

TIMELINE:

1953

Showing ad-hoc disturbances across the site and the greater area with the R321 already present.

Approx. site location =



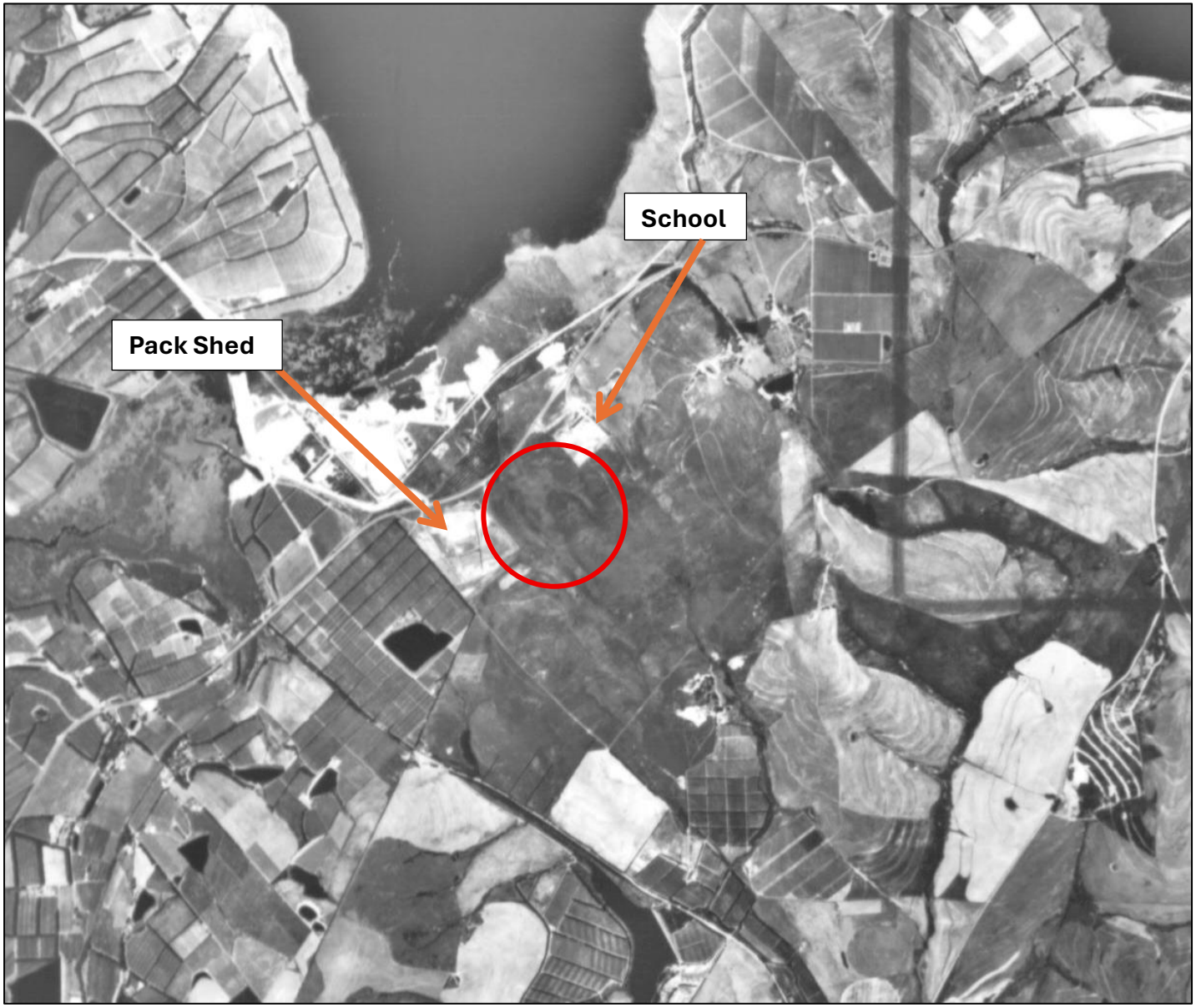
1966

Showing ad-hoc disturbances across the site and the greater area. However, more structured dams and agricultural fields are taking shape in closer vicinity to the site.



1979

The agricultural nature of the area has become established and the R321 is diverted closer to the site to make way for the Theewaterskloof Dam.



1989

The development of the pack shed to the west commences as well as the school to the east.

Post 1989 and prior to 1997:

A small dam was constructed on site which was used by farm workers for subsistence farming post 1989. This becomes clearly evident on the 1997 Aerial Image below.

The more recent fires have allowed the ground-truthing of the dam and the oral history around the site being used for agricultural purposes. A site visit was undertaken on the 17th February 2026 and the following became evident:

1. The location of the dam was confirmed SE of the application area i.e. dam wall and depression visible (image C, D & E).

2. Agricultural uses of the site evident i.e. irrigation infrastructure visible (A&B).

Please refer to Image A – E below:





A & B: Proof of irrigation system used to practice agriculture pre-NEMA.



C & E: Dam wall and excavated depression on the right.





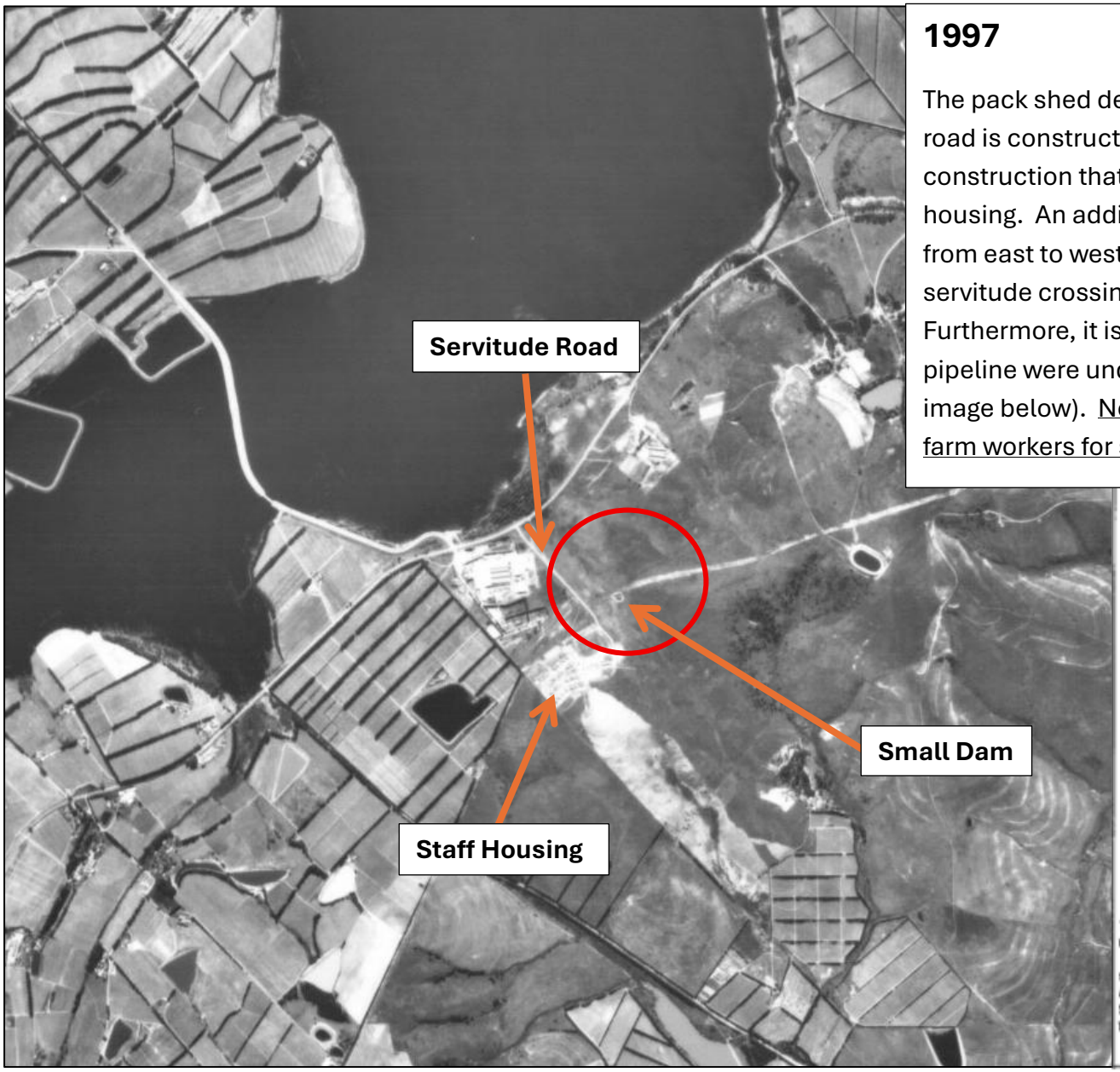


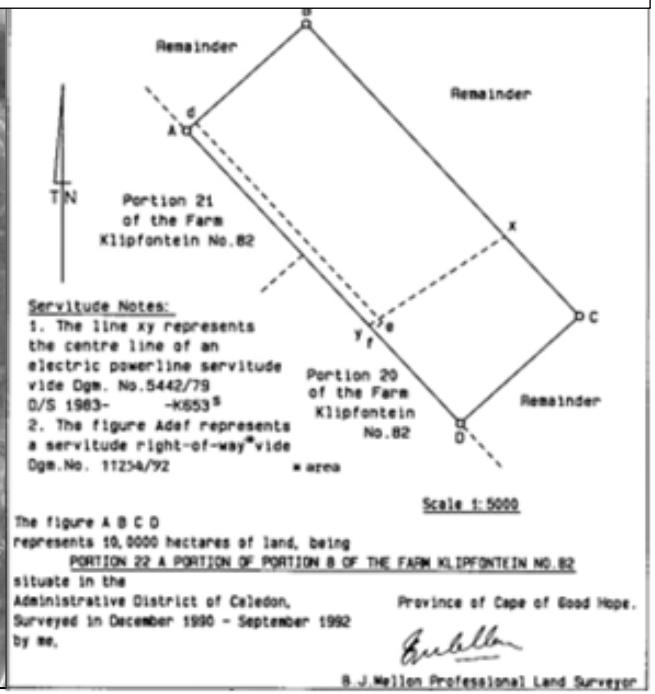
D: Proof of previous excavations above the Application site.



1997

The pack shed development to the west is in operation and a road is constructed to the west of the site as a result of construction that has commenced on the 'hill' for staff housing. An additional road is visible across the property from east to west. This coincides with an electrical powerline servitude crossing the site as shown on the SG Diagram (xy). Furthermore, it is understood that excavations for a water pipeline were undertaken along this line (refer to the 2000 image below). Note the small Dam on site which was used by farm workers for subsistence farming prior to and post 1997.







2000

The first colour aerial image available (DWS) shows the extent of the servitude and the excavations undertaken of what is understood to be a channel for a water pipeline which bisects the site. This subsequently became a road across the site. A number of new roads traverse the area since the 1997 aerial image as well as a power line servitude. Furthermore, the road and staff housing is formalised and complete to the south (on the hill). A canal running parallel on both sides of the road from south to north is clearly visible.

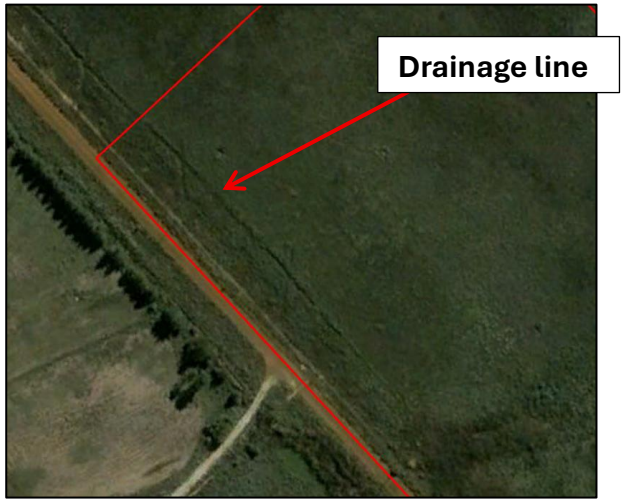
It is our understanding that the position of the stormwater canal on site moved over time, initially the stormwater canal was ±25 m from the road on the subject site (note **2004** Aerial Image onwards), in later years a new canal appears much closer to the road (visible from **2012** onwards). Both these canals drained the site and the stormwater from the developed areas (to the west). Water was initially directed along the western side of the road, however, at some point, stormwater was also directed to the eastern side of the road and onto the site, resulting in wetter conditions over the years.

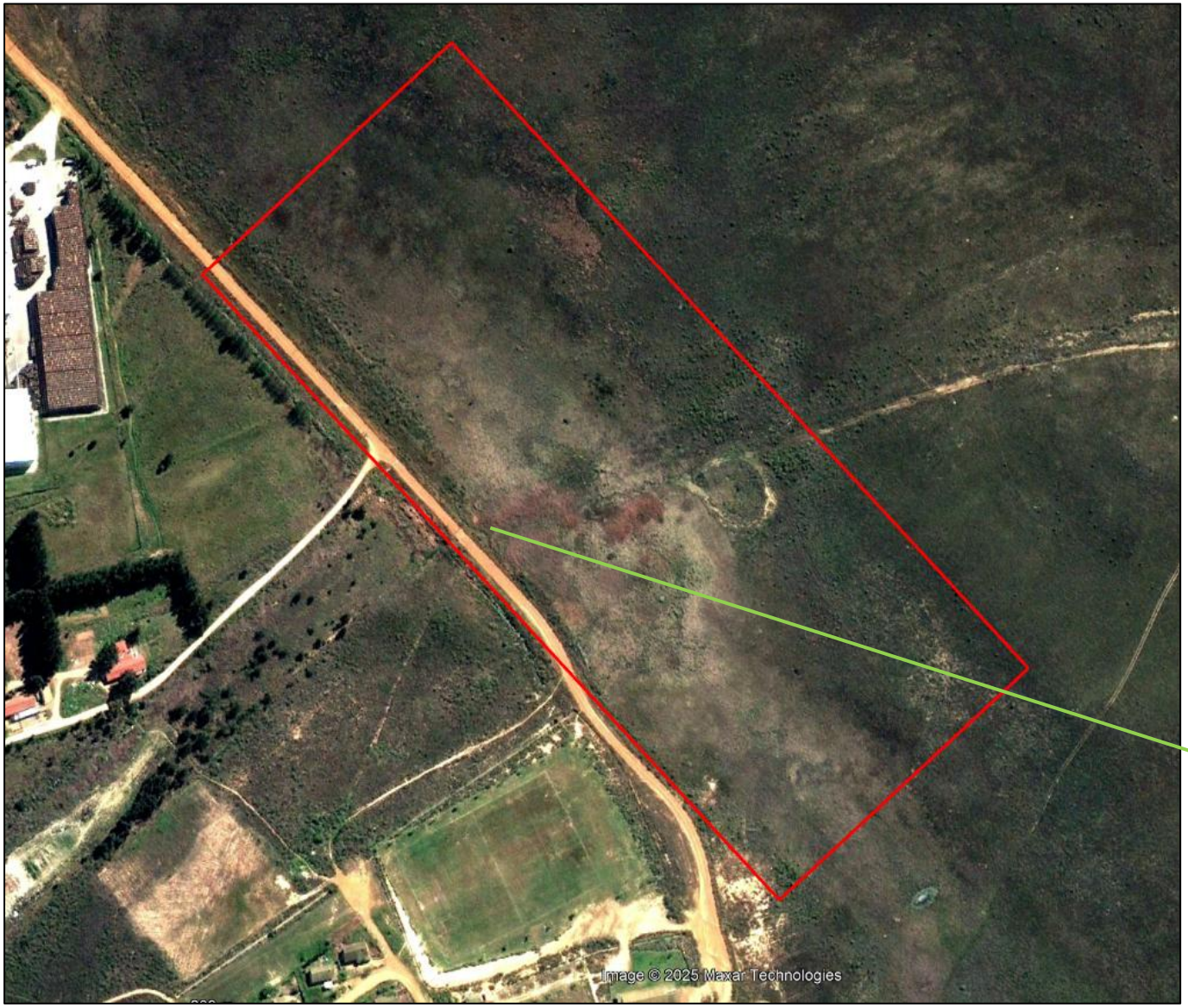


2004

Prior to the alleged illegal activities undertaken by the previous landowner (Mr Miller) in **2017** a trench already existed, where water drained in a north-westerly direction the trench directed water to run along the western boundary of the property and under the road through an existing culvert. The blue arrows indicate the direction of flow of stormwater from the west into the property and down the drainage channel (red arrow below).

Property outlined in red.





2009

Sump is visible though was likely built prior to 2009.

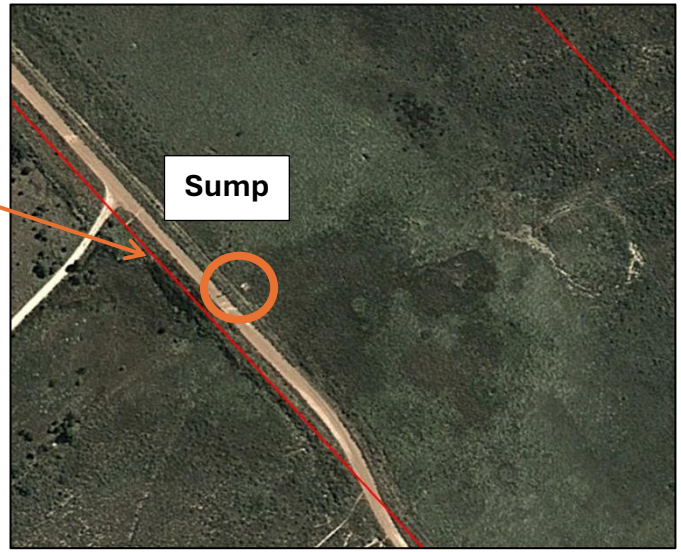
A sump is low space/pit where liquids collect and drain away.





2012 – January (dry season)

Darker green area evident, indicating location of the wetland/permanently wet area. Note the proximity of the sump to the wet area.





2014 – ESKOM Report

This map is taken from an Aquatic Study undertaken by Blue Science for a proposed substation for ESKOM. This report was undertaken in 2014 (see Annexure N4), the wetland delineated (green area (2)) coincides with the wetland mapped as part of this 24G Report. Coincidentally, the Freshwater Specialist was not aware of this report at the time of undertaking the 24G Aquatics Study of the site and yet the two areas coincide with each other. Furthermore, the Eskom Report therefore also contradicts the wetlands mapped in terms of the NFEPA Mapping and Cape Natures Study (see Appendix G4).

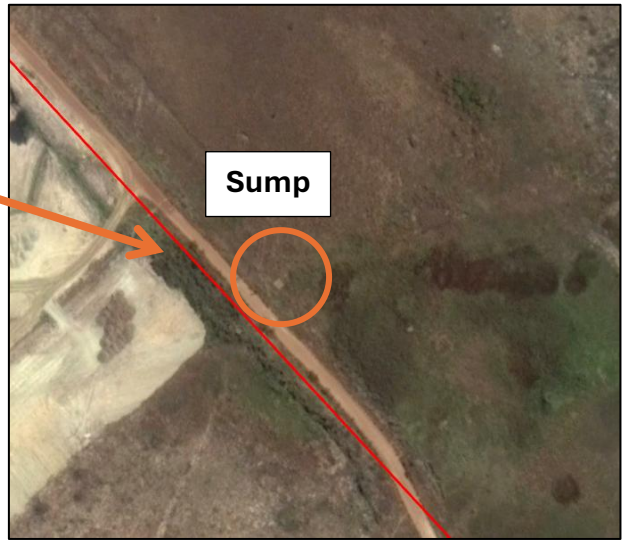
Note the water channels indicated by the thin blue lines.

This report therefore shows the site conditions prior to the unlawful activities taking place in 2017.



2016 – January (dry season)

Stormwater continues being directed to the eastern side of the road onto the site resulted in wetter conditions over the years. This is clear on aerial photos where a dark green wet area is shown, in the vicinity of the sump constructed on the site to facilitate stormwater from the west. This coincides with the wetland area delineated in the ESKOM report and the Aquatic Study as part of the S24G.





2017

It was in 2017 when the previous landowner, Mr Miller, dredged the existing trench along the western boundary of the property. In addition, he excavated a trench across the centre of the property, and along the northern boundaries (north-west and north-east).

These activities were however undertaken without the required authorisation from DEA&DP. Therefore, in consultation with the Department, Mr Miller agreed to carry out Rehabilitation in accordance with a rehabilitation plan. However, this was never carried out to completion prior to the land being sold to the current Applicant – Cropmax (±2021).

The current Applicant re-opened the central trench and once again dredged the historic trench along the western boundary (in addition to vegetation clearance). Refer to the 24G Report. The north-western and north-eastern trench have rehabilitated.