

**HERITAGE SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED ESKOM
SIYALU-KIEPERSOL & KIEPERSOL-GROOTHOUT
TRANSMISSION LINES**

EIA REFERENCE: 12/12/20/1586

FOR WANDIMA

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INTRODUCTION

Umlando cc was contracted by Wandima Environmental consultants to undertake a preliminary heritage assessment of the proposed Siyalu-Kiepersol and Kiepersol-Groothout transmission lines. Each line has three proposed routes that occur between Hazyview and Graskop and Sabie, Mpumalanga (Figures 1 - 3). Most of the routes follow existing transmission lines. The transmission line will upgrade some of the existing transmission lines and decommission others. A new substation is also proposed.

The survey did not locate any sites of high significance; however, some areas would require mitigation. Several sections of the various routes were restricted due to very dense vegetation. Some of these areas are archaeologically sensitive and should be resurveyed after bush clearance.

The topography of the area is varied. Much of the line runs along steep mountain slopes, although a few areas are relatively flat.

The impacts on the area will be:

- Excavations for new pylons
- Ground disturbance for substations
- Vegetation clearance

The history of the area has been well documented in several forms of media. The more popular histories focus on the Voortrekkers, Jock of the Bushveld and the Anglo-Boer Wars¹. The (trade) routes used by these people do however; occur on pre-existing trade routes that probably date back for several millennia. There were existing trade networks dating back to the times of Great Zimbabwe, and these were probably based on even older routes. Archaeological evidence

¹ There have been attempts to link an Indian, or Hindi, connection to some of these areas; however the evidence for this is circumstantial, and has been misconstrued for popular literature.

also has hunter-gatherer occupations in these areas and is associated with the rock art. Archaeological evidence also dates back to the Middle Stone Age (MSA) and the Early Stone Age (ESA). The affected area thus encompassed the entire history of the route.

METHOD

The method for Heritage assessment consists of several steps.

The first step forms part of the desktop assessment. Here we would consult the databases. These databases contain most of the known heritage sites in KwaZulu-Natal, and known memorials and other protected sites, battlefields and cemeteries in southern Africa. We also consult with an historical architect, palaeontologist, and an historian where necessary.

The survey results will define the significance of each recorded site, as well as a management plan. All sites are grouped according to low, medium, and high significance for the purpose of this report. Sites of low significance have no diagnostic artefacts or features. Sites of medium significance have diagnostic artefacts or features and these sites tend to be sampled. Sampling includes the collection of artefacts for future analysis. All diagnostic pottery, such as rims, lips, and decorated sherds are sampled, while bone, stone and shell are mostly noted. Sampling usually occurs on most sites. Sites of high significance are excavated and/or extensively sampled. Those sites that are extensively sampled have high research potential, yet poor preservation of features.

Defining significance

Heritage sites vary according to significance and several different criteria relate to each type of site. However, there are several criteria that allow for a general significance rating of archaeological sites.

These criteria are:

1. State of preservation of:

- 1.1. Organic remains:
 - 1.1.1. Faunal
 - 1.1.2. Botanical
- 1.2. Rock art
- 1.3. Walling
- 1.4. Presence of a cultural deposit
- 1.5. Features:
 - 1.5.1. Ash Features
 - 1.5.2. Graves
 - 1.5.3. Middens
 - 1.5.4. Cattle byres
 - 1.5.5. Bedding and ash complexes

2. Spatial arrangements:

- 2.1. Internal housing arrangements
- 2.2. Intra-site settlement patterns
- 2.3. Inter-site settlement patterns

3. Features of the site:

- 3.1. Are there any unusual, unique or rare artefacts or images at the site?
- 3.2. Is it a type site?
- 3.3. Does the site have a very good example of a specific time period, feature, or artefact?

4. Research:

- 4.1. Providing information on current research projects
- 4.2. Salvaging information for potential future research projects

5. Inter- and intra-site variability

- 5.1. Can this particular site yield information regarding intra-site variability, i.e. spatial relationships between various features and artefacts?

5.2. Can this particular site yield information about a community's social relationships within itself, or between other communities?

6. Archaeological Experience:

6.1. The personal experience and expertise of the CRM practitioner should not be ignored. Experience can indicate sites that have potentially significant aspects, but need to be tested prior to any conclusions.

7. Educational:

7.1. Does the site have the potential to be used as an educational instrument?

7.2. Does the site have the potential to become a tourist attraction?

7.3. The educational value of a site can only be fully determined after initial test-pit excavations and/or full excavations.

8. Other Heritage Significance:

8.1. Palaeontological sites

8.2. Historical buildings

8.3. Battlefields and general Anglo-Zulu and Anglo-Boer sites

8.4. Graves and/or community cemeteries

8.5. Living Heritage Sites

8.6. Cultural Landscapes, that includes old trees, hills, mountains, rivers, etc related to cultural or historical experiences.

The more a site can fulfill the above criteria, the more significant it becomes. Test-pit excavations are used to test the full potential of an archaeological deposit. This occurs in Phase 2. These test-pit excavations may require further excavations if the site is of significance (Phase 3). Sites may also be mapped and/or have artefacts sampled as a form of mitigation. Sampling normally occurs when the artefacts may be good examples of their type, but are not in a primary archaeological context. Mapping records the spatial relationship between features and artefacts.

Limitations of the survey

The visibility in several areas was very poor. This was especially the case for the indigenous forests where visibility, and accessibility, was extremely poor. These areas were noted as requiring re-assessment during bush clearance. While afforested and agricultural areas had poor visibility, they were accessible by means of connecting tracks. These tracks allowed me to survey the area towards the line and thus make assumptions about the probability of occurrences of artefacts, etc. along the transmission line route.

FIG. 1: GENERAL LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTES

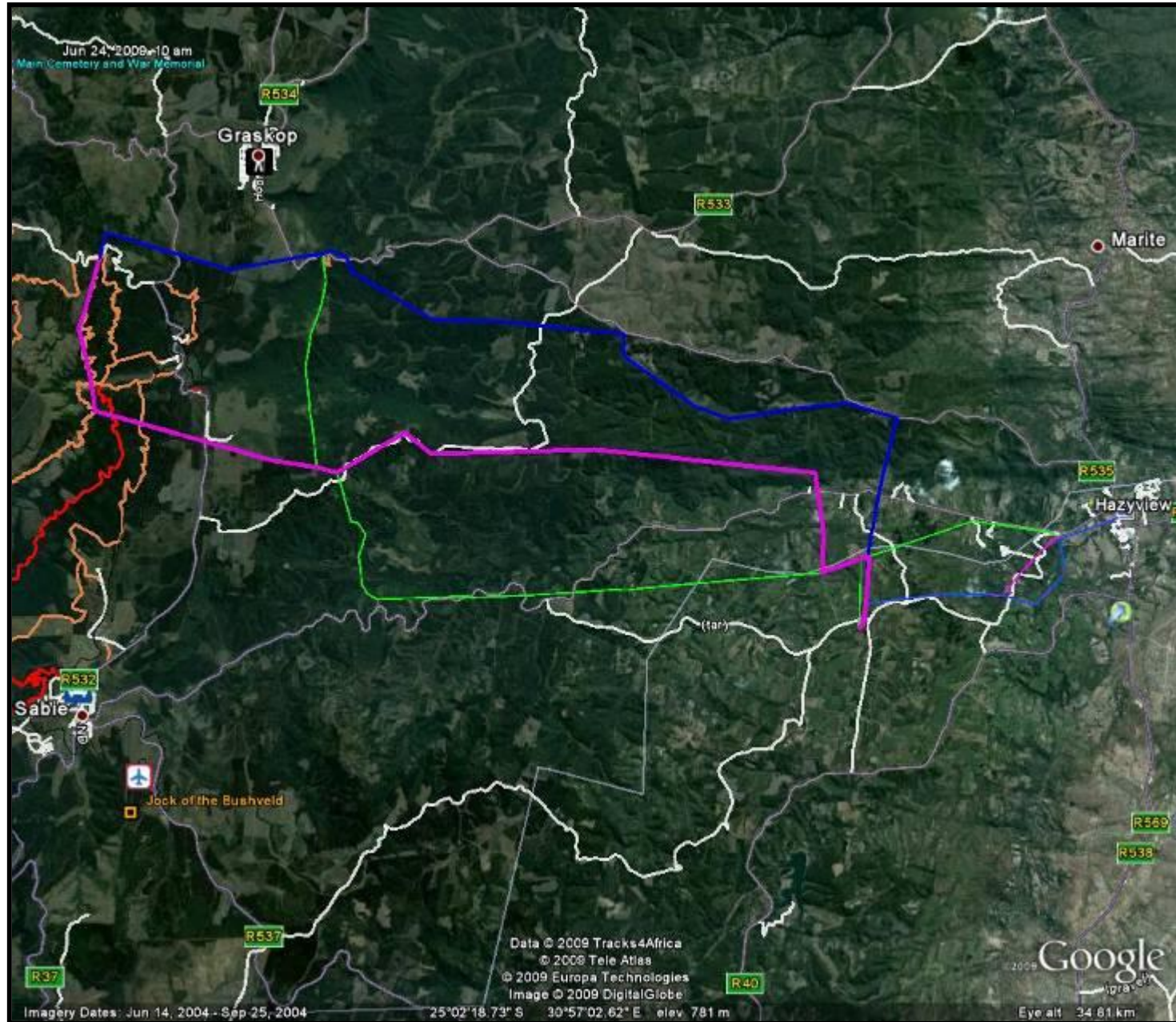


FIG. 2: LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED SIYALU-KIEPERSOL ROUTES

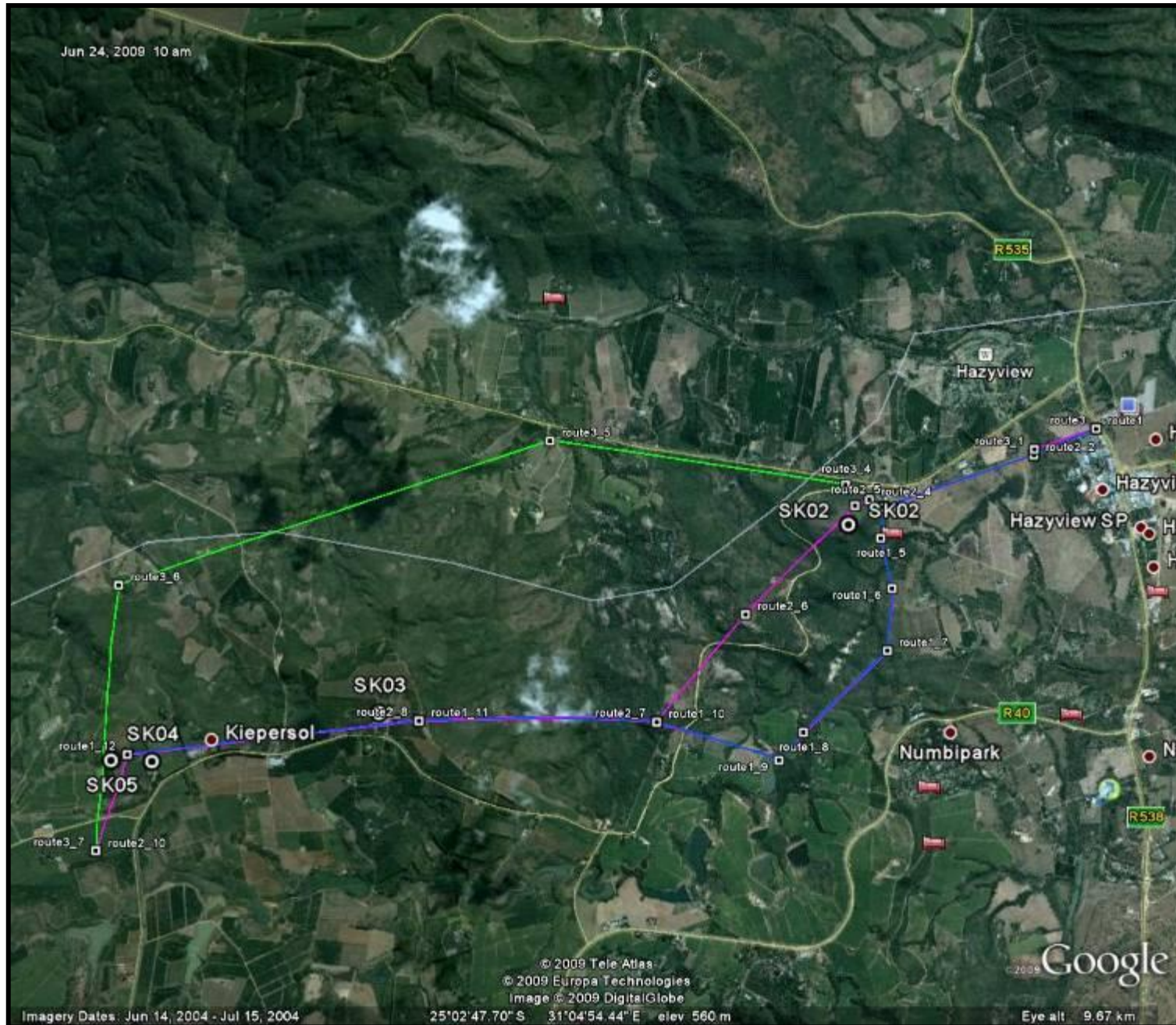
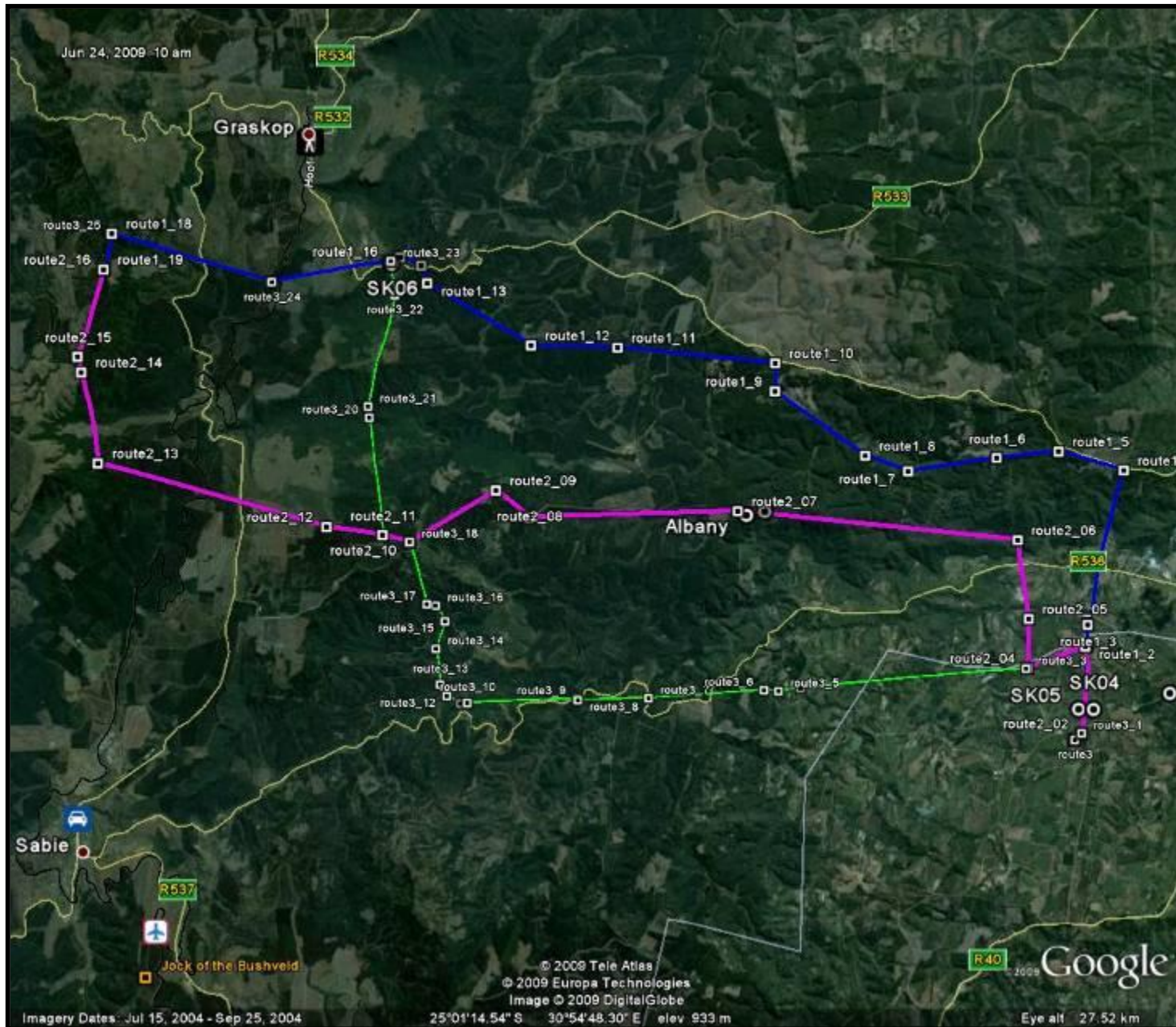


FIG. 3: LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED KIPERSOL-GROOTHOUT ROUTES



RESULTS

A total of nine sites were noted during the course of the survey. Most of these are of low significance however, some require mitigation. The impact of the proposed route will be in the form of electricity pylons. Since these will be small structures, i.e. not the large 320kV structures, the impact on sites will be negligible.

SIYALU-KIEPERSOL ROUTE

This route is illustrated in Figure 2.

SK01

SK01 is located near on a small hill. It has been exposed by a current track. The site consists of a scatter of Late Stone Age (LSA) tools on quartz, and a few pottery sherds. One sherd is a modern and probably originates from one of the craft markets in the area, as the latter have a temper distinctive from historical and Late Iron Age (LIA) pottery.

The artefacts are in a secondary context, and more probably occur beside the road. The line passes through the site.

Significance: The artefacts are of low significance and they are in a secondary context

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required.

SK02

SK02 is located on the top of a hill. The site consists of two recent buildings probably used to house labourers. The buildings are younger than 60 years in age. I could not detect any graves nearby the buildings. It should be noted that

these might occur in the thick undergrowth adjacent to the buildings. The site occurs 70m from the line.

Significance: The buildings are of low significance.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

SK03

The site is located in the avocado orchid. The land has been modified for the avocado trees and the artefacts are in a secondary context. The site consists of a scatter of pottery sherds that could date to the Historical Period or LIA. The site occurs 100m from the line.

Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required.

SK04

SK04 is located in a banana plantation. The site consists of a scatter of pottery sherds that could date to the Historical Period or LIA. The site occurs 70m from the line.

Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required.

SK05

The site consists of a scatter of pottery sherds that probably date to the LIA. One decorated sherd was observed. The decoration consisted of two bands of horizontal grooves along the neck of the pot. The site occurs 100m from the line.

Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required.

NCH4

Mr J. Van Schalkwyk recorded this site during his survey of the Farm Abek². The site consists of two human graves that are undated, but with headstones. The graves are ~100m from the transmission line (S25° 3'49.93" E31° 5'6.72"). The rest of the farm has very poor archaeological visibility.

Significance: The graves are of high significance.

Mitigation: The graves should not be affected, as they are some distance from the line. The general area on Abek 6JU needs to be resurveyed after bush clearance.

KIEPERSOL-GROOTHOUT ROUTE

This route is illustrated in Figure 3.

SK06 consists of the Kolwyn's Pass monument. The monument has been vandalised and only the structure remains. The pass dates to the 1840s where the Voortrekkers used an existing track to come down the escarpment. The name refers to chief Koveni that has now become anglicised. Part of the pass still exists.

According to the internet tourism web pages, a Mr Leibnitz had a tollhouse, and an illegal pub, at the top of the pass³. I attempted to find this building along the route, but to no avail. JP Celliers also surveyed the area for a development, and no mention is made of the tollhouse on this specific land⁴.

² J Van Schalkwyk 2007. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Planned Development (Ilanga Estate) On the Farm Abek 6JU in the Witrivier Municipal District, Mpumalanga Province.

³ http://www.graskop.com/graskop_history.htm

⁴ I was shown a copy of the original report but could not obtain a copy myself.

The original pass is integral to the history of Graskop, Sabie, and the link to the Voortrekkers who negotiated the pass. The names of the Treur Rivier and Blyde Rivier are linked directly to the history of this pass and the Voortrekkers who attempted to descend it. The original pass is, however, hardly visible and has been partially damaged by modern roads. There are small sections of the pass in existence today.

I could not survey the route in this section due to the dense vegetation.

Significance: The pass is of high significance; however, the impact of the route will be negligible. There will be a low visual impact as the views from the current road are limited due to the dense vegetation – one can hardly see the existing transmission.

Mitigation: No direct mitigation is necessary, however, the route from the monument to the top of the pass, should be resurveyed after bush clearance.

SK07

SK07 is located beside the road and is visible in the cutting. The site consists of a scatter of LSA tools on quartz. These stone tools are on the surface and are in a secondary context. Tools like this occur all over the general area.

Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

SK08

SK08 is referred to as the Albany Loading Depot (fig. 4). The current building does not appear to be older than 60 years in age; however, the plantation has been in use since the 1930s. The fruit and Jacaranda trees are also large, and indicate that the area has been in use for some time. According to the signage, the “Old Harbour Road” (the Delagoa Bay Road) passes through this area. If there was an older building at the depot, then the historical rubbish

dumps may be affected by the pylons. I am currently requesting information regarding this building from colleagues.

FIG. 4: ALBANY LAODING DEPOT



Significance: The area is of medium significance in terms of trade routes.

Mitigation: The area should be monitored during construction activity to salvage possible finds.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The various route options do not directly affect sites of high or medium significance. Any route option is acceptable in terms of heritage management.

Some areas will need to be resurveyed if that specific route is chosen. This was because the vegetation was too dense to make an adequate assessment. I suggest that these selected areas are resurveyed after bush clearance, and before construction.

These areas are as follows:

- **Siyalu-Kiepersol**
 - Route 1:
 - Points 7 and 8
 - Route 2:
 - Points 4 and 5
 - Points 5.5 and 6⁵
 - Points 7 and 8
 - Route 3:
 - Points 5 and 6
 - Points 6 and 6.5

- **Kiepersol-Groothout**
 - Route 1
 - Points 3.5 and 4
 - Kolwyn's Pass

CONCLUSION

A heritage survey of two transmission line routes was undertaken between Hazyview and Graskop, Mpumalanga. Each route has three options; however, there are no significant finds to favour a specific route. Some areas will need to be resurveyed if a specific route is chosen, as the survey in some areas is incomplete. Given the lack of significant heritage sites along the route, I do not believe that any significant new finds would be located during the resurvey. The impact of the pylons will also be minimal as these are small line upgrades.

⁵ A 0.5 indicates the halfway point

APPENDIX A

SITE RECORD FORMS

UMLANDO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM



SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age: **X**

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age: **X**

Historical Period:

Recorder's Site No.: **SK 01**

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet:

GPS reading: **S: 25° 02.612" E 31° 06.853"**

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

From Hazyview take the R536 and follow the GPS co-ordinates.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: **Surface**

Merits conservation: **No**

Threats: **Yes**

What threats: **Eskom**

RECORDING:

Graphic record: **No**

Digital pictures:

Tracings:

Re-drawings:

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Date: 01 December 2009

Owner:

References:

Description of site and artefactual content.

Site consists of a scatter of LSA flakes (Quartz) and a few undecorated sherds.

1x sherd is very thick, possibly a furnace fragment or a hut floor fragment?

Some MSA occur upslope.

UMLANDO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM



SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age:

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age:

Historical Period: **X**

Recorder's Site No.: **SK 02**

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet:

GPS reading: **S: 25° 02.826" E 31° 06.234"**

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

From Hazyview take the R536, turn left on the D1035, take first track to the left, and follow this to the top of the hill.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: **Abandoned houses/ Ruins**

Merits conservation: **No**

Threats: **Yes**

What threats: **Eskom**

RECORDING:

Graphic record: **No**

Digital pictures:

Tracings:

Re-drawings:

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Date: 01 December 2009

Owner:

References:

Description of site and artefactual content.

The site consists of a "modern" house and some labourers' housing.

UMLANDO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM



SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age:

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age: **X**

Historical Period:

Recorder's Site No.: **SK 03**

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet:

GPS reading: **S: 25° 03.708" E 31° 03.787"**

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

From SK 02, continue with D1035, take the right at the Y-junction, the site is approximately 2km's from here.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: **Surface**

Merits conservation: **No**

Threats: **Yes**

What threats: **Eskom**

RECORDING:

Graphic record: **No**

Digital pictures:

Tracings:

Re-drawings:

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Date: 01 December 2009

Owner:

References:

Description of site and artefactual content.

Site consists of a scatter of potsherds in an avocado plantation.

UMLANDO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM



SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age:

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age: **X**

Historical Period:

Recorder's Site No.: **SK 04**

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet:

GPS reading: **S: 25° 03.941" E 31° 02.604"**

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

As for SK 03, but further along the road, on the RHS, before the D514.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: **Surface**

Merits conservation: **No**

Threats: **Yes**

What threats: **Eskom**

RECORDING:

Graphic record: **No**

Digital pictures:

Tracings:

Re-drawings:

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Date: 02 December 2009

Owner:

References:

Description of site and artefactual content.

Site consists of a scatter of potsherds.

UMLANDO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM



SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age: **X**

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age: **X**

Historical Period:

Recorder's Site No.: **SK 05**

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet:

GPS reading: **S: 25°03.674" E 31° 02.380"**

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

As for SK 04, but further along the road, on the RHS, before the D514.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: **Surface**

Merits conservation: **No**

Threats: **Yes**

What threats: **Eskom**

RECORDING:

Graphic record: **No**

Digital pictures:

Tracings:

Re-drawings:

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Date: 03 December 2009

Owner:

References:

Description of site and artefactual content.

Site consists of a scatter of pottery on dolerite boulders and around it.

1x decorated sherd.

UMLANDO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM



SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age:
Early Iron Age:
Late Iron Age:
Historical Period: **X**

Recorder's Site No.: **SK 06**

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet:

GPS reading: **S: 24° 57.685" E 30° 51.675"**

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

From Graskop take the Kolwyn's Pass road (R533). Monument is at top of pass.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: **Monument**

Merits conservation: **Yes, monument does not exist anymore, but it still has historical value.**

Threats: **Yes**

What threats: **Eskom**

RECORDING:

Graphic record: **Yes**

Digital pictures: **X**

Tracings:

Re-drawings:

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Date: 03 December 2009

Owner:

References:

Description of site and artefactual content.

Site consists of a ruined of Kolwyn's Pass. Monument is vandalised.

UMLANDO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM



SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age: **X**

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age:

Historical Period:

Recorder's Site No.: **SK 07**

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet:

GPS reading: **S: 25° 03.777" E 30° 55.638"**

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

From Sabie take the R536 to Hazyview. Site is located at road cutting where transmission line occurs.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: **Surface**

Merits conservation: **No**

Threats: **Yes**

What threats: **Eskom**

RECORDING:

Graphic record: **Yes**

Digital pictures: **X**

Tracings:

Re-drawings:

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Date: 04 December 2009

Owner:

References:

Description of site and artefactual content.

Site consists of a scatter of LSA tools (Quartz).

UMLANDO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM



SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age:

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age:

Historical Period: **X**

Recorder's Site No.: **SK 08**

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet:

GPS reading: **S: 25° 01 11.0" E 30° 057 09.4"**

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

From the R535, take the Klipkraal road to the left, follow the signs for Albany loading depot on the LHS.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: **Historical trading post?**

Merits conservation: **Yes**

Threats: **Yes**

What threats: **Eskom**

RECORDING:

Graphic record: **Yes**

Digital pictures: **X**

Tracings:

Re-drawings:

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Date: 04 December 2009

Owner:

References:

Description of site and artefactual content.

The site consists of a possible historical trading post.