



Note: Ida's Valley was declared a Grade 1 Heritage Resource in 2004. Fabio Todeschini and Penny Pretorius compiled a detailed Nomination Dossier entitled: NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE NOMINATION CAPE WINELANDS CULTURAL LANDSCAPE: IDAS VALLEY, STELLENBOSCH. The description of the three different Landscape Units used excerpts from this rich resource directly, hereafter indicated in italics.

*Ida's Valley, located to the north of Stellenbosch against the dramatic Simonsberg, is an unspoilt example of the physical characteristics and human activities that, in combination, are characteristic of the Cape winelands rural cultural landscape. Most of this landscape unit has been formally protected as a heritage resource since 1976 (Phase 2a report). It has a strong association with the presence of the Khoi (herders) and San (hunter-gatherer) populations and the influence of the forced removals by colonial ventures (see Phase 2a report). Ida's Valley is divided into three main areas with a different combination of elements that make up each of these landscape units. The winelands cultural landscape is widely recognised, not only within South Africa, but abroad, as being of outstanding aesthetic value. Idas Valley, with its overarching sense of enclosure and seclusion and its many characterful sub-places, epitomises this scenic beauty. The dramatic natural setting – the rugged mountain backdrop, with its rocky peaks and diverse flora, the enclosing foothills and sub-valleys carved by mountain streams, the folded, gently sloping valley floor with its rivers – combined with the component features of the rural landscape – lush pastures, rows and groves of oaks and poplars, sloping vineyards and orchards, the winding rural road with its changing vistas – creates a context of grandeur, charm and variety. The premier jewels in this setting are the three Cape farmsteads: Ida's Valley, Rustenburg and Schoongezicht*

*(all of which have been restored). Their placement in the landscape, architectural excellence and fine detailing are typical of the qualities celebrated in Cape rural dwellings. In addition, Ida's Valley and Rustenburg farmsteads are set in gardens which are famous for their beauty. Many of the dwellings and farmsteads of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries – Schoongezicht cottage, Glenbawn, Glenelly, Cranford, Kelsey, etc., as well as the cluster of smallholdings known as the "Wedges" – are also of architectural interest and contribute to the character and variety of the valley and its sub-places. Among typical and significant features of the valley, the following are characteristic (reference):*

- **The magnificent natural setting**, comprising dramatic mountain wilderness, rolling hills and gently sloping valley lands, streams and springs, gravelly and rich alluvial soils, and associated diverse flora (fynbos) and fauna.
- **Evidence of human landscape modifications and patterns of land use over a long period.** Farming activities have responded to the particular conditions in the different sub-areas of the valley (slope, hydrology, orientation, etc), as well as to external factors such as economic changes and technological advances. Changes in the Ida's Valley landscape are associated with many of the significant historical factors that have affected productive agriculture in the Cape, such as the utilisation of Khoi cattle paths and clearings by pioneer settlers, the slave-labour based expansion of agriculture, the economic boom in the 19th century resulting from favourable wine tariffs under English rule, the freeing of the slaves in 1834 and their assimilation into society as an exploited labour force, the near-collapse of the rural economy after the 1890s phylloxera outbreak that destroyed the Cape vines, the

subsequent development of the export fruit industry and improvement of wine quality, and the impact of better dam-building and irrigation techniques after World War II. The broad patterns of the rural landscape at present are: indigenous bush on the steep mountain slopes, forestry (gums and various pines) on steep hillsides, vineyards and orchards with associated windbreaks of exotic trees on the elevated cultivatable slopes, and pastures and fodder crops for the Rustenschoon dairy herd on the valley floor.

- **Remnants of the pioneer transport and communication network.** The earliest road between the emerging villages of Stellenbosch and Franschhoek ran through the valley and over the pass known as "the Hell". The origin of this route was most likely a Khoi cattle path. The name Helshoogte was transferred to a new pass built at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which bypassed the valley. Since then, Ida's Valley has been a cul de sac, which has shielded it from the great pressure for development along through-routes in the Winelands.
- **Significant early Cape farmstead complexes.** The oldest in the valley – Ida's Valley, Rustenburg and Schoongezicht – are justifiably celebrated as superb examples of their type and period. The pioneer dwellings were simple longhouses, built of available materials and located on the valley floor close to streams (remnants survive on some farms), with a kraal (walled enclosure) to protect stock at night. Later, during prosperous times in the early 19th century, houses were extended and outbuildings such as wine cellars added, buildings were elaborated with gables, and farmsteads were extended to command the land and impose geometry on the dramatic natural

## E IDA'S VALLEY

### Landscape Character Areas







wilderness of their setting (e.g. the oak avenue at Rustenburg). Cape architecture is a tangible expression of the varied cultural influences and combined skills of the diverse people who inhabited the region in the colonial period, and their response to the natural setting, inclusive of slave production of material heritage.

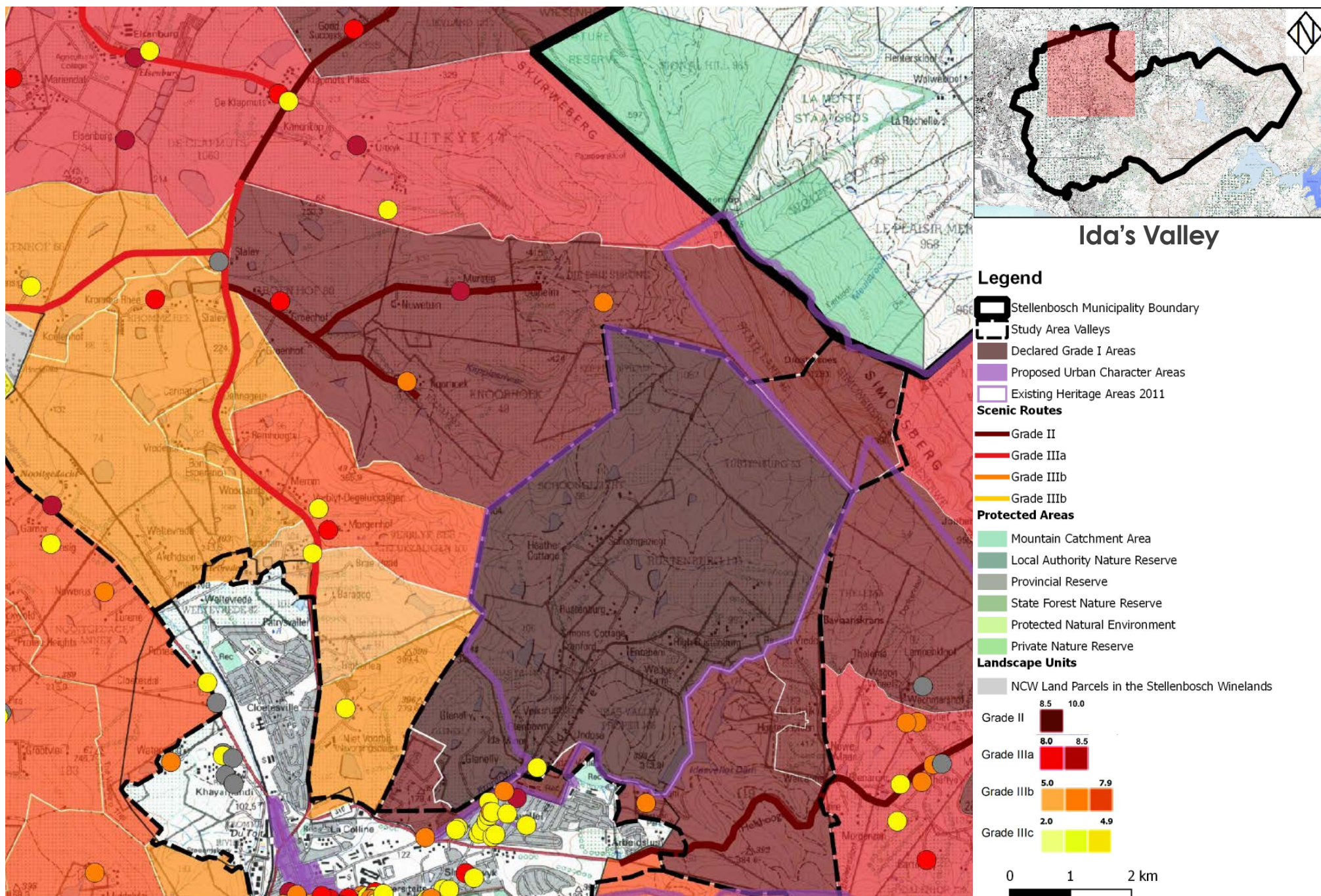
- **A significant, layered sequence of networks for the capture and distribution of water** (not yet fully researched), associated with the development of colonial settlement and agricultural production, and demonstrating natural resource use and technological advances through time. These networks span the entire colonial period, including remnants of ancient stone-lined channels for gravity irrigation and domestic water supply, 19th century irrigation piping made of timber, early 20th century capped springs, and dams built from the 1930s with newly introduced caterpillar tractors. The current overlay of micro-jet irrigation and a major regional water pipeline demonstrates the continuing evolution of water use and distribution.
- **Dwellings and farmsteads of the 19th and 20th centuries** (Schoongezicht cottage, Glenbawn, Glenelly, Kelsey, Cranford and the cluster of small-holdings known as the "Wedges"). These are of historical and cultural interest, reflecting the ongoing evolution of the practice of agriculture in the valley and patterns of dwelling in this particular rural landscape. Dwelling sites are close to streams (or constructed water channels) and are consequently "tucked in" to the folds of the landscape, often looking out over the valley. There are very few vernacular workers' houses in the valley: workers on the biggest farms were rehoused in modern, serviced villages at the height of the apartheid

era to avoid possible criticism by overseas importers – itself an illustration of changing labour practices and shifts in South African society in the last decades of the twentieth century.

## E IDA'S VALLEY

### Landscape Character Areas



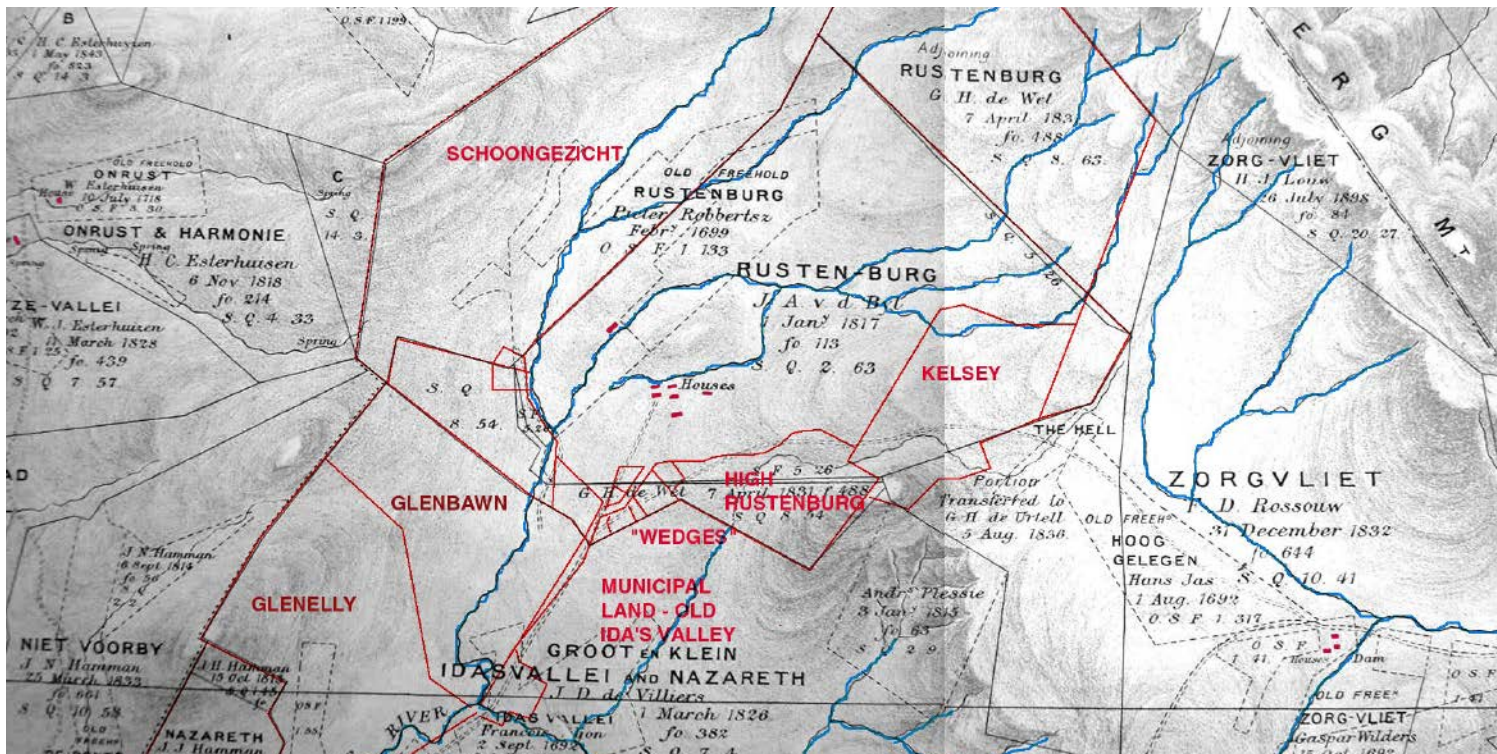




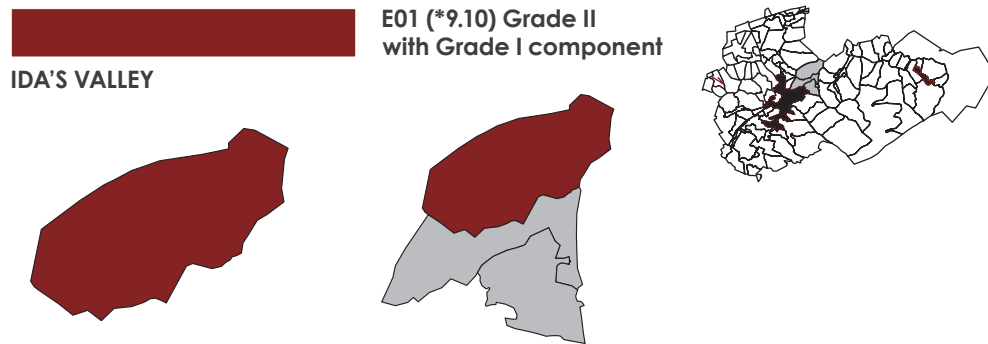
E Ida's Valley Landscape Unit Rating				E01		E02		E03	
	Item	Value	Weighted	Value	Weighted	Value	Weighted	Value	Weighted
Ecological	Protected areas 10 Critical Biodiversity area 9								
	Ecological support areas 7 agriculture 4 Urban 1	20%	10	2.00	9	1.80	9	1.80	
Aesthetic	Viewshed, Scene, Diversity, enclosure, unity, colour, texture, balance, proportion, form	20%	9	1.80	9	1.80	9	1.80	
	Age, Pattern representivity and association, rarity, condition	25%	10	2.50	8	2.00	8	2.00	
Historic	Meaning and cultural accosiations, Church, School, Creche, recreational, community	10%	8	0.80	9	0.90	9	0.90	
	Tourism and agricultural potential High soil suitability 9 medium soil suitability 7 Fragmented 5								
Economical	Disturbed 2	25%	8	2.00	7	1.75	7	1.75	
Degree of acceptable change/development		100%	9.10	8.25	8.25				
NCW		0- 2							
Grade 3c		2 to 4.9							
Grade 3b		5 to 7.9							
Grade 3a		8 to 10							
Grade 2		8.5 to 10							

## E IDA'S VALLEY

Core, Middle and  
Plantation  
E01-E03







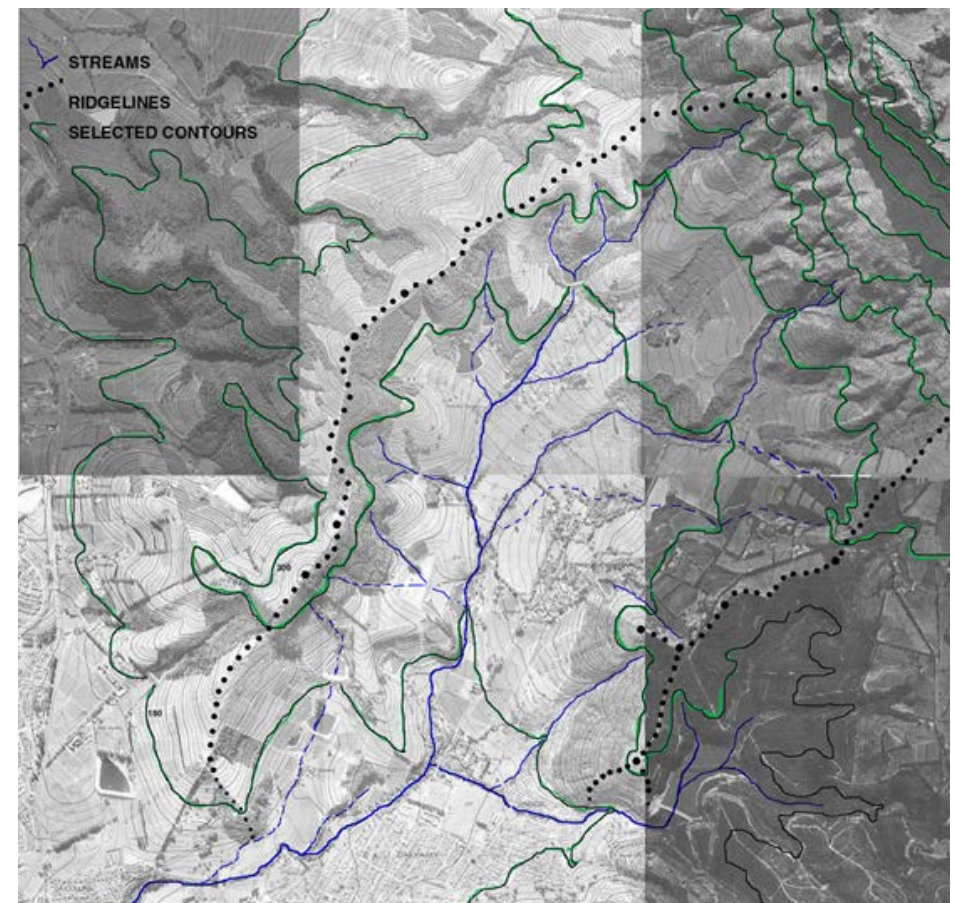
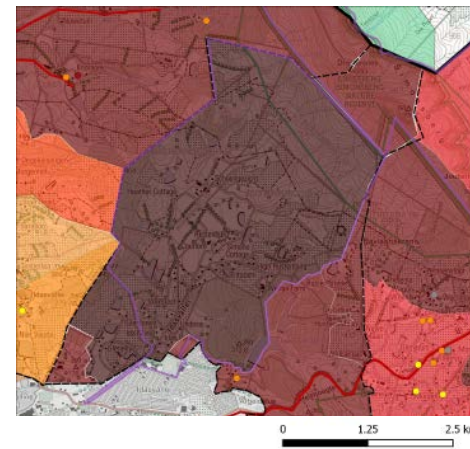
### E01 IDA'S VALLEY CORE

The land unit at the foot of the dramatic Simonsberg has remnant plantations against the steep slopes (steeper than 1:4) with mountain fynbos that follow natural fingers into the alluvial valley. The valley is used for pasture land with natural edges as field dividers, while the foothills are made-up of vineyards. Here larger vineyards have an organic shape as they are nestled into the mountain slopes. This land unit is enclosed with dominant views forwards Simonsberg.

The historic farm werf of Schoogezicht is the core of this land unit. Interestingly, the werf is located to the back of the manor house, which is unusual (Fransen 2004).



Simonsberg



Place-defining elements of the natural landscape overlaid on orthophotos (Chief Director: Surveys and Mapping; Penny Pistorius delt.)



## E01 IDA'S VALLEY CORE

**MAIN AIM: CONSERVE (MAINTAIN)** existing character: This may require both protection and maintenance of the significant elements and features as well as appropriate development thereof. It includes the **promotion** of these landscapes and places for the appreciation and continuity of their cultural significance.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** ECOLOGIC, AESTHETIC, HISTORIC, SOCIAL and ECONOMIC

**COMPONENT:** Grade I landscape

**CONSERVATION SYSTEM:** It is classified as a highly important landscape unit in terms of its scenic value within the context of the Stellenbosch Municipality as it is seen from ten other Grade II scenic routes, and is scenically valuable with more than 70% of this land unit being visible. The green transition conservation system is triggered that advocates for new development to allow for links to the mountains and the larger natural landscape. The top of the mountains in this landscape unit is a protected area already, and the Foothills conservation system is also triggered.

**DEVIATED LAND USE/USES THAT WILL LIKELY ERODE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER:** Over scaled private dwellings, cluttered properties, agricultural related practices (other than viticulture and orchards), gated residential estates, large scale industrial structures, suburban development, nursery/mixed use/garden centre, restaurant/farmstall, recreation related trails and structures, market.

Grade II	
Foothill CS	✓
Green Transition CS	
Scenic Route CS	✓

### DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA

Please refer to the Conservation Management section of the CMP for general guidelines, explanatory text/terms, and the process behind developing the Development Criteria. The Development Criteria sheets are based on Landscape and Townscape typologies found within the Stellenbosch Municipality. The focus is on the current heritage elements and character of the landscapes, and the criteria are discussed under the five value lines (ecologic, aesthetic, historic, social and economic). They should also be read in conjunction with the Heritage Inventory (individual sites) and the Conservation Systems (Appendix 3 of the CMP).

### A ECOLOGICAL

#### Significance:

Ida's Valley is clearly defined as a distinctive valley landscape by its topography. From the towering "body" of the Simonsberg in the north east (1 390m), two low "arms" stretch out southwards, enclosing the valley to each side. The "shoulders" are at 400-500m, sloping down to "fists" of about 300m – at any point the hills are roughly 100-150m above the valley floor, which itself slopes south-eastwards.

Within this framework, the valley topography is complex. The mountain and hills are intricately folded and eroded by the winter streams that rush off the steep slopes and the springs that continue to seep through the hotter months. There is thus a great variety of hills and sub-valleys, humps and hollows with differing orientation and micro-climates. As a result, the valley is a "many-placed place" with numerous sub-areas of distinctive character.

As a river valley, the area is well-watered. The Krom River is the principal water course. Its two principal sources, both on the Simonsberg (on Schoongezicht and Rustenburg, respectively), are fed by numerous streams and springs in the folds of the hills.

The sandy boulder gravel soils of the mountain slopes and the rich, deep alluvial soils of the valley floor support a rich variety of natural flora. Douglas Houston gives a vivid description of the natural state of the valley vegetation, before modification by settlers: "Visualise the tree lined banks of the river and its tributaries – Yellowwoods, Wit Els, Rooi Els, Amandels and Wilde Olienhout. In the floor of the valleys would be Klipkershout trees (Mountain Maytenus) up to 2000 years old; giant wabome, the Protea Arborea

Many other proteas, leucospermums and leucodendrons including silver trees on the slopes of the

hills, and a tremendous variety of fynbos such as Slangbos, Rhenosterbos, Taaibos and Hottentotskooigoed covered the land with an impenetrable barrier two or three meters high when mature. Under this dense cover was the latent grass crop, dormant roots and seed." (Houston, 1981:29).

The central section of the Landscape Unit contains a number of Critical Biodiversity Layers in a natural state, with ecological support areas adjacent to the Kromrivier. The northern section of the Unit is covered by the Simonsberg Nature Reserve.

#### Development Criteria:

- Support protected areas and existing nature reserves, with their landforms and areas of critical biodiversity, which strongly contribute to the "wilderness domain" of the winelands cultural landscape (See the Foothills Conservation System).
- Maintain ecological support areas to sites of heritage significance (particularly river corridors). Only permit development that responds to the heritage sensitivity of the site, and that will not dominate, or irreparably damage the environments adjacent to these heritage sites. Optimize the scenic and recreational opportunities provided by water courses and larger water bodies, especially where they were enjoyed through historic right of way.
- Promote transitions or buffers, and larger connected systems, to nature reserves (see Foothill conservation system). To protect important habitats, provide increased opportunities for recreation and the traditional use of the landscape.
- Respect development setbacks from water resources to provide protection from flooding as well as creating scenic and ecological corridors (see legislation in place for river corridors).





## B AESTHETIC

### Significance:

The winelands cultural landscape is widely recognised, not only within South Africa, but abroad, as being of outstanding aesthetic value. Ida's Valley, with its overarching sense of enclosure and seclusion and its many characterful sub-places, epitomises this scenic beauty. The dramatic natural setting – the rugged mountain backdrop, with its rocky peaks and diverse flora, the enclosing foothills and sub-valleys carved by mountain streams, the folded, gently sloping valley floor with its rivers – combined with the component features of the rural landscape – lush pastures, rows and groves of oaks and poplars, sloping vineyards and orchards, the winding rural road with its changing vistas – creates a context of grandeur, charm and variety. The interaction of people with the natural landscape over a long period has resulted in the formation of a cultural landscape that is itself complex and various. The three old Cape farms and their farmsteads – Ida's Valley, Rustenburg and Schoongezicht – are superb examples of their type and period. The dwellings and farmsteads of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries – Schoongezicht cottage and werf extensions, Glenbawn, Glenelly, Kelsey, etc., as well as the cluster of smallholdings known as the "Wedges" – are also of historical and cultural interest, reflecting the ongoing evolution of the practice of agriculture in the valley and patterns of dwelling in this particular rural landscape. The formalisation and modernisation of workers' housing (particularly on Rustenschoon), which has resulted in the loss of many vernacular structures and dwelling sites, is nevertheless an illustration of changing labour practices and shifts in South African society in the last decades of the twentieth century.

There is a typical dwelling pattern that applies to the great farmsteads and most of the other houses on the farms: dwelling

sites are close to streams (or constructed water channels) and are consequently "tucked in" to the folds of the landscape, often looking out over the valley. This pattern does not apply as consistently to the Wedges and other smallholding subdivisions of Rustenburg, where siting choices were limited by the size of the properties, and which have a different relationship to the greater landscape. But although many of the dwellings have wonderful views, Entabeni is the only house that stands up on the horizon and "commands" the landscape. The softening effect of garden vegetation also helps to integrate the dwellings with the landscape.

### Development Criteria:

#### LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

- The high mountains in the study area are landforms vital to its overall landscape character. They enclose the valleys and settlements of heritage significance. Prevent development on visually sensitive mountain slopes and ridgelines in order to preserve the continuity of the mountains as a backdrop.
- Limit cultivation and development on upper mountain slopes greater than 1:4 to protect scenic resources and water catchments, and to minimise visual scarring and erosion. Propose 'no-go' development areas above the 380m contour line.
- Retain view-lines and vistas focused on prominent natural features such as mountain peaks, as these are important place-making and orientating elements for experiencing the cultural landscape. They are not only important for landscape character, but also for water security, and biodiversity.
- Maintain the balance of Urban, Rural and Wilderness areas. It is the interplay and relationship between these that give the study area its unique character (refer to the Conservation Systems).

- The construction of over-scaled private dwellings and other structures in locations of high visual significance, and on visually-exposed promontories, ridges and ridgelines, should be discouraged. Preferred locations are sites that have already been settled (for instance consolidated around farmyards, or near villages and hamlets), or sites 'tucked into' the landscape, using the same criteria for site-location as the adjacent, older farmsteads.
- Land use related to agricultural use but with large visual intrusions / clutter (such as timber yards and nurseries) should be carefully assessed. Mitigation measures should be put in place before any development or rezoning is permitted to allow such uses.
- Encourage mitigation measures (for instance use of vegetation) to "embed" existing over-scaled private dwellings within the surrounding agricultural landscape.
- Maintain larger unified land areas to protect larger landscape continuums that display a unified scenic character.
- It is recommended that visual permeability should be maintained towards mountains, valleys and across open, and cultivated fields. (a) Discourage the use of solid walls around vineyards and agricultural areas in public view and along scenic routes. (b) Views should be framed and enhanced by development wherever possible.

#### PLANTING PATTERN

- Traditional planting patterns should be protected by ensuring that existing tree alignments and copses are not needlessly destroyed, but reinforced or replaced, thereby enhancing traditional patterns with appropriate species.
- The felling of mature exotic or indigenous trees within residential areas

should be avoided. Instead continuous tree canopies should be encouraged, especially within urban environments.

- Significant avenues should be protected as a heritage component.
- In some cases, remnant planting patterns (even single trees) uphold the historic character of an area. Interpretation of these landscape features as historic remnants should occur.
- Many of the strongest planting patterns that contribute to the historic character of landscape and townscape units, are within road reserves and on public land. A maintenance and re-planting plan should be developed.

#### PLANTATION

- Rehabilitation of forestry areas should be applied in the same way rehabilitation is conducted in mining operations - from the onset. This includes adaptive reuse strategies for the sawmill structure.
- Forestry service roads are difficult to rehabilitate. Instead these roads are part of the historic layering that tells the story of forestry and could be used for another purpose such as recreation.
- Another method of rehabilitation could entail the production of traditional plant resources, where indigenous knowledge of plants and foraging could be applied.



## C HISTORIC Significance:

Stone hand axes found in the soils overlaying the gravel terraces of the valley indicate that stone age hunter gatherers may have been in occupation from as early as 700 000 years ago. From about 500 AD the area was part of the transhumance pattern of Khoi pastoralists, who followed regular paths with their cattle and burnt clearings in the shoulder-high fynbos to stimulate seasonal grazing, watering the cattle at the streams. In the 17th century Stellenbosch was used by at least two major groups, the Goringhaiqua and the Gorachochqua, who moved from the Malmesbury district to Table Bay, arriving in November, heading for Stellenbosch in January and thence, via Wellington, back to Malmesbury. The broad cattle paths and clearings made by the Khoi were very likely the routes followed and areas first farmed by European settlers, and thus form the underlying foundation of the present settlement pattern. Examples include the old route from Stellenbosch through Ida's Valley to Franschhoek (the original "Helshoogte" pass, from Helling, indicating its steepness) and the locations of the 17th C land grants and farmsteads on the valley floor.

Ida's Valley, which had three farmsteads by 1682, was among the first rural areas settled in the Stellenbosch district (the earliest land grants were Groot and Klein Ida's Valley, Nazareth and Rustenburg). By the early 18th century these farms were producing wheat and other grains, wine, brandy, sheep and cattle. Near the streams, with their fertile alluvial soils, the pioneer farmers and their slaves constructed simple longhouses of available local materials (remnants survive at Ida's Valley farmstead) with kraals for livestock nearby. Water was channelled to the werfs for domestic purposes and to the fields to irrigate the crops (remnant water channels survive at Rustenburg and Schoongezicht).

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, wars in Europe increased demand for Cape wines and resulted in a boom in the rural economy of the winelands. As elsewhere, in Ida's Valley the newly prosperous farms were greatly expanded and farmsteads elaborated with new gabled Cape houses, wine cellars and other outbuildings (such as the slave quarters at Rustenburg), werf walls and avenues of oaks expressing command of the landscape. Rustenburg and Schoongezicht are fine examples of these "high" Cape farmsteads, which constitute a unique regional cultural expression and response to place.

In 1825 the end of British preferential wine tariffs resulted in a crash in wine exports, and several bankruptcies (e.g. JD de Villiers of Ida's Valley). The emancipation of the slaves (1834, with compulsory apprenticeship until 1838) also altered the rural economy and lifeways.

The outbreak of phylloxera (a vine disease that affected winelands internationally) in 1886 destroyed the vines in the Cape and caused a serious crisis in Cape agriculture and many bankruptcies. Partly as a result, in the late 19th century ownership of farms in Ida's Valley began to pass from the old Cape families into "English" hands. From around the turn of the 19th century it was the home of several prominent public figures. This coincided with significant landscape changes resulting from new methods introduced to rejuvenate agriculture, which were promoted, and demonstrated "hands on" at his farm Schoongezicht in Idas Valley, by John X Merriman, then Minister of Agriculture in Rhodes' government. Diseased vineyards in the alluvial soil along the river banks were removed and replanted on hillsides, using phylloxera-resistant American root stock,

with a resultant improvement in the quality of wines. The old vineyards were converted to orchards, planted with new fruit cultivars suitable for the rapidly developing export industry.

There were further landscape changes in the first half of the 20th century. In 1900-05 Thomas Bain built a new Helshoogte pass which bypassed Idas Valley (but to which the name of the old pass was transferred). The valley has been a secluded cul de sac ever since. Fruit exports boomed after the introduction of refrigerated ships in the 1920s and orchards were expanded, particularly at Ida's Valley and Rustenburg, where the Temperance convictions of the owners' wives saw vines uprooted; windbreaks between the orchards divided the valley into "compartments", remnants of which remain as distinctive tree lines; and from the 1920s, plantations of pines (for fruit boxes) and other trees such as poplars were extensively planted, changing the landscape dramatically from the openness photographed by Arthur Elliott earlier in the century. Also in the 1930s small dairy herds were introduced, e.g. Ayreshires at Ida's Valley, and Jerseys at Schoongezicht. From the 1920s, agriculture became a more "modern" and professional endeavour as qualified farm managers with scientific training emerged from the universities.

The drop in fruit prices during the great depression of the 1930s resulted in many bankruptcies, and when danger to shipping after the outbreak of World War II curtailed fruit exports the rural economy of the winelands changed again, heralding another period of significant landscape transformation in the second half of the 20th century. During the war Peter Barlow bought Rustenburg (excluding High Rustenburg, which was subdivided) and then Schoongezicht, reuniting the farms which had been subdivided in 1810 and combining and modernizing farming operations. The now-unprofitable old orchards on the valley floor were replaced with pastures for an expanded dairy herd, and a new dairy was built at Schoongezicht werf. The Barlows also developed the Estate wines. The old Schoongezicht wine cellar, previously used as a fruit packing shed, was brought back into commission. Old vineyards were replanted and new ones developed on ever-higher slopes (a trend that still continues), irrigated from many large dams constructed on both farms. Buildings at Rustenburg and Schoongezicht werfs were restored, with farming operations concentrated at Schoongezicht and domestic use at Rustenburg, where Pamela Barlow developed the now-celebrated garden around the werf. An area of indigenous fynbos on steep land above Rustenburg werf was protected and developed as a wild flower garden, and a similar policy of stewardship of nature and removal of invasive aliens has been extended to the upper slopes of the Simonsberg.

The Barlows subsequently bought back Cranford (1947), which had been part of Rustenburg prior to the 1920s, and later (1966) added Glenbawn, retaining and modernizing the existing plum orchards. Their progressive farming practices included the provision of well-built housing in serviced villages for farm workers. Unfortunately, most of the traditional vernacular cottages in which workers had previously lived were lost in the process, although a few examples survive, and there are several at Glenelly. The Barlows' practice of combining custodianship and progressive agricultural development has been continued by their son Simon, who developed an advanced modern winery and dairy behind the existing Schoongezicht werf.



### Development Criteria:

#### HUNTER GATHERERS/HERDERS

- Names of mountain passes and water courses that reference a traditional use during the time of the hunter-gatherers and herders of the Cape should be celebrated. Public access to these sites should be encouraged.
- Sensitive development that interprets the narrative of historic movement routes. Drover routes, where they are still known and used for a similar use or as public open space, have value and should be retained.
  - All archaeological material is protected in terms of the NHRA.

#### FREEHOLD

- Evidence of the earliest occupation of the landscape is not always visible. Should any be uncovered, the provincial heritage authority (HWC) should be notified and engaged with to determine appropriate action.
- The layout of the first freehold land grants often correlates with surviving features at a landscape level. If such a structure is recognised, it should be maintained.
- Any remaining structures or fabric associated with the first freehold land grants should be protected, and included as part of the heritage inventory.
- Alterations and additions to conservation-worthy structures should be sympathetic to their architectural character and period detailing, but should also align with Burra Charter Article 22 (see introduction of this section).

#### WERF

- Respect traditional werf settlement patterns by considering the entire werf as the component of significance. This includes the backdrop of the natural landscape against which it is sited, as well as its spatial structure. Any development that impacts the inherent character of the werf component should be discouraged.

- Interventions on the werf must respect the layout, scale, massing, hierarchy, alignments, access, landscaping and setting.
- Historical layering must be respected and protected. Alterations and additions to conservation-worthy structures should be sympathetic to their architectural character and period detailing. Inappropriate 'modernisation' of conservation-worthy structures and traditional werfs should be prevented. Inappropriate maintenance can compromise historic structures. Heritage expertise is required where appropriate.
- Distinguish old from new but ensure visual harmony between historical fabric and new interventions in terms of appropriate scale, massing, form and architectural treatment, without directly copying these details.
- Encourage development that prolongs the longevity of historic family farms as an increasingly rare typology.
- Any development that threatens the inherent character of family burial grounds should be discouraged.
- Encourage the multifunctional use of existing heritage sites and resources with different but sensitive new uses. Development and adaptive re-use that caters for the integration of different modes of access and a greater diversity of users should be encouraged.
- Encourage intervention to revive heritage features in decline, by engaging with innovative development proposals where appropriate, and considering sensitive adaptive reuse strategies for each, specific heritage resource.
- Adaptive strategies need to take the surroundings as well as the structures into account.
- Where the historic function of a building is still intact, the function has heritage value and should be protected.



Early 20th century photograph looking south-east, winter. Schoongezicht in foreground; Rustenburg werf beyond and to the right. Pointed peak is Bothmaskop (Elliott CA E3148).



## D SOCIAL

### Significance:

*From the outset the inhabitants of Ida's Valley have been a close community with strong social ties, closely identified with the valley landscape. Evidence for this includes the frequent marriages between the inhabitants of the valley farms throughout its history (well-documented in the case of owners and managers, and undoubtedly so for farm workers, although documentary evidence for this has not yet been gathered). This sense of identity and social cohesion extends to the community of Ida's Valley village, adjacent to the rural area, which is working with the rural landowners to protect the adjacent Municipal land as an open space and recreational resource. The presence of Vlaeberg Primary School and the New Apostolic Church Rustenburg increases the social value of this landscape unit.*

### Development Criteria:

#### SETTLEMENT PATTERN

- Respect existing patterns, typologies and traditions of settlement-making by promoting the continuity of these heritage features. These include; (a) indigenous; (b) colonial; and (c) current living heritage in the form of tangible and intangible associations to place.
- The relocation of farm labour to housing settlements should be discouraged. Where structures are still used for workers housing, the historic use thereof has value, and should be protected as far as possible.

#### RECREATION

- It is recommended that physical permeability to communal resources such as rivers and mountains is maintained and enhanced, for the enjoyment of all members of the public. This is particularly true when considering any new development proposals. (a) Pro-

mote public footpaths across the cultivated landscape. (b) Restore areas of recreation, especially where the public has traditionally enjoyed rights of access. Action might include the removal of fences and walls, where it is appropriate. (c) Prevent privatisation of natural places that form part of the historical public open space resource network. (d) Allow for sustainable, traditional use of natural places for recreational, spiritual and resource-collection purposes.

- Where practical, encourage managed access to wilderness areas on the higher slopes. This will allow residents and visitors to the winelands opportunities to experience the wilderness domain, which is a key component within the cultural landscape as a whole, and to experience the sense of interconnectedness of the wilderness, agricultural and urban domains through views from the upper slopes. (See the conservation systems of Green Transitions and Foothills Conservation).
- Always use existing roads and pathways, such as old forestry service roads, before any new routes are established. As much wilderness area as possible must be left intact.
- The principle of 'tread lightly' in any activity (and associated development requirements e.g. toilets for major events) in this domain should be emphasised.
- Make sure the required provision for the rehabilitation and maintenance of the slopes used for traditional and recreational purposes is in place.
- Mountain slopes have been used for traditional practices for many years, and care should be taken that any significant cultural sites, such as burials and veldkos/medicinal plant resources, are not disturbed.

## E ECONOMIC

### Significance:

Farming activities have responded to the particular conditions in the different sub-areas of the valley (slope, hydrology, orientation, etc), as well as to external factors such as economic changes and technological advances. The rural landscape is at present a patchwork in which the broad patterns are: steep mountain slopes are indigenous bush, higher cultivatable slopes are vineyards.

Overlaid on this are two very important linear networks: of roads, often associated with rows of oak, plane, flowering gum and other exotic trees; and of water – streams and constructed channels – associated particularly (but not exclusively) with poplars and oaks. The water network has been significantly changed by the construction of dams since the mid-20th C; the dams are now an important element of the cultural landscape. The network of windbreaks, which divided the landscape into a checkerboard of "rooms" in the heyday of fruit farming, is still evident in parts, notably Kelsey Farm and High Rustenburg, but much reduced elsewhere in the valley.

The highly suitable soils for viticulture are predominantly located in the valley bottom, with medium to low soils on the hills and footslopes of the mountain.

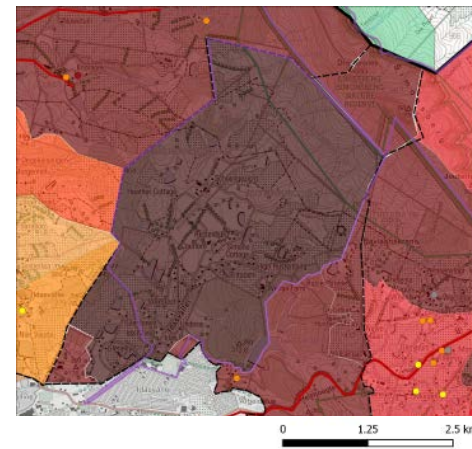
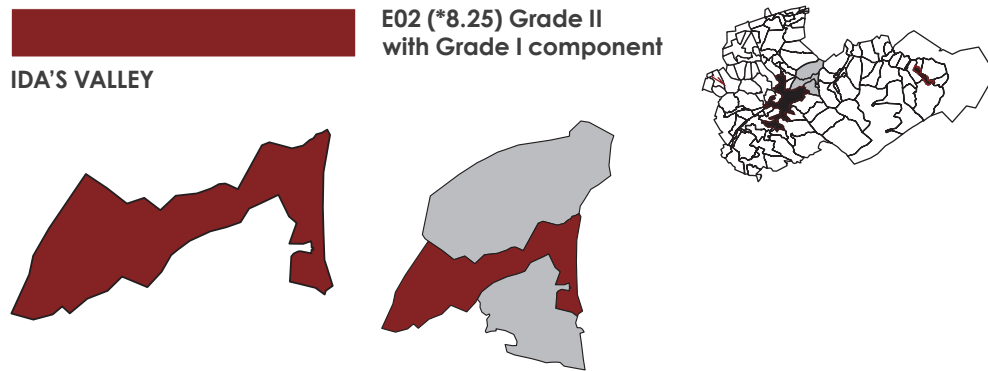
### Development Criteria:

- Care should be taken that vineyards are not needlessly destroyed, and replaced by non-agricultural development. The potential agricultural use of the land should be retained for the future.
- Fruit orchards are associated with windbreak trees (see T10.3 in the CMP for windbreak species) which form distinctive strong lines on the landscape. In cases where the orchard has lost its function, to retain its heritage values

the windbreak trees should be kept and new development could be included within existing blocks.

- Developments that promote the continuity of the core function of agriculture within the Stellenbosch winelands should be promoted.
- Cultural sites associated with 20<sup>th</sup> century settlement and farming practices should be protected, particularly church and farm school sites that occur at the intersection of farm roads. The displacement of farm employees to nearby townships results in the loss of integrity of their former dwellings.



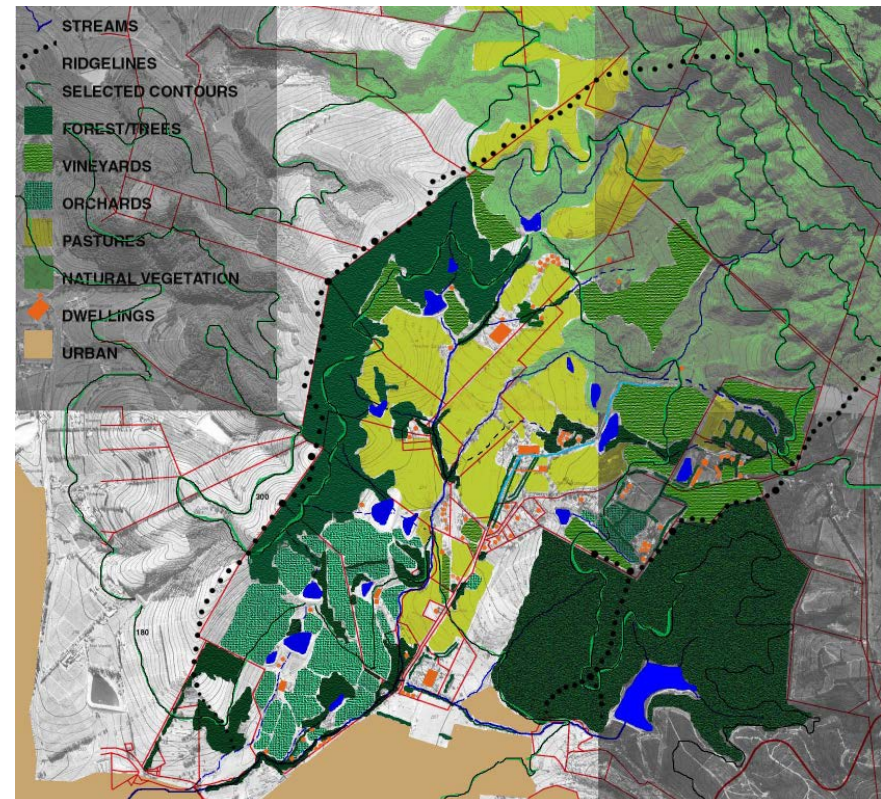


### E02 IDA'S VALLEY MIDDLE VINEYARDS

This land unit has a distinct pattern that is mainly made up of smaller sized vineyards and irrigation dams at regular intervals within the landscape. It is an intimate landscape with tight knit irregular boundaries where it meets the natural slope of the rolling foothills of Simonsberg. A rehabilitated veld is located to the right of the land unit with open views towards Simonsberg and views over Stellenbosch. The three vineyards of Glenelly is a distinctive landmark entering Stellenbosch via the Helshoogte pass.



Glenelly with Kayamandi in the background



Elements and patterns of the cultural landscape, overlaid on orthophotos (Chief Director: Surveys and Mapping; Penny Pistorius delt.)



## E02 IDA'S VALLEY MIDDLE VINEYARDS

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**MAIN AIM:** CONSERVE (MAINTAIN) existing character: This may require both protection and maintenance of the significant elements and features as well as appropriate development thereof. It includes the **promotion** of these landscapes and places for the appreciation and continuity of their cultural significance.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** ECOLOGIC, AESTHETIC, HISTORIC, SOCIAL and ECONOMIC

**COMPONENT:** Grade I landscape

**CONSERVATION SYSTEM:** It is classified as a moderately important landscape unit in terms of its scenic value within the context of the Stellenbosch Municipality it is seen from four other Grade II scenic routes, and is scenically valuable with more than 70% of this land unit being visible. The green transition conservation system is triggered that advocates for new development to allow for links to the mountains and the larger natural landscape. Foothills conservation system is also triggered.

**DEVIATED LAND USE/USES THAT WILL LIKELY ERODE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER:** Over scaled private dwellings, cluttered properties, agricultural related practices (other than viticulture and orchards), gated residential estates, large scale industrial structures, suburban development, nursery/mixed use/garden centre, restaurant/farmstall, recreation related trails and structures, market.

Grade II	
Foothill CS	✓
Green Transition CS	✓
Scenic Route CS	✓

### DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA

Please refer to the Conservation Management section of the CMP for general guidelines, explanatory text/terms, and the process behind developing the Development Criteria. The Development Criteria sheets are based on Landscape and Townscape typologies found within the Stellenbosch Municipality. The focus is on the current heritage elements and character of the landscapes, and the criteria are discussed under the five value lines (ecologic, aesthetic, historic, social and economic). They should also be read in conjunction with the Heritage Inventory (individual sites) and the Conservation Systems (Appendix 3 of the CMP).

### A ECOLOGICAL

#### Significance:

Ida's Valley is clearly defined as a distinctive valley landscape by its topography. This landscape unit comprise two low "arms" stretch out southwards, enclosing the valley to each side. The "shoulders" are at 400-500m, sloping down to "fists" of about 300m – at any point the hills are roughly 100-150m above the valley floor, which itself slopes south-eastwards.

Within this framework, the valley topography is complex. The mountain and hills are intricately folded and eroded by the winter streams that rush off the steep slopes and the springs that continue to seep through the hotter months. There is thus a great variety of hills and sub-valleys, humps and hollows with differing orientation and micro-climates. As a result, the valley is a "many-placed place" with numerous sub-areas of distinctive character.

As a river valley, the area is well-watered. The Krom River is the principle water course. Its two principal sources, both on the Simonsberg (on Schoongezicht and Rustenburg, respectively), are fed by numerous streams and springs in the folds of the hills. The Kromme River, which rises beyond the eastern hills, flows westward to join the Krom near Ida's Valley farmstead.

The sandy boulder gravel soils of the mountain slopes and the rich, deep alluvial soils of the valley floor support a rich variety of natural flora. Douglas Houston gives a vivid description of the natural state of the valley vegetation, before modification by settlers: "Visualise the tree lined banks of the river and its tributaries – Yellowwoods, Wit Els, Rooi Els, Amandels and Wilde Oliehout. In the floor of the valleys would be Klipkershout trees (Mountain Maytenus) up to 2000 years old; giant wabome, the Protea Arborea. Many other proteas, leucospermums and

leucodendrons including silver trees on the slopes of the hills, and a tremendous variety of fynbos such as Slangbos, Rhenosterbos, Taaibos and Hottentotskooigoed covered the land with an impenetrable barrier two or three meters high when mature. Under this dense cover was the latent grass crop, dormant roots and seed." (Houston, 1981:29).

The Unit contains very few Critical Biodiversity Layers in a natural or degraded state, but ecological support areas adjacent to the Kromriver and Kromme River.

#### Development Criteria:

- Support protected areas and existing nature reserves, with their landforms and areas of critical biodiversity, which strongly contribute to the "wilderness domain" of the winelands cultural landscape (See the Foothills Conservation System).
- Maintain ecological support areas to sites of heritage significance (particularly river corridors). Only permit development that responds to the heritage sensitivity of the site, and that will not dominate, or irreparably damage the environments adjacent to these heritage sites. Optimize the scenic and recreational opportunities provided by water courses and larger water bodies, especially where they were enjoyed through historic right of way.
- Promote transitions or buffers, and larger connected systems, to nature reserves (see Foothill conservation system). To protect important habitats, provide increased opportunities for recreation and the traditional use of the landscape.
- Respect development setbacks from water resources to provide protection from flooding as well as creating scenic and ecological corridors (see legislation in place for river corridors).



## B AESTHETIC

### Significance:

The winelands cultural landscape is widely recognised, not only within South Africa, but abroad, as being of outstanding aesthetic value. Idas Valley, with its overarching sense of enclosure and seclusion and its many characterful sub-places, epitomises this scenic beauty. The dramatic natural setting – the rugged mountain backdrop, with its rocky peaks and diverse flora, the enclosing foothills and sub-valleys carved by mountain streams, the folded, gently sloping valley floor with its rivers – combined with the component features of the rural landscape – lush pastures, rows and groves of oaks and poplars, sloping vineyards and orchards, the winding rural road with its changing vistas – creates a context of grandeur, charm and variety.

The interaction of people with the natural landscape over a long period has resulted in the formation of a cultural landscape that is itself complex and various. The three old Cape farms and their farmsteads – Ida's Valley, Rustenburg and Schoongezicht – are superb examples of their type and period. The dwellings and farmsteads of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries – Schoongezicht cottage and werf extensions, Glenbawn, Glenelly, Kelsey, etc., as well as the cluster of smallholdings known as the "Wedges" – are also of historical and cultural interest, reflecting the ongoing evolution of the practice of agriculture in the valley and patterns of dwelling in this particular rural landscape. The formalisation and modernisation of workers' housing (particularly on Rustenschoon), which has resulted in the loss of many vernacular structures and dwelling sites, is nevertheless an illustration of changing labour practices and shifts in South African society in the last decades of the twentieth century.

There is a typical dwelling pattern that applies to the great farmsteads and most of the other houses on the farms: dwelling

sites are close to streams (or constructed water channels) and are consequently "tucked in" to the folds of the landscape, often looking out over the valley. This pattern does not apply as consistently to the Wedges and other smallholding subdivisions of Rustenburg, where siting choices were limited by the size of the properties, and which have a different relationship to the greater landscape. But although many of the dwellings have wonderful views, Entabeni is the only house that stands up on the horizon and "commands" the landscape. The softening effect of garden vegetation also helps to integrate the dwellings with the landscape.

### Development Criteria:

#### LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

- The high mountains in the study area are landforms vital to its overall landscape character. They enclose the valleys and settlements of heritage significance. Prevent development on visually sensitive mountain slopes and ridgelines in order to preserve the continuity of the mountains as a backdrop.
- Limit cultivation and development on upper mountain slopes greater than 1:4 to protect scenic resources and water catchments, and to minimise visual scarring and erosion. Propose 'no-go' development areas above the 380m contour line.
- Retain view-lines and vistas focused on prominent natural features such as mountain peaks, as these are important place-making and orientating elements for experiencing the cultural landscape. They are not only important for landscape character, but also for water security, and biodiversity.
- Maintain the balance of Urban, Rural and Wilderness areas. It is the interplay and relationship between these that give the study area its unique character (refer to the Conservation Systems).
- The construction of over-scaled pri-

vate dwellings and other structures in locations of high visual significance, and on visually-exposed promontories, ridges and ridgelines, should be discouraged. Preferred locations are sites that have already been settled (for instance consolidated around farmyards, or near villages and hamlets), or sites 'tucked into' the landscape, using the same criteria for site-location as the adjacent, older farmsteads.

- Land use related to agricultural use but with large visual intrusions / clutter (such as timber yards and nurseries) should be carefully assessed. Mitigation measures should be put in place before any development or rezoning is permitted to allow such uses.
- Encourage mitigation measures (for instance use of vegetation) to "embed" existing over-scaled private dwellings within the surrounding agricultural landscape.
- Maintain larger unified land areas to protect larger landscape continuums that display a unified scenic character.
- It is recommended that visual permeability should be maintained towards mountains, valleys and across open, and cultivated fields. (a) Discourage the use of solid walls around vineyards and agricultural areas in public view and along scenic routes. (b) Views should be framed and enhanced by development wherever possible.

#### PLANTING PATTERN

- Traditional planting patterns should be protected by ensuring that existing tree alignments and copses are not needlessly destroyed, but reinforced or replaced, thereby enhancing traditional patterns with appropriate species.
- The felling of mature exotic or indigenous trees within residential areas should be avoided. Instead continu-

ous tree canopies should be encouraged, especially within urban environments.

- Significant avenues should be protected as a heritage component.
- In some cases, remnant planting patterns (even single trees) uphold the historic character of an area. Interpretation of these landscape features as historic remnants should occur.
- Many of the strongest planting patterns that contribute to the historic character of landscape and townscape units, are within road reserves and on public land. A maintenance and re-planting plan should be developed.

#### PLANTATION

- Rehabilitation of forestry areas should be applied in the same way rehabilitation is conducted in mining operations - from the onset. This includes adaptive reuse strategies for the sawmill structure.
- Forestry service roads are difficult to rehabilitate. Instead these roads are part of the historic layering that tells the story of forestry and could be used for another purpose such as recreation.
- Another method of rehabilitation could entail the production of traditional plant resources, where indigenous knowledge of plants and foraging could be applied.

## C HISTORIC Significance:

Stone hand axes found in the soils overlaying the gravel terraces of the valley indicate that stone age hunter gatherers may have been in occupation from as early as 700 000 years ago. From about 500 AD the area was part of the transhumance pattern of Khoi pastoralists, who followed regular paths with their cattle and burnt clearings in the shoulder-high fynbos to stimulate seasonal grazing, watering the cattle at the streams. In the 17th century Stellenbosch was used by at least two major groups, the Goring-haiqua and the Gorachoqua, who moved from the Malmesbury district to Table Bay, arriving in November, heading for Stellenbosch in January and thence, via Wellington, back to Malmesbury. The broad cattle paths and clearings made by the Khoi were very likely the routes followed and areas first farmed by European settlers, and thus form the underlying foundation of the present settlement pattern. Examples include the old route from Stellenbosch through Ida's Valley to Franschoek (the original "Helshoogte" pass, from Helling, indicating its steepness) and the locations of the 17th C land grants and farmsteads on the valley floor.

Ida's Valley, which had three farmsteads by 1682, was among the first rural areas settled in the Stellenbosch district (the earliest land grants were Groot and Klein Ida's Valley, Nazareth and Rustenburg). By the early 18th century these farms were producing wheat and other grains, wine, brandy, sheep and cattle. Near the streams, with their fertile alluvial soils, the pioneer farmers and their slaves constructed simple longhouses of available local materials (remnants survive at Ida's Valley farmstead) with kraals for livestock nearby. Water was channelled to the werfs for domestic purposes and to the fields to irrigate the crops (remnant water channels survive at Rustenburg and Schoongezicht).

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, wars in Europe increased demand for Cape wines and resulted in a boom in the rural economy of the winelands. As elsewhere, in Ida's Valley the newly prosperous farms were greatly expanded and farmsteads elaborated with new gabled Cape houses, wine cellars and other outbuildings (such as the slave quarters at Rustenburg), werf walls and avenues of oaks expressing command of the landscape. Rustenburg and Schoongezicht are fine examples of these "high" Cape farmsteads, which constitute a unique regional cultural expression and response to place.

In 1825 the end of British preferential wine tariffs resulted in a crash in wine exports, and several bankruptcies (e.g. JD de Villiers of Ida's Valley). The emancipation of the slaves (1834, with compulsory apprenticeship until 1838) also altered the rural economy and lifeways.

The outbreak of phylloxera (a vine disease that affected winelands internationally) in 1886 destroyed the vines in the Cape and caused a serious crisis in Cape agriculture and many bankruptcies. Partly as a result, in the late 19th century ownership of farms in Ida's Valley began to pass from the old Cape families into "English" hands. From around the turn of the 19th century it was the home of several prominent public figures. This coincided with significant landscape changes resulting from new methods introduced to rejuvenate agriculture, which were promoted, and demonstrated "hands on" at his farm Schoongezicht in Ida's Valley, by John X Meriman, then Minister of Agriculture in Rhodes' government. Diseased vineyards in the alluvial soil along the river banks were removed and replanted on hillsides, using phylloxera-resistant American

root stock, with a resultant improvement in the quality of wines. The old vineyards were converted to orchards, planted with new fruit cultivars suitable for the rapidly developing export industry.

There were further landscape changes in the first half of the 20th century. In 1900-05 Thomas Bain built a new Helshoogte pass which bypassed Ida's Valley (but to which the name of the old pass was transferred). The valley has been a secluded cul de sac ever since. Fruit exports boomed after the introduction of refrigerated ships in the 1920s and orchards were expanded, particularly at Ida's Valley and Rustenburg, where the Temperance convictions of the owners' wives saw vines uprooted; wind-breaks between the orchards divided the valley into "compartments", remnants of which remain as distinctive tree lines; and from the 1920s, plantations of pines (for fruit boxes) and other trees such as poplars were extensively planted, changing the landscape dramatically from the openness photographed by Arthur Elliott earlier in the century. Also in the 1930s small dairy herds were introduced, e.g. Ayreshires at Ida's Valley, and Jerseys at Schoongezicht. From the 1920s, agriculture became a more "modern" and professional endeavour as qualified farm managers with scientific training emerged from the universities.

The drop in fruit prices during the great depression of the 1930s resulted in many bankruptcies, and when danger to shipping after the outbreak of World War II curtailed fruit exports the rural economy of the winelands changed again, heralding another period of significant landscape transformation in the second half of the 20th century. During the war Peter Barlow bought Rustenburg (excluding High Rustenburg, which was subdivided) and then Schoongezicht, reuniting the farms which had been subdivided in 1810 and combining and modernizing farming operations. The now-unprofitable old orchards on the valley floor were replaced with pastures for an expanded dairy herd, and a new dairy was built at Schoongezicht werf. The Barlows also developed the Estate wines. The old Schoongezicht wine cellar, previously used as a fruit packing shed, was brought back into commission. Old vineyards were replanted and new ones developed on ever-higher slopes (a trend that still continues), irrigated from many large dams constructed on both farms. Buildings at Rustenburg and Schoongezicht werfs were restored, with farming operations concentrated at Schoongezicht and domestic use at Rustenburg, where Pamela Barlow developed the now-celebrated garden around the werf. An area of indigenous fynbos on steep land above Rustenburg werf was protected and developed as a wild flower garden, and a similar policy of stewardship of nature and removal of invasive aliens has been extended to the upper slopes of the Simonsberg.

The Barlows subsequently bought back Cranford (1947), which had been part of Rustenburg prior to the 1920s, and later (1966) added Glenbawn, retaining and modernizing the existing plum orchards. Their progressive farming practices included the provision of well-built housing in serviced villages for farm workers. Unfortunately, most of the traditional vernacular cottages in which workers had previously lived were lost in the process, although a few examples survive, and there are several at Glenelly. The Barlows' practice of combining custodianship and progressive agricultural development has been continued by their son Simon, who developed an advanced modern winery and dairy behind the existing Schoongezicht werf.



## Development Criteria:

### HUNTER GATHERERS/HERDERS

- Names of mountain passes and water courses that reference a traditional use during the time of the hunter-gatherers and herders of the Cape should be celebrated. Public access to these sites should be encouraged.
- Sensitive development that interprets the narrative of historic movement routes. Drover routes, where they are still known and used for a similar use or as public open space, have value and should be retained.
- All archaeological material is protected in terms of the NHRA.

### FREEHOLD

- Evidence of the earliest occupation of the landscape is not always visible. Should any be uncovered, the provincial heritage authority (HWC) should be notified and engaged with to determine appropriate action.
- The layout of the first freehold land grants often correlates with surviving features at a landscape level. If such a structure is recognised, it should be maintained.
- Any remaining structures or fabric associated with the first freehold land grants should be protected, and included as part of the heritage inventory.
- Alterations and additions to conservation-worthy structures should be sympathetic to their architectural character and period detailing, but should also align with Burra Charter Article 22 (see introduction of this section).

### WERF

- Respect traditional werf settlement patterns by considering the entire werf as the component of significance. This includes the backdrop of the natural landscape against which it is sited, as well as its spatial structure. Any development that impacts the inherent character of the werf component should be discouraged.

- Interventions on the werf must respect the layout, scale, massing, hierarchy, alignments, access, landscaping and setting.
- Historical layering must be respected and protected. Alterations and additions to conservation-worthy structures should be sympathetic to their architectural character and period detailing. Inappropriate 'modernisation' of conservation-worthy structures and traditional werfs should be prevented. Inappropriate maintenance can compromise historic structures. Heritage expertise is required where appropriate.
- Distinguish old from new but ensure visual harmony between historical fabric and new interventions in terms of appropriate scale, massing, form and architectural treatment, without directly copying these details.
- Encourage development that prolongs the longevity of historic family farms as an increasingly rare typology.
- Any development that threatens the inherent character of family burial grounds should be discouraged.
- Encourage the multifunctional use of existing heritage sites and resources with different but sensitive new uses. Development and adaptive re-use that caters for the integration of different modes of access and a greater diversity of users should be encouraged.
- Encourage intervention to revive heritage features in decline, by engaging with innovative development proposals where appropriate, and considering sensitive adaptive reuse strategies for each, specific heritage resource.
- Adaptive strategies need to take the surroundings as well as the structures into account.
- Where the historic function of a building is still intact, the function has heritage value and should be protected.



## D SOCIAL

### Significance:

*From the outset the inhabitants of Ida's Valley have been a close community with strong social ties, closely identified with the valley landscape. Evidence for this includes the frequent marriages between the inhabitants of the valley farms throughout its history (well-documented in the case of owners and managers, and undoubtedly so for farm workers, although documentary evidence for this has not yet been gathered). This sense of identity and social cohesion extends to the community of Ida's Valley village, adjacent to the rural area, which is working with the rural landowners to protect the adjacent Municipal land as an open space and recreational resource.*

### Development Criteria:

#### SETTLEMENT PATTERN

- Respect existing patterns, typologies and traditions of settlement-making by promoting the continuity of these heritage features. These include; (a) indigenous; (b) colonial; and (c) current living heritage in the form of tangible and intangible associations to place.
- The relocation of farm labour to housing settlements should be discouraged. Where structures are still used for workers housing, the historic use thereof has value, and should be protected as far as possible.

#### RECREATION

- It is recommended that physical permeability to communal resources such as rivers and mountains is maintained and enhanced, for the enjoyment of all members of the public. This is particularly true when considering any new development proposals. (a) Promote public footpaths across the cul-

tivated landscape. (b) Restore areas of recreation, especially where the public has traditionally enjoyed rights of access. Action might include the removal of fences and walls, where it is appropriate. (c) Prevent privatisation of natural places that form part of the historical public open space resource network. (d) Allow for sustainable, traditional use of natural places for recreational, spiritual and resource-collection purposes.

- Where practical, encourage managed access to wilderness areas on the higher slopes. This will allow residents and visitors to the winelands opportunities to experience the wilderness domain, which is a key component within the cultural landscape as a whole, and to experience the sense of interconnectedness of the wilderness, agricultural and urban domains through views from the upper slopes. (See the conservation systems of Green Transitions and Foothills Conservation).
- Always use existing roads and pathways, such as old forestry service roads, before any new routes are established. As much wilderness area as possible must be left intact.
- The principle of 'tread lightly' in any activity (and associated development requirements e.g. toilets for major events) in this domain should be emphasised.
- Make sure the required provision for the rehabilitation and maintenance of the slopes used for traditional and recreational purposes is in place.
- Mountain slopes have been used for traditional practices for many years, and care should be taken that any significant cultural sites, such as burials and veldkos/medicinal plant resources, are not disturbed.

## E ECONOMIC

### Significance:

Farming activities have responded to the particular conditions in the different sub-areas of the valley (slope, hydrology, orientation, etc), as well as to external factors such as economic changes and technological advances. The rural landscape is at present a patchwork in which the broad patterns are: steep mountain slopes are indigenous bush, higher cultivatable slopes are vineyards.

Overlaid on this are two very important linear networks: of roads, often associated with rows of oak, plane, flowering gum and other exotic trees; and of water – streams and constructed channels – associated particularly (but not exclusively) with poplars and oaks. The water network has been significantly changed by the construction of dams since the mid-20th C; the dams are now an important element of the cultural landscape. The network of windbreaks, which divided the landscape into a checkerboard of "rooms" in the heyday of fruit farming, is still evident in parts, notably Kelsey Farm and High Rustenburg, but much reduced elsewhere in the valley.

The highly suitable soils for viticulture are predominantly located in the valley bottom, with medium to low soils on the hills and footslopes of the mountain.

### Development Criteria:

- Care should be taken that vineyards are not needlessly destroyed, and replaced by non-agricultural development. The potential agricultural use of the land should be retained for the future.
- Fruit orchards are associated with windbreak trees (see T10.3 in the CMP for windbreak species) which form distinctive strong lines on the landscape.

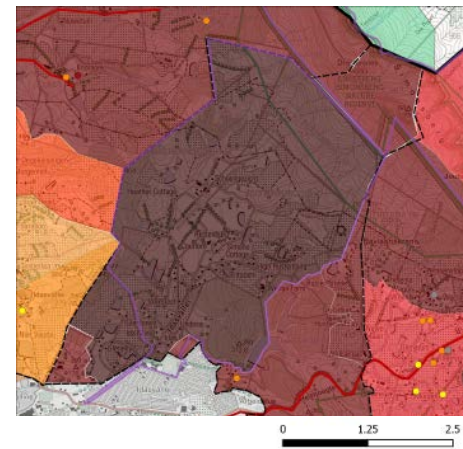
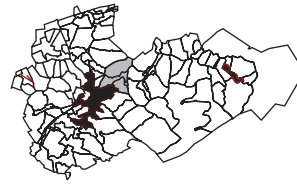
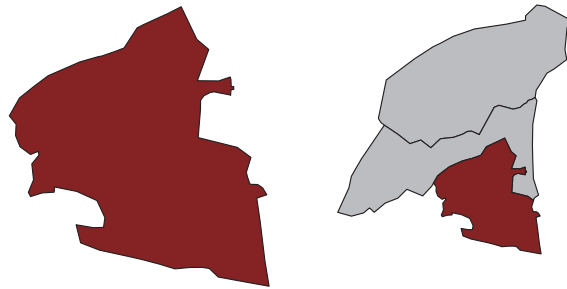
In cases where the orchard has lost its function, to retain its heritage values the windbreak trees should be kept and new development could be included within existing blocks.

- Developments that promote the continuity of the core function of agriculture within the Stellenbosch winelands should be promoted.
- Cultural sites associated with 20<sup>th</sup> century settlement and farming practices should be protected, particularly church and farm school sites that occur at the intersection of farm roads. The displacement of farm employees to nearby townships results in the loss of integrity of their former dwellings.



**E03 (\*8.25) Grade II  
with Grade I component**

**IDA'S VALLEY**



### E03 IDA'S VALLEY PLANTATION

This land unit is made up mainly of plantation on the steep slopes of the rolling foothills. It stretches on both sides on the Helshoogte pass, rehabilitated land is seen from the road up towards Botma's kop. This landscape is still a landscape in distress until the rehabilitation process is complete. A large dam is located in the folds of the rolling hills. The old Helshoogte Way runs through the Ida's valley suburb. Individuals from Ida's Valley identified the potential of this road as a good mountain bike trail, that would bring more tourists in through to the community. An intrusive residential estate development is situated next to the Helshoogte pass, with some remnant cluttered land use adjacent to it.

The Municipal land comprises erf 1075/3 (known as Undosa) and the part of erf 165/1 up to the ridge line (which needs to be surveyed). This land is located right at the entrance to the valley and is very visible from many points; it is intrinsically part of the rural valley landscape. It was part of Ida's Valley farm until the 1970s and is directly behind Ida's Valley farmstead (a very fine example of a Cape werf including a Baroque-gabled H-shaped house, a gabled wine cellar and one of the oldest pioneer longhouses in the valley, the so-called Viljoen house). The hill slopes were previously planted with pines for forestry purposes, but most of the trees have been felled and not replanted; apart from a portion which is rented by a neighbouring farmer, the flat land is unused open ground. There is uncertainty about the future use of this land, which is currently under-used and neglected. As public land on the border of the Stellenbosch urban area, it is particularly vulnerable to being consumed by urban sprawl: it has been mooted for housing development at various times. However, planning studies commissioned by the municipality over the past years have found it to be unsuited to this use, inter alia because of the hydrological and soil conditions that prevail. Lindida, a reasonably small housing area, has already leapfrogged the Kromme River and has been developed on a portion of it. Inappropriate development of this land would affect not only Ida's Valley Farmstead, but the rural character of the valley as a whole. The residents of Ida's Valley Village (the settlement to the south of the valley), acting through their Community Improvement Association, would like it to be developed for recreational purposes (e.g. sports fields, walking and cycling tracks, picnic areas). Declaration would help to ensure that important heritage and landscape considerations (and tourism implications) are taken into account as the basis of planning for this land.



Simonsberg with remnant plantation on its foothills

## E03 IDA'S VALLEY PLANTATION

**MAIN AIM:** ENHANCE (MANAGE) landscapes and townscapes: By improving land parcels or places which are in decline, by strengthening or reinforcing characteristic elements and features, or by regenerating landscapes through introducing new elements or features, or adapting them in order to revive lost fabric and bring new life to heritage environments.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** ECOLOGIC, SOCIAL OR ECONOMIC

**COMPONENT:** Grade I landscape

**CONSERVATION SYSTEM:** It is classified as a moderately important landscape unit in terms of its scenic value within the context of the Stellenbosch Municipality it is seen from four other Grade II scenic routes, and is scenically valuable with more than 70% of this land unit being visible. Foreground criteria applies to the 0-500m buffer around the grade II scenic route that traverse the unit. The green transition conservation system is triggered that advocates for new development to allow for links to the mountains and the larger natural landscape. Foothills conservation system is also triggered.

**DEVIATED LAND USE THAT SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED:** Over scaled private dwellings, cluttered properties, agricultural related practices (other than viticulture and orchards), gated residential estates, large scale industrial structures, suburban development, nursery/mixed use/garden centre, restaurant/farmstall, recreation related trails and structures, market.

Grade II	
Foothill CS	✓
Green Transition CS	✓
Scenic Route CS	✓

### DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA

Please refer to the Conservation Management section of the CMP for general guidelines, explanatory text/terms, and the process behind developing the Development Criteria. The Development Criteria sheets are based on Landscape and Townscape typologies found within the Stellenbosch Municipality. The focus is on the current heritage elements and character of the landscapes, and the criteria are discussed under the five value lines (ecologic, aesthetic, historic, social and economic). They should also be read in conjunction with the Heritage Inventory (individual sites) and the Conservation Systems (Appendix 3 of the CMP).

### A ECOLOGICAL

#### Significance:

Idas Valley is clearly defined as a distinctive valley landscape by its topography. The "shoulders" are at 400-500m, sloping down to "fists" of about 300m – at any point the hills are roughly 100-150m above the valley floor, which itself slopes south-eastwards.

This landscape unit is located just south of the major Valley, being defined by the termination of the eastern ridge running from Simonsberg and the north western slopes of the Stellenbosch Mountain.

As a river valley, the area is well-watered. The Kromme River, which rises beyond the eastern hills, flows westward to join the Krom near Ida's Valley farmstead. The sandy boulder gravel soils of the mountain slopes and the rich, deep alluvial soils of the valley floor support a rich variety of natural flora. Douglas Houston gives a vivid description of the natural state of the valley vegetation, before modification by settlers: "Visualise the tree lined banks of the river and its tributaries – Yellowwoods, Wit Els, Rooi Els, Amandels and Wilde Olienhout. In the floor of the valleys would be Klipkershout trees (Mountain Maytenus) up to 2000 years old; giant wabome, the Protea Arborea. Many other proteas, leucospermums and leucodendrons including silver trees on the slopes of the hills, and a tremendous variety of fynbos such as Slangbos, Rhenosterbos, Taaibos and Hottentotskooigoed covered the land with an impenetrable barrier two or three meters high when mature. Under this dense cover was the latent grass crop, dormant roots and seed." (Houston, 1981:29). The unit is covered in Critical Biodiversity Areas in a natural and degraded condition and Ecological Support areas along the drainage lines. A significant portion of the unit features remnant plantation.

### Development Criteria:

- Support protected areas and existing nature reserves, with their landforms and areas of critical biodiversity, which strongly contribute to the "wilderness domain" of the winelands cultural landscape (See the Foothills Conservation System).
- Maintain ecological support areas to sites of heritage significance (particularly river corridors). Only permit development that responds to the heritage sensitivity of the site, and that will not dominate, or irreparably damage the environments adjacent to these heritage sites. Optimize the scenic and recreational opportunities provided by water courses and larger water bodies, especially where they were enjoyed through historic right of way.
- Promote transitions or buffers, and larger connected systems, to nature reserves (see Foothill conservation system). To protect important habitats, provide increased opportunities for recreation and the traditional use of the landscape.
- Respect development setbacks from water resources to provide protection from flooding as well as creating scenic and ecological corridors (see legislation in place for river corridors).

### B AESTHETIC

#### Significance:

This Unit does not form part of the major historic Valley of Ida's Valley, but features remnant plantation and the Helshoogte Pass, which has cultural, historic and scenic significance.



## C HISTORIC

### Significance:

Stone hand axes found in the soils overlaying the gravel terraces of the valley indicate that stone age hunter gatherers may have been in occupation from as early as 700 000 years ago. From about 500 AD the area was part of the transhumance pattern of Khoi pastoralists, who followed regular paths with their cattle and burnt clearings in the shoulder-high fynbos to stimulate seasonal grazing, watering the cattle at the streams. In the 17th century Stellenbosch was used by at least two major groups, the Goring-haiqua and the Gorachochqua, who moved from the Malmesbury district to Table Bay, arriving in November, heading for Stellenbosch in January and thence, via Wellington, back to Malmesbury. The broad cattle paths and clearings made by the Khoi were very likely the routes followed and areas first farmed by European settlers, and thus form the underlying foundation of the present settlement pattern. Examples include the old route from Stellenbosch through Idas Valley to Franschoek (the original "Helshoogte" pass, from Helling, indicating its steepness) and the locations of the 17th C land grants and farmsteads on the valley floor.

In the latter half of the 20th century the remaining great historical farm, Ida's Valley, was subdivided and portions sold off, leaving only a small property around the historical werf. The majority of the land was bought by Stellenbosch Municipality, which developed forestry (*Pinus Radiata*) on the slopes and on the east side of Ida's Valley hill built two dams, fed by pipeline from the Eerste River in Jonkershoek. The land adjacent to Ida's Valley village was converted to sports fields, schools and picnic areas for Coloured people. Increasing commercialisation of the winelands emerged as a potential threat to the rural character of the valley, with the development of a hotel at Wedge Farm and the Hydro at High Rustenburg.

At a key juncture, when modernism was beginning to destroy large swathes of the rural landscape and Ida's Valley was threatened by increasing subdivision and the expansion of Stellenbosch town, the landowners had the foresight to lobby for its protection. A large portion of the valley, consisting of 21 farms and small-holdings, was declared a national monument in 1976 – the first time the protection of a whole rural environment had been attempted. It has been carefully managed ever

since, with the active participation and custodianship of the owners.

Like all Cape farms in the 17th to mid-19th century, those in Ida's Valley were developed by slave labour. "The Master of Ida's Valley", presumed to be a skilled slave mason, is theorised to have built the Ida's Valley homestead gables (1789) and also those at Lower Vredenberg 1789, Hazendal 1790, and Zevenrivieren 1790, and perhaps the tuinpoort in Plein Street, Stellenbosch (1783), which is very similar in style. The longhouse at Rustenburg is believed to have been slave quarters. After emancipation it is probable that many of the valley slaves stayed on as farm workers, and that their descendants are still part of the valley population. Further research is recommended to pursue this line of study.

### Development Criteria:

#### HUNTER GATHERERS/HERDERS

- Names of mountain passes (in this case Helshoogte pass) and water courses that reference a traditional use during the time of the hunter-gatherers and herders of the Cape should be celebrated. Public access to these sites should be encouraged.
- Sensitive development that interprets the narrative of historic movement routes. Drover routes, where they are still known and used for a similar use or as public open space, have value and should be retained.
- All archaeological material is protected in terms of the NHRA.

#### PLANTATION

- Rehabilitation of forestry areas should be applied in the same way rehabilitation is conducted in mining operations- from the onset. This includes adaptive reuse strategies for the sawmill structure.
- Forestry service roads are difficult to rehabilitate. Instead these roads are part of the historic layering that tells the story of forestry and could be used for another purpose such as recreation.
- Another method of rehabilitation could entail the production of traditional plant resources, where indigenous knowledge of plants and foraging could be applied.



## D SOCIAL

### Significance:

*The social function of the Jonkershoek Valley is one of its most significant features of this valley. The entire road is from the outset the inhabitants of Ida's Valley have been a close community with strong social ties, closely identified with the valley landscape. Evidence for this includes the frequent marriages between the inhabitants of the valley farms throughout its history (well-documented in the case of owners and managers, and undoubtedly so for farm workers, although documentary evidence for this has not yet been gathered). This sense of identity and social cohesion extends to the community of Idas Valley village, adjacent to the rural area, which is working with the rural landowners to protect the adjacent Municipal land as an open space and recreational resource.*

### Development Criteria:

#### RECREATION

- It is recommended that physical permeability to communal resources such as rivers and mountains is maintained and enhanced, for the enjoyment of all members of the public. This is particularly true when considering any new development proposals. (a) Promote public footpaths across the cultivated landscape. (b) Restore areas of recreation, especially where the public has traditionally enjoyed rights of access. Action might include the removal of fences and walls, where it is appropriate. (c) Prevent privatisation of natural places that form part of the historical public open space resource network. (d) Allow for sustainable, traditional use of natural places for recreational, spiritual and resource-collection purposes.
- Where practical, encourage managed access to wilderness areas on the higher slopes. This will allow resi-

dents and visitors to the winelands opportunities to experience the wilderness domain, which is a key component within the cultural landscape as a whole, and to experience the sense of interconnectedness of the wilderness, agricultural and urban domains through views from the upper slopes. (See the conservation systems of Green Transitions and Foothills Conservation).

- Always use existing roads and pathways, such as old forestry service roads, before any new routes are established. As much wilderness area as possible must be left intact.
- The principle of 'tread lightly' in any activity (and associated development requirements e.g. toilets for major events) in this domain should be emphasised.
- Make sure the required provision for the rehabilitation and maintenance of the slopes used for traditional and recreational purposes is in place.
- Mountain slopes have been used for traditional practices for many years, and care should be taken that any significant cultural sites, such as burials and veldkos/medicinal plant resources, are not disturbed.

## E ECONOMIC

### Significance:

*Overlaid on this are two very important linear networks: of roads, often associated with rows of oak, plane, flowering gum and other exotic trees; and of water – streams and constructed channels – associated particularly (but not exclusively) with poplars and oaks. The water network has been significantly changed by the construction of dams since the mid-20th C; the dams are now an important element of the cultural landscape. The network of windbreaks, which divided the landscape into a checkerboard of "rooms" in the heyday of fruit farming, is still evident in parts, notably Kelsey Farm*

*and High Rustenburg, but much reduced elsewhere in the valley.*

The soils in this Landscape Unit are highly suitable for viticulture.

### Development Criteria:

- Cultural sites associated with 20th century settlement and farming practices should be protected, particularly church and farm school sites that occur at the intersection of farm roads. The displacement of farm employees to nearby townships results in the loss of integrity of their former dwellings.
- Developments that promote the continuity of the core function of agriculture (viticulture) within the Stellenbosch winelands should be promoted.
- Give preference to the reinforcement of existing settlements and settlement patterns rather than extending development outside the urban edge