

Swartuggens

PREPARED FOR:
LANDSCAPE DYNAMICS

**A PHASE I HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) STUDY FOR A
PROPOSED NEW WILDLIFE ESTATE NEAR SWARTRUGGENS IN
THE NORTH-WEST PROVINCE OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Prepared by:
Dr Julius CC Pistorius
Archaeologist and Heritage Management Consultant
352 Rosemary Street
LYNNWOOD 0081 Pretoria

Tel and fax (012) 348 5668
September 2005

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 a proposed new Wildlife Estate development project on the farms Wagensboomskop 415JP and Diepkloof 446JP located to the south of Swarttruggens in the North-West Province of South Africa. The aim with the HIA study was to determine whether any of the types and ranges of heritage resources ('national estate') as listed in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (No. 25 of 1999) occur in the project areas (see Box 1).

The following heritage resources were observed in the peripheral and in the project areas namely, a historical farm homestead with outbuildings (Project Area 1), two stone walled enclosures that date from the Late Iron Age or from the historical period (c. 1600 to 1880) (peripheral area) and two isolated stone tools (one each in Project Area 4 and in Project Area 6).

The historical house as well as the stone walled enclosures has significance as they do have historical and cultural value. The two isolated stone tools have little significance as they occur in isolation and are not part of archaeological assemblages.

The historical house and the stone walled enclosures will not be affected by the proposed new Wildlife Estate development as they are located in the study (peripheral) area. However, the stone tools will be recycled by the proposed new development.

No mitigation measures are recommended for the heritage resources in the project and study (peripheral) areas.

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
1 INTRODUCTION	5
2 AIMS WITH THIS REPORT	7
3 METHODOLOGY	8
3.1 Fieldwork	8
3.2 Mapping heritage resources	8
3.3 Data bases and maps	8
3.4 Assumptions and limitations	9
3.5 Terminology	9
4 THE PROJECT AREA	10
4.1 Location	11
4.2 The project area	11
5 THE PHASE I HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA)	14
5.1 Heritage resources discovered in the study area	14
5.2 Heritage resources in the project area	15
5.2.1 Project Area 1	15
5.2.2 Project Area 2	15
5.2.3 Project Area 3	15
5.2.4 Project Area 4	17
5.2.5 Project Area 5	17
5.2.6 Project Area 6	17
5.2.7 Project Area 7	17

6	IMPACT OF THE DEVELOPMENT ON THE HERITAGE RESOURCES	19
6.1	Heritage resources in the study (peripheral) area	19
6.2	Heritage resources in the project areas	19
6.3	The significance of the heritage resources	19
6.4	The impact on the heritage resources	19
6.5	Proposed mitigation measures	20
7	CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	21

1 INTRODUCTION

This document contains the report on the results of a Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study done for a proposed new Wildlife Estate on parts of the farms Wagensboomskop 415JP and Diepkloof 446JP in the Western Bankenveld in the North-West Province of South Africa.

The Bankenveld is located, ecologically speaking, between the Bushveld (to the north) and the Highveld (to the south). For the purposes of this report, this ecozone is divided into the Western Bankenveld, the Central Bankenveld and the Eastern Bankenveld. The Western Bankenveld is the area around Zeerust, Manco and Swartruggens in the far North-West. The Central Bankenveld includes the areas around Rustenburg, Marikana and Brits. The Eastern Bankenveld is the area to the east of Pretoria and includes the Middelburg district as far as Belfast and Roossenekal.

The Bankenveld as a whole 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 Bankenveld form a record of the cultural heritage of most groups living in South Africa today. Various types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (No 25 of 1999) occur in this region (see Box 1, next page).

Box 1: Types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in Section 3 of the National Heritage Resources 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 paleontological 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) moveable objects, including -
 - (i) objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and paleontological 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
 - (vii) 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 AIMS WITH THIS REPORT

In order to comply with legislation, the developers of the proposed new Wildlife Estate near Swartrugens in the North-West Province requires knowledge of the presence, relevance and the significance of any heritage resources that may occur in the proposed new Wildlife Estate project area. The developers needs this information in order to take pro-active measures with regard to any heritage resources that may be affected, damaged or destroyed when the proposed new Wildlife Estate is developed. Landscape Dynamics therefore commissioned the author of this report to undertake a Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the Wildlife Estate project area to be affected by the proposed new development. The aims with the HIA study are:

- to establish whether any of the types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) do occur in the proposed project 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.

3 METHODOLOGY

This Phase I HIA study was conducted by means of:

- a survey with a vehicle and a survey of selected parts of the project area on foot,
- consulting maps of the project area; and
- consulting archaeological (heritage) data bases.

3.1 Fieldwork

The proposed new Wildlife Estate (project area) involves parts of the farms Wagensboomskop 415JP and Diepkloof 446JP which are located to the south of Swarttruggens in the North-West Province of South Africa. The project area comprises seven critical areas where the proposed new Wildlife Estate will be established. These proposed affected areas (See Part 3.2, 'The project area') were surveyed on foot.

3.2 Mapping heritage resources

A single heritage site was observed outside the project area and is indicated on a map (Figure 1). It was not deemed necessary to geo-reference two isolated stone tools that were observed in the project area.

3.3 Databases and maps

Databases kept and maintained at institutions such as the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in Cape Town and in Mafekeng as well as the Archaeological Data Recording Centre kept at the National Flagship Institute (Museum Africa) in Pretoria were consulted to determine whether any heritage resources had been identified during earlier archaeological surveys in or near the project area.

The proposed new Wildlife Estate's project area was also studied by means of the 1: 50 000 topographical map of Swarttruggens (2526DA) as well as the 1:250 000 map (Rustenburg 2526).

3.4 Assumptions and limitations

It must be pointed out that heritage resources can be found in the most unexpected places while it must also be borne in mind that surveys may not detect all the 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 commences.

3.5 Some remarks on terminology

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

Box 2: Some remarks on terminology

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, 1989 (Act No 25 of 1989) (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 Swatruggers by the first Colonists who settled in this area after 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 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 17th century and the 19th 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.

4 THE PROJECT AREA

4.1 Location

The proposed new Wildlife Estate near Swartruggens in the North-West Province of South Africa is located approximately 5km to the south-west of the town of Swartruggens. The study area is lying between the two roads respectively running from Swartruggens to Koster(east) and from Swartruggens to Ventersdorp (west).

The study area is an elongated piece of land running from the north to the south across a distance of approximately eight to nine kilometres. It is characterised by level flat areas in the north as well as well as in the south with a mountainous stretch and valley situated in-between. Whilst the northern and southern flats parts were partly scarred by agricultural activities in the past, the central river valley with its kranztes and associated mountain slopes still reflect the original beauty and pristine nature of this part of the country (Swartruggens 2526DA; 1 : 50 000) (Figure 1).

4.2 The project area

The study area can be divided into the following seven project areas where the proposed new Wildlife Estate's residences will be established. The seven project areas from the north to the south stretching across Wagenboomskop 415JP are the following (Figure 2):

- Project Area 1 is located in the northern part of Wagenboomskop 415JP and is situated some distance from a dam and infrastructure consisting of a farmstead.
- Project Area 2 is located on level grass veldt within the perimeters of an old abandoned agricultural field.
- Project Area 3 is located in a piece of pristine bush veldt.
- Project Area 4 is located in an extension of the same piece of pristine bush veldt.
- Project Area 5 is located against the western slope of a mountain and is covered with pristine bush.

- Project Area 6 is also situated against the soft western slope of a mountain which is covered with pristine bush.
- Project Area 7 is located on a level piece of veldt that is dominated by Suikerbosch (Proteas).

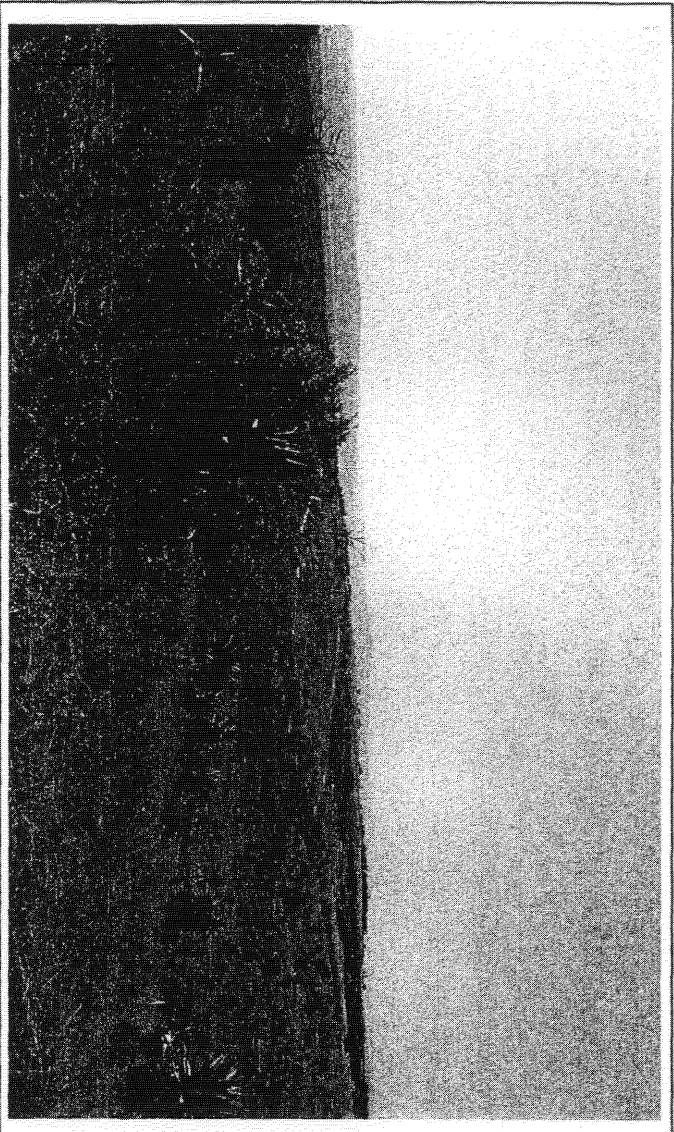


Figure 1 - Aerial view of the elongated study area which is stretched out across the farms Wagensboomskop 415JP and Diepkloof 446JP near Swartruggens in the North-West Province of South Africa.

Figure 2. Ground plan drawing of the proposed new Wildlife Estate development project on the farms Wagensboomskop 415JP and Diepkloof 446JP to the south of Swartuggens in the North-West Province of South Africa.

Note the presence of two stone tools in the project area and two Late Iron Age or historical stone walled enclosures in the peripheral area.

5 THE PHASE I HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA)

5.1 Heritage resources discovered in the study area

The following types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) were discovered during the Phase I HIA in the study (peripheral) area, namely:

- At least two small circular enclosures that may date from the Late Iron Age or from the historical period (c. 1660 to 1880) (Figure 3).



Figure 3- One of two small enclosures built with slate on Wagenboonskop 415JP. These enclosures are located in the river valley and therefore in the peripheral area where they will not be affected by the proposed new Wildlife Estate development project.

5.2 Heritage resources discovered in the project area

The Phase I HIA study revealed two isolated stone tools in two of the project areas in the proposed new Wildlife Estate. The Phase I HIA study of the seven project areas is now briefly discussed and illustrated with photographs.

5.2.1 Project Area 1

Project Area 1 is located in the northern part of Wagenboomskop 415JP. The site is located to the south of a tributary of the Polkadraaispruit which again flows towards the west into the Sterkstroom. The site is also located to the west of a soil walled dam and is situated in the middle of an abandoned agricultural field.

A farm homestead with outbuildings is located to the west and to the south of Project Area 1. The farm homestead is older than sixty years and is therefore protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999). However, this structure will not be affected by the proposed new Wildlife Estate development project (Figure 4).

5.2.2 Project Area 2

Project Area 2 is located in the midst of an abandoned agricultural field where no heritage resources of significance were observed.

5.2.3 Project Area 3

Project Area 3 is located in a piece of pristine bush veldt. No heritage resources of significance were observed in Project Area 3.

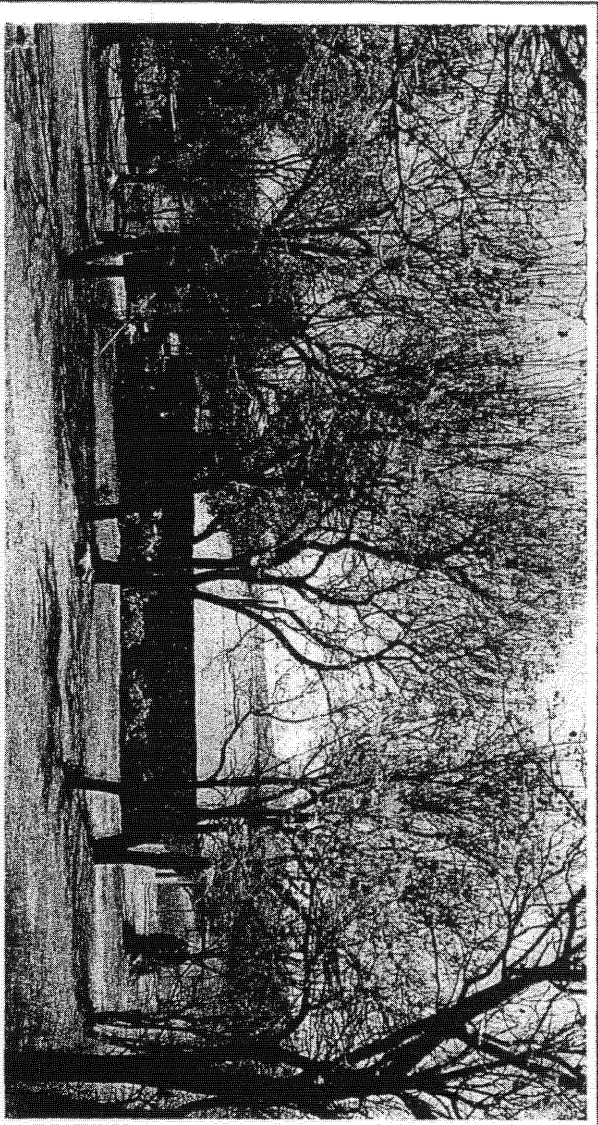


Figure 4- The historical farm homestead near Project Area 1. This historical structure will not be affected by the proposed new development project (above).

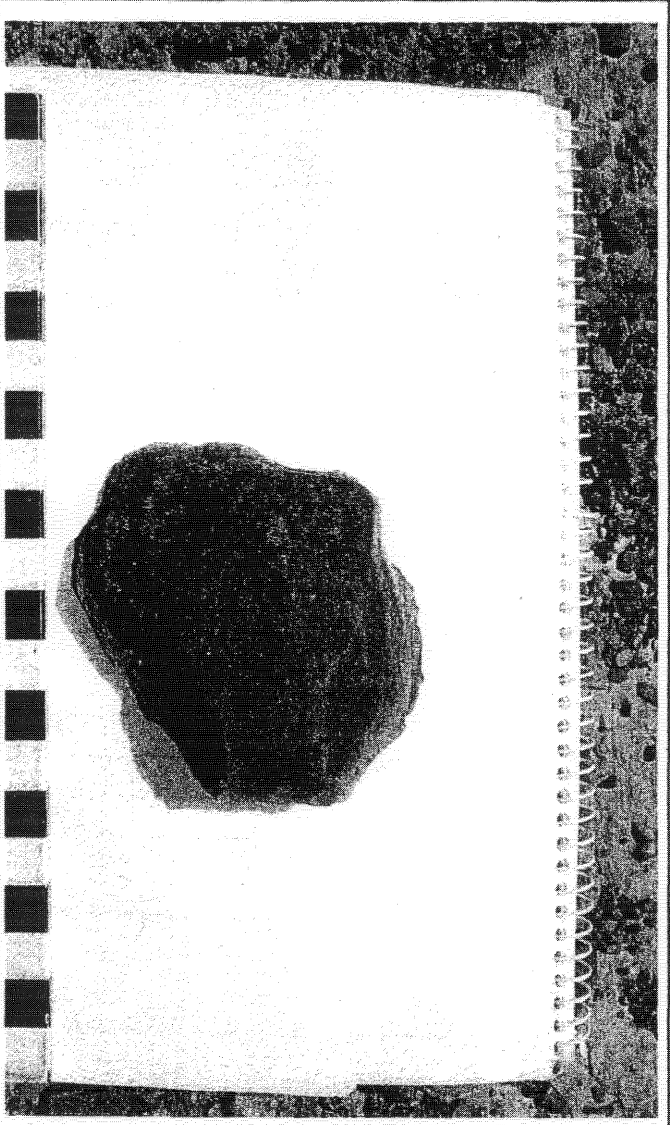


Figure 5- A single stone tool was observed in Study Area 4. This tool represents a Mousterian core and therefore dates from the Middle Stone Age (150 000 to 22 000 years ago) (above).

5.2.4 Project Area 4

Project Area 4 is situated in the northern part of the pristine bush in which Project Area 3 is located.

A single stone tool dating from the Stone Age was observed in Project Area 4 (Figure 5).

5.2.5 Project Area 5

Project Area 5 is located against a western slope of a mountain overlooking mountains on the opposite side of the project area with a valley situated between the two ranges of mountains.

No heritage resources of significance were observed in Project Area 5.

5.2.6 Project Area 6

Project Area 6 is also situated against the soft western slope of a range of low mountains.

A second single stone tool was observed in Project Area 6.

5.2.7 Project Area 7

Project Area 7 is located on a level piece of veldt in the southern part of the study area. Project Area is characterised by red soil which is dominated with Sugarbush ('Suikerbos') (Proteas) (Figure 6).

No heritage resources of any significance were observed in Project Area 7.

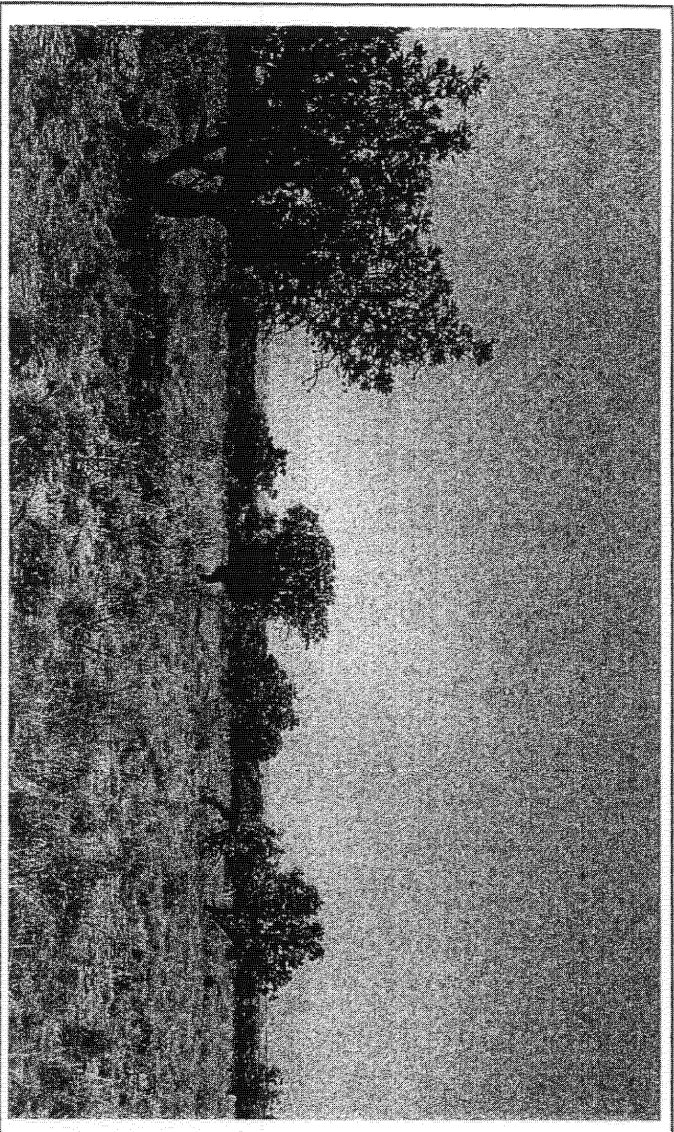


Figure 6- Project Area 7 is located on a level piece of land covered with 'Suikerbos' (Proteas) (above).

6 IMPACT OF THE DEVELOPMENT ON THE HERITAGE RESOURCES

6.1 Heritage resources in the study (peripheral) area

A historical house and two stone walled enclosures dating from the Late Iron Age or from the historical period occur in the river valley in the central part of the study area (Figure 3).

6.2 Heritage resources in the project areas

At least two isolated stone tools, one of each, were observed in Project Area 4 and in Project Area 6.

6.3 The significance of the heritage resources

The significance of the heritage resources can be rated as follows:

- The historical house as well as the stone walled enclosures can be considered to be of significance as they do have historical and cultural value.
- The two isolated stone tools have little significance as they seem to occur in isolation and not as part of stone tool assemblages which have historical, cultural and research value.

6.4 The impact on the heritage resources

The historical house and the stone walled enclosures in the study (peripheral) area will not be affected by the proposed new Wildlife Estate development project.

The stone tools in the project areas will be incorporated (recycled) in the new development as they can not be destroyed.

6.5 Proposed mitigation measures

No mitigation measures are recommended for either the stone walled enclosures or for the two stone tools.

7 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

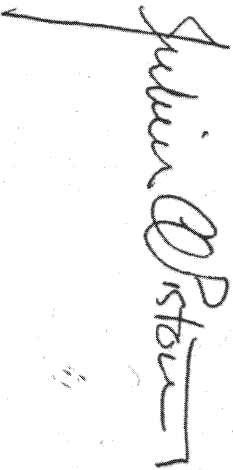
A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study as required in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999) was done for a proposed new Wildlife Estate development project on the farms Wagensboomskep 415JP and Diepkloof 446JP located to the south of Swartruggens in the North-West Province of South Africa. The aim with the HIA study was to determine whether any of the types and ranges of heritage resources ('national estate') as listed in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (No. 25 of 1999) occur in the project areas (see Box 1).

The following heritage resources were observed in the peripheral and in the project areas namely, a historical farm homestead with outbuildings (Project Area 1), two stone walled enclosures that date from the Late Iron Age or from the historical period (c. 1600 to 1880) (peripheral area) and two isolated stone tools (one each in Project Area 4 and in Project Area 6).

The historical house as well as the stone walled enclosures has significance as they do have historical and cultural value. The two isolated stone tools have little significance as they occur in isolation and are not part of archaeological assemblages.

The historical house and the stone walled enclosures will not be affected by the proposed new Wildlife Estate development as they are located in the study (peripheral) area. However, the stone tools will be recycled by the proposed new development.

No mitigation measures are recommended for the heritage resources in the project and in the study (peripheral) areas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julius CC Pistorius'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

DR JULIUS CC PISTORIUS
Archaeologist &
Heritage Management Consultant
Member ASAPA