ANIMAL SPECIES COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

Proposed residential development on Erf 266, Remainder Erf 21 and a portion of Remainder Lot 21, Riversdale, Western Cape

Prepared for Sharples Environmental Services

By

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And

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(Wildlife Conservation Decision Support)

DECLARATION OF SPECIALIST INDEPENDENCE

We, Mr Willem Matthee and Prof Jan A. Venter, hereby declare that:

- we are acting as independent specialists regarding this application;
- we do not have any interest, hidden or otherwise, in the outcome of this application, apart from financial compensation for the work done to survey the proposed development area and compile this report;
- surveying the site for this faunal compliance statement was done objectively, and that this report and the facts therein contained (regardless of its impact on the application approval process) will not be affected by any outside factors;
- we have the required expertise to perform surveys and produce compliance statements as it pertains to the faunal aspect of this proposed development
- we will comply with the relevant Acts, regulations and legislation;
- we have not, and will not, engage in conflicting interests while performing our duties for this activity, and have no influence over the decision-making authorities regarding their accepting or rejecting of this proposed development;
- we undertake to disclose to the applicant and competent authority all material and information within my possession that may influence the decision-making process regarding the proposed development;
- all particulars furnished by us in this form are true and correct, and that it is an offense to present a false declaration, and that such a false declaration is punishable in terms of Section 24F of the Act; and that
- this document is to be viewed as a whole, and not misquoted out of context.

Date: 6 June 2025 Date: 6 June 2025

DATE	REVISION	STATUS	PREPARED BY	CHECKED AND APPROVED BY
6 June 2025	0	Approved for submission	Willem Matthee	Dr Jan A. Venter (SACNASP Registration Nr. 400111/14)
				

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

The proposed development on Lot 266, Remainder Lot 21 and a portion of Remainder Lot 21 will consist of residential development, including smallholdings (1 ha lifestyle erven), a gated community with restricted agricultural uses (e.g. equestrian use) and potentially a retirement village (Appendix 1). The development will be approximately 56.4 ha in size, with 2 ha thereof on Erf 266, and the remainder on Remainder Lot 21 (S34º05'11.1"; E21º13'56.7"). Additionally, external infrastructure (powerlines, stormwater drains, water pipelines and sewerage pipelines) will be developed, to connect the development to existing relevant infrastructure. Currently, the property is used by Oakdale Landbouskool, an agriculturally-focussed high school, for the cultivation of various cereal crops and cattle grazing.

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) screening tool identified the site as having a High sensitivity in terms of the animal species theme, while the site sensitivity verification report (prepared by Kapp Environmental Consultants, and submitted 10 November 2022) described the actual sensitivity of the site as **Low** sensitivity (requiring only a compliance statement instead of a specialist report). Subsequent to Sharples Environmental Services being appointed to manage the environmental process for this project, the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development (DEADPP) requested that the external infrastructure be included in the application reports (Appendix 3).

As per the "Protocols for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on Identified Environmental Themes" (hereafter called "the Protocols"), as promulgated in Government Gazette Notice 320 (Government Gazette 43110, 20 March 2020), and amended in Government Gazette Notice 3717 (Government Gazette 49028, 28 July 2023), the Protocols must be adhered to for all new applications for Environmental Authorisation.

The DFFE screening tool identified the following four species of conservation concern (SCC) as potentially occurring at the site of the proposed development:

- *Neotis denhami* (Denham's Bustard; bird; High Sensitivity)
- *Afrotis afra* (Black Korhaan; bird; High Sensitivity)
- *Circus ranivorus* (African Marsh-harrier; bird; Medium Sensitivity)
- *Aneuryphymus montanus* (Yellow-winged Agile Grasshopper; insect; Medium Sensitivity)

In addition to these four species, the DFFE screening tool reports for the external infrastructure (powerlines, stormwater drainage, sewerage line, and water pipeline) recorded the following three species as potentially being impacted by the proposed development:

- *Circus maurus* (Black Harrier; bird; High Sensitivity)
- *Polemaetus bellicosus* (Martial Eagle; bird; High Sensitivity)
- *Bradypterus sylvaticus* (Knysna Warbler; bird; Medium Sensitivity)

As per the Protocols, this compliance statement is based on the findings of a desktop study and a site visit, to determine the presence (or likely presence) of the SCC, and the potential impacts of the development on these SCC.

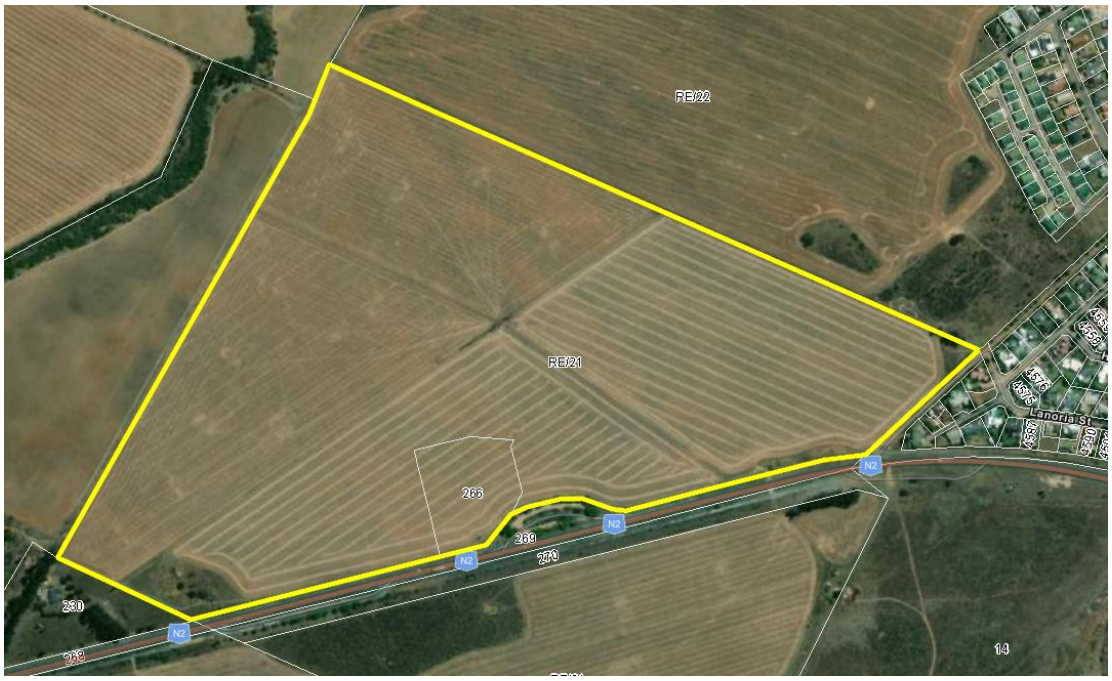

Fig. 1: The cadastral boundary of the proposed mixed-use development, consisting of RE/21 and Erf 266 (outlined in yellow). This area consists mainly of ploughed fields, with a small section of semi-natural vegetation in the southwestern and eastern corners.

Fig. 2: The southwestern corner of the main study site has some semi-natural vegetation, with Bitter Aloes (*Aloe ferox*) and other indigenous plant species present.

Figures 3 & 4: The majority of the area for the proposed mixed-use development consists of cereal fields that are either under cultivation (top), or have already been harvested (bottom).

2. DETAILS OF THE SPECIALISTS

Both specialists that compiled this document have experience in terrestrial animal species identification (from invertebrates to large mammals), as well as the identification of habitats for species of conservation concern. Their details are in the table below.

Table 1: The details and experience of the specialists involved with this report.

Specialist and contact details	Qualifications	SACNASP Registration	Experience
Prof. Jan A. Venter **Email:** JanVenter@mandela.ac.za **Mobile:** 0824161096	PhD (Biology) UKZN	400111/14	27 years' experience in faunal ecology and conservation in both the government and tertiary education sector. Current position: Associate Professor in the Department of Conservation Management at Nelson Mandela University
Willem Matthee **Email:** WillemM@mandela.ac.za **Mobile:** 084 620 4246	M.Sc. (Nature Conservation)	Registration in process	Willem has three years experience in surveying amphibian populations, and an additional five years of bird surveys. He has also been involved in animal diversity surveys for the past six years. He has completed his MSc in Nature Conservation in 2014, and currently lectures as a lecturer in Conservation Ecology at the Nelson Mandela University George Campus.

3. METHODS

The findings of this report are based on:

1) a desktop study to determine the potential presence of the SCC identified by the screening tool (and any SCC not identified by the screening tool) at the study site;
2) two site visits to the study site, to determine the presence of (and habitat suitability for) the SCC highlighted by the screening tool, or SCC not flagged by the screening tool.

The desktop study included the use of iNaturalist and the Global Biodiversity Information Framework (GBIF) records. Records from these resources were used to determine whether the SCC have been recorded at (or near to) the study site.

Two site visits were performed (29 September 2023 and 19 May 2025, each between 09:00 and 12:00). During these site visits, the species observed (mostly animals, but also plants that may be valuable for SCC) were recorded. Observations were visual (i.e., seeing the animal species clearly), acoustic (i.e., identifying species based on their characteristics calls heard during the site visit), or based on the presence of tracks or dung. The first site visit consisted of walking through the main study area (avoiding walking through fields where crops are currently under cultivation), covering the entire study site and all habitats present on the property. The second site visit focused on the areas where external infrastructure for the proposed development will be placed, with the same procedure being used as for the main site of development. The main purposes of the site visits were to determine whether:

1) any of the seven SCC flagged by the screening tool occur at the study site;
2) the proposed site for the development acts as a corridor for any of the SCC highlighted by the screening tool;
3) the vegetation (indigenous, exotic, or cultivated) at the site of the proposed development likely supports undetected individuals or populations of the SCC highlighted by the screening tool (that were not picked up during the desktop study);
4) the sites of the proposed external infrastructure will impact SCC (either species detected by the screening tool reports, or undetected SCC); and
5) there are any SCC present at the site that were not picked up by the screening tool.

4. RESULTS

The desktop study indicated that there was a very low likelihood that *C. ranivorus*, *A. afra* and *A. montanus* occur at the site, and a low likelihood of *N. denhami* occurring at the main study site. Additionally, there is a low to very low likelihood that any of the seven SCC occur within the areas proposed for the external infrastructure. Likewise, the site visits indicated that there is a very low likelihood of *C. ranivorus*, *A. afra* and *A. montanus* occurring at the study site, and a low likelihood that *N. denhami* occurs there, as no individuals of these three SCC were recorded, and the habitat is not suitable for two of the three species (*C. ranivorus* and *A. montanus*). The second site visit also indicated there is a very low likelihood of *C. ranivorus*, *P. bellicosus*, *B. sylvaticus*, *A. montanus* and *N. denhami* occurring in the areas proposed for the infrastructure, and a low likelihood that *C. maurus* and *A. afra* occur within these areas. Based on these findings, the sensitivity of the main study site in terms of the animal species theme, is **LOW** rather than High (as was recorded in the screening tool). Likewise, the sensitivity of the areas proposed for the external infrastructure is **LOW** rather than High (as was recorded in the relevant screening tool reports).

4.1. Desktop Study

For the seven species highlighted by the screening tool, the following were recorded (where obtainable from databases or literature):

- Preferred habitat;
- Presence of the preferred habitat at the study area; and
- Historical records of this species (particularly in the area around the study site, and the area proposed for the external infrastructure).

*4.1.1. Denham's Bustard (*Neotis denhami*)*

N. denhami occurs in fynbos, grasslands, pastures and agricultural fields (Allan, 2005a). It is classified as Vulnerable in South Africa (Taylor, 2015a), mainly due to collisions with powerlines, habitat conversion to intensive monotypic fields (as is present at the study site), and overgrazing of its grassland habitats. There are 23 records of this species from the general area around Riversdale on the GBIF database, with 22 of these records being observations from the Southern African Bird Atlas Project 2 (SABAP2). One record (from 24 September 2021) was from the Werner Frehse Local Authority Nature Reserve to the south of Riversdale, from a large extent of intact renosterveld approximately 4km from the study site. The SABAP2 records are recorded per pentad, and the co-ordinates are therefore not accurate representations of where this species has been recorded. It is therefore likely that the SABAP2 records are also mostly from pockets of natural vegetation similar to the iNaturalist record, though they could also be from cultivated fields that have not reached their full height. *N. denhami* is, however, sensitive to human disturbance, and it is highly unlikely that this species would occur directly next to the town of Riversdale. Despite the area for which the powerlines are proposed consisting of semi-suitable shrubland vegetation, and it is possible that *N. denhami* could utilise this habitat either for foraging, or as a corridor to move between more suitable vegetation, it is unlikely that this species would do so due to the proximity to Riversdale and Kwanokuthula.

*4.1.2 Southern Black Korhaan (*Afrotis afra*)*

This species occurs in renosterveld and succulent karoo, with a preference for natural vegetation over agricultural fields (Allan, 2005b), though agricultural fields will be utilised if there is sufficient natural cover adjacent thereto. There are only two records (both SABAP2 records without accurate GPS co-ordinates) for the Riversdale area on the GBIF database. These two records are likely from larger extents of natural vegetation in the area, such as the Werner Frehse Local Authority Nature Reserve. Due to the proximity of the proposed development (including the external infrastructure) to Riversdale and Kwanokuthula, and the general absence of suitable habitat in the majority of the study site, it is highly unlikely that this species occurs within the main study site (for where the mixed-use development is proposed), and unlikely to occur in the areas where the external infrastructure are proposed.

*4.1.3. African Marsh-harrier (***Circus ranivorus***)*

C. ranivorus occurs in extensive wetland ecosystems and neighbouring grasslands (Simmons, 2005). It is classified as Endangered in South Africa (Taylor, 2005b), mainly due to habitat destruction and alteration. This property is not located adjacent to a large wetland ecosystem, and it is unlikely that this bird species utilises this site as feeding, breeding or roosting habitat. Though there are nine records of this species from the greater Riversdale area, these are all SABAP2 records (with non-representative coordinates) and likely recorded along major water bodies in the area. This raptor is also unlikely to occur at the study site due to its proximity to the town of Riversdale.

*4.1.4. Yellow-winged Agile Grasshopper (***Aneuryphymus montanus***)*

This species prefers sclerophyllous (hard-leaved) fynbos vegetation in arid and semi-arid, mountainous or rocky environments (Brown, 1960). The closest record of this species, is from Buffeljagsrivier (approximately 60 km from the study site), where a specimen was collected in arid renosterveld vegetation during 2022 (Visser, J.H., 2022). The study site has been cultivated for an extended period, and no natural vegetation remains. It is therefore highly unlikely that the study site constitutes suitable habitat for this species.

*4.1.5. Black Harrier (***Circus maurus***)*

This raptor occurs mainly in natural fynbos habitats, including renosterveld fragments, and grasslands (Simmons et al., 2005), but may also occur in agricultural fields. There are eight records of this species for the area around Riversdale, including a single georeferenced record (from July 2009) from town itself, and a georeferenced record on iNaturalist of a juvenile bird in an agricultural field approximately 5km from the study area (this juvenile bird likely originated from one of the large renosterveld fragments near this record). The remainder of the records are SABAP2 records, which do not have GPS co-ordinates associated with the records, but are likely from large extents of natural renosterveld vegetation and the surrounding agricultural fields. The record from Riversdale itself was most likely an individual moving between suitable habitats, or an individual moving northward following this species' potential winter movement patterns. It is therefore unlikely that this species commonly occurs in close proximity to town, due to the high levels of disturbance associated with town, and is therefore

unlikely to commonly occur in the areas for which the external infrastructures are proposed (for which it was flagged in the screening tool report). It is also unlikely to commonly utilise the area proposed for the mixed-use development itself, due to the lack of preferred habitat.

*4.1.6. Martial Eagle (*Polemaetus bellicosus*)*

This large eagle is classified as Endangered (Taylor, 2015c), mainly due to direct persecution by livestock farmers, electrocution by powerlines, and loss of prey due to habitat alteration. It occurs in open vegetation, including shrubland and farmland with tall trees present (Simmons, 2005). The South African population is estimated at 800 individuals, mainly confined to large conservation areas, and an estimated 100 – 150 mature individuals estimated for the Northern Cape, Eastern Cape and Western Cape combined. There are only two records of this species for the Riversdale area on the GBIF database, with one being a SABAP2 record (without accurate GPS co-ordinates), and one being an iNaturalist observation of a juvenile photographed in nearby farmlands (approximately 5km from the study site). These eagles, however, rarely occur close to human habitation, and it is therefore (along with the sub-optimal vegetation and shortage of medium-sized prey animals in the area) unlikely to occur within the area planned for the development, or the area proposed for the external infrastructure.

*4.1.7. Knysna Warbler (*Bradypterus sylvaticus*)*

This nondescript warbler occurs in dense thickets and indigenous forests, often along streams and in areas with a well-developed understorey (Smith, 2005). There are no patches of suitable vegetation at or near the study site, and only five records of this species in the greater Riversdale area. All these records are SABAP2 records (without accurate GPS co-ordinates), but are likely from suitable vegetation approximately 8km north of Riversdale. Due to the lack of suitable habitat and absence of records near the proposed study site, it is highly unlikely that this species occurs within (or near) the study site, and is unlikely to be impacted by the proposed development.

4.2. Site Visits

The site visits confirmed that the majority of the property has been used as intensive cereal cultivation. During the first visit, half of the property was under cultivation, with crops almost ready to harvest. The other half of the property had already been harvested, and was being used as grazing for cattle: the vegetation in these harvested fields was dominated by stubs of the cereal that was harvested. The southwestern corner had a remnant of semi-natural vegetation present, including *Aloe ferox* (but also had exotic black wattle, *Acacia mearnsii* present), while the eastern corner of the study site consisted mostly of grasses and weedy plant species. Neither area had vegetation representative of the natural vegetation in this area (Eastern Rûens Shale Renosterveld), though the southwestern corner of the property was more natural than the eastern corner. During the second site visit (19 May 2025), the entire field was under cultivation, with cereals approximately 30cm in height covering the entire area proposed for the development. The second site visit also surveyed the areas designated for the external infrastructure. This consisted of surveying the road verges along the N2, as well as the natural (and semi-natural) vegetation between the N2 and the Riversdale industrial area, and to the south of the Riversdale industrial area. The road verges were dominated by grass species (notably *Themeda triandra*, *Eragrostis capensis*, *Melinis repens*, *Cynodon dactylon* and *Chloris gayana*), with some planted trees (notably *Afrocarpus falcatus* and other coniferous species). The semi-natural vegetation consisted mainly of short shrublands, though the section between the N2 and industrial area is dominated by larger shrubs (notably *Osteospermum moniliferum* and *Buddleja saligna*). The area to the south of the industrial area is more disturbed, and dominated by short shrubs such as *Dicerothamnus rhinocerotis*, while the section to the southeast of the industrial area is heavily invaded by *Eucalyptus*. The area surveyed during the second site visit are earmarked for the external infrastructure and will not include the total removal of existing vegetation cover.

Fig. 5: The area to the northeast of the proposed development (through which the stormwater infrastructure is proposed) consists of disturbed, grass-dominated vegetation, of little value to the SCC flagged by the screening tool report.

Fig 6: The area between the proposed development and existing residential area consists of a dirt road, flanked by Beefwood (*Casuarina*) trees, also of very little conservation value. Powerlines are proposed for this area.

Fig. 7: The northern road verge of the N2 (along which the water pipeline for the proposed development will run) is dominated by grasses such as *Chloris gayana* and *Hyparrhenia hirta*, and of very little conservation value due to its narrow width and location between the N2 and a residential neighbourhood.

Fig. 8: The southern road verge along the N2, along which the powerlines will be located, is also grass-dominated and of little conservation use due to its proximity to the N2 and high level of human activity.

Fig. 9: The vegetation to the south of the N2 (and to the west of the industrial area) consists of dense shrubland of medium height, which is dominated by *Osteospermum moniliferum*. The dashed yellow line indicates the proposed location of the powerline infrastructure.

Fig. 10: The vegetation closer to the Riversdale industrial area (background) is taller and denser than the remainder of the vegetation in the area, but does not support a population of *B. sylvaticus*. The dashed blue line indicates the proposed location of the water pipeline.

Fig. 11: Although the vegetation to the southwest of the industrial area appears suitable for species such as *A. afra*, it is close to high levels of noise pollution, and unlikely to support any sensitive species. The dashed yellow line indicates the approximate proposed powerline location.

Fig. 12: Apart from being disturbed and dominated by grasses and pioneer shrubs, the land to the south of the industrial area (through which the powerline – dashed yellow line – is proposed), the area also experiences high human foot traffic, as it lies between Riversdale and Kwanokuthula.

Fig. 13: The powerline is also proposed to travel through an area (to the north of Kwanokuthula) that is already heavily transformed, with a high density of alien invasive plants and very little conservation value. The powerline itself is proposed for the section just to the left of this photograph, and consists of pioneer vegetation with a high abundance of exotics (mainly *Eucalyptus* spp.)

Fig. 14: The powerline (dashed yellow line) is also proposed for an area that is heavily invaded by *Eucalyptus*, with very little conservation value and a very low likelihood of being utilised by any of the SCC flagged by the screening tool report.

*4.2.1. Denham's Bustard (*Neotis denhami*)*

The site visits confirmed that the site of the proposed development would likely not support this species due to its proximity to the town of Riversdale and the height and density of the fields during cultivation (and the general lack of natural vegetation in this area). Though this species does utilise cultivated fields, they prefer to use cultivated fields while the crops are short. There are large extents of cultivated fields around Riversdale, and further to the east, which could still act as suitable habitat during the early growing phases of crops grown there. Due to the proximity of the study site to the urban edge, and the availability of more suitable habitat in the area, this development is unlikely to have an impact on the continued survival of this species. In terms of the external infrastructure, this species is unlikely to utilise the areas proposed for the external infrastructure, and are unlikely to be affected by the construction of the infrastructure. However, bustards are particularly vulnerable to collisions with powerlines (Shaw et al., 2010), and we recommend that bright bird flappers are installed along the powerline to increase the visibility of the powerlines for *N. denhami* and other vulnerable species (notably Blue Crane (*Grus paradisea*), *Afrotis afra*, *Circus maurus* and *Polemaetus bellicosus*). Though it is unlikely that these birds will occur in the area where the powerlines are to be erected, this is a good precaution to take to reduce the likelihood of collisions even further. No individuals of this species were observed during either of the two site visits, and it is unlikely that the proposed development will have an impact on the continued survival of this species.

*4.2.2. Southern Black Korhaan (*Afrotis afra*)*

This species occurs in open shrubland vegetation, but is likely to be absent close to human habitation. The two records for the Riversdale area on the GBIF database are likely from renosterveld fragments further from Riversdale itself. Due to the high degree of habitat transformation (and absence of suitable habitat) in the development footprint itself and directly adjacent to it, it is unlikely that this species occurs at the study site. Though the shorter, sparser shrubland to the south of the Riversdale industrial area appear potentially suitable, it has high foot traffic from the adjacent neighbourhood, Kwanokuthula, and it is unlikely that this species utilises this area. The area that is invaded by *Eucalyptus* trees is also too dense to support this species. It therefore is unlikely that the proposed development (and the associated external infrastructure) will impact the continued survival of this species.

*4.2.3. African Marsh-harrier (*Circus ranivorus*)*

This species is associated with wetland habitats and neighbouring grassland vegetation. There are no major wetland ecosystems present at the study site, with the only moist areas being where the N2 crosses the stormwater drainage (S34º05'19.33"; E21º14'40.44"). This wetland is, however, too close to human habitation, too small in size and too isolated from other wetland ecosystems to be of value to this species, and it is unlikely that *C. ranivorus* utilises this wetland. It is therefore highly unlikely that this species occurs at the study site overall, and this development is unlikely to impact the continued survival of this species.

*4.2.4. Yellow-winged Agile Grasshopper (*Aneuryphymus montanus*)*

This species requires sclerophyllous fynbos vegetation on rocky terrain, which was not present at the study site. Due to the high degree of habitat conversion (from renosterveld to cultivated fields), it is highly unlikely that this species occurs at this site. No individuals of this grasshopper species were recorded, with the only Orthoptera recorded belonging to the *Acrotylus* and *Acanthacris* genera (Appendix 2). This development will therefore have no impact on the continued survival of this species.

*4.2.5. Black Harrier (*Circus maurus*)*

Though this species does have one record from Riversdale itself, and some records from the areas around the town, no specimens were recorded during either of the two surveys. The site visits also indicated that the main development is unlikely to have an impact on the continued survival of this species, as it is already heavily transformed, and not connected to existing patches of pristine (or semi-pristine) renosterveld. In terms of the area proposed for the external infrastructure, there are no known records of this species from these areas, and these infrastructure will not result in permanent removal of the existing vegetation (apart from directly under the powerlines). It is therefore unlikely that the continued survival of this species will be impacted by the proposed development. Though this species was not one of the species flagged as suffering from collisions with powerlines (as per the preliminary study by Shaw et al (2010), which was done in the Overberg, where high densities of these raptors occur), and is unlikely to be impacted by the proposed development, it is still recommended

that bird flappers be placed on the powerlines present in areas with more natural vegetation, to reduce the likelihood of collisions by large birds.

*4.2.6. Martial Eagle (*Polemaetus bellicosus*)*

This eagle is rare throughout the Western Cape, with only two records thereof in the Riversdale region. Though the sparser vegetation associated with the areas for which the powerlines are proposed, this large eagle species is unlikely to occur to close to the residential and industrial areas of Riversdale, and is unlikely to be impacted by the proposed development. Additionally, it is unlikely that sufficient medium-sized prey animals occur in the direct vicinity of the proposed development, and this species is therefore unlikely to be impacted by the proposed development.

*4.2.7. Knysna Warbler (*Bradypterus sylvaticus*)*

This species requires thickets of indigenous vegetation, though they may occur in areas with sufficient understorey vegetation provided by certain exotic species (e.g. *Lantana camara* and *Rubus* spp.). Only two areas with dense vegetation were identified within the study area – both of these were in areas proposed for the external infrastructure. The area proposed for the actual development does not support suitable vegetation, and the species is highly unlikely to be impacted by the proposed development itself. The vegetation between the N2 and the industrial area supports vegetation that is denser and taller than the surrounding vegetation, particularly adjacent to the Nestlé plant. However, this vegetation is too sparse and lacks sufficient understorey development for this species to be present. Despite call playback of this species being used in this area, no responses were obtained, and this species likely does not occur at this site. The other area with potentially suitable vegetation is the area invaded by *Eucalyptus* trees, between Riversdale and Kwanokuthula. However, this area is a largely monospecific stand of *Eucalyptus*, and does not have the well-developed understorey required by *B. sylvaticus*. This species is therefore highly unlikely to occur within any areas of the proposed development (of both the development itself and its associated external infrastructure), and the proposed development is therefore highly unlikely to have an impact on the continued survival of this species.

4.3. Notable Observations

During the site visits, a total of 33 animal species were recorded (Appendix 2), with one amphibian, 25 bird species, one gastropod, one arachnid, five insect species, one amphibian, and one mammal species being recorded. Notable observations included a total of four Blue Cranes (*Grus paradisea*) feeding in the harvested fields on the property, Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) calling from the cultivated fields, and the dung of Steenbok (*Raphicerus campestris*) in the harvested fields. These cultivated fields (both while under cultivation, and after being harvested) provide a habitat for the species recorded, but there is an abundance of similarly suitable habitat for these species in surrounding areas, and the development is unlikely to have a major impact on the continued survival of these species in this area.

5. ANIMAL SPECIES COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

Based on the results of the desktop study and the site visits, the sensitivity of the study site (Lot 266, Remainder Lot 21, and a portion of Remainder Lot 21, Riversdale, Western Cape), as well as the areas proposed for the external infrastructure, in terms of animal species can be regarded as **LOW**. This assessment is based on the following:

- The absence of georeferenced records of SCC at the site of the proposed development;
- The lack of suitable habitat for the SCC at the study site;
- The lack of observations of the SCC at the study site during the site visit; and
- The disturbed nature of semi-natural vegetation in the areas proposed for the external infrastructure, reducing the likelihood of SCC utilising these areas.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The main recommendation is to place highly visible bird flappers on the powerlines. Though the area proposed for powerlines is unlikely to be used by SCC, the precautionary principle applies, and these bird flappers are useful at preventing many large birds from flying into powerlines. It is also recommended that as little natural vegetation be disturbed in the areas where the external infrastructure is to be constructed, and that natural vegetation be established post-construction. This will reduce the impact of the infrastructure associated with this development on animal species in the larger landscape.

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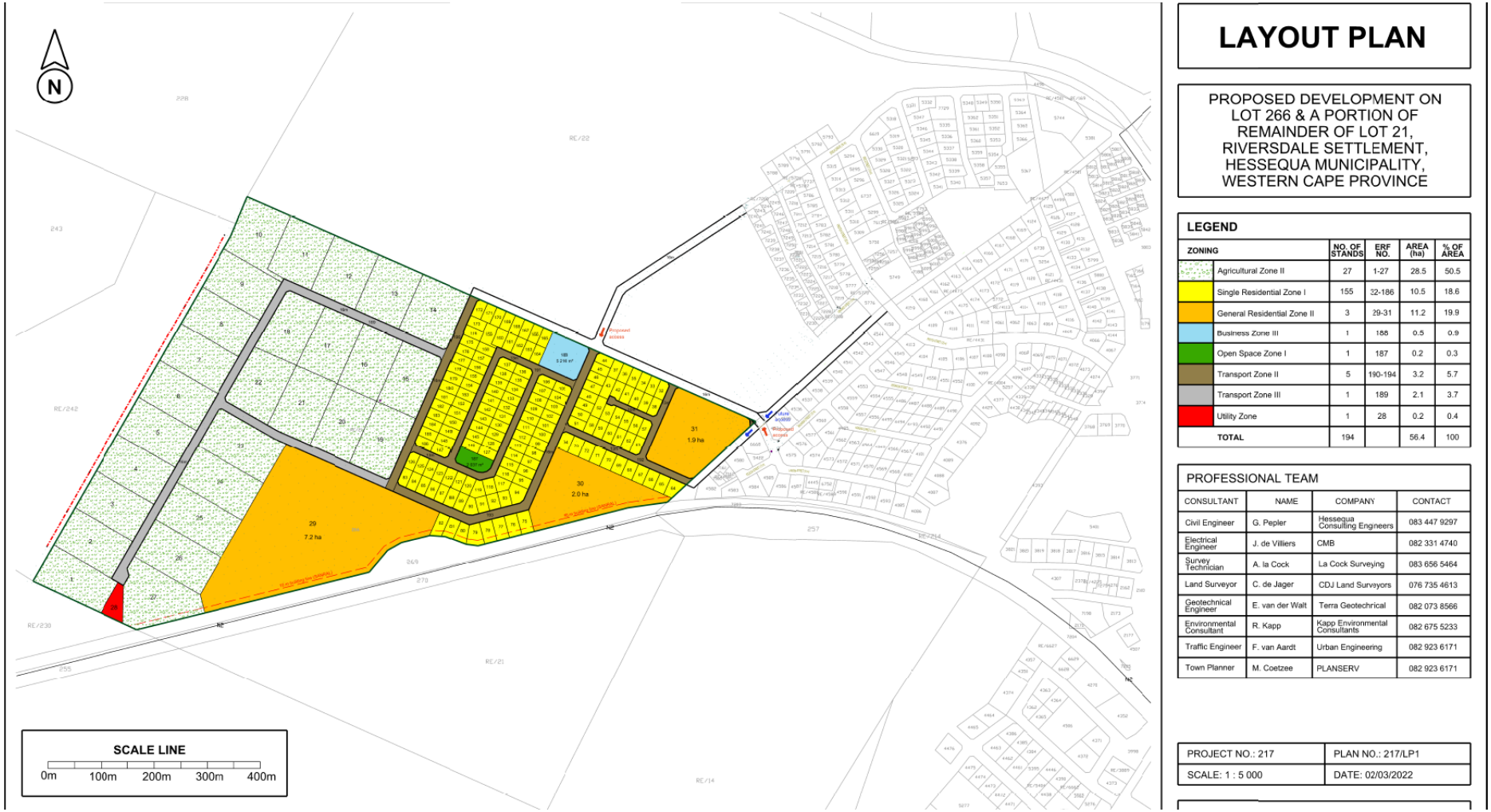
APPENDIX 1: The proposed site development plan for this development



LAYOUT PLAN

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON LOT 266 & A PORTION OF REMAINDER OF LOT 21, RIVERSDALE SETTLEMENT, HESSEQUA MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

LEGEND

ZONING	NO. OF STANDS	ERF NO.	AREA (ha)	% OF AREA
Agricultural Zone II	27	1-27	28.5	50.5
Single Residential Zone I	155	32-186	10.5	18.6
General Residential Zone II	3	29-31	11.2	19.9
Business Zone III	1	188	0.5	0.9
Open Space Zone I	1	187	0.2	0.3
Transport Zone II	5	190-194	3.2	5.7
Transport Zone III	1	189	2.1	3.7
Utility Zone	1	28	0.2	0.4
TOTAL	194		56.4	100

PROFESSIONAL TEAM

CONSULTANT	NAME	COMPANY	CONTACT
Civil Engineer	G. Pepler	Hessequa Consulting Engineers	083 447 9297
Electrical Engineer	J. de Villiers	CMB	082 331 4740
Survey Technician	A. la Cock	La Cock Surveying	083 656 5464
Land Surveyor	C. de Jager	CDJ Land Surveyors	076 735 4613
Geotechnical Engineer	E. van der Walt	Terra Geotechrical	082 073 8566
Environmental Consultant	R. Kapp	Kapp Environmental Consultants	082 675 5233
Traffic Engineer	F. van Aardt	Urban Engineering	082 923 6171
Town Planner	M. Coetzee	PLANSERV	082 923 6171

PROJECT NO.: 217	PLAN NO.: 217/LP1
SCALE: 1 : 5 000	DATE: 02/03/2022

APPENDIX 2: The animal species recorded during the site visit at Lot 21, Riversdale, on 29 September 2023

Common Name	Scientific Name
Amphibians	
Frog, Clicking Stream	*Strongylopus grayii*
Arachnids	
Sheetwebber, Dark	*Euprosthenopsis pulchella*
Birds	
Bishop, Southern Red	*Euplectes orix*
Bokmakierie	*Telophorus zeylonus*
Bulbul, Cape	*Pycnonotus capensis*
Cisticola, Zitting	*Cisticola juncidis*
Crane, Blue	*Grus paradisea*
Crow, Cape	*Corvus capensis*
Dove, Laughing	*Spilopelia senegalensis*
Dove, Red-eyed	*Streptopelia decipiens*
Fiscal, Southern	*Lanius collaris*
Flycatcher, Fiscal	*Sigelus silens*
Goose, Egyptian	*Alopochen aegyptiaca*
Goose, Spur-winged	*Plectropterus gambensis*
Guineafowl, Helmeted	*Numida meleagris*
Lapwing, Crowned	*Vanellus coronatus*
Lark, Agulhas Long-billed	*Certhilauda brevirostris*
Mousebird, Speckled	*Colius striatus*
Pipit, African	*Anthus cinnamomeus*
Quail, common	*Coturnix coturnix*
Robin-chat, Cape	*Dessonornis caffer*
Sparrow, House	*Passer domesticus*
Sunbird, Southern Double-collared	*Cinnyris chalybeus*
Swallow, Greater Striped	*Cecropis cucullate*
Weaver, Cape	*Ploceus capensis*
Weaver, Southern Masked	*Ploceus velatus*
White-eye, Cape	*Zosterops virens*

Gastropods	
Capeslug, Canary	*Oopelta flavescens*
Insects: Hymenoptera	
Bee, Cape Honey	*Apis mellifera capensis*
Insects: Lepidoptera	
Painted Lady	*Vanessa cardui*
White, Meadow	*Pontia helice*
Insects: Orthopera	
Acrotylus-grasshopper	*Acrotylus* sp.
Locust, Garden	*Acanthacris ruficornis*
Mammals	
Steenbok	*Raphicerus campestris*

APPENDIX 3: THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED MIXED-USE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT (ORANGE BOUNDARY), AND THE ASSOCIATED EXTERNAL INFRASTRUCTURE, WITH POWERLINES (YELLOW), STORMWATER (RED), WATER PIPELINE (BLUE) AND SEWERAGE (GREEN) INDICATED.