

Archaetnos Culture & Cultural Resource Consultants BK 98 09854/23

A REPORT ON THE CULTURAL HERITAGE ASPECTS FOR A BASIC ASSESSMENT FOR THE MARBLE HALL NDP PROJECT: THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A 132 kV POWER LINE FROM MARBLE HALL MTS TO WOLVEKRAAL, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

For:

Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants

REPORT: AE1069

by:

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I, Anton Carl van Vollenhoven from Archaetnos, hereby declare that I am an independent specialist within the field of heritage management.

I hereby also sign off this report.

Afther the

Signed: Date: 26 October 2010

SUMMARY

Archaetnos cc was appointed by Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants to conduct a basic assessment relating to the cultural heritage aspects for the proposed Marble Hall NDP Project. This entails the construction of approximately 13 km of 132 kV power line from the existing Wolvekraal substation to the proposed Marble Hall MTS substation. This is situated in the Limpopo Province. Three options for the route were surveyed.

The fieldwork undertaken revealed one site of cultural heritage significance on route alternative 2. The site is of a high cultural significance. However it may be mitigated.

There is no specific preference from a heritage perspective as to which of the three alternatives may be decided upon. Unfortunately access to certain natural areas was limited and therefore the recommendations in this report have limitations. There are no specific nogo areas relating to heritage on any of the three alternatives.

CONTENTS

page	
SUMMARY4	
CONTENTS5	
1. INTRODUCTION 6	
2. TERMS OF REFERENCE 6	
3. CONDITIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS	
4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS7	
5. METHODOLOGY	
6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA	
7. DISCUSSION	
8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
9. REFERENCES	
APPENDIX A	
APPENDIX B	
6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA 11 7. DISCUSSION 12 8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 20 9. REFERENCES 21 APPENDIX A 23 APPENDIX B 24 APPENDIX C 25	
APPENDIX D	

1. INTRODUCTION

Archaetnos cc was appointed by Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants to conduct a basic assessment relating to the cultural heritage aspects for the proposed Marble Hall NDP Project. This entails the construction of approximately 13 km of 132 kV power line from the existing Wolvekraal substation to the proposed Marble Hall MTS substation. This is situated in the Limpopo Province. Three options for the route were surveyed.

The client indicated the area where the proposed development is to take place, and the survey was confined to this area.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the survey were to:

- 1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the property (see Appendix A).
- 2. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value (see Appendix B).
- 3. Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions.
- 4. Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources.
- 5. Recommend suitable mitigation measures should there be any sites of significance that might be impacted upon by the proposed development.
- 6. Review applicable legislative requirements.

3. CONDITIONS & ASSUMPTIONS

The following conditions and assumptions have a direct bearing on the survey and the resulting report:

- 1. Cultural Resources are all non-physical and physical man-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences associated with human activity. These include all sites, structure and artifacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development. Graves and cemeteries are included in this.
- 2. The significance of the sites, structures and artifacts is determined by means of their historical, social, aesthetic, technological and scientific value in relation to their uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. The various aspects are

not mutually exclusive, and the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these aspects.

- 3. Cultural significance is site-specific and relates to the content and context of the site. Sites regarded as having low cultural significance have already been recorded in full and require no further mitigation. Sites with medium cultural significance may or may not require mitigation depending on other factors such as the significance of impact on the site. Sites with a high cultural significance require further mitigation (see Appendix B).
- 4. The latitude and longitude of any archaeological or historical site or feature, is to be treated as sensitive information by the developer and should not be disclosed to members of the public.
- 5. All recommendations are made with full cognizance of the relevant legislation.
- 6. It has to be mentioned that it is almost impossible to locate all the cultural resources in a given area, as it will be very time consuming. Developers should however note that the report should make it clear how to handle any other finds that might occur.

4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with mainly in two acts. These are the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998).

4.1 The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the above-mentioned act the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artifacts, structures and sites older than 100 years
- b. Ethnographic art objects (e.g. prehistoric rock art) and ethnography
- c. Objects of decorative and visual arts
- d. Military objects, structures and sites older than 75 years
- e. Historical objects, structures and sites older than 60 years
- f. Proclaimed heritage sites
- g. Grave yards and graves older than 60 years
- h. Meteorites and fossils
- i. Objects, structures and sites or scientific or technological value.

The national estate (see Appendix D) includes the following:

- a. Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance
- b. Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage
- c. Historical settlements and townscapes
- d. Landscapes and features of cultural significance

- e. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- f. Archaeological and palaeontological importance
- g. Graves and burial grounds
- h. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery
- i. Movable objects (e.g. archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, military, ethnographic, books etc.)

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is the process to be followed in order to determine whether any heritage resources are located within the area to be developed as well as the possible impact of the proposed development thereon. An Archaeological Impact Assessment only looks at archaeological resources. An HIA must be done under the following circumstances:

- a. The construction of a linear development (road, wall, power line canal etc.) exceeding 300m in length
- b. The construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length
- c. Any development or other activity that will change the character of a site and exceed 5 000m² or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m²
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority

Structures

Section 34 (1) of the mentioned act states that no person may demolish any structure or part thereof which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

A structure means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith.

Alter means any action affecting the structure, appearance or physical properties of a place or object, whether by way of structural or other works, by painting, plastering or the decoration or any other means.

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Section 35(4) of this act deals with archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites. The act states that no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority (national or provincial):

- a. destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;
- b. destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological material or object or any meteorite;
- c. trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or

- d. bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.
- e. alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years as protected.

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). In order to demolish such a site or structure, a destruction permit from SAHRA will also be needed.

Human remains

Graves and burial grounds are divided into the following:

- a. ancestral graves
- b. royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
- c. graves of victims of conflict
- d. graves designated by the Minister
- e. historical graves and cemeteries
- f. human remains

In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:

- a. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position of otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;
- b. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or
- c. bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are subject to provisions of the Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983) and to local regulations. Exhumation of graves must conform to the standards set out in the **Ordinance on Excavations** (**Ordinance no. 12 of 1980**) (replacing the old Transvaal Ordinance no. 7 of 1925).

Permission must also be gained from the descendants (where known), the National Department of Health, Provincial Department of Health, Premier of the Province and local police. Furthermore, permission must also be gained from the various landowners (i.e. where the graves are located and where they are to be relocated) before exhumation can take place.

Human remains can only be handled by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the **Human Tissues Act** (**Act 65 of 1983 as amended**).

Unidentified/unknown graves are also handled as older than 60 until proven otherwise.

4.2 The National Environmental Management Act

This act (Act 107 of 1998) states that a survey and evaluation of cultural resources must be done in areas where development projects, that will change the face of the environment, will be undertaken. The impact of the development on these resources should be determined and proposals for the mitigation thereof are made.

Environmental management should also take the cultural and social needs of people into account. Any disturbance of landscapes and sites that constitute the nation's cultural heritage should be avoided as far as possible and where this is not possible the disturbance should be minimized and remedied.

5. METHODOLOGY

5.1 Survey of literature

A survey of literature was undertaken in order to obtain background information regarding the area. Sources consulted in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

5.2 Field survey

The survey was conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and was aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of cultural significance in the area of proposed development. If required, the location/position of any site was determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS), while photographs were also taken where needed.

The survey was undertaken on foot and via vehicle.

5.3 Oral histories

People from local communities are interviewed in order to obtain information relating to the surveyed area. It needs to be stated that this is not applicable under all circumstances. When applicable, the information is included in the text and referred to in the bibliography. In this instance it was not necessary to do.

5.4 Documentation

All sites, objects features and structures identified were documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Co-ordinates of individual localities were determined by means of the Global Positioning System (GPS)¹. The information was added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

¹ A Garmin 550 Oregon, which have a fault factor of a few meters.

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The area where the planned power line and substation will be erected is situated between the town of Marble Hall in the Limpopo Province and the Wolvenkraal substation to the east thereof (Figure 1).

The environment at all three alternative routes is mostly disturbed by agricultural activities. This includes ploughed fields and orchards, including irrigation channels and center pivot sprayers (Figure 2). The only areas that seems less disturbed showing natural vegetation is where the game farms are or next to rivers, however even these seem to have been at least partially disturbed previously. This is indicated by pioneer plant species such as sickle bush and syringa.

These areas also are reasonably flat which would have made it less attractive for human settlement. It most probably was utilized during the past as the abundance of grazing and water would have lured people to the area.

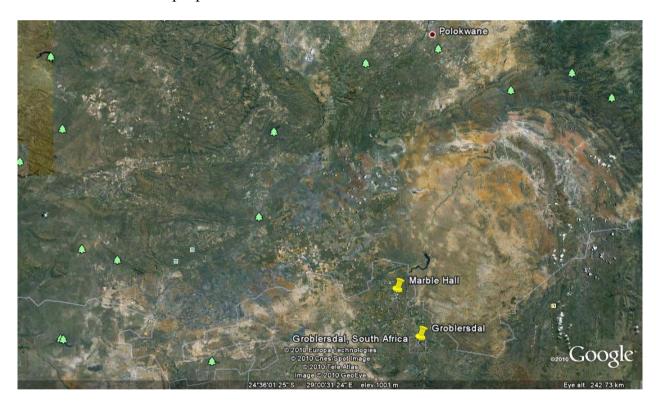


Figure 1 Google image indicating the location of the surveyed area.



Figure 2 General view of the surveyed area between Wolvekraal and the Marble Hall MTS. Note the disturbance by agricultural activities.

7. DISCUSSION

During the survey only one site of cultural heritage significance was located in the area to be developed. This report indicates suitable mitigation measures in this regard. In order to enable the reader to better understand this, it is necessary to give a background regarding the different phases of human history.

7.1 Stone Age

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic material was mainly used to produce tools (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 293). In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided in three periods. It is however important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for interpretation. The division for the Stone Age according to Korsman & Meyer (1999: 93-94) is as follows:

Early Stone Age (ESA) 2 million – 150 000 years ago Middle Stone Age (MSA) 150 000 – 30 000 years ago Late Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 1850 - A.D.

No Stone Age sites are known from this area, but one has to relies that this probably only reflects the lack of research here. The nearest identified Stone Age sites are Middle and Late Stone Age sites close to Bela Bela (Bergh 1999: 4). Rock art, associated with the Late Stone Age, have been identified close to Roossenekal, east of the project area (Bergh 1999: 5).

Although no Stone Age features was found during the survey the environment would have supported these peoples and the probably did utilize it.

7.2 Iron Age

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce artifacts (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 346). In South Africa it can be divided in three separate phases according to Huffman (2007: xiii) namely:

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Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.
Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.
Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.
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No Early Iron Age sites has been recorded in the project area, but again this probably only relates to the lack of research as the environment definitely is suitable for human habitation. Late Iron Age sites have also not been identified in the surveyed area, but a large number of sites are found to the south-east thereof around Roossenekal, Belfast and Machadodorp (Bergh 1999: 7). An iron working site was also identified to the east of Groblersdal, close to the Gauteng border (Bergh 1999:8).

No Iron Age sites and features were identified during the survey. However, the management and workers should nevertheless always be on the lookout for Iron Age features and artifacts, such as stone walling and pottery especially in the areas indicating as still having its natural vegetation and close to rivers and hills.

7.3 Historical Age

The Historical Age started with the first historical sources which can be used to learn more about people of the past. In South Africa it can be divided into two phases. The first includes oral histories as well as the recorded oral histories of past societies. The latter were usually written by people who contact with such a community for a short time. This is followed by the second phase which includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write (Van Vollenhoven 2006: 189).

A map in the historical atlas (Bergh 1999: 9) indicates that none of the early trade routes went through this area. These were located much further to the north.

The first Bantu language speakers in the area were the Kgatla, a Tswana group who settled to the north-west of the Elands River and the Kôpa, a Pedi group, who stayed to the south-eats of Groblersdal (Bergh 1999: 10). It seems as if all these groups fled from the area during the Difaquane when Mzilikazi came here between 1823 and 37. The Kôpa moved to the south-west and the Kgatla further to the north-west (Bergh 1999: 11).

The early white travellers also did not move through the Groblersdal – Marble Hall area. The closest was the missionaries R Moffat and J Archbell who travelled between the Elands and Apies River, further to the west (Bergh 1999: 12). They were followed by D Livingstone in 1847. The trader R Scoon did however pass to the south and east of the surveyed area during 1836 (Bergh 1999: 13).

During the same year the Voortrekker party of H van Rensburg did however move through the area and crossed the Elands River close to where Groblersdal is today (Bergh 1999: 14). White farmers permanently settled in the western parts of the surveyed area between 1841 and 1850 (Bergh 1999: 15). Groblersdal only became a district in 1942 (Bergh 1999: 151).

The site found during the survey is related to the Historical Age.

7.4 Discussion of route alternatives and sites identified during the survey

7.4.1 Route Alternative 1

The totality of route alternative 1 could be surveyed as it follows the R25 route. The area consists mostly of agricultural fields, game farms and orchards (Figure 3-4). Small sections of the first part of the route have some natural vegetation and inaccessible game fences (Figure 5) are found on both sides of the road.

These natural areas may contain cultural and archaeological sites, but nothing was identified. Most of the areas inside of the game fences show signs of being disturbed and the topography is very flat, meaning that it would not have provided a good area for settlement.

No sites of cultural or archaeological significance were identified.



Figure 3 Game fence in the surveyed area.



Figure 4 Ploughed fields on route alternative 1.



Figure 5 Game fence along route alternative 1 at the proposed Marble Hall MTS.

7.4.2 Route Alternative 2

It was more difficult to follow route alternative 2 as it follows farm boundaries where there were not always accessible roads. It therefore is possible that certain stretches may not have been surveyed properly.

The area also consists mostly of agricultural fields (Figure 6-7). Natural vegetation was found in game farms at the southern end of the route. Although these were mostly inaccessible, it does show signs of disturbance. The topography also is very flat, meaning that it would not have provided a good area for settlement.

One site of cultural or archaeological significance was identified.



Figure 6 A maize field on route alternative 2.



Figure 7 One of the irrigation canals in the area.

Site 1

This is a historical grave yard consisting of at least 6 graves (Figure 8-12). The graves are marked with cement borders and three of them also have cement headstones. Three dates of death could be identified being 1928, 1929 and 1933. The graves are therefore older than 60 years and are regarded as heritage graves.



Figure 8 The grave yard on route alternative 2.

GPS: 25°03'16,7"S 29°20'20,6"E

Graves have a **high** cultural significance. The site however lies to the east of 100 m corridor of route alternative 2 and will therefore not be impacted on. ESKOM should nevertheless ensure that they steer clear of this area.



Figure 9 Grave of Pieter Johannes Jansen van Rensburg, born 21 April 1867 and who died on 2 July 1933.



Figure 10 Grave of Susanna Abigail Els (neé Weyers), born 18 October 1895 and who died on 22 July 1928.

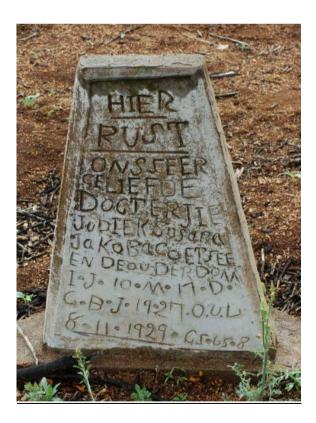


Figure 11 Grave of Judiek Susara Jakoba Coetsee, born 1927 and who dies on 8 November 1929.



Figure 12 Location of the site in relation to the Marble Hall MTS.

7.4.3 Route Alternative 3

Route alternative 3 could be followed with less success than alternative 1 and 2. It therefore is possible that certain stretches may not have been surveyed properly. The northern part of the route goes through game farms and the southern part through ploughed agricultural fields. These are similar to those on the other options.

Although the game farms were mostly inaccessible, one could see through the fence that it does show signs of disturbance. The topography also is very flat, meaning that it would not have provided a good area for settlement.

No sites of cultural or archaeological significance were identified.

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it can be stated that the basic assessment of the area was conducted successfully. In the surveyed area at route alternative 2, one site of cultural significance has been found. None were identified on the other two alternatives.

The site is a grave yard consisting of six graves and has a high cultural significance. The graves are older than 60 years and are therefore classified as being historical graves. It however it lies outside of the 100 m corridor and would therefore not be impacted on.

This can be tabled with the following rating scale:

- 1 Should be mitigated/ preserved
- 2 Should be mitigated if directly impacted
- 3 May be demolished after mitigation
- 4 May be demolished. No mitigation necessary

Alternative & Site number	Cultural significance	Rating
Route Alternative 2		
1	High	2

The final recommendations are as follows:

- From a heritage perspective it does not matter which one of the three route alternatives are preferred.
- The site at alternative 2 should be kept in mind in future planning, but as indicated above it falls outside of the 100 m corridor. Should it however be impacted on it could be mitigated, either by steering clear and fencing it in or by having the graves exhumed. The latter is however an expensive and time consuming process as one needs to also do social consultation.
- There are no no-go options. However areas with natural vegetation have a high possibility of covering archaeological sites. This should be kept in mind during further planning.
- Regardless of the option chosen it should be noted that the subterranean presence of
 archaeological and/or historical sites, features or artifacts are always a distinct
 possibility. Care should therefore be taken when development work commences that
 if any of these are accidentally discovered, a qualified archaeologist be called in to
 investigate.
- Due to constraints indicated above it may be possible that certain sites were not identified. In such a case an archaeologist should also be called in to investigate.
- A proper archaeological survey would be necessary once the final position of the power lines, pylons and substations have been determined.

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APPENDIX A

Definition of terms:

Site: A large place with extensive structures and related cultural objects. It can also be a large assemblage of cultural artifacts, found on a single location.

Structure: A permanent building found in isolation or which forms a site in conjunction with other structures.

Feature: A coincidal find of movable cultural objects.

Object: Artifact (cultural object).

(Also see Knudson 1978: 20).

APPENDIX B

Definition of significance:

Historic value: Important in the community or pattern of history or has an association

with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in

history.

Aestetic value: Important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a

community or cultural group.

Scientific value: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of

natural or cultural history or is important in demonstrating a high degree

of creative or technical achievement of a particular period

Social value: Have a strong or special association with a particular community or

cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

Rarity: Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or

cultural heritage.

Representivity: Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular

class of natural or cultural places or object or a range of landscapes or environments characteristic of its class or of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, province region or locality.

APPENDIX C

Cultural significance:

- Low A cultural object being found out of context, not being part of a site or without any related feature/structure in its surroundings.
- Medium Any site, structure or feature being regarded less important due to a number of factors, such as date and frequency. Also any important object found out of context.
- High Any site, structure or feature regarded as important because of its age or uniqueness. Graves are always categorized as of a high importance. Also any important object found within a specific context.

Heritage significance:

- Grade I Heritage resources with exceptional qualities to the extent that they are of national significance
- Grade II Heritage resources with qualities giving it provincial or regional importance although it may form part of the national estate
- Grade III Other heritage resources of local importance and therefore worthy of conservation

APPENDIX D

Protection of heritage resources:

- Formal protection

National heritage sites and Provincial heritage sites – grade I and II

Protected areas - an area surrounding a heritage site

Provisional protection – for a maximum period of two years

Heritage registers – listing grades II and III

Heritage areas – areas with more than one heritage site included

Heritage objects – e.g. archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, visual art, military, numismatic, books, etc.

- General protection

Objects protected by the laws of foreign states Structures – older than 60 years Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites Burial grounds and graves Public monuments and memorials