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SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION REPORT

FOR THE

PROPOSED MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT ON PORTIONS 7 & 8 OF THE FARM KRANSHOEK 432, GARDEN ROUTE MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE.

APPLICANT:	Krans Development (Pty) Ltd
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT:	SHARPLES ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CC AUTHOR: MADELEINE KNOETZE (EAPASA REG: 2021/3230) OVERSEEING EAP: BETSY DITCHAM (EAPASA REG: 2020/1480)
SES REFERENCE NUMBER:	09/KRANS/SSVR/09/25
DEADP NOI REFERENCE:	16/3/3/6/7/2/D1/13/0181/24
DATE:	05 September 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF TABLES

1. INTRODUCTION

Sharples Environmental Services cc (SES) has been appointed by Metroplan, on behalf of Krans Development (Pty) Ltd. to undertake the environmental assessment process in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014, as amended (Government Notice Regulations (GNR) 932 of 2014, as amended by GNR 326 of 2017 & GNR 517 of 2021) promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998), as amended (by the National Environmental Management: Laws Amendment Act (Act 2 of 2022)), for the proposed Kranshoek Mixed-Use Development located on Portions 7 and 8 of the Farm Kranshoek 432, Bitou Local Municipality, Garden Route District Municipality, Western Cape.

The proposal entails the establishment of a mixed-use development on two farm portions located towards the East of the existing Kranshoek settlement in Bitou Local Municipality. The proposed development layout plan will see to the inclusion of the following typologies and will require the transformation of land, associated clearance and rezoning of indigenous vegetation, zoned as Agriculture Zone I:

- Single Residential Zone II
- Transport Zone II;
- Transport Zone III;
- Community Zone I:
- Community Zone II;
- Business Zone I;
- Open Space Zone I; and
- Open Space Zone II.

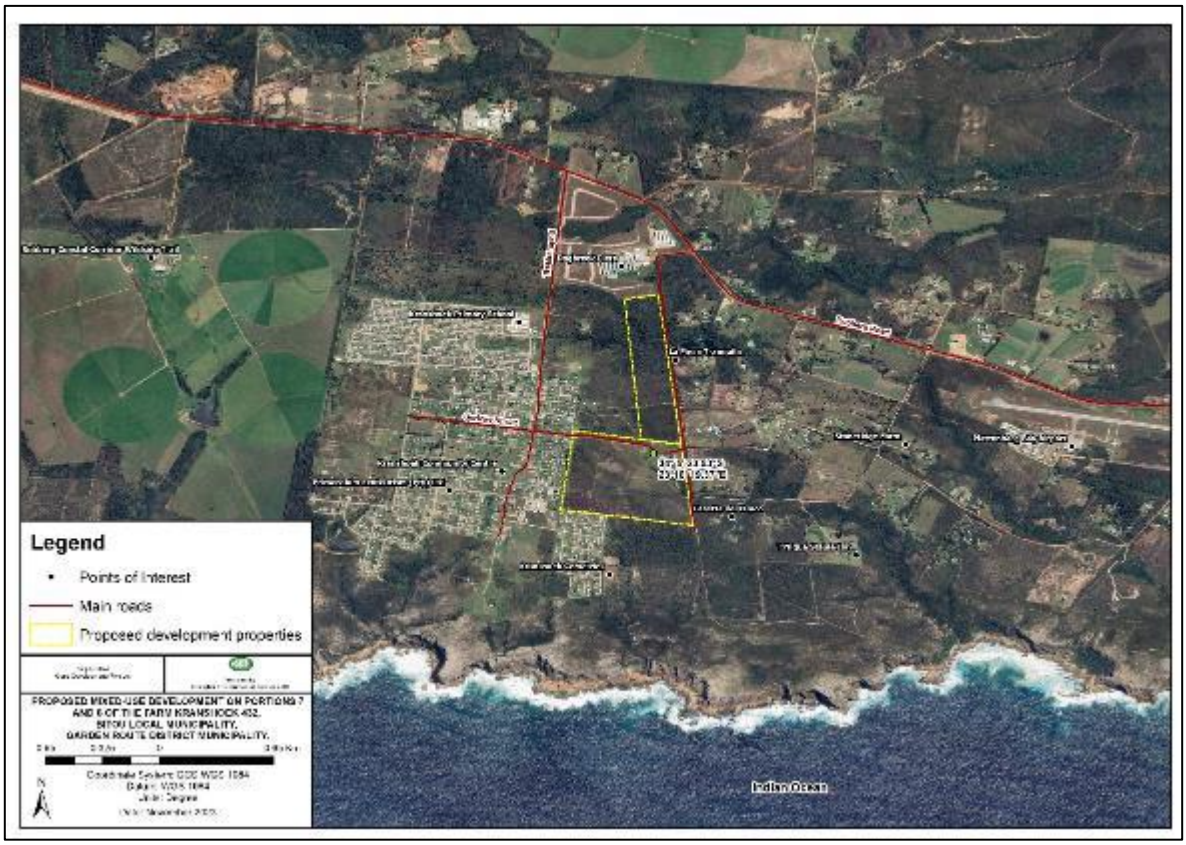

Figure 1: Locality Map

Table 1: Property Details of Proposed Development Location

No	Farm Name	Farm/ Erf No	Portion	Latitude	Longitude	Property Type
1	KRANSHOEK	432	0	34°5'11.13S	23°17'3.71E	Farm
2	KRANSHOEK	432	7	34°5'28.05S	23°18'12.47E	Farm Portion
3	KRANSHOEK	432	8	34°5'8.06S	23°18'16.99E	Farm Portion

A sensitivity screening tool report was produced for the proposed project using the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment's (DFFE) Web-based National Environmental Screening Tool to inform the Site Sensitivity Verification Report (SSVR) compiled and submitted as part of the Pre-Application Notice of Intent to submit an Application for Environmental Authorisation to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEADP) (Submission thereof was done on 7 June 2025. The Site Sensitivity Verification Report (SSVR) reports on the ground truthing undertaken to verify the indicated sensitivity ratings of the screening report, and to motivate why some of the specialist studies recommended by the screening report, will or will not be undertaken for the proposed development.

The SSVR has been updated and is to be submitted with the Application form and all post-application reporting of the proposed development. This screening tool report was updated with the Screening Tool Report extracted on 26 August 2025.

2. FINDINGS OF THE SCREENING TOOL

The National Sector Classification Category selected to produce the Screening Tool Report for the proposed development on Portions 7 & 8 of the Farm Kranshoek 432:

Transformation of land | Indigenous vegetation

2.1. Wind and solar developments

No nearby wind or solar developments found.

2.2. Environmental Management Frameworks

No intersections with EMF areas found.

2.3. Relevant Development Incentives, Restrictions, Exclusions or Prohibitions

The following development incentives, restrictions, exclusions, or prohibitions apply to the proposed site:

- Garden Route National Park Buffer
- South African Conservation Areas

2.4. Environmental Sensitivities

The following summary of the development footprint environmental sensitivities is identified by the screening report (Table 2). Only the highest sensitivity for the respective themes are indicated. The environmental sensitivities for the proposed development footprint as identified by the screening report, are only indicative and must be verified on site by a suitably qualified person before the specialist assessments identified below can be confirmed.

Table 2: Summary of Specialist Assessments Identified

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 (Solar PV) Theme		X		
Defense Theme				X
Paleontology Theme		X		
Plant Species Theme			X	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X			

2.5. Screening tool recommended specialist studies:

Based on the selected classification and the environmental sensitivities determined by the Screening Tool, the following list of specialist assessments are recommended for inclusion in the environmental assessment process.

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 assessments.**

1. Landscape / Visual Impact Assessment
2. Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment
3. Palaeontology Impact Assessment
4. Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment
5. Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment
6. Socio-Economic Assessment
7. Plant Species Assessment
8. Animal Species Assessment

3. SITE VERIFICATION

The initial site inspection for this report was undertaken by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP):

- Date: 29th May 2023
- EAP name: Mrs. Betsy Ditcham
- EAPASA Reg Nr: 1480

After careful analysis, various specialists were appointed to verify and contribute to the environmental impacts the project may have and seek a deeper understanding of the best plan from an environmental perspective. The sections below provide the screening tool findings, EAP site verification findings, and the Specialist verification findings, where applicable.

It should be noted that following the site verification, no alternative land use practices were reported by the landowners of the properties.

3.1. Agriculture Theme

Screening Tool: The report indicates that the land capability is moderate-high (with some crossover into very high on the edge of the site), resulting in the **Very High** sensitivity rating and recommends that an Agricultural Impact Assessment be conducted.

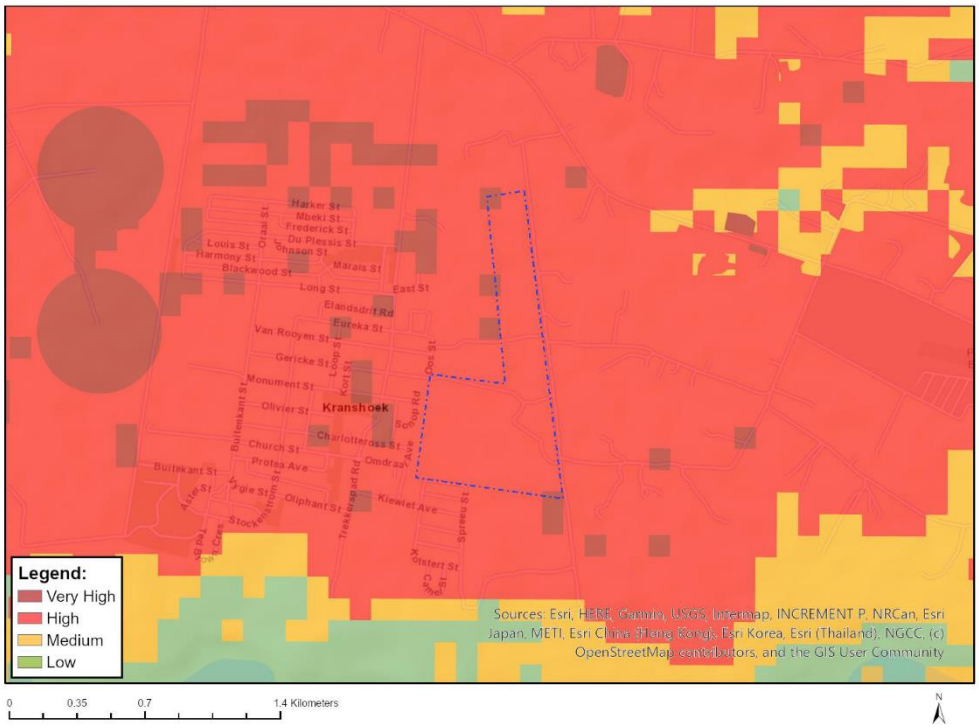

Figure 2: Relative Agricultural Theme Sensitivity Map

Sensitivity Features

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Rainfed Annual Crop Cultivation / Planted Pastures
High	09. Moderate-High
High	10. Moderate-High
Very High	11. High
Very High	12. High-Very high

Desktop Assessment and On-site Observations by the EAP:

The classified land capability of the proposed development site ranges between 9 and 11. The DFFE Screening Tool's agricultural land capability data have been obtained through the DAFF 2016 Draft Land Capability dataset. This dataset categorises the country into 15 different classes, which have been sub-categized into 4 classes. The dataset was generated through GIS modelling. As per the Departmental description of 'land capability', the value of the land capability is determined by the interaction of climate, soil and the terrain for the purpose of intensive long-term use of land for the purposes of rainfed farming (DAFF, 2017).

The proposed development site has been zoned as Agricultural Zone I, and the terrestrial biodiversity and the faunal species specialists, respectively, confirmed that the proposed

development site had been historically used for Agricultural purposes. However, the vegetation has since been allowed to re-establish and agricultural practice is not currently the dominant land use. Based on the observations by the EAP, the site was largely unutilised, with a small homestead located on Portion 7.

The specialist confirmed the **Low** Sensitivity of the proposed development site. An **Agricultural Compliance Statement** will be undertaken and included as part of the reporting for the proposed development. Furthermore, the Provincial Department of Agriculture (DoA) will be included as a Stakeholder as part of the Public Participation Process.

3.2. Animal Species

Screening Tool: The report indicates that the animal sensitivity rating is **High** and recommends an Animal Species Assessment be conducted.

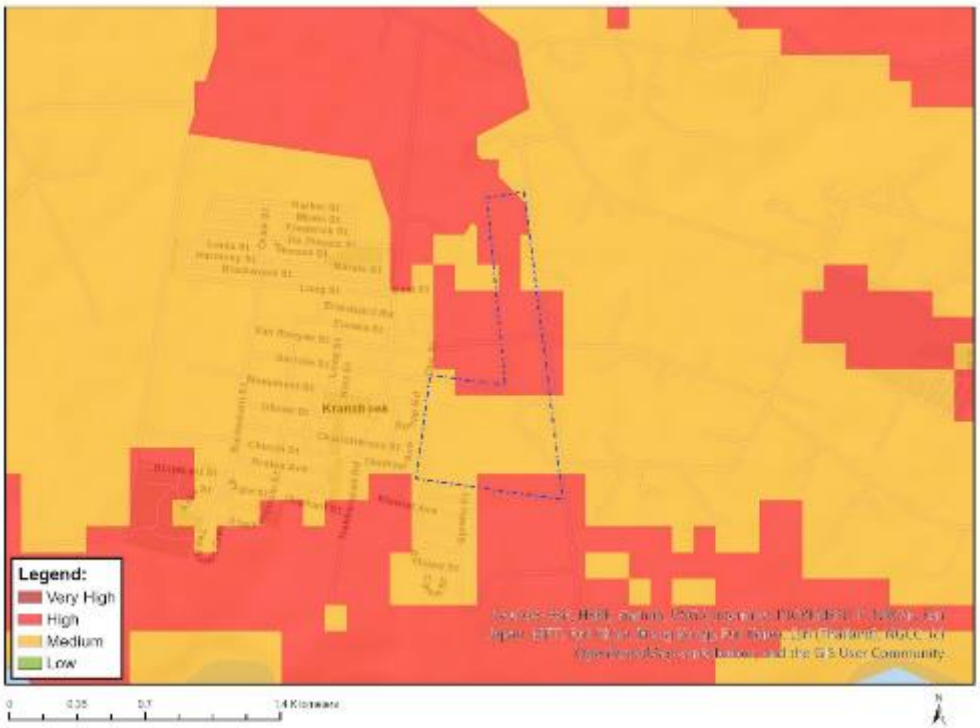

Figure 3: Relative Animal Species Theme Sensitivity Map

Sensitivity Features

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	*Aves-Circus ranivorus*
High	*Aves-Neotis denhami*
High	*Aves-Bradypterus sylvaticus*
Medium	*Amphibia-Afrixalus knysnae*
Medium	*Aves-Neotis denhami*
Medium	*Aves-Bradypterus sylvaticus*
Medium	*Insecta-Aloeides thyra orientis*
Medium	*Mammalia-Chlorotalpa duthieae*
Medium	*Sensitive species 8*
Medium	*Invertebrate-Aneuryphymus montanus*

Observation on Site - by the EAP:

During the site visit conducted by the EAP, the following habitat types were identified:

- Degraded fynbos vegetation;
- Degraded watercourse vegetation; and an
- Invasive Forest located toward the northern boundary of the proposed development site.

During the site visit conducted by the EAP, the Species of Conservation Concern (SCCs) were sought after, however the presence of any of the SCCs could not be confirmed during the site visit.

Table 3. Faunal SCCs identified in the DFFE Screening Tool and the likelihood of occurrence based on the habitat types identified on site by the EAP.

Sensitivity	Feature(s)	Species name	IUCN Status	Preferred Habitat	Likelihood of occurrence
High	*Aves-Circus ranivorus*	*African Marsh Harrier*	*LC*	*Permanent wetlands (roosting) and fynbos (hunting).*	*High*
High	*Aves-Neotis denhami*	*Denham's bustard*	*NT*	*Grassland and shrubland, dried marshes and farmlands.*	*Medium*
High	*Aves-Bradypterus sylvaticus*	*Knysna Warbler*	*VU*	*Vegetation along banks of watercourses or drainage lines in forest patches located within the Fynbos Biome.*	*Low*
Medium	*Amphibia-Afrixalus knysnae*	*Knysna Spiny Reed Frog*	*EN*	*Temperate forests, freshwater marshes and arable land.*	*Low-Medium*
Medium	*Insecta-Aloeides thyra orientis*	*Red Copper Butterfly*	*EN*	*Coastal fynbos on flat sandy ground between 40 m and 240 m above sea level.*	*Very High*
Medium	*Mammalia-Chlorotalpa duthieae*	*Duthie's golden Mole*	*VU*	*Southern Afrotemperate Forests*	*Medium*
Medium	*Sensitive species 8 - Philantomba monticola*	*Blue Duiker*	*LC*	*Forests*	*Medium*
Medium	*Invertebrate-Aneuryphymus montanus*	*Yellow-winged Agile Grasshopper*	*VU*	*Fynbos*	*High*

Specialist findings: Blueskies Consulting (Dr. Jacobus Visser) was appointed to undertake the site sensitivity verification of the faunal species present within the proposed development footprint. The specialist conducted his site verification site visit on the 13th and 14th of July 2023. During the site visit, the appointed specialist confirmed the presence of the following habitat types:

- Non-indigenous forests;
- Non-perennial stream / Wetlands
- Semi-intact Fynbos
- Degraded Fynbos
- Burnt
- Fallow lands and old fields

- Cleared / Grassland areas

During the site visit, the specialist identified six (6) mammals, three (3) amphibian species and thirty-five (35) Avian species on site. confirmed the presence of the Species of Conservation Concern (SCC), the Duthie's Golden Mole (*Chlorotalpa duthieae), on site*. The species presence was confirmed and restricted to the northern non-perennial stream and non-indigenous forest. The specialist has also recommended that based on the occurrence of SCC's on site, the associated habitats need to be avoided and a 30m buffer applies around the development footprint . The Site Ecological Importance (SEI) is of a high concern.

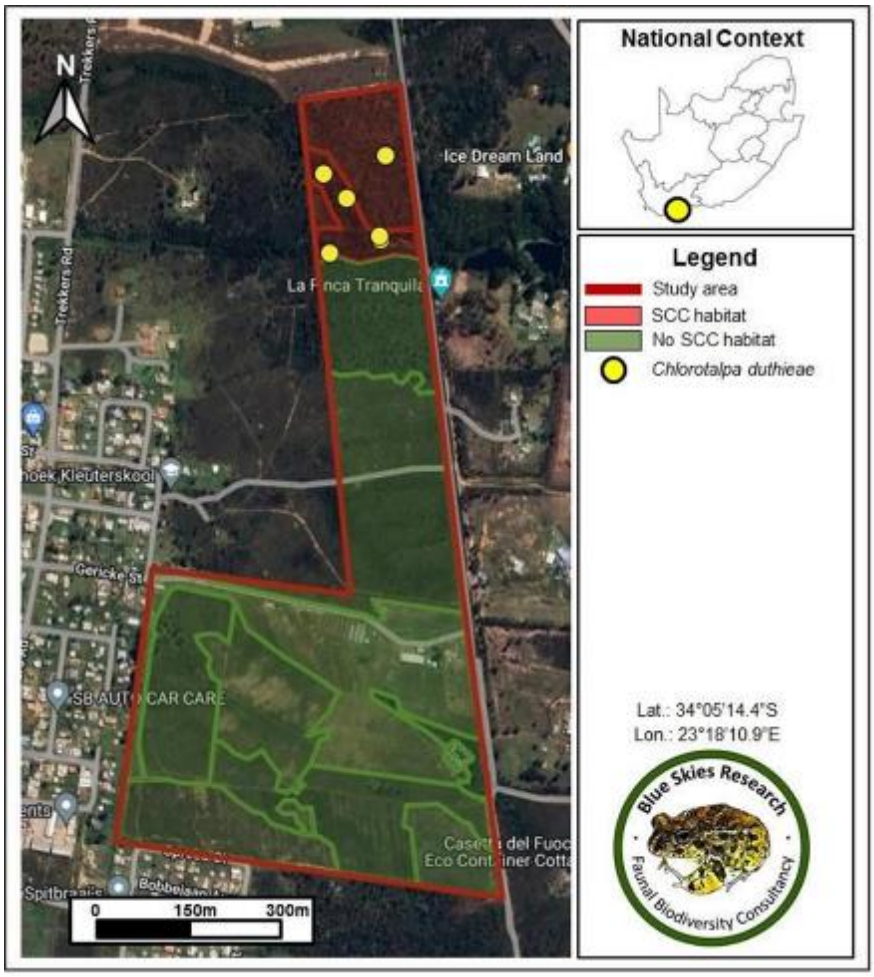

Figure 4. Specialist Map of the ICUN Vulnerable species Chlorotalpa duthieae on the proposed site development.

Concluding remarks: Based on the specialist findings on site, the Site Sensitivity was regarded as **High**. Therefore, a **Terrestrial Animal Species Impact Assessment** will be conducted for the proposed development. Furthermore, CapeNature will be included as a Stakeholder during public participation process to be conducted for the proposed development.

3.3. Aquatic Biodiversity

Screening Tool: The report indicates that the site's Aquatic Biodiversity is of **Very High** sensitivity and that an Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment is required.

Figure 5: Relative Aquatic Biodiversity Theme Sensitivity Map

Sensitivity Features

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Very High	ESA 1: Aquatic
Very High	FEPA Subcatchment
Very High	SWSA (SW) _Outeniqua

Desktop investigation and Observation on Site - by the EAP:

During the site visit, the EAP observed two (2) drainage systems within the proposed development area. A large system was located towards the north of the proposed development footprint (on portion 8 of the Farm Kranshoek 432) and a smaller tributary located on portion 7 of the Farm Kranshoek 432.

Specialist findings: Upstream Consulting (Debbie Fordham) was appointed to do the aquatic site sensitivity verification of the proposed development site. The sensitivity verification site visit was conducted on the 9th of July 2023 in order to confirm the findings of the desktop assessment.

During the site visit, the specialist confirmed the presence of three Hydrogeomorphic (HGM) Units within the proposed development footprint. On portion 8 of the Farm Kranshoek 432, two wetland units were delineated, HGM 1 and HGM 2. A 42 m buffer was 42m buffer was recommended around the wetlands. A wetland was also delineated on portion 7 of the Farm Kranshoek 432 (HGM 3) and a 15 m buffer was recommended around the wetland.

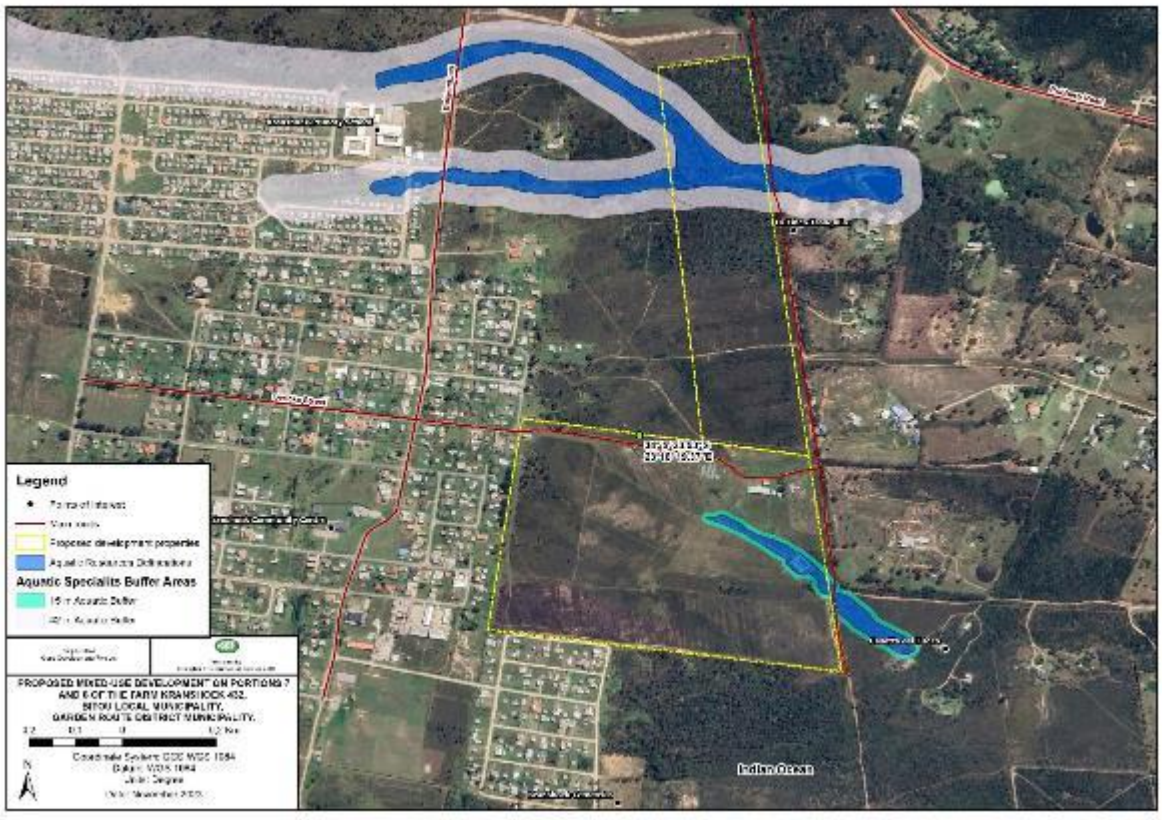

Figure 6. Watercourses found on site, with buffers marked in accordance with the specialist findings.

The site currently intersects with a small portion of an aquatic Ecological Support Area (ESA) in the northern section of Portion 8, with a small section in Portion 7 corresponding to a degraded ESA, owing to the presence of a degraded watercourse. Furthermore, the areas surrounding the aquatic ESA in the northern section of Portion 8 is designated as Other Natural Areas (ONAs).

The appointed specialist has also noted that the proposed development would require a Water Use License (WUL) in terms of Chapter 4 and Section 21 (c) and (i) of the National Water Act (NWA; Act No. 36 of 1998) and this must be secured prior to the commencement of construction.

Concluding remarks: The **Very High** aquatic biodiversity sensitivity rating for parts of the site was **confirmed**. An **Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment** will be undertaken for the proposed development.

Additionally, the Breede-Olifants Catchment Management Agency (BOCMA) will also be included as a Stakeholder during public participation process.

3.4. Archaeological and Cultural Heritage

Screening Tool: The report indicates the site's Archaeological and Cultural Heritage significance is of **Low** Sensitivity. The screening tool does not suggest an Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment be completed.

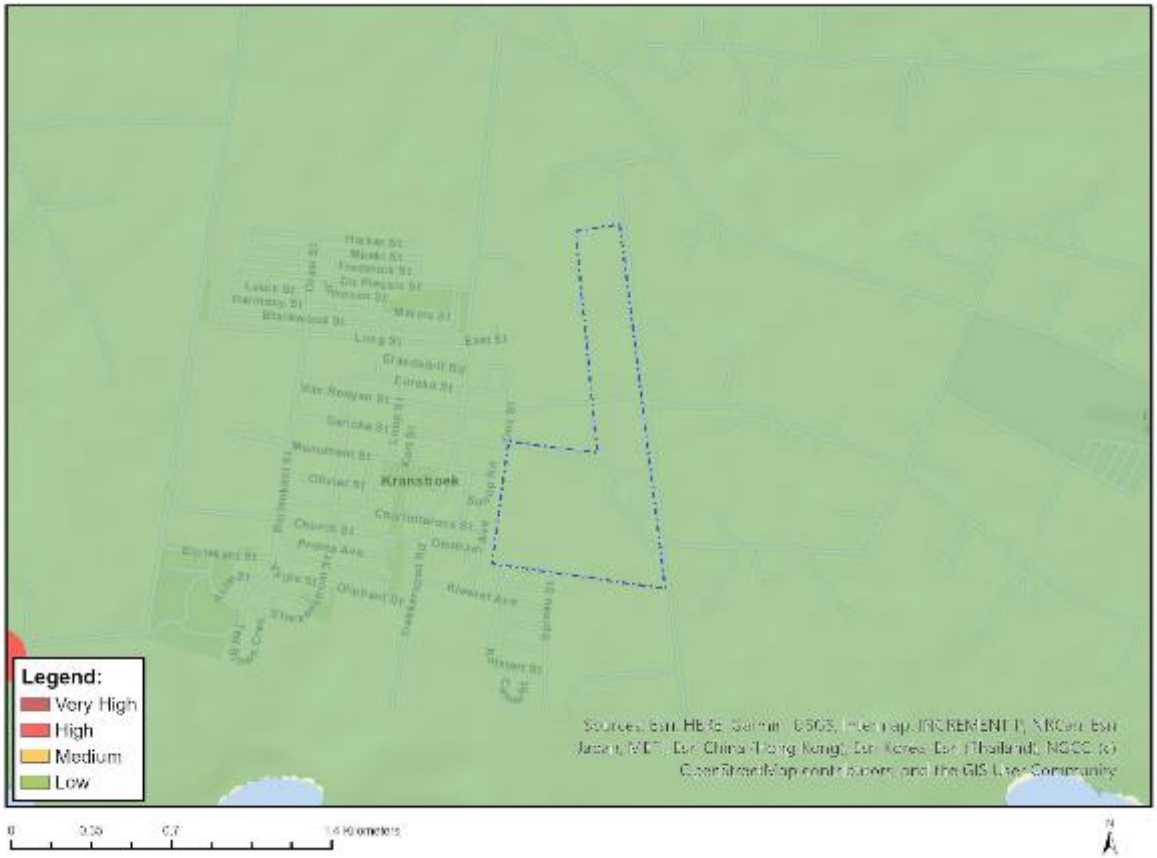

Figure 7: Relative Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Sensitivity Map

Observation on Site - by the EAP:

Based on the nature of the project and in accordance with the National Heritage Resource act 25 of 1999. A specialist has been appointed to assess whether any heritage significances have been identified.

Specialist Findings: The initial site investigation was undertaken by ASHA Consulting (Jayson Orton). There was a possible heritage significance on site. The identified structure related to a possible heritage significance is a cottage on portion 7 Kranshoek owned by the Le Fleur family. Because Kranshoek was originally settled by the Griqua community, a statement was sought to determine whether this cottage had any connections to the early settlement. They note that the cottage does not old significance to the Griqua community and no objection has been raised with regard to its demolition to make way for expansion of the town.

The specialist has also noted that it is highly unlikely that any graves or cemeteries will be present on site, but there is a small possibility of unmarked precolonial burials occurring. No features of archaeological concern were observed on site. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) will include further information should any remains/features of Cultural Heritage or Archaeological concern be found and the procedures to be followed will be included.

A Notice of Intent to Develop has been submitted to the Heritage Western Cape (HWC) and on 13 December 2024, it was concluded that no further action is required in terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999). HWC will be included as Interested

and Affected Parties for the proposed development during all phases of the EIA process to be followed.

3.5. Civil Aviation

The **Screening Tool** indicates that the civil aviation impact is of **High** Sensitivity. This is due to the proximity of Plettenberg Bay Airport (Approx. 1,5 km's east). However, due to the nature of the project, the proposed development is not expected to impact on the airport and is not expected to obstruct the flight path.

Figure 8: Civil Aviation Sensitivity Map

Sensitivity Features

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

Observation on Site – by the EAP:

The Plettenberg Bay Airport is located approximately 1,5 km east of the proposed development site. The altitude of the proposed development is approximately 15 m higher than the Plettenberg Bay Airport. The built-up area of the proposed development is not located within the landing or departing flight path of the airport and the structures on that for part of the proposed development are not expected to exceed 8 meters in height (double story building including the roof). Therefore, the proposed development is not expected to contribute as obstacles in terms of the definition of the Civil Aviation Regulations. According to the Spatial Development Framework (SDF) for the Municipality, the proposed development is located within the noise contour of the airport. Further considerations of the noise contour has been included in the EIA Process Reporting for the proposed development.

Conclusion: Due to the nature of the proposed development, the impact of the proposed development activities on the civil aviation installations is anticipated to be **very low**. A

dedicated civil aviation assessment will not be conducted as the proposed development is not expected to impact on the flight path of the airport. The South African Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and Plettenberg Bay Airport will be included as I&APs and we will await their response with regards to requiring further specialist input. Furthermore, the Civil Aviation Regulations, specifically as they pertain to Obstacles will be taken into consideration during the Environmental Impact Assessment process to be followed for the proposed development.

3.6. Defence

The **Screening Tool** suggest that the defence theme is of **Low** Sensitivity.

Figure 9: Defence Theme Sensitivity Map

Conclusion: No impacts on existing Defence areas were noted on the site, as such, no further action will be undertaken. The impact of the proposed development on the features identified by the Defence theme, is **negligible** and therefore, no further action will be taken.

3.7. Landscape & Visual Impact

This protocol is not relevant to the proposed project as the landscape and visual impact of the proposed development will be **negligible**. The proposed development will see to the expansion of the existing Kranshoek settlement and will see to the utilisation of land previously used for Agricultural practises.

Conclusion: Due to the lack of relevant sensitive features and the nature if the proposed development (leading to the continuity of the existing Kranshoek settlement), a Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment is not planned at present.

3.8. Socio-Economic Assessment

It is not expected that this environmental process related to the proposed development will have a detrimental effect on the socio-economics of the area as it is anticipated that the project (upon completion) will greatly increase access to affordable housing in the area. The proposed development site is located within the Urban Edge, as delineated in the Bitou Spatial

Development Framework (BSDF of 2022, as approved in 2023). The proposed development area partially lies within an area identified as a Strategic Development Area (SDA) in the BSDF.

Conclusion: Due to the alignment of the proposed development with the strategic goals of the municipality, a **Socio-Economic Assessment is not planned** at present. The Socio-Economic Context of the proposed development will be further elaborated upon during the planned EIA process.

3.9. Palaeontology

The **Screening Tool** indicated that the site has a **High** sensitivity rating, and that a Palaeontology Impact Assessment might be required. Palaeontology will therefore be considered for this assessment.

Figure 10: Relative Palaeontology Theme Sensitivity

Sensitivity Features

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

In conjunction with the above, the South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRIS) PalaeoSensitivity Map for the proposed development is included below as Figure 11 (with a key for the map in Table 4).

According to the PalaeoSensitivity the site and larger area surrounding the site is **Orange/Yellow** which is classified as **High** - *desktop study is required and based on the outcome of the desktop study, a field assessment is likely*.

Figure 11: SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity Map for the proposed development

Table 4: SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity Map key (highlighting the relevant sensitivity)

Colour	Sensitivity	Required Action
RED	VERY HIGH	field assessment and protocol for finds is required
ORANGE/YELLOW	HIGH	desktop study is required and based on the outcome of the desktop study, a field assessment is likely
GREEN	MODERATE	desktop study is required
BLUE	LOW	no palaeontological studies are required however a protocol for finds is required
GREY	INSIGNIFICANT/ZERO	no palaeontological studies are required
WHITE/CLEAR	UNKNOWN	these areas will require a minimum of a desktop study. As more information comes to light, SAHRA will continue to populate the map.

Observation on Site - by the EAP:

No features of palaeontological concern were observed on-site. Specific features sought after included outcrops.

Specialist findings: Prof. Marion Bamford was appointed by ASHA Consulting to provide palaeontological insights into potential impacts of the proposed development on the potential resources. With regard to the geological environment, the specialist noted that the project lies in the south central part of the Cape Supergroup where the Ordovician to Silurian Table Mountain Group quartzites are exposed. They are unconformably overlain by the younger conglomerates and rocks of the Upper Jurassic Enon Group. It is evident from the geological map that the Enon conglomerate is not present on the site but occurs a short

distance to the northeast. It is, however, likely to be the source of the gravel clasts seen on site. While trace fossils, tracks and burrows are expected to occur in the Peninsula Formation sandstone and associated mudstones, the obvious thick covering of unconsolidated sand, soil and light gravel with no bedrock exposed means that it is extremely unlikely that fossils will be present on site. Furthermore, geological test excavation carried out on Portion 9 immediately to the west showed that no bedrock was present in any of their holes which extended between 2.3 m and 3.1 m deep.

The specialist confirmed the **low** sensitivity of the proposed development area in terms of the palaeontology theme. A Notice of Intent to Develop has been submitted to the Heritage Western Cape (HWC) and on 13 December 2024, it was concluded that no further action is required in terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999). HWC will be included as Interested and Affected Parties for the proposed development during all phases of the EIA process to be followed.

3.10. Plant Species

The **Screening Tool** indicated that the plant species theme is of **Medium** Sensitivity. The tool suggests that a Plant Species Assessment should be conducted.

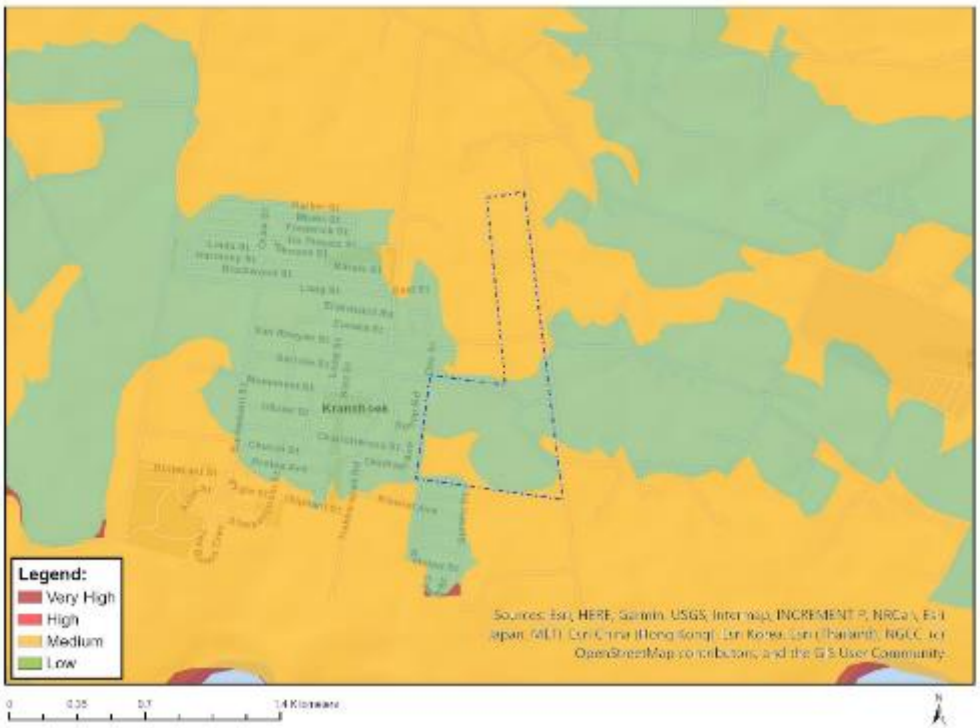

Figure 12: Plant Species Theme Map

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Medium	*Aspalathus bowieana*
Medium	Sensitive species 131 – *Cyclopia Laxiflora*
Medium	*Leucospermum glabrum*
Medium	*Mimetes pauciflorus*
Medium	*Erica glandulosa subsp. fourcadei*
Medium	*Pterygodium newdigateae*
Medium	*Osteospermum pterigoideum*
Medium	*Acmadenia alternifolia*
Medium	*Muraltia knysnaensis*

Medium	*Erica glumiflora*
Medium	*Pterygodium cleistogamum*

Observation on Site – by the EAP:

Multiple plant species were seen on the day of the site visit, with the majority of the proposed site being covered by Alien Invasive Vegetation.

Specialist Observation on Site: Jamie Pote was appointed to verify the presence of plant SCCs on site. The site area is found to be within the South Outeniqua Sandstone Fynbos that is regarded as being of 'least concern'. Based on the Present Ecological State of the specialist findings, it is noted that there is a very high presence of alien invasion mainly in the northern region of Portion 8. Furthermore, towards the southern region the alien invasion is moderate and in Portion 7 is regarded as being low. The factors regarding erosion are low, as terrane is largely flat. However, increase erosion will be a factor when considering the watercourses while the alien species is cleared. The fynbos vegetation is largely transformed, secondary or significantly invaded by alien species.

In accordance with the specialist findings on site there was no presence of species that are of conservation concern. It is noted that a number of SCCs were identified on Portion 9 of the Farm Kranshoek 432.

Jamie Pote has been appointed as the Terrestrial Biodiversity and Plant species specialist. The findings of his assessment will be included a consolidated Terrestrial Biodiversity and Plant Species Impact Assessment. Furthermore, an independent specialist specialising in plant search and rescue has been appointed to compile a Corridor Management Programme for the proposed development so as to incorporate all concerns raised as part of the construction phase of portion 9 of the Farm Krans Hoek 432 and the pre-application phase of the proposed development of Portions 7 and 8 of the Farm Krans Hoek 432.

CapeNature will also be included as a Stakeholder during public participation.

3.11. Terrestrial Biodiversity

The **Screening Tool** suggest that the Terrestrial Biodiversity theme is of a **Very High** sensitivity and that a Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment should be conducted (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Relative Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme Sensitivity Map

Sensitivity Features

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Very High	CBA: Terrestrial
Very High	CBA2: Terrestrial
Very High	ESA 2: Restore from other land use
Very High	FEPA Subcatchment
Very High	SWSA (SW) _ Outeniqua

Please note, the BSPs have recently been revised (2023), the findings of the screening tool report still reflect the 2017 BSPs.

According to Figure 14, there are Terrestrial CBAs located within the boundaries of Portion 8 of the Farm Kranshoek 432. According to the reasons for the Terrestrial CBA, the area has been identified as such due to the presence of an Endangered Ecosystem. The ecosystem identified is the Roodefontein Grassy Fynbos, a vegetation community identified by Vlok *et al, 2005*. Kindly note that this vegetation type is not recalled as a protected ecosystem in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004).

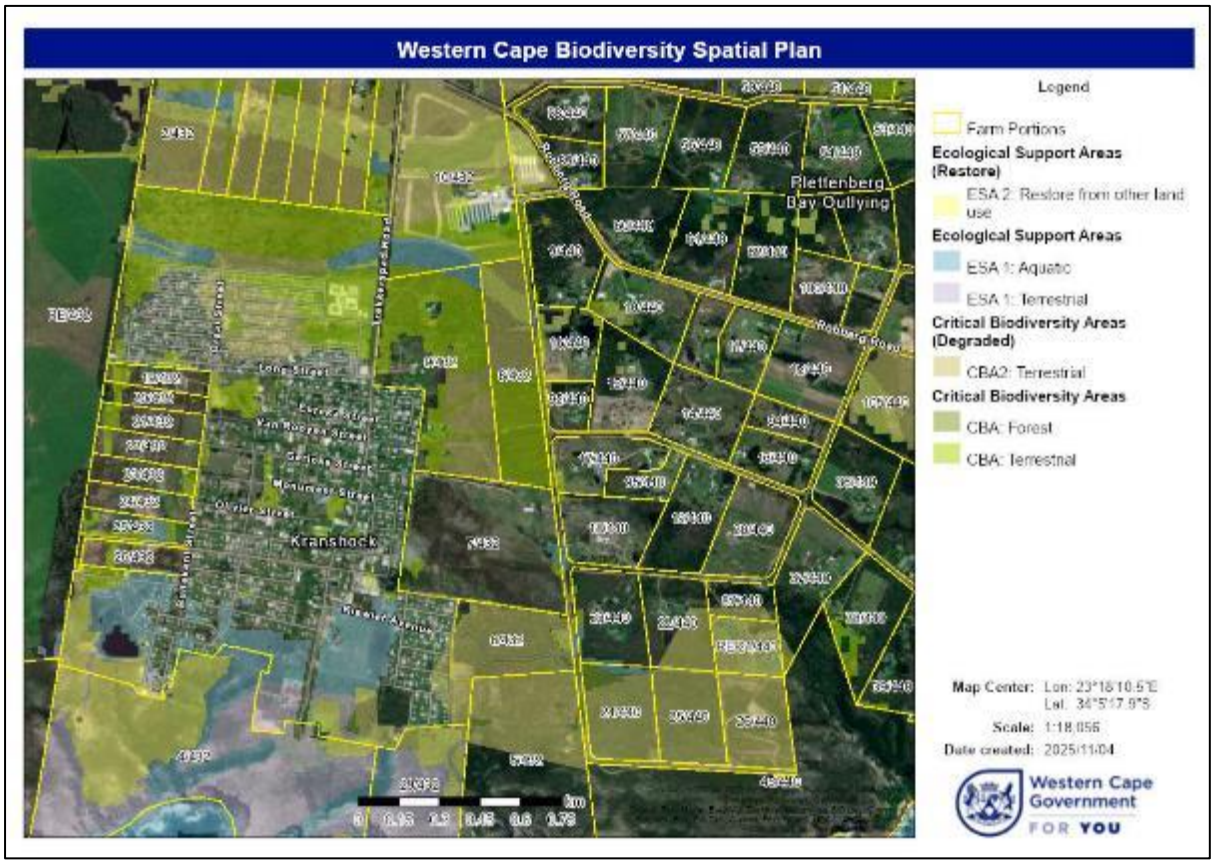

Figure 14: Critical Biodiversity Areas related to the proposed development.

Lastly, according to Figure 15, the proposed site is located within a Least Concern Area according to the SANBI Red List ecosystems and is located within the Garden Route Biosphere Reserve but not within any protected area:

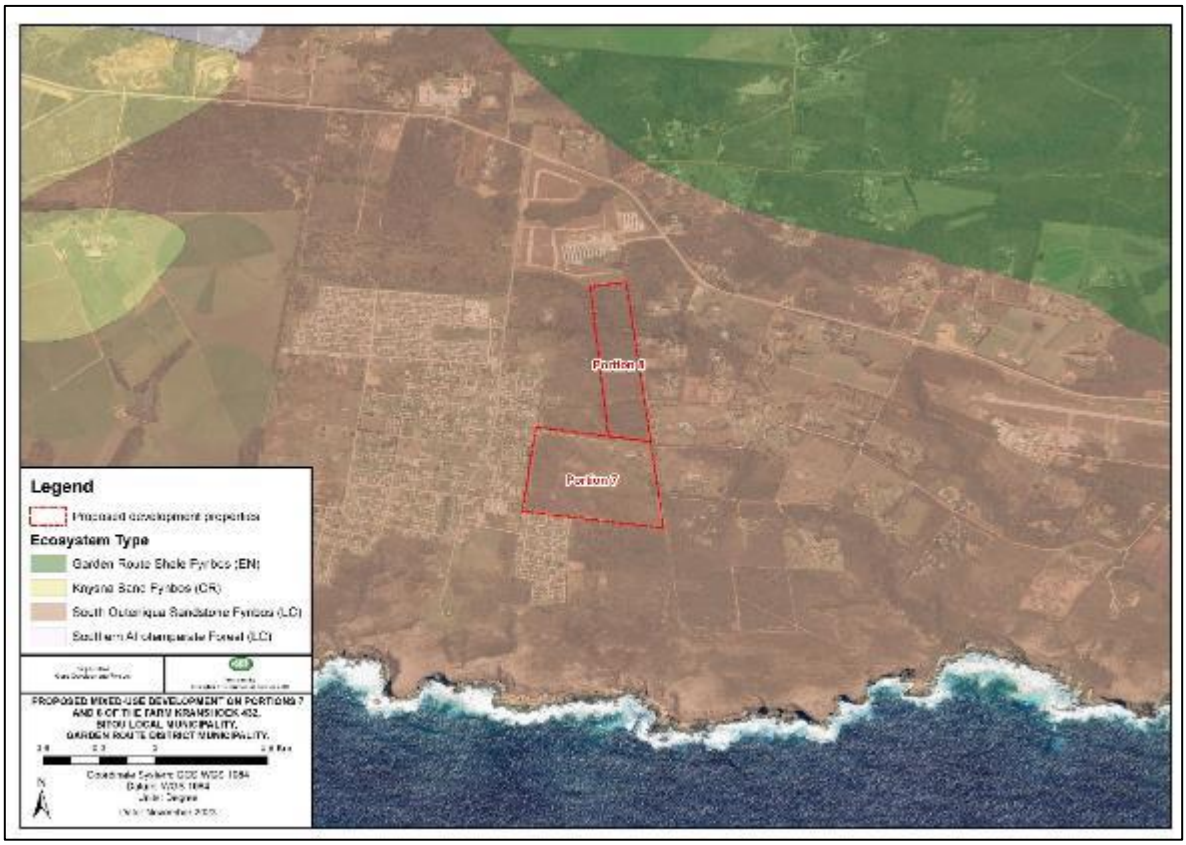

Figure 15: SA Conservation Areas & Red List Ecosystems related to the proposed development.

Specialist findings: The site verification confirms that the development area falls within the terrestrial biodiversity screening tool designated Ecological Support Area (ESA) 1 Associated along Portion 8 and CBA 2 that's associated with the watercourse on Portion 7. These designations of a buffer around watercourses and are standard in the WC BSP across the western cape province and represent important ecological corridors as well as falling within FEPA sub catchment, SANParks (Buffer) – Garden Route National Park, SWSA (Outeniqua), this is seen with the above map in the northern area of the proposed site development.

According to the determinations of the terrestrial biodiversity specialist, the site is situated on the edge of designated Ecological Support Area by the GR BSP but is none the less transformed and thus secondary vegetation. The Garden Route BSP is largely superseded by the more recent WC BSP. GR BSP Roodefontein Grassy Fynbos more or less corresponds to the National Vegetation Map Outeniqua Sandstone Fynbos.

This habitat is the most species rich and floristically interesting Grassy Fynbos unit. It differs from all the other units in having *Leucadendron eucalyptifolium* and *Protea mundii* often abundant along drainage areas. The uncommon narrow-leaved variant of Protea cynaroides also occurs sporadically on moist south-facing slopes. Many small seasonal wetlands are also present in this unit. These sites are indicated by an abundance of *Cliffortia linearifolia*, often along with an abundance of *Stenotaphrum secundatum*. This unit is rich in geophyte species, usually with many *Watsonia knysnana* present, but also several orchid species (especially *Satyrium* species). Restios (especially *Restio triticeus*) are quite abundant and Cyperaceae less common than in other units. Ericoid shrubs (*especially Erica formosa, Erica sessiliflora, Erica sparsa and Erica versicolor*) are usually abundant. An interesting feature is the presence of

several species that reach their westernmost distribution here, e.g., *Dierama pendula* and Kniphofia praecox. It is suspected that the long-lost *Cyclopia laxiflora* occur(ed) in this unit.

Figure 16. Vegetation that has been mapped in accordance with the specialist findings.

The specialist confirmed the **Highly sensitive** nature of the proposed development site. A Terrestrial Biodiversity and Plant Species Specialist (Jamie Pote) has been appointed to conduct a **Terrestrial Biodiversity and Plant impact assessment** for the proposed development.

CapeNature will be included as a Stakeholder as part of the Public Participation Processes.

4. SUMMARY OF APPLICABLE SPECIALIST STUDIES

The inputs from five different specialists will be received for the proposed development.

Specialist assessment	Applicability	Assessment Protocol
Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment	No	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	NID submitted to HWC and way forward confirmed – no further action required	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
Palaeontology Impact Assessment		https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Yes	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Terrestrial_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Yes	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Aquatic_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
Socio-Economic Assessment	No	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
Plant Species Assessment	Yes (as part of Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment)	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Plant_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
Animal Species Assessment	Yes	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Animal_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf

Technical input will be supplied by the engineering team as required.

5. CONCLUSION

From the findings of this report, SES proposes that the below recommended specialist inputs, will be sufficient to address the site sensitivities:

- Archaeological and Cultural Heritage input in the form of a Notice of Intent to Develop has been submitted to Heritage Western Cape and it was determined that no further assessment in terms of Section 38 of the NHRA is required;
- Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment;
- Agricultural Compliance Statement;
- Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment; and a
- Animal & Plant Species Impact Assessment.

The aforementioned relevant specialist assessments will be undertaken and will contribute to the environmental assessment. Following consultation with the competent authority, additional assessments may be advised and undertaken.

All assessments will be undertaken in line with the protocols as promulgated for the respective themes. The requirements of the protocols have been incorporated into the Terms of References of the various specialists.