

PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE BLUEDOWNS-FIRGROVE 132Kv POWERLINE

Prepared for

ESCOM

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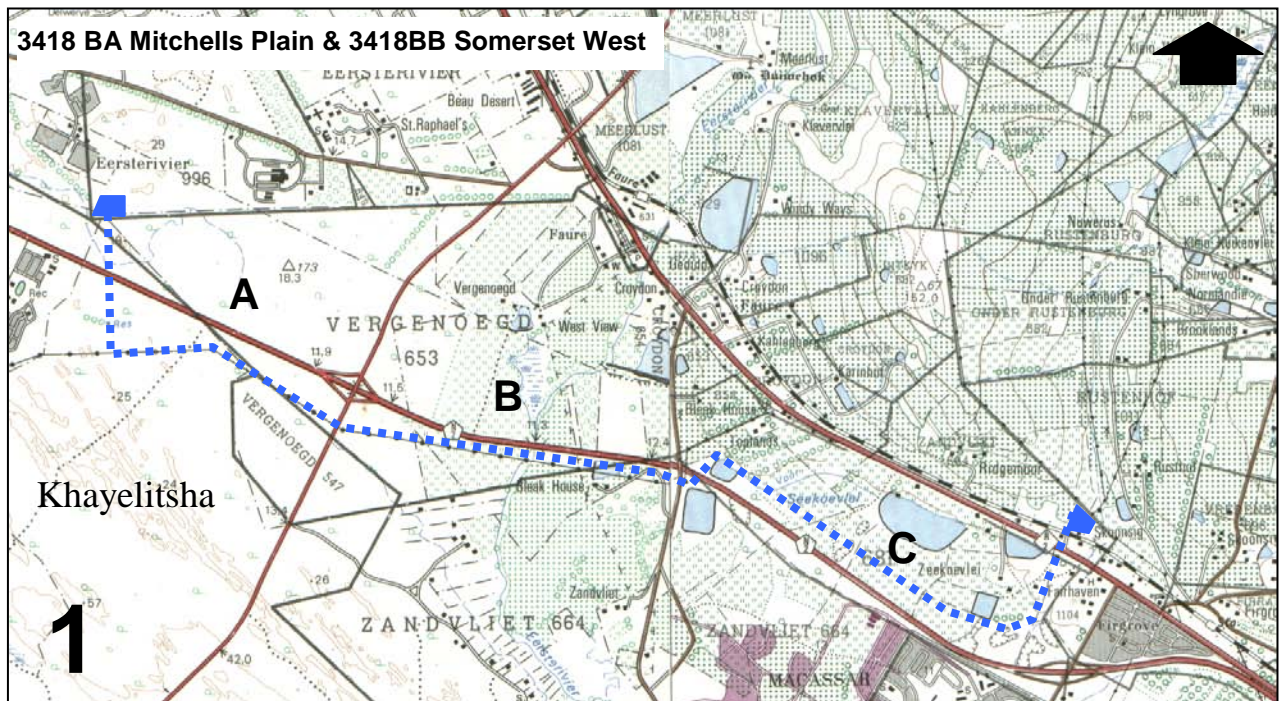
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1. INTRODUCTION

The Archaeology Contracts Office of the University of Cape Town was asked to undertake a Phase 1 archaeological study of a proposed 132kV powerline running along the N2 between Khayelitsha (Blue Downs sub-station) and Somerset West (Firgrove sub-station). An existing 66kV powerline is already in existence along most of the route and the new line would impact an area of approximately 31 meters adjacent (north) to the existing line. The location of the powerline is shown in Figure 1.



2. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROPOSED ROUTE

The route on Figure 1 has been divided into three zones A,B,C for discussion. Zone A lies largely in wetland, while the section on the northern side of the N2 is through disturbed dunes. Zone B lies partially on wetland (adjacent to Boys Town) and to the west, on old agricultural land. Zone C lies entirely on old agricultural land. No unmodified sections of land were observed in zones B or C, while the wetlands of zone A appear natural.

3. RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

3.1 Stone Age material

As expected, some of the old agricultural lands contained dispersed Early Stone Age (ESA) artefacts. Flakes, cores and a single cleaver were observed all of which were made on quartzite. These were noticed particularly in areas where ploughing has been recently undertaken in the western part of Zone C.

3.2 Historic material

Two labourers cottages appear to lie in, or very close to the impact zone of the powerline. By virtue of their estimated ages (older than 60 years) they would be protected by the South African Heritage Resources Act of 1999.

One of these is a semi-detached cottage (numbers 67/68) located immediately south of the Firgrove sub-station between the R102 and the railway line.

The other cottage lies at the eastern corner of portion 48 of the remainder of Zandvliet No. 664 (Boys Town).

Several other cottages lie in the vicinity of the route. Most of these are of more recent construction. One cluster of cottages earmarked for demolition is located on the northern side of the N2 where the powerline crosses the highway to the west of the Engen one stop. Cement blocks are used in the construction of these houses and they believed therefore to be fairly recent in age.

4. MITIGATION

No mitigation is required for the ESA material.

The two cottages mentioned above are estimated to be older than 60 years. Permission will have to be sought from the South African Heritage Resources Authority (SAHRA) if they are to be demolished.