

PROGRESS REPORT 04 – April 11 - 17, 2012

**PROPOSED 400KV TABOR-WITKOP
TRANSMISSION LINE, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

For: Stefanutti Stocks Power

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TOWER 205

The shuttering had been completed and the foundations were cast on Friday, April 13. There was no vehicular damage to the graves, but it is recommended to permanently demarcate the area before construction of the tower commences:

- A permanent marker should be erected at the **entrance** to the access road.
- The present **access road** should be delineated and maintained for purposes of construction and future inspection. The graves in the immediate area of the access road and the current parking area should be protected. As a permanent measure, wire fencing materials should be used, however, it has to be maintained and is prone to theft.
- The **tower** and the sensitive area underneath the **power lines** should be demarcated. For the duration of the excavation process, the graves were temporarily indicated with yellow markers. These, however, tend to fall over and are removed from site.
- It would be preferable if the entire **cemetery** area could be demarcated with permanent fencing. There are possibly many more graves. The cluster effect is due to the identification and isolation of these features where preconstruction activities and debushing demanded heavy traffic. The apparent line formed by the graves (in the lower half of the image below) is the result of walking the line towards Tower 206. If the area is to be fenced, access for inspection purposes would be a problem.
- Workers should be made aware that the **area** is sensitive. No vehicular traffic should be allowed on these graves.

TOWER 146

On Monday, April 16, the archaeologist accompanied Messrs P Reitz and L de Jager to Tower 146. The physical and social layout of a Late Iron Age complex was explained to them and the possible finds that might be recovered in the particular area allocated to Tower 146, which could include human remains. The foundations of stonewalling still present were also shown to them. The sensitivity of the archaeological site was once again stressed. The site was examined for other possible localities for the tower, which is problematical due to the size of the stone walled complex and the topography of the site. A feasible solution would be to apply for a destruction permit from SAHRA and to excavate the area where the tower is to be erected. Recommendations to that effect and a quote for the excavation were drafted and sent to Mr P D'Oliveira.

On April 17 Mr L de Jager once again requested the archaeologist's presence at the site. It was decided not to continue with the permit application for excavation but to move the location of two towers, namely 146 and 147. The sites were inspected and it was concurred that neither of the new positions would adversely affect the archaeological sites. It should be noted, however, that Tower 146 is still close to the apparent perimeter of the stone walled complex. Since the entire area would

undoubtedly have been used by the occupants of the site, there is still a large probability that archaeological remains may be present under the surface.

Recommendations

- The present **access road** should be avoided to prevent any further damage to the LIA stone walling.
- It is advised that the archaeologist should indicate the entrance and access to the **towers** and that these should be clearly demarcated prior to excavation or construction activities. The archaeologist should at least be present when the foundations are excavated. Should any archaeological finds be made during the process, work will discontinue until the investigation has been completed.

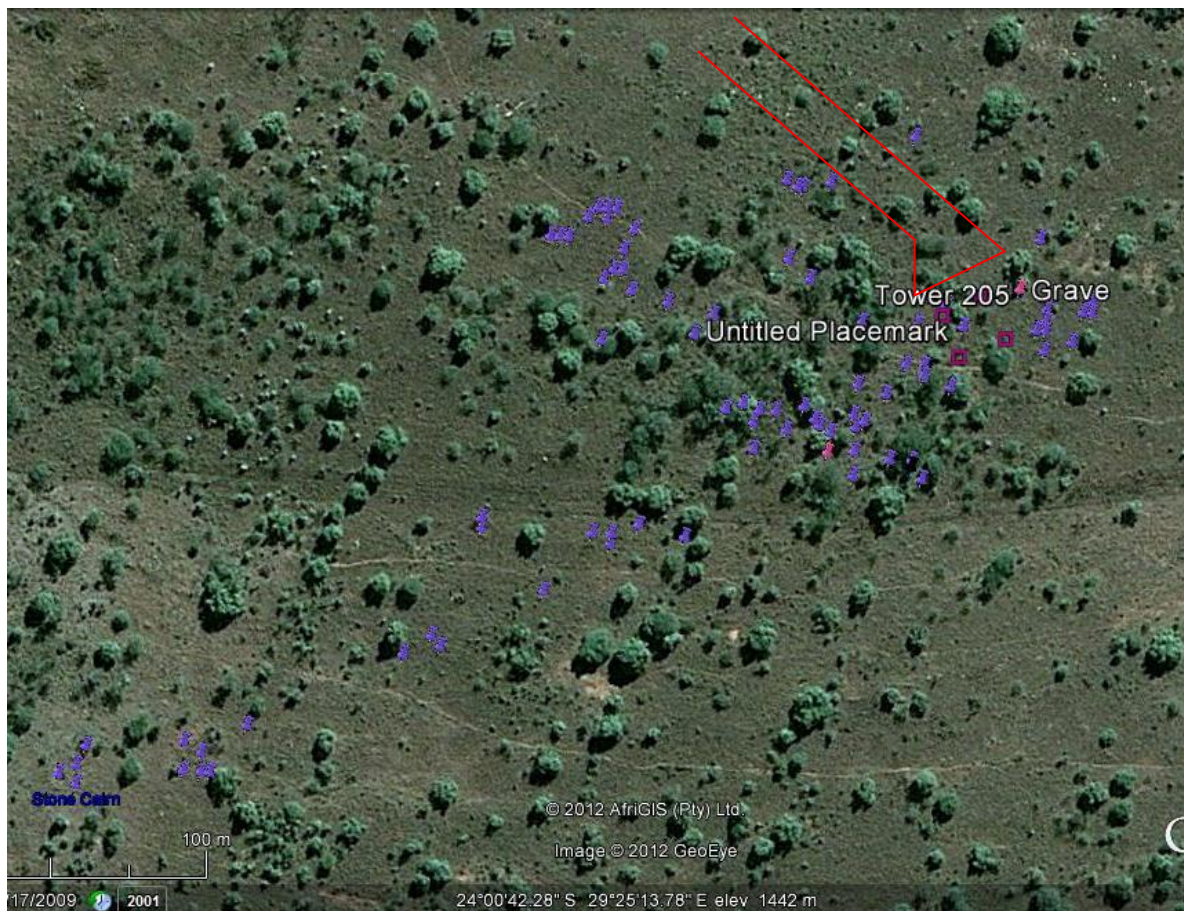


Figure 1. Tower 205. In red, a suggestion for fencing to demarcate the access road and turning area at the tower. A personnel gate, allowing access to the tower, could be installed at the tower. This, however, leaves the rest of the graves exposed.



Figure 2. The new positions for Towers 146 & 147 are indicated with purple crosses. The position of Tower 147 seems to be safe outside the archaeological site, but Tower 146 is still enclosed by ruins and therefore may contain cultural material relating to any of the occupation phases.

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