

**CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES SURVEY FOR
THE PROPOSED DUVHA LESEDING POWER LINE
FOR ESKOM**



AFRICAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC

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DR. UDO S KÜSEL

Tel/fax: (012) 567 6046

Cell: 082 498 0673

E-mail: udo.heritage@absamail.co.za

P.O. Box 652
Magalieskruin
0150

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1. DEFINITION

The broad generic term *Cultural Heritage Resources* refers to any physical and spiritual property associated with past and present human use or occupation of the environment, cultural activities and history. The term includes sites, structures, places, natural features and material of palaeontological, archaeological, historical, aesthetic, scientific, architectural, religious, symbolic or traditional importance to specific individuals or groups, traditional systems of cultural practice, belief or social interaction.

2. PROTECTED SITES IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT, ACT NO. 25 OF 1999

The following are the most important sites and objects protected by the National Heritage Act:

- 2.1 Structures or parts of structures older than 60 years.
- 2.2 Archaeological sites and objects.
- 2.3 Palaeontological sites.
- 2.4 Meteorites.
- 2.5 Ship wrecks.
- 2.6 Burial grounds.
- 2.7 Graves of victims of conflict.
- 2.8 Public monuments and memorials.
- 2.9 Structures, places and objects protected through the publication of notices in the Gazette and Provincial Gazette.
- 2.10 Any other places or object, which are considered to be of interest or of historical or cultural significance.
- 2.11 Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance.
- 2.12 Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.
- 2.13 Objects to which oral traditions are attached.
- 2.14 Sites of cultural significance or other value to a community or pattern of South African history.

3. METHODOLOGY

The proposed pylon positions for the new power line were inspected on foot and by vehicle. This was done together with staff members of Eskom and EIMS, as well as Wits. Special attention was given to possible sensitive areas. What must be taken into account is that many archaeological sites are not visible from the

surface and are only found during construction. The very dense vegetation in some areas also makes the finding of archaeological sites very difficult.

4. UNIQUENESS OF CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES

Cultural heritage resources are a none renewable source. Once they have been damaged or destroyed their scientific information is lost forever. For this reason they are more venerable than red data species. Great care should be taken to preserve them. If mitigation has to take place the right procedures must be followed in accordance with the National Heritage Resources Act No. 25 of 1999.

5. PREVIOUS HERITAGE SURVEY

A scoping survey for possible alternative routes for the Duvha to Janus Transmission lines was undertaken in December 2002 by Dr J van Schalkwyk of the National Cultural History Museum. This report was only a scoping report, which emphasized sites to be avoided like archaeological sites, specifically Mosego. This scoping exercise was never followed up by an EIA or full heritage impact assessment of the proposed alternatives before the final design of the transmission line commenced.

Dr Udo Küsel of African Heritage Consultants CC was appointed in 2004 to compile a heritage management plan for the Tjate Valley by the Department of Arts and Culture of the Limpopo Province (see attached report). The management plan highlighted all the historic and archaeological sites of the valley and recommended that the whole valley be declared a Heritage Site. This process is now in its final stage and the valley will be proclaimed a Provincial Heritage Site most probably at the beginning of February 2007.

6. RESULTS OF SURVEY

6.1 Tjate Valley

The Tjate Valley lies on the farms Dsjate 249 KT and Hackney 116 KT. The proposed new power line will cross this valley from the south to the north between the Swale and Mosego mountains. The Tjate Valley is the most important heritage valley in Sekhukhune land. There are very few places in South Africa where one will find so many important archaeological and historical sites in one valley.

The following important sites occur in the valley:

- **Mosego** – King Sekwati lived here on the fortified mountain. His grave is on top of the mountain. The commoners lived at the foot of the mountain (see photograph 1 & 2).

- **Tjate** – This was the royal palace of Sekhukhune. The site is today partially covered by the modern settlement of Djate (see photograph 3).
- **Ntswaneng also known as fighting koppie.** Most of the fighting between the Pedi and British forces took place here. The monument in honour of Sekhukhune is situated on the western side of the koppie (see photograph 4). The mass grave of the British soldiers who died on the 23 December 1839 was later moved to the western foot of the koppie (see photograph 5).
- **Mpotswane** – This is a rocky outcrop in the valley where the fallen British soldiers were originally buried. Mpotswane in Northern Sotho means the bad smelling place (see photograph 6).
- **Berlin Mission Station 1.** The mission station of the Berlin Mission Society lies in the southern part of the valley. Alexander Merensky lived here. His son Hans later became South Africa's most well-known geologist and discoverer of the Bushveld Ingenious Complex with its rich platinum, chrome and other minerals, as well as the Alexandria diamond fields (see photograph 7).
- **Berlin Mission Station 2.** After the surrender of Sekhukhune Rev. A.J. Winter built a new mission station nearer Mosego as well as a school. The remains of this mission station are found in the grounds of the Tjate Primary School. Winter adopted the Pedi way of live. He became the first missionary to promote a more African orientated Christian church. He was expelled from the Berlin Mission Society and established the Ba Pedi Lutheran Church, which is still active in Sekhukhune (see photograph 8).
- **Modimolle** - This is a secrete mountain just east of Mosego. The mountain is said to speak if some one tries to clime it.
- **Venters house.** The ruins of Venters house lies on the eastern foothills of the Loole Mountain. Venter lived among the Pedi and was well known for his knowledge of their culture and habits (see photograph 9).
- **Other Archaeological Sites.** Archaeological sites occur throughout the valley. Most of them are Late Iron Age sites. One of the largest ones lies at the eastern foot of the Loole Mountain. Another lies in the small valley between Modimolle and Tjate Mountain (see map 1).
- **Battlefield.** The battle between the Pedi forces and the British took place on the 23 December 1879. The British forces attacked from the western side of the valley. Some 8000 Swazi soldiers attacked at the same time from the east, coming down Tjate Mountain. With the Pedi soldiers trapped between the British and Swazi forces a terrible carnage took place. By 9.30 the Tjate settlement was in flames. Sekhukhune was later captured and taken as prisoner to Pretoria (see map 1 and photograph 10).

6.2 Other possible heritage sites

Many archaeological sites are under ground and not visible from the surface. Vegetation on the route inspected especially in the bushveld areas was so dense that it was difficult to survey the route. If during construction, graves, stonewalls or pottery is found the construction work has to be stopped till the site has been investigated and mitigated by an archaeologist if necessary.

7. DISCUSSION

When the first scoping report by Dr. J van Schalkwyk was done very little was known of the importance of the Tjate Valley. It was only after Dr. Küsel's research for the Limpopo Province that the importance of the valley was realized. It also seems that except for the scoping exercise no EIA or HIA for the proposed power line was done.

The proposed power line route as indicated on map 1 route **A** will divide the valley in two and will have a very negative visual impact on the valley. At present the historic valley is unspoiled by modern development. Any modern development like power lines, mines etc. will spoil the ambiance of the valley. In this regard compare photograph 11.12, & 13).

As also mentioned the whole valley will soon be declared a Provincial Heritage Site. This declaration will in future puts strict control on development in the valley and thus will also effect the construction of the new power line.

8. CONCLUSION

The Tjate Valley is one of the most important heritage valleys in the northern part of South Africa. As such its heritage resources should be protected and made accessible to the people. The valley will soon be declared a Provincial Heritage site, which will give it the necessary protection against development and exploitation. For this reason the proposed new Eskom Transmission line should avoid the valley, as it will have a very negative visual impact on the valley. Alternative routes for the proposed transmission line should be investigated.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- Alternative routes for the transmission line to the west of the Tjate Valley be investigated at indicated on map 1. Of these alternative **C** will have the least impact on the Tjate Valley. Alternative **B** will have a visual impact on the northwestern corner of the proposed Tjate Heritage Site, but might be approved by the South African Heritage Agency (SAHRA) and the Limpopo Heritage Authority (LIHRA).

- If during construction any archaeological material is found the work has to be stopped till an archaeologist has inspected the site the site and if necessary mitigation has taken place.
- An urgent meeting to be held between Eskom and the two heritage organisations SAHRA and LIHRA.

10. REFERENCES

- J. van Schalkwyk, (National Cultural History Museum) Escom Transmission line – Duhve (Witbank) to Janus (Macklenburg: Cultural Heritage Scoping Report 2003
- U.S. Küsel, Tjate Heritage Management Plan 2004. (Copy attached)

PHOTOGRAPHS



No 1. Mosego as seen from the north. The Royalty lived on top of the mountain and the commoners at the foot



No. 2. The grave of King Sekwati on top of Mosego



No 3. The historic site of Tjate with people living on top of the site. In the middle on the left hand is Ntswanenge and on the horizon Mosego and Modimole



No 4. Monument of Sekhukhune



No 5. Memorial stone with names of the British soldiers who died in the battle



No 6. Mpotswane where the fallen British soldiers were originally buried



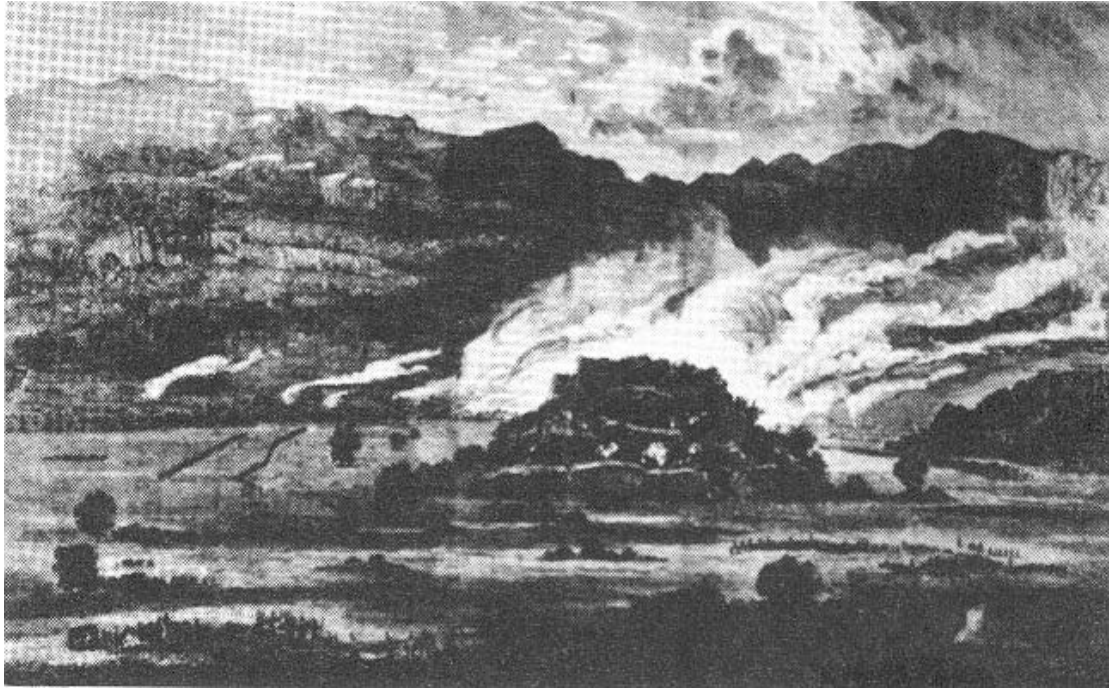
No 7. Remains of the first Berlin Mission Station



No 8. Remains of the church at the second mission station in the premises of Tjate Primary School



No 9.. Ruin of he house where Mr Venter lived



No 10. 'A general view of the attack at 10 a.m. on 23 December 1879.' The Graphic 1880. The small hill in the middle of the illustration is Ntswaneng



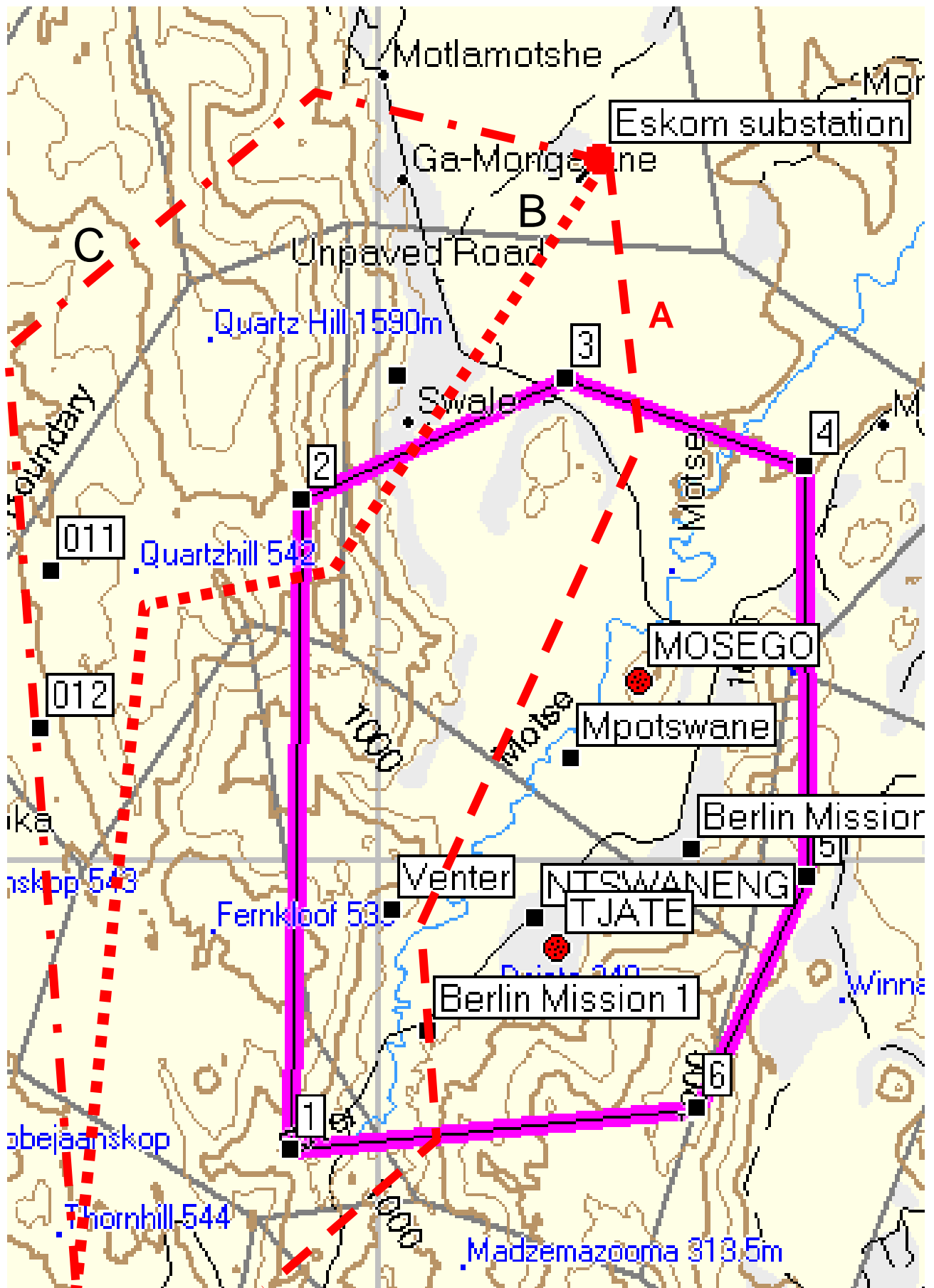
No 11. View from Mosego to the South



No 12. View over the Tjate Valley from the south with Mosego on the left and Modimolle on the right. In the foreground in front of Modimolle, Ntswaneng is visible



No 13. View of the Tjate Valley towards the west where the proposed power line would have cross the valley



MAP 1

