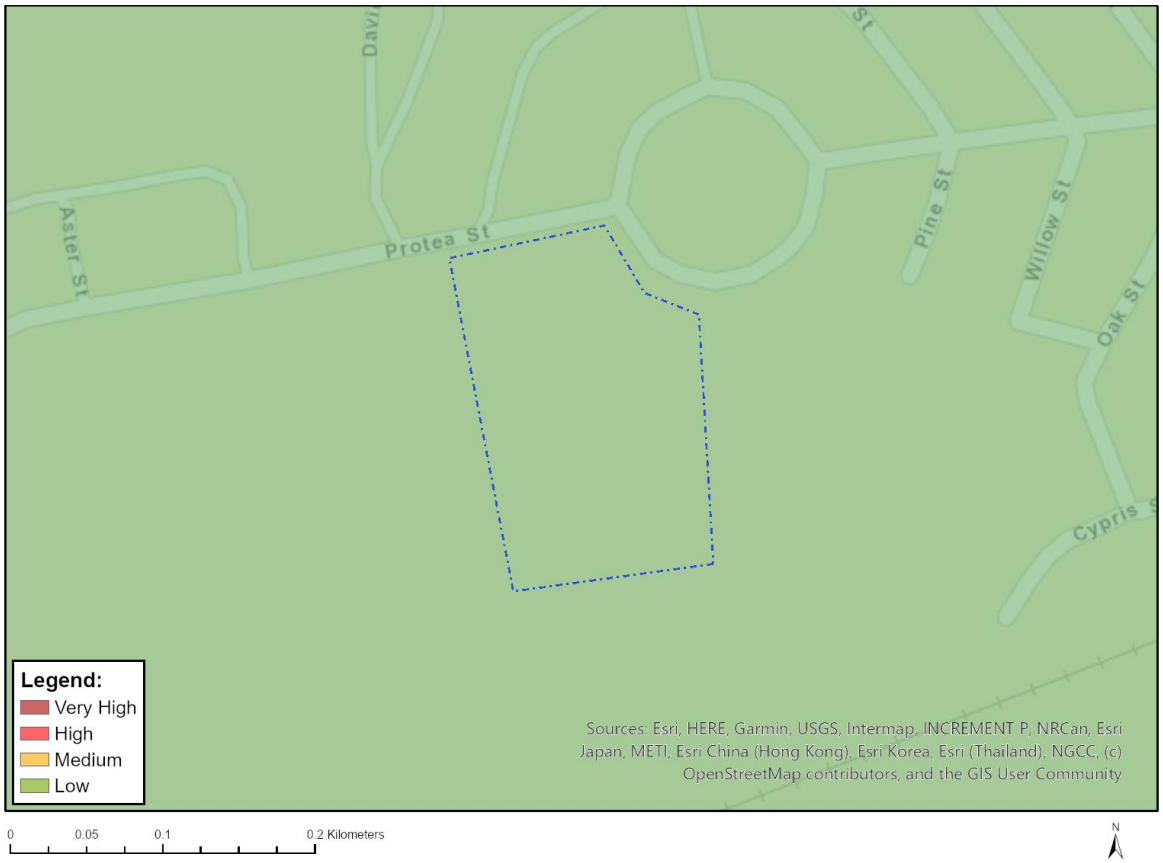


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
	X		

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Within 8 km of other civil aviation aerodrome

MAP OF RELATIVE DEFENCE THEME SENSITIVITY

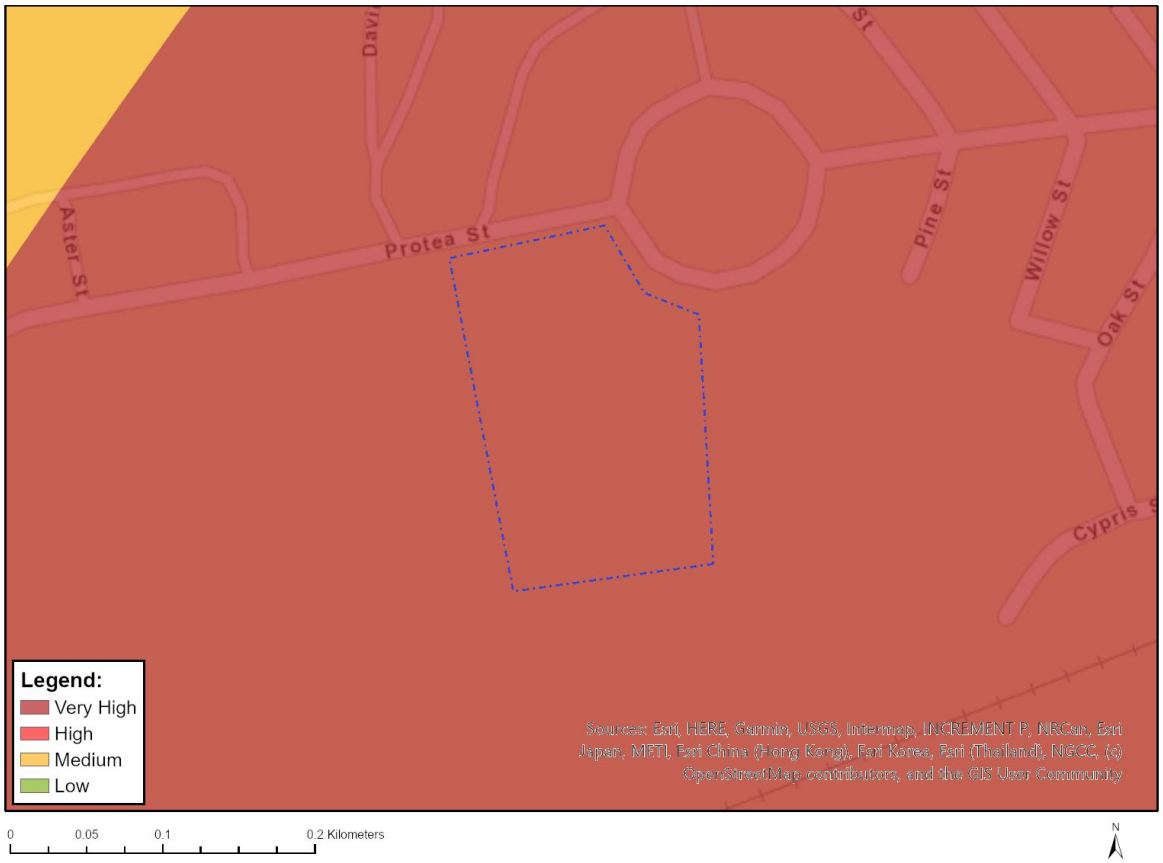


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
			X

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low Sensitivity

MAP OF RELATIVE PALEONTOLOGY THEME SENSITIVITY

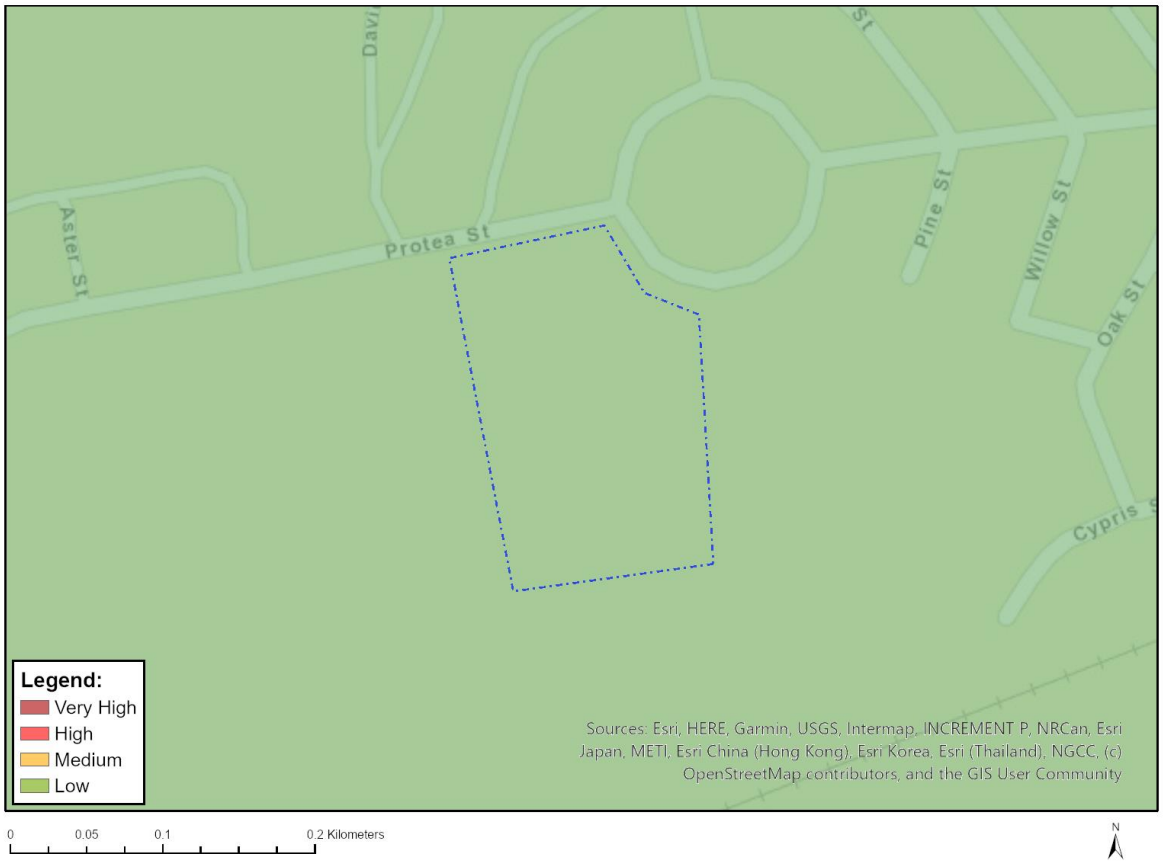


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Very High	Features with a Very High paleontological sensitivity

MAP OF RELATIVE PLANT SPECIES THEME SENSITIVITY



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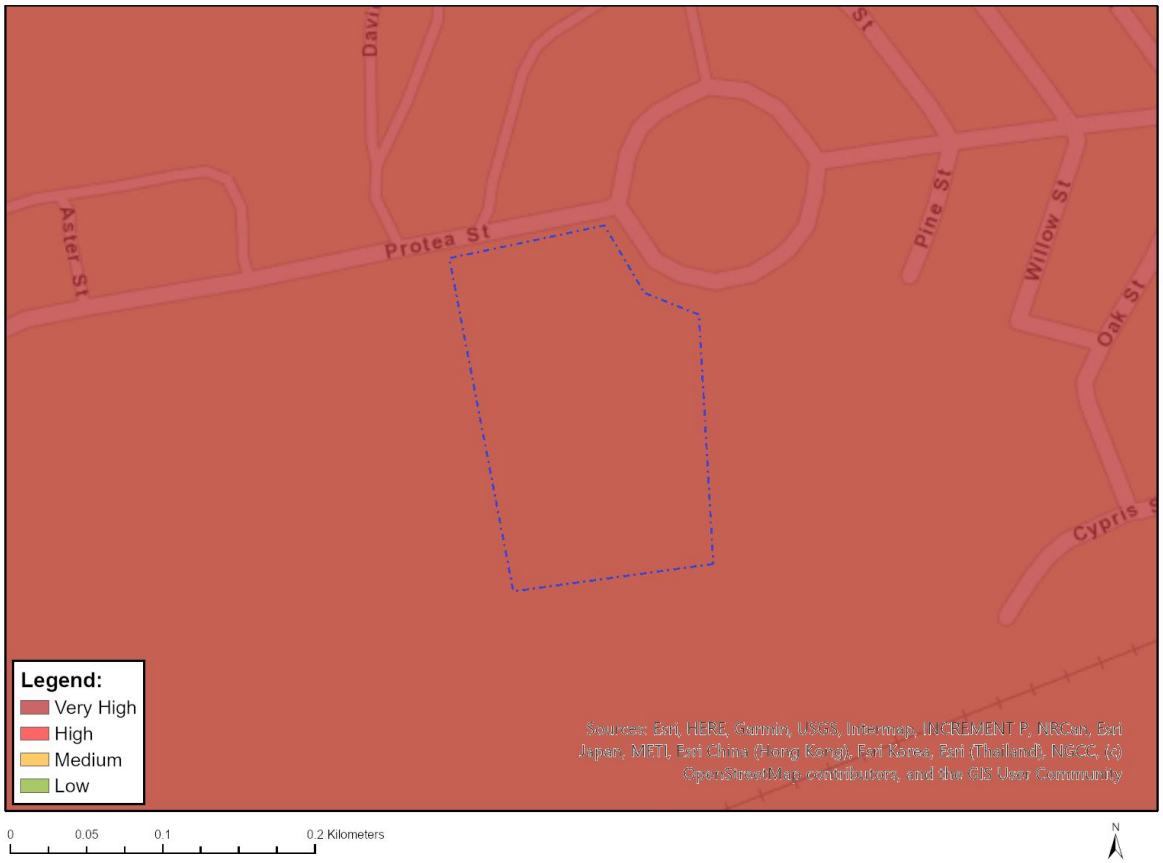
Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
			X

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low Sensitivity

MAP OF RELATIVE TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY



Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Very High	ESA 1
Very High	FEPA Subcatchment