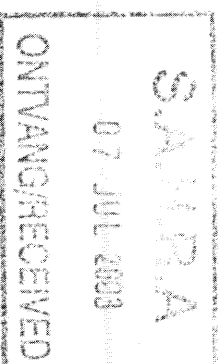


**A HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) STUDY FOR A PROPOSED
NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT NEAR THE RASLOWW
AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS IN CENTURION WEST**

Background



A new residential development is planned to the south of the existing Rasloww Agricultural Holdings in Centurion. The proposed new residential area is situated in a triangular area formed by three national roads that also incorporates parts of Eldoraign (north-east), Wierdapark (east), Zwartkop (north), Deltoidia Agricultural Holdings (north-west) and Rooihuiskraal (south).

The proposed new residential area is confined to the most southern tip of the triangle created by the three national roads (Figure 1) (1:50 000 topographical map 2528CC Centurion).

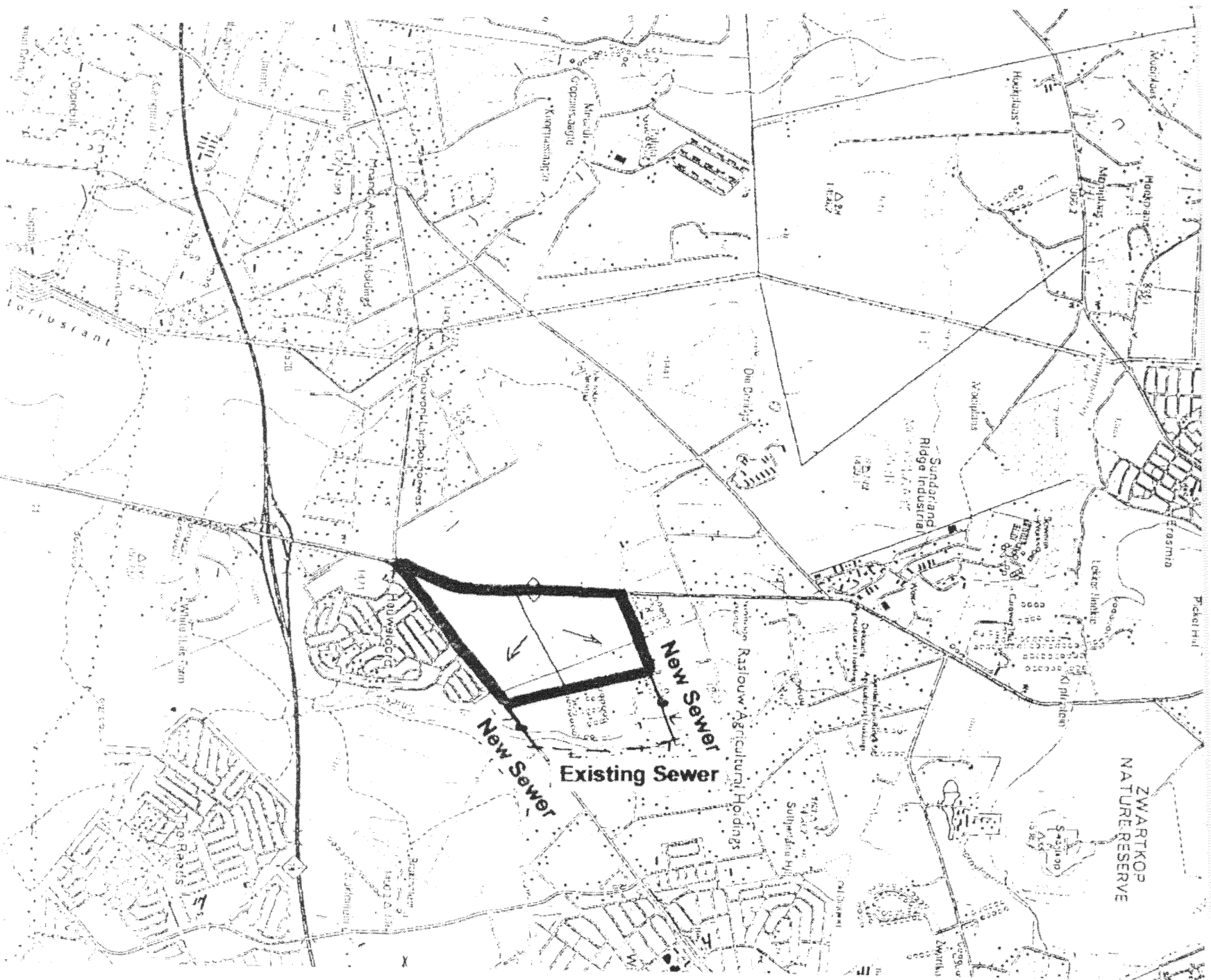
As the development may affect some of the types and ranges of heritage resources listed in the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999), Landscape Dynamics and the developer requested that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) be done before the development commences.

The study area

The study area is situated on the southern and western boundaries of Centurion and is surrounded by suburban development (to the east), agricultural holdings (to the north and south) and undeveloped land (directly to the west and to the north). The study area is flat, outstretched and borders on the northern tip of the Highveld. It is covered with grass with and with little tree cover. The Schurweberg is situated to the northwest; some of the foothills of this range are approaching the northern banks of the Sesmylspruit further to the north. The Rietspruit meanders to the east of the proposed new residential area (Figure 1).

1:50 000

Figure 1. The study area situated to the south of the Raslaw Agricultural Holdings. No heritage resources of outstanding significance were observed in this area or in the extension for two new sewers, east of the study area situated respectively on the northern and southern boundaries of the study area.



Historical background to the broader study area (Centurion West)

Dr G M van der Waal has researched the cultural history of Centurion. He has published this information in a brochure entitled 'Settlers, Soldiers and Statesmen'. The brochure outlines the history of the western parts of Centurion (incorporating the site where the proposed new residential area will be established). All the events and places of importance mentioned in the brochure are not relevant to this study. Only a few of the events and places close to the study area are outlined below (with acknowledgement to CULTMATRIX, see the end of Part 2):

From as long as 200 000 years ago Stone Age communities occupied the larger Pretoria and Centurion areas.

AD 1200. The earliest evidence for Iron Age communities associated with farming (stock herding and agriculture) dates from this time.

1825-1826. The Matabele of Mzilikazi dominated the area and settled at various places along the Magaliesberg further to the north.

±February 1852. Coert Erasmus settled on the farm Mooiplaas, which was registered in his name in 1859.

±1880. The Erasmusse of Mooiplaas and Steinbergs of Hoekplaas built water weirs in and canals along the Hennops River.

1830-1831. Skimmishes during the First War of Independence is symbolised by the Rooihuiskraal national monument site.

± 1835. The Steinbergs, Stewards and later the Freitachs started lime kilns at Hoekplaas and Vlakplaas, using dolomite ore.

±1898. Henderson Consolidated Corporation Ltd. Started prospecting for gold at Hoekplaas and started the mine on Portion 7.

Ca 1900. The British build fortifications on Kwaggaskop during the Anglo-Boer South African War.

1909. Hennops River floods devastated the area after heavy rain.

1920. The Zwartkops Air Force base was established and was the first air force base in South Africa (and the Commonwealth). It now also houses a museum.

1934. Old Pretoria/Krugersdorp road constructed (a Depression project).

1935-1950. River sand in Riet Spruit and Hennops River transported by L.J. Erasmus and Danie Willemsse to ISCOR and building contractors. Sand also used in first phase of the Voortrekker Monument.

± ISCOR started the present dolomite quarry at Mooiplaas/Schurweplaas and closed the old quarry at Swartkop, which was then utilised as a refuse/waste dumping site.

1960. Ladium established.

1969. Erasmia incorporated into the municipality of Pretoria

Early 1990's. Two military planes crash into each other in the veld presently known as Christoburg.

1994. Verwoerdburg changed its name to Centurion.

The results of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA)

The HIA study was done using a vehicle in order to travel around the study area. Selected parts of the study area were surveyed on foot while two

proposed new sewer lines (corridors) were inspected for any possible heritage remains. These sewer lines are two corridors or extensions to the east of the study area, along the northern boundary line and along the southern boundary).

The HIA study revealed no heritage resources of any outstanding significance in either the study area or along the proposed new sewer lines. The following illustrations and descriptions will outline the lack of evidence for any heritage resources of significance in these areas:

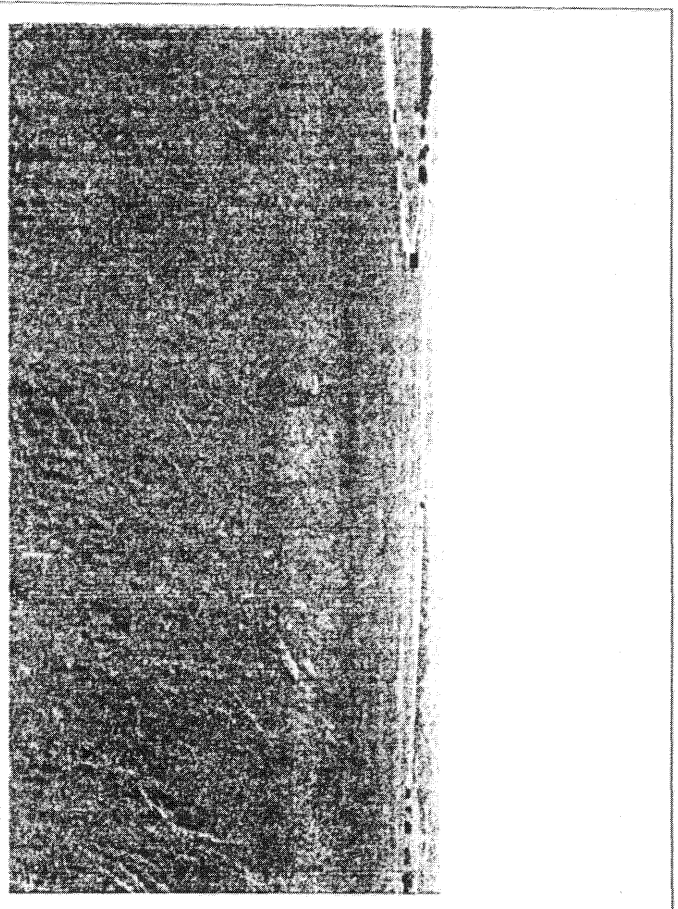


Figure 2. A view of the study area from the south. The southern part is rocky and composed of quartzite banks sloping to the north. No heritage resources were observed in the southern part of the study area (above).

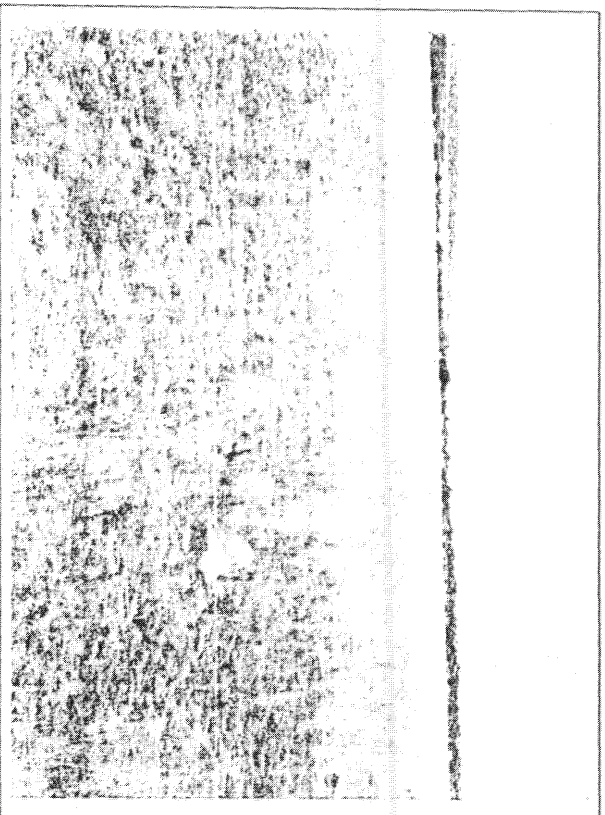


Figure 3. The central treeless part of the study area does not contain any heritage resources of outstanding significance (above).

Figure 4. The north-eastern part of the study area is characterised by dark red soil and dolomitic (diabase) outcrops. The area abounds with termite heaps. Two shallow, parallel running furrows may indicate buried pipelines in this part of the study area. No heritage resources of significance were observed in this part of the study area (below).

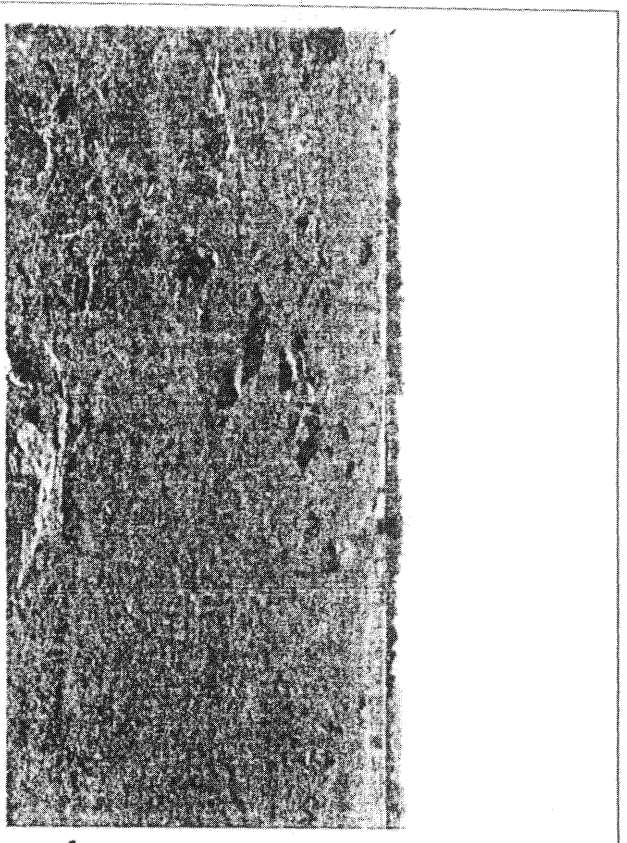


Figure 5. The north-eastern corner of the study area contains infrastructure used for tending cattle. These structures include cattle kraals, sheds and other buildings constructed with brick, cement and corrugated iron roofs. These structures, some of which are dilapidated, date from the relatively recent past and cannot be considered to be of historical or cultural interest (below).

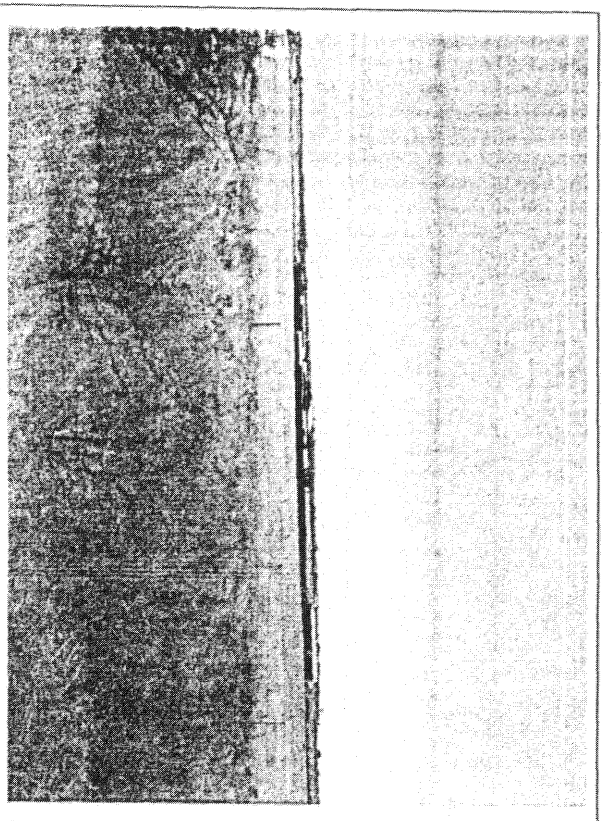


Figure 6. The proposed new sewer line as an extension to the northern border of the study area runs across a disturbed piece of veld with no heritage resources (below).

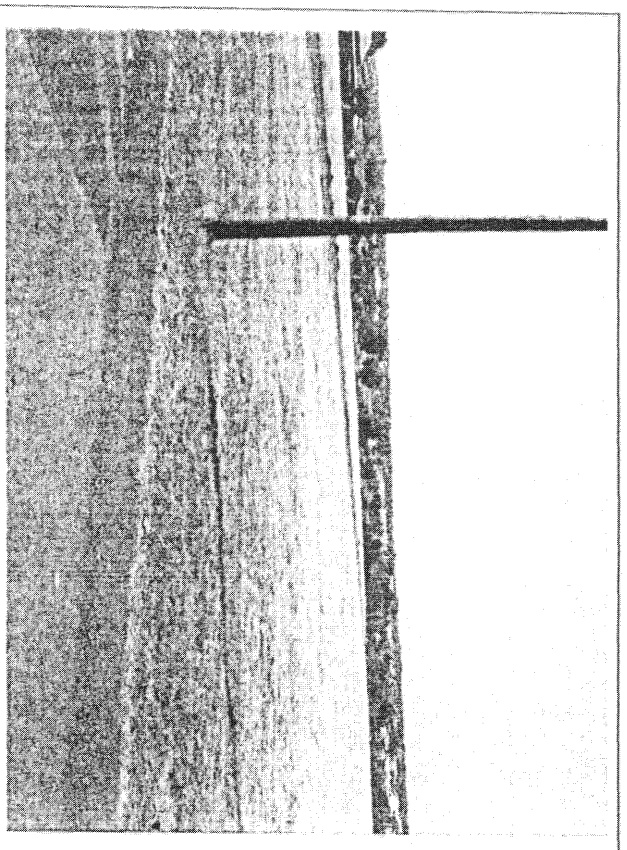
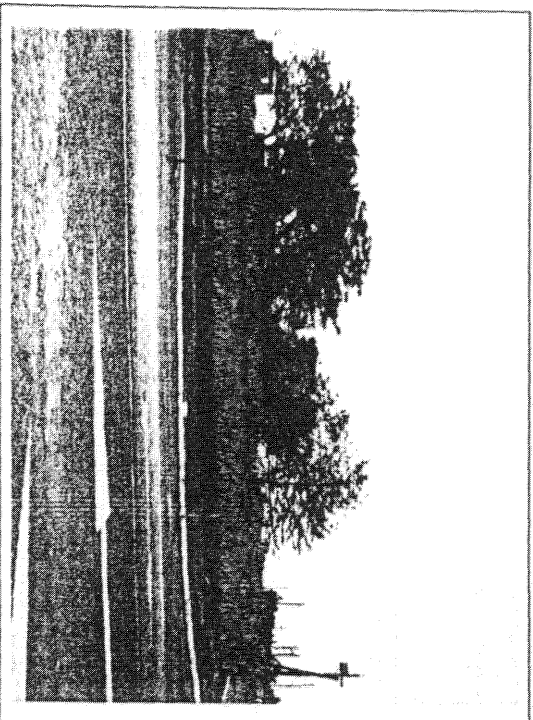


Figure 7. The proposed new sewer line as an extension to the southern border of the study area runs along a national road and has been affected by development activities and infrastructure such as this road construction camp build on the shoulder of the tar road (below).



Conclusion

Centurion West is characterised by some of the heritage resources listed in the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999). However, the HIA study has not revealed any heritage resources of outstanding significance in the study area or in the proposed new sewer lines to be established as extensions along the northern and the southern boundaries of the study area.

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