

Spatial Ecological Consulting CC

1230 Starkey Ave

Waverley

0186

Attention: Johan Hayes

AECOM

333 Grosvenor street

Hatfield

0083

APPLICABILITY OF EXISTING REPORT FOR THE SPRINGS SHOPPING MALL

Dear Sir,

The site proposed for the Springs Shopping Mall is located in very close proximity to the sites proposed for the proposed Tonk Meter Road waste disposal facility and a biodiversity and wetland assessment (AECOM 2012) already took place for the proposed waste disposal facility. AECOM therefore contacted Spatial Ecological Consulting (SPEC) to enquire if the existing biodiversity assessment is sufficient for the Springs Shopping Mall site as well.

Two vegetation units were identified in the biodiversity assessment (AECOM 2012). The one unit was located in the previously mined areas and is not applicable to the Springs Shopping Mall site. The second vegetation unit is outside the mining area, but is subjected to overgrazing and illegal waste dumping.

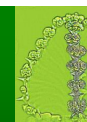
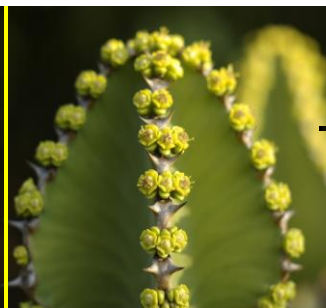
This second vegetation unit, located on the western portion of section D, is similar to the vegetation on the proposed Springs Shopping Mall site. Although the vegetation is similar, the shopping mall site has a greater species diversity, with a higher dominance of indigenous species and with less illegal dumping taking place, mostly adjacent to the tar roads on the southern and eastern boundaries of the site. Some signs of ploughing in the past are also present on the site and the vegetation is therefore considered to be secondary. A power line also crosses the site, as well as several tracks.

A short table of the dominant species on site is included in Table 1 below. This is not a comprehensive species list. A few species that can be present in wetlands or disturbed areas were observed adjacent to the roads. This is not considered to be a wetland area and the species is present due to the disturbance of the road.

André Grobler B.Sc Hons
Pr.Sci.Nat 400009/09
(082) 868 5286 (C)
andregrobler@spatial-ecological.co.za

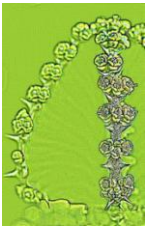
Ina Venter M.Sc
Pr.Sci.Nat 400048/08
(083) 370 0850 (C)
inaventer@spatial-ecological.co.za

(012) 332 2564 (T)
(086) 684 9917 (F)



SPEC_{CC}

Spatial Ecological Consulting



Although the vegetation on site is similar to the vegetation on the western portion of section D, the diversity on the site is higher and the dominant species are indigenous, apart from the *Eucalyptus* sp trees. The ecological importance is therefore considered to be slightly higher than for western portion of section D. It is however considered to be low to moderate and therefore not of special conservation importance. The vegetation is also secondary and therefore not considered to be of conservation importance in the Endangered Tshakane Clay Grassland vegetation type. Due to the disturbance and development surrounding the site it is also not anticipated that the site will be of great conservation importance for fauna species.

Although the biodiversity on the proposed Springs shopping mall site is not adequately described in the biodiversity assessment for the adjacent properties (AECOM 2012), the site is disturbed and not considered to be of particular conservation importance. An additional, site specific, assessment is therefore not recommended unless specifically requested for by the relevant environmental authority and with specific reference to the relevant threatened species.

Kind regards,

Ina Venter
Pr.Sci.Nat (Botany)

Table 1. Species observed on site.

Species	
* <i>Amaranthus hybridus</i>	* <i>Mirabilis jalapa</i>
<i>Aristida transvalensis</i>	* <i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>
<i>Brachiaria serrata</i>	* <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
<i>Chloris virgata</i>	* <i>Sckhrurhia pinnata</i>
* <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	<i>Senecio species</i>
<i>Conyza podocephala</i>	<i>Setaria sphacelata</i>
* <i>Conyza species</i>	<i>Sporobolus africana</i>
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	* <i>Tagetus minuta</i>
* <i>Datura ferox</i>	* <i>Tagetus species</i>
<i>Eragrostis chloromelas</i>	<i>Themeda triandra</i>
* <i>Eucalyptus species</i>	<i>Urochloa mossambisensis</i>
* <i>Gomphrena celesoides</i>	* <i>Verbena aristigera</i>
* <i>Guillimea densa</i>	* <i>Verbena bonariense</i>
<i>Hypoxis iridifolia</i>	

*Alien species



Photo 1. Vegetation on site with mining in background and power lines crossing the site.



Photo 2. Dumping on site.

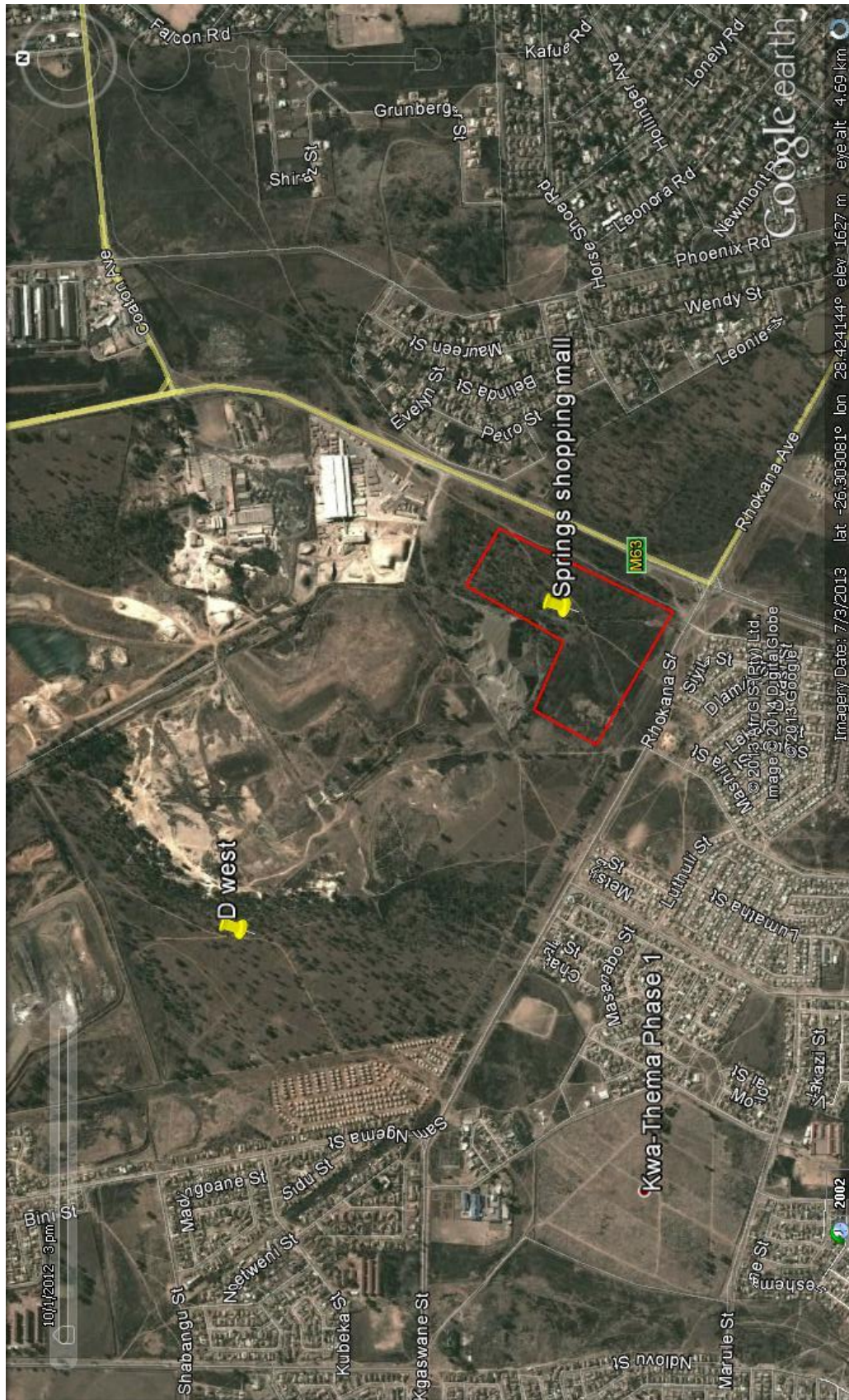


Figure 1. Image indicating the location of the proposed Springs shopping mall site in relation to the western portion of Section D.

