

Final Comment

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

Attention: Mrs Vivienne Vorster
Royal Haskoning DHV
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Construction of a 132kV powerline from the new proposed Smitskloof substation to the existing Moidraai substation in the Northern Cape

Kaplan, J. August 2012. *Archaeological Impact Assessment the Proposed Construction of the Eskom Moidraai-Smitskloof 132/22 Kv Powerline and Substation near Prieska Northern Cape Province*

Almond, J. September 2013. *PALAEONTOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: COMBINED DESKTOP & FIELD STUDY: PROPOSED ESKOM MOOIDRAAI – SMITKLOOF 132/22 kV POWERLINE & SUBSTATION TO THE NORTHEAST OF PRIESKA, SIYATHEMBA MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE*

Eskom Distribution Western Region has proposed the construction of a 132/22 Kv overhead power line and substation near Prieska. This Moidraai-Smitskloof line will be approximately 23.5km long and link the existing Moidraai substation to a new Smitskloof substation. Two alternative alignments have been proposed, and three proposed substation location alternatives. The receiving environment is largely agricultural, with some mining activities closer to the Orange River.

The archaeologist conducted background research and a site survey. Background research shows that several well known MSA and LSA sites occur near Prieska, often containing large quantities of archaeological material. Several local AIAs have shown that these sites tend to be clustered around pans.

The archaeologist notes that Alternative 1, which is the longer of the two, follows the existing Smitskloof gravel road and the existing Moidraai servitude, passing through an area disturbed by diamond prospecting. Alternative 2, approximately 19kms, is a more direct route that cuts across several deep, seasonal river valleys and wide stream beds. All artefacts identified during the survey were *ex situ* and no manufacturing or settlement sites, or organic materials were noted; no graves or burial cairns were encountered.

The site survey recorded more than 300 stone tools along Alignment 1, predominantly identified alongside the Moidraai servitude. Most of these were single, isolated occurrences, with a low density scatter encountered approximately 2kms from the substation. A few tools were also identified along the Smitskloof gravel road. Most tools were MSA in age, including retouched and utilized flakes, triangular flakes and pointed flakes, blade tools, as well as flaked chunks and rounded cores; some formal tools, namely convex and side scrapers were

also identified. A few ESA flakes, angular chunks and four hand axes were also found. LSA flakes were identified, but no organic material was found associated. The vast majority of all tools were made on banded ironstone, with some on hornfels and quartzite.

The alignment for Alternative 2 yielded 35 artefacts, consisting of MSA flaked chunks, modified flakes, a core, a partially retouched bifacial point and blade, all on banded ironstone. Further MSA material was identified near the point where the alignment diverges from the Moidraai substation, with two ESA flakes also noted. Some 40 tools were identified at substation location A, most of which were MSA as well as one ESA hand axe and some LSA stone artefacts. The location for substation B contained a single broken flake and ironstone chunk, the area having been disturbed by agricultural activities.

All the identified archaeological material was lacking in context and has therefore been assigned as having low heritage significance. As such, the proposed development is unlikely to impact on significant archaeological resources.

According to the submitted PIA, the study area is underlain by glacial rocks of the Dwyka Group. These bedrocks are generally highly weathered and at most, sparsely fossiliferous. The Dwyka bedrocks are truncated by a gently sloping pediment surface. This surface is overlain by a gravelly hardpan. Solution hollows in this hardpan could have acted as traps for faunal remains. Overall, it was determined that the area proposed for development has a low palaeontological sensitivity and as such, it is unlikely that the proposed development will impact on significant palaeontological material.

Final Comment

Based on the submitted information, SAHRA has no objection to the proposed development on condition that;

- Route Alternative 1 is preferred
- Should any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, **stone artefacts**, **ostrich eggshell fragments**, marine shell and charcoal/ash concentrations), unmarked human burials, **fossils** or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed activities, SAHRA APM Unit (Jenna Lavin/Colette Scheermeyer 021 462 4502) must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary.

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

Yours faithfully



Jenna Lavin
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/104621>
Edit view (DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/851)

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.

