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PREPARED FOR:

LANDSCAPE DYNAMICS

A PHASE I HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) STUDY FOR A
PORTION OF PORTION 4 OF THE FARM VALYSPRUIT 132KT
SOUTH OF DULLSTROOM IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE OF
SOUTH AFRICA

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study as required in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) was done for the proposed new Private Resort/Township that is planned for a portion of Portion 4 on the farm Valespruit 132KT in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa.

The HIA study which was conducted in Study Area A and in Study Area B revealed the presence of an extended dwelling complex and an enclosure built with dry stone in Study Area A. These resources have been mapped (Figure 1), their coordinates tabulated and their levels of significance determined using various criteria (Table 1).

Neither the extended dwelling complex nor the enclosure can be considered to be of outstanding significance (Table 1).

The enclosure, however, rates high on its ideological (symbolic), aesthetic and cultural historical significance. It is also in an excellent state of preservation. The structure is solidly constructed and has an impressive and formidable appearance. Its walls would probably stand for many years to come. This structure is also attractive (aesthetically) pleasing and won't detract when preserved in a modern residential complex (Table 1).

The extended dwelling complex registered a medium significance with regard to its cultural historical significance and a low significance on all the other criteria (Table 1). This complex is severely dilapidated and is a safety risk if not demolished or repaired. It seems to date from the recent past and probably served as living quarters for a number of families (labourers) working in the area.

The extended dwelling complex has no historical or other value and can be destroyed.

However, the enclosure has rated high on several of the criteria that were used to determine the significance of this structure. This structure can only be affected (destroyed) if a permit has been acquired from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). It is recommended that this structure be preserved *in situ* and incorporated in the new development project.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Focused archaeological research has been conducted in the Mpumalanga Province for at least three decades. This research consists of surveys and of excavations of Stone Age and Iron Age sites as well as of the recording of rock art sites in this area. Ecologically speaking, the region includes parts of the Eastern Bankveld, the higher western Drakensberg escarpment and parts of the lower lying eastern Lowveld. The area has a rich cultural heritage, consisting of remains dating from both the prehistoric and the colonial periods of South Africa. These archaeological and historical remains include:

- limestone caves and underground dwelling sites of the earliest homonids (ape-man creatures) who lived in Southern Africa 2 to 3 million years ago;
- Stone Age sites which may be associated with the San people and which date back hundreds of thousands of years;
- rock engraving sites located along rocky outcrops and dating from the last 20 000 years;
- rock painting sites in the Drakensberg which date from the last 10 000 years;
- Early Iron Age sites occupied by Bantu-Negroid agriculturists and possibly cattle herders which date back 1 500 years;
- Late Iron Age sites dating from the last 500 years;
- remains dating from the previous century when the first Immigrant Boers settled in various places to the west of the Drakensberg from the 1840's onwards;

- block houses built by British troops during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1900) on mountain ranges; and
- numerous other formal historical features (the Pelgrimrust Museum, the historically reconstructed Nederlandsch Zuid-Afrikaansche Spoorweg Maatschappij (NZASM) tunnel near Waterval-Boven, the Middelburg Museum with a Ndebele *umuzi* as one of its satellite museums, the Mapoch's Caves near Roossenekal, the Merensky Missionary station near Middelburg, etc).

The heritage resources of the Mpumalanga Province therefore constitute a rich and wide diversified range of the national estate as outlined in Sec 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999) (see Box 1, next page).

BOX 1: TYPES AND RANGES OF HERITAGE RESOURCES AS OUTLINED IN THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT (ACT NO 25 OF 1999)

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999, Art 3) outlines the following types and ranges of heritage resources that qualify as part of the national estate, namely:

- (a) places, buildings structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- (b) places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- (c) historical settlements and townscapes;
- (d) landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- (e) geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- (f) archaeological and paleontological sites;
- (g) graves and burial grounds including:
 - (i) ancestral graves;
 - (ii) royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
 - (iii) graves of victims of conflict
 - (iv) graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;
 - (v) historical graves and cemeteries; and
 - (vi) other human remains which are not covered by in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No 65 of 1983)

- (h) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
 - (i) moveable objects, including -
 - (i) objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and paleontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
 - (ii) objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
 - (iii) ethnographic art and objects;
 - (iv) military objects;
 - (v) objects of decorative or fine art;
 - (vi) objects of scientific or technological interest; and
 - (vii) books, records, documents, photographs, positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No 43 of 1996).

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999, Art 3) also distinguishes nine criteria for places and objects to qualify as part of the national estate if they have cultural significance or other special value ... These criteria are the following:

- (a) its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- (b) its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (c) its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (d) its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects
- (e) its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- (f) its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- (g) its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- (h) its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa;
- (i) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa

2 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Developer intends establishing a Private Resort/Township on a portion of Portion 4 of the farm Valyspruit 132JT located to the south of Dullstroom in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa. The development scheme will be focussed on two spots (referred to as Study Area A and as Study Area B) which are located in the southern part of Portion 4 of the farm Valyspruit 132JT (Figure 1). A limited number of double storey residences will be built in Study Area A and in Study Area B.

The development of the Private Resort/Township may affect some of the types and ranges of heritage resources (national estate) that is outline in the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999) if these should exist in the study areas. Consequently, the Developer and Landscape Dynamics commissioned me to undertake a Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study to determine whether the proposed development may impact on any of the types and ranges of heritage resources that are outline in Box 1. The aims with the HIA are:

- To establish whether any of the types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999) occur within the perimeters of Study Area A and Study Area B and, if so
- To determine the level (or degree) of significance of the heritage resources that occur within the perimeters of Study Area A and Study Area B, and
- To make recommendations regarding possible mitigation or the conservation of these remains depending on their levels of significance.

3 THE STUDY AREA, METHODOLOGY AND TERMINOLOGY

3.1 The study area

The proposed new Private Resort/Township is located on a portion of Portion 4 of the farm Valyspruit 132JT to the south of the town of Dullstroom in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa. The site is located approximately 7 km to the south-east of Dullstroom and 5 km to the east of the national road (R540) running between Belfast (in the south) and Dullstroom (in the north) (Figure 1) (Dullstroom AC 2530: 1:50 000).

3.2 Method

The survey was conducted on foot and consisted of:

- A general survey of the larger part of the farm Valyspruit 132JT. This part of the study area is referred to as the peripheral (or non-critical) area as this area will not be affected by the proposed development project.
- A detailed survey of a portion of Portion 4 of the farm Valyspruit 132JT which is located in the southern tip of Valyspruit 132JT. Two study areas referred to as Study Area A and Study Area B were thoroughly surveyed on foot as the proposed new Private Resort/Township will be developed on these two pieces of land. This area is also referred to as the critical area as the impact of the proposed development will be confined to these two pieces of land.

3.3 Assumptions and limitations

HIA surveys may not detect all heritage resources in any given study area. Some remains may simply be missed during surveys (observations) while others may lie below the surface of the earth and may only be exposed once development commences.

3.4 Some remarks on terminology

The Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) referred to in the title of this report also included a survey of all the types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999) (see Box 1).

The terms 'historical period' and 'historical remains' refer, for the Dullstroom area, to the first appearance or use of 'modern' Western writing brought to Mpumalanga by the first Colonists who settled in this area around 1845. The historical period for Dullstroom therefore dates from the 19th century.

The term 'relatively recent past' refers to the 20th century. Remains from this period are not necessarily older than sixty years and therefore do not to qualify, in all instances, as archaeological or historical remains.

It is not always possible, based on Phase I observations alone, to distinguish clearly between archaeological remains and historical remains, or between historical remains and remains from the relatively recent past. Although certain criteria may help to make this distinction possible, these criteria are not always present, or, when they are present, they are not clear enough to interpret with great accuracy. Criteria such as square floor plans (a historical feature) may serve as a guideline. However, circular and square floors may occur together on the same site.

The term 'Late Iron Age' refers to the period between the 17th century and the 19th century and can therefore include the historical period.

Phase I studies refer to surveys using various sources of data in order to establish the presence of all possible types of heritage resources in any given area.

Phase II studies include in-depth cultural heritage studies such as archaeological mapping and excavating, the documenting of rock art/engraving sites or of dwellings or other architectural features and structures, the sampling of archaeological sites or shipwrecks, etc. Phase II work requires the co-operation and approval of SAHRA.

The term 'critical area' or the 'project area' refers to the area where the Developer wants to focus its development activities namely Study Area A and Study Area B.

The 'peripheral area' refers to the area where the Developer does not intend to focus any development activities in the near future.

Figure 1: The farm Valyspruit 132JT to the south of Dullstroom in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa where a Private Resort/Township will be established.

Note the remains of an extended dwelling complex and a cattle enclosure in Study Area A.

4 THE HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) STUDY

4.1 The study area

The proposed Private Resort/Township will be established on a small portion of Portion 4 of the farm Valespruit 132JT. This small portion (or project area) was divided into Study Area A and Study Area B which are separated from each other by a plateau as Study Area A is situated on low ground and Study Area B on a third plateau of a low rising mountain range that stretches from the south to the north across Portion 4 of the farm Valespruit 132JT (Figure 1).

The two study areas can briefly be described:

- Study Area A is located on a level piece of land situated between the banks of the Valespruit that crosses the western boundary of the farm and the foot of the low rising mountain that stretches from the south to the north across the farm. Blue gum trees grow in large numbers along the winding course of the Valespruit. A dirt road giving access to the farm crosses this piece of land as it works its way up the slope of the mountain to the northern higher elevated part of the farm (Figure 2)
- Study Area B is located to the north of Study Area A on one of the higher stepped plateaux's of the low rising mountain range where it commands a position with a unhindered view to the north and to the south (Figure 3).

On both Study Area A and on Study Area B a small number of double storey residences will be established.

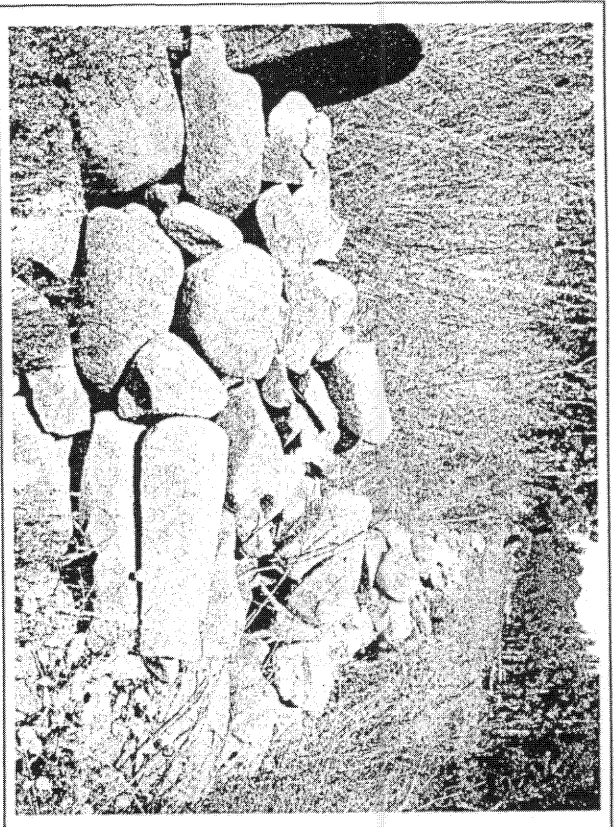


Figure 2– Study Area A between the banks of the Valeysspruit and the foot of a low mountain contain an enclosure (foreground) and an extended dwelling complex (background) (above).

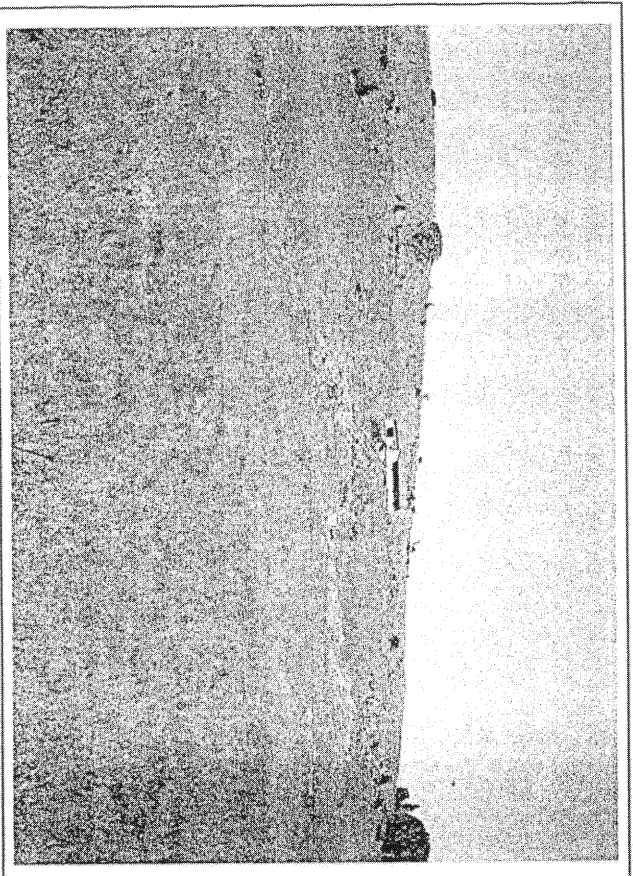


Figure 3– Study Area B on a plateau on a higher part of the low mountain range on Valeysspruit is without heritage resources of significance (above).

4.2 Heritage resources in the project area

The HIA study only revealed the presence of heritage resources in Study Area A. These resources were tabulated, their coordinates determined and their levels of significance established (Table 1). These resources are now briefly discussed and illustrated with photographs.

4.1 The extended dwelling complex

The remains of an extended complex of dwellings (rooms) occur close to the banks of the Valesyspruit 132JT. This complex of rooms is partly in ruin and partly vandalised while several of its rooms were not completed. The main structure in the complex consists of a small square building (house?) that is attached to a rondavel (south) and linked with a clay wall with a number of square rooms (north-east) that are joined together in a row (Figures 1 & 2).

The building material that were used to construct the complex was dolerite stone that was mason into 'bricks', clay bricks and mud. The walls and some of the structures may have been plastered with mud. The use of dolerite in the square building and in the rondavel's wall and clay bricks in the walls and rooms of the dwelling complex suggests that the complex was extended as new families added them to the complex over time. The roofs of these structures were either built with grass if they were not fitted with corrugated iron zink.

The following general remarks can be made about the condition and significance of the extended dwelling complex:

- The central or main square building in the complex is equipped with a corrugated zink roof and has a single front door with no windows. The

interior of this structure is covered with soot indicating that open fires were burnt in the house.

- Although the rondavel's wall is still standing this structure is severely dilapidated. It has no roof any longer. Its unstable condition creates a safety threat, particularly to children playing amongst the remains of the complex.
- At least five square rooms of different sizes are joined together and are linked with a curved clay wall with the main square building. Only the foundations of the rooms are visible. These structures may either have been vandalised for their building material or may never have been completed and therefore occupied by people:



Figure 4— The main buildings in the extended dwelling complex consist of a square building and a rondavel which is severely dilapidated (above).

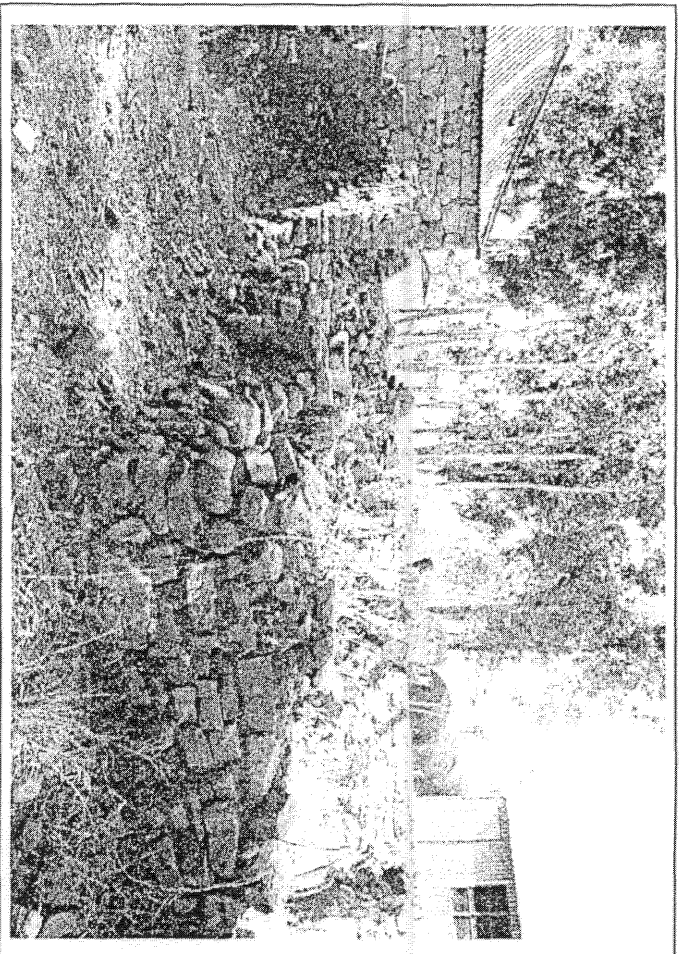


Figure 6– The remains of at least five square rooms that were joined (foreground).

4.2 The enclosure

A large square enclosure that was used to keep cattle (or small stock) occurs near the extended dwelling complex along the base of the mountain. This structure was built with stones, some of which were massive and used as the foundation stones (Figure 6).

At the time when the enclosure was visited it was covered in tall grass. However, it seems as if this structure was composed of two compartments, a smaller square kraal and a larger square kraal.

The enclosure is in a magnificent condition and has been constructed solidly. It is possible that the enclosure could have been used by the families who lived in the extended dwelling complex although it seems more plausible that the enclosure

dates from an earlier time period. The farm-homestead of the farmers who may have built and used this enclosure may have decomposed over the years.

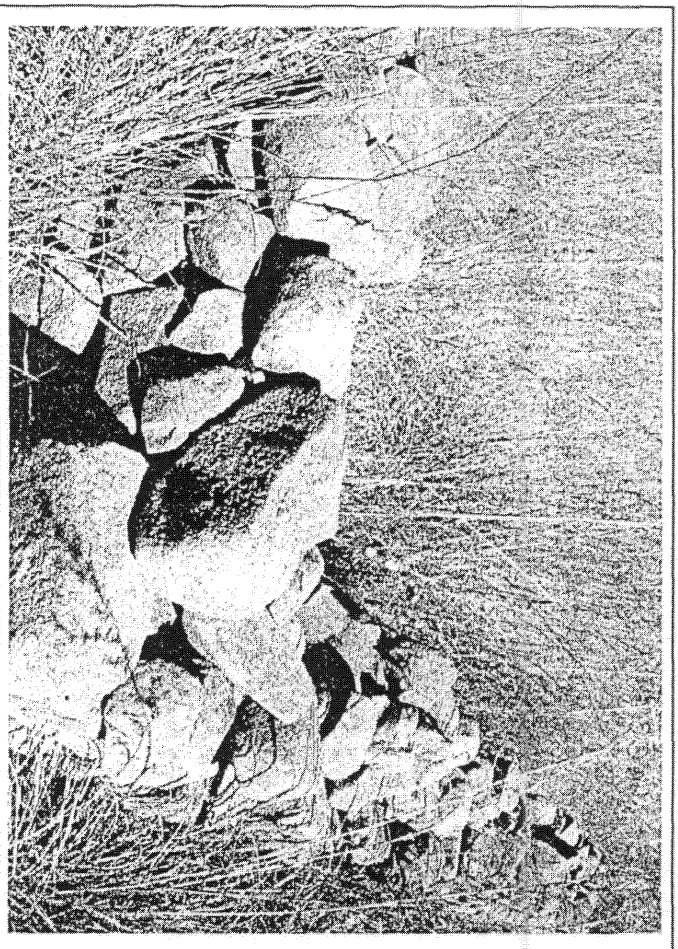


Figure 7 – Part of the enclosure which is excellently preserved.

5 RATING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES IN STUDY AREA A

5.1 The rating scheme

The HIA survey revealed the presence of the following types and ranges of heritage resources in Study Area A, namely:

- The remains of an extended complex of dwellings (rooms); and
- an enclosure built with a square ground plan and with dry stones.

Various criteria were used to determine the significance of these heritage resources in Study Area A on the farm Valyspruit 132JT. This scheme considers criteria such as the following (Table 1):

Ideological (symbolic) significance

This level of significance refers to sites, structures or features that may have symbolic or ideological significance, e.g. cattle kraals that may have been used as burial grounds or stone cairns in initiation schools that symbolise the regiments (of men) that were moulded during these puberty ceremonies, etc. Burial grounds or sites that are venerated would also score high on ideological significance.

Aesthetic significance

This level of significance refers to the beauty, craftsmanship or workmanship evident in sites, structures or features of sites. In this regard, one thinks of the spatial composition and layout of settlements, the spatial location of settlements on majestic or impressive mountains or kopjes, etc. Other aesthetic aspects include

building features such as stone walls, stone platforms, the shape and size of enclosures, etc.

Unique(ness)

The uniqueness of sites, structures and features refers to the fact that such sites and the structures or features of these sites, may be scarce and may not be repeated in other sites.

Cultural historical significance

The cultural historical significance of sites refers primarily to the age and the cultural affiliation of sites. However, these criteria may include the aesthetics or appearance of sites, the uniqueness of sites and the association of sites with peoples (as well as individuals) and with important events in the past.

State of preservation

The state of preservation of sites, structures and features refers to the condition of remains, which may be affected by development activities. Sites may be badly damaged or may still be in a pristine condition.

Research value

The research value of sites, structures and features refers to the knowledge that can be derived from these remains, through documentation, excavation or research of these remains. Research has little value if the results are not published for specialist or general assimilation.

These criteria were used in order to establish different levels of significance for the cultural resources that will be negatively impacted upon by the mining activities.

The values accorded to each of these categories varied between 1 (low significance), 2 (medium significance) and 3 (high significance) (Table 1).

5.2 The significance of the heritage resources

Neither the extended dwelling complex nor the enclosure can be considered to be of outstanding significance (Table 1).

The enclosure, however, rates high on its ideological (symbolic), aesthetic and cultural historical significance. It is also in an excellent state of preservation. The structure is solidly constructed and has an impressive and formidable appearance. Its walls would probably stand for many years to come. This structure is also attractive (aesthetically) pleasing and won't detract when preserved in a modern residential complex (Table 1).

The extended dwelling complex registered a medium significance with regard to its cultural historical significance and a low significance on all the other criteria (Table 1). This complex is severely dilapidated and is a safety risk if not demolished or repaired. It probably served as the living quarters for a number of families (labourers) who lived in the different rooms in this complex. It seems to date from the more recent past.

6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The extended dwelling complex has no historical or other value and can be destroyed. However, the enclosure has rated high on several of the criteria that were used to determine the significance of this structure. This structure can only be affected (destroyed) if a permit has been acquired from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). It is recommended that this structure be preserved *in situ* and incorporated in the development project.

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	Ideological/symbolic significance	Aesthetic significance	Unique	Cultural Historical significance	State of preservation	Research Value
Extended dwelling complex 25° 27' 00" S; 30° 07' 48" E	1	1	1	2	1	1
Enclosure 25° 26' 54" S; 30° 07' 47" E	3	3	1	3	3	1

Table 1. Different levels of significance distinguished for the historical site (HS01), cemetery (GY01) and the abandoned mining activities on Valyspruit 231JT.

1= low significance

2= medium significance

3=high significance

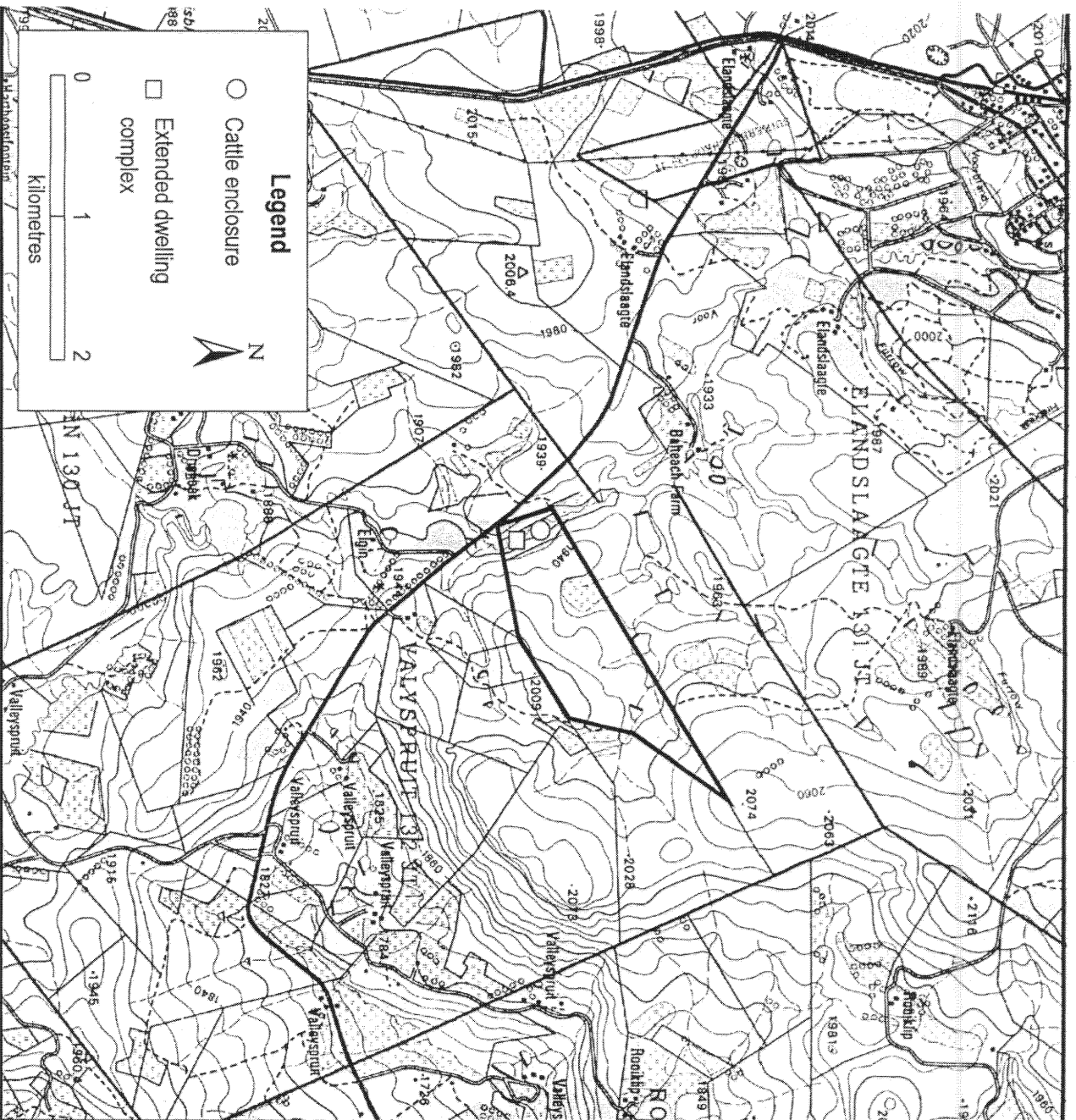


Figure 1: The farm Valyspruit 132JT to the south of Dulistroom in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa where a Private Resort/Township will be established. Note the remains of an extended dwelling complex and a cattle enclosure in Study Area A.