



## Interim Comment

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

Attention: Mrs Vivienne Vorster  
Royal HaskoningDHV  
Fountain Square  
78 Kalkoen Street  
Monument Park Ext. 2  
Pretoria  
0181

### 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*

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 ax 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.

### Case Decision:

SAHRA supports the recommendations of the author and requests that:

- Alternative 1 be considered as the preferable route.
- A professional Palaeontological assessment is undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon palaeontological resources. If this is deemed unnecessary, a letter of recommendation for exemption from a professional Palaeontologist is needed. If the area is deemed sensitive, a full Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be required and if necessary a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary (see [www.palaeontologicalsociety.co.za](http://www.palaeontologicalsociety.co.za) for a list of professional Palaeontologists).

Final comment will be provided on the heritage resources of this project once the Palaeontological assessment is received.

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

Yours faithfully

Kathryn Smuts  
Heritage Officer: Archaeology  
South African Heritage Resources Agency



# Eskom Smitskloof to Moidraai 132kV powerline and substation

Our Ref: 9/2/075/0001

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Date: Friday February 01, 2013

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Colette Scheermeyer  
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South African Heritage Resources Agency

## ADMIN:

(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.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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