

Heritage Survey: Stellenbosch Rural Areas

by Penny Pistorius and Stewart Harris - June 2004

Sub Area Name

Jonkershoek

Catalogue Number

02.15b

Property Name

Jonkershoek Plantation, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Alternative Names

Farm Number

352, 352/1

Linkages

Jonkershoek historical property

Heritage Resource Name

Jonkershoek Plantation

Type of Resource

plantation/landscape

Composites

none listed



Photo Date

1938

Photographer

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title

Jonkershoek plantation. 1938 aerial photo with (approximate) current cadastrals



Photo Date

2000

Photographer

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title

Jonkershoek plantation. Forestry extends far to the east of the SAFCOL property boundary, which is roughly at centre. 2000 aerial photo.

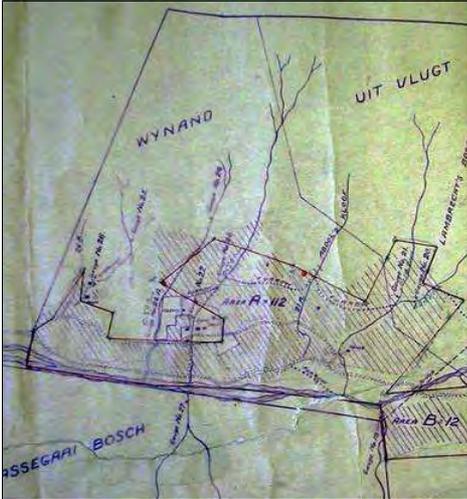


Photo Date *Photographer*

Photo Title

Jonkershoek plantation. Detail of 1933 irrigation map cam3-2843.



Photo Date *Photographer*

08/04

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

Southern Jonkershoek Plantation. SAFCOL-owned property is below the top two (partly cleared) blocks of plantation and right of Verlorekloof, the deep gorge coming down from Haelkop. The Nature Reserve is left and Assegaaibosch right.

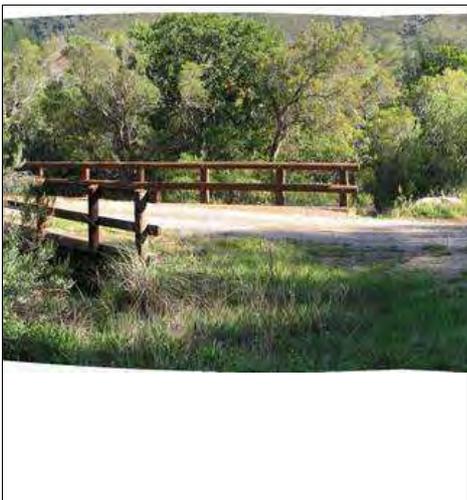


Photo Date *Photographer*

06/05

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

Looking back at the approach to Swartbrug.

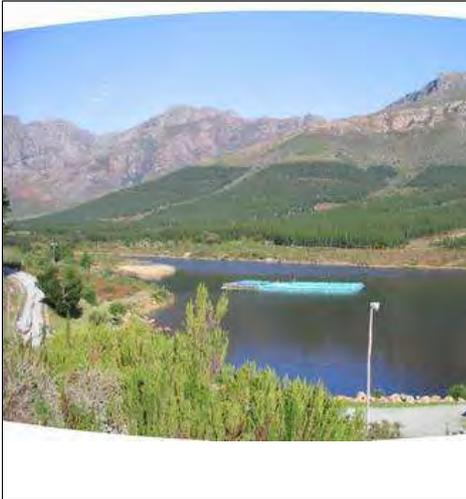


Photo Date ***Photographer***

06/05

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

Kleinplaas Dam, from the northern Circular Drive

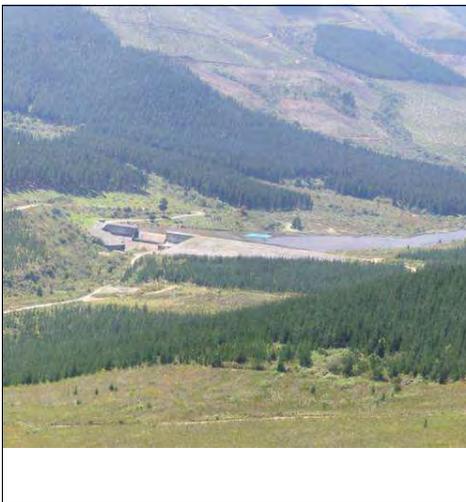


Photo Date ***Photographer***

10/04

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

Kleinplaas Dam, from the slopes of Stellenboschberge to the south west.

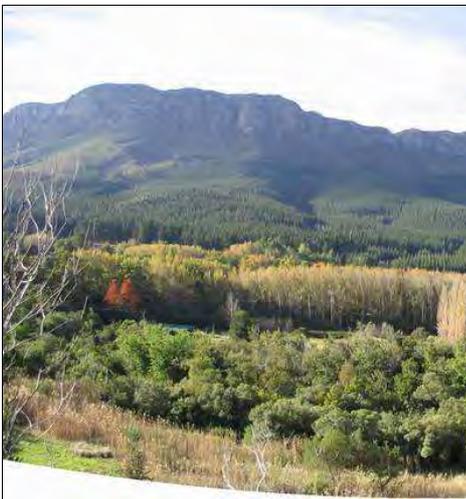


Photo Date ***Photographer***

07/04

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

Western Jonkershoek plantation, from Assegaaibosch (see also next photo), showing the valley of the fan of tributaries above the werf, in the mixed trees roughly at centre, above the poplars. Abdolskloof far right.

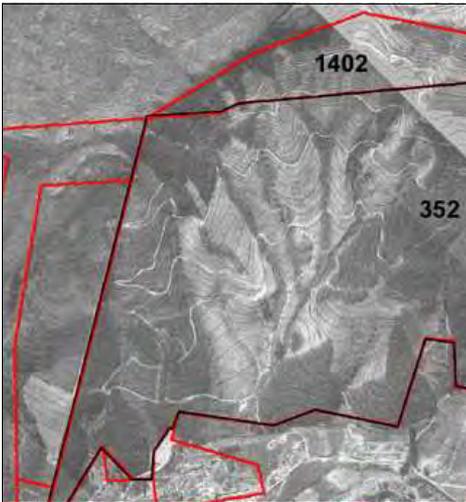


Photo Date **Photographer**
 1980 Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title
 Jonkershoek plantation, 1980 orthophoto with added cadastrals

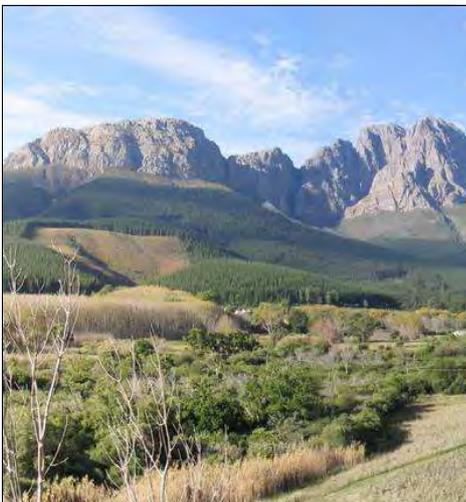


Photo Date **Photographer**
 07/04 Penny Pistorius

Photo Title
 Eastern Jonkershoek plantation, from Assegaaibosch. Abdolskloof is the cleft in the bare hill, left. The eastern property boundary runs down the valley of Heuningkloof from below Disa Gorge on the left side of The Twins peak (centre).



Photo Date **Photographer**
 1938 Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title
 Detail of 1938 aerial photo, with Swartbrug and Kleinplaas.



Photo Date **Photographer**

06/05

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

Swartbrug, looking south.

Description

Visual Description

Jonkershoek plantation is an irregularly-shaped property that spans both sides of the valley and consists of three portions (photo 1). The boundaries between the three properties are imperceptible on the ground and SAFCOL's plantations extend up the valley to the east, beyond the borders of their property.

The large property 352 comprises the upper slopes of the Jonkershoekberge behind (north of) Jonkershoek farm (02.15a), and has a 'tail' to the east which drops down to the Eerste River. West of it is the east portion of Oude Nektar, a prominent ridge, and to the east is Jonkershoek Nature Reserve. North is farm 1402, a triangular land parcel which is not owned by SAFCOL but is also used for forestry. To the south east is farm 352/1 (described below). Above it (south) is farm 1403, also not owned by SAFCOL (to our knowledge) but used for forestry.

The slopes are crumpled by the valleys of several tributaries. One near the west boundary (unnamed) flows down to Jonkershoek West Farm (02.15a/04). Behind Jonkershoek werf is a great fan of tributaries which combine into several unnamed streams that feed the werf (02.15a/01) and trout hatchery (02.15a/02). East of this valley a ridge comes down south westward from Square Tower Peak, descending to a (visually) flat-topped, steep-sided hump which is cleft in two by Abdolskloof, which rises from a spring on top of it (see photos 3, 4). Lambrechtskloof stream and its tributaries flow down the east side of the hump through a valley (marked Lambrecht's Bosch on a 1933 map) below Square Tower Peak. Here Jonkershoek farm extends northward to claim more of the stream, before cutting down to the river. Heuningkloof stream rises in Disa Kloof, a deep cleft west of The Twins, and runs down just inside the eastern boundary.

Most of this northern slope is covered with pine plantations, with 'fingers' of indigenous vegetation along the streams and an upper rim of fynbos below the rocky summit of the mountains. The top and south face of the Abdolskloof hump are also clear of trees, a distinct landmark in the dark green backdrop of pines (photos 3, 4). Forestry roads zigzag across the slopes. One track crosses farm 1402 to the top of the mountain, where there is a lookout point with a timber deck.

Property 352/1 is split into two pieces by a narrow strip of 352/3, presumably a pipe track (352/3 is the western portion of Intake House, see 02.15c). The northern portion of 352/1 spans the Eerste River and includes Kleinplaas Dam (photo 5, 6). The return road of the Jonkershoek Nature Reserve Circular Drive crosses it on the north bank. The outward-bound Circular Drive crosses the Eerste River at Swartbrug, at the southern tip of farm 352 (photos 7, 8), and then crosses 352/3 briefly before entering 352/1 and continuing on the south bank, past Kleinplaas Dam and into the eastern part of Intake House (02.15d). Above the road, the

Notes

352 = 544.247 ha
352/1 = 136.8431
Owner is SAFCOL.

southern portion of 352/1 is a north-facing slope with Verlorekloof stream running diagonally across it from the south east corner. It is covered with pine plantations, which extend above it onto property 1403 and to the east into the Jonkershoek Nature Reserve (property 358, catalogue 02.15e). See photo 9.

History

This land was granted in two pieces to PG Neethling between 1843 and 1858, the western one known as Wynand, and the eastern one called Uitvlugt. The boundary between the two pieces is no longer evident (see photo 10). By the 1930s they were still largely undeveloped mountainside, with a few pathways zigzagging up the slopes to the mountain peaks above (photo 11), some of which have become forestry roads. The road to Swartbrug and beyond followed roughly the same alignment as the present road, except that on the south bank it dipped down to a building (?) in the bend of the river at Kleinplaas -- now under the dam (photo 12). The present bridge is modern, although the crossing is old. The northern part of the Circular Drive did not exist, but there was a footpath from Swartbrug along the north bank and then up the mountain towards the north east. The origins and associations of the names of the mountain kloofs which are not just descriptive is not known (eg Abdolskloof, Lambrechtskloof).

The whole estate was acquired by Stellenbosch Municipality in 1932 which passed it to the Government in 1934 (Deeds Office summary folio). The stated purpose was for a "bird sanctuary, game reserve and cultivation of wild flowers" (CA ACLT 441-17375-1932). The shortage of timber during World War II prompted afforestation of the upper slopes, which are such a feature of the valley today. The development of forest science and forestry practice at Jonkershoek by people such as Prof CL Wicht should be researched further. The extensive monocropping of trees over many decades has most likely obliterated much of the physical evidence of previous layers of land use

Running high above the werf on the slopes of Jonkershoekberg was a water furrow, marked on 1932 map CA M3 2834, parts of which are on SAFCOL land. See 02.15a for more about the furrow.

Historical Notes

Deeds Office search not attempted.

Associated People

See Jonkershoek Historical property

Associated Events

References

1902 Brink Map CA M2-409 shows location of grants
1932 map CA M3 2834
1938 aerial photograph.
1980 orthophoto
2000 aerial photograph.
Hey 1995

Assessment

Significance Statement

The SAFCOL plantations, with the mountain peaks behind them, have been the backdrop to the upper valley since the mid-20th C, and have become a characteristic feature of the cultural landscape. Development of forestry at Jonkershoek, its contribution to the economy, conservation, association with activities of the times and the contribution of pioneers such as Prof CL Wicht require further research. The Kleinplaas Dam is associated with the history of water supply to towns and cities in the Western Cape, and the role that the Eerste River has played in this.

Significance Category

A, C, D, E, F, G, H

A = course / pattern of history	F = creative / technical
B = rarity	G = social / cultural / spiritual
C = information potential	H = assoc. NB person / group
D = characteristic of type	I = slavery
E = aesthetic	

Proposed Grading

3 heritage area (s. 31)

Vulnerabilities

We were informed that forestry in the Western Cape is not competitive and its long-term viability may be in question.

Recommendations

Further research: history of forestry at Jonkershoek; origins and associations of the names of the Kloofs.

NHR Act Status

Date of Gazette

SAHRA File ref.

Official Grading

30 October 2006

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Maps

Number of Ortho Photo

GPS X

Date of Ortho Photo

GPS Y

Aerial Photograph Date

GPS Model

Aerial Photo Number

GPS Setting

Composites (groups of clusters of heritage resources: sub-places and areas)

Property Name

Composite Name

Catalogue Number

Type of Resource

Objects