

Company Registration no: 2018/217803/07

# SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION REPORT

# PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT THABAZIMBI EXTENSION 75, PORTION 129 FARM DOORNHOEK 318JQ, WATERBERG DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

LEDET Application Reference: Pending

# Date: 2 September 2022

#### **Applicant:**

Bertie Joubert Eiendomme Lephalale CC 15 Judith Street, Thabazimbi 0380

# Prepared by: Naledzi Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd Unit 112, the Office Park, Erf 352 Schoeman Street, Polokwane 0700 Contact person: Marissa Botha Cell: 084-226-5584

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Appendix B – National Screening Tool Report

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

Bertie Joubert Eiendomme Lephalale CC (BJE) proposes to establish a residential township to be known as Thabazimbi Extension 75 on Portion 129 of the farm Doornhoek 318KQ. The application site is located within the urban edge of Thabazimbi town along the Thabazimbi-Marakele Road (D1485) within the Waterberg District of Limpopo Province (**Figure 1, 2 on page 6 - 7**).

The project site is 2.4 hectares in extent and will be developed as a secure walled in residential complex comprising 33 residential erven with varying extents of between 500 to 700m<sup>2</sup> (Figure **3 on page 8**). The site is covered in disturbed Bushveld vegetation comprising several indigenous tree species (i.e. widespread species Geelhaak, Rooibos and Vaalbos) of which one is protected i.e. Camel Thorn. The site is not entirely transformed but in a constant degraded state due to edge effects from an abutting residential development, mismanagement and historic anthropogenic activities.

Nonetheless, the site vegetation is indigenous and 2.4 hectares thereof will be removed to develop the township. The developer intends to conserve as many as possible of the nationally protected Camel Thorm trees within the township layout. The project therefore involves the undertaking of a listed activity scheduled under GN R. 327 (activity 27) published under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014 (GNR 326, 7 April 2017). An environmental authorisation is required subject to a Basic Assessment (BA) process and public participation in terms of Regulation 16, 19 and 39-44 of the EIA Regulations. The application must be submitted to the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) seated in Polokwane.

Naledzi Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd has been appointed by BJE as the independent environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) to carry out the required BA process and conduct the public participation process (PPP) for the project.

### 2. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

Regulations 16 (1)(b)(v) of the EIA Regulations of 2014 requires the submission of a national web based environmental screening tool report (STR) (GNR. 960 / 05 July 2019), when applying for an environmental authorisation. The STR is generated from the DFFE national online GIS-based 'National web-based Environmental Screening Tool' and provides detail on the environmental sensitivity, specific requirements, including specialist studies that are applicable to a proposed development site, based on the national sector classification and the environmental sensitivity of the site.

Before commencing with the BA process, Naledzi undertook a site sensitivity verification in response to the sensitivity themes identified in the STR. The verification findings have been

recorded in this Site Sensitivity Verification Report (SVR) in line with the 'Protocols for Assessment and Minimum Report Content Requirements for Environmental Themes for Activities requiring Environmental Authorisation published in Government Notice Regulation 320 of 20 March 2020 under Section 24 (5)(a), (h) and 4 of the NEMA.

This is the SVR therefore verifies the data contained in the National STR generated for the proposed Thabazimbi Extension 75 residential township. Herein Naledzi confirms the site sensitivity themes relevant to the site, commissioned specialist assessments based on a desktop review of available geographic information and a site inspection. The SVR also highlights which STR recommended specialist studies are considered superfluous.

## 3. APPLICANT DETAILS

#### Table 1: Applicant Details

Name:	Bertie Joubert Eiendomme Lephalale CC	
	Reg. no. 2007/035149/23	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Mr Bertie Joubert	
	Mr Barend Gerber	
<b>Contact Details:</b>	Bertie2112@gmail.com	
	Barend.gerber74@gmail.com	
Address:	15 Judith Street, Thabazimbi, 0380	

The project site is registered in the name of the applicant, Bertie Joubert Eiendomme Lephalale CC under Title Deed T277/2021.

# 4. DETAILS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER WHO PREPARED REPORT

#### Table 2: EAP Details

EAP Company:	Naledzi Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd	
Contact Person:	Desmond Musetsho	
	Marissa Botha	
Address:	Unit 112, The Office Park, Erf 352	
	Schoeman Street, Polokwane, 0700	
Telephone number:	+27 83-410-1477 / +27 84-226-5584	
Email :	dmusetsho@naledzi.co.za; / botham@naledzi.co.za;	
Qualifications and expertise of	Dr D Musetsho – More than 18 years of experience as an EAP	
EAP:	(PhD), Pr.Sci.Nat, M.Inst.D	
	M Botha - More than 18 years of experience as an Environmental	
	Scientist and in Environmental Management. Registered	
	Environmental Scientists (Pr.Sci.Nat)	
Professional affiliation /	Dr Desmond Musetsho	
registration: See attached CV's	SACNASP	
of EAP and Scientist under	Registered EAP with EAPASA	
Appendix A.	Marissa Botha	
11	SACNASP – Registered Environmental Scientist	

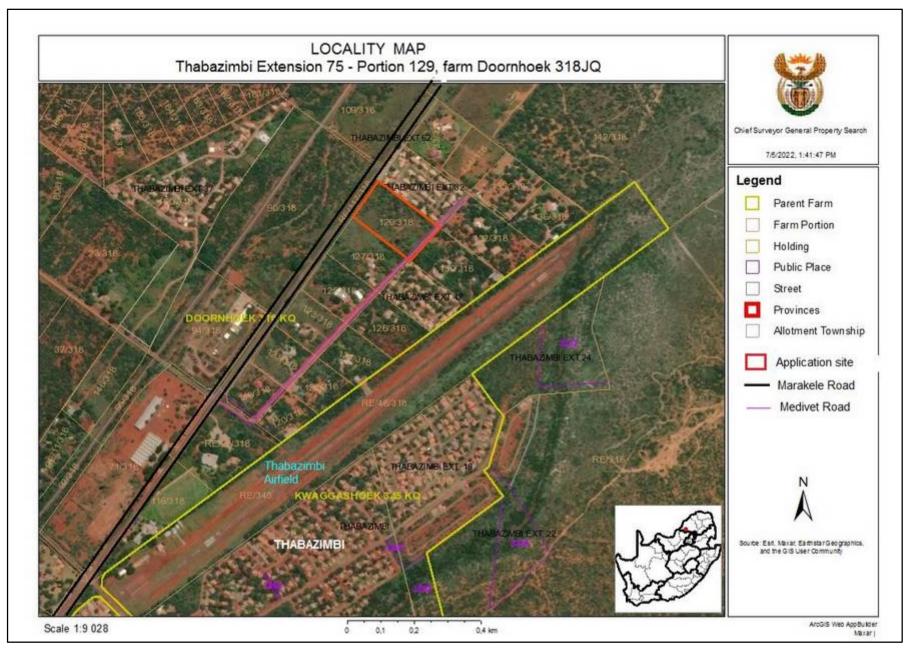


Figure 1: Chief Surveyor Property Map showing the location of the application site (red polygon) along the Marakele Road within the limits of the Thabazimbi urban edge



Figure 2: Satellite image courtesy of Google Earth showing a close up of the application site (red polygon) next to the Marakele Road (black line) surrounded by small holdings and residential development in proximity (250m) of the Thabazimbi Airfield.

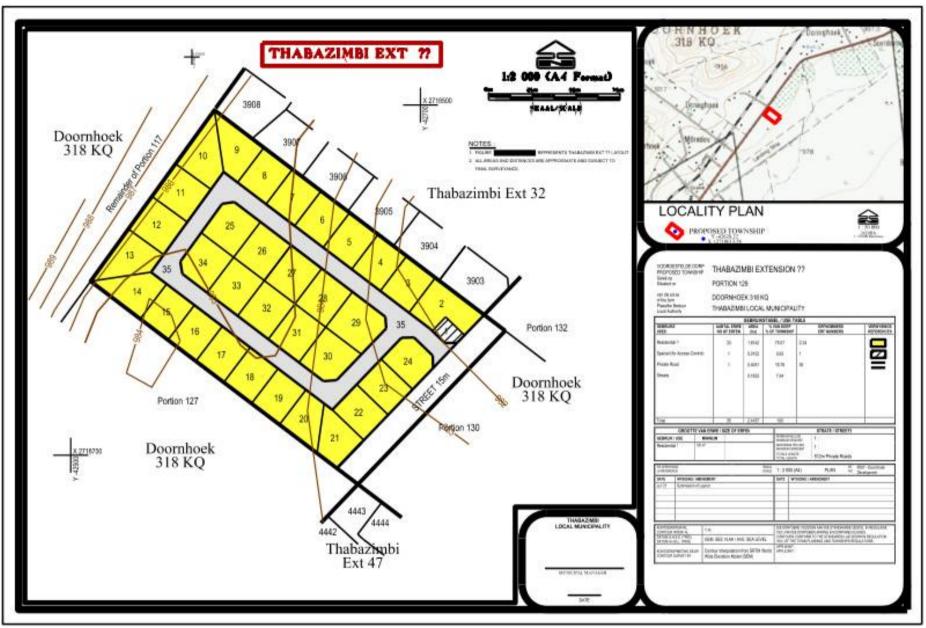


Figure 3: Proposed Thabazimbi Extension 75 layout plan (courtesy of Urban Edge Town Planners)

#### 5. PROJECT LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

#### 5.1 National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998

The project triggers listed activities 27 under Listing Notice 1 (**Table 3**) listed in terms of section 24 of the NEMA EIA Regulations of 2014 (GNR 326, 327, 324, 325 as amended on 7 April 2017) and require environmental authorisation through a BA process from the LEDET.

While the Waterberg District does have a Bioregional Plan in place, no activities are triggered under Listing Notice 3 (GNR 324) as the project site is located in an Ecological Support Area 1, not a Critical Biodiversity Area and is situated within the urban edge of Thabazimbi town consequently neither activity 4 (GNR 324) or activity 28 (ii) (GNR 327) would apply and the threshold of activity 28(i) is also not met.

It must be highlighted that in the event that the specialist confirms the presence of a wetland along the western portion of the project site, additional listed activities might be triggered i.e. activity 14 (GNR 324) and by implication will require a water use license application / general authorisation from the Department of Water and Sanitation Limpopo Regional Office. This can be confirmed post the specialist site visit in July 2022.

#### Table 3: Triggered listed activities relevant to the project

Listing Notice	Description as set out EIA	Portion of project that relates to	
and Activity No.	Regulations	listed activity.	
Listing Notice 1	The clearance of 1 ha or more of	The establishment of Thabazimbi	
(GNR 327)	indigenous vegetation, but less than 20	Extension 75 will require the removal	
Activity 27	ha.	of 2.4 ha of Western Sandy Bushveld	
-		indigenous vegetation.	

#### 5.2 National Water Act 36 of 1998

There are no wetlands within 500m of the project site, only a drainage line 'Rooispruit' located 450m from site. The regulated zone of the Rooispruit is its 1: 100 year floodline which is not affected by the proposed township proposal.

It is therefore not envisaged that a water use license for Section 21 (c) and (i) water uses would be required nor a general authorisation in terms of Section 39 or 40 of the National Water Act 36 of 1998.

#### 6. SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION

#### a. Requirements

The general requirements for <u>site sensitivity verification</u> for activities requiring environmental authorisation have been published in Government Notice Regulation 320 of 20 March 2020 under Section 24 (5)(a), (h) and 4 of the NEMA.

The protocols require that a Site Sensitivity Verification must be undertaken by an EAP or a specialist, prior to commencing with any specialist assessment for an EIA Study to verify the current land use and the environmental sensitivity of the site under consideration as identified by the national web based environmental screening tool (screening tool) and must include the following:

- a) Desktop analysis, using satellite imagery;
- b) Site inspection
- c) Any other relevant information which can inform the screening tool assigned sensitivity rating

The outcome of the site verification must be recorded in the form of a report that: -

- a) Confirms or disputes the current use of land and the environmental sensitivity as identified by the screening tool, such as new developments or infrastructure, the change in vegetation cover or status etc.;
- b) Contains a motivation and evidence (e.g. photographs) of either the verified or different use of the land and environmental sensitivity; and
- c) Is submitted with the relevant assessment report in accordance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations.

#### b. Methodology

Naledzi has conducted a desktop analysis; using satellite imagery of the project site including online GIS based database tools (i.e. Waterberg Bioregional Plan, Limpopo Conservation Data, SAHRIS, and SANBI BGIS) and generated a National Screening Tool Report (STR) for the project site. The findings of the STR have been verified through a desktop analysis, review of relevant environmental data for the project area and a site inspection on 27 June 2022. The site inspection generates the required photographic proof for inclusion in the SVR. Two specialist investigations (i.e. Terrestrial Biodiversity Statement and Heritage & Palaeontological Desktop Studies) were commissioned during July 2022.

#### 7. SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION RESULTS

#### 7.1 National Screening Tool Report (STR) Findings

The STR has been generated for the project site provided in **Figure 4**. The STR was generated in June 2022 and is attached as **Appendix B**.

The STR notes the incentives, restrictions; exclusions or prohibitions that apply to the development site as well as environmental sensitivity themes on site associated with the application category '**Transformation** of land / Indigenous vegetation'. The STR has a four tier environmental sensitivity rating which is associated with the level of assessment required to determine the possibility of impact management. The four tiers include Very High, High, Medium and Low Sensitivity in context of the project to the application site.

Figure 4 is provided overleaf.

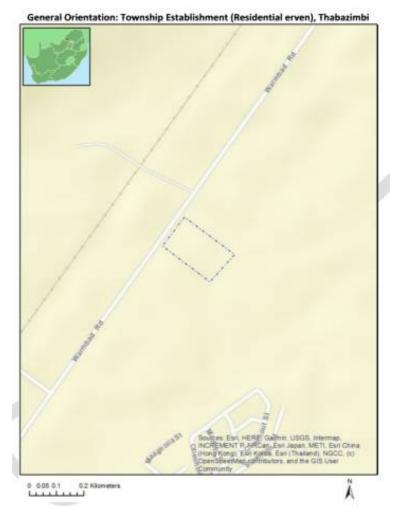


Figure 4: Map showing the application area for which the STR was generated

The STR for the application site generated from the National web based Environmental Screening Tool identified the following environmental themes sensitive for **activities resulting in the transformation of land/indigenous vegetation:** 

#### Very High Sensitivity

• Terrestrial Biodiversity

#### **High Sensitivity**

Civil Aviation

#### **Medium Sensitivity**

- Agriculture
- Animal species
- Palaeontology

#### Low Sensitivity

- Aquatic Biodiversity
- Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
- Defence
- Plant species

The STR identified the following specialist assessments for inclusion as part of the Basic Assessment Report:

- Visual Impact Assessment
- Archaeological Impact Assessment
- Palaeontological Study
- Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment
- Plant and Animal Species Assessment
- Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment/Statement
- Socio Economic Impact Assessment

According to the STR it is the EAP's responsibility to confirm the list of specialist assessments and motivate the reason for not including any of the identified specialist studies including provision of photographic evidence of the site situation.

In cases where the EAP is of the opinion that a specialist study required according to the Screening Tool would be superfluous, motivation must be provided with the Basic Assessment Report. The SVR will cover this requirement.

### 7.2 Verification of STR findings

This section of the SVR serves to:

- Verify the land use and sensitivities identified in the STR; and
- Confirm/refute the sensitivity themes and need for various specialist inputs called for in terms of the STR ;
- Motivation and evidence of either the verified or different use of land and environmental sensitivity.

The verification findings are presented below and have been informed by:

- Desktop analysis of satellite imagery;
- Review of geographic information systems/data;
- Site Inspection undertaken on 27 June 2022;
- Specialist inputs

#### 7.2.1 Verified Land Use

The property is currently vacant, fenced off and zoned as 'Agriculture'. It is covered in degraded Bushveld vegetation and indigenous trees (i.e. widespread species Geelhaak, Vaalbos and Rooibos) including a nationally protected species Camel Thorn. The site is not entirely transformed but in a disturbed state. Cattle currently graze the site and a few Nyala have been introduced by the owner. Refer to **Figure 5** overleaf for a Google Earth Satellite image showing the characteristics of the site.

The site is situated within the urban edge of Thabazimbi town and is located next to Thabazimbi Extension 32 (Zeldri Park) to the east, borders a small holding to the west and roads (Marakele Road, Medivet Road) to the north and south. The surrounding land uses include mostly agricultural and residential zonings. Thabazimbi Extension 47 (Akasia Park) is situated across from the site including Medivet Veterinarian Clinic and small holdings along the Medivet Road. (Please refer to Figures 1 and 2 on page 6 and 7 above).

The photographic evidence is provided under Appendix C.



Figure 5: Close up aerial image of the application site (red polygon) confirming the site is vacant, covered in veld and indigenous trees. It is also evident from the image that the site is next to Zeldri Park (east) and bordered to its north and south by roads (Marakele Road and Medivet Road) including a small holding to the west (owned by the applicant).

### 7.2.2 Agricultural Sensitivity Themes

According to the STR the project site is situated in an area of moderate agricultural sensitivity due to the low-moderate land capability (**Figure 6**). The site is zoned 'Agriculture' but based on a review of Google Earth satellite imagery (refer to Figure 2 and 5) the site does not fall within any areas of agricultural production and is surrounded by small holdings and residential development, consequently being transformed by residential expansion.

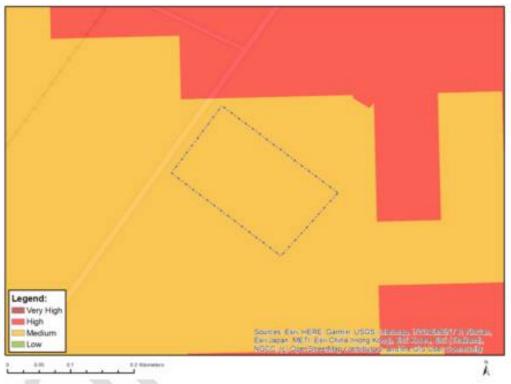


Figure 6: STR Agricultural Theme Map

According to the 2007 Thabazimbi Spatial Development Framework, the project area is earmarked for 'New Township Establishment / Subdivision According to Council Policy' and 'Mixed Development' (Urban Edge, Township Application Memorandum, 2021) and not set aside for agricultural activities. Refer to **Figure 7** overleaf for the site locality in terms of the SDF (courtesy of Urban Edge Town Planning Memo, 2021).

A two hour site verification was undertaken on 27 June 2022 (winter season) which confirmed the presence of disturbed Bushveld with low palatable grazing; however no agricultural production is present on the site. The site is surrounded by residential development and earmarked for residential expansion as per the Thabazimbi SDF. This is confirmed above and by the site photographs provided under Appendix C. The project will not have any impact on agricultural activities or production. The 'medium' Agricultural sensitivity' as stated in the STR, is therefore refuted by the EAP and the sensitivity should be recorded as 'low'.

The STR does not require an Agricultural Study.

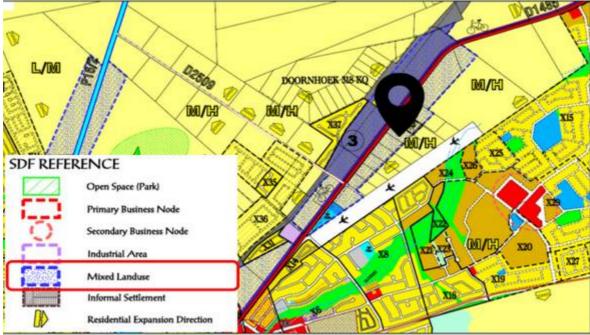


Figure 7: Locality of the project site in terms of the SDF (earmarked for 'Mixed Land use'. (Map courtesy of Urban Edge Towns Planners, Memorandum, 2021)

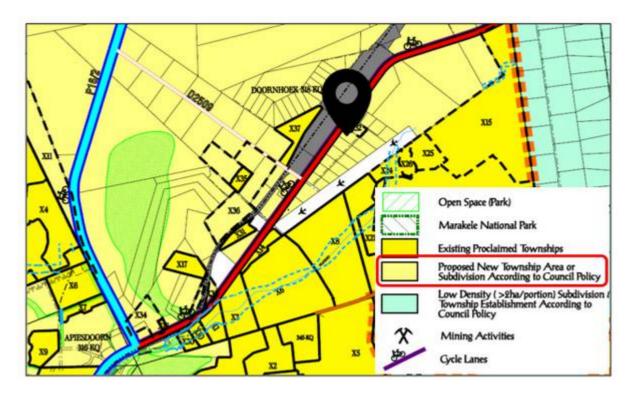


Figure 8: Locality of the project site in terms of the SDF. The area is earmarked for Proposed New Township / Subdivision). Map courtesy of Urban Edge Development Planners, Memorandum, 2021)

#### 7.2.3 Animal Species Theme

According to the STR the site has a moderate animal sensitivity theme (Figure 9) and requires an animal species assessment due to the possible presence of *Dasymys robertsii* (African Marsh Rat / Waterrot) and the *Amyttacta marakelensis* (Marakele Katydid/ Bush Cricket) (known from Marakele National Park.

Marsh Rat favour moist savanna, temperate grassland, subtropical or tropical <u>seasonally wet or flooded</u> <u>lowland grassland</u>, and swamps. The bush cricket is found in Marakele National Park. This species lives within the savanna and <u>grassland biome and feeds on flowers and seeds of grasses</u>, particularly on Guinea grass (Urochloa maxima).

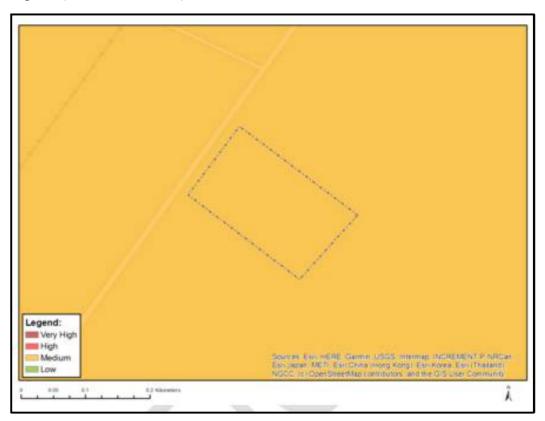


Figure 9: STR Animal Species Map

Based on the site verification visit (winter season) it was confirmed that there is very low animal activity onsite since there is limited animal habitat and the site has been fenced off. Only Nyala was present onsite but was introduced by the landowner (BJE) and does not naturally occur.

A Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment was commissioned for the project site during July 2022. The Biodiversity Company confirmed during fieldwork that the project site is of "Low" ecological and biodiversity significance including low animal sensitivity therefore a Terrestrial Biodiversity Statement was produced. The specialist statement is attached to the Basic Assessment Report.

The EAP therefore refutes the sensitivity theme identified in the STR and should be recorded as 'Low'.

#### 7.2.4 Aquatic Biodiversity Theme

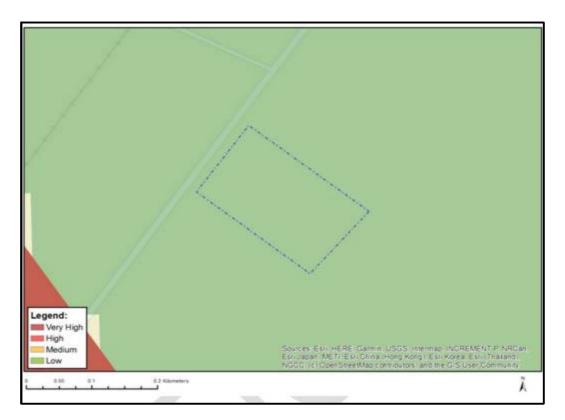


Figure 10: STR Aquatic Biodiversity theme map

According to the STR the site has a low Aquatic Biodiversity sensitivity theme (**Figure 11**) and there are no aquatic features present, yet require that a Wetland Impact Statement be commissioned for inclusion in the Basic Assessment Report.

The 2018 National Wetland Map confirms the findings of the STR wherein wetlands are absent from the project site. The NFEPA however confirms that there is a drainage line within 500m of the site.

Based on the two hour site verification undertaken on 27 June 2022 (during winter season), it was confirmed that there is no wetland present onsite. Photographic evidence is provided under Appendix C, Figure 29. The 'low' Aquatic Biodiversity Theme, as stated in the STR, is hereby confirmed by the EAP.

Nevertheless, the Ecologist for the project, The Biodiversity Company, confirmed during their fieldwork investigation on 14 July 2022 that there are no wetlands present onsite. No Wetland Study is required. The site is however located 450m from the Rooispruit and may require a General Authorisation in terms of Section 39 of the National Water Act, 1998.

The EAP however refutes this statement since the Rooispruit is a drainage line wherein its regulated area is considered the 1:100 year floodline. The township development is located behind existing developments and do not affect the 1: 100 year flooding of this drainage line.

#### 7.2.5 Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme

According to the STR the site has a low 'Archaeological and Cultural Theme' (Figure 13) and requires a Heritage Statement / Heritage Impact Assessment Study for inclusion in the Basic Assessment Report.

Naledzi searched the SAHRIS online system for any recent Phase 1 Heritage Studies done in the regional or project area for Zeldri Park developed in 2012 next to the project site, but these were absent.



Figure 11: STR Archaeological and Heritage Theme map

Section 38 (1) of the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 requires that a heritage impact assessment be undertaken for any development/activity that will change the character of a site (exceeding  $5000m^2$  in extent), rezoning of a site exceeding  $10\ 000m^2$  in extent or any other development category provided for in regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority. The project will be 2.4 ha in extent, consequently within the  $5000m^2$  activity threshold requiring a heritage impact assessment.

However the EAP conducted a two hour site walkthrough on 27 June 2022 (winter season) and no cultural heritage resources were found. The 'low' archaeological and cultural heritage sensitivity, as stated in the STR, is therefore confirmed by the EAP.

An Archaeological Specialist has prepared a Phase 1 Desktop HIA Statement in this regard and confirms the 'Low' archaeological and cultural heritage sensitivity. The Heritage Statement is appended to the Basic Assessment Report and will be submitted to SAHRA, LIHRA including LEDET.

#### 7.2.6 Palaeontological Theme

According to the STR and SAHRIS Palaeontological (Fossil) Sensitivity Map the site has a moderate 'Palaeontology Sensitivity Theme' (**Figure 14**) based on the underlying sensitive geological formation as set out in the 1: 250 000 Geological Formation Maps as provided by the Council of Geoscience and requires a desktop study.

According to the Geological Formation Map the site is underlain by Timeball Hill Formation a fossilbearing formation. According to the SAHRIS Fossil layer formations Transvaal, Pretoria and Timeball Hill formations may contain fossil heritage i.e. Stromatolites FOSSILIFEROUS LATE CAENOZOIC CAVE BRECCIAS within 'Transvaal Dolomite' outcrop area. The rock types and age where such fossils may be encountered include Lacustrine and fluvio-deltaic mudrocks with diamictite, conglomerates, quartzite, and minor lavas.

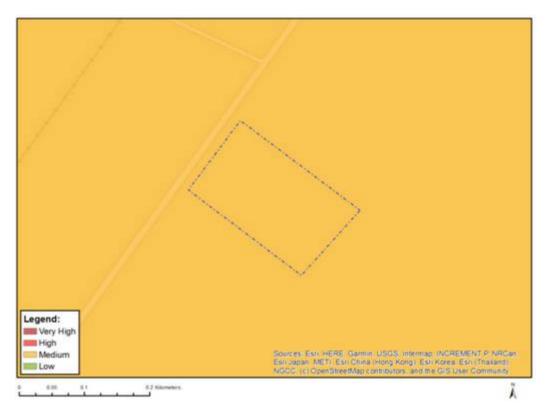


Figure 12: STR Palaeontological Theme map

According to the Geotechnical Investigation conducted for the project site (Martin van der Walt, 2021) the site does fall within Timeball Formation within the Transvaal Supergroup (**Figure 15, 16**) however no residual soil or rock was encountered in the geotechnical test pits. No boulders or sub/rock outcrop was observed on surface during the investigation. Based on the SAHRIS Fossil Heritage Layer the fossil bearing deposits are indicated to be within the 'Transvaal Dolomite' outcrop area which according to the Geotechnical Investigation is absent. A Desktop Palaeontological Study was commissioned to confirm the said and is appended to the Basic Assessment Report. The study finds that the site is of low palaeontological sensitivity and fossils are unlikely to be present. The specialist recommends that the development is approved.

The EAP therefore refutes the 'moderate' Palaeontology sensitivity theme based on the specialist findings and must be recorded as 'Low'.

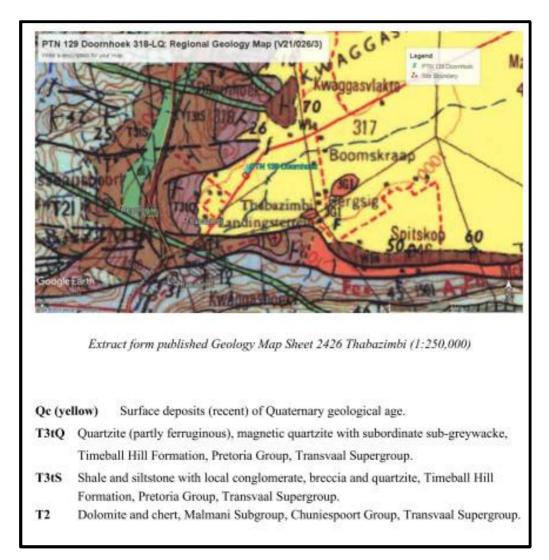


Figure 13: Extract of the Geological Map for the project area (courtesy of the Geological Investigation done by Martin van der Walt, 2021) confirming the Geological Formation as Timeball Formation.

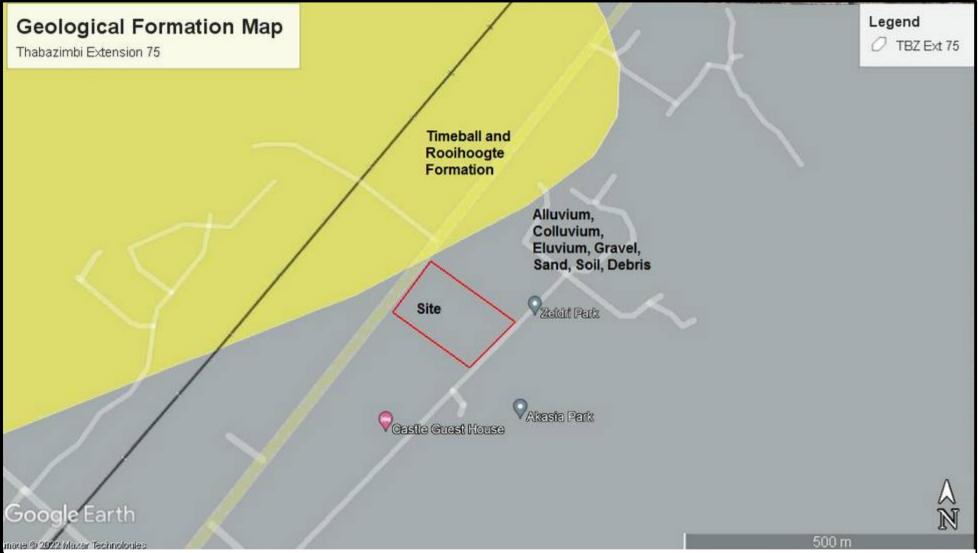


Figure 14: Geological Formations applicable to the application site in terms of the Council of Geoscience 1: 250 000 Geological Formations Layers

#### 7.2.7 Civil Aviation Theme

According to the STR the site has a high 'Civil Aviation Sensitivity Theme' because the site is located within 8km of other civil aviation aerodrome (**Figure 17**). The EAP confirms that the application site is located within approximately 250 metres of the Thabazimbi Airfield as illustrated in Figure 1 and 2 on page 6 and 7 of the SVR. However, the project / activity type will have no impact on the operational aspects of the airstrip. The airstrip is already restricted by residential developments and the township would be located amid existing residential developments and should pose no safety risk to aircraft. Comments have also been solicited from the SACAA and included in the Basic Assessment Report. The Thabazimbi Airfield management have also been informed and provided with the project information.



Figure 17: STR Civil Aviation Map

#### 7.2.8 Defence Theme

According to the STR the site has a low 'Defence Sensitivity Theme' (Figure 16). No Defence assessment is required due to the low sensitivity. GNR 320 assessment protocols for defence themes states if the sensitivity is low no further assessment is required.

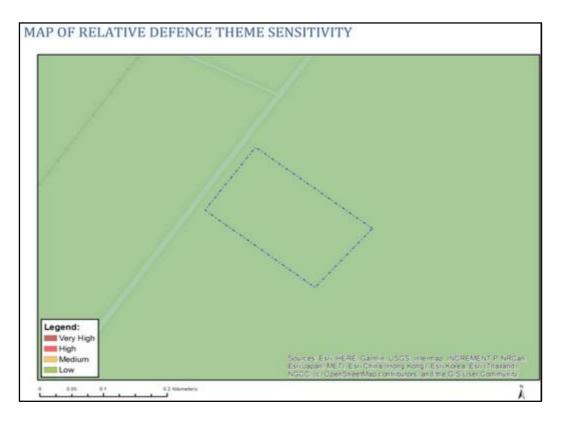


Figure 15: STR Defence Theme map

#### 7.2.9 Plant Species Theme

According to the STR the site has a low plant species sensitivity theme (Figure 19). No sensitive plant species are listed for the application area. However, the STR requires a plant species assessment/statement.

According to the 2018 National Vegetation Map the project site covers one vegetation type as described by Mucina and Rutherford, 2006. i.e., Western Sandy Bushveld. The vegetation type is described as tall open woodland to low woodland, broadleaved as well as prominent tree species. Dominant species include *Acacia erubescens* on flat areas, *Combretum apiculatum* on shallow soils of gravelly upland sites and *Terminalia sericea* on deep sands. i.e. Blouhaak, Rooiboswilg, Vaalbos/Vaalboom. The vegetation type is least threatened, with a 19% conservation target. Only 6% is statutorily conserved in the Marakele National Park.

A two-hour site inspection was undertaken on 27 June 2022 (winter season) and confirmed the vegetation cover to be disturbed Bushveld vegetation comprising prominent indigenous trees (i.e., Kameeldoring, Vaalbos and Rooibos) and nationally protected Camel Thorn. A Terrestrial Biodiversity Statement was also commissioned for the site during July 2022 which confirms the presence of the nationally protected tree Camel Thorn. There are several large and small trees onsite (however widespread in the area) which should be incorporated into the township layout and landscaping as far as possible. The specialist finds, based on the field survey that both animal and plant species themes may be classified as having 'Low' sensitivities. This is due to the fact that there is very little suitable habitat available to support the occurrence of any SCC within the project area and its isolation from natural habitats within the broader landscape. Refer to Annexure C for photographic proof. The Terrestrial Statement included in the Basic Assessment Report.

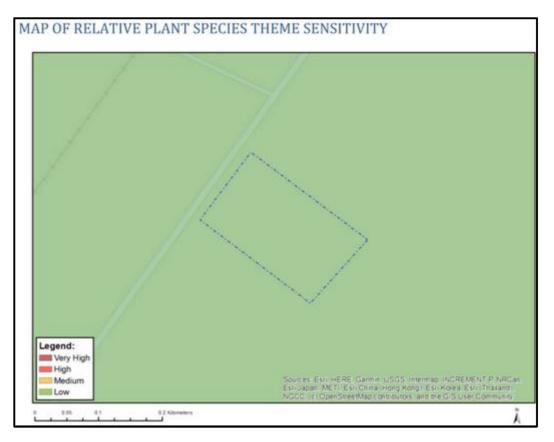


Figure 16: STR Plant Species Theme map

### 7.2.10 Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme

According to the STR the site has a 'very high' Terrestrial Biodiversity sensitivity theme (**Figure 18**) due to the presence of an Ecological Support Area (ESA) 1 and requires a Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment Study to be included in the Basic Assessment Report.

The Waterberg District has a Bioregional Plan in place and based on the EAPs review of the 2019 Waterberg Bioregional Plan it can be confirmed that the site does fall within an ESA (**Figure 19**). ESA's are provincial-level biodiversity corridor networks aimed at retaining ecological connectivity between all geographic areas in the province. ESA's are important for maintaining the ecological processes on which CBA's or protected areas depend. ESA's are areas which are in a semi-natural state with their basic ecological functioning intact and have never been ploughed or developed. ESA's should be maintained in a fair ecological condition as ecologically functional landscapes that retain basic natural attributes.

According to the Bioregional Plan low-medium density 'Residential' land use is not permitted, or is actively discouraged within an ESA 1.

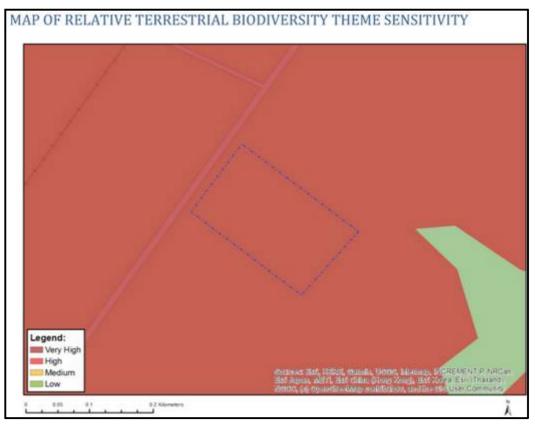


Figure 17: STR Terrestrial Biodiversity Sensitivity Theme map



Figure 18: Locality of the application site in terms of the Waterberg Bioregional Plan Critical Biodiversity Areas. The site is located in an Ecological Support Area 1.

A two-hour site inspection was undertaken on 27 June 2022 (winter season), secondary grassland (veld) and indigenous trees (i.e., widespread species Geelhaak, Vaalbos and Rooibos) were present. Dumping of building rubble was visible in the south western portion of the site and the central portion of the site has been disturbed by clearing of small vegetation patches for cement slabs. See Appendix C for photographic proof.

A Terrestrial Biodiversity investigation was commissioned in July 2022 and is included in the Basic Assessment Report. The study finds that the site is of low ecological and biodiversity significance given it comprises degraded Bushveld vegetation which is classified as having a sensitivity rating of "Low" is likely to face minimal further impacts from any development activities in terms of terrestrial ecology. As such, it is the specialist's opinion that the proposed project can proceed on the condition that the recommendations made within this report as well as the prescribed mitigation measures be adhered to.

The EAP therefore refutes the 'very high 'sensitivity theme stated in the STR. The sensitivity should be recorded as 'Low'.

## 8. CONFIRMED SPECIALIST STUDIES TO BE COMMISSIONED

Based on the above site sensitivity verification results and specialist investigation only the following have been included in the Basic Assessment Report:

- Terrestrial Biodiversity Statement
- Heritage Statement and Desktop Palaeontological Study)

The Visual Impact Assessment and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Studies required in terms of the STR are considered superfluous and have not been commissioned. The project will have a very low visual impact as it will be located in an area characterised by residential development along the Medivet Road. The project will also have a positive social and economic impact by addressing the much-needed housing demand in Thabazimbi and providing job opportunities during the construction and operation phases. The negative social impacts are considered to be very low given the area already comprises similar developments.

### 9. ANY FATAL FLAWS

The Basic Assessment process has found no fatal flaws associated with the project or application site. No heritage resources are present and no wetlands are present. It is only required that the township layout and landscaping incorporate the large Camel Thorn trees. Where removal cannot be avoided Permits for Protected Tree Removal should be obtained from DFFE Forestry Regulation and Support prior to construction.

#### **10. CONCLUSION**

This Site Sensitivity Verification Report has been prepared by Naledzi Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd. The report is based on the site verification done by Naledzi and findings of the commissioned specialist investigations. The SVR is appended to the Basic Assessment Report submitted to LEDET for decision making.

Naledzi Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd Unit 112, the Office Park, Erf 352 Schoeman Street, Polokwane, 0700 Contact: Marissa Botha Email: botham@naledzi.co.za or Cell: 084 226 5584

Alternative contact person: Desmond Musetsho at 083 410 1477 or email: dmusetsho@naledzi.co.za.

Digital Signature

Marissa Botha (*Pri.Sci.Nat*) Environmental Scientist *For* Naledzi Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd

# **APPENDIX C - PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE**



Figure 19: Photo taken from the Medivet Road towards the fenced off application site. The photo was taken facing north west

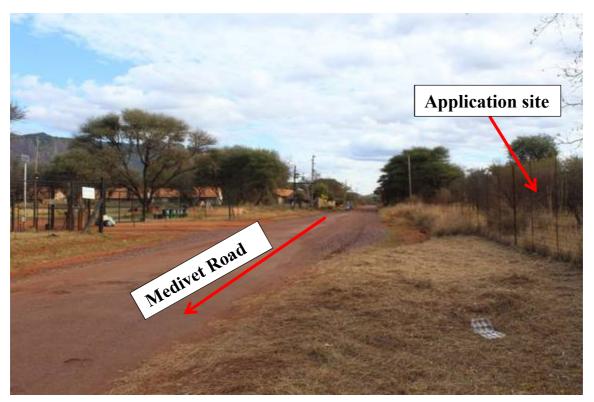


Figure 20: Photo showing the application site next to the Medivet gravel road. Photo taken facing south west towards the Akasia Park.



Figure 21: Photo of the application site showing coverage of secondary veld and indigenous trees. Photo was taken in the south eastern portion of the site.



Figure 22: Photo of the eastern portion/border of the application site next to Zeldri Park. Some Vaalbos trees are present in the background.



Figure 23: Photo taken in the north western portion of the site



Figure 24: Photo showing a Nyala in the background. The owner has introduced the Nyala to the application site.



Figure 25: Northern portion of the application site next to the Marakele Road

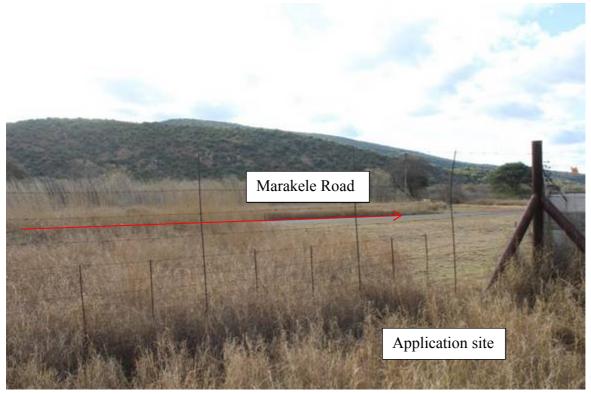


Figure 26: Marakele Road along the northern border of the application site

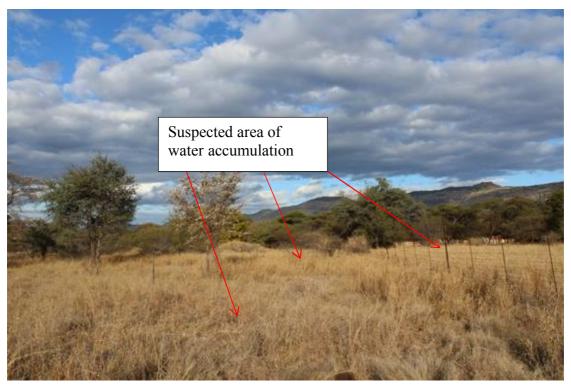


Figure 27: Western portion of the application site in the area suspected to be a wetland. Vegetation indicators are not present.



Figure 28: Southern portion of application site along fence line next to Medivet Road



Figure 29: Areas of past disturbance in the middle of the site



Figure 30: Area of past disturbance towards the western border



Figure 31: Building rubble pile in the south western corner of the site



Figure 32: Zeldri Park bordering the application site to the east.



Figure 33: Akasia Park across the application site

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

#### EIA Reference number: Pending

Project name: Township Establishment (Residential erven), Thabazimbi Project title: Farm Doornhoek Township Establishment, Thabazimbi Date screening report generated: 22/06/2022 13:51:44 Applicant: Bertie Joubert Eiendomme Lephalale Compiler: Marissa Botha, Naledzi Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd Compiler signature:

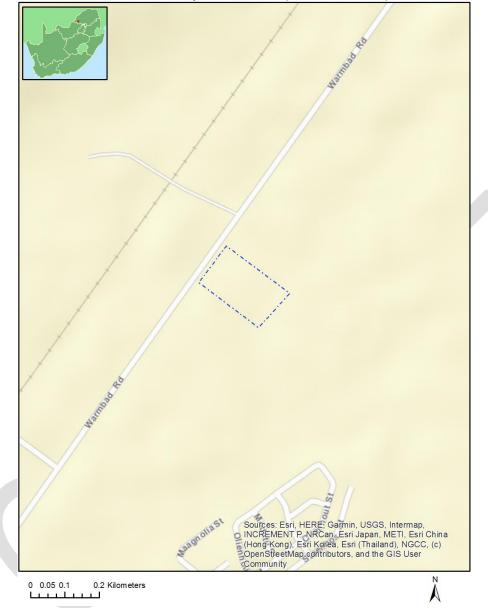
Application Category: Transformation of land | Indigenous vegetation

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# **Proposed Project Location**

#### Orientation map 1: General location



General Orientation: Township Establishment (Residential erven), Thabazimbi

# Map of proposed site and relevant area(s)



#### Cadastral details of the proposed site

#### Property details:

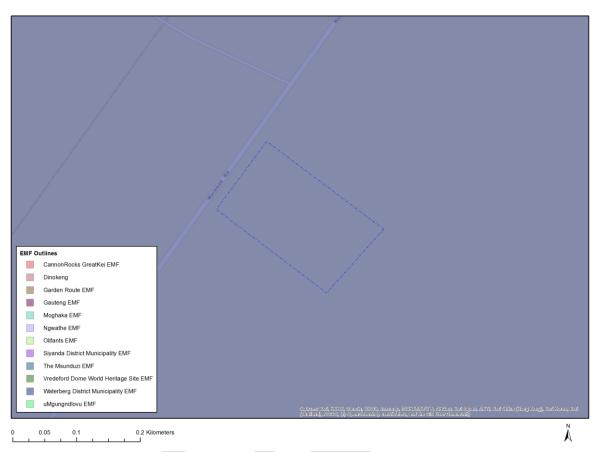
No	Farm Name	Farm/ Erf No	Portion	Latitude	Longitude	Property Type
1	DOORNHOEK	318	0	24°33'48.74S	27°24'48.43E	Farm
2	DOORNHOEK	318	129	24°34'16.04S	27°25'14.95E	Farm Portion
3	DOORNHOEK	318	117	24°34'20.83S	27°25'5.92E	Farm Portion

Development footprint<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "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

Environmen	LINK
tal	
Manageme	
nt	
Framework	
Waterberg	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/EMF/WDEMF Final
District	EMF Report.pdf
Municipality	
EMF	

## 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.

Incentiv	Implication
е,	
restricti	
on or	
prohibiti	
on	
Air	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/DevelopmentZones/gg3
Quality-	9489 nn1207a.pdf
Waterberg	
-Bojanala	
Priority	
Area	



Map indicating proposed development footprint within applicable development incentive, restriction, exclusion or prohibition zones

#### Project Location: Township Establishment (Residential erven), Thabazimbi

#### Proposed Development Area Environmental Sensitivity

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

Theme	Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
Agriculture Theme			Х	
Animal Species Theme			Х	
Daga 7 of 19			D	isclaimar applias

Aquatic Biodiversity Theme				Х
Archaeological and Cultural				Х
Heritage Theme				
Civil Aviation Theme		Х		
Defence Theme				Х
Paleontology Theme			Х	
Plant Species Theme				Х
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	Х			

#### Specialist assessments identified

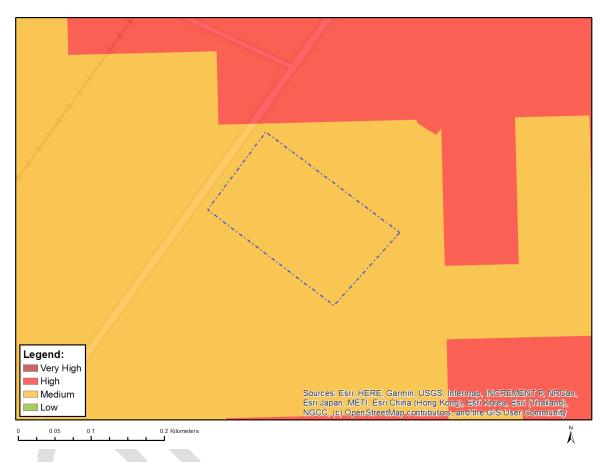
Based on the selected classification, and the environmental sensitivities of the proposed development footprint, the following list of specialist assessments have been identified for inclusion in the assessment report. It is the responsibility of the EAP to confirm this list and to motivate in the assessment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

N O	Special	Assessment Protocol
	ist	
Ŭ	assess	
	ment	
1	Landsca pe/Visua I Impact Assessm ent	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols /Gazetted General Requirement Assessment Protocols.pdf
2	Archaeol ogical and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessm ent	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols /Gazetted General Requirement Assessment Protocols.pdf
3	Palaeont ology Impact Assessm ent	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols /Gazetted General Requirement Assessment Protocols.pdf
4	Terrestri al Biodiver sity Impact Assessm ent	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols /Gazetted Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment Protocols.pdf
5	Aquatic Biodiver sity Impact Assessm ent	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols /Gazetted Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment Protocols.pdf
6	Socio- Economi c Assessm ent	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols /Gazetted General Requirement Assessment Protocols.pdf
7	Plant Species	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols

	Assessm ent	/Gazetted_Plant_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
8	Animal Species Assessm ent	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols /Gazetted Animal Species Assessment Protocols.pdf

# Results of the environmental sensitivity of the proposed area.

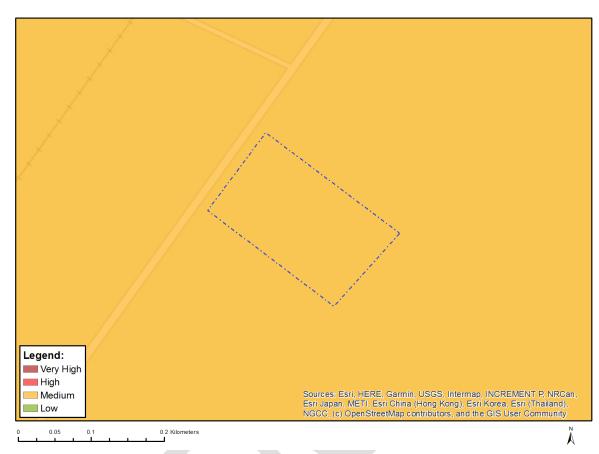
The following section represents the results of the screening for environmental sensitivity of the proposed site for relevant environmental themes associated with the project classification. It is the duty of the EAP to ensure that the environmental themes provided by the screening tool are comprehensive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



#### MAP OF RELATIVE AGRICULTURE THEME SENSITIVITY

Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
		Х	

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



#### MAP OF RELATIVE ANIMAL SPECIES THEME SENSITIVITY

Where only a sensitive plant unique number or sensitive animal unique number is provided in the screening report and an assessment is required, the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) or specialist is required to email SANBI at <u>eiadatarequests@sanbi.org.za</u> 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)
Medium	Mammalia-Dasymys robertsii
Medium	Invertebrate-Amyttacta marakelensis

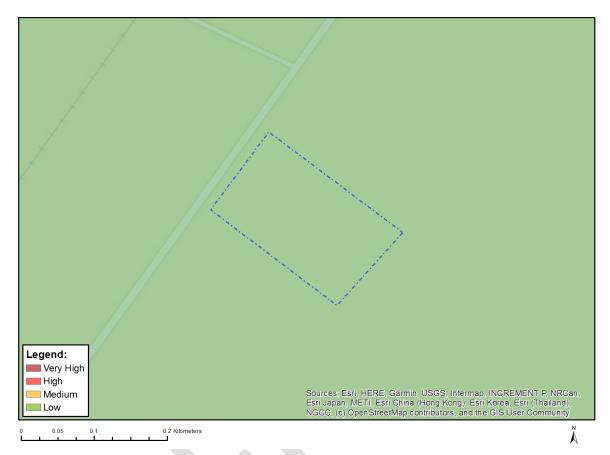


#### MAP OF RELATIVE AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY

Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
			Х

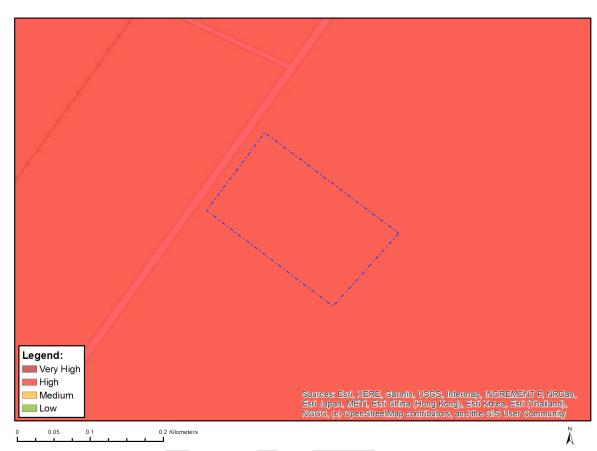
Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low sensitivity

# MAP OF RELATIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE THEME SENSITIVITY



Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
			Х

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low sensitivity

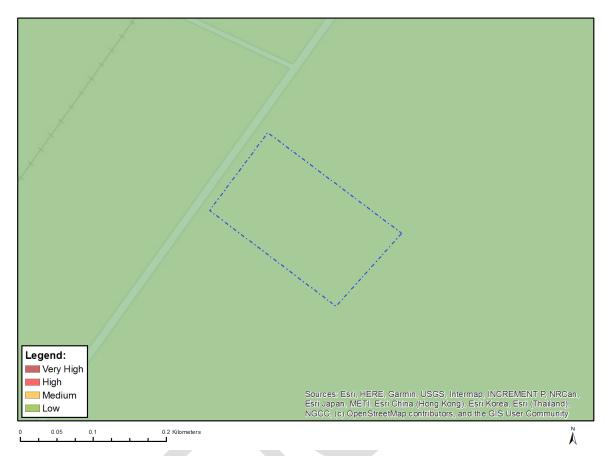


#### MAP OF RELATIVE CIVIL AVIATION THEME SENSITIVITY

Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
	Х		

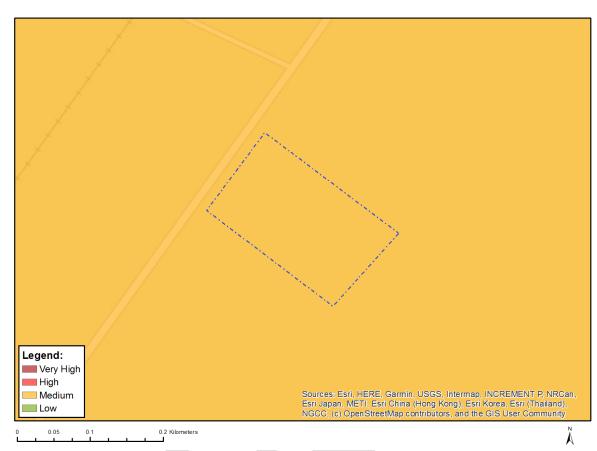
Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Within 8 km of other civil aviation aerodrome

#### MAP OF RELATIVE DEFENCE THEME SENSITIVITY



Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
			Х

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low Sensitivity



#### MAP OF RELATIVE PALEONTOLOGY THEME SENSITIVITY

Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
		Х	

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

# Surces: Esr. HERE Gamm, USGS, Internap, INGREMENT P. NRCan, Esr. Japan METI, Esr. China (Hong Kong, Esr. Korea, Esr. Internap, INGREMENT P. NRCan, Esr. Japan METI, Esr. China (Hong Kong, Esr. Korea, Esr. Internap, NGC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

## 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 <u>eiadatarequests@sanbi.org.za</u> 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



#### MAP OF RELATIVE TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY

Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
Х			

Feature(s)
Ecological support area 1