

PREPARED FOR:

# Glencore Operations South Africa (Pty) Ltd – Western Chrome Mines

PREPARED BY:



## Environmental Site Sensitivity Verification Report

Site ID:	Glencore Clover WCM	Contractor:	EIMS
Location:	Portion 62 of farm Rietfontein 338 JQ	Inspector:	Jolene Webber
Client representative:	Elize Teessen	Inspection Date:	2024/08/02 & 2024/11/11

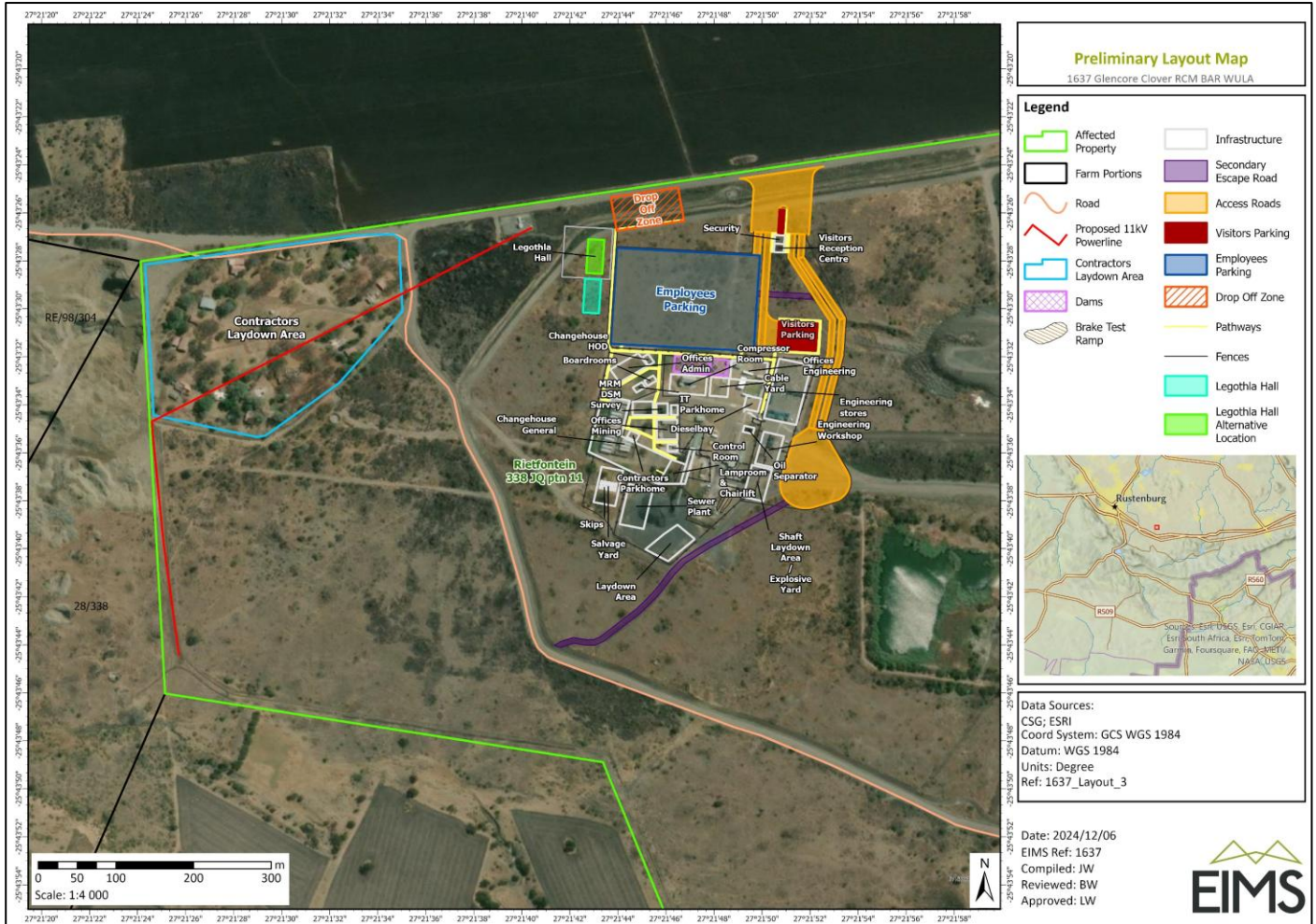
### 1. Background

Background of the project:	Glencore Operations South Africa (Pty) Ltd – Western Chrome Mines (WCM) (hereafter referred to as the Applicant) is in the process of acquiring a portion of the mining and surface rights from the Clover Alloys Rustenburg Chrome Mine (RCM) to reduce the time taken to travel to the face at its Kroondal Mine and increase the mining facetime which will in turn increase productivity. In addition to utilizing the existing infrastructure at Clover Alloys RCM, the applicant wishes to develop additional facilities to use in the life of mine.		
Project Aspects:	Details	Location (DD MM SS)	
		Latitude	Longitude
Proposed infrastructure new	<p>In addition to utilizing the existing infrastructure at Clover Alloys RCM, the proposed new developments as well as existing infrastructure include (but are not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A parking area for permanent employees</li> <li>• A parking area for visitors and contractors</li> <li>• Employee drop-off/pick-up zone</li> <li>• Salvage yard</li> <li>• Sewage plant</li> <li>• Use of existing Pollution Control Dam and licensing this dam under the NWA</li> <li>• Shaft Laydown Area / Explosives Delivery Bay</li> <li>• Surface laydown area</li> <li>• Meeting venue hall (Lekgotla Hall)</li> <li>• Access and escape roads</li> <li>• Two water storage dams</li> <li>• Compressor house</li> <li>• 11kV Powerline connection to existing 11kV powerline</li> <li>• Administration Offices</li> <li>• Change houses</li> <li>• Engineering workshop</li> <li>• Stores</li> <li>• Temporary laydown area (historic LanXess Chrome Mining village area)</li> </ul>	25°43'33.74"S	27°21'41.65"E



The final positions of all project components are to be determined during the Basic Assessment process.

## 2. Site Layout Plan



## 2. DEA Screening Tool Assessment

Aspect	Very High	High	Medium	Low
Agriculture Theme			X	
Animal Species Theme			X	
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	X			
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme				X
Civil Aviation Theme		X		
Defence Theme				X
Palaeontology Theme			X	
Plant Species Theme				X
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X			



### 3. Site Assessment

#### 3.1 Gradient (indicate the general gradient characteristics of site)

Aspect									
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Is the site located on or in the immediate vicinity of any of the following:

	Yes	No	Comment
Erosion Channels or areas of severe erosion/ destabilized soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No severely eroded areas were observed on site. Severe disturbance to soils was noticed alongside the western edge of the proposed development, where the proposed powerline is to be built. This disturbance is a result of illegal mining on the neighbouring farm portion.
Wetlands (within 32m)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wetlands were observed near the site, artificial wetlands were observed on the site.
Unstable slopes or geological features (rocky outcrops)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No rocky outcrops or unstable slopes were noted.
Bare areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bare areas (disturbed soil) were observed on site in disturbed areas.
Other Sensitive or risk areas?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The powerline route and proposed laydown area is situated in close proximity to illegal mining activity which could pose security risks.
Are any existing servitudes and structures directly or indirectly affected by the proposed sites and routes (e.g. Eskom, public road servitudes and restrictions- 60m from National Road, farmer's water/irrigation supplies, etc.)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There is an existing pipeline servitude that is directly affected by the proposed site; however, no markers were present on site to indicate the presence of a pipeline. There are existing powerline servitudes on and around the site. The proposed powerline is to connect to an existing powerline at the south west corner of the site.

#### 3.2 Vegetation

Which of the listed descriptions best describes the general groundcover on and around the site?

Natural veld - good condition <input type="checkbox"/>	Natural veld with scattered aliens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural veld with heavy alien infestation <input type="checkbox"/>	Veld dominated by alien species <input type="checkbox"/>	Gardens <input type="checkbox"/>
Sport field <input type="checkbox"/>	Cultivated land <input type="checkbox"/>	Paved surface <input type="checkbox"/>	Building or other structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bare soil <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments on vegetation composition:	A specialist terrestrial biodiversity assessment will provide more information on this aspect.			
Comments on weed species/type	A specialist terrestrial biodiversity assessment will provide more information on this aspect.			

Land cover/ use description: Describe the land uses on the site

Mining	The proposed development is located on an active mining area (Clover Alloys RCM) with existing infrastructure that is intended to be used in the proposed development where possible.
--------	---





## Agriculture

Farms were observed in close proximity to the site as well as cattle grazing. The proposed powerline will connect to an existing powerline that runs through and alongside various farms.

## 4. General Comments and/or Recommendations

The project areas are situated in disturbed areas through existing mining activities, some indigenous vegetation areas as well as historically disturbed areas. Wetlands were noted on and near the site.

## 5. Site Photos



View of the general area near the existing Dam



View of the area near the existing Parking area (location of proposed Heavy Vehicles Access turning circle)



View of existing Parking area (near the location of proposed Engineering Stores)



View of existing access roads surrounding the site





Current storage dam



View of current powerlines (Location of proposed Employees Parking)



View of old Access Road (Location of proposed Employees Parking Area)



View of historical disturbance found near the proposed Legothla Hall Area



Typical vegetation found in the area





Existing infrastructure (towards proposed Main Offices Area)



Existing Infrastructure (near Proposed General Change houses)



View of current old access road (near Proposed Walkway area)



View of general area near proposed salvage yard



Exposed/disturbed soil near proposed area for the sewer plant



View of area near the proposed sewer plant.





Existing powerline and old access road (left) and substation (right) near proposed entrance.



View of agricultural area opposite proposed entrance



View of area near proposed entrance



View of proposed Contractors Laydown Area (unused and abandoned mine village)





View of soil disturbance from illegal mining activities located mainly on the adjacent property (alongside the proposed powerline)



General view of the proposed powerline route



General view of the area around the proposed powerline route





View of abandoned farm infrastructure south of the proposed powerline



View of the existing powerline that the proposed powerline will connect to



View of the existing substation that the proposed powerline will connect to



General view of the area around the substation





## 6. Verification findings and motivation:

Assessment for specialist studies and motivation:

Screening Tool Specialist Study Required:	Level of Sensitivity as per Screening Tool Report:	Suggested Sensitivity:	Required level of Assessment		Motivation
Agriculture Theme	High	Medium	None.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The DFFE Screening Tool indicated that the proposed development is situated within a <i>High</i> Agricultural Sensitivity Theme. The main activities were noted to be mining related activities and agricultural activities (crop farming and cattle grazing). The main proposed infrastructure is situated on a disturbed area that is primarily used for mining related activities. A Full Agricultural Assessment has been commissioned to verify the site's Agricultural Sensitivity.
			Compliance Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			Full Assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
			Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment	Not defined in the Screening Tool Report	Low	None.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment was not undertaken for this proposed project as the proposed development is not expected to have new significant visual changes in the area. The area is predominantly mining in nature and therefore this proposed development is in line with the current surrounding land use.
			Compliance Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			Full Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Archaeological and Cultural Theme	Low	Low	None.	<input type="checkbox"/>	A Phase I DFFE and SAHRA/NHRA compliant specialist assessment has been commissioned to verify the site's Archaeological and Cultural Sensitivity.
			Compliance Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			Full Assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
			Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Palaeontology Theme	Medium	Low	None.	<input type="checkbox"/>	A Palaeontological Desktop Study by a suitably qualified specialist has been commissioned to verify the site's Palaeontological Sensitivity.
			Compliance Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			Full Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	Very High	High	None.	<input type="checkbox"/>	A DFFE compliant Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment by a suitably qualified specialist has been commissioned to verify the site's Terrestrial Biodiversity Sensitivity.
			Compliance Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			Full Assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
			Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	Very High	Low	None.	<input type="checkbox"/>	A DFFE compliant Aquatic Ecology Assessment by a suitably qualified specialist has been commissioned to verify the site's Aquatic Biodiversity Sensitivity.
			Compliance Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			Full Assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
			Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Low	None.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	





Socio-Economic Assessment	Not defined in the Screening Tool Report		Compliance Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	A Socio-Economic Assessment will not be undertaken for this proposed development as the development is not expected to have any negative socio-economic impacts.
			Full Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Plant Species Assessment	Low	Medium	None.	<input type="checkbox"/>	A DFFE compliant Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment by a suitably qualified specialist has been commissioned and will cover the plant species theme.
			Compliance Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			Full Assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
			Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Animal Species Assessment	Medium	Low	None.	<input type="checkbox"/>	A DFFE compliant Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment by a suitably qualified specialist has been commissioned and will cover the animal species theme.
			Compliance Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			Full Assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
			Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Guidance notes:

- An applicant intending to undertake an activity identified in the scope of this protocol, on a site identified by the screening tool as being of “very high” or “high” sensitivity for terrestrial animal species must submit a Terrestrial Animal Species Specialist Assessment Report.
- An applicant intending to undertake an activity identified in the scope of this protocol on a site identified by the screening tool as being of “medium sensitivity” for terrestrial animal species must submit either a Terrestrial Animal Species Specialist Assessment Report or a Terrestrial Animal Species Compliance Statement, depending on the outcome of a site inspection undertaken in accordance with paragraph 4.
- An applicant intending to undertake an activity identified in the scope of this protocol on a site identified by the screening tool as being of “low” sensitivity for terrestrial animal species must submit a Terrestrial Animal Species Compliance Statement.
- Where the information gathered from the site sensitivity verification differs from the screening tool designation of “very high” or “high”, for terrestrial animal species sensitivity and it is found to be of a “low” sensitivity, then a Terrestrial Animal Species Compliance Statement must be submitted.
- Where the information gathered from the site sensitivity verification differs from the screening tool designation of “low” terrestrial animal species sensitivity and it is found to be of a “very high” or “high” terrestrial animal species sensitivity, a Terrestrial Animal Species Specialist Assessment must be conducted.
- If any part of the development falls within an area of confirmed “very high” or “high” sensitivity, the assessment and reporting requirements prescribed for the “very high” or “high” sensitivity, apply to the entire development footprint. Development footprint in the context of this protocol means, the area on which the proposed development will take place and includes the area that will be disturbed or impacted.