

chapter 6
precinct district

6.1. DISTRICT ANALYSIS

6.1.1. PLEDGE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

Before Knysna was officially named a town, it was made up of small settlements, one of which was Newhaven. In 1820 George Rex gave 40 morgen of Eastford to Admiralty. Some of this land was used by the Admiralty to set up a small boat building yard on the edge of the lagoon. The remainder of the 40 morgen was used as commonage. In 1825, permission was granted for the village of Melville to be built on the common. The village grew slowly at first, and by mid-century only a handful of simple houses had been erected. However, as settlement of the Cape Colony intensified, the demand for the rich timber resources of the Knysna area grew rapidly. As the area flourished, the settlements of Newhaven and Melville experienced their first 'housing boom'. Woodcutters, furniture makers, coastal traders and related service providers settled in the area. It was to feed this boom and the subsequent demand for kiln-dried bricks, that brickfields sprang up around the edge of the settlements, where there was ample raw material and firewood on hand. One of these brickfields, on the northern edge of the town limits, as they were then, was in an area called Bok-se-Kloof. It is here, today, more than 100 years later, that the Pledge Nature Reserve lies, being restored, where possible, to its original natural beauty.

Just when the Bok-se-Kloof brickfield closed, is not known. Certainly, by the 1920's, the area was known as the "old brickfield". Daisy Eberhard, whose family was among the pioneers of the area, took over the 'Brownie' movement in 1927 and, wanting a suitable meeting place for her group, she approached the Knysna Town Council to allow her to use a portion of Bok-se-Kloof. In 1929, in support of her application, 500 yards of fencing was erected on the hillside and valley floor for her use. She described the area as being "adjacent to the old brickfield with a clear stream flowing through it." It was here that, under the guidance of Daisy Eberhard, generations of Knysna's youth first discovered the diversity of the Cape's botanical heritage.

Daisy Eberhard's "clear stream" did not remain clear for long. Ravaged by urban encroachment, the stream silted up and stopped flowing regularly. However, with its banks denuded and sterile, it frequently flash flooded after heavy rain. This caused silt and urban rubbish to be dumped into the fragile Knysna lagoon. The land itself, being part of a valley and largely unsuitable for housing, escaped major development. But it was left as waste ground – an informal dump, where invader vegetation soon took root.

The following year, the Department of Forestry received notice of an offer of sponsorship for a non-commercial forest conservation project in the Southern Cape. The Wildlife Society agreed to adopt Bok-se-Kloof as an environmental rehabilitation project for the Branch and a project presentation was drawn up which resulted in a generous grant from SC Johnson & Son, whose range of household products include the Pledge furniture care range, after which the Pledge Nature Reserve is named.

A group of vandalized buildings on the site, which once housed the Voortrekker Youth Movement, were bought by the Wildlife Society and presented to the Reserve. These underwent extensive renovations to provide a store, an office, toilets and a curator's cottage. Local business and individual support included the supply of tools, equipment and material and on April 3, 1989, Margaret Addinall, together with six workers, started the immense task of clearing the wattle jungle and other invader growth. On April 20, after having received approval from the Town Council, the Pledge Nature Reserve Management Committee was officially formed with Margaret Addinall as the Reserve's first curator. By the end of September, the worst was over and the transformations of the valley had begun. (Brochure)

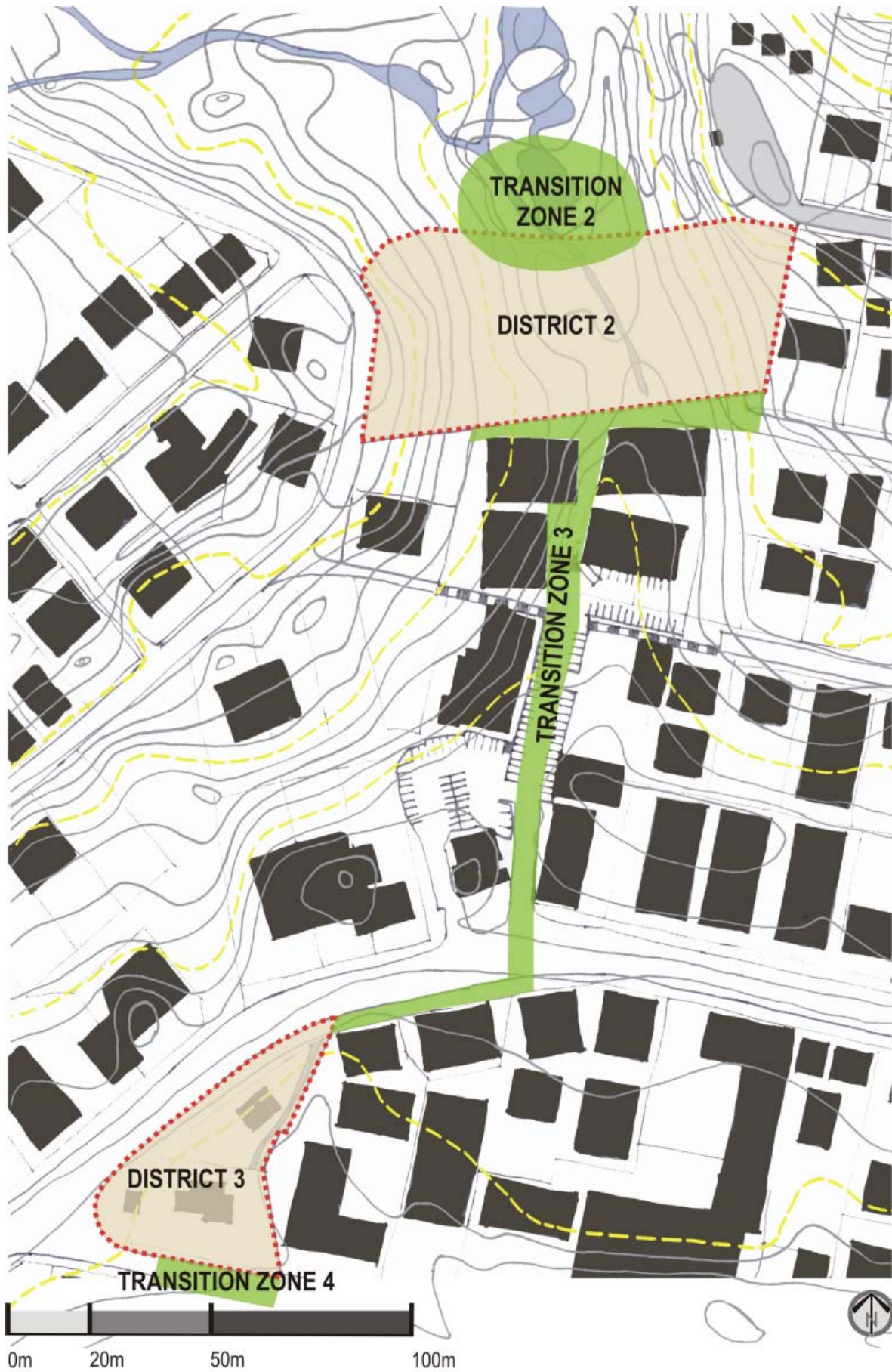


6.1. & 6.2. Indigenous vegetation species of Pledge Nature Reserve (Howard 2005)





6.3. Northern view of Pledge Nature Reserve from the proposed residential and commercial development site which is currently bus parking (Howard 2005)

6.1.2. MAP ANALYSIS OF DISTRICTS 2 AND 3



LEGEND: DISTRICT STUDY AREAS

-  DISTRICTS
-  TRANSITION ZONES
-  2M CONTOURS



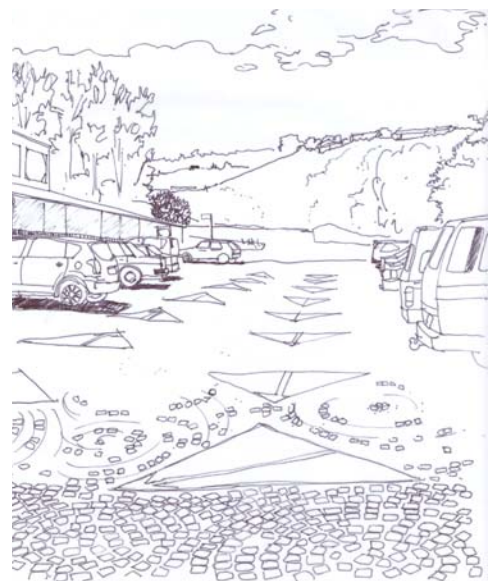
LEGEND: SURROUNDING LAND USE

- RESIDENTIAL
- PLEDGE NATURE RESERVE PROPER
- PLEDGE NATURE RESERVE - VACANT AREA
- PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT - COMMERCIAL & BUSINESS ON GROUND FLOOR, BUSINESS & RESIDENTIAL ON 1ST FLOOR, RESIDENTIAL ON 2ND FLOOR
- COMMERCIAL & BUSINESS
- HOTEL ACCOMMODATION
- VACANT RESTAURANT & UNUSED SITE WITH STORMWATER DRAIN RUNNING ALONGSIDE
- MUNICIPAL SUBSTATION
- SECOND-HAND VEHICLE SHOP
- 2M CONTOURS

6.5. District surrounding land use (Knysna Municipality 2000 & Howard 2005)











6.6. Commercial and business land use to the south of Pledge Nature Reserve (Howard 2005)



6.7. Commercial facility to the left foreground, site for future commercial and residential development in the middleground, Pledge Nature Reserve in the background, with surrounding adjacent residential areas and the correctional facility to the north (Howard 2005)



LEGEND: CIRCULATION & MOVEMENT

-  MAIN ROAD / N2 - PRIMARY URBAN & REGIONAL CIRCULATION ROUTE
-  PRIMARY VEHICULAR ACCESS TO DISTRICT 2, PORTION IN THE SITE WITH DIRT SURFACE
-  INFORMAL PEDESTRIAN WALKWAYS IN PLEDGE NATURE RESERVE
-  STEPPED & SLOPED PEDESTRIAN ACCESS POINTS TO SURROUNDING RESIDENTIAL AREAS FROM COMMERCIAL REGION
-  MODERATE INTENSITY PEDESTRIAN & VEHICULAR USE DUE TO COMMERCIAL & TOURIST FUNCTIONS
-  POTENTIAL HIGH PEDESTRIAN USE DUE TO PROPOSED COMMERCIAL FUNCTIONS & REHABILITATION OF PLEDGE NATURE RESERVE SOUTHERN PORTION
-  HIGH PEDESTRIAN INTENSITY DUE TO COMMERCIAL & TOURIST RELATED FUNCTIONS
-  2M CONTOURS

6.8. District circulation & movement information (Knysna Municipality 2000 & Howard 2005)



6.9. Pedestrian footpath in Pledge Nature Reserve (Howard 2005)













6.10. Primary vehicular access point to proposed new development (Howard 2005)



6.11. The pedestrian access point via a stairway from the residential area to the proposed development site (Howard 2005)



LEGEND: LEGIBILITY

-  FENCED EDGE
-  PROMINENT ROAD EDGE BETWEEN RESIDENTIAL AREA & RESERVE
-  EDGE DUE TO LEVEL CHANGE
-  BOUNDARY WALL EDGE
-  EDGE ACCESS POINT
-  ECOLOGICAL NODE
-  TOURIST INFORMATION NODES
-  VIEWPOINTS & POTENTIAL VIEWS
-  MODERATE TO HIGH SENSE OF PLACE
-  2M CONTOURS

6.12. District legibility information (Knysna Municipality 2000 & Howard 2005)



6.15. Structures on the reserve which serve as an office, curator residence, boardroom and toilet facilities (Howard 2005)










6.13. Barbed wire fence edge surrounding Pledge Nature Reserve (Howard 2005)



6.14. Limited information of and accessibility into the reserve (Howard 2005)



LEGEND: HYDROLOGY & STORMWATER

-  NATURAL DRAINAGE DIRECTION DUE TO URBAN TOPOGRAPHY
-  PLEDGE NATURE RESERVE STREAMS & WETLANDS WHICH COLLECT SURROUNDING AREAS STORMWATER
-  EXPOSED CHANNEL
-  CURRENT POSITION OF STREAM THROUGH THE PROPOSED COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SITE, IN FUTURE TO BE PIPED
-  PRESUMED SUBSURFACE POSITION OF PIPED STREAM & ASSOCIATED STORMWATER
-  HYDROLOGICAL TRANSITION ZONES FROM SURFACE TO SUBSURFACE
-  2M CONTOURS

6.16. District hydrology and stormwater (Knysna Municipality 2000 & Howard 2005)



6.17. Poor quality of riverine downstream of Pledge Nature Reserve (Howard 2005)



6.18. A pleasant space is created by this water body in Pledge Nature Reserve (Howard 2005)



6.19. District vegetation (Knysna Municipality 2000 & Howard 2005)



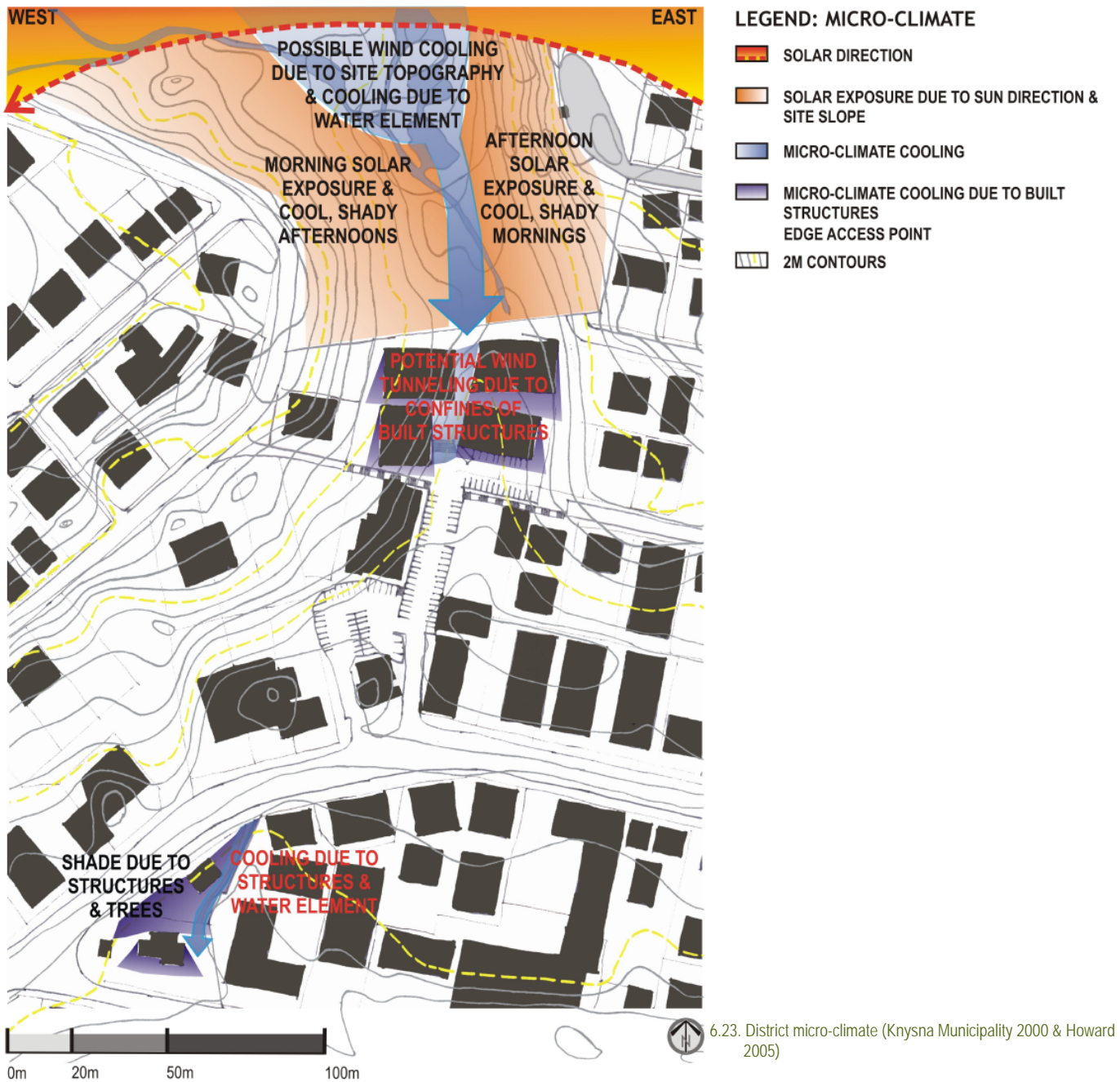
6.20. Pledge Nature Reserve dense vegetation on western boundary. Invasive specie problem (Howard 2005)



6.21. Degraded vegetation on the proposed new development site (Howard 2005)



6.22. Exotic and invader species on the proposed District 3 site (Howard 2005)



6.24. Sketch of view north of Pledge Nature Reserve (District 1) from the proposed environmental education centre (District 2) (Howard 2005)



6.26. Section A - Not too scale (Howard 2005)



6.27. Section B - Not too scale (Howard 2005)



6.28. Section C - Not too scale (Howard 2005)



6.29. Section D - Not too scale (Howard 2005)