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AFRICAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC

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SCOPING REPORT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES OF THE FARM LAKENVLEI

1. DEFINITION

The broad generic term *Cultural Heritage resources* refers to any physical and spiritual property associated with past and present human use or occupation of the environment, cultural activities and history. The term includes sites, structures, places, natural features and material of palaeontological, archaeological, historical, aesthetic, scientific, architectural, religious, symbolic or traditional importance to specific individuals or groups, traditional systems of cultural practice, belief or social interaction.

2. PROTECTED SITES IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE ACT, ACT. NO. 25 OF 1999

The following are the most important sites and objects protected by the National Heritage Act:

- a. Structures or parts of structures older than 60 years
- b. Archaeological sites and objects
- c. Palaeontological sites
- d. Meteorites
- e. Ship wrecks
- f. Burial grounds
- g. Graves of victims of conflict
- h. Public monuments and memorials
- i. Structures, places and objects protected through the publication of notices in the Government Gazette and Provincial Gazette
- j. Any other places or objects which are considered to be of interest or of historical or cultural significance

- k. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- l. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa
 - m. Objects to which oral traditions are attached
 - n. Sites of cultural significance or other value to a community or patterns of South African history

3. METHODOLOGY

All appropriate documents, maps and aerial photographs of the farm were studied. This also included research documents of the former Transvaal Provincial Museum Services and colour slides of the main settlement.

4. RESULTS

Historically Lakenvlei is one of the most important farms in Mpumalanga. Johannes Andries Nicolas (J.A.N.) van Kraayenburg was born on 6 November 1829 in the Cape Colony. He accompanied his parents on their trek to Roos Senekal. J.A.N. was a wagon builder by trade. He married in 1859 and shortly afterwards settled at Lakenvlei. The farm was registered in his name in 1871. J.A.N. was the first sheep and horse farmer in the district and farmed with Afrikaner and Merino sheep.

J.A.N. and his wife Catharina had eight children. The first school in the district was opened on Lakenvlei in 1886 with eleven pupils. Upon J.A.N.'s death in 1901 his sons Willem and Arie each inherited a portion of the farm. Arie received the section with the farmhouse and cared for his mother until her death in 1939 at the ripe age of 101 years.

4.1 Architecture

The first and very temporary residence at Lakenvlei was, according to oral history, a tented wagon that stood on a stacked stonewall (1859). Nothing has remained of the wagon or wall.

4.1.1 1860 House (*Opgekleide huisie*)

A small dwelling with stonewalls at the lower level and layers of clay, added one on top of the other was erected in about 1860 (S25°26' 07.2" E030° 04' 19.4"). This structure still stands and is a good example of this technique of clay building. The best known method, used in the Transvaal, was to place two wooden planks on their sides, parallel to each other, and join them with smaller planks at each end. Clay was then pressed into this mould to form a long layer. As soon as it was dry, two more planks were placed on top and the next clay layer put down. When completely dry, the planks were removed. The dry clay walls showed distinct horizontal lines where each layer was joined to the one below. No mortar was used.

As far as can be established, this clay structure (size 4.5m x 8.3m) had no inside walls. It was therefore a one-roomed building with a door in the one long wall and

two windows in the opposite wall. Later another section was added to the house, which had two stonewalls while the gable walls were of layered clay (size 5.1m x 4.5m). On the one gable wall the position of a baking oven is still visible. On the inside there is a type of hob girder and on the outside the hole had been closed up with stones. This addition has a wide wagon house door and a window similar to the one in the original structure. It is believed that the building originally had a thatched roof and a reed ceiling. The interior was plastered with mud. The buildings roof does not exist any more. Two large willow trees have fallen on the gables, which have been badly damaged. This is the only existing building of its kind in Mpumalanga and only one of two known examples north of the Vaal River (see photograph 1 & 2).

4.1.2 1880 House and out buildings

Around 1880 a large house was built near the clay dwelling. This house had a stone foundation and was built with burnt brick. The inside was plastered with mud and lime plaster used on the outside. The house, which already displays some Victorian characteristics, initially had seven rooms with a covered veranda in the front and back. From the front door a short passage lead to the living room. On either side of the passage doors lead off to the adjoining rooms. In the living room there were two sash windows with a door to the back veranda. A wooden framework surrounds the fireplace, but vandals have long since removed the cast iron ornamental frame. The two rooms on one side of the living room appear to have been bedrooms, while the two opposite were the kitchen and pantry. The bedrooms and kitchen all had doors opening into the living room, but the pantry could only be entered from the kitchen. The kitchen was later enlarged towards the veranda, but it was difficult to find any evidence of the existence of a hearth. There were wooden floors and ceiling whilst the veranda and kitchen floors were of stale tiles. In one bedroom there is a small wall-cupboard. On the veranda there used to be profiled pillars and marks indicate the presence of latticework at one time. The house has been badly vandalized. All the wooden floors, doors and ceilings have been stolen. Both verandas have been demolished and the corrugated iron stolen. The original house and verandas measured 15.95m x 13.95m = 222.50m².

The house was later extended on the northern side. This structure was built with local stone. It included a wagon house and two rooms. As J.A.N. was a wagon builder by trade, this section could have been his wagon-building workshop. Its size is approximately 13.90m x 6.5m = 90.25m² (see photograph 3). The structure has a soil or clay floor. The roof is corroded and leaks badly.

Close behind the house is a large outside oven that could have been built around 1880, since the bricks that were used are similar to those of the 1880 house. This oven, in which 36 loaves of bread could be baked at a time, was used well into the 1940s. Today it is without a door. On the one side the oven adjoins a wall, which is part of a now ruined structure. This could have been built at a later date (see photograph 4).

Near the oven there is also a stone rondavel, which, was used as a dairy. The rondavel (5m in diameter) has wall cupboards and was plastered with mud. The walls are remarkably thick and the windows open to the outside. It is believed that it had a thatched roof, but only the walls have been left standing and it appears as if this structure could have been destroyed by fire (see photograph 5)

Towards the western and northern sides of the house are four ruins of out buildings of which the function is unknown. These could have been servants' quarters, storerooms or the original farm school.

Some 20m to the east of the house is the ruin of an outside toilet (long drop) (S25° 36' 05.1" E 30° 04' 19.0", see photograph 6).

4.1.3 Shearing shed

The walls of the shearing shed are towards the south of the 1880 house. It appears as if it has been built in two phases. It is 13.40 meters long and 4.50 meters wide (60.30m²). The roof and beams of the building have been stolen. According to oral information wool was stored in the shed and once a year taken by ox wagon to Pietermaritzburg to be sold (S25° 36' 08.6" E30° 04' 18.8" see photograph 7).

4.1.4 Stone kraals

The most outstanding feature of the Van Kraayenburg estate is the stone kraals to the west of the settlement. These kraals are very large and built of dry packed stone. They have been well built and are still in a good condition (see photograph 8). On the northern side are two square stone enclosures, which according to oral information were the paddock for the horses (S25° 36' 07.6" E 30° 04' 15.1 see photograph 9).

4.1.5 Water furrow

The most important need at pioneer settlements was a good supply of fresh water. Before any construction started, a water furrow was dug from which fresh water was supplied to the proposed settlement. The house was always built on the higher ground and the gardens towards the lower ground. The water furrow on Lakenvlei starts at a fountain at S25° 36' 24.9" E 30° 04' 26.7", past a canal sump at S25° 36' 11.5" E30° 04' 21.7", underneath a stone bridge at S25° 36' 10.6" E30° 04' 21.5" and ends in a dam just east of the 1860 house. This dam was used to store water for daily use and the irrigation of an orchard and vegetable garden east of the dam. From the dam another furrow extends northwards right up to the graveyard. From this furrow large stonewalled fields could be watered. Wheat, maize and other crops were planted here (see photographs 10 & 11).

4.1.6 Orchard

The orchard was just east of the 1860 house. Pear, plum, apple, peach and apricot trees are still growing in the area, as well as two varieties of old heritage (Victorian) roses (see photographs 12 & 13).

4.1.7 Graveyard

On the northern side of the stonewalled fields is the graveyard. There are fifteen graves in a stonewalled cemetery of 15m x 25m in size. The graveyard is overgrown by Bluegum trees, which have damaged the graves and stonewalls (see photograph 14).

4.1.8 Threshing floor

Halfway between the 1880 house and the graveyard is the remains of a threshing floor. This is the only original threshing floor the author has ever seen in the area previously known as the Transvaal. The floor is 19 meters in diameter (S25° 36' 01.6" E30° 04' 17.5" see photograph 15).

4.1.9 Farm worker settlements

There are the ruins of some of the farm worker houses towards the south of the large stone kraals (S25° 36' 12.6" E30° 04' 17.7"; see photograph 16). Just south from here are two short sections of stonewalls at S25° 36' 28.6" E30° 04' 32.5". Another two farm worker settlements were found at S25° 36' 28.6" E30° 04' 22.9" and S25° 36' 26.0" E30° 04' 41.3". Near the last mentioned one a stonewalled cemetery was found containing eight graves (S25° 36' 28.6" E30° 04' 42.2"). Only one tombstone had a surname, namely Sithole. According to oral traditions this is the Sithole graveyard. The family lived at the nearby ruined settlement (see photograph 17).

At S25° 37' 09.5 E30 04' 32" a neatly built stonewall of eight metres in length was found. This could also have been part of a farm worker settlement or a sheep kraal.

4.2 Sub farmers (*Bywoners*) settlement

About 500 metres north of the cemetery is the settlement of a sub-farmer or *bywoner*. Many Afrikaner families had lost everything in the Anglo Boer War. Poverty amongst Afrikaners became a major problem. For this reason more wealthy Boer farmers allowed poor Afrikaners (*known as bywoners*) to settle on their land. They were given farming rights in exchange for labour.

The sub-farmer's settlement on Lakenvlei consists of a water furrow and dam, a house, a wagon house, cattle kraal and pigsty. The original house was 9.60 m x 5.00 m (48M²) with a flat roof (S25° 35' 45.1" E30° 04' 23.7"). The walls are well build with stone of which the corner stones are dressed sandstone. The house was later extended to 96m². These additions were built with granite and are not as neat as the original house (see photograph 18).

The wagon house is also built of stone (size 42m²). Like the house only the walls remain (S25° 35' 45.5" E 30° 04' 24.2", see photograph 19). Just east of this building is the remains of a stonewalled pigsty (3.60m x 5.00m = 18m² S25° 35' 45.6 E30° 04' 25.3". A large cattle kraal, built of stone is south of the wagon house (size 13.70m x 6.00 = 82.2m², (S25° 75' 48.8" E30° 04' 23.3).

4.3 Sheep dipping area

The sheep dipping area is near the present new bridge. The dip itself was destroyed when the new bridge was built. The drying enclosure, which had stonewalls, has recently been demolished. All that remains is the well, which supplied the water for the sheep dip (S25° 35' 45.5" E30° 04' 15.3", see photograph 20).

4.4 Anglo Boer War redoubts

The original road to Lydenburg passed through the farm Lakenvlei and is still clearly visible. The road crossed the bridge at S25° 35' 48.3" E30° 04' 0.08" (see photograph 21). South east of this bridge three Boer redoubts were found at S25° 35' 53.1" E30° 04' 05.7" (see photograph 22). The rest of the Boer redoubts were built to the south of the bridge on a high lying sandstone ridge. From here the Boer forces had a good view towards the south, the road and the bridge. Some of the Boer redoubts have been destroyed or partially destroyed by workers of the Department of Water Affairs during a project for the rehabilitation of the Lakenvlei wetlands. The workers had to collect stones for the building of gabions. Though the workers have been told not to use the stones of the redoubts, such a large number of stones have been removed from redoubt sites, that it is impossible to determine their exact number.

Redoubts were found at the following localities (see photographs 23 & 24)

Quantity	South	East	Remarks
1	S25° 35' 10.5"	E30° 04' 0.07"	
1	S25° 35' 10.2"	E30° 03' 59.2"	Destroyed
1	S25° 35' 11.1"	E30° 03' 57.3"	
1	S25° 35' 13.4"	E30° 03' 57.9"	
2	S25° 35' 15.3"	E30° 03' 55.5"	
1	S25° 35' 16.2"	E30° 03' 53.8"	
1	S25° 35' 18.4"	E30° 03' 52.7"	Destroyed
3	S25° 35' 22.3"	E30° 03' 52.1"	Partially destroyed
1	S25° 35' 25.4"	E30° 03' 49.8"	
	S25° 35' 26.9"	E30° 03' 47.5"	
	S25° 35' 31.2"	E30° 03' 43.3"	

Only a detailed study of the area will reveal how many redoubts have been destroyed. In this specific case one heritage site is destroyed to conserve another. This is just not good enough.

The collection of large number of stones in a pristine environment does not only have a negative impact on the cultural resources, but also the natural resources. The stones collected are the breeding ground and shelter for thousands of insects. They also act as shelter for small plants and the growth of lichens. It is questionable whether the Department of Water Affairs has done a proper impact assessment.

4.5 Stone structure

The remains of a neatly built stone structure was found at S25° 35' 36.2" E30° 03' 46.1" (see photograph 25). This structure was most probably a sheep kraal.

5. CONCLUSION

The farm Lakenvlei is the most important cultural heritage site of its kind in Mpumalanga. These heritage resources are representative of the Afrikaner and pioneer agriculture on the highveld. Though they have been neglected over a long period, they are still worth preserving and restoring. If properly done this old Afrikaner farm could become a major tourist and educational centre.

It is a pity that this heritage has been left uncared for such a long time. A study was conducted way back in 1984 already but nothing came from it. The situation has changed drastically since then as far as tourism is concerned with the development of the Belfast Dullstroom area as a major tourist destination, concentrating on fly-fishing. The farm is ideally situated right next to the road, halfway between Belfast and Dullstroom.

The destruction of the Anglo Boer War redoubts is appalling. The Department of Water Affairs should be held responsible for these actions.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

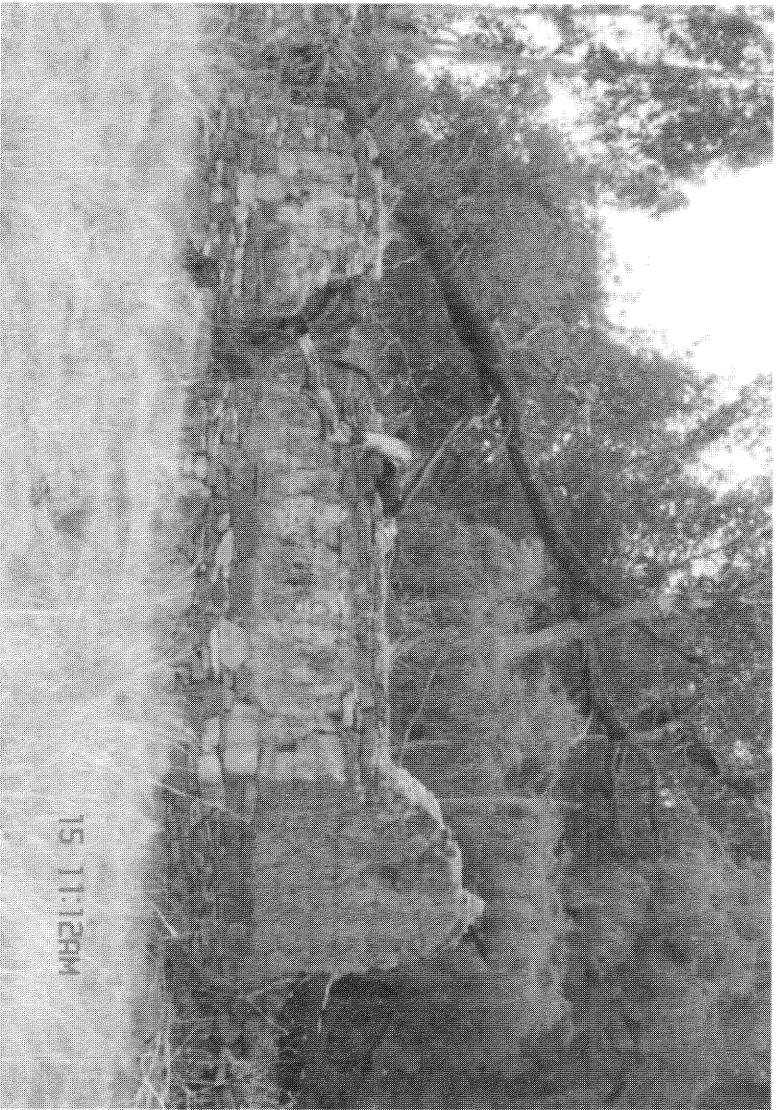
It is recommended that the cultural heritage remains of Lakenvlei should be preserved as far as possible and restored. The main settlement of the Van Kraayenburg's estate could be turned into a living pioneer farm. The restored building should be refurbished with period furniture, utensils and vehicles. The orchard can be replanted with old varieties of fruit trees. The water furrow and dam should be reused to irrigate the orchards and vegetable garden. Old historical breeds of animals used originally on the farm could be reintroduced to give tourists and learners the opportunity to experience a pioneer farm.

The Department of Water Affairs should be notified of the damage they have done to the Anglo Boer War redoubts. They should be held responsible for the rebuilding and restoration costs.

The obligation to restore and care for a heritage site like Lakenvlei is not only the responsibility of its new owners, but also that of the South African Heritage Authorities. These agencies should contribute to the costs for restoration and maintenance in a similar way as the Department of Water Affairs in funding the rehabilitation of the wetlands on Lakenvlei.

Description	DMS	DD South	DD East
4.1 Architecture			
4.1.1 1860 House (<i>Opgekleide huisie</i>)	S25° 26' 07.2" E30° 04' 19.4"	25.43533	30.07205
4.1.2 1880 House and out buildings	S25° 36' 05.1" E30° 04' 19.0"	25.60141	30.07194
4.1.3 Shearing shed	S25° 36' 08.6" E30° 04' 18.8"	25.60239	30.07189
4.1.4 Stone kraals	S25° 36' 07.6" E30° 04' 15.1	25.60211	30.07086
4.1.5 Water furrow			
Fountain	S25° 36' 24.9" E30° 04' 26.7"	25.60669	30.07408
Canal Sump	S25° 36' 11.5" E30° 04' 21.7"	25.60319	30.07269
Stone Bridge	S25° 36' 10.6" E30° 04' 21.5"	25.60294	30.07263
4.1.6 Orchard	Just east of the 1860 house		
4.1.7 Graveyard	North of the stonewalled fields		
4.1.8 Threshing floor	S25° 36' 01.6" E30° 04' 17.5"	25.60044	30.07152
4.1.9 Farm worker settlements			
Ruins of some of the farm worker houses	S25° 36' 12.6" E30° 04' 17.7"	25.60350	30.07158
Two short sections of stonewalls	S25° 36' 28.6" E30° 04' 32.5"	25.60794	30.07569
Two farm worker settlements	S25° 36' 28.6" E30° 04' 22.9"	25.60794	30.07303
	S25° 36' 26.0" E30° 04' 41.3"	25.60722	30.07814
Stonewalled cemetery was found containing eight graves neatly built stonewall of eight metres in length	S25° 36' 28.6" E30° 04' 42.2"	25.60794	30.07839
	S25° 37' 09.5" E30° 04' 32"	25.61931	30.07556
4.2 Sub farmers (<i>Bywoner</i>) settlement			
Original house was 9.60 m x 5.00	S25° 35' 45.1" E30° 04' 23.7"	25.59586	30.07325
Wagon house	S25° 35' 45.5" E30° 04' 24.2"	25.59597	30.07339
Remains of a stonewalled pigsty	S25° 35' 45.6" E30° 04' 25.3"	25.59600	30.07369
Large cattle kraal size 13.70m x 6.00	S25° 35' 48.8" E30° 04' 23.3	26.26356	30.07314
4.3 Sheep dipping area	S25° 35' 45.5" E30° 04' 15.3"	25.59597	30.07092
4.4 Anglo Boer War redoubts			
Road crossed the bridge	S25° 35' 48.3" E30° 04' 0.08"	25.59675	30.06669
Three Boer redoubts	S25° 35' 53.1" E30° 04' 05.7"	25.59808	30.06825
4.5 Stone structure	S25° 35' 36.2" E30° 03' 46.1"	25.59334	30.06281

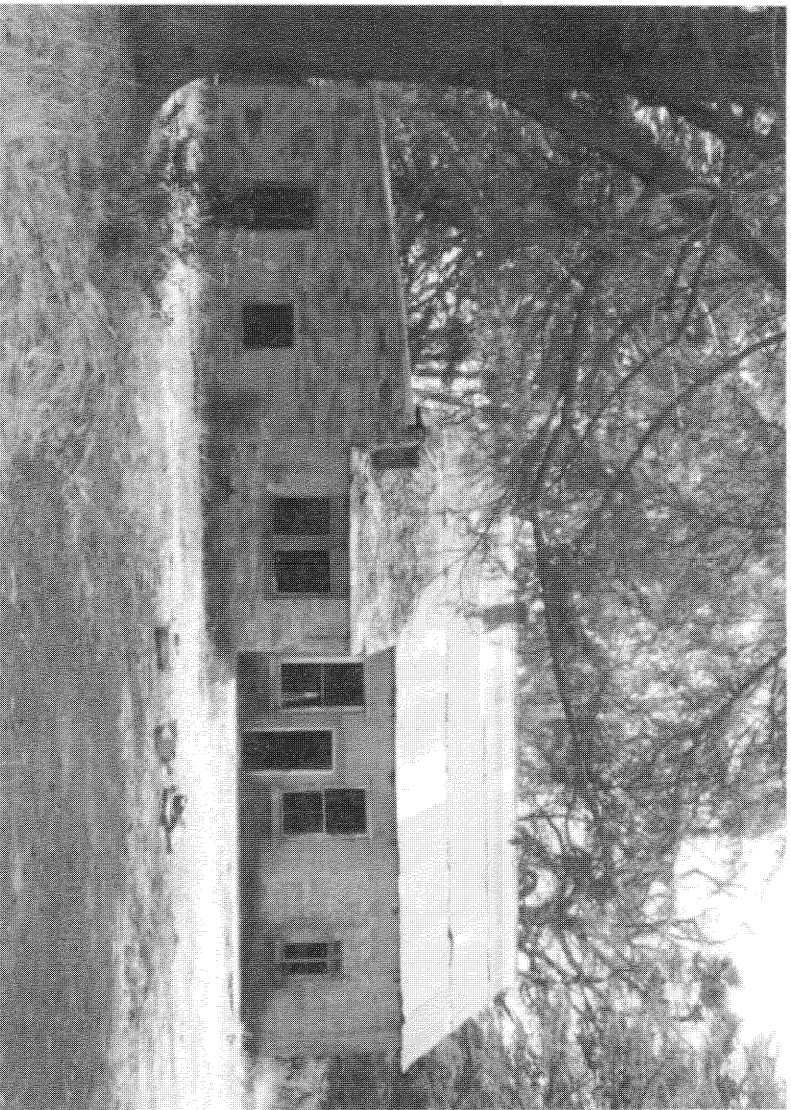
PHOTOGRAPHS



No. 1 The 1860 house



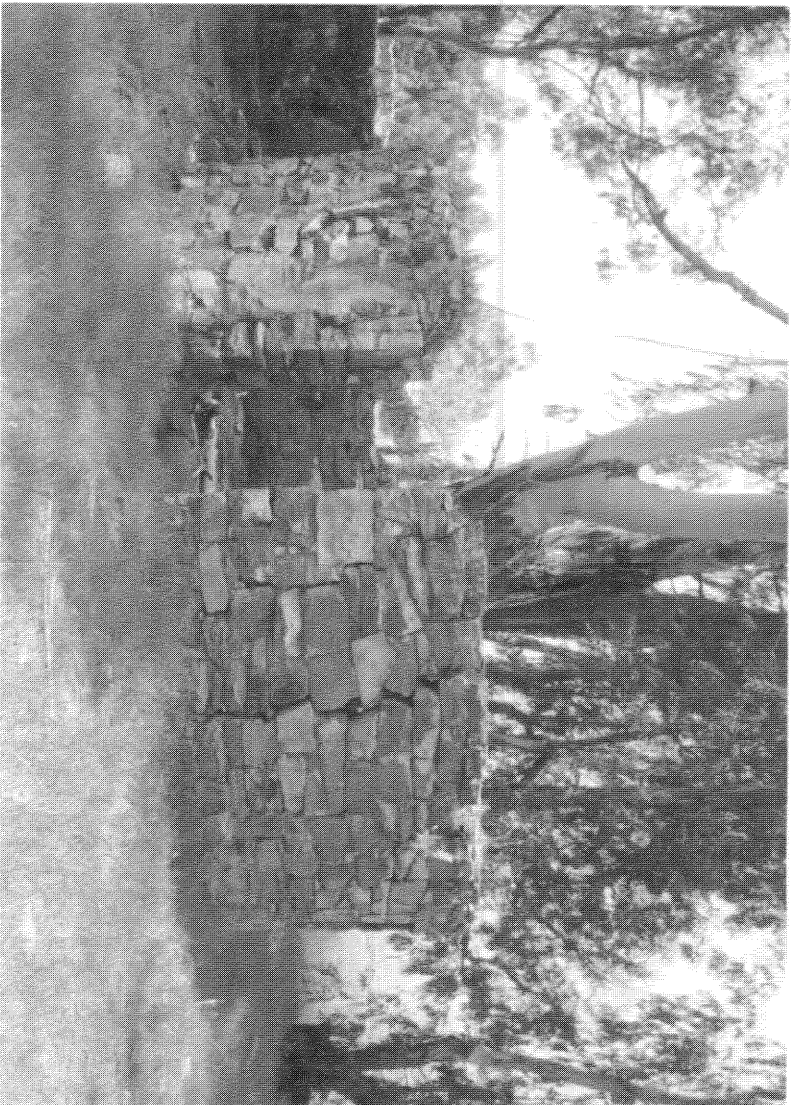
No 2 Detail of gable of 1860 house with layers of clay clearly visible



No. 3 The 1880 house with the later editions on the left hand side



No. 4 Outside oven with ruins of a later structure on the left



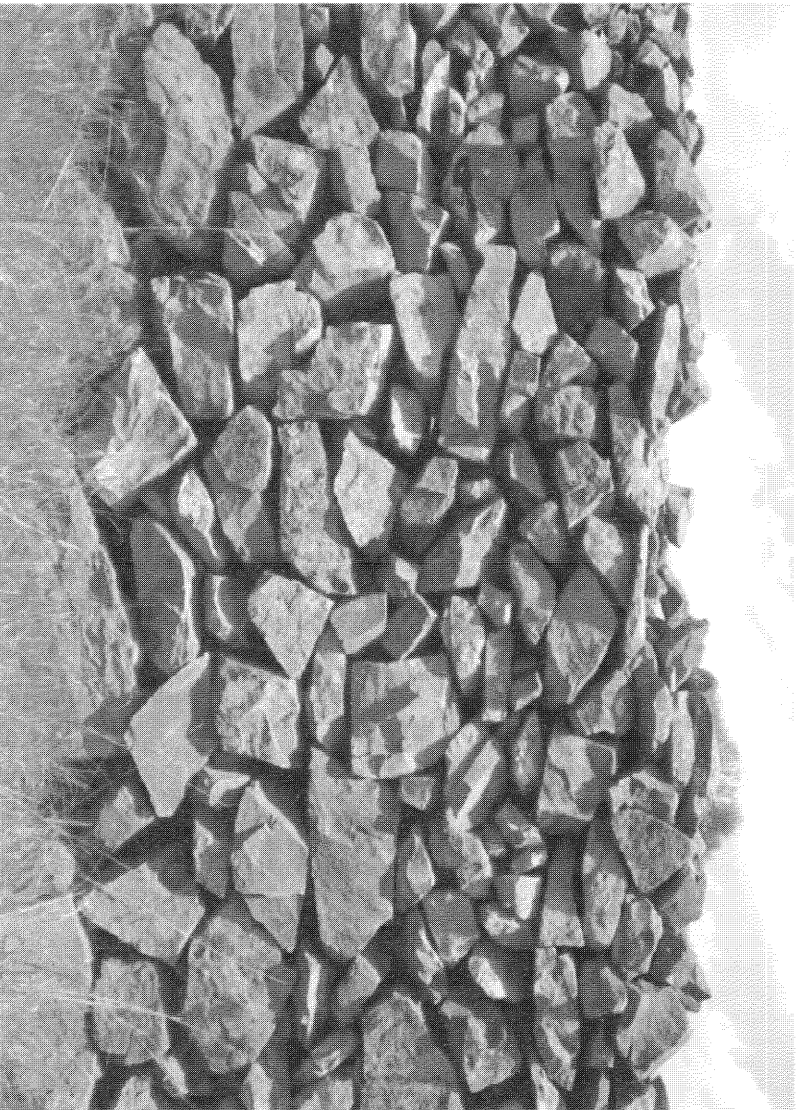
No. 5 Ruins of the rondavel



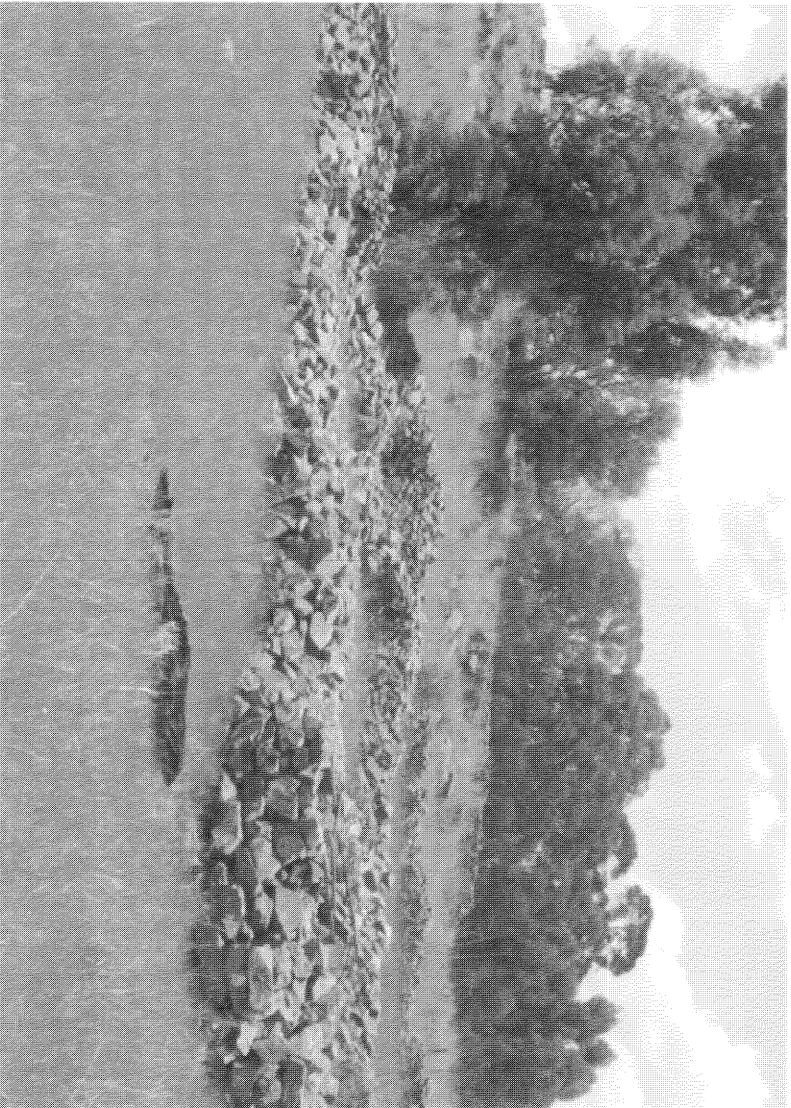
No. 6 Remains of the outside toilet (long drop)



No. 7 Shearing shed



No. 8 Detail of large stonewalls



No 9 Paddock for horses



No. 10 Stone bridge over water furrow



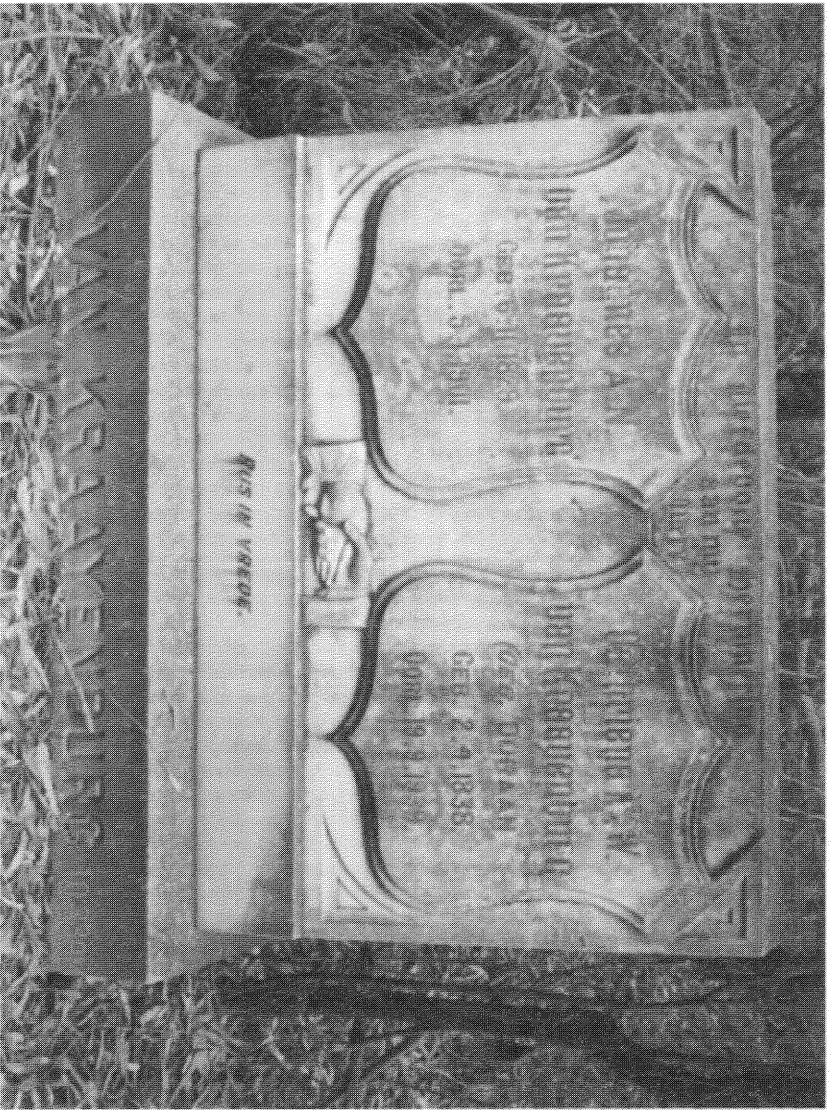
No. 11 Sump and water furrow



No. 12 Old variety of Victorian rose.



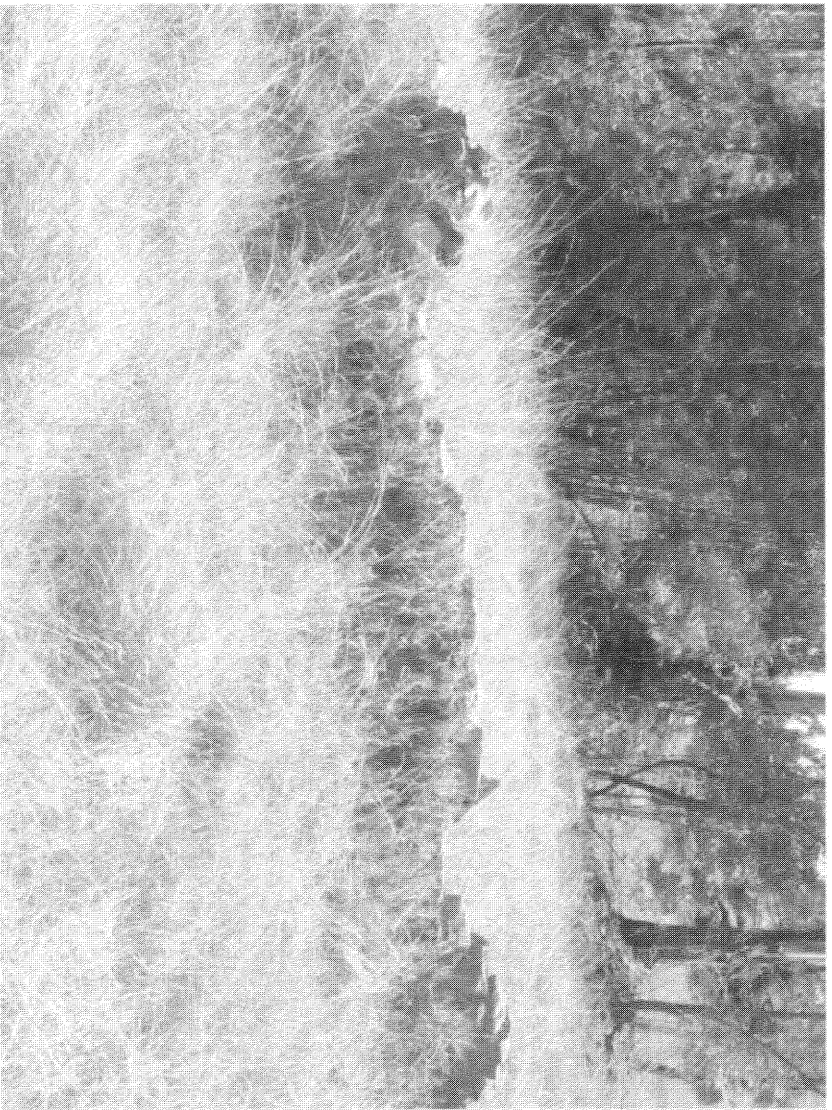
No 13 Old variety apple tree in the orchard



No 14 Tombstone of the Van Kraayenburg's



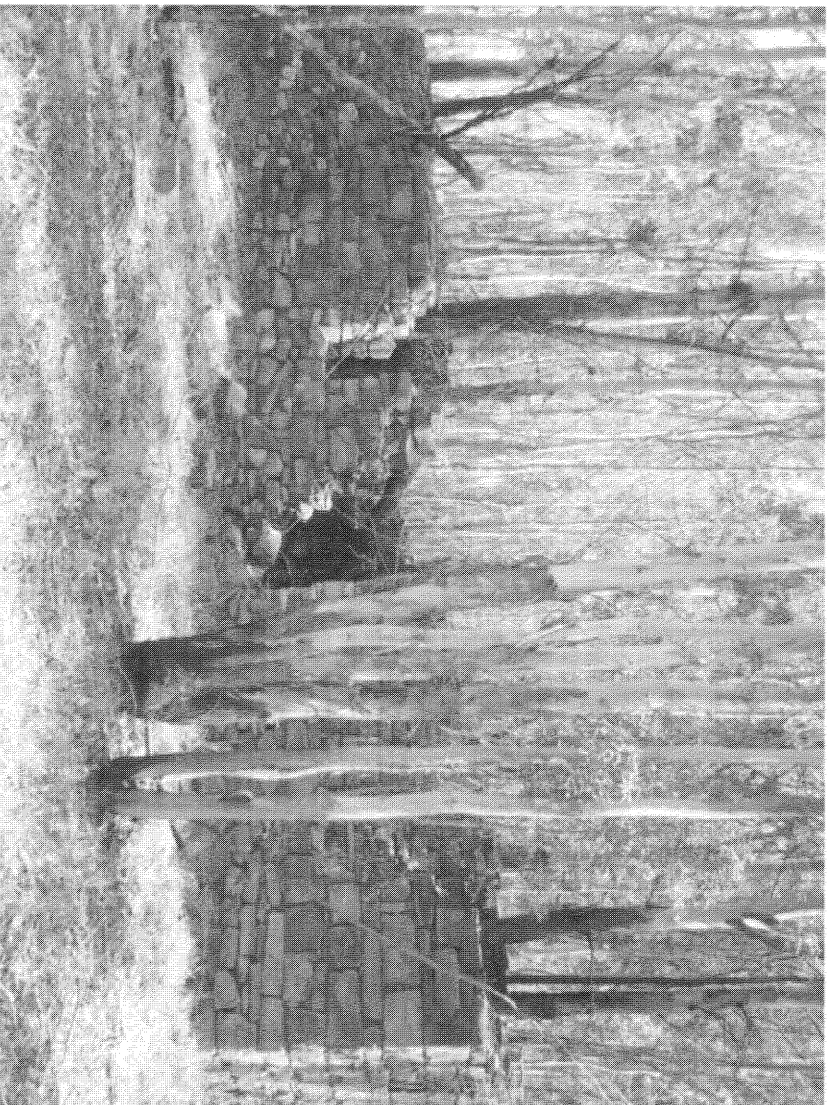
No. 15 Remains of the threshing floor



No. 16 Remains of farm workers settlement south of the large stonewalls



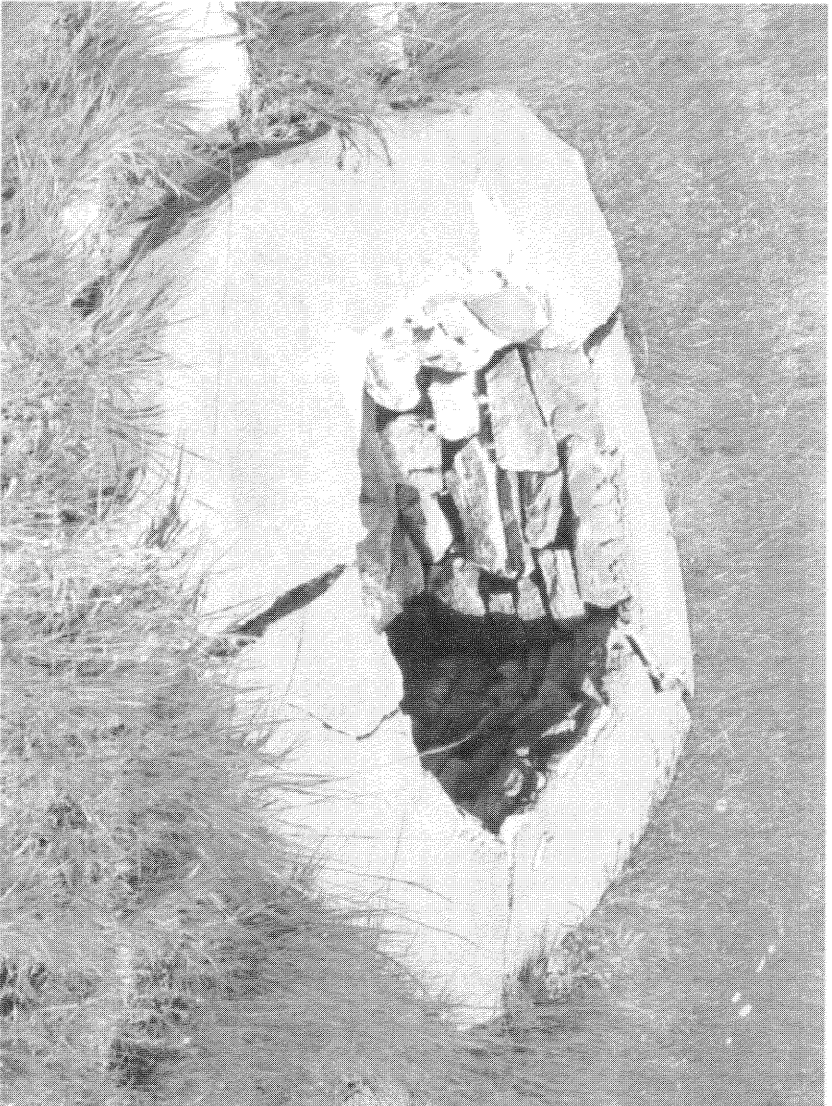
No. 17 Graves of the Sithole family



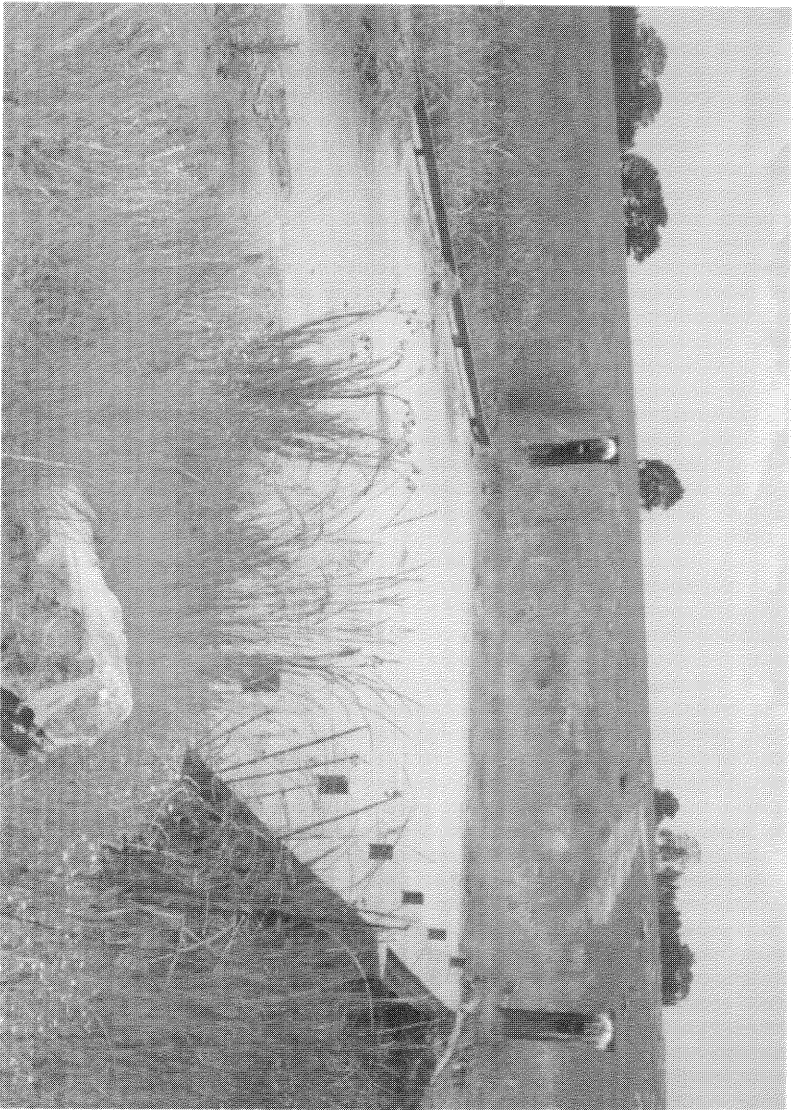
No. 18 Remains of sub farmers (*Bywoner*) house



No. 19 Remains of sub farmers wagon house



No. 20 Water well at sheep dipping area



No. 21 Remains of the bridge on the old Lydenburg road



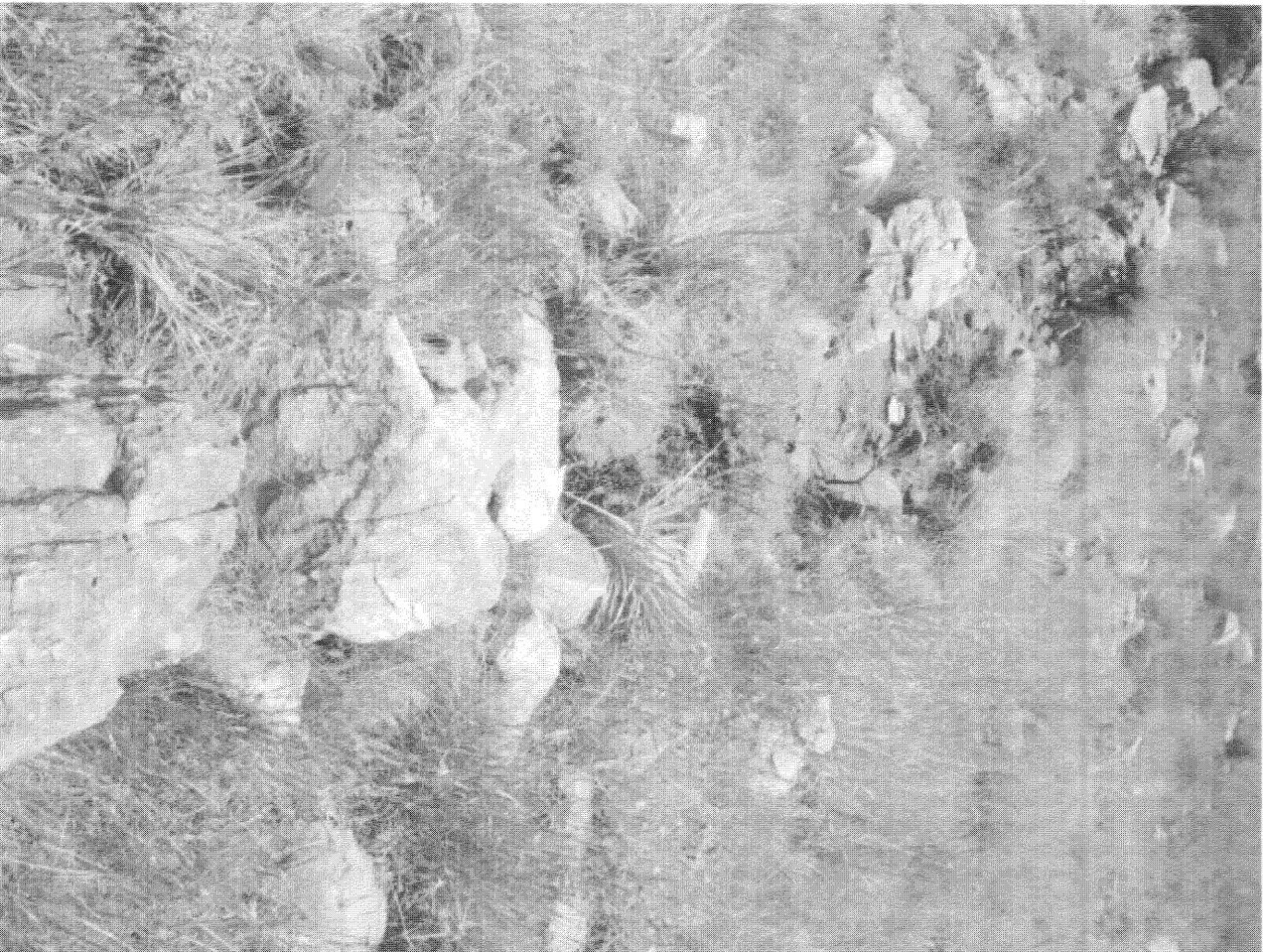
No 22 Anglo Boer War redoubts south of the bridge



No. 23 Anglo Boer War redoubt north of the bridge



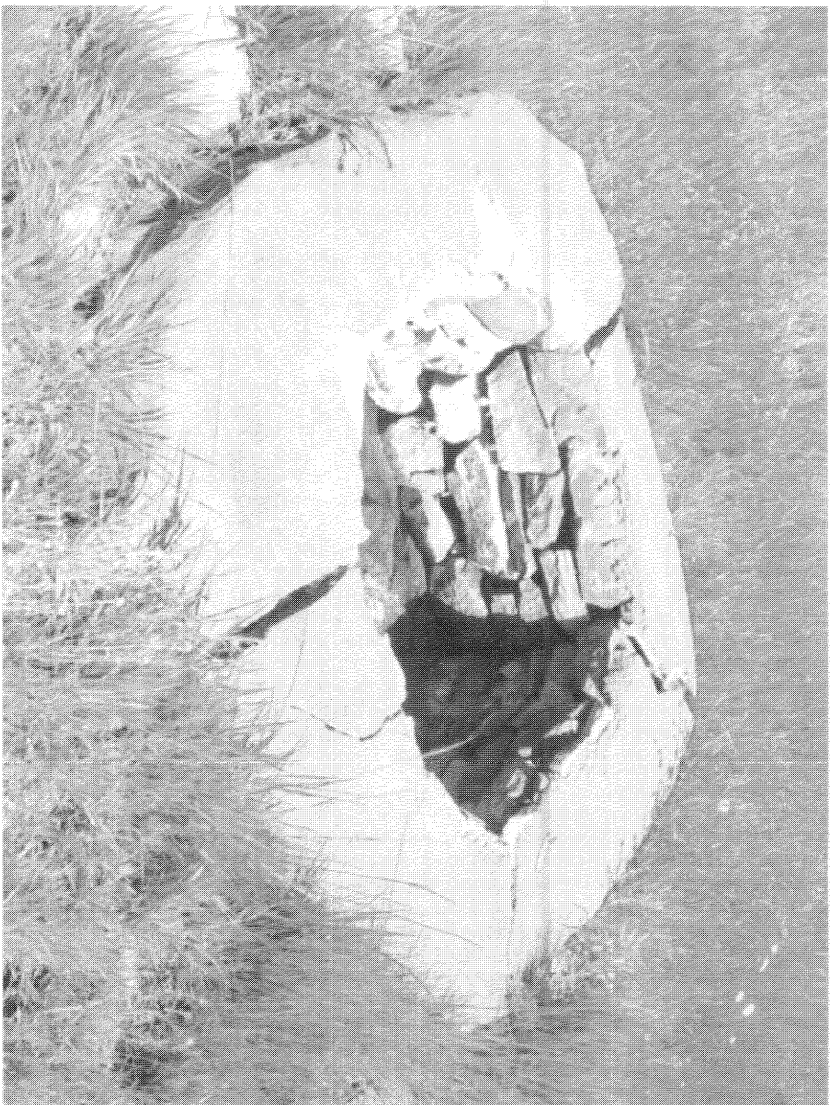
No. 25 Remains of the structure, probably a sheep kraal



No 24 Remains of one of the redoubts destroyed by workers of the Department of water Affairs project for the rehabilitation of the Lakenvlei wetlands.

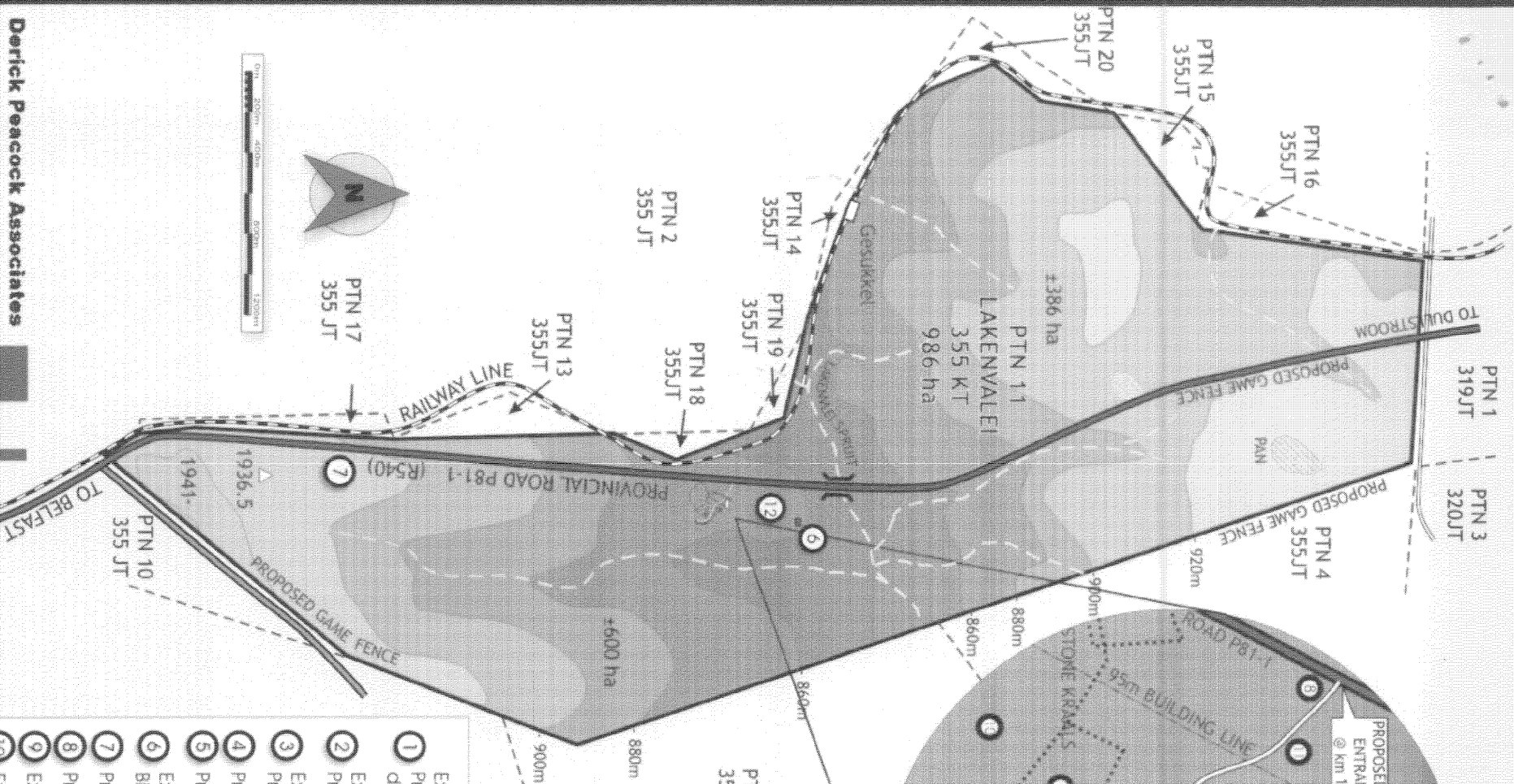
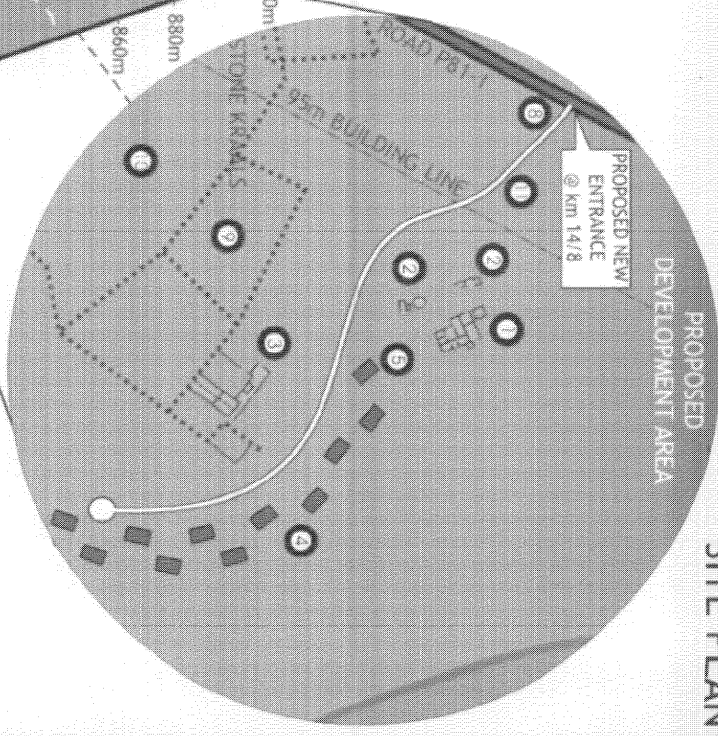








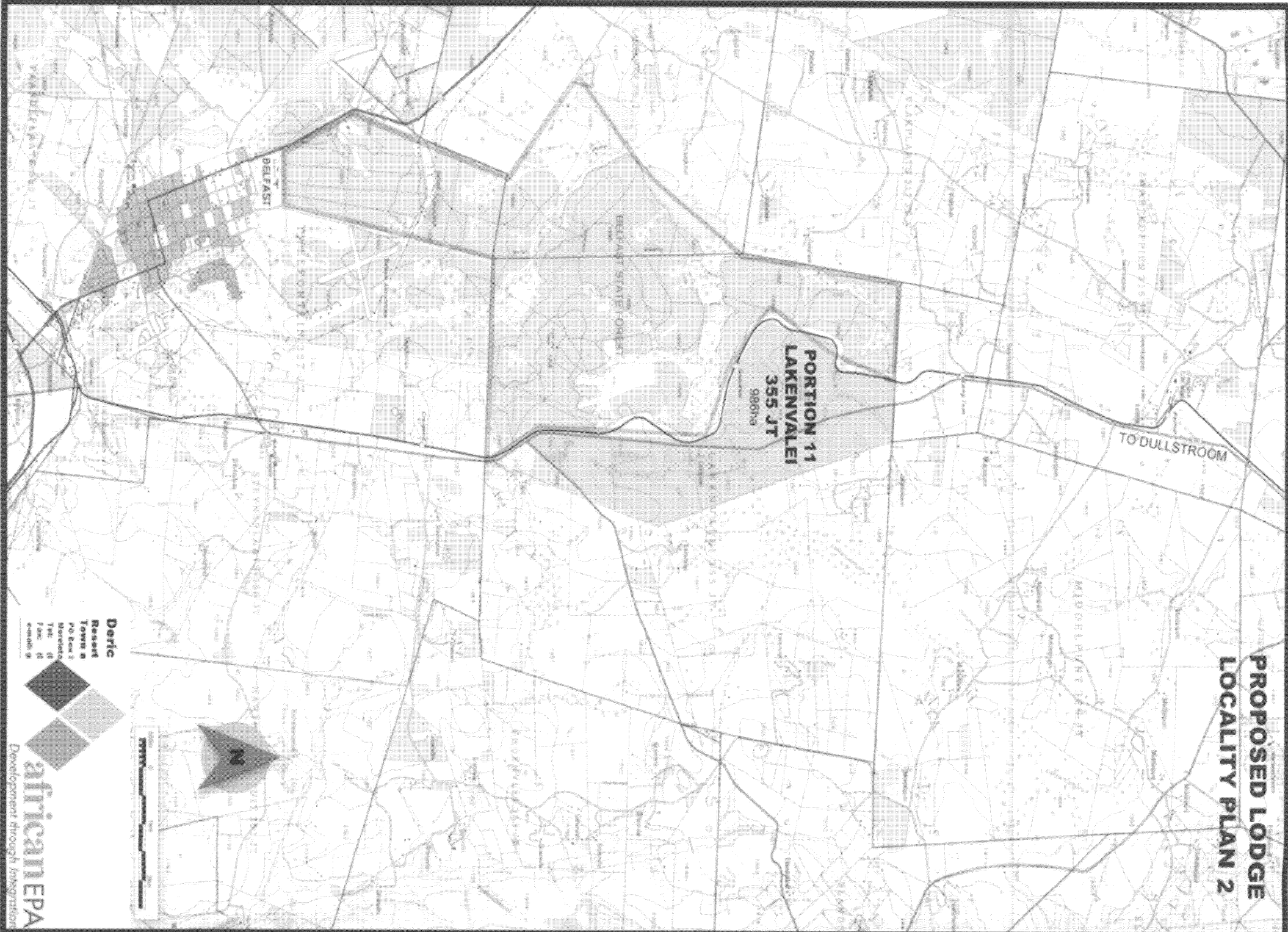
PROPOSED LODGE SITE PLAN



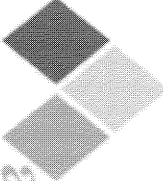
- 1 Existing old farmhouse
- 2 Proposed restaurant/conference centre, dining & reading room/museum(360m²)
- 3 Existing rondavel, sheds & outbuildings
- 4 Proposed museum.....(70m²)
- 5 Existing barn
- 6 Proposed accommodation-20 rooms.(450m²)
- 7 Proposed 10 new chalets.....(each 300m²)
- 8 Proposed manager and staff housing..(400m²)
- 9 Existing old second farmhouse
- 10 Existing lodge-8 beds.....(1 30m²)
- 11 Proposed game fence
- 12 Proposed new entrance @ km 14/8
- 13 Existing stone kraals
- 14 Existing reservoir
- 15 Existing road
- 16 Cemetery

Derick Peacock Associates
 Resort and Leisure Planners
 Town and Regional Planners
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 Moreleta Park, 0844
 Tel: 0423 937 440/47
 Fax: 0423 937 0034
 e-mail: gpeacock@web.co.za

PROPOSED LODGE LOCALITY PLAN 2



- Devic**
- Resort**
- Town M**
- PO Box 3**
- Marolaka**
- Tel. 06**
- Fax. 06**
- email: g**



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Development through Integration

