



AFRICAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC

2001/077745/23

DR. UDO S KÜSEL

Tel/fax: (012) 567 6046
Cell: 082 498 0673
E-mail: udo.heritage@absamail.co.za

P.O. Box 652
Magalieskruin
0150

11 June 2009

CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IN THE TJATE VALLEY WHICH MIGHT BE EFFECTED BY THE DUVHA LESEDING POWER LINE LIMPOPO PROVINCE

1. DEFINITION

The broad generic term *Cultural Heritage Resources* refers to any physical and spiritual property associated with past and present human use or occupation of the environment, cultural activities and history. The term includes sites, structures, places, natural features and material of palaeontological, archaeological, historical, aesthetic, scientific, architectural, religious, symbolic or traditional importance to specific individuals or groups, traditional systems of cultural practice, belief or social interaction.

2. PROTECTED SITES IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE ACT, Act. NO. 25 OF 1999

The following are the most important sites and objects protected by the National Heritage Act:

- a. Structures or parts of structures older than 60 years
- b. Archaeological sites and objects
- c. Palaeontological sites
- d. Meteorites
- e. Ship wrecks
- f. Burial grounds
- g. Graves of victims of conflict
- h. Public monuments and memorials

- i. Structures, places and objects protected through the publication of notices in the Gazette and Provincial Gazette
- j. Any other places or object which are considered to be of interest or of historical or cultural significance
- k. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- l. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa
- m. Objects to which oral traditions are attached
- n. Sites of cultural significance or other value to a community or pattern of South African history

3. METHODOLOGY

All relevant maps and documents on the site were studied. The site was visited and evaluated.

4. RESULTS

A new power line was originally planned through the Tjate Valley by Eskom. The first route was rejected because of the visual impact it would have on the heritage of the site (Küsel 2007 & 2008). Eskom appealed against the findings of the heritage report. Eventually after several appeals were launched a Tribunal was appointed. The outcome of this tribunal was that the proposed power line be moved as near as possible to the foot of the Leole Mountain so that it would be less visible from the most important heritage sites. (Tribunal Report 2008 and maps 1 & 2)

The new power line route was inspected during the first week in June 2009. The new route is well planned and does not affect any archaeological sites directly.

The one area which might be vulnerable is between pylon T 466 (S24° 29' 55.44" E30° 0' 29.18") and T 467 (S24° 29' 44.49" E30° 0' 32.83") Though these two pylons are just outside a major early Pedi settlement site the power cables will cross the site. In most cases the pylons do less harm to heritage sites than the service road which Eskom grades underneath the power line. The route of the service road was not supplied and thus not inspected. No grading of a road should be allowed directly underneath the power line between pylons T466 and T467. If a service road is needed it should follow a route to the east of the power line to avoid the archaeological site (see photographs 1 – 3 and maps 3 & 4).

A second concern is the numerous *Bascia albitrunca* trees or shepherds trees along the route (Van Wyk B, Van Wyk P & Van Wyk B – E 2008: 67). These trees are in most cases older than sixty years and of cultural significance to the local people but are also the only large trees left in the valley (see photograph 4). These trees are extensively used as shade trees during the collecting of fire wood by local woman. They are the only trees not cut for fire wood as the wood does not burn. In the Tjate Valley all these trees have been extensively trimmed, and all of them have sprouted many new branches that can be harvested again. From this repeated harvesting the trees show interesting crown shapes reminiscent of the pruning technique known as pollarding. The pruned branches are a major source of food during the dry winters for goats and other domestic animals. The fruit is also collected. In

times of severe drought the routes are dried, stamped and grind into a fine powder that is mixed with grain to make porridge (Van Wyk B, Van Wyk P & Van Wyk B – E 2008).

The other area which might be sensitive from a heritage point of view is from pylon T 468 to T485). Most of this area has been extensively ploughed over a long period of time and all archaeological sites on the surface in this area were destroyed.

With the present archaeological research taking place in the Tjate Valley we found that Early Iron Age sites occur throughout the valley. These sites are not visible from the surface as they date to a period of 750AD to \pm 1100 AD and are covered by \pm thirty centimetres of topsoil (see photograph 2 & 3). These sites belong to the Lydenburg and Doornkop type of archaeological sites and are very important.

These sites are in most cases only discovered during road building or excavations for pipelines or foundations.

5. CONCLUSION

The Tjate Valley is a very important Provincial Heritage site. The proposed new power line route avoids all the recorded sites though the service roads might affect the site between pylons T466 and 467. During construction there is a chance that some Early Iron Age sites might be found.

The many shepherds trees which will be affected by the power line are a real concern and a solution will have to be found. These trees are seldom higher than two metres because of the trimming and might not affect the power line if left as they are.

6. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- An archaeologist be present when the service road to pylons T 466 and T467 is planned to avoid the archaeological site
- When the construction of the pylons are taking place the excavated holes for the foundations of the pylons between T468 and T 485 be inspected by an archaeologist for Early Iron Age settlements
- The problem of the Shepherds trees must be solved between Eskom, SAHRA, Lihra and a botanist.

7. SITE INFORMATION

Owners contact details: Eskom Holdings Limited (see details below)
Developers contact details: Eskom Holdings Limited PO Box 1091, Johannesburg, 2000 Megawatt Park, Maxwell Drive, Sandton Contact: Mamokete Mafumo Tel: (011) 800 2621 Fax: (011) 800 665 2821
Consultants contact details: Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd 259 Kent Avenue, Ferndale, Randburg. P O Box 2083, Pinegowrie 2123, South Africa. Tel: +27 11 789 7170 Fax: +27 11 787 3059 Contact: Mr Brian Whitfield
Type of development (e.g. low cost housing project, mining etc.) Construction of a 400kV Transmission Power line from Duvha-Leseding
Whether rezoning and/or subdivision of land is involved: No.
Full location of Province, Magisterial District/Local Authority, property (e.g. farm, erf name and number): Province: Limpopo Magisterial District/Local Authority: Fetagomo Local Municipality (LIM474) Greater Tubatse Local Municipality (LIM 475) Prpoerties: Hackney 116 KT Ptn 0 Hackney 116 KT Remainder Dsjate 249 KT Ptn 0 Fernkloof 539 KS Ptn 0 Thornhill 544 KT Ptn 0
Location map must have the polygon of the area to be surveyed on it and full geographical coordinates for all relevant points and where applicable indication of the area to be developed (footprint): Attached.
If possible an aerial photograph of the specific area showing the location of all site. Attached.

8. REFERENCES

- Küsel U.S. 2008 Assessment of the Cultural Heritage Resources on the Provincial Heritage Site of Tjate on the Farm Djate 249 KT in Sekhukhune Limpopo Province.
- Küsel U.S. 2007 Cultural Heritage Resources survey for the proposed Duvha – Leseding power line for Eskom.

- Delius P. 1983 The land belongs to us.
- Delius P. and Michelle Hay 2009. Mpumalanga an illustrated history.
- Tribunal report 2008
- New Town Landscape Architects 11 June 2008 Duvha to Leseding power line – Visual aspects.

PHOTOGRAPHS



No 1. General view of western archaeological site



No 2. Site of pylon T 467



No 3. Site of pylon T 466



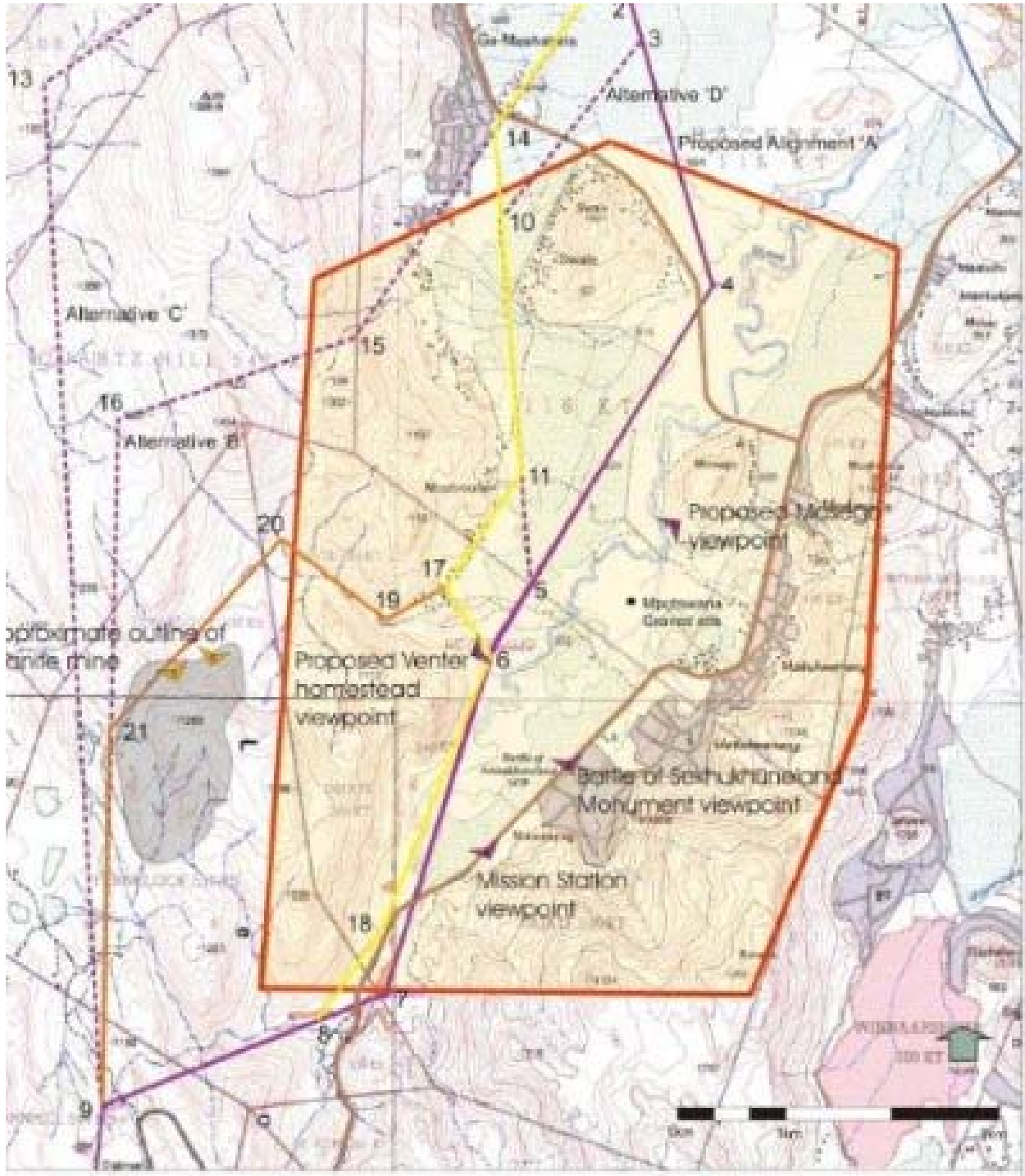
No 4. An example of a pruned Shepard tree

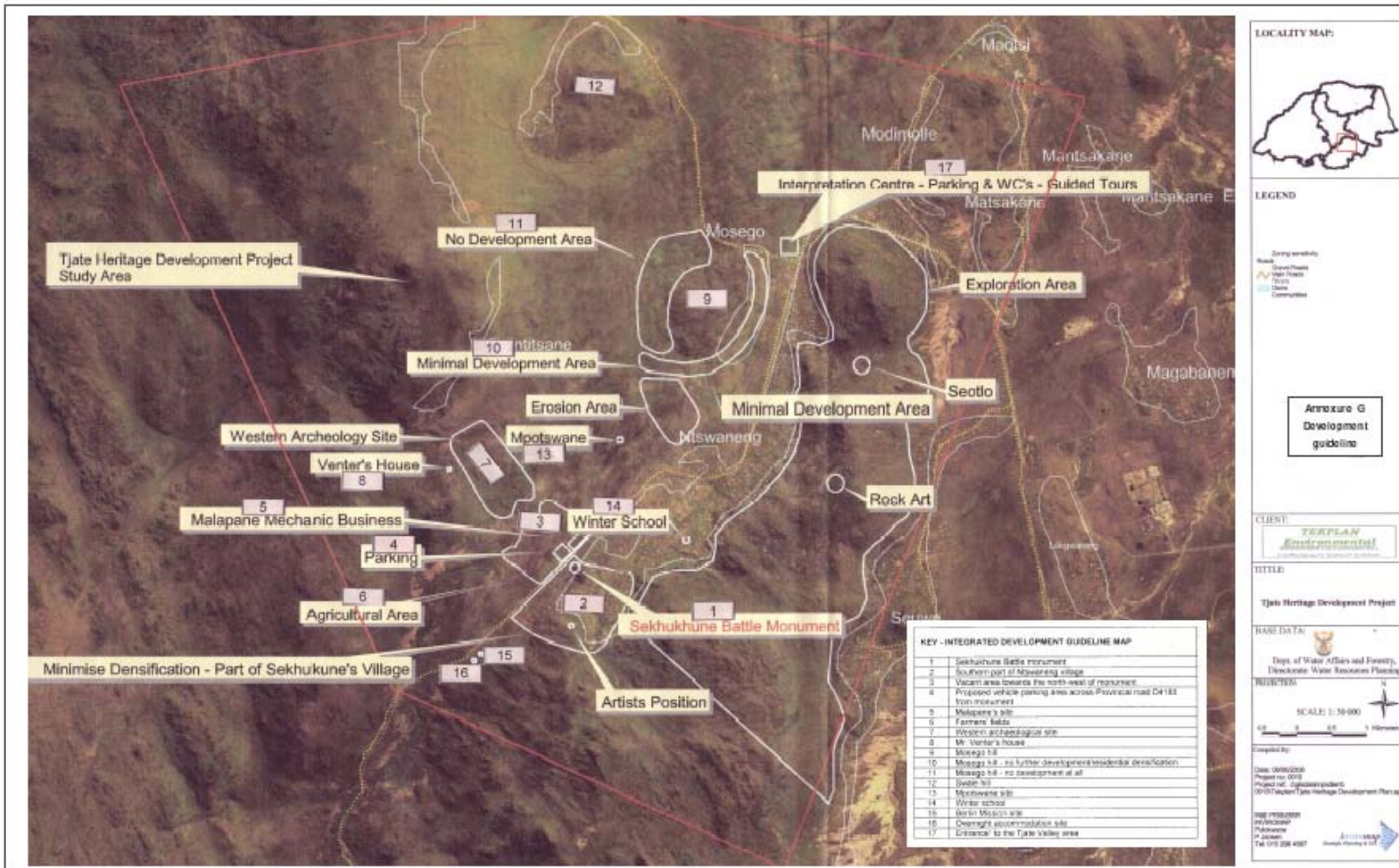


No 5. View of the northern section of the power line where possible Early Iron Age sites might occur

MAP 1

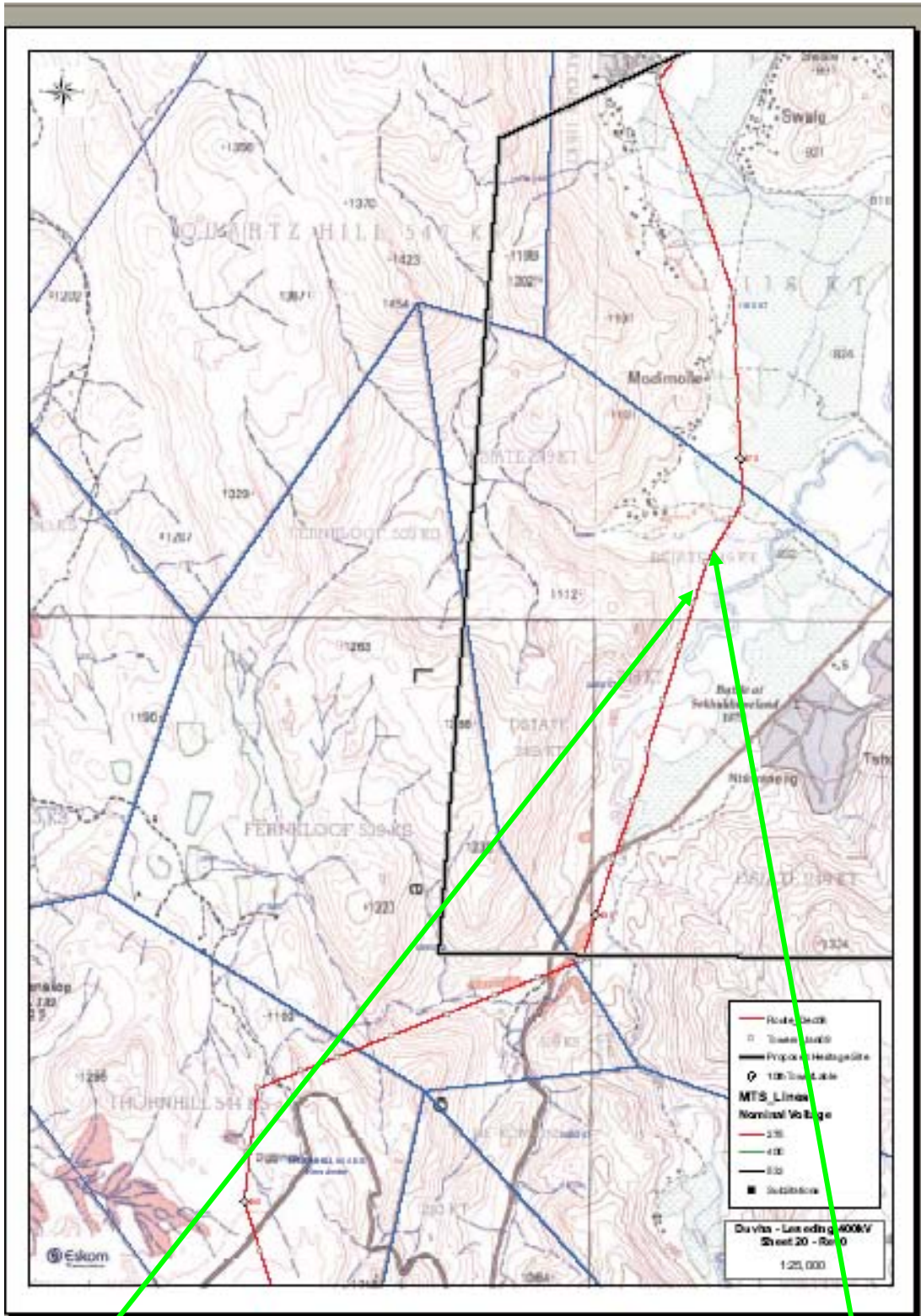
The proposed new route of the power line as decided by the tribunal marked in yellow. The purple line indicates the original Eskom proposal for the line. Red line indicates the Provincial Heritage Site





MAP 2

The heritage sites on the declared Tjate Provincial Heritage Site. The power line will cross the western archaeological site as shown on the map.

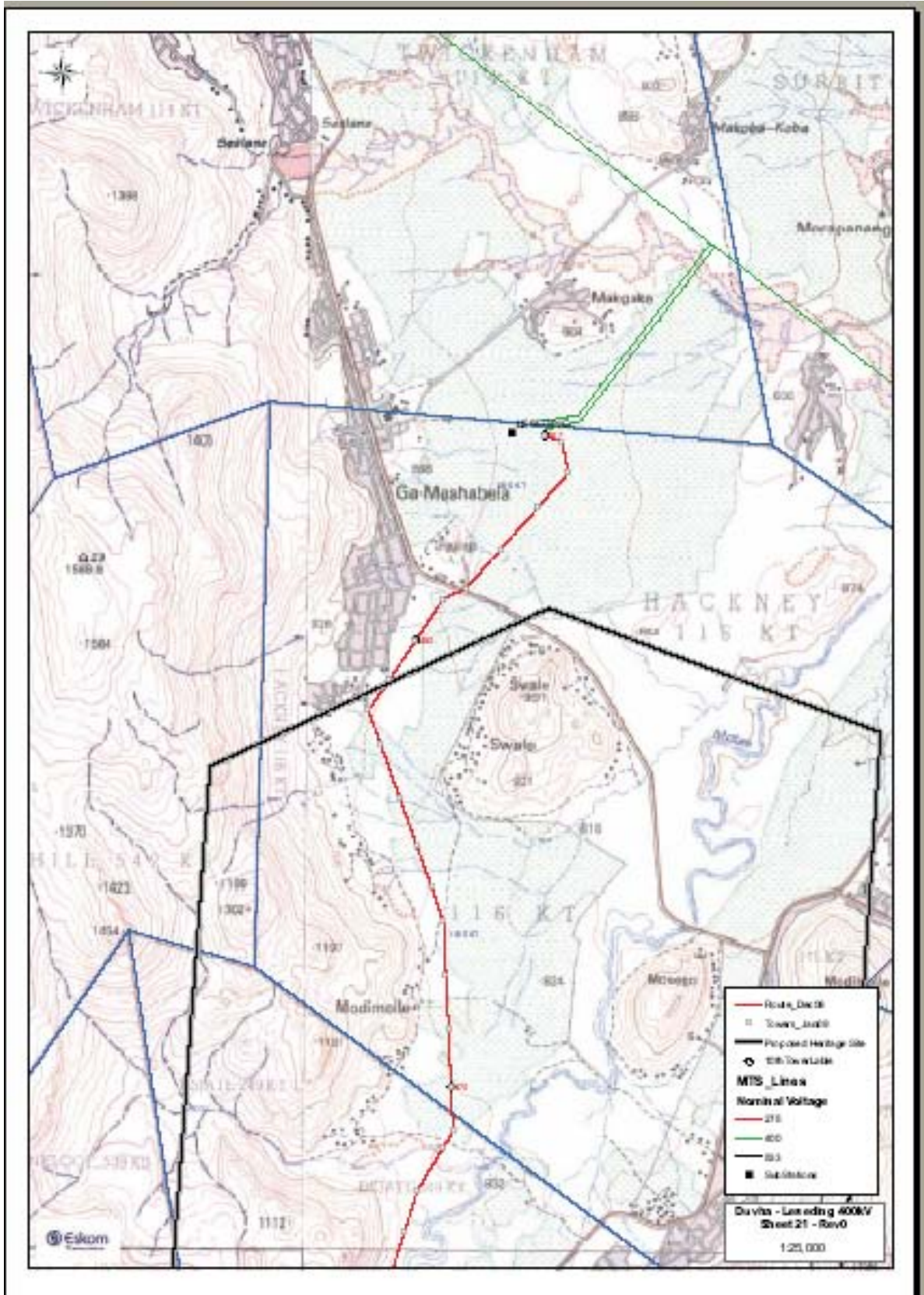


T 466

T 467

MAP 3. Southern section of proposed power line route

Showing positions pylons T 466 and T 467



MAP 4. Northern section of proposed power line route