

HERITAGE IMPACT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PLANNED STEELPOORT INTEGRATION PROJECT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

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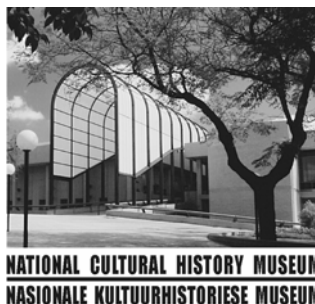
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HERITAGE IMPACT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PLANNED STEELPOORT INTEGRATION PROJECT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

The aim of the survey was to evaluate the heritage potential of an area through which it is proposed to construct a new electricity powerline. For this purpose, two alternative corridors, each with a number of shorter route deviations, were identified through what is commonly known as the Steelpoort River valley. The survey also included the substation site and the turn-in lines.

The study was negatively influenced by two factors:

- Sections of the area are still under research/surveyed, with the result that very little information exists on those areas. This lack of information was somewhat overcome by the study of aerial photographs, especially of the eastern alternative.
- Dense vegetation made the detection of sites difficult in some sections of the study area.

Despite this, it could be determined that a large variety of cultural heritage sites occur in the area. These range from settlement to initiation sites, industrial and farming related sites as well as cemeteries. It is anticipated that if a detailed survey is done, many more sites would be identified. Therefore, from a heritage point of view, it is predicted that both of the proposed corridors would have an impact on heritage sites. Selection of the preferred corridor would therefore be based on the criteria of the absence of Grade I sites as well as the least number of sites that would be impacted on.

Due to their specific economic strategies, settlement requirements and available resources, Stone Age as well as Iron Age people preferred to settle close to the river. The mountainous areas were to a very large extent avoided. Even in historic times, this seems to have been the case, as most people are currently found settled on the flatter areas close to the river.

A thousand years ago, a very large, sophisticated community existed for hundreds of years in this valley. Known to archaeologists as the Doornkop phase (named after the type site) of the Early Iron Age, these people are well-known for the extraordinary clay masks they produced, some of which was found on a site near Lydenburg. As a result of the development of the De Hoop Dam, research is currently being carried out on these sites. The results of this research might change their significance and elevate them to a Grade II or even Grade I level, depending on the material that is found. The western corridor would pass across a number of sites dating to this phase. A powerline would have two types of impacts on heritage sites: directly, as some tower structures would definitely be erected on Iron Age sites and indirectly as it would have a visual impact on these sites.

Therefore, based on the available information, from a heritage point of view, the western corridor is highly sensitive and must be avoided. That leaves the eastern corridor as the preferred one, unless a third alternative is found. The smaller deviations and turn-in points would, viewed on the whole, have no significant influence on this selection.

As many heritage sites are known to exist in the area, it is anticipated that if the development takes place, it would be on condition of acceptance of the management measures as set out in Section 7 of this report. These measures were developed with the aim of minimizing the impact of the proposed development on the heritage sites. The most important of this would be the conducting of a full Phase 1 archaeological survey of the selected corridor in accordance with the requirements of Section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999). That would imply a walk-through of the preferred alignment in the site-specific EMP phase after the route has been surveyed and the tower positions determined.

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Study area: Refers to the entire study area as indicated by the client in the accompanying Fig. 1.

Stone Age: The first and longest part of human history is the Stone Age, which began with the appearance of early humans between 3-2 million years ago. Stone Age people were hunters, gatherers and scavengers who did not live in permanently settled communities. Their stone tools preserve well and are found in most places in South Africa and elsewhere.

Early Stone Age	2 000 000 - 150 000 Before Present
Middle Stone Age	150 000 - 30 000 BP
Late Stone Age	30 000 - until c. AD 200

Iron Age: Period covering the last 1800 years, when new people brought a new way of life to southern Africa. They established settled villages, cultivated domestic crops such as sorghum, millet and beans, and they herded cattle as well as sheep and goats. These people, according to archaeological evidence, spoke early variations of the Bantu Language. Because they produced their own iron tools, archaeologists call this the Iron Age.

Early Iron Age	AD 200 - AD 1000
Late Iron Age	AD 1000 - AD 1830

Historical Period: Since the arrival of the white settlers - c. AD 1840 - in this part of the country

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADRC	Archaeological Data Recording Centre
EIA	Early Iron Age
ESA	Early Stone Age
LIA	Late Iron Age
LSA	Late Stone Age
MSA	Middle Stone Age
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act
PHRA	Provincial Heritage Resources Agency
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency

HERITAGE IMPACT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PLANNED STEELPOORT INTEGRATION PROJECT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

1. INTRODUCTION

The National Cultural History Museum¹ was contracted by **Savannah Environmental** to review an area in which it is proposed to develop a new 400 kV powerline, as well as the substation site and turn-in lines. For this purpose, two alternative corridors were identified by ESKOM, with a number of shorter possible deviations. The aim of the survey was to determine the nature and potential of cultural heritage resources found within the boundaries of the area that is to be impacted by the developed. Based on this, a selection is to be made on the most viable route in which the development can take place. This will largely be determined by:

- The significance of identified heritage sites – Grade I sites (see Section 5 below), are of national significance and should be avoided.
- The area where the least number of heritage sites will be impacted on.

Cultural heritage resources are broadly defined as all non-physical and physical human-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences that are associated with human activity. These include all sites, structures and artefacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development.

2. BACKGROUND AND BRIEF

The scope of work consisted of reviewing an area, in accordance with the requirements of Section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999), to determine the potential of heritage resources that might occur in the area.

This include:

- Conducting a desk-top investigation of the area;
- A visit to the proposed development site.

The objectives were to

¹ The National Cultural History Museum is affiliated to the Northern Flagship Institution, which act as parent body for a number of museums, all of which resorts under the Department of Arts and Culture.

-
- Identify possible archaeological, cultural and historic sites within the proposed development areas;
 - Evaluate the potential impacts of construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed development on archaeological, cultural and historical resources;
 - Indicated which would be the preferred site for the proposed development;
 - Recommend mitigation measures to ameliorate any negative impacts on areas of archaeological, cultural or historical importance.

3. STUDY APPROACH

3.1 Methodology

3.1.1 Preliminary investigation

3.1.1.1 Survey of the literature

A survey of the relevant literature was conducted with the aim of reviewing the previous research done and determining the potential of the area. In this regard, various reports, anthropological, archaeological and historical sources were consulted - see the list of references below.

3.1.1.2 Data bases

The *Heritage Sites Database* and the *Environmental Potential Atlas* was consulted. The databases contained in the National Archives of South Africa were also consulted.

3.1.1.3 Other sources

Topocadastral and other maps were studied - see the list of references below. Aerial photographs, where available, were used.

3.2.1 Field survey

The area was divided into blocks by using natural (e.g. streams) as well as manmade (e.g. roads, fences) boundaries, and each block was surveyed by driving across it in a number of transects. Fences and rivers obviously necessitated a deviation from this strategy. Access to the eastern alternative was somewhat constraint and very little previous research has been done in the area. However, this problem was bridged somewhat by scanning aerial photographs of the area.

3.3.1 Documentation

Sites, objects and structures that are identified are documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Coordinates of individual localities are

determined by means of the *Global Positioning System (GPS)*² and plotted on a map. This information is added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

Map datum used: Hartebeeshoek 94 (WGS84).

3.4 Limitations

The following played an important role in determining the potential in the area:

- Dense vegetation encountered during the survey period, made it difficult to identify sites, as well as to establish their extent (size).
- Not all areas are accessible, for example game ranches and some farms.
- Sufficient oral traditions are not available for the rural areas to have insight into the existence of possible heritage sites.

4. STUDY AREA

4.1 Location of the study area

The location and extent of the study area can be determined from the map in Figure 1. It stretches from the north of the village of Roosenekal, in a north-eastern direction towards the village of Steelpoort. As such it straddles the Steelpoort River.

² According to the manufacturer a certain deviation may be expected for each reading. Care was, however, taken to obtain as accurate a reading as possible, and then to correlate it with reference to the physical environment before plotting it on the map.

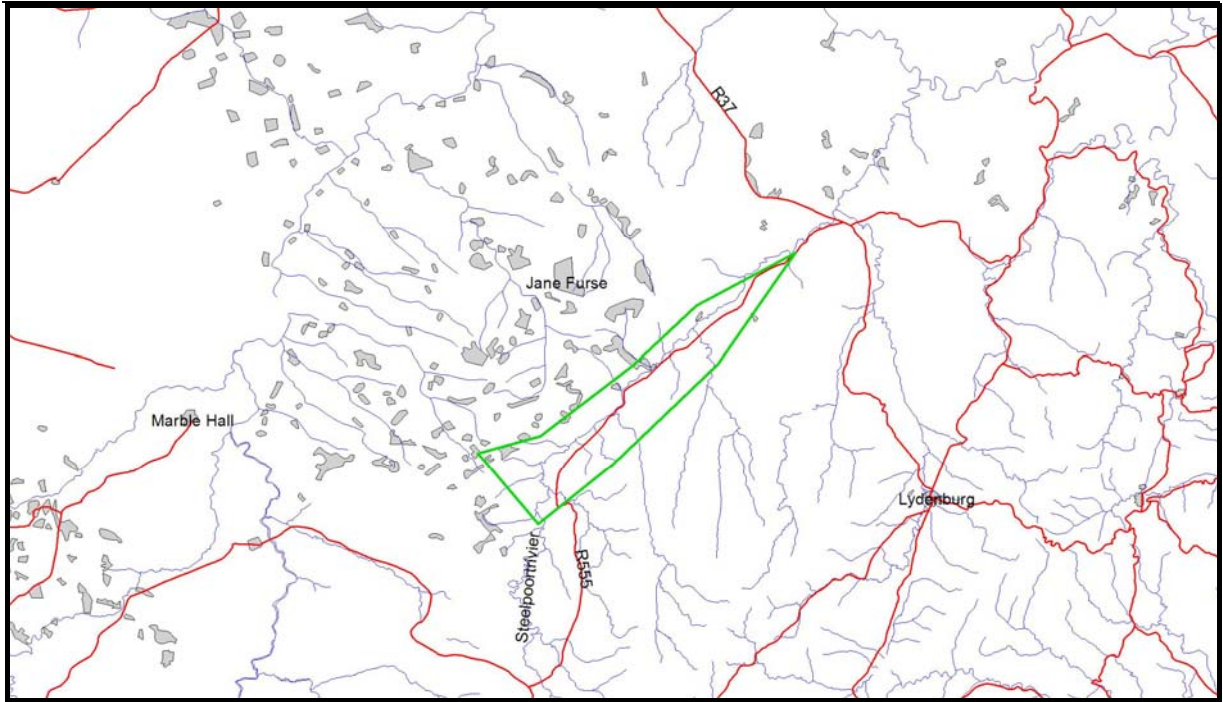


Fig. 1. Location of the study area (outlined in green) in regional context.

4.2 Chronological overview

What is presented below is simply a short overview of past human occupation in the region. It is done in order for the developer to gain insight into the complexity of the identified cultural resources.

4.2.1 Stone Age

Habitation of the larger geographical area took place since Stone Age times. One of the more important sites, known as Bushman Rock Shelter, is located at Echo Caves north of Ohrigstad. Early humans lived here, discontinuously, for thousands of years, from the Early Stone Age, through what is known as the Middle Stone Age, and well into the Late Stone Age.

That Stone Age people occupied the Steelpoort valley is confirmed by the occurrence of stone tools dating to the Early, Middle and Late Stone Age. The majority of finds are classified as isolated surface occurrences, and mostly date to the Middle Stone Age (Fig. 2). Consequently, such finds are judged to have a low significance and they require no mitigation measures. As yet, no primary site occupied during Stone Age times was located in the surveyed area.

Very few sites containing rock art are known from the larger geographical region, but none were identified in the survey area.



Figure 2. Typical flakes, tools and cores dating to the Middle Stone Age, found all over the development area.

4.2.2 Iron Age

Iron Age people moved into southern Africa by c. AD 200, entering the area either by moving down the coastal plains, or by using a more central route. It seems more likely that the first option was what brought people into the study area. From the coast they followed the various rivers inland. Being cultivators, they preferred the rich alluvial soils to settle on. One of the earliest dated sites are located near Tzaneen (Silver Leaves).

Iron Age occupation of the study area seems to have taken place on a significant scale and at least three different phases of occupation have been identified.

Sites dating to the Early Iron Age were identified. Preliminary identification of the pottery indicates that it belong to the Doornkop phase of the Early Iron Age (Fig. 3), and should have a date of between AD 600 – 900. These are the same group of people that produced the remarkable clay masks found near Lydenburg in the 1960s and are now, under the Heritage Act, viewed as being part of the National Estate. The implication is that the objects as well as the site it derives from have a Grade I significance level (see Appendix II).



Figure 3. Typical Doornkop phase (EIA) pottery.

These settlements seem to have been followed at a slightly later date by settlements linked to the Eiland Phase of the EIA (c. AD 1000) (Fig. 4).

Early Iron Age sites are our only source of evidence for the occupation of the area by early farming communities. As such these sites are important and they are viewed to have medium to high significance, which implies that they would require mitigation measures.

The last period of pre-colonial occupation consisted of Pedi-, Swazi- and Ndebele-speaking people that settled on terraced sites at the foot on the mountains (Fig. 5). At present it is not clear, but, judged on the pottery found here, that some of these sites might even date to early historic times.

As this was a period of population movement, conflict and change, it in large part set the scene for the current population situation in the country. Considering the time period that they were occupied, they also feature in the early historic period. These sites are therefore viewed to have medium significance and would require mitigation.



Figure 4. Typical Eiland Phase (EIA) pottery.



Figure 5. Stone wall, probably part of an old cattle kraal.

4.2.3 Historic period

The historic period started c. 1840s, with the arrival of the first white settlers. Negotiations between the trekkers and the Pedi resulted in the Steelpoort River becoming the border between the two groups. Later, tension developed between the two groups, giving rise to armed conflict. One of the better known incidents is the so-called Sekhukhune Wars (1876, 1879). Remains if this event can still be found in the larger geographical region. Another event that took place in the area, was the so-called Mapoch Wars (1863, 1883)

As time went by, the area was divided into farms. At first people were slow to undertake any development, preferring to use the farms for winter grazing as summers were too hot. In such cases, they established extensive camps and existed by hunting. It was only later that they started with crop farming. This was followed by a period when farmsteads developed, as well as infrastructure (e.g.

roads). Many of these farms have been in the ownership of the same families for generations. As a result, they possess a large corpus of information with regarding to the area and its people.

With the white landowners absent for long periods, Black people took up occupation on the farms, working as labourers, but they also worked the farms as sharecroppers. This was done with the consent of the white farmers.

Later, the huge mineral wealth of the area was discovered, largely due to the work of the famous geologist Hans Merensky. These developments not only brought threats to existing heritage sites, also a legacy of mining heritage.



Fig. 6. A typical informal cemetery found in the area.

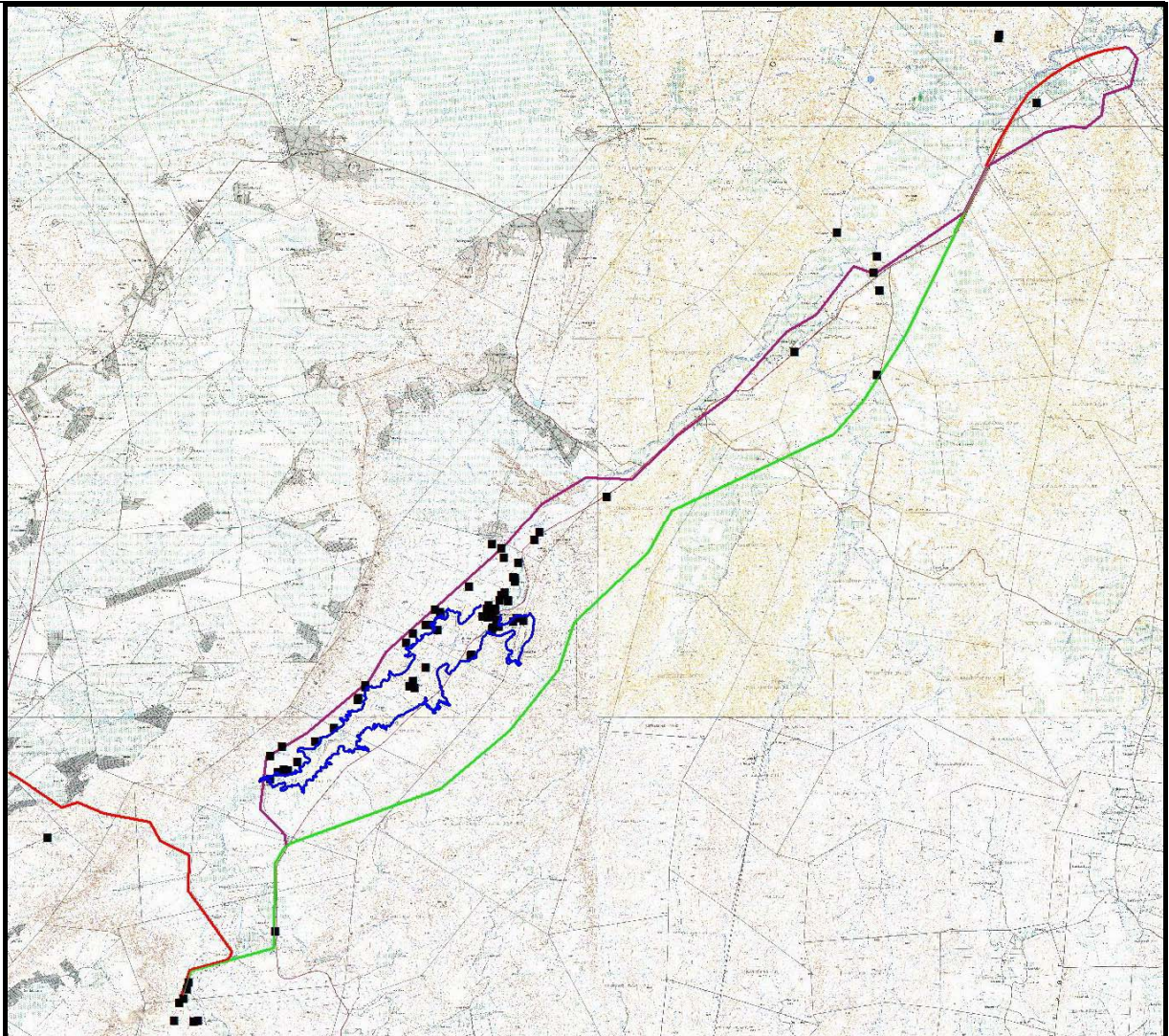


Fig. 7. The study area, showing the different alternatives, with the distribution of known sites of heritage significance in the immediate vicinity of the corridors (n = 89) (Map courtesy of the Government Printer).

The large number of sites indicated in the western alternative is as a direct result of the many research projects that have been done here. Conversely, the eastern alternative, having a more rugged topography, was less likely to have been inhabited in the past and would therefore have fewer sites.

5. SITE SIGNIFICANCE AND ASSESSMENT

Impact analysis of cultural resources under threat of the proposed development, are based on the present understanding of the development.

The **significance** of a heritage site and artefacts is determined by its historical, social, aesthetic, technological and scientific value in relation to the uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. It must be kept in mind that the various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and that the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these.

Sites regarded as having low significance are viewed as being recorded in full after identification and would require no further mitigation. Impact from the development would therefore be judged to be low. Sites with a medium to high significance would therefore require mitigation. Mitigation, in most cases the excavation of a site, is in essence destructive and therefore the impact can be viewed as high and as permanent.

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act no 25 of 1999) stipulates the assessment criteria and grading of archaeological sites. The following categories are distinguished in Section 7 of the Act:

- **Grade I:** Heritage resources with qualities so exceptional that they are of special national significance;
- **Grade II:** Heritage resources which, although forming part of the national estate, can be considered to have special qualities which make them significant within the context of a province or a region; and
- **Grade III:** Other heritage resources worthy of conservation, and which prescribes heritage resources assessment criteria, consistent with the criteria set out in section 3(3), which must be used by a heritage resources authority or a local authority to assess the intrinsic, comparative and contextual significance of a heritage resource and the relative benefits and costs of its protection, so that the appropriate level of grading of the resource and the consequent responsibility for its management may be allocated in terms of section 8.

Based on current knowledge and understanding of the area, one can evaluate the heritage sites in the area as follows:

- Stone tools dating from all periods of the Stone Age are known to occur all over the study area. As these objects are open finds and not in their original position anymore, they are viewed as having a low significance. A few 'sealed' sites, i.e. in a cave or rock shelter are known in the region, some of them containing rock art.

All the known Stone Age sites in the study area are currently viewed as being of Grade III significance.

- On the basis of current knowledge, a large number of sites dating to the Early and Late Iron Age are known to exist in the area. Almost all the early sites occur on the alluvial soils close to the river, with the later ones at the foot of the mountains, where stone was freely available to build structures.

All the Early and Late Iron Age sites currently known in the area are viewed to be of Grade III significance. However, current research that is being carried out as a result of the development

of the De Hoop Dam might change this and their significance might be elevated to Grade II or even Grade I level.

- Sites dating to the historic period can be related to early farming, mining and missionary activities. Included with these are also a number of sites of “ethno-historical” significance, such as the tribal capitals of the different groups of Sotho- and Ndebele speakers living in the area.

All the sites dating to historic times currently known in the area are viewed to be of Grade III significance.

6. IDENTIFICATION OF RISK RESOURCES

An Environmental Impact Assessment is focused on two phases of a proposed development: **the construction and operation phases**. However, from a cultural heritage perspective, this distinction does not apply. Heritage sites are fixed features in the environment, occurring within specific spatial confines. Any impact upon them is permanent and non-reversible. Those resources that cannot be avoided and that are directly impacted by the development can be excavated/recorded and a management plan can be developed for future action. Those sites that are not impacted, can be written into the management plan, whence they can be avoided or cared for in the future.

Construction phase:

Possible Risks	Source of the risk
Actually identified risks	
- damage to sites	Construction work
Anticipated risks	
- looting of sites	Curios workers

Operation phase:

Possible Risks	Source of the risk
Actually identified risks	
- damage to sites	Not keeping to management plans
Anticipated risks	
- damage to sites	Unscheduled construction/developments

7. RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Heritage sites are fixed features in the environment, occurring within specific spatial confines. Any impact upon them is permanent and non-reversible. Those resources that cannot be avoided and that are directly impacted by the development can be excavated/recorded and a management plan can be developed for future action. Those sites that are not impacted on, can be written into the management plan, whence they can be avoided or cared for in the future.

7.1 Objectives

Protection of archaeological, historical and any other site or land considered being of cultural value within the project boundary against vandalism, destruction and theft.

The preservation and appropriate management of new discoveries in accordance with the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999), should these be discovered during construction.

7.2.1 Construction phase

General management objectives and commitments:

- To avoid disturbing sites of heritage importance; and
- To avoid disturbing burial sites.

The following shall apply:

- The contractors and workers should be notified that archaeological sites might be exposed during the construction work.
- Should any heritage artefacts be exposed during excavation, work on the area where the artefacts were discovered, shall cease immediately and the heritage practitioner/archaeologist shall be notified as soon as possible;
- All discoveries shall be reported immediately to a museum, preferably one at which an archaeologist is available, so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made. Acting upon advice from these specialists, the heritage practitioner/archaeologist will advise the necessary actions to be taken;
- Under no circumstances shall any artefacts be removed, destroyed or interfered with by anyone on the site; and
- Contractors and workers shall be advised of the penalties associated with the unlawful removal of cultural, historical, archaeological or palaeontological artefacts, as set out in the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999), Section 51. (1).

7.2.2 Operation phase

General management objectives and commitments:

- To avoid disturbing sites of heritage importance.

The following shall apply:

- Continued care should be taken to observe discovery of any sites of heritage significance during operation. Should any archaeological artifacts and palaeontological remains be exposed during operations, work on the area where the artefacts were found, shall cease immediately and the appropriate person shall be notified as soon as possible;
- Upon receipt of such notification, an archaeologist or palaeontologist shall investigate the site as soon as practicable. Acting upon advice from these specialists, the necessary actions shall be taken;
- Under no circumstances shall archaeological or palaeontological artefacts be removed, destroyed or interfered with by anyone on the site during operations; and
- The powerline operator shall advise its workers of the penalties associated with the unlawful removal of cultural, historical, archaeological or palaeontological artefacts, as set out in the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999), Section 51(1).

7.2.3 Impact minimization

Impact analysis and resultant management of cultural resources under threat of the proposed development, are based on the present understanding of the construction and operation of a transmission line. The following objectives and design standards, if adhered to, can eliminate, minimize or enhance potential impacts.

- The developer must ensure that an archaeologist inspects each site selected for the erection of a pole structure. If a particular pole structure impacts on a heritage site but cannot be shifted, mitigation measures, i.e. the controlled excavation of the site prior to development, can be implemented. This can only be done by a qualified archaeologist after obtaining a valid permit from SAHRA.
- The same action holds true for any infrastructure development such as access routes, construction campsites, etc.
- In the past, people used to settle near water sources. Therefore riverbanks, rims of pans and smaller watercourses should be avoided as far as possible.
- In this particular part of the country, Iron Age people also preferred to settle on the saddle (or neck) between mountains (hills/outcrops). These areas should also be avoided.
- Avoid all patches bare of vegetation unless previously inspected by an archaeologist. These might be old settlement sites.
- Rock outcrops might contain rock shelters, engravings or stone walled settlements, and should therefore be avoided unless previously inspected by an archaeologist.
- Communities living close to the proposed corridor should be consulted as to the existence of sites of cultural significance, e.g. graves, as well as sites that do not show any structures but have emotional significance, such as battlefields, etc.
- All graves or cemeteries should be avoided, unless when totally impossible. The correct procedure, i.e. notification of intent to relocate them, consultation with descendants and permit application, should then be followed in relocating the graves. If any of the graves are older than 60 years, they can only be exhumed by an archaeologist. Graves of victims of conflict requires additional permits from SAHRA before they can be relocated.

-
- Archaeological material, by its very nature, occurs below ground. The developer should therefore keep in mind that archaeological sites might be exposed during the construction work. If anything is noticed, work in that area should be stopped and the occurrence should immediately be reported to a museum, preferably one at which an archaeologist is available. The archaeologist should then investigate and evaluate the find.
 - Any mitigation measures applied by an archaeologist, in the sense of excavation and documentation, should be published in order to bring this information into the public domain.

8. CONCLUSION

The aim of the survey was to evaluate the heritage potential of an area through which it is proposed to construct a new electricity powerline. For this purpose, two alternative corridors, each with a number of shorter route deviations, were identified through what is commonly known as the Steelpoort River valley. The survey also included the substation site and the turn-in lines.

The study was negatively influenced by two factors:

- Sections of the area are still under research/surveyed, with the result that very little information exists on those areas. This lack of information was somewhat overcome by the study of aerial photographs, especially of the eastern alternative.
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Despite this, it could be determined that a large variety of cultural heritage sites occur in the area. These range from settlement to initiation sites, industrial and farming related sites as well as cemeteries. It is anticipated that if a detailed survey is done, many more sites would be identified. Therefore, from a heritage point of view, it is predicted that both of the proposed corridors would have an impact on heritage sites. Selection of the preferred corridor would therefore be based on the criteria of the absence of Grade I sites as well as the least number of sites that would be impacted on.

Due to their specific economic strategies, settlement requirements and available resources, Stone Age as well as Iron Age people preferred to settle close to the river. The mountainous areas were to a very large extent avoided. Even in historic times, this seems to have been the case, as most people are currently found settled on the flatter areas close to the river.

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9. REFERENCES

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10. PROJECT TEAM

J van Schalkwyk:

Principal Investigator: Iron Age, Colonial Period, Industrial Heritage - ASAPA Registration no. 164

APPENDIX 1: CONVENTIONS USED TO ASSESS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF IDENTIFIED SITES/FEATURES

Significance

The *significance* of the sites, features and artefacts are determined by means of their historical, social, aesthetic, technological and scientific value in relation to their uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. It must be kept in mind that the various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and that the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these.

1. Historic value				
Is it important in the community, or pattern of history				
Does it have strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in history				
Does it have significance relating to the history of slavery				
2. Aesthetic value				
It is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group				
3. Scientific value				
Does it have potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural heritage				
Is it important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period				
4. Social value				
Does it have strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons				
5. Rarity				
Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage				
6. Representivity				
Is it important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or objects				
Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a range of landscapes or environments, the attributes of which identify it as being characteristic of its class				
Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics 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.				
7. Sphere of Significance		High	Medium	Low
International				
National				
Provincial				
Regional				
Local				
Specific community				
8. Significance rating of feature				
1.	Low			
2.	Medium			
3.	High			

APPENDIX 2. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

All archaeological and palaeontological sites, and meteorites are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (Act no 25 of 1999) as stated in Section 35:

(1) Subject to the provisions of section 8, the protection of archaeological and palaeontological sites and material and meteorites is the responsibility of a provincial heritage resources authority: Provided that the protection of any wreck in the territorial waters and the maritime cultural zone shall be the responsibility of SAHRA.

(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (8)(a), all archaeological objects, palaeontological material and meteorites are the property of the State. The responsible heritage authority must, on behalf of the State, at its discretion ensure that such objects are lodged with a museum or other public institution that has a collection policy acceptable to the heritage resources authority and may in so doing establish such terms and conditions as it sees fit for the conservation of such objects.

(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 offices or museum, which must immediately notify such heritage resources authority.

(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;
- (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 which assist in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

In terms of cemeteries and graves the following (Section 36):

(1) Where it is not the responsibility of any other authority, SAHRA must conserve and generally care for burial grounds and graves protected in terms of this section, and it may make such arrangements for their conservation as it sees fit.

(2) SAHRA must identify and record the graves of victims of conflict and any other graves which it deems to be of cultural significance and may erect memorials associated with the grave referred to in subsection (1), and must maintain such memorials.

(3) No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority-

- (a) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or 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, 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 equipment, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

(4) SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority may not issue a permit for the destruction or damage of any burial ground or grave referred to in subsection (3)(a) unless it is satisfied that the applicant has made satisfactory arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the contents of such graves, at the cost of the applicant and in accordance with any regulations made by the responsible heritage resources authority.

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act no 25 of 1999) stipulates the assessment criteria and grading of archaeological sites. The following categories are distinguished in Section 7 of the Act:

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- **Grade I:** Heritage resources with qualities so exceptional that they are of special national significance;
 - **Grade II:** Heritage resources which, although forming part of the national estate, can be considered to have special qualities which make them significant within the context of a province or a region; and
 - **Grade III:** Other heritage resources worthy of conservation, and which prescribes heritage resources assessment criteria, consistent with the criteria set out in section 3(3), which must be used by a heritage resources authority or a local authority to assess the intrinsic, comparative and contextual significance of a heritage resource and the relative benefits and costs of its protection, so that the appropriate level of grading of the resource and the consequent responsibility for its management may be allocated in terms of section 8.

Presenting archaeological sites as part of tourism attraction requires, in terms 44 of the Act, a Conservation Management Plan as well as a permit from SAHRA.

(1) Heritage resources authorities and local authorities must, wherever appropriate, co-ordinate and promote the presentation and use of places of cultural significance and heritage resources which form part of the national estate and for which they are responsible in terms of section 5 for public enjoyment, education, research and tourism, including-

- (a) the erection of explanatory plaques and interpretive facilities, including interpretive centres and visitor facilities;
- (b) the training and provision of guides;
- (c) the mounting of exhibitions;
- (d) the erection of memorials; and
- (e) any other means necessary for the effective presentation of the national estate.

(2) Where a heritage resource which is formally protected in terms of Part I of this Chapter is to be presented, the person wishing to undertake such presentation must, at least 60 days prior to the institution of interpretive measures or manufacture of associated material, consult with the heritage resources authority which is responsible for the protection of such heritage resource regarding the contents of interpretive material or programmes.

(3) A person may only erect a plaque or other permanent display or structure associated with such presentation in the vicinity of a place protected in terms of this Act in consultation with the heritage resources authority responsible for the protection of the place.