

**PREPARED FOR:  
LANDSCAPE DYNAMICS**

**A PHASE I HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) STUDY FOR  
PORTIONS 30 AND 31 IN THE LITTLE FALLS SUBURB IN  
ROODEPOORT IN THE GAUTENG 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, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999) was done for Portions 30 and 31 in the suburb of Little Falls in Roodepoort in the Gauteng Province of South Africa. The aims with the HIA study were to establish if any of the types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) occur in the project area (see Box 1).

The HIA study revealed none of the types and ranges of heritage resources that are listed in the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999) (Box 1).

There is consequently no reason from a heritage point of view why the developer should not proceed with the development project.

## CONTENTS

Executive summary	2
1 INTRODUCTION	4
2 TERMS OF REFERENCE	6
3 THE PROJECT AREA	7
3.1 Location	7
3.2 The nature of the project area	7
4 METHODOLOGY	10
4.1 Method	10
4.3 Assumptions and limitations	10
4.4 Some remarks on terminology	10
5 THE HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) STUDY	12
5.1 Types and ranges of heritage resources discovered	12
5.2 Portion 30	12
5.3 Portion 31	12
6 CONCLUSION	14

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

This document contains the report on the results of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study done for Portions 30 and 31 in the Little Falls suburb in Roodepoort in the Gauteng Province of South Africa. Focused archaeological research has been conducted in the Gauteng Province for more than four decades. This research consists of surveys and of excavations of Stone Age and Iron Age sites as well as the recording of rock art and historical sites. The Gauteng Province has a rich heritage comprised of remains dating from the pre-historical and from the historical (or colonial) periods of South Africa. Pre-historical and historical remains in the Gauteng Province of South Africa form a record of the heritage of most groups living in South Africa today.

Various types and ranges of heritage resources that qualify as part of South Africa's 'national estate' (as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 [Act No 25 of 1999]) occur in the Gauteng Province (see Box 1, next page).

**Box 1: Types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (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 palaeontological 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) objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological 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
  - (vi) 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 proposed new project involves the development of Portions 30 and 31 of the Little Falls suburb in Roodepoort for residential purposes (Figure 1). The proposed new development project may affect some of the types and ranges of heritage resources ('national estate') that are outline in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999). Consequently, Landscape Dynamics commissioned the author of this report to undertake a Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study to determine whether the development project may impact on any of the types and ranges of heritage resources that are outline in Box 1. The aims with the

HIA were:

- to establish whether any of the types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) occur within the perimeters of the project area and, if so;
- to determine the level (or degree) of significance of these heritage resources; and
- to make recommendations regarding the mitigation or the conservation of these heritage resources if they are to be affected by the proposed new development project.

### **3 THE PROJECT AREA**

#### **3.1 Location**

The proposed new residential development project comprises Portions 30 and 31 in the suburb of Little Falls in Roodepoort in the Gauteng Province of South Africa. The two adjacent portions of land (project area) border on Totius Road and are located along the lower northern foot slope of a mountain range that runs from the east to the west across several suburbs in Roodepoort (Roodepoort 2627BB; 1:50 000) (Figure 1).

#### **3.2 The nature of the project area**

Portions 30 and 31 of the Little Falls project area are located against the lower northern foot slope of a mountain range. Both portions run from relative level ground next to Totius Road up the lower foot slope of the mountain which is composed of a rocky colluvium deposit. The veldt is dominated by grass and by Suikerbos (Proteas) outside the project area. Portions 30 and 31 are surrounded by other suburbs with only the higher northern slopes of the mountain in pristine condition.

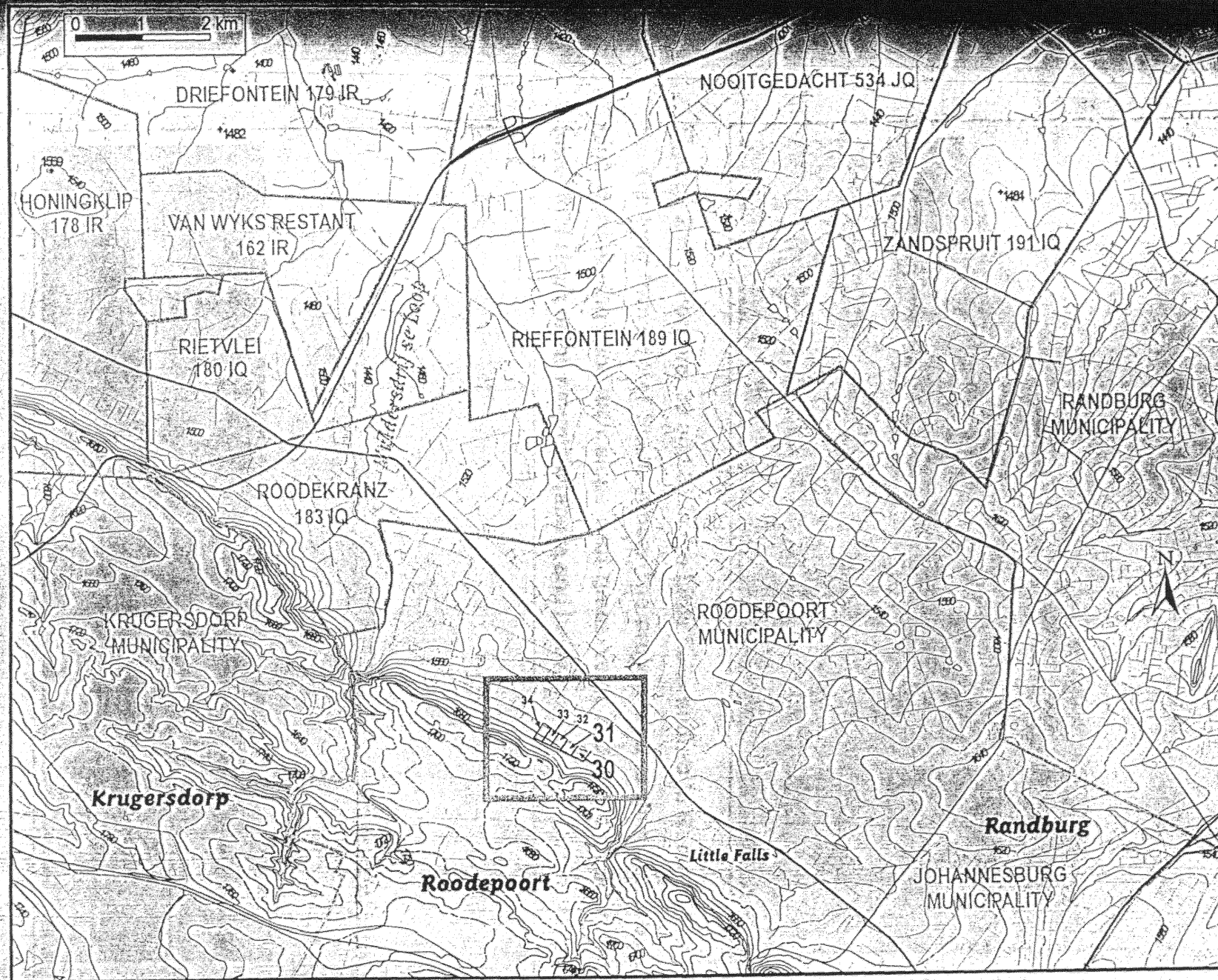
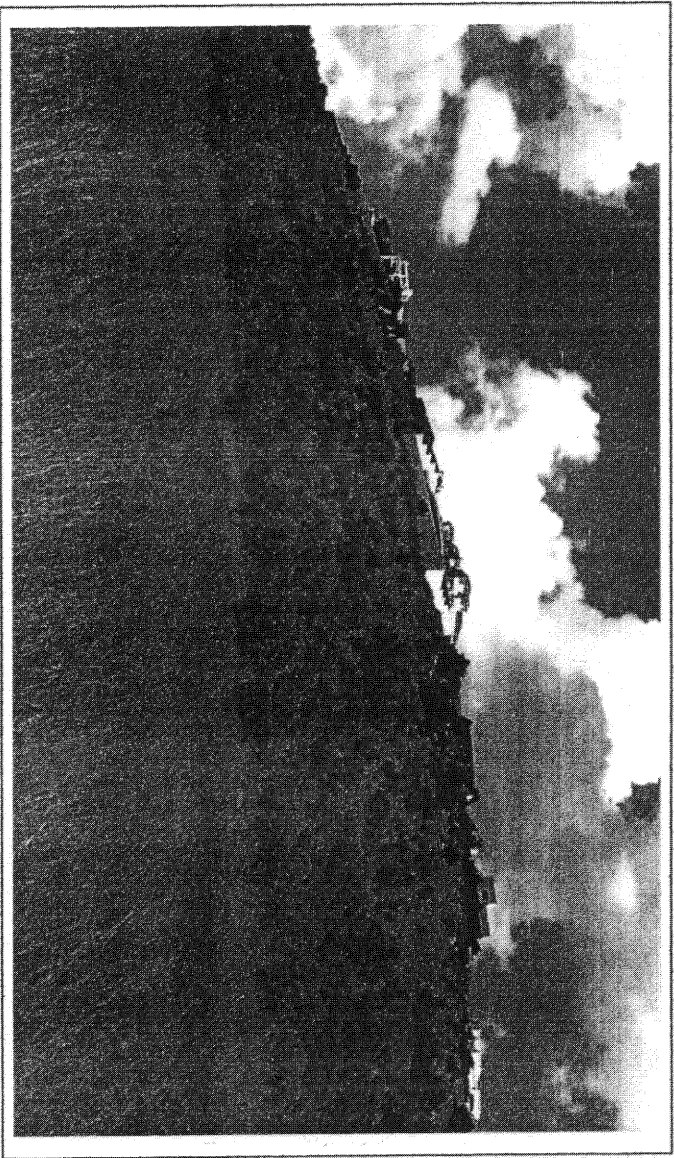
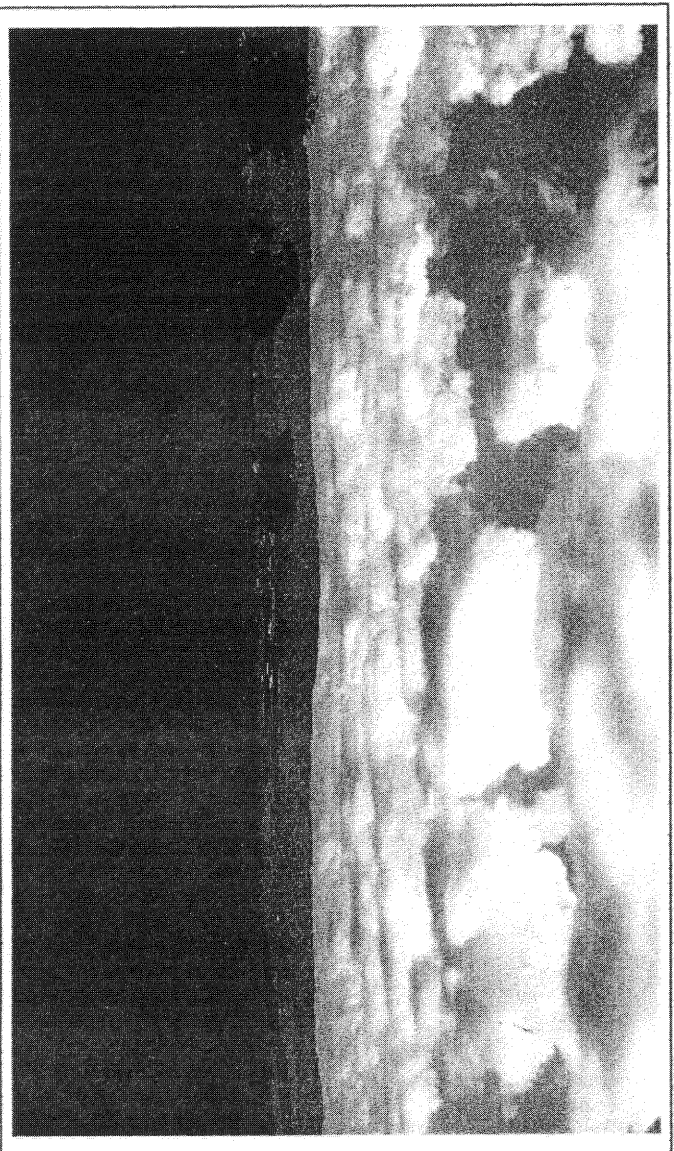


Figure 1- The proposed new residential development project on Portions 30 and 31 in the suburb of Little Falls in Roodepoort in Gauteng. No heritage resources of significance were observed in the project area.





**Figures 2 & 3- Portions 30 and 31 in the Little Falls suburb in Roodepoort in the Gauteng Province of South Africa. The project area is dominated by a high north-facing mountain slope with grass veldt and Proteas along the lower foot slope of the mountain (above and below).**



## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Method**

This survey was conducted by means of consulting archaeological data bases; doing a survey on foot of the project area and by studying a map of the project area.

- Archaeological data bases kept at institutions such as African Window and the South African Heritage Resources Authority (SAHRA) (Cape Town [national] and Gauteng [provincial]) was consulted to establish if any heritage resources of significance occur in or near the project area.
- The project area was covered with a survey on foot.
- The 1 : 50 000 and 1 : 250 000 maps were used to study the project area.

### **4.2 Assumptions and limitations**

It is possible that this HIA study may have missed heritage resources in the project area as heritage remains may lie below the surface of the earth and may only be exposed once development commences.

### **4.3 Some remarks on terminology**

Terminology that may be used in this report is outlined in Box 2 (below, next page).

## **Box 2. Terminologies that may be used in this report**

The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) referred to in the title of this report includes a survey of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) (See Box 1).

Heritage resources (cultural resources) include all human-made phenomena and intangible products that are the result of the human mind. Natural, technological or industrial features may also be part of heritage resources, as places that have made an outstanding contribution to the cultures, traditions and lifestyles of the people or groups of people of South Africa.

The term 'pre-historical' refers to the time before any historical documents were written or any written language developed in a particular area or region of the world. The historical period and historical remains refer, for the project area, to the first appearance or use of 'modern' Western writing brought to the Gauteng area by the first Colonists who settled in this area during the 1830's.

The term 'relatively recent past' refers to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Remains from this period are not necessarily older than sixty years and therefore may not qualify as archaeological or historical remains. Some of these remains, however, may be close to sixty years of age and may, in the near future, qualify as heritage resources.

It is not always possible, based on 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 always 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 'sensitive remains' is sometimes used to distinguish graves and cemeteries as well as ideologically significant features such as holy mountains, initiation sites or other sacred places. Graves in particular are not necessarily heritage resources if they date from the recent past and do not have head stones that are older than sixty years. The distinction between 'formal' and 'informal' graves in most instances also refers to graveyards that were used by colonists and by indigenous people. This distinction may be important as different cultural groups may uphold different traditions and values with regard to their ancestors. These values have to be recognised and honoured whenever graveyards are exhumed and relocated.

The term 'Stone Age' refers to the prehistoric past, although Late Stone Age peoples lived in South Africa well into the historical period. The Stone Age is divided into an Earlier Stone Age (3 million years to 150 000 thousand years ago) the Middle Stone Age (150 000 years to 40 000 years ago) and the Late Stone Age (40 000 years to 200 years ago).

The term 'late Iron Age' refers to the period between the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the 19<sup>th</sup> century and can therefore include the historical period.

Mining heritage sites refer to old, abandoned mining activities, underground or on the surface, which may date from the pre-historical, historical or the relatively recent past.

The term 'study area', or 'project area' refers to the area where the developer wants to focus its development activities (refer to plan).

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, excavating and sometimes laboratory work. Phase II work may include the documenting of rock art, engraving or historical sites and dwellings; the sampling of archaeological sites or shipwrecks; extended excavations of archaeological sites; the exhumation of bodies and the relocation of graveyards, etc. Phase II work may require the input of specialists and requires the co-operation and approval of SAHRA.

## **5 THE HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) STUDY**

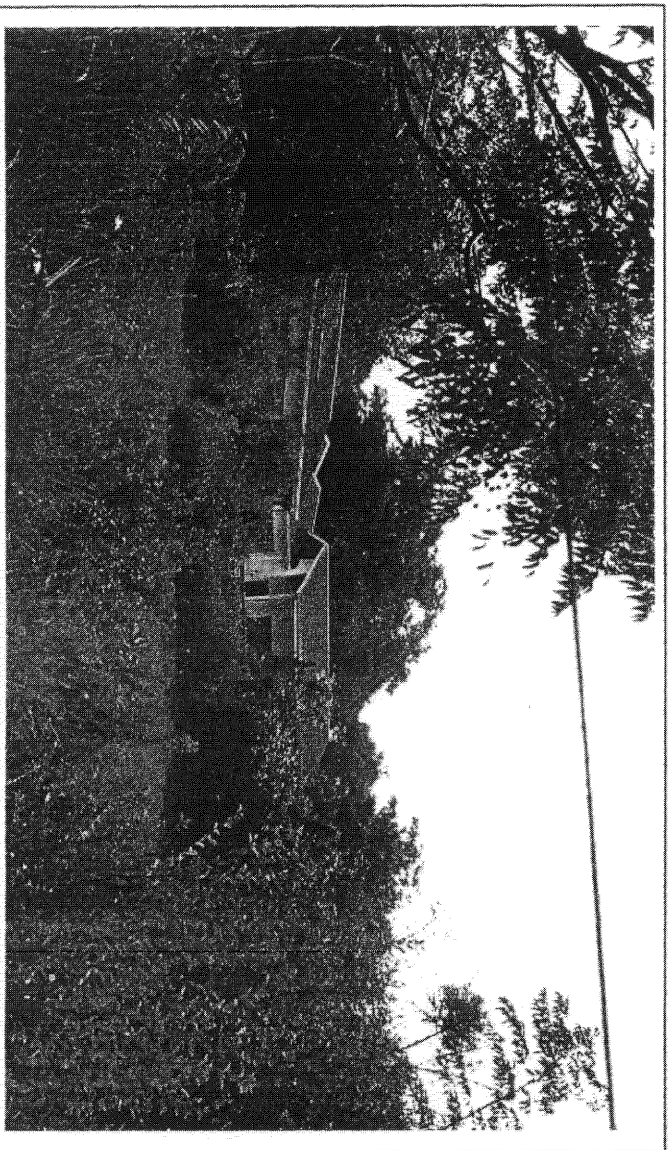
### **5.1 Types and ranges of heritage resources discovered**

The survey of Portions 30 and 31 in the Little Falls suburb in Roodepoort revealed none of the types and ranges of heritage resources that are listed in the National Heritage Resources Act 1999; (Act No 25 of 1999) (Figure 1).

The survey is now briefly discussed and illustrated with photographs.

### **5.2 Portion 30**

The western half of Portion 30 is developed while the eastern half of this portion is still in a relatively pristine condition. The infrastructure in the western half of Portion 30 dates from the recent past and has no historical significance.

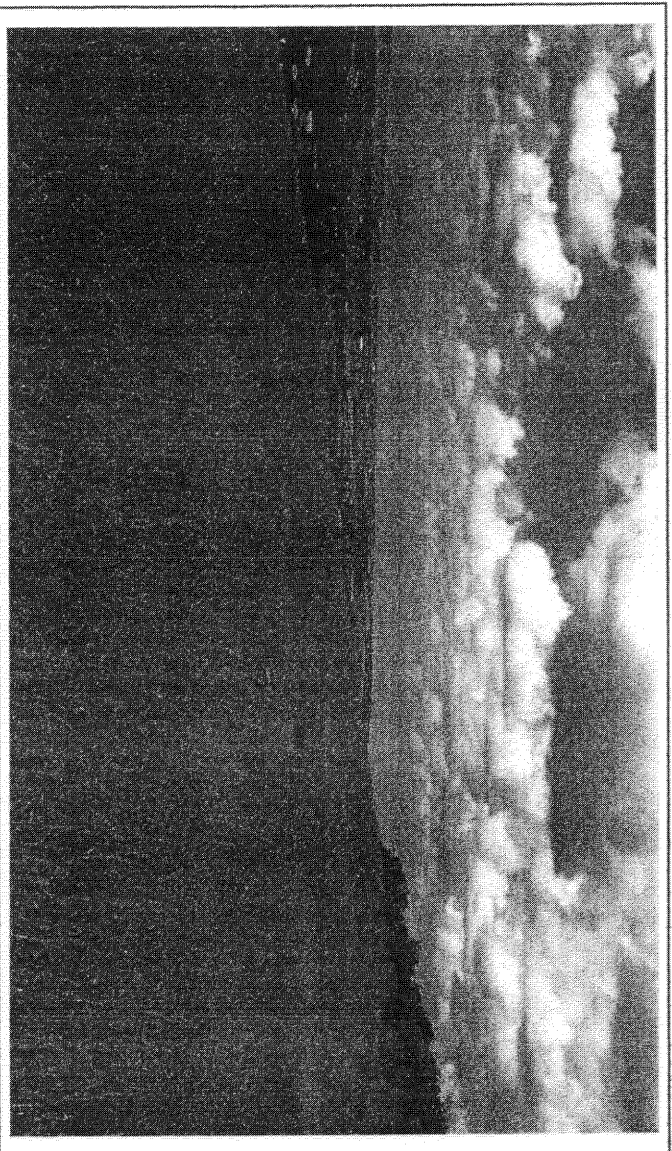


**Figure 4- Modern infrastructure on the western half of Portion 30 has no historical significance.**

### 5.3 Portion 31

Portion 31 is still in a relatively pristine condition. Disturbances on this portion of land include a two track dirt road and several holes that were left when trees were removed from this piece of land.

No heritage resources of significance were observed on Portion 31.



**Figure 5- Portion 31 is covered with grass veldt. No heritage resources of significance were observed on this piece of land.**

**6 CONCLUSION**

The HIA study for Portions 30 and 31 in the Little Falls suburb in Roodepoort in Gauteng revealed none of the types and ranges of heritage resources that are listed in the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999) (Box 1).

There is consequently no reason from a heritage point of view why the developer should not proceed with the development project.

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