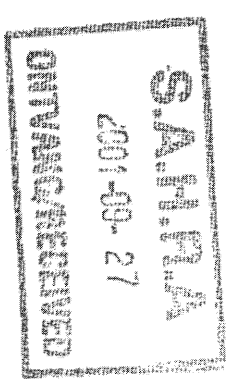


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PHASE 1  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT

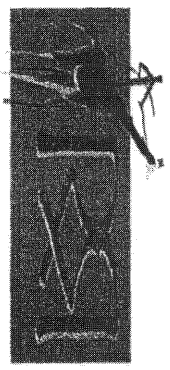
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PROPOSED NEW 132KV ESKOM OVERHEAD  
POWERLINE  
**BANDELEKOP**  
NORTHERN PROVINCE

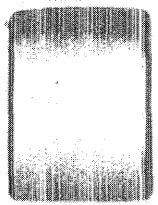
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## SYNOPSIS

The demarcated terrain contains Middle Stone Age remains of a low density, but no further cultural resource management procedures are recommended.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Project Proposal constitutes an activity that is listed in terms of the Environmental Conservation Act (Act No. 73 of 1989), for which an Environmental Impact Assessment is required to satisfy the requirements of the List of Activities and Regulation for EIA's – Government Gazette of 5 September 1997- In terms of sections 21, 22 and 26. In terms of this Act, and the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999), a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (scoping) was undertaken.

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## AIM

The aim was to undertake a Phase 1 *Archaeological Impact Assessment* of the proposed ESKOM 132kV overhead powerline on the farms JOPPA 473 LS, BRANDHOEK 419 LS AND BELLEVUE 424 LS, in order to assess the impact of the proposed project on archaeological and historical sites and features; and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the cultural resources management measures that may be required at affected sites / features.

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## METHOD

A thorough survey of the terrain was undertaken on foot. Standard archaeological practices for observation were followed. As most archaeological material occur in single or multiple stratified layers beneath the soil surface, special attention was given to disturbances, both man-made such as roads and clearings, as well as those made by natural agents such as burrowing animals.

Locations of archaeological material were recorded by means of a GPS (Garmin 12). Archaeological material and the general conditions on site were photographed with a KODAK DC120 Digital camera.

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## LOCATION AND DISCRPTION

Refer to maps, South Africa 1:50 000 2329 BC & 2329 BD. The proposed Powerline is located south of Bandellekop. It commences from the ESKOM TABOR FURJANT?? Sub Station on the Farm JOPPA 473 LS and from there extends in a westerly direction to the Capricorn Toll Plaza on the N1. From the Toll Plaza it follows the eastern side of the N1 to the R36 / N1 junction. Here it crosses the N1 and follows a route on the southern side of the gravel road to Dendron, over the Farms BRANDHOEK 419 LS and BELLEVUE 424 LS, until it joins up with the existing ESKOM servitude indicated on the northwestern section of the accompanying Map.

Other communications and power lines already exist along the proposed route.

The vegetation type is arid Bushveld which is generally in a good condition, although the area on the Farm Joppa has been encroached by *Dichrostachys* (sickle bush), indicating recent over exploitation.

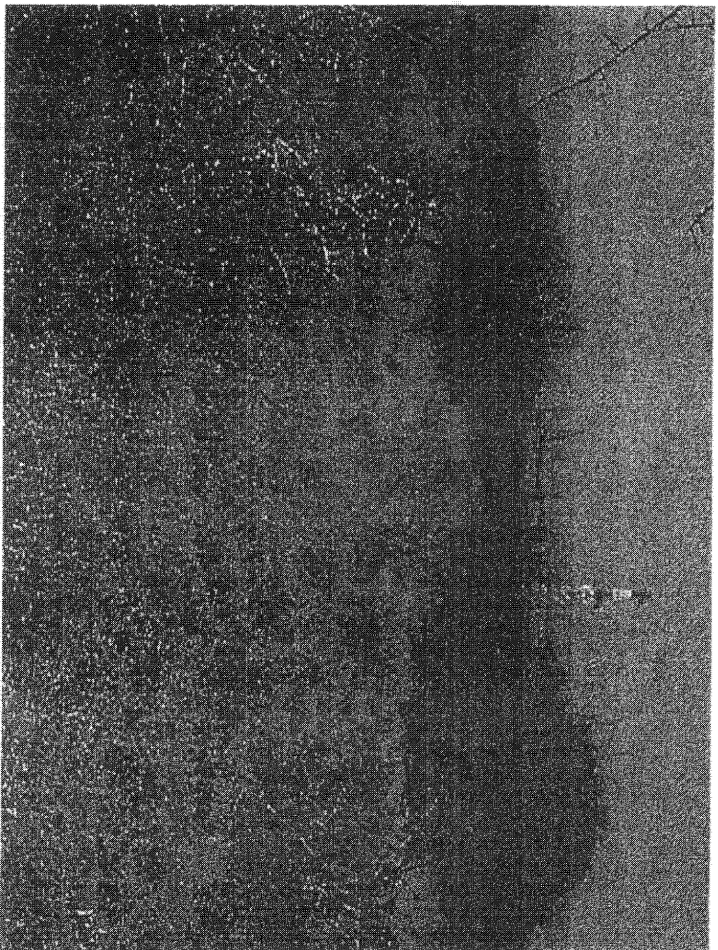


Figure 1. General view of ESKOM Sub Station

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#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

Archaeological remains were limited to two inconspicuous Iron Age sites which were identified by a few potsherds and ashy deposits.

#### SITE 1.

Co-ordinates: S23°21'27.0" E29°43'10.6"

This site contained only one decorated potsherd. Decoration is limited, with the result that the cultural identity could not be identified positively. The extent of this site could not be established within the scope of this scoping exercise.

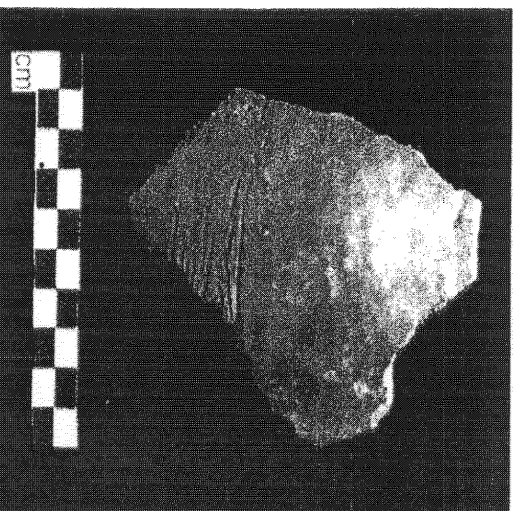


Figure 2. Pottery from Site 1

## SITE 2

Co-ordinates: S23°21'27.0" E29°43'10.6"

This site contains clear deposits of grayish ash deposits with pottery as well as possible dung deposits. Previous damage had been done to the Site by the existing road and access road for the existing powerline. A preliminary identification of the pottery would suggest it being of a variant of the Moloko type pottery (early Sotho/Tswana), which could date to the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

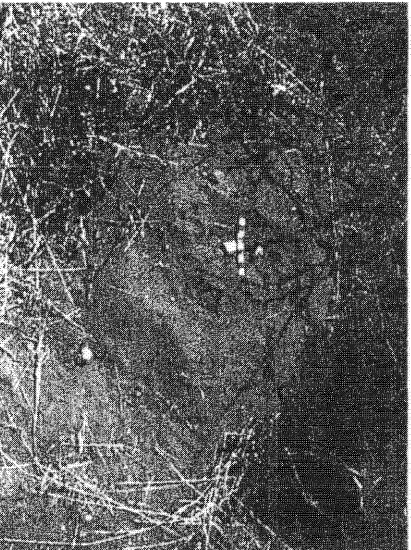


Figure 3. Ashy deposit – animal borrowing hole. Site 2

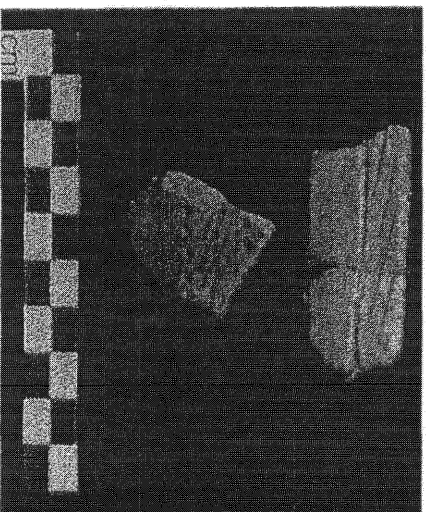


Figure 4. Decorated pottery – Site 2

## EVALUATION

A crucial aspect in determining the significance and protection status of a heritage resource is often whether or not the sustainable social and economic benefits of a proposed development outweighs the conservation issues at stake. There are many considerations that must be taken into account to determine significance, such as scientific importance, rarity, national significance, social and religious significance, and not least, community preferences. When, for whatever reason the protection of a heritage site is not deemed necessary or practical, its research potential must be assessed and mitigated in order to gain data / information which would otherwise be lost. Such sites must be adequately recorded and sampled.

With regard to the nature and scope of this project proposal and the nature of the archaeological remains, these sites are not regarded to be of such significance that they warrant specific protection status.

Site 2 has definite scientific value for which the mitigation of a phase 2 investigation is recommended.

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## RECOMMENDATION

In view of the above it is recommended that:

1. Site 1 to be re-evaluated during the construction phase when clearing of bush and earth works have commenced. This will allow for an informed decision on whether or not mitigation for cultural resources management measures is required.
2. A phase two assessment of Site 2 to be mitigated before construction work commences.

Note must however be taken of Section 35 & 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act of which an extract is given below

Extracts from:

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999).

### Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Subsection 35. (3) Any person who discovers archaeological or palaeontological objects or material or a meteorite in the course of development or agricultural activity must immediately report the find to the responsible heritage resources authority, or to the nearest local authority or museum, which must immediately notify such heritage resources authority.

Subsection 35. (4) No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority-

- (a) destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite.

### Burial grounds and graves

Subsection 36. (6) Subject to the provision of any law, any person who in the course of development or any other activity discovers the location of a grave, the existence of which was previously unknown, must immediately cease such activity and report the discovery to the responsible heritage resources authority which must, in co-operation with the South African Police Service and in accordance with regulations of the responsible heritage resources authority-

- (a) carry out an investigation for the purpose of obtaining information on whether or not such grave is protected in terms of this Act or is of significance to any community; and
- (b) if such grave is protected or is of significance, assist any person who or community which is a direct descendant to make arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the content of such grave or, in the absence of such person or community, make any such arrangement as it deems fit.

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