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## AFRICAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC

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# CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON THE FARM GROOTSUIKERBOSCHKOP <sup>124</sup> 012JT HIGHLANDS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY MPUMALANGA

## 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:

- Structures or parts of structures older than 60 years
- Archaeological sites and objects
- Palaeontological sites
- Meteorites
- Ship wrecks

- Burial grounds
- Graves of victims of conflict
- Public monuments and memorials
- Structures, places and objects protected through the publication of notices in the Gazette and Provincial Gazette
- Any other places or object which are considered to be of interest or of historical or cultural significance
- Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa
- Objects to which oral traditions are attached
- Sites of cultural significance or other value to a community or pattern of South African history

### **3. METHODOLOGY**

The site was visited, inspected on foot and photographed. All appropriate documents on the area were studied.

### **4. RESULTS**

The only possible heritage structure on the proposed development area is the old farmhouse. The original building was probably built in the late 1950s. The building was later extended several times. Unfortunately the building stood empty for a long period and was severely vandalised (see photograph 1).

No other historical or archaeological important sites could be found on the proposed development area.

### **5. CONCLUSION**

No important historical or archaeological sites are present on the proposed development area.

### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

There is no objection to the proposed development on the site from a heritage point of view.

This access will have to cross the Dullstroom – Belfast railway line and negotiations for the crossing of this line have been entered upon (See Proposed Layout Plan – Figure 2). The Department of Transport has indicated however that they can only commit their efforts once the relevant authorisations for the proposed resort development has been obtained from the relevant departments. Should this entrance prove to be problematic in terms of the railway line, the exiting entrance to the north western boundary of the site will be used. The road that connects to the existing entrance follows on from the Dullstroom town centre and is supplied with sufficient infrastructure to handle the traffic towards the development.

Traffic increase is foreseen to increase by 25% which does not present a momentous increase according to traffic engineering standards. At full completion, occupation is usually at a high during the first months which then levels out to a seasonal occurrence. The proposed entrance from the R540 connects directly across the Kruisfontein Provincial road which is provided with all the necessary traffic infrastructure. The said development will also be provided with all the necessary infrastructure to the approval of the Emakhazeni Traffic Dept.

### 3.11 CULTURAL-HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

The old house which is situated on the north eastern plateau of the site is the only feature of possible archaeological significance on the site. (See Photo 10) The house was constructed in the 1950s and has subsequently been added onto and altered many times. There was also a long period during which the house stood vacant and so was badly vandalised.

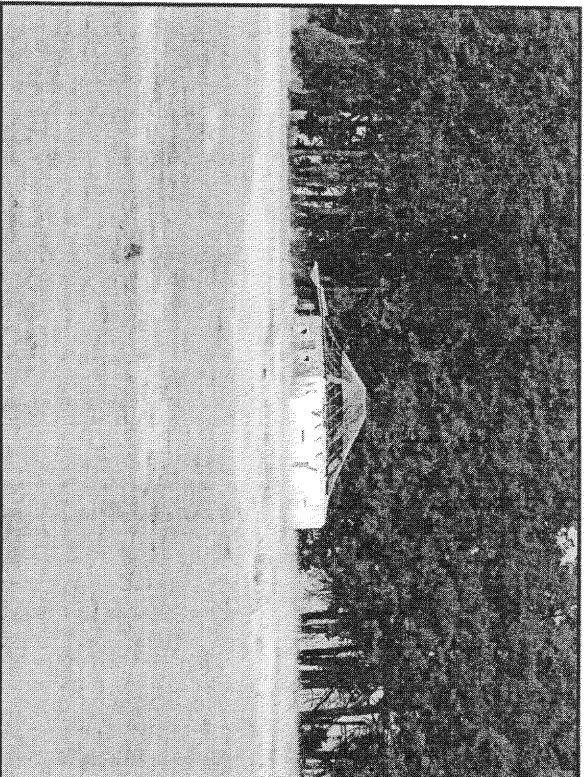
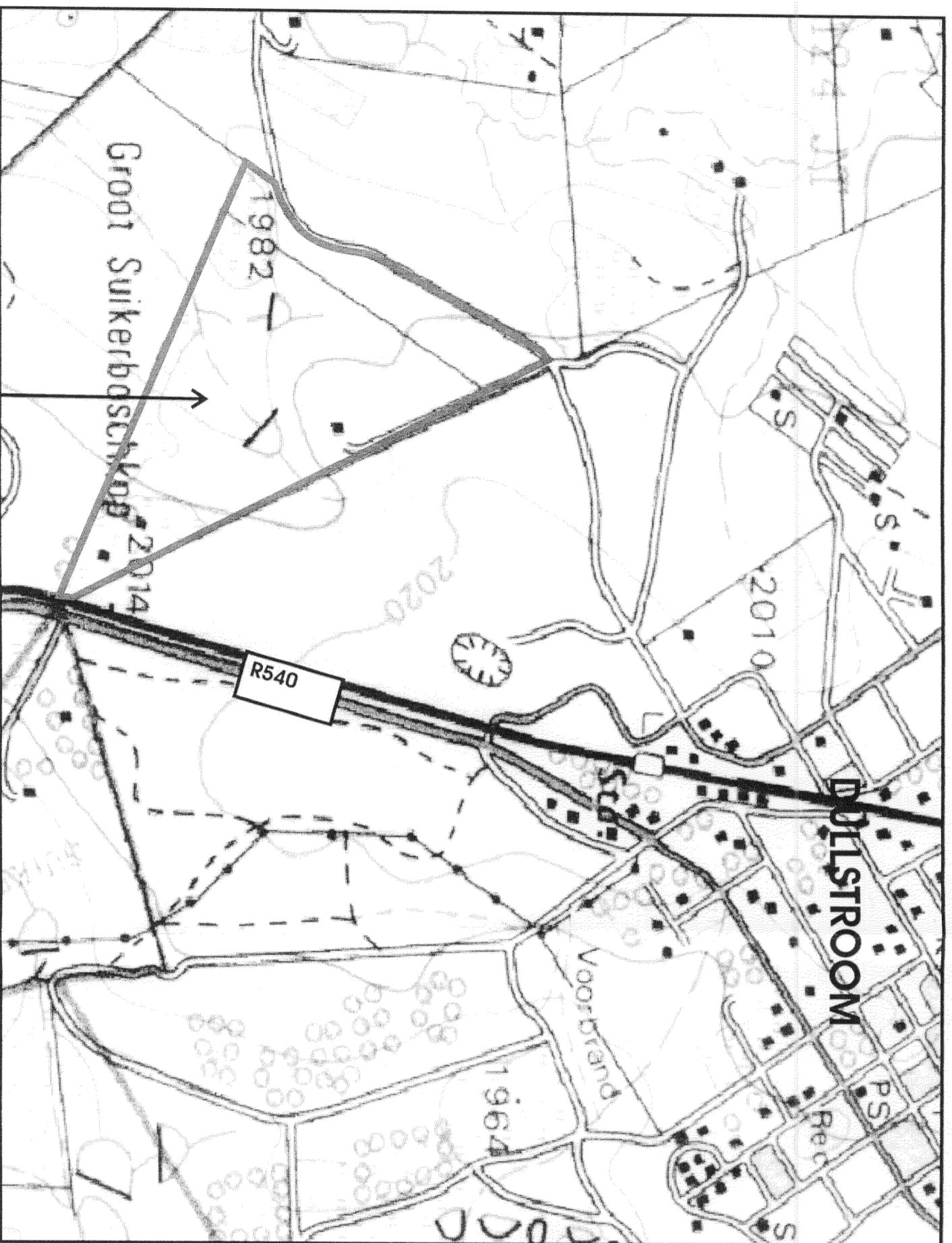
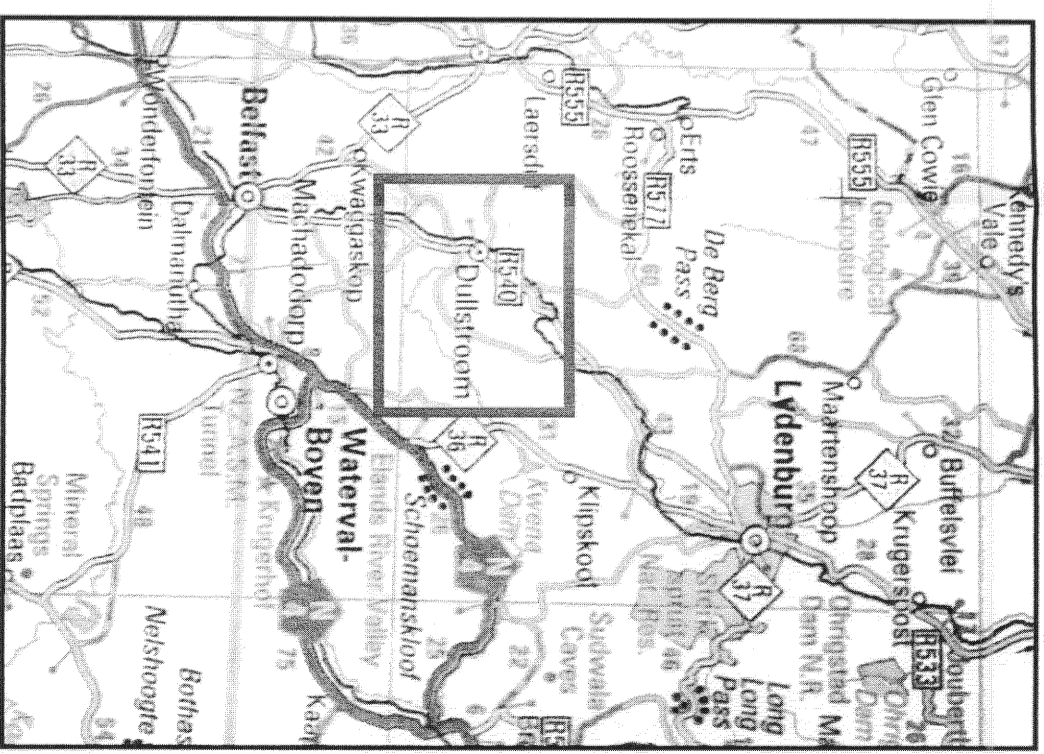


Photo 10: The old house on the north eastern plateau of the site

Dr. Kusel of African Heritage Consultants CC, has performed a cultural historic reconnaissance assessment (See Appendix 6) of the structure and has confirmed that it does in fact not hold any archaeological importance.



The Proposed Tourism Estate Development Site



LOCALITY

**THE PROPOSED DULLSTROOM TOURISM  
ESTATE DEVELOPMENT ON PORTION 37  
OF THE FARM GROOTSUIKERBOSCHKOP  
124 JT, DULLSTROOM MPUMALANGA**

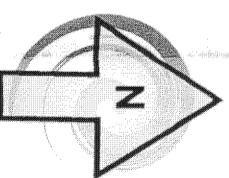
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS  
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**Ekokonsult**

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**Fig 1**