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# Heritage Impact Assessment

PREPARED BY:
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Naledzi Environmental Consultants





August 2006

### **Credit Sheet**

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**Disclaimer**; Although all possible care is taken to identify all sites of cultural importance during the investigation of study areas, it is always possible that hidden or sub-surface sites could be overlooked during the study. AINP and its personnel will not be held liable for such oversights or for costs incurred as a result of such oversights.

SIGNED OF BY: Stephan Gaigher

### **Management** Summary

Site name and location: Proposed power line near Grootpan, Ogies in the Mpumalanga Province.

Magisterial district: Witbank District Municipality

Developer: ESKOM SA Ltd

Consultant: AINP, PO Box 7296, Thohoyandou, 0950, South Africa

Date development was mooted: June, 2006

Date of Report: 1 August, 2006

Proposed date of commencement of development: September, 2006

**Findings:** Provided the recommendations outlined in this report are followed the development of the power line can continue from a heritage management position.

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# **Project Resources**

# Heritage Impact Assessment

Power line near Grootball. Ogies in the Mountainga Province

### Introduction

Mpumalanga Province. a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the proposed power line near Grootpan, Ogies, in the Archaeo-Info Northern Province (AINP) was contracted by Naledzi Environmental Consultants to conduct

Conservation Act (ECA) 73 of 1989, the Minerals & Petroleum Resources Development Act, 28 of 2002 and the Development Facilitation Act (DFA), 67 of 1995. The HIA is performed in accordance with section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), 25 of 1999 and is intended for submission to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) This HIA forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as required by the Environmental

with a minimum of an Honours degree in an applicable science as well as at least five years of field experience in heritage management assisted by a fieldworker with at least a BA degree in an applicable science. All of our employees are also registered members of the Association of South African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA). Qualified personnel from AINP conducted the assessment. The team comprised a Principal Investigator

A member of AINP performed the assessment on 16 June 2006

surveyed on foot were plotted using a Global Positioning System (GPS) and photographed digitally. The sites were affected by secondary activities (access route, construction camp, etc.) during the development. The sites The extent of the proposed development sites were determined as well as the extent of the areas to be

recommendations for the identified resources. All results will be relayed in this report, firstly outlining the methodology used and then the results and

## **Proposed Project**

Grootpan Sub Station 26° 02' 43,3" S 29° 65' 28,1" E Crossing at tar road 26° 04' 50,3" S 29° 05' 08,1" E

Proposed sub station

26° 05' 57" S 29° 04' 26" E

long with the new sub station utilising an area of approximately 1ha. The proposed site is approximately to a new proposed sub station near Goedgewonden. The proposed power line will be approximately 7km 4km east of the Mpumalanga town of Ogies Eskom Sa Ltd has proposed the construction of a new 132 KVa power line from the Grootpan sub station

previous archaeological or historical studies have been performed in the demarcated study area After researching the National Archive records as well as the SAHRA records it was determined that no

Heritage

The project was tabled during June 2006 and the developer intends to commence construction as soon as possible after receipt of the ROD from the Department of Environmental Affairs.

### Methodology

### Inventory

Inventory studies involve the in-field survey and recording of archaeological resources within a proposed development area. The nature and scope of this type of study is defined primarily by the results of the overview study. In the case of site-specific developments, direct implementation of an inventory study may preclude the need for an overview.

There are a number of different methodological approaches to conducting inventory studies. Therefore, the proponent, in collaboration with the archaeological consultant, must develop an inventory plan for review and approval by the SAHRA prior to implementation (*Dincause*, *Dena F., H. Martin Wobst, Robert* J. Hasenstab and David M. Lacy 1984).

Site surveying is the process by which archaeological sites are located and identified on the ground Archaeological site surveys often involve both surface inspection and subsurface testing.

A systematic surface inspection involves a foot traverse along pre-defined linear transects which are spaced at systematic intervals across the survey area. This approach is designed to achieve representative areal coverage. Alternatively, an archaeological site survey may involve a non-systematic or random walk across the survey area. Subsurface testing is an integral part of archaeological site survey. The purpose of subsurface testing, commonly called "shovel testing", is to:

- (a) assist in the location of archaeological sites which are buried or obscured from the surveyor's view
- (b) help determine the horizontal and vertical dimensions and internal structure of a site

more intensive method of assessing site significance (King, Thomas F., 1978) In this respect, subsurface testing should not be confused with evaluative testing, which is a considerably

is destructive it should be conducted only when necessary and in moderation. matrix, and degree of internal stratification. Because subsurface testing, like any form of site excavation, Once a site is located, subsurface testing is conducted to record horizontal extent, depth of the cultural

such as test unit location, frequency, depth and interval spacing will also depend on the survey design as well as various biophysical factors. (Lightfoot, Keng G. 1989). where conditions are suitable. Shovel test units averaging 40 square cm are generally appropriate, and are excavated to a sterile stratum (i.e. C Horizon, alluvial till, etc.). Depending on the site survey strategy, subsurface testing is conducted systematically or randomly across the survey area. Other considerations Subsurface testing is usually accomplished by shovel, although augers and core samplers are also used

it is important to consider the biophysical conditions and archaeological site potential of the survey area in designing the survey strategy. Site survey involves the complete or partial inspection of a proposed project area for the purpose of locating archaeological or other heritage sites. Since there are many possible approaches to field survey.

Ideally, the archaeological site inventory should be based on intensive survey of every portion of the impact area, as maximum areal coverage will provide the most comprehensive understanding of archaeological and other heritage resource density and distribution. However, in many cases the size of the project area may render a complete survey impractical because of time and cost considerations

judgementally, relying primarily on subjective criteria (Butler, W., 1984). Sample selection is approached systematically, based on accepted statistical sampling procedures, or In some situations it may be practical to intensively survey only a sample of the entire project area

absence of power line access or dense vegetation should not be exempted. (Dunnel, R.C., Dancey W.S ownership, land use or other factors. These areas must be explicitly defined. Areas characterized by an exempt certain areas from intensive inspection owing to excessive slope, water bodies, landslides, land total resource density, distribution and variability. In systematic sample surveys it may be necessary to A systematic sample survey is designed to locate a representative sample of archaeological or heritage resources within the project area. A statistically valid sample will allow predictions to be made regarding

Under certain circumstances, it is appropriate to survey a sample of the project area based entirely on professional judgement regarding the location of sites. Only those areas which can reasonably be expected to contain archaeological or heritage sites are surveyed

of total heritage resource density and variability are required (McManamon F.P. 1984). aboriginal food sources; and restrictions on site location imposed by physical terrain, climatic regimes soil chemistry or other factors. A judgemental sample survey is not desirable if statistically valid estimates ethnographic patterns of settlement, land use and resource exploitation; the kinds and distribution of for the distribution of these sites over the landscape is essential. Careful consideration must be given to However, a sufficient understanding of the cultural and biophysical factors which influenced or accounted

### Assessment

avoid resource impact, mitigative studies directed at retrieving resource values prior to impact, compensation for the unavoidable loss of resource values. the identified impacts. Management options may include alteration of proposed development plans to recommendations as to the most appropriate manner in which the resource may be managed in light of and a proposed development. These studies require an evaluation of the heritage resource to be impacted, as well as an assessment of project impacts. The purpose of the assessment is to provide Assessment studies are only required where conflicts have been identified between heritage resources

archaeological resource should be performed by professionally qualified individuals It is especially important to utilize specialists at this stage of assessment. The evaluation of any

evaluative testing is also required. evident on the ground surface. However, where these sites contain buried deposits, some degree of and evaluative testing. Systematic surface collection is employed wherever archaeological remains are Techniques utilized in evaluating the significance of a heritage site include systematic surface collecting

representative sample of materials. Unless a site is exceptionally small and limited to the surface, no attempt should be made at this stage to collect all or even a major portion of the materials. Intensive surface collecting should be reserved for full scale data recovery if mitigative studies are required. Si significance is determined following an analysis of the surface collected and/or excavated materials (Miller, C.L. II, 1989). Systematic surface collection from archaeological sites should be limited, insofar as possible, to a

inflexible. Innovative approaches to site evaluation which emphasize quantitative analysis and objectivity are encouraged. The process used to derive a measure of relative site significance must be rigorously sites are provided in Appendix B and Appendix C. need to be taken into account when evaluating heritage resources. For any site, explicit criteria are used to measure these values. Checklists of criteria for evaluating pre-contact and post-contact archaeological sites are provided in Appendix B and Appendix C. These checklists are not intended to be exhaustive or documented, particularly the system for ranking or weighting various evaluatory criteria There are several kinds of significance, including scientific, public, ethnic, historic and economic, that

land alteration, is an important consideration in evaluating site significance. In this regard, it is important Site integrity, or the degree to which a heritage site has been impaired or disturbed as a result of past

to recognize that although an archaeological site has been disturbed, it may still contain important

Heritage resources may be of scientific value in two respects. The potential to yield information which, properly recovered, will enhance understanding of Southern African human history is one appropriate measure of scientific significance. In this respect, archaeological sites should be evaluated in terms of their potential to resolve current archaeological research problems. Scientific significance also refers to the potential for relevant contributions to other academic disciplines or to industry.

also be interpreted as a particular kind of public significance setting are often external to the site itself. The relevance of heritage resource data to private industry may indications of public value. Public significance criteria such as ease of access, land ownership, or scenic appreciation of the past. The interpretive, educational and recreational potential of a site are valid Public significance refers to the potential a site has for enhancing the public's understanding and

by someone properly trained in obtaining and evaluating such data persons having special knowledge of a particular site. It is essential that ethnic significance be assessed of people. Determining the ethnic significance of an archaeological site may require consultation with Ethnic significance applies to heritage sites which have value to an ethnically distinct community or group

contribution to the development of a particular locality or the province. Historically important sites also reflect or commemorate the historic socioeconomic character of an area. Sites having high historical value will also usually have high public value Historic archaeological sites may relate to individuals or events that made an important, lasting

significance. In some cases, it may be possible to project monetary benefits derived from the public's use of a heritage site as an educational or recreational facility. This may be accomplished by employing pay for the experiences or services the site provides even though no payment is presently being made recreation. The objective is to determine the willingness of users, including local residents and tourists, to established economic evaluation methods; most of which have been developed for valuating outdoor Calculation of user benefits will normally require some study of the visitor population (Smith, L.D. 1977) The economic or monetary value of a heritage site, where calculable, is also an important indication of

A heritage resource impact may be defined as the net change between the integrity of a heritage site with and without the proposed development. This change may be either beneficial or adverse.

natural site erosion. Similarly, an action may serve to preserve a site for future investigation by covering it unlikely to occur frequently, they should be included in the assessment may be enhanced by actions which facilitate non-destructive public use. Although beneficial impacts are with a protective layer of fill. In other cases, the public or economic significance of an archaeological site heritage resource. For example, development may have a beneficial effect by preventing or lessening Beneficial impacts occur wherever a proposed development actively protects, preserves or enhances

occur under conditions that include: More commonly, the effects of a project on heritage sites are of an adverse nature. Adverse impacts

- (a) destruction or alteration of all or part of a heritage site;
- (b) isolation of a site from its natural setting; and
- resource and its setting (c) introduction of physical, chemical or visual elements that are out-of-character with the heritage

They are directly caused by a project or its ancillary facilities and occur at the same time and place. The immediate consequences of a project action, such as slope failure following reservoir inundation, are also immediately demonstrable effects of a project which can be attributed to particular land modifying actions considered direct impacts Adverse effects can be more specifically defined as direct or indirect impacts. Direct impacts are the

may indirectly impact upon heritage sites. Increased vandalism of heritage sites, resulting from improved changes in land use or population density, such as increased urban and recreational development, which induced by a project and would not occur without it. For example, project development may induce Indirect impacts result from activities other than actual project actions. Nevertheless, they are clearly

All sites or possible sites found were classified using a hierarchical system wherein sites are assessed using a scale of zero to four according their importance. These categories are as follows;

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Exceptional significance	Rare or outstanding, high degree of intactness. Can be interpreted easily.	13 - 16
High significance	High degree of original fabric. Demonstrates a key element of item's significance. Alterations do not detract from significance.	9-12
Moderate significance	Altered or modified elements. Element with little heritage value, but which contribute to the overall significance.	<b>5</b> - <b>α</b>
Little significance	Alterations detract from significance. One of many. Alterations detract from significance.	1-4
Intrusive	Damaging to the item's heritage significance.	0

Table 1. Site significance table for pre-contact sites.

Degree of significance	Justification	Score
Exceptional significance	Rare or outstanding, high degree of intactness. Can be interpreted easily.	29 – 24
High significance	High degree of original fabric. Demonstrates a key element of item's significance. Alterations do not detract from significance.	13 - 18
Moderate significance	Altered or modified elements. Element with little heritage value, but which contribute to the overall significance.	7-12
Little significance	Alterations detract from significance. One of many. Alterations detract from significance.	1-6
Intrusive	Damaging to the item's heritage significance.	

Table 2. Site significance table for post contact sites.

The qualitative value of a site's significance will be calculated by tabling its significance characteristics (as outlined in appendix B & C) on a sliding value scale and determining an accumulative value for the specific site. Two tables will be used;

# Site significance characteristics slide scale (Pre-Contact Criteria)

Economic Significance Ethnic Significance Public Significance Scientific Significance 0 0 0 0 \_\_ ...... Total Score N N N N ယ  $\omega$ ယ S 4

Table 3. Pre-contact site criteria (0- no value, 4- highest value)

# Site significance characteristics slide scale (Post-Contact Criteria)

	Economic Significance 0 1	Ethnic Significance 0 1	Other Significance 0 1	Public Significance 0 1	Historic Significance 0 1	Scientific Significance 0 1	
Tot	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Total Score	ω	ω	ω	ω	ω	ω	
	4	4	4	4	4	4	

Table 4. Post-contact site criteria (0- no value, 4- highest value)

significance table to provide the site with a quantifiable significance value. This will only be done for identified sites. Should an area under investigation not show any evidence of human activity this will be stated and no further qualifying will be done The values calculated (as specified in appendix B&C) are attributed to a category within the site

This information will be contained in a report that will strive to:

and propose guidelines on how to adequately address four key questions: Review the purpose, approach, methodology and reporting of archaeological assessment and monitoring

- i. What is the research value and potential of the archaeological remains?
- ii. What will the impact of development be?
- iii. What types of mitigation (by design modification or further investigation) would be appropriate to mitigate the impact of development and/or make a useful contribution to knowledge? iv. What will be the likely cost and timescale of any further investigation, analysis and reporting, given the nature of the archaeology and the type and extent of further work required?



# Resource Inventory and Managemer

## Resource Inventory

the accompanying map plotted using the Arc View Geographic Information System (GIS). This section will contain the results of the heritage site inventory. Any identified sites will be indicated on

### Power line

area for the construction of the power line is located along existing agricultural fields. No structures were After intensive investigations, no sites or finds of any heritage potential were identified. The proposed evident on the surface and none of the levelled ground showed any indications of having any historic

## Resource Evaluation

Power line

No heritage resources, or remains of any heritage resource, were identified within the indicated study

# Impact Identification and Assessment

Power line

No impacts on cultural resources are anticipated as no resources were identified in the study area

# Resource Management Recommendations

Power line

No recommendations can be given as no sites of any heritage potential were identified within the proposed study area. The construction of the power line can continue from a heritage point of view

### Power line

proposed study area. The development of the power line can continue from a heritage point of view No recommendations can be given as no sites of any heritage potential were identified within the

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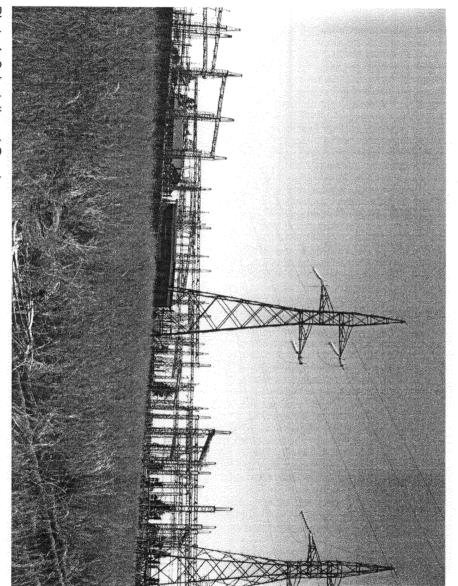


Photo 1. Sub-station at Grootpan.



Photo 2. Proposed area for placement of power line.

### Scientific Significance

culture process, and other aspects of local and regional prehistory? (a) Does the site contain evidence which may substantively enhance understanding of culture history.

internal stratification and depth

chronologically sensitive cultural items

materials for absolute dating

association with ancient landforms

quantity and variety of tool type

distinct intra-site activity areas

tool types indicative of specific socio-economic or religious activity

cultural features such as burials, dwellings, hearths, etc.

diagnostic faunal and floral remains

exotic cultural items and materials

uniqueness or representativeness of the site

integrity of the site

(b) Does the site contain evidence which may be used for experimentation aimed at improving archaeological methods and techniques?

monitoring impacts from artificial or natural agents

site preservation or conservation experiments

data recovery experiments

sampling experiments

intra-site spatial analysis

studies? (c) Does the site contain evidence which can make important contributions to paleoenvironmental

topographical, geomorphologic context

depositional character

diagnostic faunal, floral data

geomorphology, pedology, meteorology, zoology, botany, forensic medicine, and environmental hazards research, or to industry including forestry and commercial fisheries? (d) Does the site contain evidence which can contribute to other scientific disciplines such as hydrology,

### **Public Significance**

(a) Does the site have potential for public use in an interpretive, educational or recreational capacity?

integrity of the site

technical and economic feasibility of restoration and development for public use

visibility of cultural features and their ability to be easily interpreted

accessibility to the public

opportunities for protection against vandalism representativeness and uniqueness of the site aesthetics of the local setting proximity to established recreation areas present and potential land use land ownership and administration legal and jurisdictional status local community attitude toward development

(b) Does the site receive visitation or use by tourists, local residents or school groups?

### Ethnic Significance

(a) Does the site presently have traditional, social or religious importance to a particular group or community?

documented local community recognition or, and concern for, the site ethnographic or ethno-historic reference

## **Economic Significance**

(a) What value of user-benefits may be placed on the site? visitors' willingness-to-pay

visitors' travel costs

Heritage

Heritage

## Scientific Significance

- (a) Does the site contain evidence which may substantively enhance understanding of historic patterns of settlement and land use in a particular locality, regional or larger area?
- or industry? (b) Does the site contain evidence which can make important contributions to other scientific disciplines

### Historic Significance

- Africa's cultural development? (a) Is the site associated with the early exploration, settlement, land use, or other aspect of southern
- (b) Is the site associated with the life or activities of a particular historic figure, group, organization, or institution that has made a significant contribution to, or impact on, the community, province or nation?
- social or political that has made a significant contribution to, or impact on, the community, province or (c) Is the site associated with a particular historic event whether cultural, economic, military, religious,
- (d) Is the site associated with a traditional recurring event in the history of the community, province, or nation, such as an annual celebration?

### Public Significance

(a) Does the site have potential for public use in an interpretive, educational or recreational capacity?

visibility and accessibility to the public

ability of the site to be easily interpreted

opportunities for protection against vandalism

economic and engineering feasibility of reconstruction, restoration and maintenance

representativeness and uniqueness of the site

proximity to established recreation areas

compatibility with surrounding zoning regulations or land use

land ownership and administration

local community attitude toward site preservation, development or destruction

present use of site

(b) Does the site receive visitation or use by tourists, local residents or school groups?

### Ethnic Significance

community? (a) Does the site presently have traditional, social or religious importance to a particular group or

## **Economic Significance**

(a) What value of user-benefits may be placed on the site?

visitors' willingness-to-pay

visitors' travel costs

Integrity and Condition

- (a) Does the site occupy its original location?
- (b) Has the site undergone structural alterations? If so, to what degree has the site maintained its original structure?
- (c) Does the original site retain most of its original materials?
- (d) Has the site been disturbed by either natural or artificial means?

#### Other

- (a) Is the site a commonly acknowledged landmark?
- (b) Does, or could, the site contribute to a sense of continuity or identity either alone or in conjunction with similar sites in the vicinity?
- (c) Is the site a good typical example of an early structure or device commonly used for a specific purpose throughout an area or period of time?
- (d) Is the site representative of a particular architectural style or pattern?

Fraicators for Assessing Impact

### Magnitude

The amount of physical alteration or destruction which can be expected. The resultant loss of heritage value is measured either in amount or degree of disturbance.

#### Severity

The irreversibility of an impact. Adverse impacts which result in a totally irreversible and irretrievable loss of heritage value are of the highest severity.

#### Duration

conversely, more persistent, long-term effects on heritage sites The length of time an adverse impact persists. Impacts may have short-term or temporary effects, or

#### Range

The spatial distribution, whether widespread or site-specific, of an adverse impact

#### Frequency

and severity may occur only once. An impact such as that resulting from cultivation may be of recurring or ongoing nature The number of times an impact can be expected. For example, an adverse impact of variable magnitude

#### Diversity

The number of different kinds of project-related actions expected to affect a heritage site

### **Cumulative Effect**

A progressive alteration or destruction of a site owing to the repetitive nature of one or more impacts

### Rate of Change

assessed during or following project construction. The rate at which an impact will effectively alter the integrity or physical condition of a heritage site Although an important level-of-effect indicator, it is often difficult to estimate. Rate of change is normally

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