

**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT  
PEZULA PRIVATE ESTATE  
KNYSNA**

Prepared for

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By

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## **Executive summary**

Large numbers of Stone Age tools were located during a heritage impact assessment (HIA) of the farm Noetzie No. 394, near Knysna, on the southern Cape coast.

The proposed Pezula Private Estate development comprises residential housing and recreational activities, on 612 ha of land.

Present development on the property comprises a managers house and an old farmhouse.

A large portion of the property comprises pine and blue gum plantation.

The stone tools were found on a highly eroded, sheet washed gravel and sand track, above the steep coastal cliffs, in the eastern portion of the property.

A few tools were also found on a rocky spur overlooking the ocean in the western portion of the site.

The tools, all in quartzite, comprise mainly Early Stone Age artefacts, including large handaxes, choppers, cleavers, flaked cobbles and large flakes.

Middle Stone Age tools were also found in the gravel track, including flakes, cores, points, blade tools, cores and chunks.

A few Later Stone Age tools were also found.

All the material was found in a severely disturbed context and the remains have been given a low significance rating.

An old farmhouse was also located in the north-eastern portion of the site is. The house is, according to the current owners, at least 70 years old. The building comprises a simple, four roomed house, and has been modified externally. Internally, the house has not been changed much.

The building is not considered to be historically or architecturally significant.

The overall impact of the proposed development on archaeological and heritage sites/remains is considered to be low.

The probability of locating significant archaeological and heritage remains during implementation of the project is also considered to be low.

In general, the receiving environment is not considered to be archaeologically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.

With regard to the proposed Pezula Private Estate development, the following heritage recommendations are therefore made.

1. No archaeological mitigation is required.
2. Proposed plans to destroy the farmhouse on the property must be approved by the South African Heritage Resources Agency, for which a permit is required..
3. No more detailed studies are required.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Hilland Associates have requested the Agency for Cultural Resource Management to undertake a heritage impact assessment (HIA) of the farm Noetzie No. 394, near Knysna, on the southern Cape coast..

The proposed Pezula Private Estate development comprises residential housing, on 612 ha of land.

The aim of the study is to locate, identify and map archaeological and historical remains that may be negatively impacted by the proposed project, to propose measures to mitigate against the impact and to guide the development process.

### **1. 1. Terms of reference**

The terms of reference for the HIA study were:

to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological and historical sites of significance on the proposed site;  
to identify and map any sites of archaeological and historical significance on the proposed site;  
to assess the sensitivity and significance of archaeological and historical sites on the proposed site;  
to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and  
to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological and historical sites that may exist.

## **2. THE STUDY SITE**

The study site for the proposed project is illustrated in Figure 1.

The property is located between Knysna and Noetzie, on the southern Cape coast.

Present development on the property comprises a modern show house and an old farmhouse.

A large portion of the property comprises pine and blue gum plantation.

## **3. STUDY APPROACH**

The approach used in the archaeological study entailed a foot survey of the study site.

#### 4. LEGISLATION

Archaeological sites and buildings, structure and features over 60 years old are protected under the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

It is an offence to destroy, damage, excavate, alter, or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object, without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

#### 5. RESULTS OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Relatively large numbers of stone tools were found on a highly eroded, sheet washed gravel and sand track, above the steep, vegetated coastal cliffs, in the eastern portion of the property.

A few tools were also found on a rocky spur overlooking the ocean in the western portion of the site.

The tools comprise mainly Early Stone Age (ESA) artefacts, including four large handaxes, two choppers, three cleavers, flaked cobbles, chunks and large modified and unmodified flakes (Figures 2 & 4). A large handaxe, measuring about 18 cms was also found in a donga alongside the track (Figure 3).

Middle Stone Age (MSA) tools including unmodified and modified flakes, cores, points, blade tools, and chunks were also found in the gravel track, (Figure 2).

A few Later Stone Age (LSA) quartz flakes and chunks were also found.

The tools were all found in a severely disturbed context.

Significance of finds: **medium - low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

##### 5.1 Other finds

An old farmhouse was also located in the north western portion of the property (Figures 5 & 6).

According to the current owner, Mrs Matthys, the farmhouse is at least 70 years old. The building comprises a simple, four roomed house. All the original windows (save for a back room converted into a bathroom), have been removed and replaced with metal windows.

The original doors have also been replaced. Internally, the house has not been changed much. The original yellow wood floors are still in tact.

The house is not considered to be historically or architecturally significant.

Significance of finds: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required, but a permit to destroy the building must be approved by the South African Heritage Resources Agency**

## **6. IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed Pezula Private Estate development will not impact negatively on archaeological or other heritage remains.

The probability of locating significant archaeological or heritage remains during implementation of the project is considered to be low.

## **7. CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

In general, the receiving environment is not considered to be archaeologically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.

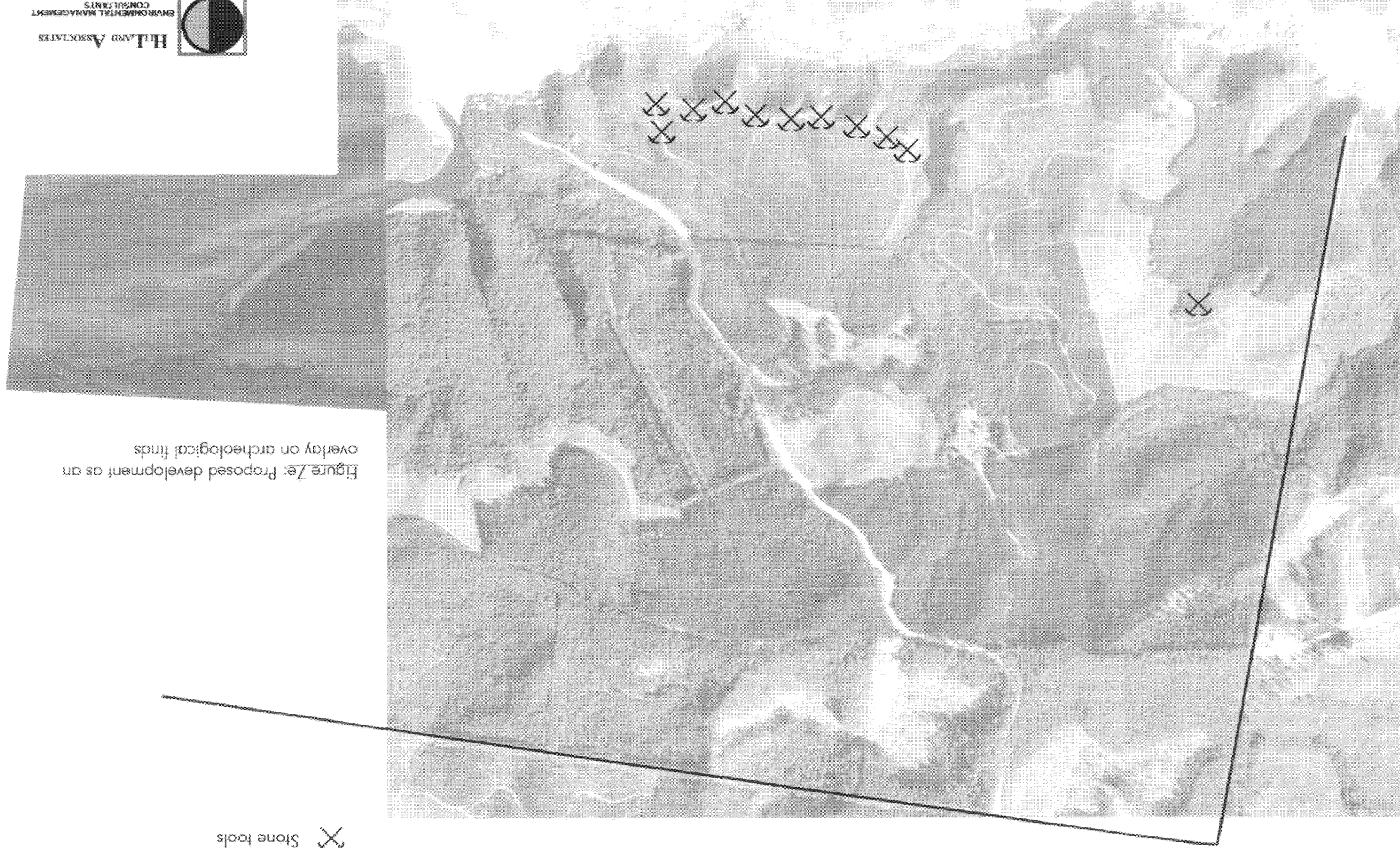
## **8. MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

With regard to the proposed Pezula Private Estate in Knysna, the following mitigation and management actions are made.

Proposed plans to destroy the old farmhouse must be approved by the South African Heritage Resources Agency, for which a permit is required.

2. No further detailed studies are required.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the South African Heritage Resources Agency Committee.





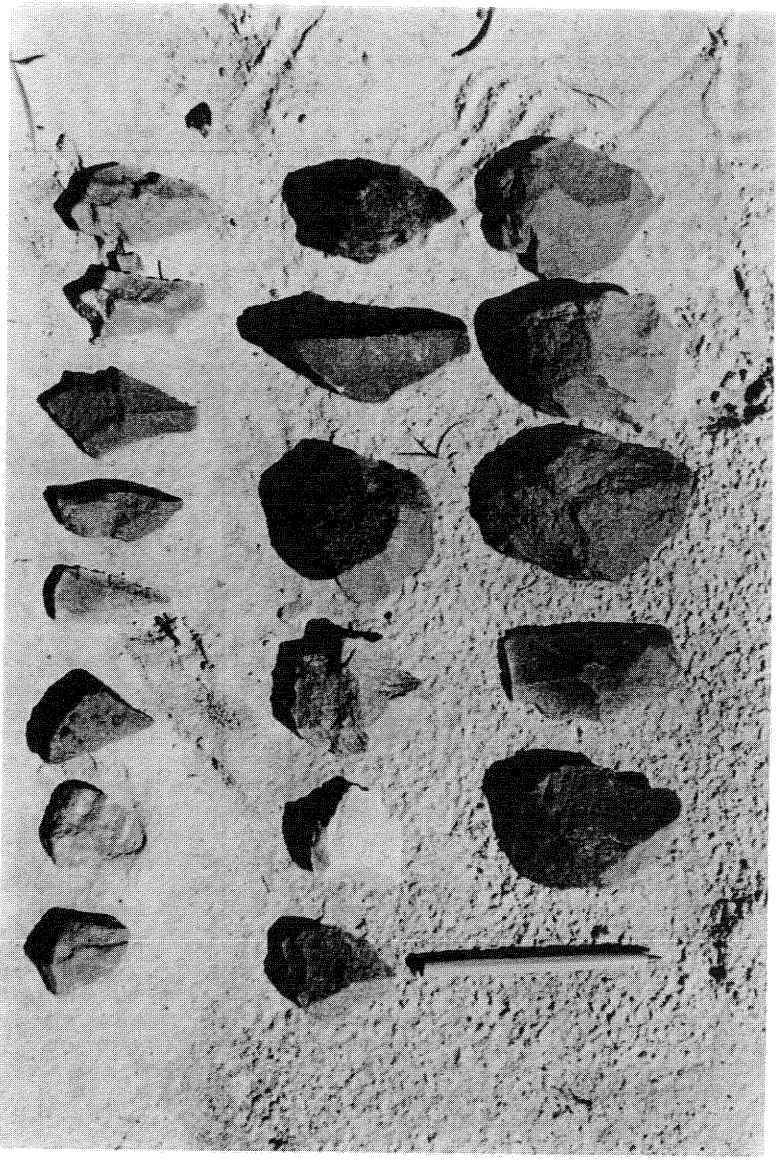


Figure 2. Heritage Impact Assessment, Pezula Private Estate, Knysna. Collection of Middle Stone Age and Early Stone Age tools.

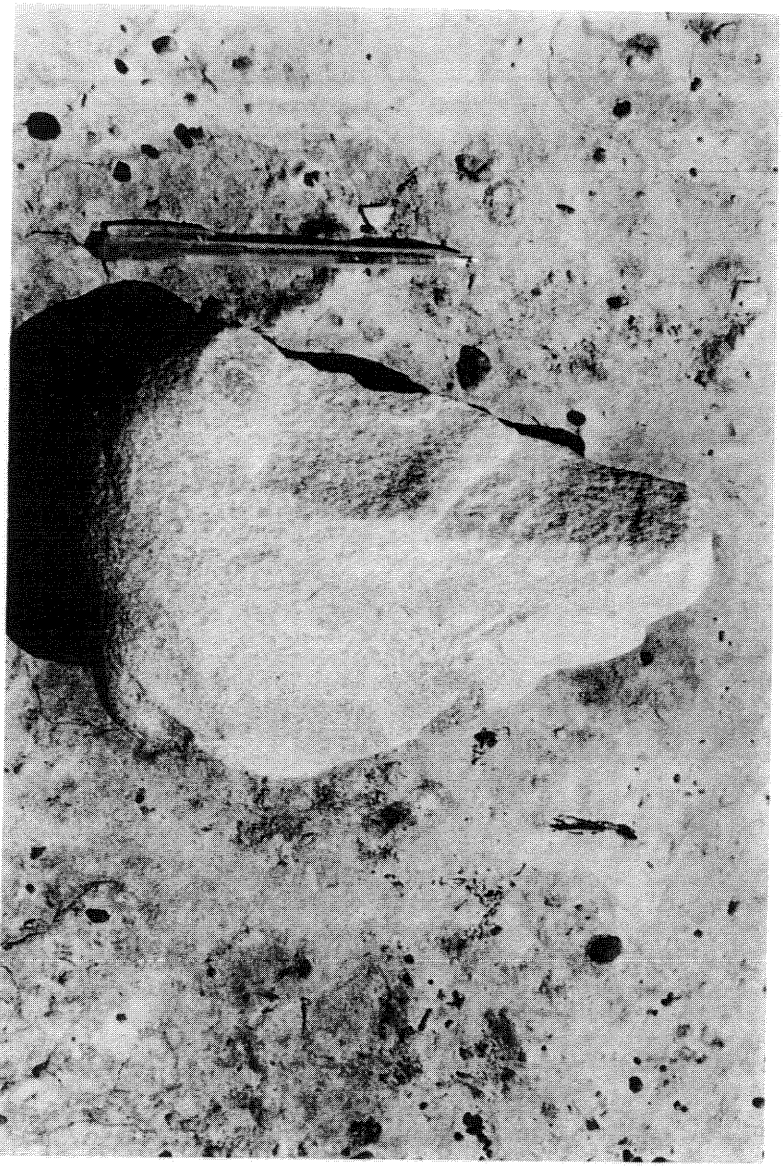


Figure 3. Heritage Impact Assessment, Pezula Private Estate, Knysna. Large Early Stone Age handaxe.

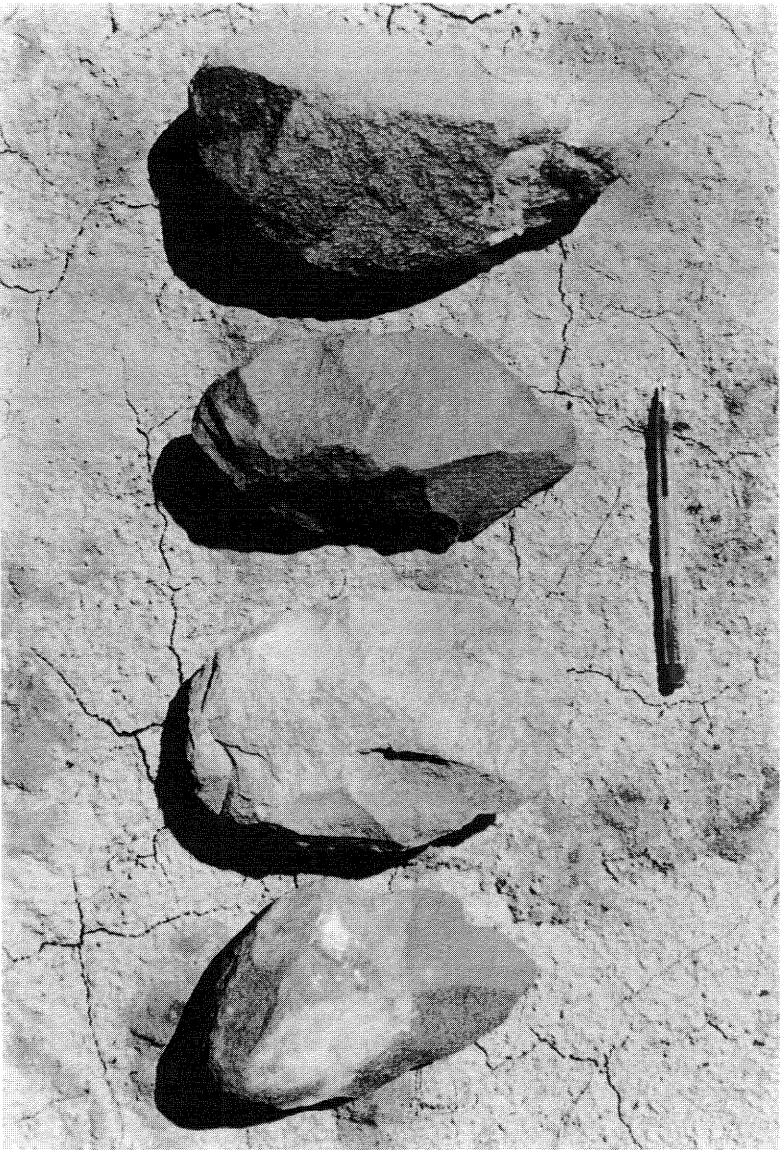


Figure 4. Heritage Impact Assessment, Pezula Private Estate, Knysna. Early Stone Age handaxes and cleavers.

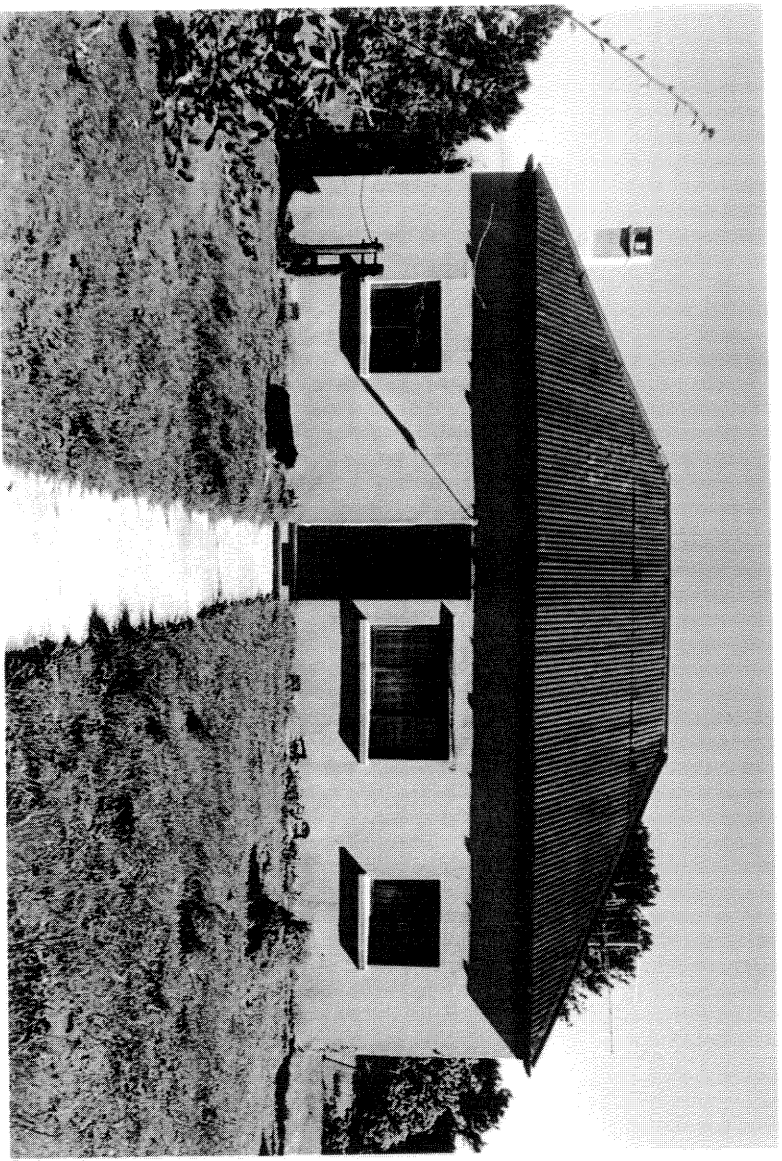


Figure 5. Heritage Impact Assessment, Pezula Private Estate, Knysna. Old farmhouse (front).



Figure 6. Heritage Impact Assessment, Pezula Private Estate, Knysna. Old farmhouse (back).