

TO:

LANDSCAPE DYNAMICS

A CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY
OF PORTIONS OF THE FARM MODDERFONTEIN 332JQ
ON THE NORTHERN FOOT OF THE MAGALIESBERG IN
THE RUSTENBURG DISTRICT OF THE NORTH-WEST
PROVINCE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Wig Wam holiday resort is located on the northern foot of the Magaliesburg on the farm Modderfontein 332 JQ in the Rustenburg district of the North-West Province. This holiday resort near the Olifantspoort (neck) in the Magaliesberg is one of several in the area that has been catering for the tourism and holiday market for about six decades. Many of these resorts have become old-fashioned and outdated and have to be redeveloped in order to remain competitive. The Wig Wam holiday resort therefore intends to develop new facilities and to upgrade existing infrastructure on the resort's premises.

The Wig Wam premises were subjected to a heritage assessment study in order to establish whether heritage resources of any significance occur on the holiday resort's premises. The site was divided into seven zones and subjected to a survey on foot.

The Wig Wam holiday resort's premises are not an unaffected piece of land any longer. No heritage remains of any significance were observed on the holiday resort's premises. Several old buildings, some older than sixty years and others approaching sixty years, however, do exist and are part of the holiday resort's infrastructure. Some of these structures are so dilapidated that they may not be worth conserving. However, it has been suggested that the developer consult a historical architect before the older infrastructure on the holiday resort's premises are demolished as some structures may perhaps be conserved and redeveloped in order to add value to the new development.

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1 INTRODUCTION

This document contains the report on the results of a cultural heritage impact assessment study done for Landscape Dynamics on portions of the farm Modderfontein 332JQ in the Rustenburg district of the Bankveld of South Africa. The Bankveld is located, ecologically speaking, between the Bushveld (to the north) and the Highveld (to the south). The Bankveld has a rich archaeological heritage comprised of remains dating from the prehistoric and the historical (or colonial) periods of South Africa. Prehistoric and historical remains in the Bankveld form a record of the cultural heritage of most groups living in South Africa today. These remains include:

- limestone caves and underground dwelling sites of the earliest hominids (ape-man creatures) who lived near Krugersdorp in South Africa 2 to 3 million years ago;
- Stone Age sites that may be associated with the San people and which date back hundreds of thousands of years;
- rock engraving sites located near diabase outcrops and dating from the last 20 000 years;
- rock painting sites in the Magaliesberg and in the Plianesberg which date from the last 10 000 years;
- Early Iron Age sites occupied by the first 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 north, the south and to the west of the Magaliesberg from the 1840's onwards;
- blockhouses built by British troops during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1900) on the Magaliesberg and other mountain ranges;
- graves and graveyard sites dating from historic and prehistoric times; and

- numerous other formal historical features (the Voortrekker Monument, the Willem Prinsloo agricultural museum, the Pioneers' Open Air Museum, Melrose House, the Sammy Marks Museum, the Paul Kruger house museum in Pretoria and Paul Kruger's farm Boekenhoutfontein to the north of Rustenburg, the Rustenburg and Zeerust museums, etc).

2 CULTURAL HERITAGE REMAINS AND LEGISLATION

The Wig Wam holiday resort on the farm Modderfontein 332JQ is situated in the archaeologically sensitive Bankeveld. All settlements older than hundred years and all structures or parts of structures older than sixty years located in this region are protected by legislation. A synopsis of the relevant legislation is provided below. It must serve as a guideline to be considered before any development project is undertaken.

2.1 The Environment Conservation Act (Act No 73 of 1989)

The Environment Conservation Act (Act No 73 of 1989) makes provision for the drawing up of reports concerning the impact on the environment of activities identified and prohibited in terms of Sections 21 and 22 respectively. These reports must evaluate the impact that development may have on the natural and man-made environment, and this includes archaeological sites.

Local and regional authorities (Town Councils, Regional Governments and Regional Services Councils) also have regulations requiring evaluation of the possible effects that rezoning and development schemes may have on the environment, including the cultural environment. These regulations must be studied to ensure that they are implemented correctly.

2.2 The Minerals Act (Act No 50 of 1991)

The Minerals Act (Act No 50 of 1991) and the Minerals Amendment Act (Act No 103 of 1993) require plans for the conservation of the environment at or in the vicinity of any mine or works to be detailed in an environmental management programme (EMP). The EMP must indicate how the natural and the 'man-made' environment will be protected and rehabilitated during and after the mining.

2.3 The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999)

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999) requires all developers (including engineers, farmers [agriculturists] and mines, previously excluded from the bill) to undertake impact assessment studies whenever any development activities are undertaken. The law also provides guidelines for impact assessment studies to be done whenever cultural resources may be destroyed by development activities. Permits must be acquired from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) before a heritage site can be affected or destroyed during the course of development activities.

Archaeological impact assessment studies have therefore become a common procedure for all development activities, even if such development may be exempted in terms of the Environment Conservation Act.

The new law stipulates the types of remains which qualify as cultural resources (heritage). These cultural resources are classified into national, provincial and other cultural heritage resources. The law stipulates general principles for heritage resources management and involves all three levels of government in the management of the country's cultural heritage. The law also requires community participation in the protection of living heritage resources.

SAHRA establishes and maintains a national policy, strategy plans and standards for heritage resources management and monitors the system as a whole. Heritage authorities assist and co-operate with individuals and organisations concerned with the study, the conservation and the promotion and utilisation of national heritage resources. A newly established National Heritage Resources Fund provides financial assistance for heritage projects.

2.4 Legislation relevant to graves, the exhumation and relocation of human remains

Different legislation applies to different categories of graves, namely:

2.4.1 Graves younger than 60 years

Graves younger than 60 years are protected by Section 2(1) of the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no 7 of 1925) as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983). These graves fall under the jurisdiction of the National Department of Health and the relevant Provincial Department of Health. Approval for the removal of graves and bodies must be directed to the Office of the relevant Provincial Minister. (This function is usually delegated to the Provincial MEC for Local Government and Planning, or, in some cases, the MEC for Housing and Welfare). Authorisation for exhumation and re-interment must also be obtained from the relevant local or regional council where the grave is situated, as well as the relevant local or regional council to where the grave is being relocated. All local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws must be adhered to. In order to handle and transport human remains, the institution conducting the relocation must have authorisation under Section 24 of Act 65 of 1983 (the Human Tissues Act).

2.4.2 Graves older than 60 years

Graves older than 60 years but younger than 100 years fall under Section 36 of Act 25 of 1999 (the National Heritage Resources Act) as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983) and under the jurisdiction of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). The Procedure for Consultation Regarding Burial Grounds and Graves (Section 36[5] of Act 25 of 1999, National Heritage Resources Act) is applicable to graves older than 60 years which are situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority. Graves in this category located inside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority also require the same authorisation as set out for graves younger than 60 years, over and above SAHRA authorisation. If the grave is not situated inside a formal cemetery but is to be relocated to one, permission from the local authority is required and all regulations, laws and by-laws set by the cemetery authorities must be adhered to. In order to handle and to transport human remains, the institution conducting the relocation needs authorisation under Section 24 of Act 65 of 1983 (the Human Tissues Act). Any alteration to a grave in this category or the relocation thereof must be supervised by an archaeologist accredited by SAHRA and the Cultural Resource Management Section of the South African Association for Archaeologists.

2.4.3 Graves older than 100 years

All graves older than 100 years are legislated as being archaeological and therefore protected under Act 25 of 1999 (the National Heritage Resources Act). SAHRA authorisation is required for all graves in this category, regardless of where they are located. Any alteration to a grave in this category or the relocation thereof must be supervised by an archaeologist accredited by SAHRA and the Cultural Resources Management Section of the South African Association of Archaeologists. If the grave is situated in a cemetery administered by a local authority, the authorisation as set out for graves younger than 60 years are also applicable, over and above SAHRA authorisation. At the discretion of SAHRA, the Procedure for Consulting Regarding Burial Grounds and Graves (Section 36[5] of the National Heritage Resources Act) might also be required. In order to handle and transport human remains, the institution conducting the relocation must have authorisation under Section 24 of Act 65 of 1983 (the Human Tissues Act).

2.4.4 Graves of victims of conflict

All graves of victims of conflict, regardless of how old they are or where they are situated, are protected by Act 25 of 1999 (the National Heritage Resources Act). SAHRA authorisation is required for all graves in this category. Any alteration to a grave in this category or the relocation thereof must be supervised by an archaeologist accredited by SAHRA and the Cultural Resources Management Section of the South African Association for Archaeologists. If the grave is situated in a cemetery administered by a local authority, the authorisation as set out for graves younger than 60 years is also applicable, over and above SAHRA regulations. On the discretion of SAHRA, the Procedure for Consulting Regarding Burial Grounds and Graves (Section 36[5] of the Act 25 of 1999, National Heritage Resources Act) might also be required. In order to handle and transport human remains, the institution conducting the relocation must have authorisation under Section 24 of Act 65 of 1983 (the Human Tissues Act).

3 AIM OF THIS REPORT

The Wig Wam holiday resort intends to develop new facilities and to upgrade existing infrastructure on the farm Modderfontein 332JQ in the Rustenburg district of the North West Province. In order to comply with legislation, Wig Wam requires knowledge of the presence, relevance and the significance of any heritage resources that may occur in the proposed development area. Wig Wam needs this information in order to take pro-active measures with regard to any heritage remains that may be affected by the new development as such remains may be affected, damaged or destroyed by the development project. Landscape Dynamics therefore commissioned me to undertake a heritage impact assessment study of the development area to be affected by the proposed development. The aim of the heritage impact assessment study is:

- to establish whether any heritage resources do occur in the development area and, if so, what the nature, the extent and the significance of these remains are;
- to determine whether such remains will be affected by the proposed development activities; and
- to evaluate what appropriate actions could be taken to reduce the impact of the development activities on such remains.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 A survey on foot

The proposed development area on the farm Modderfontein 332JQ was divided into six zones (Zones A, B, C, D, E, and F) that were subjected to a survey on foot.

4.2 Databases and literature survey

Information derived from databases kept and maintained at institutions such as the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and the National Cultural History Museum in Pretoria were used to determine whether any heritage remains have been identified on the farm Modderfontein 332JQ.

A survey of literature relating to the historical context of the study area was also undertaken in order to establish whether any heritage remains of any significance occur in or near the study area (see Part 5.3).

The author of this report also has completed several impact assessment studies in the Rustenburg area and is therefore not totally unacquainted with the region in which the development is planned. The possible presence of heritage remains in the study area can therefore to a certain extent be predicted on the basis of the archaeologist's experience, gained through years of fieldwork, in this particularly area.

4.3 Assumptions and limitations

It must be kept in mind that cultural heritage surveys may not detect all heritage resources in any given study area. While certain remains may simply be missed during surveys (observations), others may occur below the surface of the earth and may only be exposed once development (such as building operations) commences.

4.4 Some remarks on terminology

The cultural heritage assessment referred to in the title of this report includes a survey of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999).

Cultural heritage (or cultural resources) includes 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-historic' generally 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 Rustenburg area, to the first appearance or use of 'modern' Western writing brought to Rustenburg by the first Colonists who settled in this area c. 1840. The historical period for the Rustenburg area therefore dates from c. 1840.

The term 'relatively recent past' refers to the 20th 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 tombstones that are older than sixty years.

The term 'Stone Age' refers to the prehistoric past, although Late Stone Age peoples lived in the area 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 17th century and the 19th century and can therefore include the historical period.

The term 'study area' or 'project area' refers to the area where Wig Wam wants to focus its development activities.

The 'peripheral area' refers to the area where Wig Wam does not intend to focus any development activities in the near future, but which are in close proximity to the project (study) area.

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 work, the documenting of rock art sites, engraving sites or historical dwellings and other architectural features and structures, the sampling of archaeological sites or shipwrecks, etc. Phase II work requires the co-operation and approval of SAHRA.

5 THE STUDY AREA

5.1 Location

The Wig Wam holiday resort is located on the northern foot of the Magaliesberg on the farm Modderfontein 332JQ in the Rustenburg District of the North-West Province. The holiday resort is situated slightly to the east of one of the necks in the Magaliesberg, namely Olifantspoort, where it is wedged between the Magaliesberg (to the south), a tar road (to the north) and farms (to the west and to the east). The Hex River (or Mutsukubje) flows through the mountain at Olifantspoort and winds its way further to the north where it joins the Elands River (1:50 000 topographical map of Maanhaarrand [2527CDJ] (Figure 1).

5.2 The developed and disturbed nature of the study area

The Wig Wam holiday resort is characterised by a wide range of developments. The holiday resort was established some sixty years ago and the study area, consisting of Zones A to F, can therefore not be described as an unaffected stretch of land. Development activities have had a negative impact on the natural landscape and it is doubtful whether any heritage remains still exist in the area, if such remains did in fact occur in the study area before. The Wig Wam holiday resort incorporates the following types of surface infrastructure, activity areas, natural and man-made features:

- large structures that cover considerable surface areas, such as the golf club house, chalets for guests, outbuildings for various activities, houses and shacks for labourers, parking areas, etc.;
- sporting facilities, such as a swimming pool, a tennis court, a mini golf course, a bowling green and a nine hole golf course;
- Blue Gum plantations and Blue Gum avenues;
- dirt roads;
- reservoirs;
- abandoned agricultural fields; and
- overhead wires such as telephone and power lines.

5.3 The historical context of the study area

The study area on the northern foot of the Magaliesberg is part of a sensitive cultural historical environment, as the Magaliesberg's rich natural resources, such as an abundance of water, plants and animals, have been utilised by humans from the earliest times. Remains dating from the prehistoric past as well as from the historical period have been recorded in the area. However, development in the area has altered the natural environment and has most probably destroyed important heritage remains over the last half century or longer. Development is particularly noticeable on the northern foot of the Magaliesberg where agricultural fields and citrus orchards have replaced large parts of the natural environment. The northern foot of the Magaliesberg, close to the poort in the mountain, has become a favourite holiday destination and several holiday resorts have been developed to the west and to the east of the Wig Wam holiday resort.

The Magaliesberg has been associated with human activities from the earliest times. Rock shelters in the mountain were utilised by people from the Stone Age into the historical period. One of these caves, the Kruger cave, is situated on the farm Boschfontein 330JQ, along the road running through the poort (or neck) known as Olifantsnek. This cave, which has been archaeologically investigated, was occupied by Stone Age hunter-gatherer communities thousands of years ago, as well as by Late Iron Age people who may have used the cave as a temporary refuge site during the *difagane* wars of the early 19th century.

No rock paintings are known to exist in the immediate surroundings of the study area. However, rock engravings dating from the Stone Age as well as from the Late Iron Age have been recorded on Olifantspoort and further to the east and to the north of the study area.

Late Iron Age communities, predecessors of the historically known Tswana people, occupied the area now known as Olifantspoort 328JQ (to the south of the Magaliesberg) and the Wig Wam holiday resort from the 17th to the 19th centuries. The remains of their villages, consisting of stone walls and enclosures, cover large parts of this farm and also occur further to the north and to the south along both sides of the Magaliesberg.

Some of the earliest Voortrekkers who moved into what eventually became the town of Rustenburg trekked through the Olifantspoort where it is said a young man was killed by a stampeding elephant bull, whence the origins of the names Olifantsnek and Olifantspoort. This poort, through which the Hex River flows,

must have been a paradise teeming with wildlife before the Olifantsnek Dam was built during the early part of the 20th century.

Voortrekker communities, including the Conrades, settled on the farm Modderfontein during the first half of the 19th century. Descendants of these early Voortrekkers may perhaps still live near the poort in the area to the north of the Magaliesberg. Plantations and avenues with Blue Gum trees are a common feature on this farm today. The first Voortrekkers planted these trees on Modderfontein. It does not appear as if the remains of any of their dwellings, which were built with mud and later with baked clay bricks, still occur on the farm. It is highly likely that these remains, hundred and fifty years after their construction, have long been demolished in order to make way for new dwellings and other developments.

German settlers occupied surrounding farms such as Kroondal and Arnoldstad from the second half of the 19th century.

During the Anglo-Boer War (1899 to 1902), the British built blockhouses on the Magaliesberg. At least two of these blockhouses were built on some of the highest peaks of the Magaliesberg on the farm Olifantspoort, some distance to the south of the study area. The two blockhouses on Olifantspoort were linked by a road paved with stone. Similar roads, mostly used by mules to transport supplies to men guarding these strongholds, have also been found in association with other blockhouses on the Magaliesberg.

The Olifantsnek Dam was built during the Great Depression and was completed in 1932.

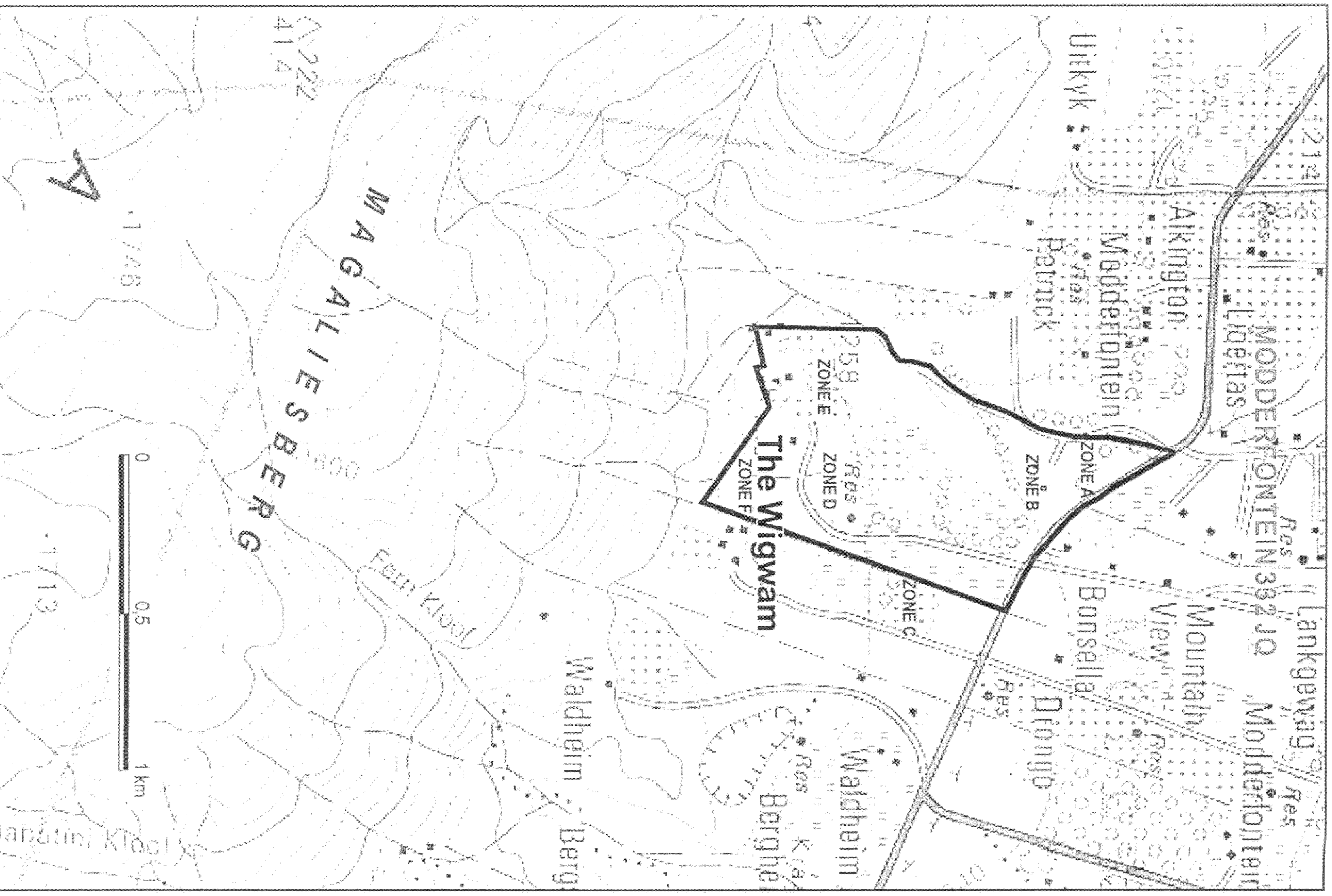


Figure 1. The Wigwam holiday resort located on the northern foot of the Magaliesberg on the farm Modderfontein 332 JO.

5.4 The cultural heritage potential of the study area

The Wig Wam holiday resort was divided into six zones (see Figure 2). The survey on foot of the six zones did not reveal the presence of any of the heritage resources outlined in the Introduction (Part 1) of this report or discussed in the 'Historical context of the study area' (Part 5.3). The photographs included below together with the descriptions serve to explain the results obtained from the survey on foot.

Zone A

This zone is situated on the northern perimeter of the study area. The current main entrance to the holiday resort is situated in Zone A. The main entrance will eventually be moved to the north-western corner of the study area.

Zone A will not be negatively affected by the development project. Only a wall separating the residential area to be developed in Zone B from the tar road will be built on its southern border. A portion of Zone A which runs parallel with the tar road is part of a servitude that may not be developed. Zone A also does not belong to the owner of Wig Wam.

Zone B

Zone B is covered by Blue Gum trees, some of which are massive, and a few remaining indigenous trees.

The natural vegetation in Zone B has been destroyed to a large extent. At least two to three dirt roads have been built through this area. There are two dwellings used by farm labourers close to the border between Zone A and Zone B.

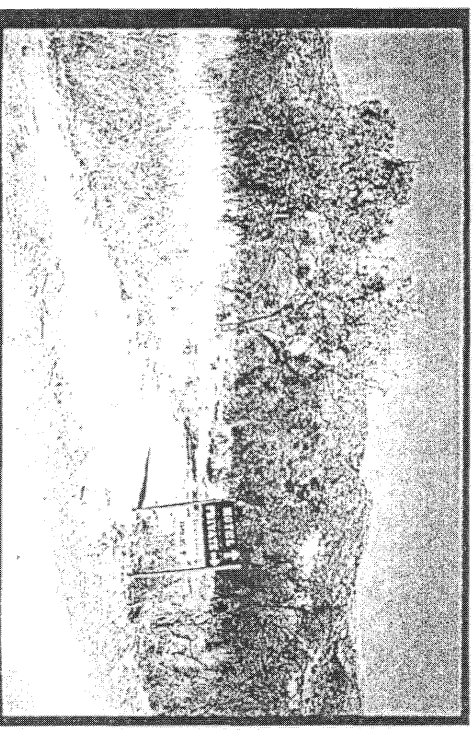
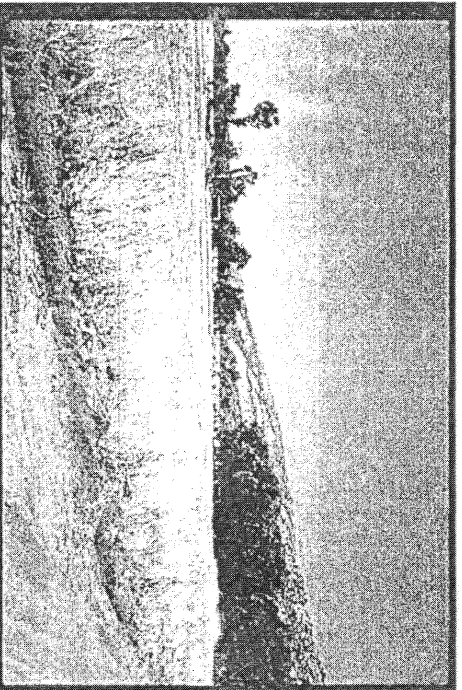
Zone B is earmarked to become part of a residential area with 131 houses that will cover Zone B as well as a part of Zone D.

Zone C

Zone C is a long narrow strip of land situated between one of the neighbouring farms (to the east) and the existing main entrance and dirt road leading to the main buildings (including the golf club house) of the holiday resort.

Zone C is covered by abandoned agricultural fields in the north (the part of Zone C closest to the tar road and main entrance gate) and a piece of undisturbed indigenous bush in the south (Figure 3 and 4, below, left and right). Part of the abandoned agricultural fields is also used as a soccer field. The indigenous bush, together with an adjacent piece of undisturbed woodland in Zone E, is the least disturbed piece of land in the study area.

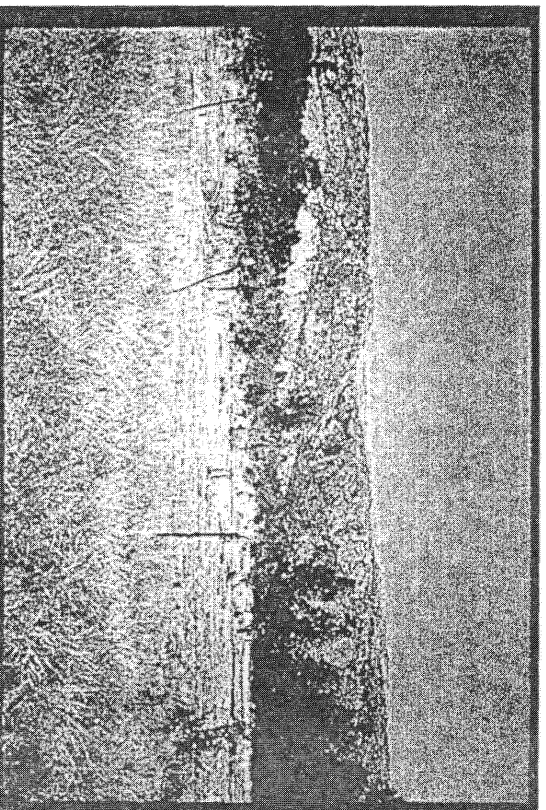
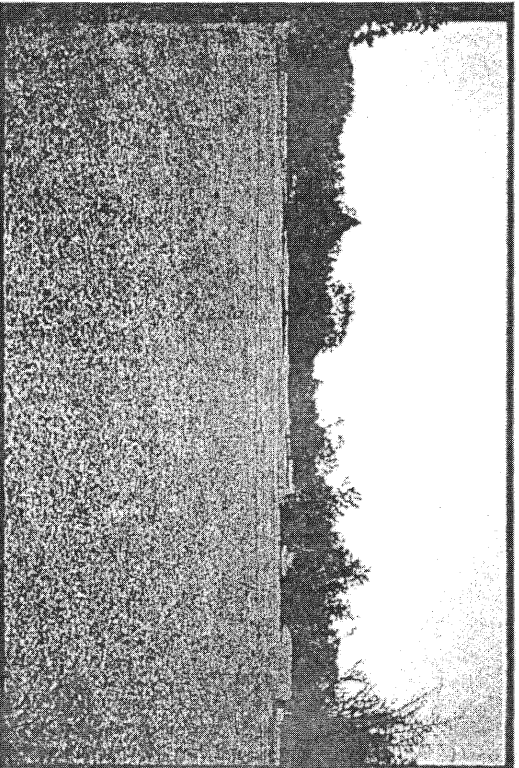
Holes 12 and 13 of the proposed extension to the golf course will be developed in Zone C.



Zone D

Zone D is situated in the centre of the holiday resort. In this area one currently finds Holes 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the existing nine-hole golf course, two orchards with orange trees and wind-breaks of Blue Gum trees (Figures 5 and 6, below, left and right).

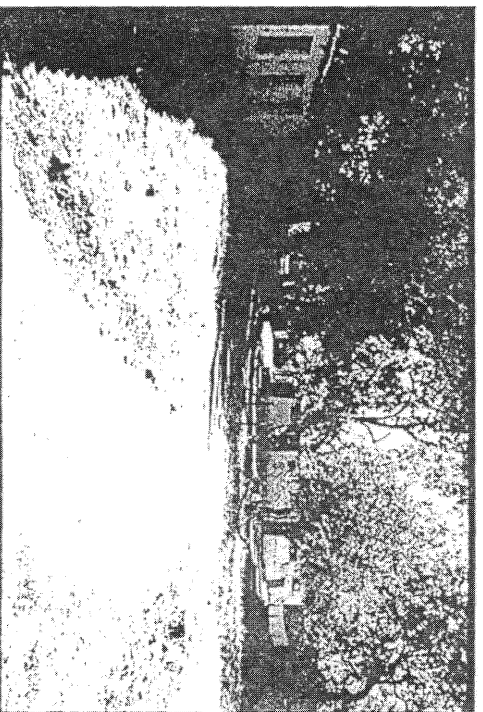
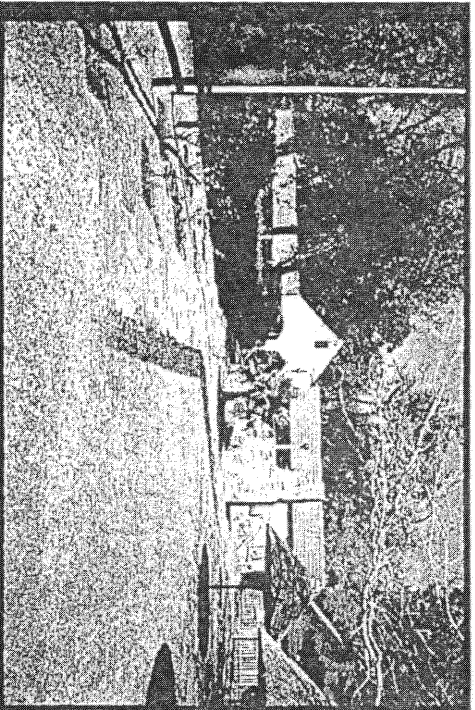
Parts of the proposed eighteen-hole golf course will be developed in Zone D, namely Holes 10, 11, 17 and 18. Of the 131 houses of the planned residential area, 61 will also be built in this zone.



Zone E

Zone E is situated in the south-western corner of the study area. This zone contains the majority of the current surface infrastructure of the Wig Wam holiday resort. The main buildings, such as the golf club house, a building used as a night club, chalets, buildings which house labourers, structures for storage, parking areas, dirt roads, etc., have been built in this zone (Figures 7 & 8 below, left and right). Several modern houses used by the owner of the resort also occur in this zone.

Sporting facilities such as a swimming pool, a mini golf course, a tennis court and a bowling green are also concentrated in this zone, near the main infrastructure (Figures 9 & 10, far bottom, left and right). Holes 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the existing golf course are also situated in this zone.

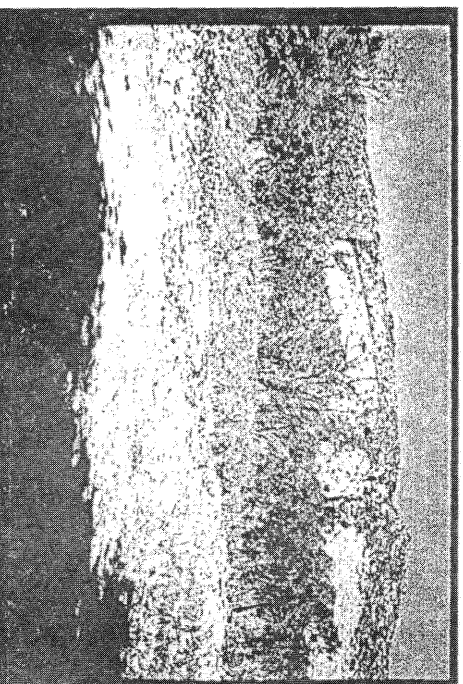
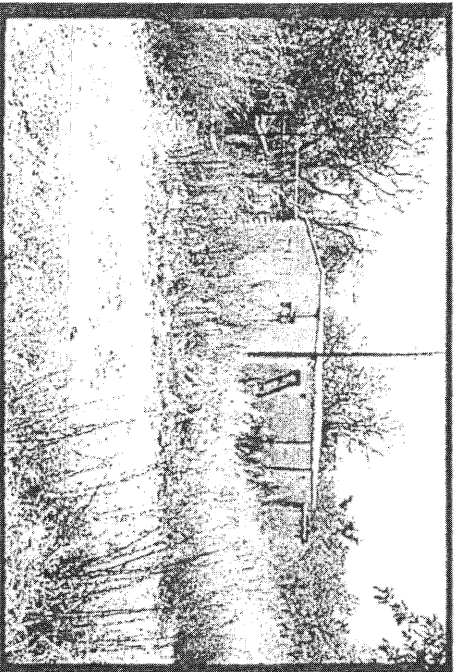


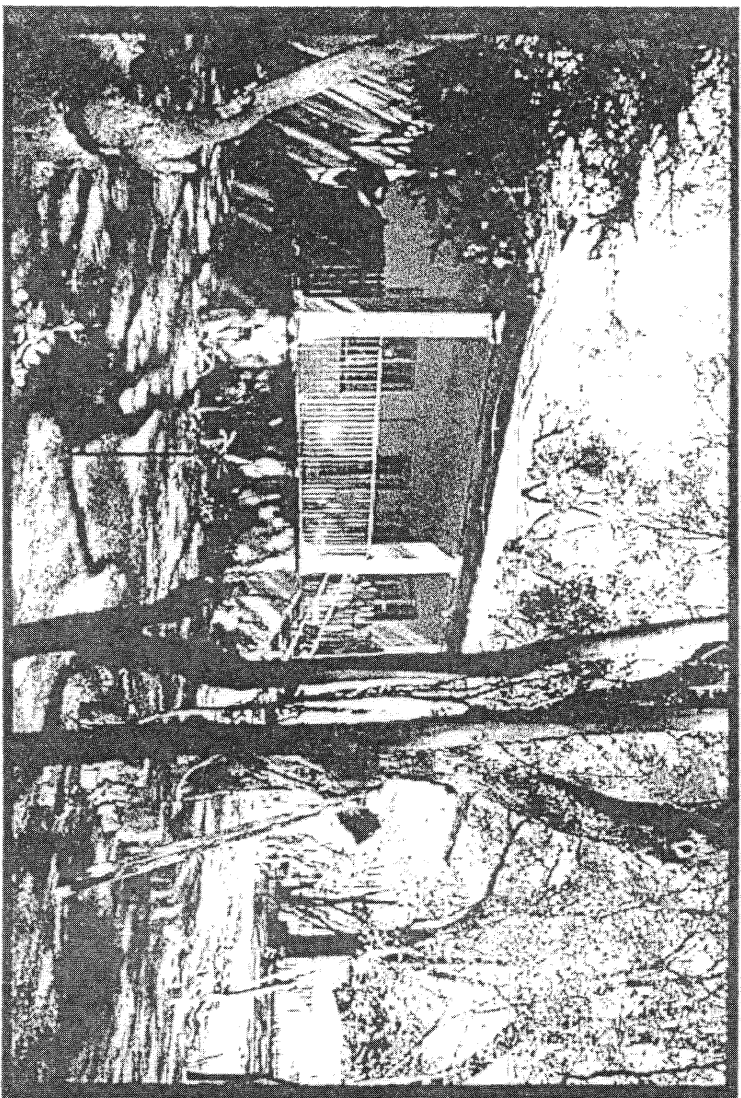
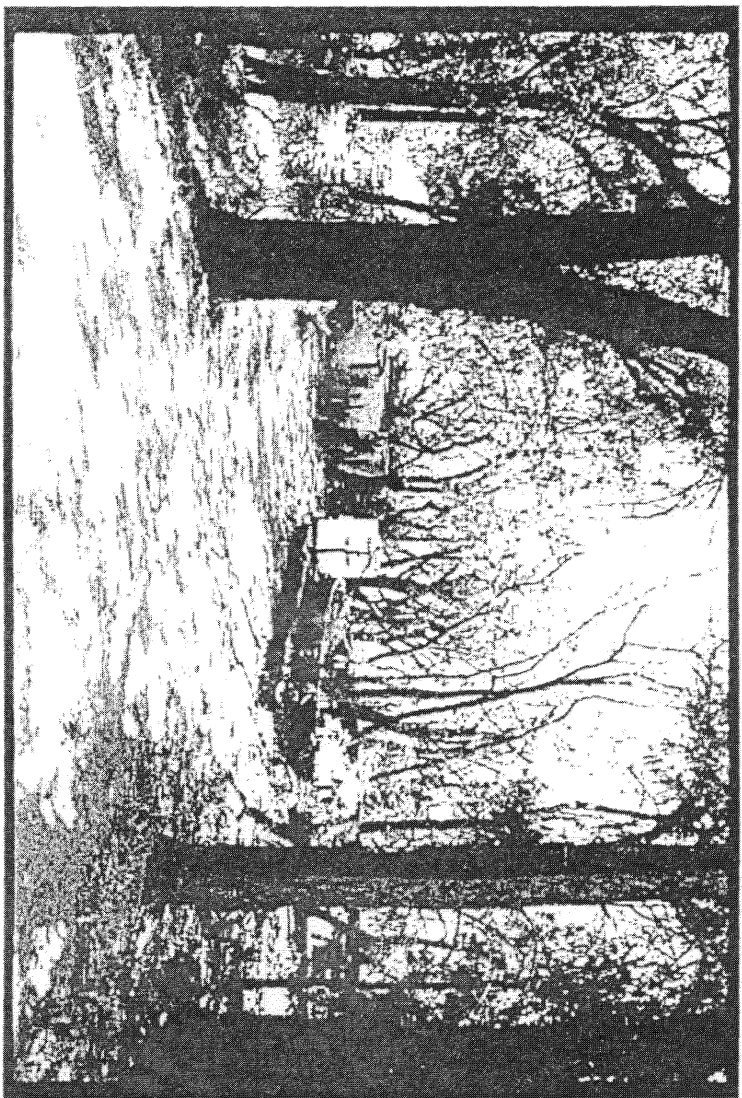
Zone F

Zone B is situated on the south-eastern border of the study area. This part of the holiday resort consists mainly of indigenous bush that has only been disturbed where three shacks occur near the main dirt road (see Figure 11, below). A rubbish dump is also located near one of these dwellings (Figure 12, bottom).

A dwelling in this zone, located directly to the north of the main dirt road, is sixty years old or approaching this age. This house may be worth conserving if it is in a good structural condition (Figures 13 and 14, next page).

Holes 14, 15 and 16 of the proposed eighteen-hole golf course will be developed in Zone F.





6 CONCLUSION

The Magaliesberg, particularly close to one of the few poorte or necks (Olifantspoort or Olifantsnek) in this mountain, has become a popular destination for holiday makers and tourists. Several holiday resorts have been established here, either to the west or to the east of the Wig Wam holiday resort. The majority of these resorts have become outdated, old-fashioned and even dilapidated, as most of them were established five to six decades ago. In order to remain competitive in the growing tourism industry, many of these places have to be renovated and upgraded. This is particularly the case with the Wig Wam holiday resort, as this resort was established as long as sixty years ago.

The development and upgrading of the holiday resort would require certain structures to be demolished while others have to be upgraded. The holiday resort was therefore divided into six zones in order to establish the presence of any significant heritage resources. The survey on foot of the six zones did not reveal the presence of any of the heritage resources outlined in the Introduction (Part 1) of this report or discussed in the 'Historical context of the study area' (Part 5.3).

At least one dwelling that is sixty years old occurs on the Wig Wam premises (Figure 13). There may be others that are also sixty years old or which are approaching sixty years of age. The Heritage Bill (Act 25 of 1999) protects all structures that are sixty years old. However, some of these structures may not be worth conserving, as they are dilapidated to such an extent that they have become unsafe. It is therefore recommended that the Wig Wam holiday resort consult a historical architect before any of the old buildings are demolished, as some of these structures may be restored to their former glory. Such restored structures, when incorporated in the new development, may add value to the new improved Wig Wam holiday resort.



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STUDY AREA

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