

9/2/2008/0001
Received 23.6.05

A HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) STUDY FOR THE EXISTING KABOKWENI WASTE WATER TREATMENT WORKS AND FOR AN EXTENSION OF THIS PLANT

INTRODUCTION

The premises of the existing Kabokweni Waste Water Treatment Works as well as an adjoining piece of land where an extension to the Kabokweni Waste Water Treatment Works is planned have been subjected to a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study during January 2004.

Both the existing Kabokweni Waste Water Treatment Works' premises as well as the area where the extension is planned were investigated for the possible presence of heritage resources as the existing Waste Water Treatment Works will be upgraded while the premises for the Waste Water Treatment Works will be affected (altered) when an extension of the Waste Water Treatment Works is established on this piece of land.

LOCATION

The Kabokweni Waste Water Treatment Works is located in the Kabokweni residential village to the north of Nelspruit in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa. The extension of the Kabokweni Waste Water Treatment Works will cover an area of several hectare and is separated from the existing Kabokweni Waste Water Treatment Works by a river.

THE HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA)

The existing Kobokweni Waste Water Treatment Works as well as the adjoining new premises for the new Waste Water Treatment Works have been subjected to a survey on foot. The HIA study revealed the following:

The Kobokweni Waste Water Treatment Works

The Kabokweni Waste Water Treatment Works has altered the premises on which this plant has been established. The plant is situated on a soil embankment that is raised several meters above the surrounding landscape. Infrastructure within and around the plant that has altered the area significantly includes the following (Figures 1 & 2):

- Subsistence farming activities which border on the plant's eastern side.
- Rural settlements that have been established on at least two sides of the Water Works, namely to the west and to the south.
- Infrastructure such as cement buildings, a Wendy House and structures built with corrugated zinc walls and roof within the premises of the Water Works.
- At least three ponds that cover large surfaces.

No heritage resources of significance were observed within the premises of the Kabokweni Waste Water Treatment Works.

The extension of the Kobokweni Waste Water Treatment Works

The area to where the Kabokweni Waste Water Treatment Works will be expanded was investigated for any types or ranges of heritage resources. This area has been scarred by agricultural activities as subsistence farming has been practised on this piece of land for many years.

A few potsherds were noted in this area but no other heritage resources of significance (Figure 2).

Figure 1. One of the ponds in the existing Kabokweni Waste Water Treatment Works that has scarred the premises on which the plant has been established (below).

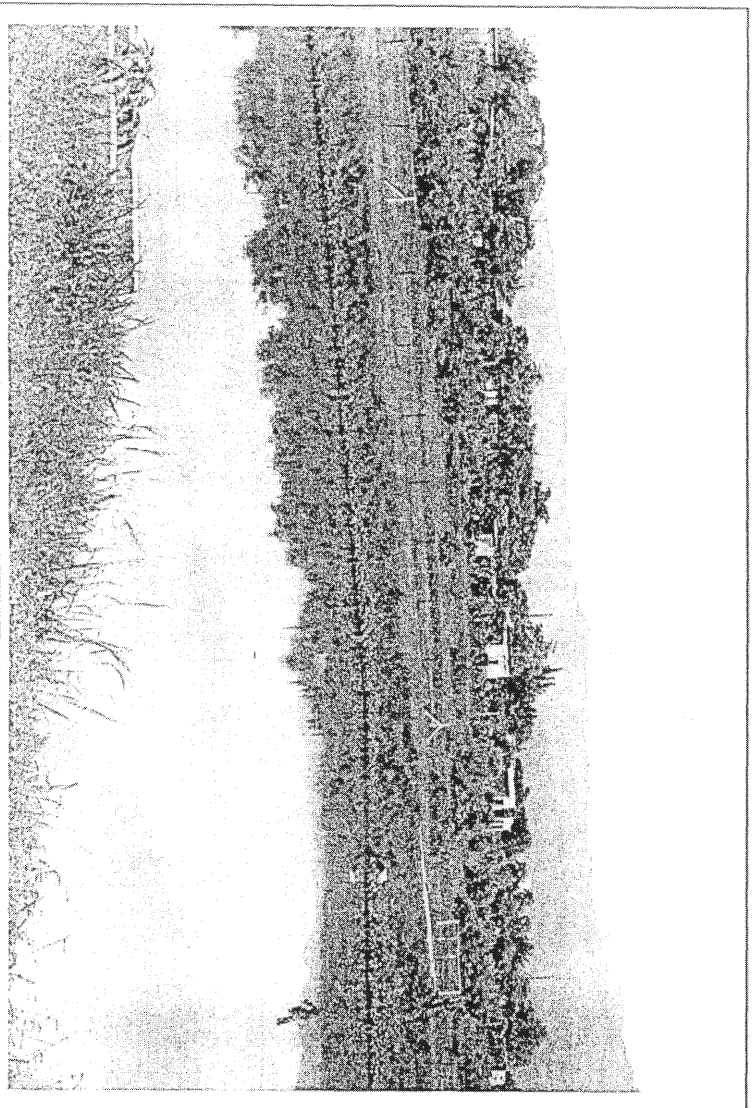
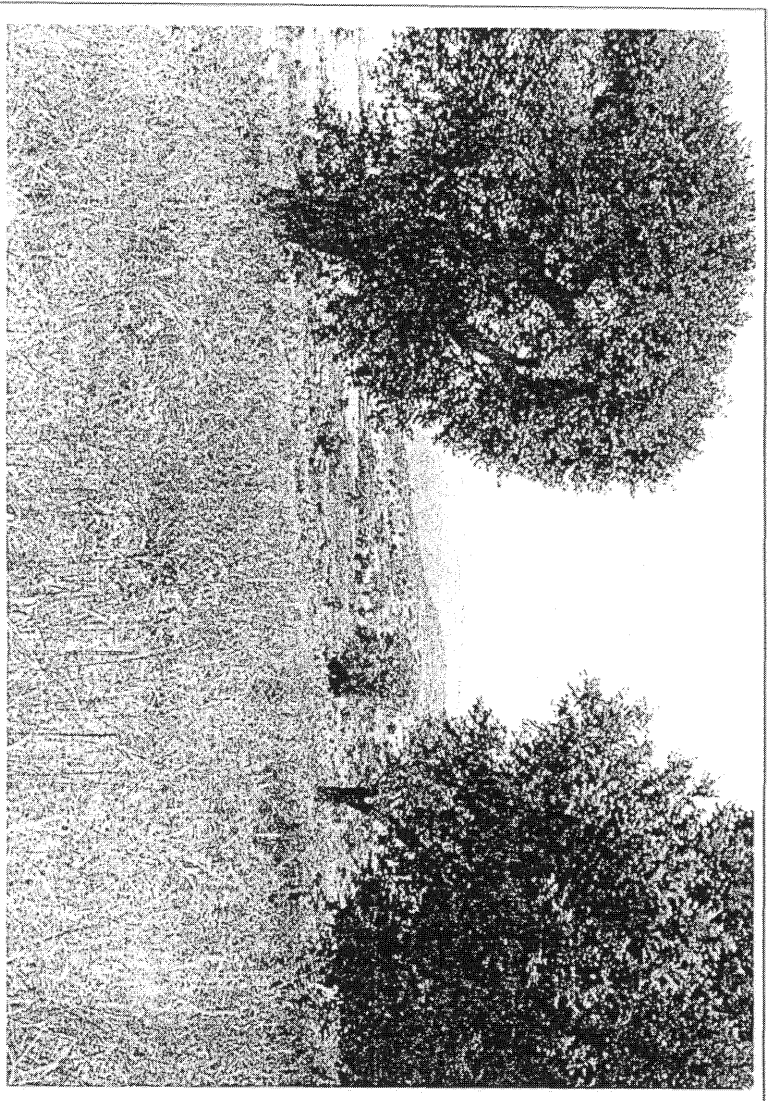


Figure 2- The area where an extension of the Kabokweni Waste Water Treatment Works is planned has been used for agricultural activities over a long period of time (below).

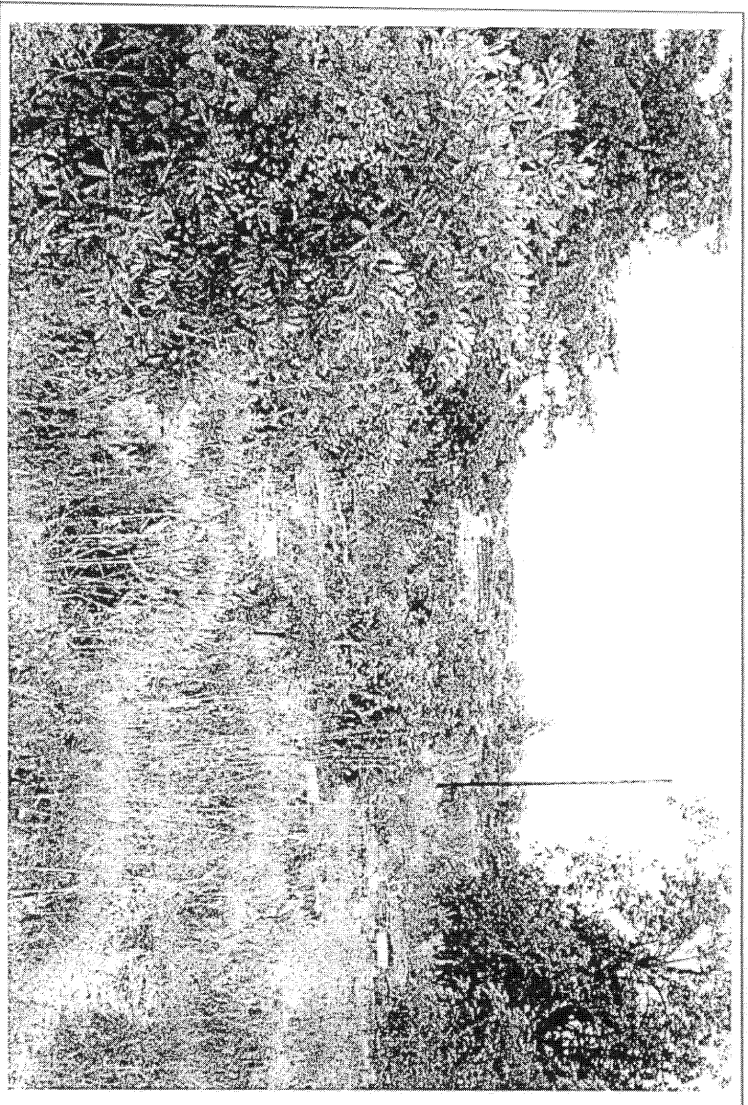


CONCLUSION

No heritage resources of significance were observed in either the existing Kabokweni Waste Water Treatment Works or in the area where the extension of the plant will be established.

A cemetery was observed on the outskirts of the Kabokweni Waste Water Treatment Works. However, this cemetery will not be affected when the Waste Water Treatment Works is upgraded.

Figure 3- A cemetery located outside and to the south-west of the Kabokweni Waste Water Treatment Works. This graveyard will not be affected when the Waste Water Treatment Works is upgraded (below).



Julius CC Pistorius
Dr Julius CC Pistorius
Archaeologist &
Heritage Management Consultant

352 Rosemary Street
LYNNWOOD 0081
Tel and fax 012 3485668