



Dave Edge & Associates

Biodiversity Surveys

Environmental Consulting

**TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT
BUTTERFLY SENSITIVITY & SITE SURVEY
UITZICHT 216 PORTION 45
KNYSNA
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

Prepared for:

HilLand Environmental
P O Box 590
George
6530

Attention: Ms Cathy Avierinos

David A Edge

Date of issue: 24th October 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	Description	Page
	Title page	1
	Table of Contents	2
	Credentials of the consulting personnel	3
	Declaration by independent person who compiled this report	4
1.	Introduction	5
2.	Terms of reference	5
3.	Methodology	
	3.1 Butterfly surveys	5
4.	Results	5
	4.1 Butterfly surveys	5
5.	Conclusions	6
6.	References	6
	Appendix 1 – Curriculum vitae of the independent specialist	7–10

CREDENTIALS OF THE CONSULTING PERSONNEL

Dr David A Edge

Contact details:

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Expertise:

- Qualifications: BSc (Zoology & Botany) UNISA; BSc (Hons) (Environmental Science) North-West University; MSc (Environmental Science) North-West University; PhD (Environmental Science) North-West University. Pr Nat Sc reg. no. 129735.
- Experience: Lepidopterist and ecologist with over 60 years' experience collecting and studying butterflies. Has conducted numerous specialist butterfly surveys in terms of NEMA.
- Publications/ conferences: Over 40 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 authors' 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 Jeffery Environmental Consultants accordingly.

This report must not be altered or added to without the prior written consent of the primary 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.

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, 2014 and 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

HillLand Environmental (HE) has been engaged by the owner of portion 45 of farm Uitzicht 216, Knysna, Western Cape Province to conduct a Basic Assessment Report for a proposed property development on this land. HE appointed Dave Edge & Associates on 8th April 2024 by Ms Cathy Avierinos of HE, to conduct a butterfly sensitivity study and preliminary site visit on the project site. This study was carried out and a preliminary site visit was made on 24th April 2024. The butterfly sensitivity report was submitted on 2nd May 2024, with a recommendation that a full butterfly survey to search for *Aloeides thyra orientis* be done during October.

2. Terms of reference of the Consultant

This report addresses the second phase of the investigation:

- 1) The first phase concluded (Edge, 2024) that there was a reasonable probability of the butterfly SCC *A. t. orientis* occurring on the project site. Consequently a butterfly survey targeting places where it is most likely to occur has to be carried out during the flight period of the butterfly (October–November). If an SCC is recorded during the butterfly survey a terrestrial biodiversity impact assessment (TBIA) will be necessary, whereas if the SCC butterfly is not found a Terrestrial Biodiversity Compliance Statement (TBCS) will be issued.

3. Methodology

3.1 Butterfly surveys

The butterfly expert will confirm that *A. t. orientis* is flying at other known localities during fine weather conditions (no cloud, warm conditions (>23°C) and with little wind (<5 m/s).

Within a few days, when weather conditions are again suitable, the butterfly survey at Uitzicht 45 will be conducted. Searching will be done on foot, concentrating on places where the host ant *Lepisiota capensis minuta* (Small Black Sugar Ant) is found. Such places have a sandy substrate with bare patches of sand, often disturbed by Cape Dune Mole-rat (*Bathyergerus suillus*) activities. The latter is a species of solitary burrowing rodent in the family Bathyergidae that is endemic to South Africa.

A track will be made of the search and waypoints recorded for any significant observations. Absence of the host ant is strong evidence that the butterfly *A. t. orientis* does not occur there.

4. Results



Figure 1 – Butterfly survey track(blue) 23rd October 2024 on Uitzicht 2016-45 (yellow outline).

4.1 Butterfly surveys

On 15th October 2024 the author went to a locality along the Belvidere–Goukamma hiking trail, and found *A. t. orientis* and the host ant *L. c. minuta* plentiful, even though the weather was not ideal. 8 days later, on 23rd October 2024, the butterfly survey was done at Uitzicht 216-45. Over a distance of c. 1 500m on the hiking trail, 25 butterflies were recorded (mostly close to *L. c. minuta* nests, showing how dependent they are on this ant. The GPS of the closest record to Uitzicht 216-45 was 34° 2' 17.1" S; 22° 58' 6.1" E, c. 2 000m away.

On 23rd October the author went to Uitzicht 216-45 and searched nearly the whole property (see track below). He did not find any *A. t. orientis* butterflies or *L. c. minuta* ants. This is strong evidence that *A. t. orientis* does not occur on Uitzicht 216-45.

5. Conclusions

The SCC butterfly *A. t. orientis* (Endangered) does not currently occur on Uitzicht 216-45, and a Terrestrial Biodiversity Compliance Statement is hereby issued.

6. References

- Mecenero, S., Edge, D.A., *et al.* 2020. Outcomes of the Southern African Lepidoptera Conservation Assessment (SALCA). *Metamorphosis* **31(4)**: 54–55.
- Mucina, L. & Rutherford, M.C. (eds). 2006. The vegetation of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. *Strelitzia* **19**. South African National Biodiversity Institution, Pretoria.
- Regalis Environmental Services. 2005. The natural vegetation of the Western Heads (Knysna), notes on its ecological sensitivity and proposed future development. Unpublished report for the Western Heads Conservancy.
- Williams, M.C. 2024. Afrotropical Butterflies. <https://www.metamorphosis.org.za/?p=articles&s=atb>.



D.A. Edge

Dave Edge & Associates

24th October 2024

APPENDIX 1

CURRICULUM VITAE

DAVID ALAN EDGE

Date of birth: 22nd 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”
2020 Registered Professional Natural Scientist – reg. no. 129735.

LEPIDOPTERISTS’ SOCIETY OF AFRICA (LEPSOC AFRICA)

1983 Founder member
1984–1986 Council member
1993–2016 Representative – Southern Cape
2008–2011 Treasurer
2011–2020 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
1999–2019 Knysna Environmental Forum - Co-chairman
2005–2020 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)
2011–2019 Leader of the Conservation of Rare and Endangered Lepidoptera (COREL) programme for South Africa, including being “Custodian” for six species.
2015–2019 Project Director for the South African Lepidoptera Conservation Assessment (SALCA) project carried out for the South African Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
2015–2019 Taxon Lead – Butterflies for the BioGaps project to establish the biological diversity of the ‘Shale Gas Fracking’ area of the Karoo
2020 Appointed chairperson of the Western Heads-Goukamma Conservancy

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

Dave Edge & Associates Environmental Consulting

1997 – 2001	Sparrebosch, Knysna	Detailed butterfly surveys for EIA and monitoring
2000 – 2004	Roodefontein, Plettenberg Bay	Butterfly surveys for scoping report and EIA
2001	Pezula Estate, Knysna	Preliminary assessment of butterfly potential
2001	The Cove, Knysna	Preliminary assessment of butterfly potential
2001 – 2003	Fernwood, Knysna	Butterfly surveys for scoping report and EIA
2003 – 2004	The Lakes, Sedgefield	Butterfly survey for scoping report and EIA
2004 – 2005	Lagoon Bay, Glentana	Butterfly survey for scoping report and EIA
2004 – 2006	Paradise Coast, Mossel Bay	Butterfly survey for scoping report and EIA
2004 – 2005	Pezula@Hunters, Knysna	Butterfly survey for scoping report and EIA
2004 – 2006	Uitzicht 216-176, Knysna	Butterfly survey for scoping report and EIA
2004 – 2008	Pierpoint Nature Estate, Knysna	Butterfly survey for scoping report and EIA
2005 – 2006	Erf 4016 Eastford, Knysna	Butterfly survey for scoping report
2006 – 2007	Stilbaai Farm 485/51	Butterfly survey for scoping report
2006 – 2008	Destiny Africa, George	Butterfly survey for scoping report
2008	Escom, Nuclear Power Stations	Preliminary assessment of butterfly potential
2009	Pierpoint Nature Estate, Knysna	Research programme to establish ecology of <i>A. almeida</i>
2009 – 2010	Escom, Nuclear Power Stations	Detailed butterfly surveys (3 power station sites)
2011 – 2012	Uitzicht 216-77, Brenton	Biodiversity survey for scoping report
2012	Green View Estate, Mossel Bay	Butterfly survey for scoping report

2015	Zeelandsnek, Oudtshoorn	Butterfly survey for scoping report
2015 – 2018	Mossel Bay Cemetery project	Butterfly survey for scoping report; monitoring programme
2016	Schaapkraal, Cape Town	Butterfly scoping and sensitivity report
2016 – 2019	Entabeni Estate, Knysna	Management plan for butterfly reserve
2016 – 2019	Uitzicht 216-71 & 72, Brenton	EIA for development proposal
2017 – 2019	Hartenbosheuvels	Butterfly scoping study
2019	Abalone Hatchery, Gouritsmond	Desk top study – butterflies
2019	Lamloch Safari Park, Kleinmond	Butterfly survey
2019	Village-on-Sea, Mossel Bay	Butterfly survey
2019	Mossel Bay Golf Estate	Butterfly survey
2020	Rouen Farm	Butterfly survey and issue of Terrestrial Biodiversity Compliance Statement (TBCS)
2020	Drakenzicht	Butterfly survey and issue of TBCS
2020	Still Bay Cemetery	Desktop study and issue of TBCS
2020	Butterfly Blue, Stellenbosch	Desktop study and issue of TBCS
2020	Erf 4016, Knysna	Butterfly survey and comments on Basic Assessment Report
2020	Nuweveld Wind Farms	Desktop study; butterfly survey; and issue of TBCS
2020	Gletwyn Gardens	Desktop study and issue of TBCS
2020	Rouen Farm, Gordon's Bay	Desktop study and issue of TBCS – butterflies
2020	Still Bay Cemetery	Terrestrial biodiversity sensitivity – butterflies
2020-2021	Nuweveld Wind Farm, W Cape	Desk top study of potential impact on butterflies
2020-2021	Nuweveld Wind Farm, W Cape	Butterfly survey to determine occurrence of ERT butterflies
2020-2021	Kokerboom Wind Farm, N Cape	Desk top study of potential impact on butterflies
2020–2021	Villa Billion Project, Kuils River	Terrestrial biodiversity compliance statement – butterflies
2021	Erf 4016, Knysna	Environmental impact assessment – butterflies
2021	Impofu Grid Extension, E Cape	Butterfly sensitivity study; habitat modelling
2021	Belhar Project, Cape Town	Terrestrial biodiversity sensitivity – butterflies
2021	Hoogland Wind Farm, W. Cape	Desk top study of potential impact on butterflies
2021	Still Bay West Erf 485-82 & 92	
2021	Aalwyndal Erf 21275, Mossel Bay	Desk top study, site survey and TBCS – butterflies
2021	Still Bay East Erf 1692	Desk top study and site survey – butterflies
2021	Hoogland Wind Farm, W. Cape	Butterfly survey to determine occurrence of ERT butterflies
2021	Zandberg Sand Mine Expansion	Desk top study and site survey and EIA – butterflies
2021	Aalwyndal Erven 21238 & 9	Desk top study, site survey and TBCS – butterflies
2022	Still Bay West Erf 591	Desk top study, site survey and TBCS – butterflies
2022	Knysna Uitzicht 216-111	Desk top study, site survey and TBCS – butterflies
2022	Mfuleni Project	Desk top study and preliminary site survey – butterflies
2022	Jongensfontein Erf 187	Desk top study, site survey and recommendations for a butterfly reserve
2022	Kleingeluk Quarries, Mossel Bay	Desk top study, site survey and TBCS – butterflies
2022	Ezelsjacht Wind & Solar, W Cape	Desk top study, site survey and TBCS – butterflies
2022	Klein Brak Hotel, Mossel Bay	Desk top study and TBCS – butterflies
2022	Vrygrond/ Retreat Housing, Cape Town	Desk top study, site surveys and TBCS – butterflies
2022	Dubula Solar Energy project	Desk top study, site survey and TBCS – butterflies
2023	Wittedrif Road upgrade	Desk top study and TBCS – butterflies
2023	Mossel Bay Sand Mine	Desk top study, site survey and TBCS – butterflies
2023	Ezelsjacht Wind & Solar Phase 3	EIA - butterflies
2023	Nekkies bypass road	Desk top study and preliminary site survey – butterflies

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

EDGE, D.A. 1982. Re-discovery of *Erikssonia acraeina* Trimen. *Rostrum*, 1(2): 2

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- EDGE, D.A., ROBERTSON, H.G. & VAN HAMBURG, H. 2008. Ant assemblages at potential breeding sites for the Brenton Blue butterfly *Orachrysops niobe* (Trimen) (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae). *African Entomology* **16**(2): 253–262.
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- EDGE, D.A.** 2021. Book Review – The Lepidopteran fauna of a crater valley in the Great Escarpment of South Africa: The Asante Sana Project. *Metamorphosis* **32**: xvi–xvii.
- EDGE, D.A.** 2023. Metamorphosis – 40 years on. *Metamorphosis* **34**: vi–vii.
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