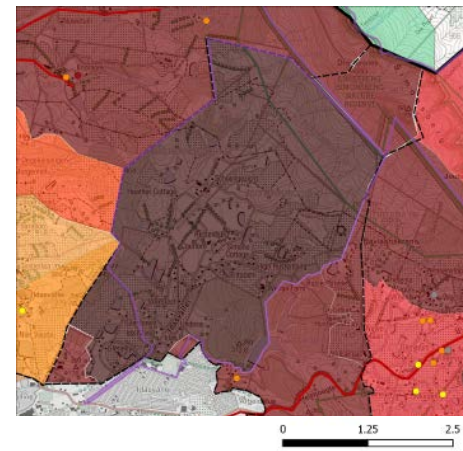
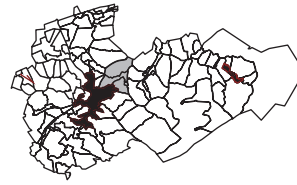
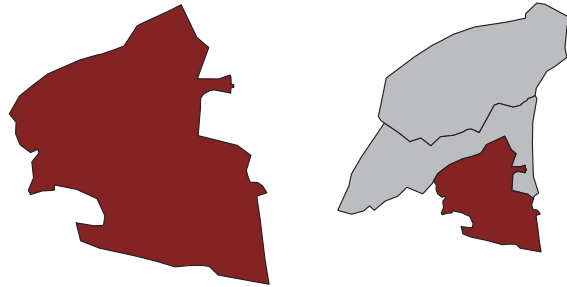


**E03 (*8.25) Grade II
with Grade I component**

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 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 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