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

EIA Reference number:

Project name: PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Project title: PORTION 12 OF THE FARM 216 UITZICHT, KNYSNA, WESTERN CAPE

Date screening report generated: 17/04/2023 14:28:34

Applicant: P.T.W. Pravus

Compiler: Eco Route Environmental Consultancy

Compiler signature:

Application Category: Transformation of land | Indigenous vegetation

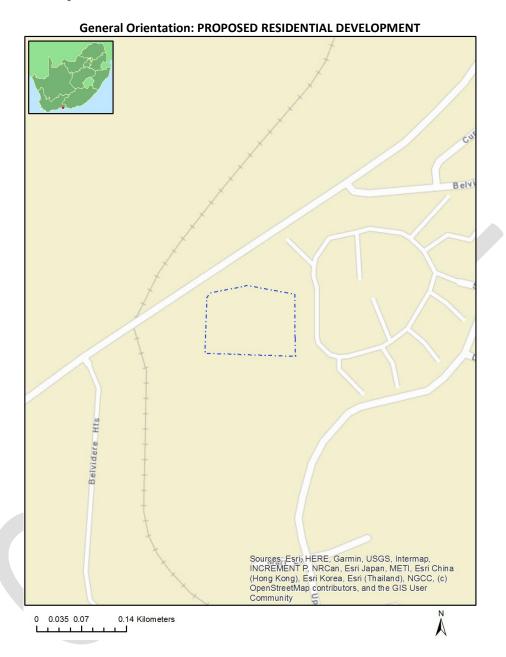


Table of Contents

Proposed Project Location	3
Orientation map 1: General location	3
Map of proposed site and relevant area(s)	4
Cadastral details of the proposed site	4
Wind and Solar developments with an approved Environmental Authorisation or applications under consideration within 30 km of the proposed area	4
Environmental Management Frameworks relevant to the application	5
Environmental screening results and assessment outcomes	5
Relevant development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions	5
Proposed Development Area Environmental Sensitivity	6
Specialist assessments identified	6
Results of the environmental sensitivity of the proposed area.	8
MAP OF RELATIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE THEME SENSITIVITY	8
MAP OF RELATIVE CIVIL AVIATION THEME SENSITIVITY	9
MAP OF RELATIVE DEFENCE THEME SENSITIVITY	10
MAP OF RELATIVE PALEONTOLOGY THEME SENSITIVITY	11
MAP OF RELATIVE PLANT SPECIES THEME SENSITIVITY	12
MAD OF DELATIVE TEDDESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY	12

Proposed Project Location

Orientation map 1: General location



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	UITZIGT	216	12	34°2'42.43S	22°59'35.45E	Farm Portion

Development footprint¹ 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.

Page 4 of 13 <u>Disclaimer applies</u> 17/04/2023

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 Management Frameworks relevant to the application



Environmental	LINK
Management	
Framework	
Garden Route EMF	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/EMF/garden
	route finalreport.pdf

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.

Incentive, restriction or prohibition	Implication
South African Protected	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/Developmen
Areas	

	tZones/SAPAD OR 2022 Q3 Metadata.pdf
South African	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/Developmen
Conservation Areas	tZones/SACAD OR 2022 Q3 Metadata.pdf

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	High	Medium	Low
	sensitivity	sensitivity	sensitivity	sensitivity
Archaeological and Cultural	Х			
Heritage Theme				
Civil Aviation Theme			Χ	
Defence Theme				X
Paleontology Theme			X	
Plant Species Theme			X	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	Х			

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 Protocol
	assessment	
1	Landscape/Visual Impact	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/Asse
	Assessment	ssmentProtocols/Gazetted General Requirement Assessment P
		<u>rotocols.pdf</u>
2	Archaeological and	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/Asse
	Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	ssmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_P
	Assessment	<u>rotocols.pdf</u>
3	Palaeontology Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/Asse
		ssmentProtocols/Gazetted General Requirement Assessment P
		<u>rotocols.pdf</u>
4	Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/Asse
		ssmentProtocols/Gazetted Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment
		<u>Protocols.pdf</u>
5	Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/Asse
		ssmentProtocols/Gazetted_Aquatic_Biodiversity_Assessment_Pr
		<u>otocols.pdf</u>
6	Socio-Economic Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/Asse
		ssmentProtocols/Gazetted General Requirement Assessment P
		<u>rotocols.pdf</u>
7	Plant Species Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/Asse

		ssmentProtocols/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.

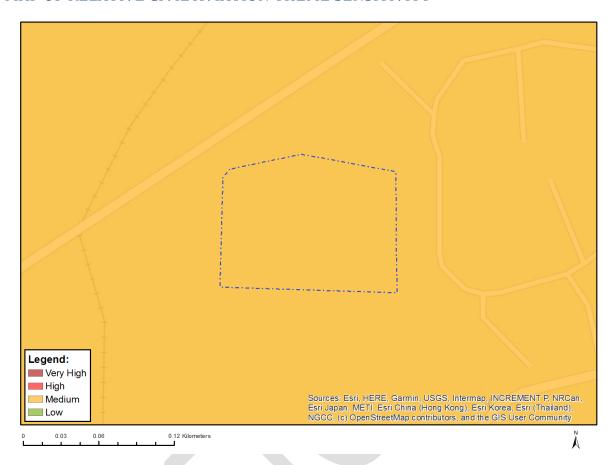
MAP OF RELATIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE THEME SENSITIVITY



Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

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

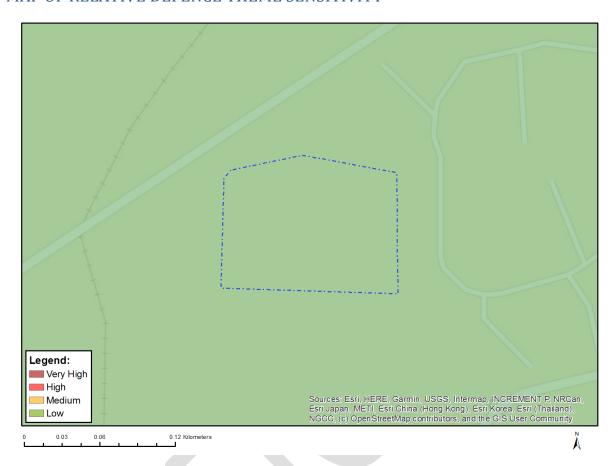
MAP OF RELATIVE CIVIL AVIATION THEME SENSITIVITY



Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
		X	

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Medium	Between 8 and 15 km of other civil aviation aerodrome

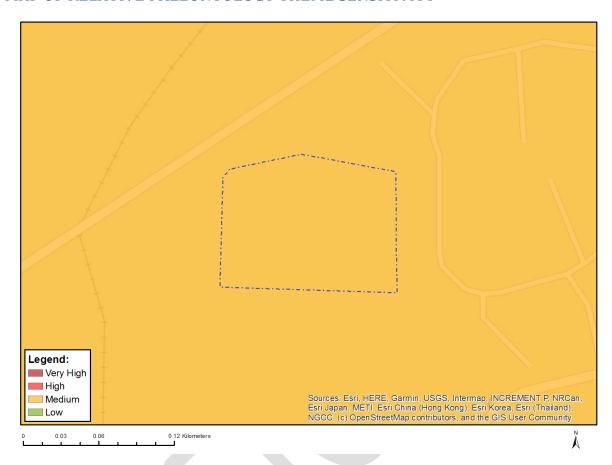
MAP OF RELATIVE DEFENCE THEME SENSITIVITY



Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
			Χ

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low Sensitivity

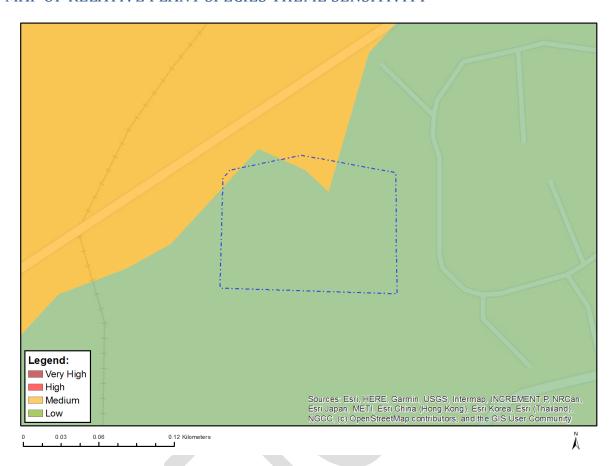
MAP OF RELATIVE PALEONTOLOGY THEME SENSITIVITY



Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
		X	

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Medium	Features with a Medium paleontological sensitivity

MAP OF RELATIVE PLANT 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
		Х	

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low Sensitivity
Medium	Lampranthus fergusoniae
Medium	Lampranthus pauciflorus
Medium	Ruschia duthiae
Medium	Lebeckia gracilis
Medium	Wahlenbergia polyantha
Medium	Selago burchellii
Medium	Sensitive species 419
Medium	Erica glandulosa subsp. fourcadei
Medium	Sensitive species 1024
Medium	Sensitive species 1032
Medium	Muraltia knysnaensis
Medium	Nanobubon hypogaeum

Page 12 of 13

Medium	Sensitive species 800	
Medium	Erica glumiflora	
Medium	Sensitive species 500	
Medium	Sensitive species 53	
Medium	Pterygodium cleistogamum	

MAP OF RELATIVE TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY



Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Very High	Ecological support area 2
Very High	FEPA Subcatchments
Very High	Strategic Water Source Areas
Very High	Vulnerable ecosystem
Very High	Knysna National Lake Area



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SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION REPORT

PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON PORTION 12 OF THE FARM 216 UITZICHT, KNYSNA, WESTERN CAPE.



16 May 2023

Joclyn Marshall for Eco Route Environmental Consultancy
MSc Environmental Science
EAPASA reg no.: 2022/5006

EAP Signature:



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(1) Introduction and Terms of Reference

As required to compliment a Basic Assessment application the national web-based screening tool was used to generate an environmental screening report. The screening report lists a variety of specialist studies to be undertaken based on the data informants of the tool at the study area. This site sensitivity verification report, following ground-truthing of the site, motivates why certain specialist studies will not be required or conducted for the proposed development application.

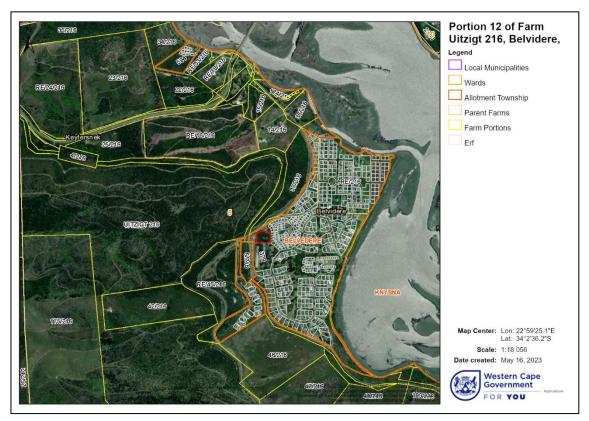


Figure 1: Location of Portion 12 of Farm Uitzigt 216 Belvidere, Knysna, Western Cape.

(2) The proposed development at the property

Eco Route Environmental Consultancy were appointed by the applicants, **ZELPY 1825 (PTY) LTD**, as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner to conduct a Basic Assessment application process for the proposed residential housing development on Portion 12 (a portion of Portion 1) of Farm Uitzigt 216, Belvidere, Knysna.

The proposed group housing development will consist of (30x) freehold title group housing erven, and (1) private open space / private street property, as indicated on the Site Development Plan (figure 1). The proposed development will have access control. Erf sizes of the proposed group housing development will vary between 195m² and 300m². The density of the proposed development calculates to 31 units/ha.



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Figure 2: Proposed Group Housing layout.

The units will be semi-detached and double storey, consisting of (2) or (3) bedrooms each. The floor area of the units will be ± 175 m² each.

The proposed layout is specifically planned and designed in accordance with the topography (contours) of the site and to allow a larger buffer between the proposed development and the Belvidere Wastewater Treatment Works, situated to the west of the application area, on Erf 328.

The site slopes down towards the eastern boundary of the property, making it much more cost effective and ensure less earthworks to construct the units on the same contour levels – allowing them to step down towards the eastern parts of the site. Also, given that the internal road is proposed along the western boundary, it ensures a space of ±8.5m between the boundary of Erf 328 (the Belvidere Sewage Treatment Plant) and the actual units.

The Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (WCBSP) shows that the property is not within a Critical biodiversity Area (CBA). The property is within a Critically Endangered Ecosystem Threat Status. The Ecosystem Threat Status, as per the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan 2017, reflects the current threat status of ecosystems in the Western Cape Province, especially in terms of habitat loss. Ecosystems are based on the SA Vegetation Map (2012 version) and relevant indigenous forest types (DAFF, 2010), as per the national approach to assessing ecosystem threat.



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Figure 3: Portion 12 of Farm Uitzigt 216 Belvidere within a Critically Endangered Ecosystem Threat Status.

The vegetation Type according to the SA Vegetation Map (2018 version) is Knysna Sand Fynbos which is described as Endangered. Patches are statutorily conserved in the proposed Garden Route National Park (about 3%) as well as 2% in several private nature reserves. Almost 70% already transformed (pine and gum plantations, cultivation, Knysna urban sprawl, building of roads). Alien Acacia melanoxylon, A. mearnsii and A. longifolia occur locally at low densities. Erosion very low and moderate.



Figure 4: Portion 12 of Farm Uitzigt 216 Belvidere within Endangered Knysna Sand Fynbos.



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(3) 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 footprint as well as the most environmental sensitive features on the footprint based on the footprint sensitivity screening results for the application classifications that were selected. The application classifications selected for the screening reports are: *Transformation of land* | *Indigenous vegetation*.

(4) Relevant Development Incentives, Restrictions, Exclusions or Prohibitions:

The proposed site is within a South African Conservation Area (SACAD).

(5) Proposed Development Area Environmental Sensitivity:

The following summary of the development site environmental sensitivities is identified by the Screening Tool Reports. Only the highest environmental sensitivity is indicated. The 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.

Table 1: Identified Environmental Sensitivities.

Theme	Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
Archaeological & Cultural Heritage	X			
Civil Aviation			X	
Defence				X
Palaeontology			X	
Plant Species			X	
Terrestrial Biodiversity	X			

(6) Identified Specialist assessments:

Based on the selected classification, and the environmental sensitivities of the proposed development footprint, 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.



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Table 2: Identified specialist assessments for Transformation of Land Screening Tool Report.

No:	Specialist Assessment	Assessment Protocol
1	Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment	General
2	Archaeological and Cultural Heritage	General
	Impact Assessment	
3	Palaeontology Impact Assessment	General
4	Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Specialist Assessment
5	Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	None
6	Socio-Economic Assessment	General
7	Plant Species Assessment	Compliance Statement
8	Animal Species Assessment	None

(7) Results of the verification of the environmental sensitivity and specialist assessments identified of the proposed area:

(7)(1) Landscape/Visual

The site is situated within the Belvidere neighbourhood, which is predominantly a residential neighbourhood with several tourist accommodation establishments and couple of tourist facilities (restaurants & coffee shops). Belvidere Park Retirement Village and Frail Care Centre is also situated within Belvidere, which is a residential retirement village with assisted living facilities. Belvidere comprises of large family homes, a retirement village and a hotel. The character of the area is considered residential. The proposal to allow group housing units will contribute to the existing residential character of the area.

A Notice of Intent to Develop (NID) under Section 38(1) and (8) of the NHR Act was submitted to Heritage Western Cape. It was determined by Heritage Western Cape in their meeting held 7 March 2022 that there is no reason to believe that the proposed residential development on portion 12 of 216, Knysna will impact on heritage resources. No further action under Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) is required.

(7)(2) Archaeological & Cultural Heritage

The screening report indicates that the receiving environment has a **VERY HIGH** Relative Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Sensitivity.

A Notice of Intent to Develop (NID) under Section 38(1) and (8) of the NHR Act was submitted to Heritage Western Cape. It was determined by Heritage Western Cape in their meeting held 7 March 2022 that there is no reason to believe that the proposed residential development on portion 12 of 216, Knysna will impact on heritage resources. No further action under Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) is required.



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(7)(3) Palaeontology

The screening report indicates that the receiving environment has a **MEDIUM** Palaeontology Sensitivity.

A Notice of Intent to Develop (NID) under Section 38(1) and (8) of the NHR Act was submitted to Heritage Western Cape. It was determined by Heritage Western Cape in their meeting held 7 March 2022 that there is no reason to believe that the proposed residential development on portion 12 of 216, Knysna will impact on heritage resources. No further action under Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) is required.

(7)(4) Civil Aviation

The screening reports indicate that the receiving environment has a **MEDIUM** Sensitivity for this theme as the proposed development property is between 8km and 15km of a civil aviation gerodrome.

Recommendations:

The development will not have any impact on civil aviation as it is a residential development. Aircraft should be restricted from flying low over residential areas. The South African Civil Aviation Authority will be included in the I&AP Register. Comments will be included in the BAR. The sensitivity should therefore be **LOW**, and no further assessments will be required.

(7)(5) Defence

The screening reports indicate that the receiving environment has a **LOW** Sensitivity for this theme. As no specific protocol exists for this theme, the General Requirements Protocol is assigned to this sensitivity.

Recommendations:

The EAP confirms that the Defence Sensitivity of the proposed development property is **LOW** and no further assessments will be required.

(7)(6) Socio-economical

The site is situated within the Belvidere neighbourhood, which is predominantly a residential neighbourhood with several tourist accommodation establishments and couple of tourist facilities (restaurants & coffee shops). Belvidere Park Retirement Village and Frail Care Centre is also situated within Belvidere, which is a residential retirement village with assisted living facilities. Belvidere comprises of large family homes, a retirement village and a hotel. The character of the area is considered residential. The proposal to allow group housing units will contribute to the existing residential character of the area.

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The Town Planning Report by MARIKE VREKEN URBAN & ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNERS addresses socio-economical aspects. A separate socio-economical Assessment is therefore **disputed**.

(7)(7) Plant Species

The screening reports indicate that the receiving environment has a **MEDIUM** Relative Plant Species Sensitivity and indicated the following features for the theme in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Plant Species Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low Sensitivity
Medium	Lampranthus fergusoniae
Medium	Lampranthus pauciflorus
Medium	Ruschia duthiae
Medium	Lebeckia gracilis
Medium	Wahlenbergia polyantha
Medium	Selago burchellii
Medium	Sensitive species 419
Medium	Erica glandulosa subsp. fourcadei
Medium	Sensitive species 1024
Medium	Sensitive species 1032
Medium	Muraltia knysnaensis
Medium	Nanobubon hypogaeum
Medium	Sensitive species 800
Medium	Erica glumiflora
Medium	Sensitive species 500
Medium	Sensitive species 53
Medium	Pterygodium cleistogamum

The National Vegetation Map (VegMap 2012) describes the proposed development area as Knysna Sand Fynbos (status = Endagered). The vegetation type was not found in the development area, and none of the listed plant species of conservation concern are likely to occur on the site given that the entire area has been transformed and is highly infested with Invasive Alien Species. Figure 7 gives an indication of the type of vegetation on the site.

Recommendations:

Species of conservation concern (SCC) are not likely to occur in the development area. It is therefore recommended that a Plant Species Compliance Statement not be undertaken, and the Relative Plant Species Sensitivity be **LOW**.

(7)(8) Terrestrial Biodiversity

The screening report indicate that the receiving environment has a **VERY HIGH** Terrestrial Biodiversity Sensitivity. The site is not within a CBA, but a small portion on the western boundary is within a ESA2 (restore from plantation or high-density IAP) (figure 5). The objective of the ESA2 is to restore and/or manage to minimize impact on ecological processes and ecological infrastructure functioning,

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especially soil and water-related services, and to allow for faunal movement. The small portion of ESA2 will be incorporated into a narrow buffer between the western boundary and the development. However, this will not realistically contribute to objectives of the ESA2 given its small area within the property, and the impacts on faunal movement that already exist in the landscape due to surrounding developments. The vegetation type is Knysna Sand Fynbos which is described as Endangered (figure 4), and the Ecosystem Threat Status is Critically Endangered (figure 3). The site is within the Knysna Lakes Area and will require comment from SANParks.

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Very High	Ecological support area 2
Very High	FEPA Subcatchments
Very High	Strategic Water Source Areas
Very High	Vulnerable ecosystem
Very High	Knysna National Lake Area

Ecological Support Areas (Res)

Feature: River

Category 1: ESA2: Restore from plantation or high density IAP

Definition: Areas that are not essential for meeting biodiversity targets, but that play an important role in

supporting the functioning of PAs or CBAs, and are often vital for delivering ecosystem

services.

Objective: Restore and/or manage to minimize impact on ecological processes and ecological

infrastructure functioning, especially soil and water-related services, and to allow for faunal

movement.



Figure 5: Portion 12 of Farm Uitzigt 216 Belvidere within an Ecological Support Area (Res).



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Portion 12 of the Farm Uitzigt 216 is currently vacant with only ruins on the property. The property was burnt in the 2017 Knysna Fires (figure 6), and invasive alien vegetation has subsequently infested the property.



Figure 6: Historical photographs from 2006 to 2022 and before and after of the Knysna Fires in 2017.

A site inspection revealed that the remaining vegetation on the property is invasive alien species dominated by black wattle (Acacia mearnsii) and eucalyptus species (figure 7). A few mature keurbooms were found along the northern entrance road to the Belvidere Wastewater Treatment Works, however this is located on the neighbouring property erf 289 to the north and will not be disturbed. Much of the disturbed area from the previous building and associated activities is overgrown with grasses. No vegetation associated with Knysna Sand Fynbos was observed on site, or any indigenous vegetation with conservation value.

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Figure 7: Photographic evidence of vegetation on site.

The property is "land locked" by developments, roads, and fences. To the north is the main road (to Brenton on Sea), to the south is the Belvidere Municipal Stores and Offices as well as the Belvidere Park tennis courts, to the east is the Belvidere Park Retirement Village, and to the west is the Belvidere Waste Water Treatment Works (figure 8). These physical structures, hard surfaces, and barriers have



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negatively impacted wildlife movement and effectively cut off ecological connectivity. The property therefore does not serve any functional corridor for connectivity across the landscape.



Figure 8: Position of Portion 12 of Farm 216 in the landscape.

Recommendations:

Due to the site having little conservation value and functionality in terms of biodiversity and ecological connectivity, it is recommended that the Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme be LOW and no Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment/Compliance Statement be undertaken.

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