

Holland & Associates



Environmental Consultants

Impact Assessments - Environmental Management Programs - Compliance Monitoring - Process Review

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION AND OPPORTUNITY TO REGISTER AND COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED GREYTON HOUSE SCHOOL, ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AND WETLAND REHABILITATION

**FULL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: (DEA&DP REF NO: 16/3/1/1/E4/12/2056/12)
WASTE MANAGEMENT LICENCE REFERENCE NUMBER: 1219/11/L1127/9**

The above-mentioned project has reference. The purpose of this letter is to notify potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the proposed project and to provide authorities and members of the public with an opportunity to register as I&APs and to provide initial comments on the proposed project¹.

1. Proposed Project

Greyton House (GH) Village School proposes to construct a new school and associated infrastructure on three portions of the commonage on the outskirts of Greyton village, Western Cape. The Theewaterskloof Municipality has just concluded an agreement to sell a parcel of land in Greyton to GH, for the purposes of constructing a new school.

The proposed project will comprise of the following:

- Educational facilities for learners from school entry stage through to Post Matric
- ECD (Early Childhood Development) centre
- Boarding facilities for learners
- Sports centre and fields

In addition, the following aspects will be included in the project:

- Treatment of sewerage waste from the school on-site, using biogas digesters;
- The use of methane gas from the biogas digesters, for cooking in the school kitchen;
- Greyton House would like to include as part of their development, the landscaping of the 35m buffer along the R406 (both sides of the road), and rehabilitation of an indigenous park on the south east corner of Buitekant St and the R406.
- The rehabilitation of the Scholtz river, riparian zone and wetland south of the retirement village.

The alternatives currently under consideration for the project include the following:

- Alternative layout options (refer to figure 2, attached):

¹ Note that Authorities (including relevant State Departments or Organs of State) are automatically included on the list of "registered" I&AP's

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- Technology alternatives in respect of power generation, sewerage treatment and wetland rehabilitation.
 - “No Go” Alternative

2. Legal Requirements

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations² enacted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (as amended), the proposed project triggers activities in Listing Notice 1 (GN R 544) (i.e. activities 11, 18, 23, 24 & 39) and Listing Notice 3 (GN R546) (i.e. activities 4, 12, 16, 19 and 24). Accordingly, the proposed project will require authorisation from the competent environmental authority, viz. the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) via the Basic Assessment Process outlined in GN No. R. 543. However, with the inclusion of the biogas digesters, the proposed project triggers listed activities in terms of the National Environment Management; Waste Act 2008 (No. 59 of 2008). The project triggers the following Category A Waste Act Activities: 3 (2); 3 (8); and 3 (11) activities, as well as Category B Activity 4 (5) of GN R718. Accordingly, the proposed project will require a Waste Management Licence from the competent environmental authority, viz. the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) via the Full Environmental Impact Assessment Process outlined in GN No. R. 543.. In order to align the Waste Management Licence Application process with the Environmental Authorization process in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, a request to upgrade the Basic Assessment required in terms of the EIA Regulations, to a Full EIA, has been submitted to DEA&DP.

Holland & Associates Environmental Consultants has been appointed by Greyton House Independent Village School to undertake the requisite Applications to DEA&DP and DEA, as well as the full EIA process for the proposed project. As the first step in initiating the aforementioned processes, the relevant applications in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010 and National Environment Management; Waste Act 2008 (No. 59 of 2008) were submitted to DEA&DP and DEA on 13 November 2012 and 12 December 2012 respectively³.

3. Public Participation Process

You have been identified as a potential I&AP for this project, either because you represent an affected organisation or authority, or because of your proximity to the proposed project. Public participation is an integral part of the environmental process, and would entail the following phases:

- ***Phase 1~ Notification of the proposed project: 21-day Registration and Initial Comment Period***

² Government Gazette No. R544, R545 and R546 of 18 June 2010, as corrected.

³ The Respective Applications were accepted by DEA&DP on 23 December 2011, and by DEA on 03 January 2013.

This letter notifies I&APs of the proposed application and provides background information for the proposed project. Notification of the proposed project and associated Environmental Assessment process has also been advertised in the local *TWK Gazette* newspaper, and site notices notifying I&APs of the proposed activity have been erected on the proposed site. I&APs are invited to submit their comments or concerns. All comments received will be incorporated and responded to in a Comments and Responses Report (CRR), which will be included in the Draft Scoping Report (DSR).

- ***Phase 2 ~ Comment on Draft Scoping Report (DSR)***

The Draft DSR would be lodged at the Greyton Public Library and made available for download on www.hollandandassociates.net for a 40 day public comment period, to elicit any comments or concerns. Furthermore, a Public Open House will be held at the Moravian Church Hall (next to Greyton Library) to discuss the proposed project and to raise any issues or concerns. All registered I&APs would be notified by letter of the Open House meeting and availability of the Draft DSR for comment. All comments received would be incorporated into the Final Scoping Report (FSR) and a CRR. Where relevant, the report would be amended in light of comments received.

- ***Phase 3 ~ Comment on the Final Scoping Report***

The FSR would be lodged at the same locations as the DSR, for a final 21-day comment period. Any comments received during this period would be collated and forwarded to DEA&DP, along with the FSR.

- ***Phase 4 - Comment on Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)***

The Draft EIR will be compiled once the FSR has been accepted by DEA&DP. The Draft EIR would be lodged at the same locations mentioned above for 40 day comment period. Any comments received during this period would be collated and included in the Final EIR.

- ***Phase 5 ~ Comment on the Final EIR***

The Final EIR would be lodged at the same locations above, for a final 21-day comment period. Any comments received during this period would be collated and forwarded to DEA&DP, along with the Final EIR

- ***Phase 6 ~ Opportunity for Appeal***

All registered I&APs would be notified of the environmental authorisation decision within 10 days of it being issued. Anyone wishing to appeal the decision would be required to follow the appeal procedure as indicated in Chapter 7 of the EIA Regulations (GN No. 543 of 18 June 2010).

The public participation phases are indicated in the flow diagram of the Full EIA process in Annexure B.

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), the

above procedure is accepted for the application of listed activities.

4. Way Forward

I&APs must provide their comments together with their name, contact details (including their preferred method of notification, e.g. e-mail, post or fax number) and an indication of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which they have in the application to the contact person indicated below by **4 March 2013**. The DEA&DP reference number indicated above must be referred to in all correspondence submitted by I&APs. Only registered I&APs will receive future correspondence regarding the project

Comments are to be submitted in writing via post, e-mail or fax to Mr Ross Holland of Holland & Associates Environmental Consultants (Fax: 086 653 1765, email: ross@hollandandassociates.net or post: PO Box 31108, Tokai, 7966).

All comments received and issues raised will be included in a CRR, which will be appended to the Draft Scoping Report. Copies of the CRR will be sent to those who submitted comment. All registered I&APs will be notified when the Draft Scoping Report is available for comment.

Should you require any further information or have any queries please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely



ROSS HOLLAND (BSc hons, MSc, Green Star SA Accredited Professional, EAPASA Founder Member)

For: Holland & Associates - Environmental Consultants

**ANNEXURE A:
LOCALITY MAPS**

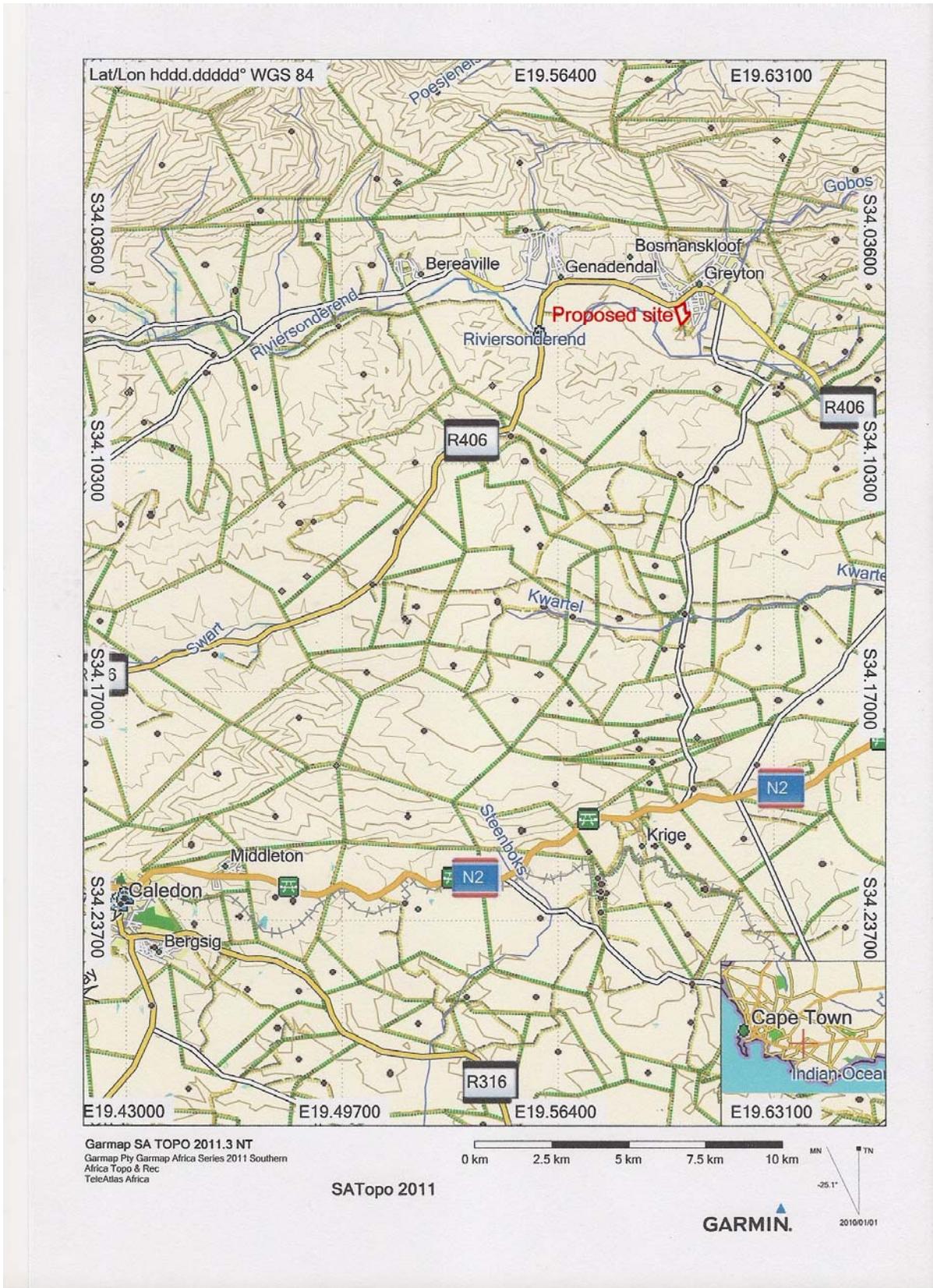


Figure 1: Regional Geographical location of site

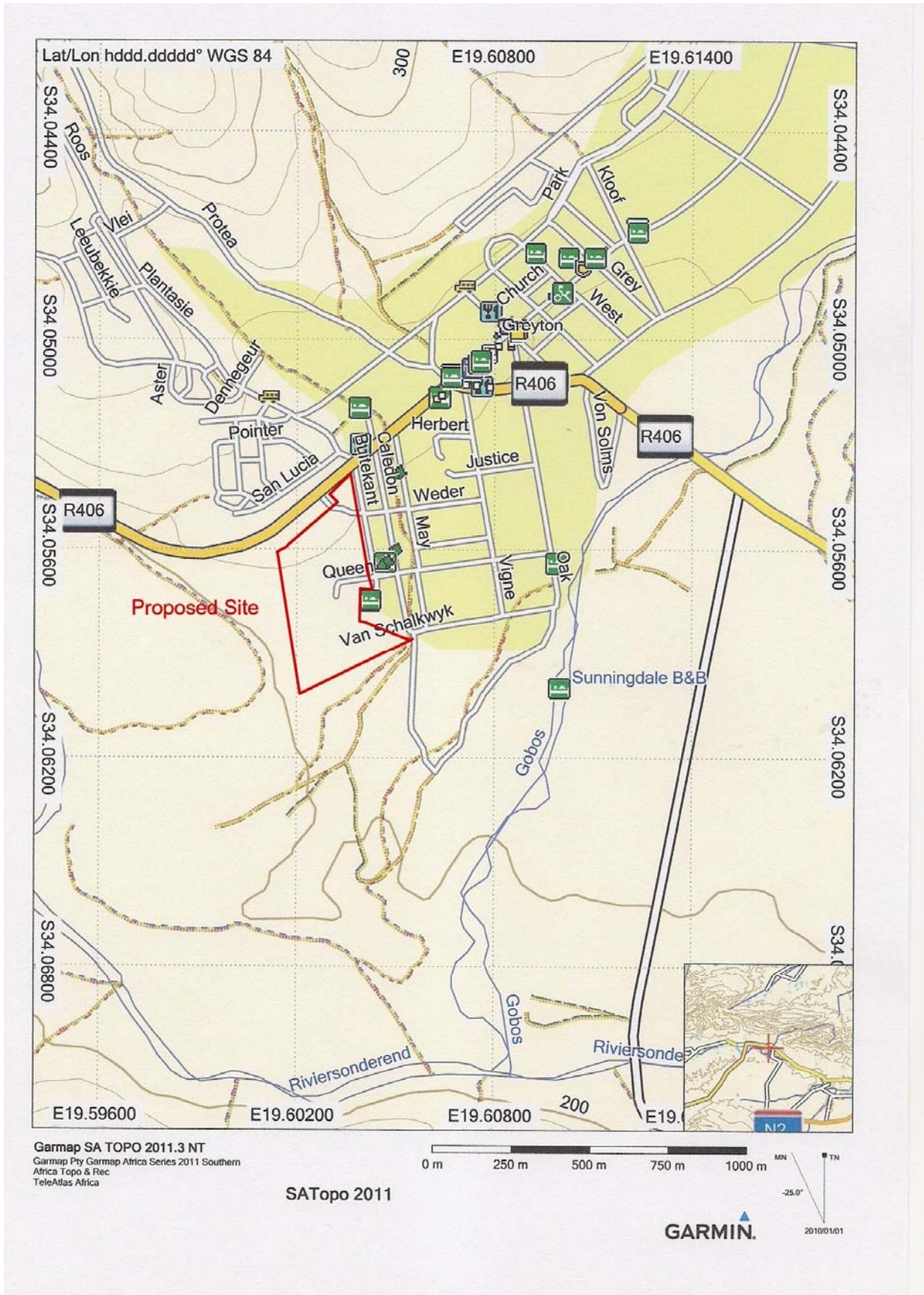


Figure 2: Location of site in Greyton

SCOPING & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTING PROCESS: FLOW DIAGRAM

