

A Main text will go here

B Historical air photos 2020-2025

B.1 October 2022 airphoto



B.2 January 2023 airphoto



B.3 January 2024 airphoto



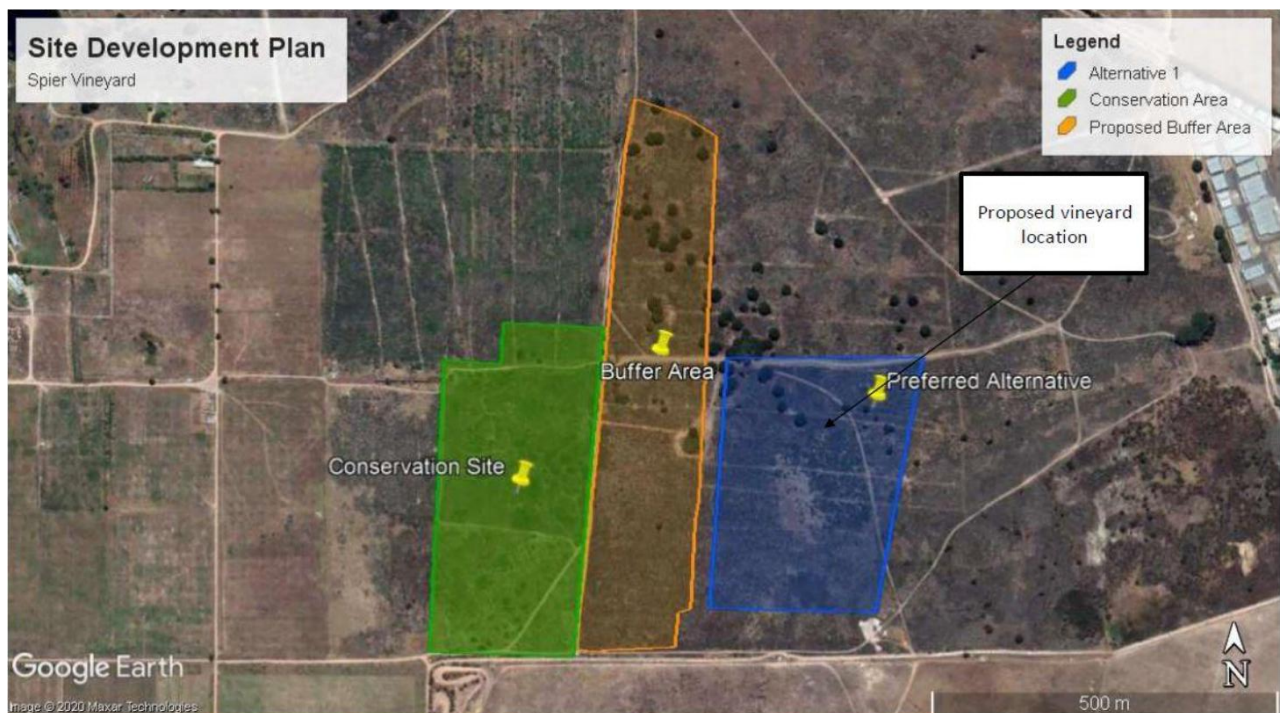
This was the situation just **before** the “fire” or the “ploughing” involving about 25 hectares.

B.4 February 2024 airphoto



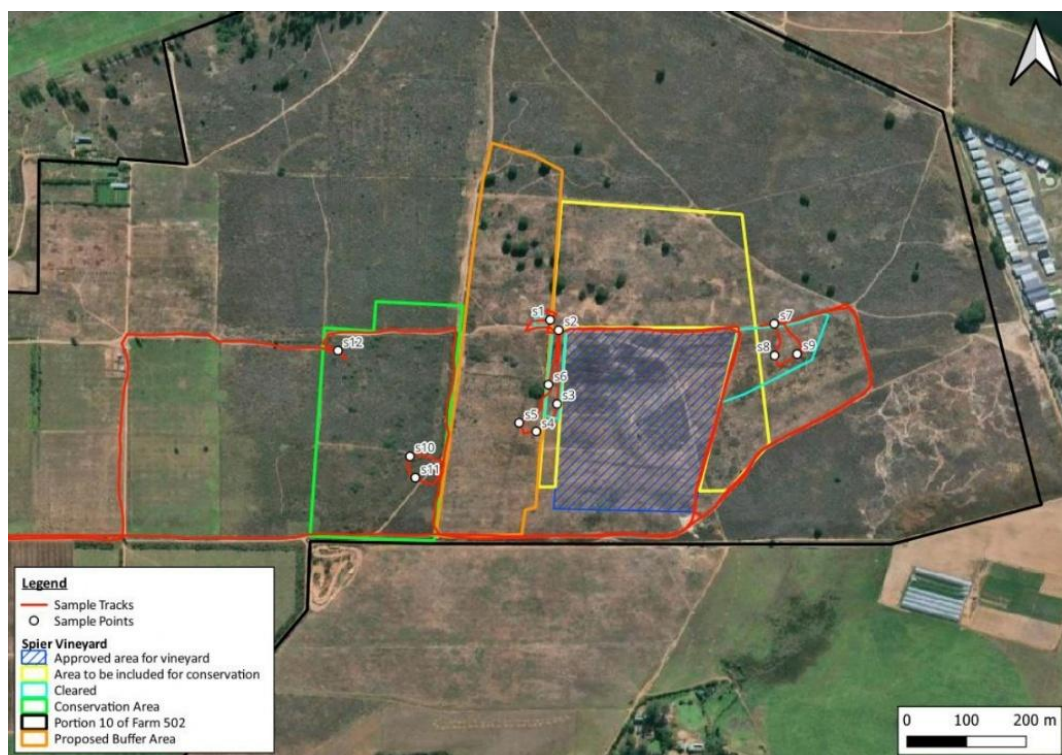
This was the situation just **after** the “fire” or the “ploughing” involving about 25 hectares.

B.5 Vineyard area (blue): 2021 DEADP authorisation



Comparison with the three areas as per 2021 DEADP authorisation: Authorised vineyard (blue), Buffer area (orange), conservation site (green).

B.6 Demarcated areas, 2025 Biodiversity Assessment



Comparison with the more complete demarcations of the 2025 Biodiversity Assessment (Appendix H1): Authorised vineyard (blue), Buffer area (orange), conservation site (green), additional conservation area

(yellow) and purported unlawful ploughing area of 2ha (cyan).

B.7 October 2025 airphoto



Most recent Google Earth airphoto.



**CONSERVATION INTELLIGENCE:
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reference SSD14/2/6/1/9/4/502-10_Cult_Speir
date 12 October 2020

Mische Molife
GroenbergEnviro (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 1058
Wellington
7654

By email: mische@groenbergenviro.co.za

Dear Ms Molife

RE: Proposed clearance of vegetation for the establishment of a vineyard on the remaining extent of portion 10 of Farm 502 (Spier), Stellenbosch – Draft Basic Assessment Report.

DEA&DP Ref: 16/3/3/6/7/1/B4/45/1140/20

CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) and wish to make the following comments:

1. The preferred development site for a new vineyard on Spier (farm 502/10) is located within an area which has been mapped as Swartland Granite Renosterveld. Given that Swartland Granite Renosterveld has less than 12% of its original extent remaining (which is well below the conservation threshold of 26%), this area has been identified as a priority conservation area in the past and as a Critical Biodiversity Area more recently, it was decided to do further investigation of the site from a species and condition perspective. The site was visited by myself and Arnelle Collison from CapeNature as well as botanist Stuart Hall on the 5th of October 2020. The application area as well as some of the surrounding area was quite thoroughly surveyed on foot and by vehicle.
2. In addition to Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) recorded by CREW, several other species were identified on site (these are indicated in Figure 1 below). In addition, parts of the site, although supporting a lot of secondary vegetation, can still be considered as important habitat and there is a possibility that the diversity on site would increase following a fire. Several insect species were observed as well as some small mammal burrows. Overall, the northern part of the study area was more densely covered and SCC were identified in this area. The eastern part of the study area was

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observed to be wetter and also supported some SCC. These areas are considered to have conservation value and should not be developed.

3. From a biodiversity perspective, alternative 2 located in the old plum orchards would be strongly preferred. However, we understand that this is not truly a viable option due to previous ploughing practices having changed the soil structure significantly.
4. Thus, if it is determined that it is necessary to establish an additional vineyard on Farm 502/10, Figure 1 below indicates the area that is acceptable from a biodiversity impact perspective as it is more heavily degraded, very little indigenous vegetation representative of Swartland Granite Renosterveld remains and no SCC were located on the site.

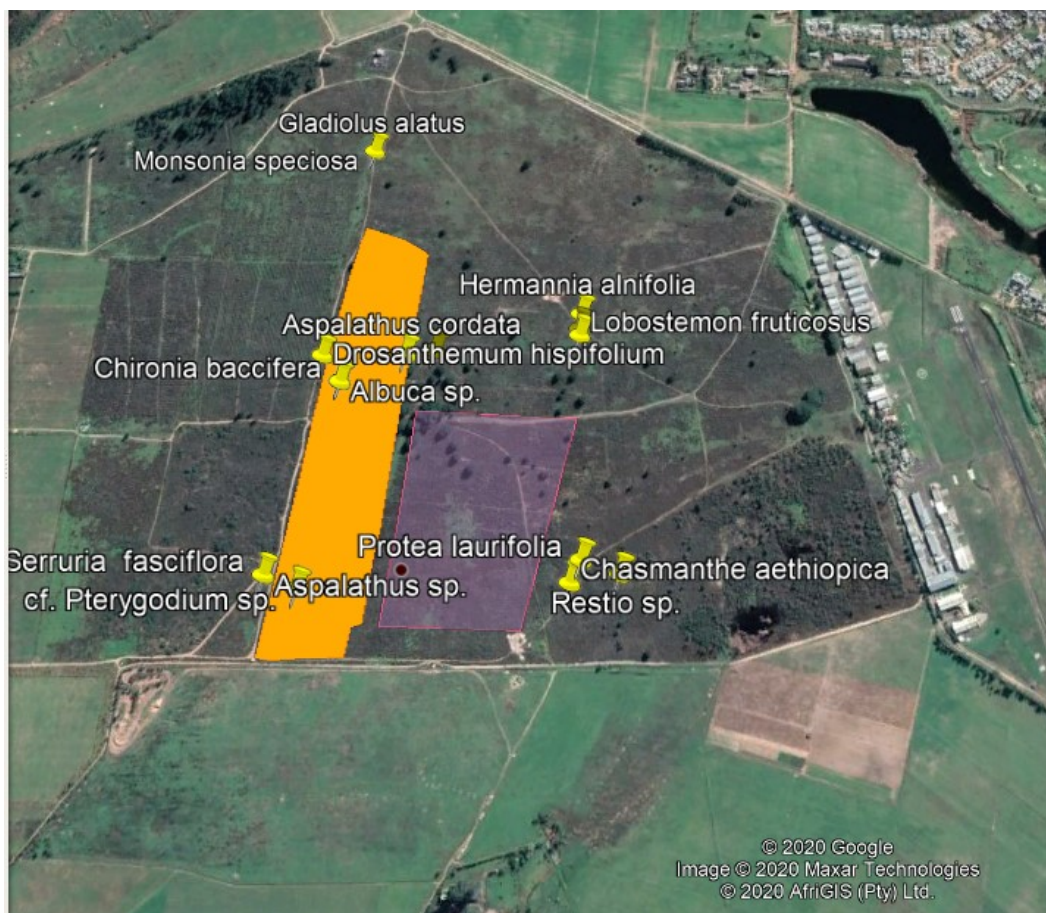


Figure 1: Extract from Google Earth imagery dated July 2020: The yellow pins indicate locations of SCC found on 05/10/2020. The light pink shaded area is the area which was determined to be of lower conservation importance in which the vineyard could be located (approx. 10ha). The orange area is the area identified in the DBAR as a buffer area. The area north of the pink shaded area is considered conservation worthy as well as the area to the east which is wetter.

5. Even developing within the “acceptable area” indicated in Figure 1 will still result in loss of biodiversity both directly on site and indirectly through edge effects and cause loss of ecological connectivity. However, if the remainder of the site is formally conserved this will mitigate for these impacts to some extent and help to ensure persistence of the remaining habitat in the long term. Therefore conditions should include the remainder

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of the study area being declared and managed as a conservation area. This should include the buffer area (which must be extended northwards), the existing conservation area and the areas north and east of the “acceptable area” indicated in Figure 1 above. These areas should also be burnt prior to a new vineyard being established.

CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alana Duffell-Canham', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Alana Duffell-Canham

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