

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF THE PROPOSED TRAJECTORY OF THE K105 ROAD

Method

The newly proposed trajectory of Road K105, between the N1 Highway in the north and Eskom's transmission lines on the farms Olifantsfontein (418JR) and Doornkloof (391JR) in the south, was surveyed during August 1999 for any archaeological or historical sites which would warrant protection from the intended road building activities. The survey was conducted using a vehicle and, here and there along the proposed trajectory itself, on foot.

The study area

The K105 Road will be developed in the south-eastern corner of Centurion. It will be built mainly on the farm Doornkloof (391JR) (2528CC Verwoerdburg; 1:50 000 topographical map). The road will pass along a corridor with a railway line and road to the west and a series of low hills to the east. The southern half of this trajectory is also marked by the Olifantspruit which, after merging with the Sesmyspruit near the Twin Rivers residential estate, flows in an easterly direction through the range of hills near the Jan Smuts House museum.

The Jan Smuts House Museum is a national historical monument and part of its premises will be affected by Road K105. However, this national treasure and the possible impact of Road K105 on it, are not the subject of this study.

Archaeological potential

The proposed trajectory for Road K105 is divided into different parts in order to simplify the description and evaluation of any archaeological or historical remains observed along the road's trajectory. Following the rough map compiled from the 1:50 000 topographical map (2528CC Verwoerdburg) the trajectory of Road K105 can be divided as follows:

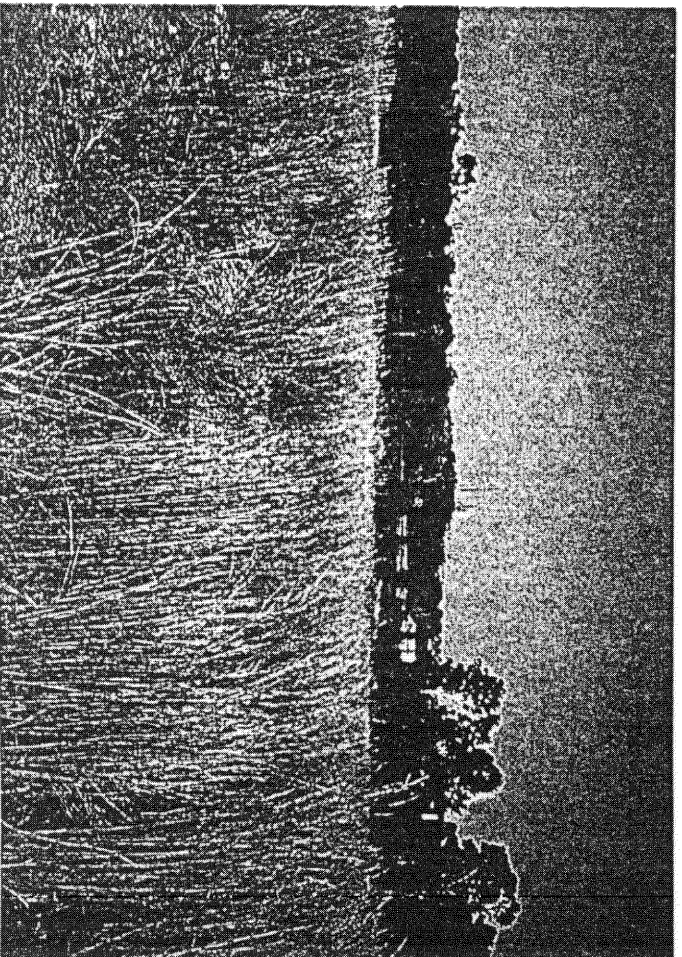
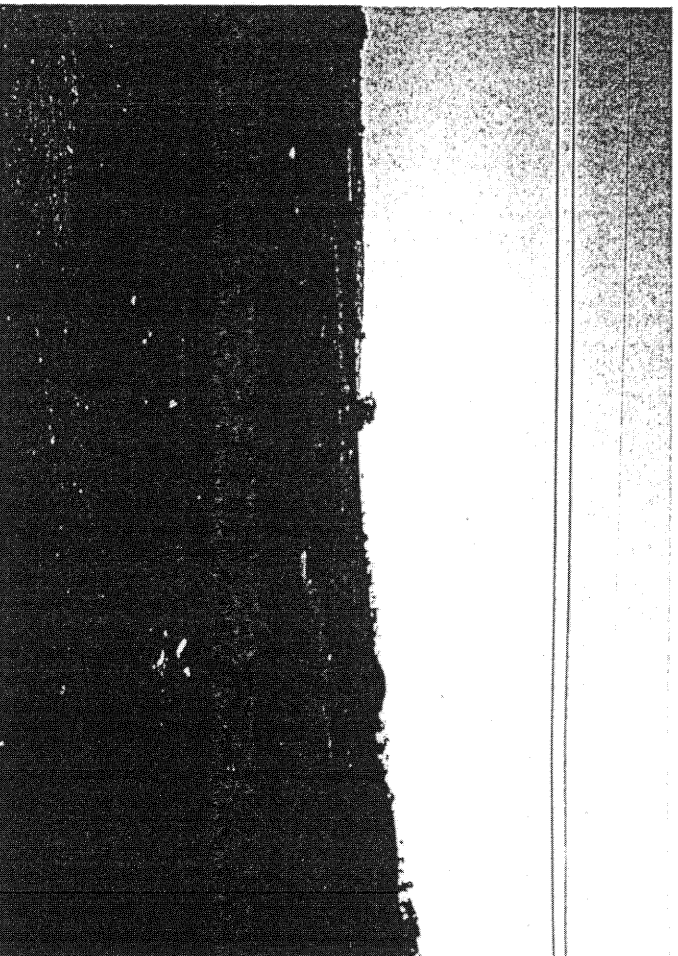
From Irene suburb (the N1 Highway) to the road leading to Babsfontein

This part of the trajectory of Road K105 is partly untouched by development. Dirt roads, however, do occur in this part of the trajectory of Road K105.

The presence of a cemetery in this part of the trajectory of Road K105 is indicated on the 1: 50 000 topographical map. This cemetery is located directly adjacent to the railroad line to the west of Road K105's trajectory. The building of the road should have no impact on this feature.

No other significant archaeological or historical remains were observed in this part of the proposed trajectory of Road K105.

Part of Road K105 between the N1 highway and the Babsfontein road where no archaeological remains were observed.

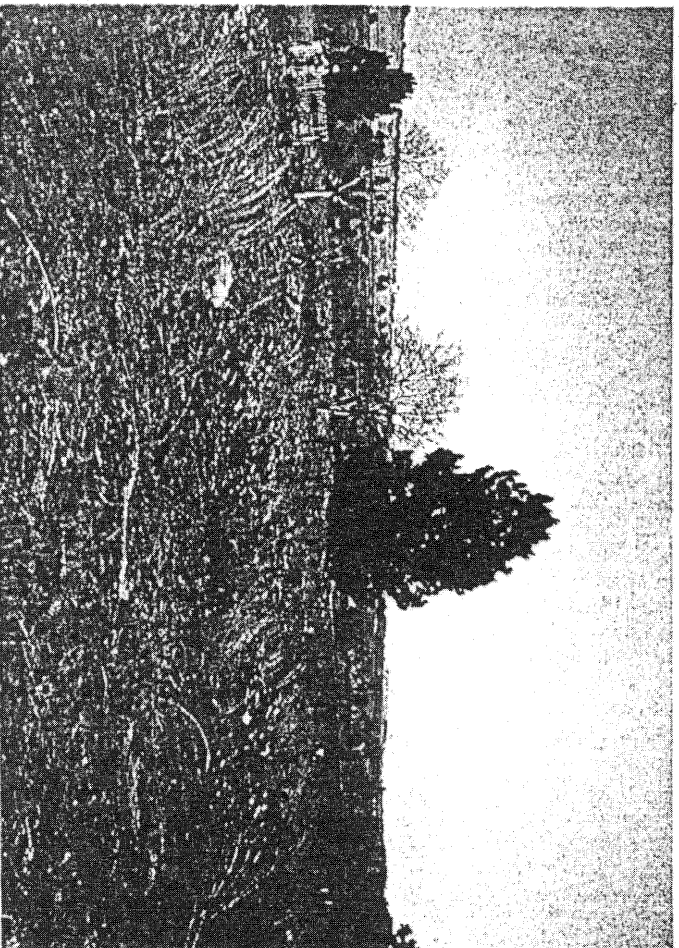
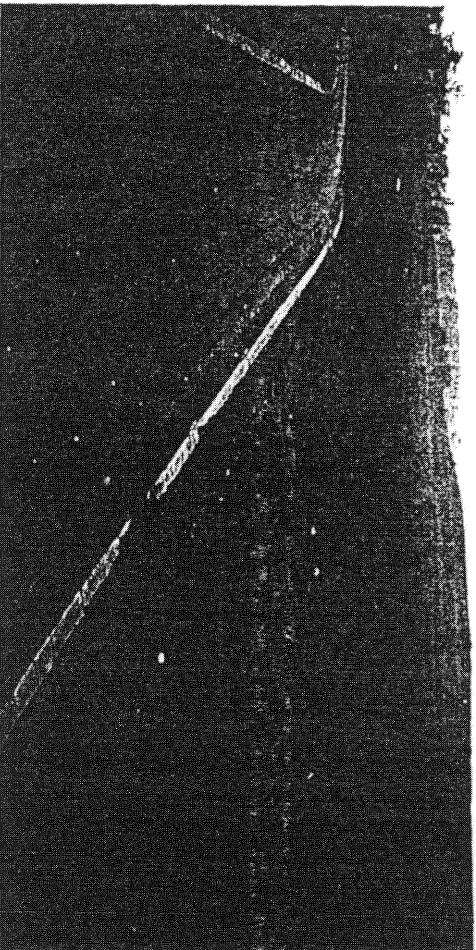


Part of Road K105's trajectory to the east of the Babsfontein road is devoid of vegetation (except grass) and archaeological remains. Further to the south the road passes through three plantations.

The trajectory of Road K105 is divided into parts on a working map compiled from the 1:50 000 topographical map (2528CC Verwoerdburg) in order to illuminate the description of the Phase I survey (see below).



Part of Road K105's trajectory passes between the Jan Smuts House Museum and the Twin River residential estate.



The second graveyard located north of the Salberg Concrete Works .
This cemetery is located on the shoulder of the projected Road
K105 and may be affected by the road. .

From the Babsfontein road to the Twin River residential estate

This part of the trajectory of Road K105 can be divided into two parts on the basis of the natural landscape and the presence or absence of vegetation on this part of Road K105's trajectory, as follows:

- the first part, which slopes towards the south and which lies in a corridor between a suburb (to the east) and a built-up area (to the west). This part of the trajectory is devoid of any vegetation and archaeological or historical remains.

- the second part, which stretches through a relatively flat area covered by a tree plantation.

No significant archaeological or historical remains were observed in either of these two parts of the proposed trajectory of Road K105.

From the Twin River residential estate to Eskom's transmission lines south of a prominent kopje on the farm Doornkloof

This part of the proposed trajectory of Road K105 can be divided into three parts, namely:

- the first part, which stretches from the Jan Smuts House Museum along the eastern and south-eastern border of the Twin River residential estate. This part of the trajectory passes through a plantation (second) of trees and then over a relatively flat area devoid of any vegetation and again through another (third) plantation of trees.

- the second part, which stretches from the third plantation of trees over an area with no vegetation but with a prominent graveyard. The graveyard is indicated as "grave" on the 1: 50 000 topographical map. The graveyard is located approximately 300 metres to the north of the Salberg Concrete Works.

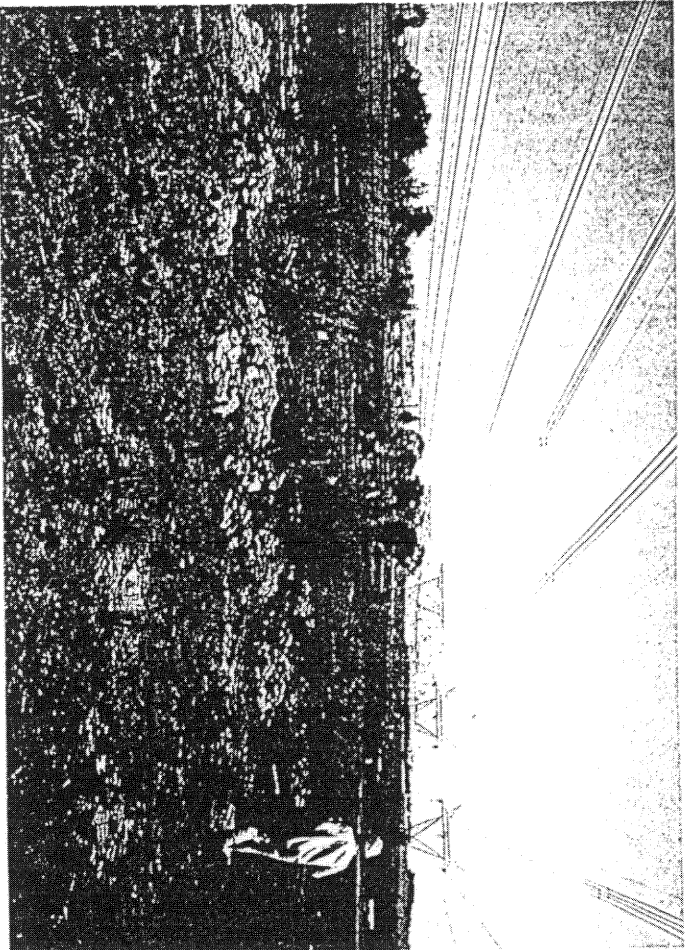
- the third part, which stretches from a quarry (on the Salberg Concrete Works' eastern border) southwards to Eskom's transmission lines which run from east to west over the farms Doornkloof and Olifantspruit. The ruin of a house can be seen near the quarry.

In the third part of Road K105's trajectory, there is at least one graveyard. The graveyard contains a large number of graves. Local black people are still buried here.

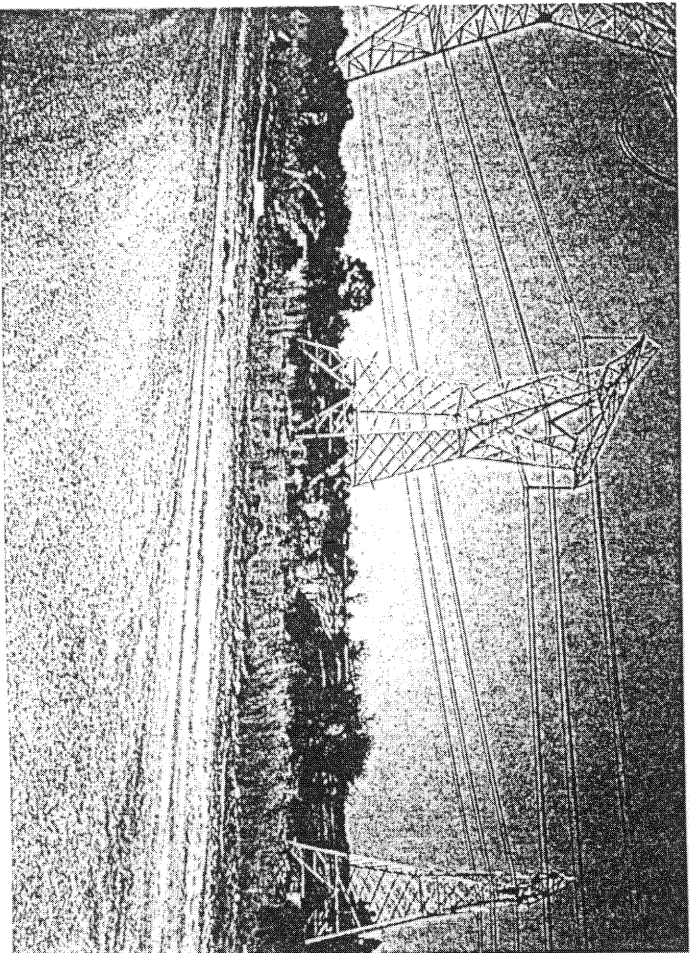
A second graveyard was observed directly under Eskom's transmission lines, but to the south-west of Road K105's trajectory. This area is also marked by a number of ruins of buildings.

According to a spokesperson working at the Salberg Concrete Works, a third graveyard, which I did not visit, is located further to the east, more or less in a straight line with an extension of Road K105 in this direction.

(It is not clear from the 1: 50 000 topographical map provided to me if Road K105 continues further south of Eskom's transmission lines [see my working map]. Consequently, I did not surveyed this area).



The second graveyard is located underneath Eskom's transmission lines to the south of Road K105's trajectory (above). This graveyard and the ruins associated with it (below) will not be affected by the construction of Road K105 itself.



CONCLUSION

Road K105's proposed trajectory is located in the south-eastern part (or corner) of Centurion. The trajectory has a northern part (roughly from the Twin River residential estate) which has been more affected by human intrusion in the past than the southern part. The southern part seems to have been occupied by earlier inhabitants who probably utilized the Olifantspruit. Houses and what seems like industrial features were built close to the river, particularly in the area where Eskom's transmission lines were later built.

Road K105's trajectory will have no impact on the "cemetery" indicated on the 1: 50 000 topographical map as located directly to the east of the railway line near the suburb of Irene.

However, Road K105's trajectory will have an effect on the graveyard north of the Salberg Concrete Works. This graveyard is still used by local black people and is therefore growing at an alarming rate. The graveyard could perhaps be accommodated and even developed, further adjacent to and to the west of Road K105, instead of attempting to relocate it. (It seems that this graveyard is located on Samancor's premises).

The ruin observed near the quarry on Road K105's trajectory seems to have little archaeological or historical significance.

It seems that the third graveyard, located underneath Eskom's transmission lines, would not be affected by Road K105's trajectory. It also seems that this graveyard is associated with the ruins directly adjacent to the Olifantspruit and that the graveyard is not used any longer.

A fourth graveyard, which has been pointed out by a spokesperson and was not observed by me personally, is located further to the east of Eskom's transmission lines. An extension of the lines in this direction therefore may have an affect on such a feature.



Dr Julius CC Pistorius

THE PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY DONE DURING AUGUST 1999

During a Phase I archaeological survey conducted during August 1999, cultural resources and 'sensitive remains' were observed along the proposed trajectory of Road K105. The trajectory of Road K105 was subjected to a second investigation during April 2000 by the archaeologist (J.C.C. Pistorius) accompanied by the engineer (B. Marais) and the town planner (S. van Jaarsveld). This report describes the observations made during these two investigations and comments on any possible impact on these remains if the road is built.

The term 'sensitive remains' as used here refers to contemporary graveyards or to graveyards from the relatively recent past. These features do not necessarily qualify as cultural resources, but are emotionally (and ideologically) sensitive features warranting special treatment when they are endangered by development activities.

The following cultural resources and sensitive remains were observed on the relevant topographical map and during the Phase I surveys:

Graveyard 001

Graveyard 001 is indicated as a 'cemetery' on the 1: 50 000 topographical map of Verwoerdburg 2528CC. This graveyard is located directly adjacent to (and east of) the railway line and to the west of the proposed trajectory of Road K105.

Comment

The building of Road K105 should have no impact on this graveyard.

Graveyard 002

Graveyard 002 is indicated as a 'grave' on the 1: 50 000 topographical map of Verwoerdburg 2528CC. This graveyard is situated approximately 300m to the north of Salberg Concrete Works.

Comment

The engineer, Mr Marais, has established beyond any doubt that neither the shoulder nor any other part of Road K105 will have any impact on this graveyard.

Graveyard 003

A third graveyard was observed directly under Eskom's transmission lines, to the south-west of the proposed trajectory of Road K105. This area also features a number of ruins of buildings.

Comment

This graveyard will definitely not be affected by the trajectory of Road K105.

Graveyard 004

A spokesperson referred to the existence a fourth graveyard in the study area during the initial survey done in August 1999. This graveyard was not visited at the time, but was the focus of the second survey done in April 2000.

THE PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY DONE DURING APRIL 2000

During a Phase I survey done in April 2000, the exact geographical location of Graveyard 004 was determined. The presence of some ruins in the proposed trajectory of Road K105 was also discovered.

Graveyard 004

This graveyard is located on the farm Olifantfontein 410JR (Part 113). The graveyard was used by black people and contains fifteen graves or possibly more. The site is situated to the south of Eskom's powerlines and a considerable distance to the east of the proposed trajectory of Road K105.

Comment

This graveyard will definitely not be affected by the construction of Road K105, because it is located a considerable distance north of Road K105.

The ruins of dwellings

The ruins of several dwellings, probably the ruins of a small village once occupied by two or more black families, were discovered on the proposed trajectory of Road K105 on the farm Olifantsfontein 410JR. The ruins are situated roughly at the 31 km bearing of Road K105.

Spokesperson Mr William Mobeng (employed by Salberg Concrete Works and born in 1952) told the investigators that the ruins are those of dwellings occupied by black families when he was approximately ten years old. He did not know the surnames of the families who once lived in these dwellings.

Comment

It is possible that these ruins date back to the early 1960's. It is not clear how long they were occupied before 1960. If these ruins are older than sixty years a permit has to be obtained from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) before these ruins may be affected (or destroyed) by the road construction activities.

According to the archaeologist's observations, which were hampered by dense vegetation due to the exceptionally high rainfall during the early part of 2000, the ruins cannot be described as being of outstanding historical significance. The ruins and graveyards, together with other ruins located along the Olifantspruit, indicate that a small, scattered black population lived in this area some forty to sixty years ago. These people were probably attracted to the area by some form of economic activity.

SUMMARY

The Phase I survey has indicated that the graveyards located near the proposed trajectory of Road K105 will not be affected by the construction of the road.

Ruins of houses at least forty years old will, however, be destroyed when Road K105 is built. It is possible that these remains, in terms of their initial construction and occupation, may be as old as sixty years. Structures older than sixty years can only be destroyed after a permit has been issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). It is highly unlikely that these remains, when considered in isolation, have any great cultural historical significance. The larger geographical context of the ruins and graveyards (which are close to Jan

Smuts house) may perhaps have some significance with regard to South African lifestyles during the middle of the 20th century.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julius CC Pistorius'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long horizontal stroke.

Dr Julius CC Pistorius