

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Brewelskloof Quarry: Application to amend the mining right area on the Remainder of Erf 3604, Worcester

This Background Information Document (BID) has been prepared as part of the public participation process required by the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 which were published in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 Act 107 of 1998) ("NEMA").

Applicant: Afrimat Aggregates (Operations) (Pty) Ltd

DMRE Reference: WC30/5/1/3/2/ 280MR

Location: The site is located 5km north-east of the centre of Worcester and some 2km north-east of the closest suburb (Panorama).

Description of the listed activity:

Listing Notice	Activity no.	Description
LN1	21D	Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires an amendment or variation to a right or permit in terms of section 102 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, as well as any other applicable activity contained in this Listing Notice or in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, required for such amendment.

Note: The EIA Regulations were amended on 11 June 2021 in GN 517.

Activity 21D in LN1 includes all listed activities in LN1 or LN3 that will be required to exercise the mining right.

Activity 22 in LN1 has been deleted. This was previously for the decommissioning of any activity requiring a closure certificate in terms of Section 43 of the Mineral & Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002). Mine closure is now covered by means of the "Financial Provisioning Regulations".

Environmental Impact Assessment Process:

Basic assessment must be applied to this application and therefore a Basic Assessment Report (BAR), inclusive of specialist reports and an Environmental Management Programme, (EMPr) which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days, must be submitted to the Competent Authority (i.e. the Department of Mineral Resources & Energy ("DMRE")).

Background & proposed activities:

The Brewelskloof Quarry has been operating for more than 30 years and produces stone aggregate for use in the Worcester and surrounding areas as well as for road construction as far as Laingsburg and beyond. Products include road stone, concrete stone, ballast, base and sub base materials.

The quarry is located in a mountainous area and there is very limited space available for the stockpiling of the various products produced. The purpose of the proposed amendment is to make use of nearby areas that have been previously disturbed as stockpile areas and also to rehabilitate the old Divisional Council Quarry.

The existing mining right area is 92.7918 hectares in extent and the proposed extension area is 50.3577 hectares in extent (**see Figure 1**). However, most of this area will be delineated as a "No Go" area in order to protect the natural vegetation.

The following activities are proposed within designated areas as shown on the site layout plan (**see Figure 2**).

A new access control point

A new access control point (including a boom and guard house) will be established at the southern point of the extension application area. This will provide improved security for Brewelskloof Quarry and help to reduce unauthorised access to the property.

Stockpile / parking area

The existing stockpile /parking area near the current quarry entrance will be formalised. In future the current quarry office and weighbridge will need to be moved as the quarry advances.

In future it is planned to relocate the quarry office and weigh bridge to this area.

Stockpile area (near the old quarry)

This area will be used to stockpile various stone aggregate products as well as overburden that has been removed from the quarry area. When necessary, the company will use a mobile crushing plant to prepare G5, G6 and G7 material from the overburden. This will be done when this type of material is required (e.g. for road construction contracts).

Old quarry area

The old Divisional Council Quarry has a high face and in order to make it safe it will be necessary to prepare additional benches and to step the edge of the excavation backwards so that the overall slope is not so steep.

This activity will generate overburden which will be placed in the stockpile area.

Maintenance of existing access roads

The existing southern and northern access roads to the old quarry area will be repaired and maintained.

Potential environmental impacts of the proposed activities

The potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed activities are listed in the following table:

Aspect	Potential Impacts
Biodiversity	<p>The vegetation type present in the proposed extended mining right area is Robertson Karoo (Succulent Karoo Biome). The ecosystem threat status for this vegetation type is Least Concern (National Biodiversity Assessment, 2018).</p> <p>Most of the proposed activities will take place on previously disturbed land, however there will be some impacts to the natural vegetation.</p> <p>Smaller animals will move away when activities on site are in progress.</p>
Water resources	<p>The proposed activities are located away from buffer areas adjacent to non-perennial streams that occur in the area.</p> <p>Where required, mitigation measures will be implemented (e.g. the formalisation of a stream crossing on the southern access road).</p> <p>It is anticipated that the proposed activities will have no significant impact on surface water or groundwater resources.</p>
Noise and dust	<p>There will be noise and dust impacts associated with the proposed activities.</p> <p>Noise and dust impacts will be largely restricted to the site. Brewelskloof Quarry operates during working hours only.</p>
Socio-economic	<p>There are no existing economic or agricultural activities on the property or adjacent areas that will be negatively impacted by the proposed stockpiling activities in the proposed extended mining right area.</p> <p>The quarry provides employment and the materials to be stockpiled will be used for various development and construction projects in the Worcester area as well as for road construction or maintenance projects further afield.</p>
Cultural and heritage resources	<p>There are no significant cultural or heritage resources located within the proposed extension area.</p>

Specialist studies:

It is proposed that the following specialist studies will be required in order to assess the impacts of the proposed activities:

- A heritage specialist should prepare the required 'Notice of Intent' or NID that will be submitted to Heritage Western Cape.
- A botanist or ecologist should assess the potential impacts on terrestrial biodiversity (including plant species).
- A freshwater specialist should assess the potential impacts on aquatic biodiversity.

Invitation to Interested and Affected Parties:

Contact the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) if you require any further information about the application, the proposed activities or if you wish to register as an interested and affected party.

Interested and affected parties are invited to provide information as to how their interests (whether it be socio-economic, cultural, heritage or environmental) will be affected by the proposed activities.

All registered interested and affected parties will be provided with an opportunity to comment on the Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme before these are submitted to the Competent Authority (i.e. the DMRE).

Contact details of the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP):

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30 August 2024

Notes:

Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 14 of 2013) (POPIA).

The public participation process is required to comply with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 14 of 2013) (POPIA).

Interested & Affected Parties should be aware and consent to the requirement that all comments received will be included in a Comments and Response Report which will be made available to the Competent Authority and will also be placed in the public domain.

Should any Interested & Affected Party prefer that their names not be included in any of the required public participation reports please notify the Environmental Assessment Practitioner, in which case only the comments will be included the report (i.e. without the name of the commenting party).

Extract from the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended)

Registered interested and affected parties entitled to comment on reports and plans

43. (1) A registered interested and affected party is entitled to comment, in writing, on all reports or plans submitted to such party during the public participation process contemplated in these Regulations and to bring to the attention of the proponent or applicant any issues which that party believes may be of significance to the consideration of the application, provided that the interested and affected party discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application.

Regulation 2.(2) Plan: Located on the Remainder of Erf 3604 (Worcester)

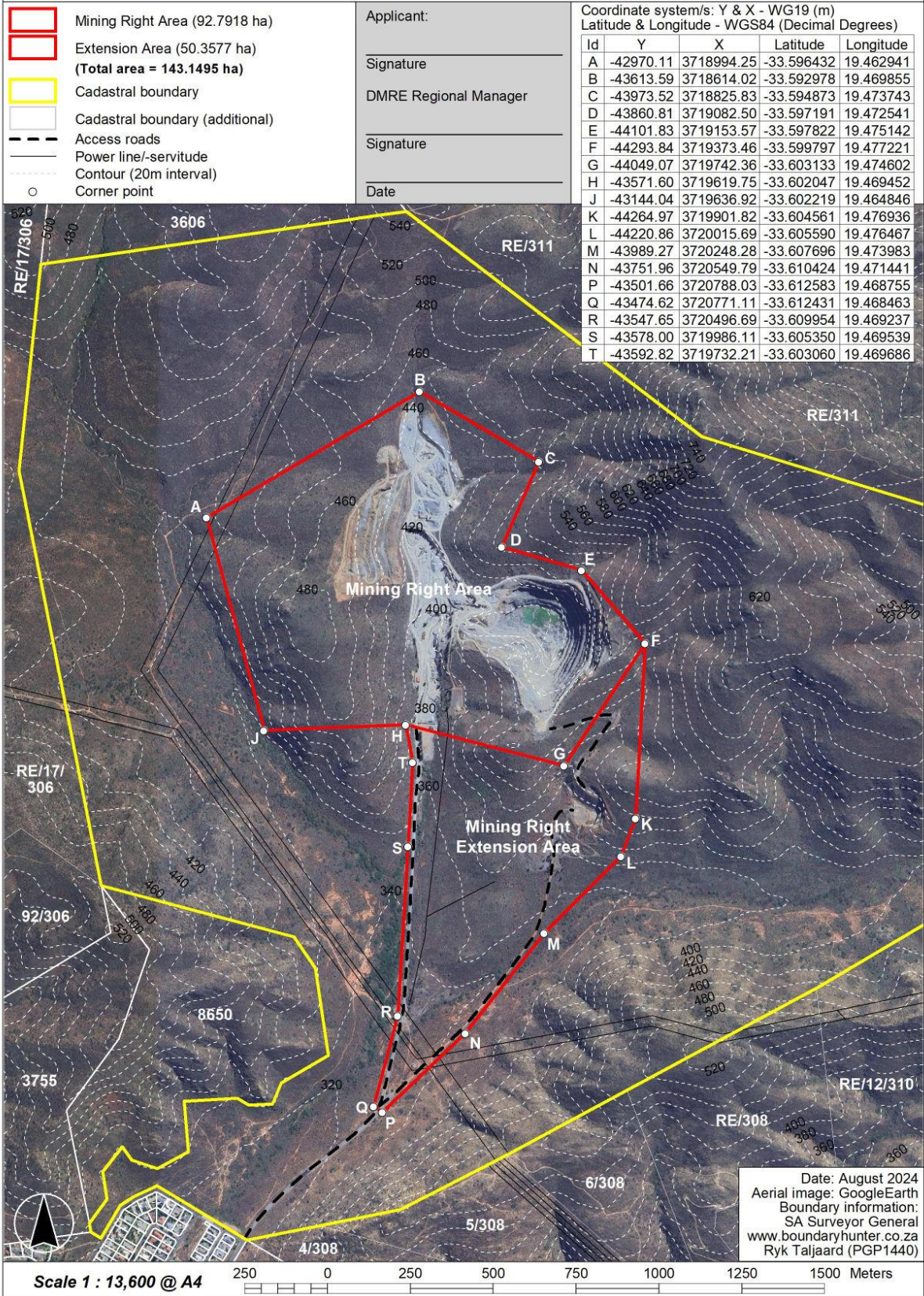


Figure 1: Map showing the existing mining right and the proposed extension area

Site Layout Plan (Mining Right Extension Area): Located on the Remainder of Erf 3604 (Worcester)

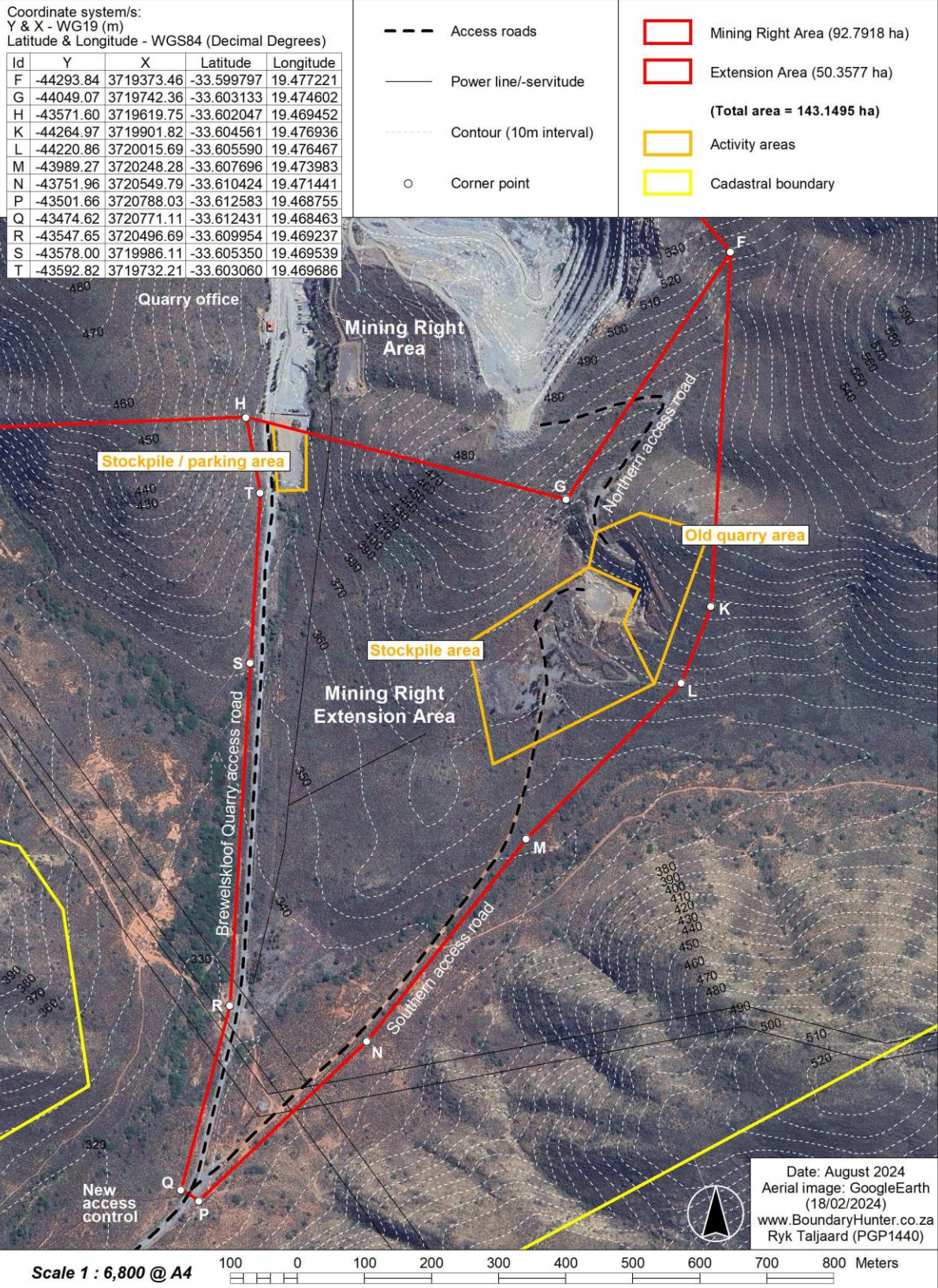


Figure 2: Site layout plan showing the proposed activities in the extension area