

INITIAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED UPGRADE OF THE BACCHUS SUBSTATION NEAR WORCESTER.

Prepared for

Eyethu Engineers

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Prepared by

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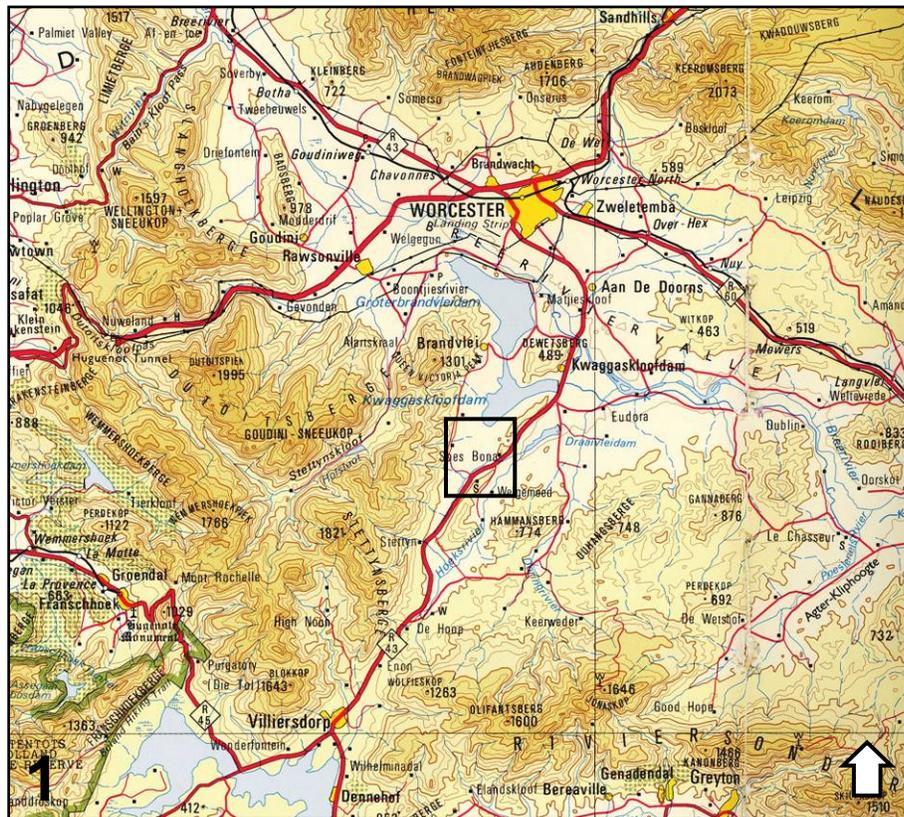
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1. INTRODUCTION

The Archaeology Contracts Office was appointed by Eyethu Engineers to undertake an initial heritage impact assessment of a small portion of land adjoining the existing Bacchus substation near the R43, some 20 km south of Worcester (Figure 1). It is proposed that the substation be upgraded by the addition of three capacitor banks each with an area of approximately 50 by 50 m. Existing access roads will be used and the substation yard fence will be moved to enclose the additions.



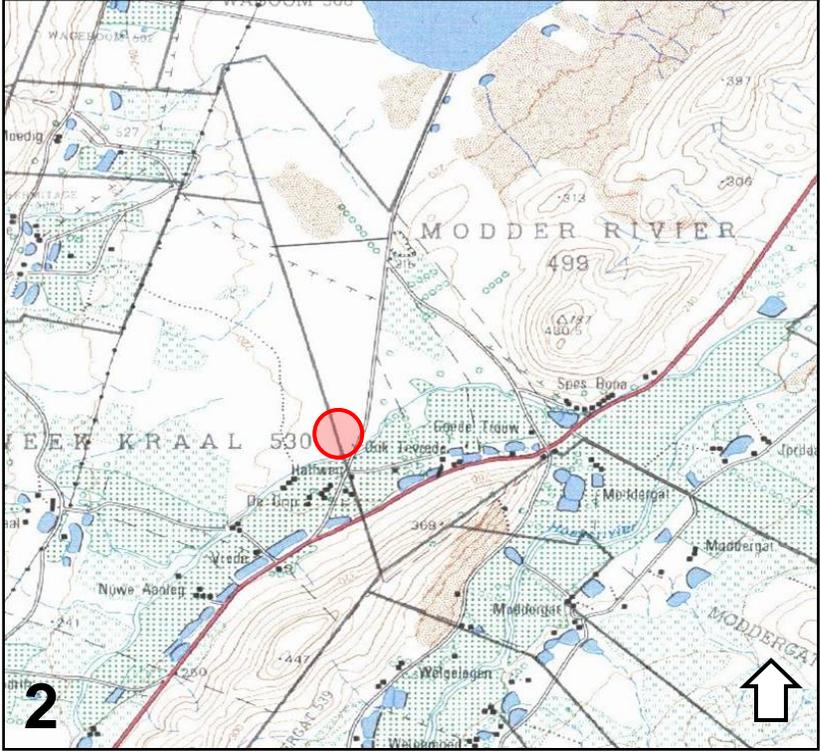
Map reference: Walton 1994. The square in the centre indicates the area shown in Figure 2.

The substation is located on an alluvial floodplain just to the northwest of the Modderivier (Figure 2). Although the immediate surrounds of the substation site are undeveloped, there is some farming activity nearby on the southern side of the river (Plate 1). The



Plate 1: The substation (in the centre of the photograph) as seen from the south. The access road from the R43 can be seen in the foreground.

area that will be used in the upgrade lies just outside the existing southern perimeter fence (Plate 2) and is about 50 m by 150 m in area. The land is open and sandy with only light vegetation cover, which afforded good ground visibility (Plate 2).



3319CD Villiersdorp (Mapping information supplied by - Chief Directorate: Surveys and Mapping. Website: w3sli.wcape.gov.za). The red circle indicates the position of the substation.



Plate 2: The area to be used alongside the southern perimeter fence.

2. METHOD

The area was covered on foot and examined visually for any heritage or archaeological material that may have been present on the site. Finds were recorded photographically.

3. FINDINGS

The only archaeological material found on the site comprised two stone artefacts made in quartzite and probably ascribable to the Early Stone Age (Plate 3). Such random occurrences are common in several areas of the South Western Cape where similar alluvial deposits occur and indicate the presence of Early Stone Age people in the area.

Impacts to the landscape are relatively small as the existing sub-station is only just visible from the National Road (Plate 1) while the proposed additions are unlikely to make a perceptible difference to appearance in terms bulk and scale when viewed from outside the Eskom owned land.



Plate 3: The two stone artefacts found on the site.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The substation upgrade will have no impact on archaeological or heritage material. The local cultural landscape is one of farming, but since power lines and a substation already exist in the area (Plate 4), the upgrade will not have any adverse effect on the current cultural landscape. We therefore recommend that the upgrade be allowed to continue without further archaeological intervention.



Plate 4: The current landscape showing the substation (centre) and power lines (right)

5. REFERENCES

Walton, C. (ed.). 1994. Reader's Digest Atlas of Southern Africa. Cape Town : Reader's Digest.

6. INVESTIGATION TEAM

Fieldwork

Tim Hart

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Report

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