

Biodiversity Surveys

Environmental Consulting

BUTTERFLY BIODIVERSITY SENSITIVITY STUDY

& COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

DUINEKROON ERF 591, STILL BAY WEST

WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

Prepared for:

Louise-Mari van Zyl Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd P.O. Box 2070 George Western Cape 6530

Representing:

QuickStep 596 (Pty) Ltd

Prepared by:

David Alan Edge Dave Edge & Associates Date of issue: 11th April 2022

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CREDENTIALS OF THE CONSULTANT

Contact details:

Dr David Alan Edge Dave Edge & Associates 81 Tulbagh Street Brenton-onSea Knysna 6570

Tel no: 044 3810014 Cell no: 074 5807288 Email: <u>orachrysops@gmail.com</u>

Expertise

- <u>Qualifications</u>: BSc (Zoology & Botany) UNISA; BSc (Hons) (Environmental Science) North-West University; MSc (Environmental Science) North-West University; PhD (Environmental Science) North-West University.
- <u>Experience</u>: Lepidopterist and ecologist with over 60 years' experience studying butterflies. Has conducted numerous specialist butterfly surveys in terms of NEMA.
- <u>Publications/ conferences</u>: 32 scientific papers published in peer reviewed journals, and has presented papers at a number of national and international conferences.

A more detailed CV is attached as Appendix 1.

Conditions pertaining to this report

The content of this report is based on the author's best scientific and professional knowledge as well as available information. Dave Edge & Associates reserve the right to modify the report in any way deemed fit should new, relevant or previously unavailable or undisclosed information become known to the author from on-going research or further work in this field, or pertaining to this investigation, and will inform CapeEAPrac accordingly.

This report must not be altered or added to without the prior written consent of the author. This also refers to electronic copies of the report, which are supplied for the purposes of inclusion as part of other reports, including main reports. Similarly, any recommendations, statements or conclusions drawn from or based on this report must make reference to this report. If these form part of a main report relating to this investigation or report, this report must be included in its entirety as an appendix or separate section to the main report.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THIS REPORT

This is a 'specialist report' compiled in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 and Specialist Protocols.

DECLARATION BY THE INDEPENDENT PERSON WHO COMPILED THIS REPORT

I, David Alan Edge, as the appointed independent specialist hereby declare that I:

- act as an independent specialist in this application;
- regard the information contained in this report as it relates to my specialist input/study to be true and correct, and do not have and will not have any financial interest in the undertaking of the activity, other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the NEMA, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 and any specific environmental management Act;
- have and will not have any vested interest in the proposed activity proceeding;
- have disclosed, to the applicant, EAP and competent authority, any material information that have or may have the potential to influence the decision of the competent authority or the objectivity of any report, plan or document required in terms of the NEMA, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014and any specific environmental management Act;
- am fully aware of and meet the responsibilities in terms of NEMA, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (specifically in terms of Regulation 13 and Appendix 2 of GN No. R. 982) and any specific environmental management Act, and that failure to comply with these requirements may constitute and result in disqualification;
- have ensured that information containing all relevant facts in respect of the specialist input/study was distributed or made available to interested and affected parties and the public and that participation by interested and affected parties was facilitated in such a manner that all interested and affected parties were provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and to provide comments on the specialist input/study;
- have ensured that the comments of all interested and affected parties on the specialist input/study were considered, recorded and submitted to the competent authority in respect of the application; have ensured that the names of all interested and affected parties that participated in terms of the specialist input/study were recorded in the register of interested and affected parties who participated in the public participation process;
- have provided the competent authority with access to all information at my disposal regarding the application, whether such information is favourable to the applicant or not; and am aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 of GN No. R.982.

Signature of the Specialist:

David Alan Edge Representing: Dave Edge & Associates

1. Introduction

Quickstep 596 (Pty) Ltd is planning to develop Duinekroon Erf 591/1, Still Bay West in the Western Cape Province (Figure 1). The developer has engaged the services of CapeEAPrac, George, to produce a Basic Assessment Report (BAR) for the proposed project. As part of this process the development plan was submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs so that their Screening Tool (ST) could detect any terrestrial biodiversity sensitivities for the site. The ST reported that the following butterfly species of conservation concern (SCC) could occur at the site, based on its proximity to known records of the SCCs, and the physical and biological characteristics of the site:

Aloeides thyra orientis Chrysoritis brooksi tearei Lepidochrysops littoralis Thestor claassensi

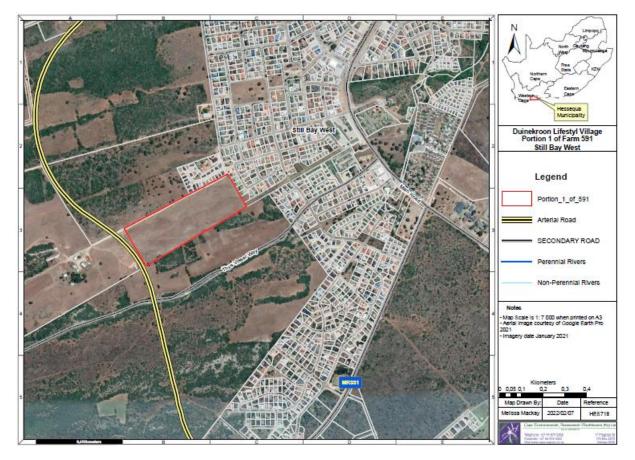


Figure 1 – Location of Duinekroon Erf 591/1 in Still Bay West, Western Cape Province

2. Terms of reference of the Consultant

Dave Edge & Associates was appointed on 23rd March 2022 by Louise-Mari van Zyl of CapeEAPrac, George, acting on behalf of QuickStep 596 (Pty) Ltd, to carry out a butterfly sensitivity survey for Duinekroon Erf 591/1, Still Bay West, with a scope of work as follows:

- Carry out a desktop study to determine if the butterfly species of conservation concern (SCC) listed in section 1 above have been recorded at the site, or what is the probability, given the physical and biological characteristics of the site (including butterfly host plants) for the SCCs listed above in section 1 to occur there.
- 2) Conduct a preliminary survey at the property on or around 30th March 2022.
- 3) Prepare a report detailing the findings of the desktop study and the site survey, with conclusions and if necessary recommendations for any further investigations at the

property. The report may include, if the findings permit, the issuance of a Terrestrial Biodiversity Compliance Statement (TBCS) in respect of butterflies.

3. Methodology

3.1 Desktop study

All records of butterflies, and specifically the butterfly SCCs listed in section 1, were extracted from the LepiMap Virtual Museum database and summarised on a spreadsheet. Published data on all the SCCs found (including possibly some not listed in section 1) were studied, principally Mecenero *et al.* (2020), to determine the vegetation types in which the SCCs occur, and Williams (2021) to determine any known larval host plants.

3.2 Site visit

The property was surveyed to see if there was any indigenous vegetation (such as larval host plants or adult nectar plants) that could support either of the SCCs. Records of any butterflies or significant plants on the site (with GPS locations) were made and photographs taken.

4. Results

4.1 Desktop study

Butterfly records and vegetation types

The proposed development site is situated in the quarter degree grid square (QDGS) 3421AD (Stilbaai). The records of the butterfly SCCs extracted from LepiMap are listed in Table 1. This exercise resulted in the discovery that there is another SCC that needs to be taken into account – *Aloeides pallida littoralis* (Near Threatened). The vegetation type at the site is FFI3 – Canca Limestone Fynbos (SANBI, 2018).

Butterfly SCCs flagged by the screening tool, or that have been recorded in QGDS 3421AD

Aloeides pallida littoralis (NT)

This subspecies has been recorded from Kogelberg (west) to Plettenburg Bay (east). The subpopulations vary considerably, and the taxon may consist of several undescribed subspecies. The population as a whole was assessed as Near Threatened, with the Still Bay population shrinking and in need of conservation. The larvae do not feed on plants, but are tended and fed by host ants in the *Lepisiota* genus. It has been found in vegetation types FFd9 Albertina Sand Fynbos and FFI3. The closest known occurrences are 3.5 km away in the Pauline Bohne Nature Reserve in Still Bay East.

Aloeides thyra orientis (EN)

This butterfly has been recorded along the south coast of the Western Cape from Witsand (QDGS 3420BD), in the Still Bay area (3421AB and 3421AD), near Gouritsmond (3421BD) and at Brenton-on-Sea (3422BB and 3423AA). The closest known occurrences to the development site are 1 km away, north of the golf course in Still Bay West. It has been recorded in vegetation types FFI3 and FFd9, preferring sparsely vegetated ground with bare patches. Its larval host plant is unknown.

Chrysoritis brooksi tearei (EN)

This SCC has been recorded in the Still Bay area in QDGSs 3421AB & AD. The closest known occurrences are at 1 km away, north of Still Bay West. Its recorded vegetation types are FFI3 and FFd9; its larval host plants are in the genus *Zygophyllum* (Zygophyllaceae), and its host ants are in the genus *Crematogaster*.

Lepidochrysops littoralis (EN)

This species has a fairly wide distribution along the south coast, from the De Mond Nature Reserve near Bredasdorp in the west to 5 km west of Mossel Bay. The closest records to the development site are 3.5 km away in the Pauline Bohne Nature Reserve. Its larval host plants are in the genus *Selago* (Scrophulariaceae), and its host ants are in the genus *Camponotus*. It is mostly found in FFI3 Canca Limestone Fynbos, and prefers hilltops or higher ground.

Thestor claassensi (VU)

This species has a fairly limited distribution between Vermaaklikheid (3421AC) in the west to Still Bay in the east (3421AD). It has only been recorded in FFI3 Canca Limestone Fynbos, and prefers rocky areas where the limestone substrate is apparent. Its larvae do not feed on plant material and are fed in the ant nests by their host ants in the genus *Anoplolepis*. The closest records to the development site are 3.5 km away in the Pauline Bohne Nature Reserve.

4.2 Site visit on 30th March 2022

The site visit was on a warm and windless day. The site has very few (almost zero) invasive plants and is gently sloping, facing ESE (see Figure 2). Horse grazing is practiced on the site and the predominant vegetation is lowly cropped grass species. Isolated patches of fynbos shrub species were seen (*Osteospermum moniliferum* (Bitou); *Senecio* sp.; *Asparagus lignosus*; *Brunsvigia orientalis*; *Solanum rigescens*; and *Carpobrotus deliciosus*. No *Zygophylum* or *Selago* (butterfly host plants) were seen but if they are not in flower they are easily overlooked. Only seven butterfly species were recorded (Table 1).



Figure 2 – Duinekroon Erf 596/1 Still Bay West, showing tracks walked during the site visit on 30th March 2022 (bold and pale yellow).

No parts of the site seem suitable for *Chrysoritis brooksi tearei*, *Thestor claassensi Aloeides thyra orientis* or *Aloeides pallida littoralis* (which occur in fairly pristine fynbos); or *Lepidochrysops littoralis* which prefers higher ground with trees suitable for the males to patrol around, as seen in the Pauline Bohne reserve across the river.

5. Terrestrial Biodiversity Compliance Statement (TBCS)

There is no significant probability of finding any of the butterfly SCCs on the site (see Table 2), mainly because of the degraded condition of the site, and absence of any butterfly host plants. Details are given in Table 2.

6. Conclusions

This proposed property development area on the western boundary of Still Bay West was rated by the Screening Tool (ST) as being of "Medium" sensitivity, because of the possibility of the occurrence of five butterfly species of conservation concern (SCC). This investigation has revealed that none of the five SCC butterfly species could occur on the site, because of its badly degraded condition and the absence of any SCC butterfly host plants.

7. References

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D.A. Edge

Dave Edge & Associates

11th April 2022

			RED LIST	SITE
FAMILY	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	CATEGORY (SALCA 2020)	RECORD
HESPERIIDAE	Afrogegenes letterstedti	Brown Dodger	Least Concern	Yes
HESPERIIDAE	Afrogegenes ocra	Yellow Dodger	Least Concern	
HESPERIIDAE	Eretis umbra umbra	Small marbled Elf	Least Concern	
HESPERIIDAE	Gomalia elma elma	Green-marbled Skipper	Least Concern	
HESPERIIDAE	Metisella malgacha malgacha	Grassveld Sylph	Least Concern	
HESPERIIDAE		Gold-spotted Sylph	Least Concern	
HESPERIIDAE		Mafa Sandman	Least Concern	
HESPERIIDAE		Boland Sandman	Least Concern	
HESPERIIDAE	Tsitana tulbagha kaplani	Tulbagh Sylph	Least Concern	
YCAENIDAE	Actizera lucida	Rayed Blue	Least Concern	
YCAENIDAE	Aloeides aranda	Yellow Russet	Least Concern	
YCAENIDAE	Aloeides depicta	Depicta Russet	Least Concern	
LYCAENIDAE	Aloeides pallida littoralis	Giant Russet	Near Threatened	
	Aloeides pierus	Veined Russet	Least Concern	
	Aloeides thyra orientis	Red Russet	Endangered	
	Anthene definita definita	Steel-blue Ciliate Blue	Least Concern	
	Brephidium metophis			
		Tinktinkie Pygmy Blue	Least Concern	
		Karoo Geranium Bronze	Least Concern	
	Cacyreus fracta fracta	Water Geranium Bronze	Least Concern	
YCAENIDAE	Cacyreus lingeus	Bush Bronze	Least Concern	
YCAENIDAE	Cacyreus marshalli	Common geranium Bronze	Least Concern	
YCAENIDAE	Capys alpheus alpheus	Orange-banded Protea	Least Concern	
YCAENIDAE		Angular Opal	Endangered	
LYCAENIDAE		Burnished Opal	Least Concern	
LYCAENIDAE	Chrysoritis felthami felthami	Orange Opal	Least Concern	
YCAENIDAE	Chrysoritis pyroeis pyroeis	Sand-dune Opal	Least Concern	
LYCAENIDAE	Chrysoritis thysbe thysbe	Thysbe Opal	Least Concern	
LYCAENIDAE	Chrysoritis thysbe thysbe	Thysbe Opal	Least Concern	
LYCAENIDAE	Chrysoritis zeuxo zeuxo	Jitterbug daisy Copper	Least Concern	
LYCAENIDAE	Deudorix antalus	Brown Playboy	Least Concern	
LYCAENIDAE	Eicochrysops m. messapus	Cupreous ash Blue	Least Concern	Yes
LYCAENIDAE	Lampides boeticus	Pea Blue	Least Concern	
LYCAENIDAE	Lepidochrysops littoralis	Coastal Giant Cupid	Endangered	
LYCAENIDAE	Lepidochrysops robertsoni	Robertson's Giant Cupid	Least Concern	
LYCAENIDAE	Leptomyrina lara	Cape Black-eye	Least Concern	
YCAENIDAE	Leptotes pirithous pirithous	Common Zebra Blue	Least Concern	
YCAENIDAE	Oraidium barberae	Dwarf Blue	Least Concern	
YCAENIDAE	Phasis thero thero	Silver Arrowhead	Least Concern	
YCAENIDAE	Tarucus thespis	Vivid Pierrot	Least Concern	
YCAENIDAE	Thestor claassensi	Stilbaai Skolly	Vulnerable	
YCAENIDAE	Thestor rossouwi	Coastal	Least Concern	
YCAENIDAE	Zizeeria knysna knysna	African grass Blue	Least Concern	Yes
NYMPHALIDAE	Cassionympha detecta	Cape dull Brown	Least Concern	100
NYMPHALIDAE	Melampias huebneri huebneri		Least Concern	
NYMPHALIDAE	Pseudonympha magus	Silver-bottom Brown	Least Concern	Yes
NYMPHALIDAE	Tarsocera cassus cassus	Spring Widow	Least Concern	100
NYMPHALIDAE	Vanessa cardui	Painted Lady	Least Concern	
		Citrus Swallowtail		
	Papilio d. demodocus		Least Concern	
	Papilio nireus lyaeus	Green-banded Swallowtail	Least Concern	
	Colias electo electo	Meadow White	Least Concern	V
	Dira clytus clytus	Cape Autumn Widow	Least Concern	Yes
PIERIDAE	Mylothris agathina agathina Nepheronia buquetii buquetii	Eastern dotted Border Buquet's Vagrant	Least Concern	<u> </u>
PIERIDAE			Least Concern	Yes

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TABLE 2

SCC no.	1	2	3
Family	Lycaenidae	Lycaenidae	Lycaenidae
Common name	Knysna Giant Copper	Brenton Copper	Riversdale Opal
Scientific name	Aloeides pallida littoralis	Aloeides thyra orientis	Chrysoritis brooksi tearei
IUCN Red List category	NT	EN	EN
Habitat requirements (vegetation type codes as per SANBI, 2018)	Flat sandy open ground in coastal fynbos, altitude from 40 to 250m. Albertinia Sand Fynbos FFd 9 Blombos Strandveld FS 8	Flat sandy open ground in coastal fynbos, altitude from 40 to 250m. Albertinia Sand Fynbos FFd 9 Canca Limestone Fynbos FFI 3 Blombos Strandveld FS 8	Low, sandy hills and slopes sparsely covered by low shrubs. Canca Limestone Fynbos FFI 3 Albertina Sand Fynbos FFd 9
Probability of occurrence	Zero	Insignificant	Zero
Justification	Vegetation does not occur at site even though records of taxon occur not far from the site.	Vegetation is badly degraded at site, even though records of taxon occur not far from the site.	Vegetation is badly degraded at site, even though records of taxon occur not far from the site. Host plant not found at site.

SCC no.	4	5
Family	Lycaenidae	Lycaenidae
Common name	Lepidochrysops littoralis	Thestor claassensi
Scientific name	Coastal Blue	South Coast Skolly
IUCN Red List category	EN	VU
Habitat requirements (vegetation type codes as per Mucina & Rutherford,	Rocky limestone ridges or sand dunes in coastal fynbos, altitude up to 400m. Albertinia Sand Fynbos FFd 9	Gentle slopes and flat areas in limestone fynbos vegetation, with either a sandy or rocky substrate.
2006)	Canca Limestone Fynbos FFI 3	Canca Limestone Fynbos FFI 3
Probability of occurrence	Zero	Zero
Justification	Vegetation is badly degraded at site, even though records of taxon occur not far from the site. Host plant not found at site.	Vegetation is badly degraded at site, even though records of taxon occur not far from the site.

APPENDIX 1

CREDENTIALS – DAVID ALAN EDGE

Date of birth:	22 nd August 1943
Place of birth:	Ormskirk, Lancs., UK
Residence:	Brenton-on-Sea, Knysna, Western Cape

QUALIFICATIONS

- 1965 MA (Cantab) Mechanical Engineering
- **2001** BSc (cum laude) Zoology & Botany (UNISA)
- 2002 BSc (Hons) (cum laude) Environmental Science (Potchefstroom University)
- Specialising in Biodiversity and Conservation biology
- 2006 PhD in Environmental Sciences North-West University. Thesis entitled "The ecology and conservation of the Brenton Blue"

ENGINEERING & MANAGEMENT CAREER

1965 – 1993	Nchanga Consolidated Cpper Mines, Zambia Assistant Divisional Engineer
	Maintenance engineering and management
1973-1979	Palabora Mining Company
	Assistant General Manager
	Operations and maintenance management, mechanical engineering and extractive metallurgy, general management
1979-1993	LTA Process Engineering
	Managing Director
	General management, marketing, project engineering and management, design engineering,

procurement and construction management.

LEPIDOPTERISTS'S SOCIETY OF AFRICA (LEPSOC AFRICA)

1983	Founder member
1984–1986	Council member
1993–2016	Representative – Southern Cape
2008–2011	Treasurer
2011–2018	Editor – Metamorphosis, a scientific journal dedicated to the study of African Lepidoptera

CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

- **1993–1996** Leading role-player in the campaign to save Brenton Blue
- **1995–2018** Brenton Blue Management Committee member and leader of research programme
- 1999–2018 Knysna Environmental Forum Co-chairman
- 2005–2018 Brenton Blue Trust Trustee
- 2008–2013 South African Butterfly Conservation Assessment (SABCA) Digitised own collection of over 8000 specimens of South African butterflies. Project leader for the southern Cape – an area of 60 000 sq. km, supervising three other field workers. Field surveys yielded over 2500 new species–QDGS records. Editor of South African Butterfly Atlas, lead author for Chapters 3 and 4 (see publications below). Authored over 100 species accounts (out of 800)
 2011–2018 Leader of the Conservation of Rare and Endangered Lepidoptera (COREL) programme for South
- 2011–2018 Leader of the Conservation of Rare and Endangered Lepidoptera (COREL) programme for South Africa, including being "Custodian" for six species.
- 2015-2018 Project Director for the South African Lepidoptera Conservation Assessment (SALCA) project carried out for the South African Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
- **2015-2018** Taxon Lead Butterflies for the BioGaps project to establish the biological diversity of the 'Shale Gas Fracking' area of the Karoo
- 2015-2018 Project Coordinator of the "Butterfly Evolutionary Diversity" project to obtain DNA samples for all c. 800 South African butterfly species

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

Dave Edge & Associates Environmental Consulting

1997 – 2001	Sparrebosch, Knysna
2000 - 2004	Roodefontein, Plettenberg Bay
2001	Pezula Estate, Knysna
2001	The Cove, Knysna
2001 – 2003	Fernwood, Knysna

Detailed butterfly surveys for EIA and monitoring Butterfly surveys for scoping report and EIA Preliminary assessment of butterfly potential Preliminary assessment of butterfly potential Butterfly surveys for scoping report and EIA

ACADEMIC CAREER

2009–2014 North-West University (Potchefstroom) Senior Lecturer Developed new post graduate teaching module for "Conservation Ecology" Lectured to postgraduate (honours and masters) students on Conservation Ecology; including setting and marking assignments and examination papers.

AWARDS

- **1998** The Habitat Council "for outstanding achievements in the field of environmental conservation and management for his role in helping to secure the habitat of the endangered Brenton Blue butterfly"
- 2003 LepSoc Africa June 2003 Chairman's Award "for the most significant contribution to African Lepidoptera conservation for the period July 2002 June 2003"
- **2013** LepSoc Africa October 2013 President's Award "for his passion and commitment leading the development and completion of the new e-*Metamorphosis* web journal.
- 2015 LepSoc Africa August 2015 Honorary Life Membership.
- **2018** LepSoc Africa September 2018 President's Award "in acknowledgement of his tireless work and commitment to the Lepidopterists' Society of Africa".

PUBLICATIONS IN SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS & BOOKS (40 articles)

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