

**Our Ref:**



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: [nhiggitt@sahra.org.za](mailto:nhiggitt@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 12195

Date: Monday May 21, 2018  
Page No: 1

## **Interim Comment**

**In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

Attention: Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd

P.O. Box 8610  
Johannesburg  
200

**Environmental authorization process for the deviation and refurbishment of the existing 132kV powerline from the Oasis substation to the Taaipit substation, Northern Cape Province. A 200m corridor will be assessed along each of the proposed routes to determine the environmental impacts and significance of these impacts associated with the proposed development.**

GIBB (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Eskom to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application process for the proposed Oasis-Taaipit 132KV Powerline, between Eksteenskuil and Kakamas, Northern Cape Province. A draft Basic Assessment Report (dBAR) has submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA), and the NEMA 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include a powerline deviation from the Oasis substation to the Taaipits substation. Two alternative routes are being considered (1020 m or 700 m). The entire line will be upgraded from wooden pylons to steel monopoles.

Sativa Travel and Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd was appointed to conduct the heritage component of the BAR.

*Mlilo, T. 2017. Proposed Oasis Taaipit 132 Kv Powerline Upgrade including 2 Deviation in Kai !Garib Local Municipality in Northern Cape Province: Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment Report.*

Isolated surface occurrences of Stone Age lithics were identified along the proposed routes. A formal cemetery is located 200 m from one of the alternative routes.

Deviation Alternative 2 is the preferred route from a heritage point of view. Recommendations provided in the report include that a Chance Finds Procedure must be followed, and conditions were provided as part of a Heritage Management Plan (Appendix 1).

In an Interim Comment issued on the 19/02/2018, SAHRA requested that a Palaeontological Desktop Study

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be conducted as the proposed route is located within an area of moderate palaeontological sensitivity. Additionally, SAHRA requested that the HIA must be revised to include a map of the development with the identified heritage resources and the track log of the areas surveyed.

*Durand, J. F. 2018. Palaeontological Desktop Study for the refurbishment of the existing 132kV powerline from the Oasis Substation at Keimoes to the Taaipit Substation at Kakamas, Northern Cape Province.*

The proposed development area is underlain by metamorphic rocks of the Kakamas Terrane of the Namaqua-Natal Province which do not contain fossils. These rocks are overlain by sand and alluvium from the Quaternary age which are known to contain fossils of root casts, burrows, ostrich eggshells, mollusc shells and isolated bones.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Due to the very low probability of fossils occurring in the study area, it is recommended that the project should be exempted from further palaeontological studies;

In the unlikely event that fossils are found in the soil and sand cover, the ECO should follow the steps provided in the Procedure for Chance Palaeontological Finds.

#### Interim Comment

The Desktop Palaeontological Study is accepted by SAHRA, however, the HIA has not been revised as requested in the previously issued comment.

SAHRA will not comment further until receipt of the revised HIA.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

**ESKOM OASIS-TAAIPIT 132KV POWERLINE DEVIATION, KAI !GARIB LOCAL  
MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

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Natasha Higgitt  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine  
Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/488220>  
(DEA, Ref: DEA REF NO: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1866)