

Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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02 February, 2010

Jenna Lavin
Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency
PO Box 4637
Cape Town
8000



Dear Jenna,

Please find the following report:

- AIA proposed 132 KV UMK Loop in powerline near Hotazel Northern Cape

Kind regards

Jonathan Kaplan

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10 January, 2010

Att: Ms Andrea van Gensen
Eskom Distribution North West Region
PO Box 356
Bloemfontein
9300

Dear Ms van Gensen,

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT THE PROPOSED 132 KV UMK LOOP-IN POWERLINE NEAR HOTAZEL NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Eskom Holdings Limited requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake an Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed construction of the 132 KV, UMK Loop-in Powerline, near Hotazel in the Northern Cape.

Eskom plans to provide United Manganese of Kalahari (Pty) Ltd (UMK) with a 132 KV powerline, to supply power to the manganese mining operation. UMK is a 51% BEE owned company. A mining right was granted to the company in 2007 and in order for the mine to operate, electricity is required. The proposed powerline will feed into an existing substation at the UMK mine. The proposed powerline is about 250m long and the powerline servitude is 31m wide.

The proposed powerline crosses the following properties:

- Remaining Extent of Smartt 314;
- Portion 2 of Rissik 330 (comprising the railway line and servitude), and
- Remaining Extent of Rissik 330

2. Terms of reference

The Terms of Reference for the archaeological assessment were to:

- Identify and map any archaeological sites in the proposed powerline route;
- Determine the importance of archaeological sites in the proposed powerline route;
- Determine and assess the potential impacts of the proposed project on the archaeological resources, and
- Recommend mitigation measures to minimise impacts associated with the proposed project.

3. The study site

The study site (S 27° 19'.96"8 E 22° 59'.333" on map datum wgs 84) is located alongside (i.e. south of) the R380, about 15 kms south west of the town of Hotazel in the Northern Cape (Figure 1). The receiving environment is flat and comprises loose red sands, grass, bush and sporadic Camel Thorn trees, typical of this semi-desert region (Figures 3-8). Agricultural activity is marginal and comprises mainly (cattle) grazing. Several powerline footings and tie-in pits (UMK1-5) have already been excavated in the line route (Figure 2). The overburden is underlain by homogenous red coloured sands (Figures 9-13). There are no significant landscape features, or buildings or other human made features in the proposed route.

4. Approach to the study

The powerline route was searched for archaeological remains. Each of the powerline footings and tie-in pits was also inspected for any archaeological remains.

The site visit and assessment took place on 19th December, 2009.

5. Findings

No archaeological remains were found in the proposed powerline route.

No archaeological remains were found in any of the powerline footings and tie-in pits.

6. Impact statement

The impact of the proposed project on archaeological remains is likely to be **low**.

The probability of locating any important archaeological remains during implementation of the project is also likely to be low.

The receiving environment is not considered to be archaeologically sensitive, threatened or vulnerable.

7. Recommendations

The Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed construction of the 132 KV, UMK Loop-in Powerline and associated infrastructure, near Hotazel in the Northern Cape has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated, prior to proposed development activities.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Kaplan

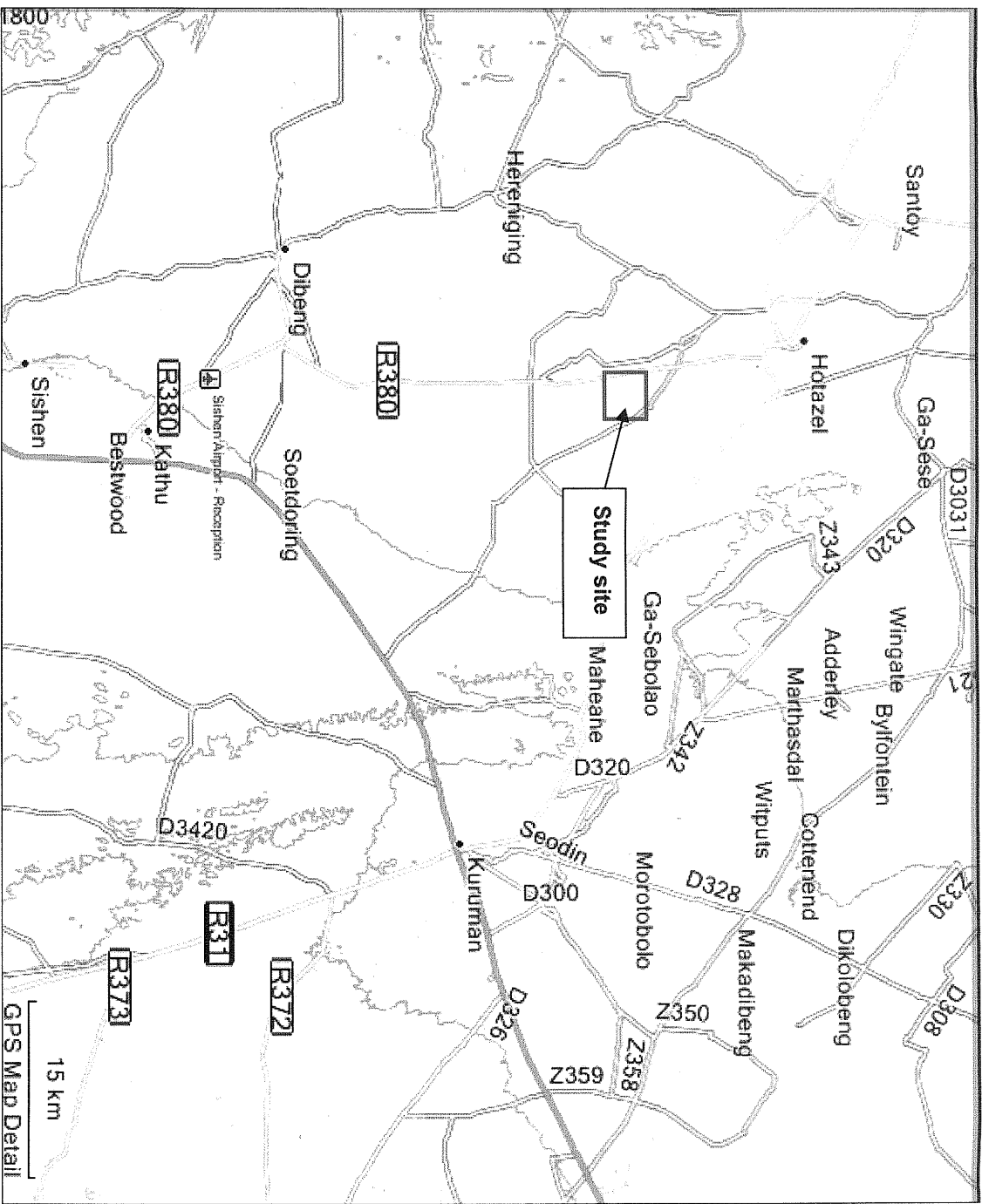


Figure 1. Locality Map

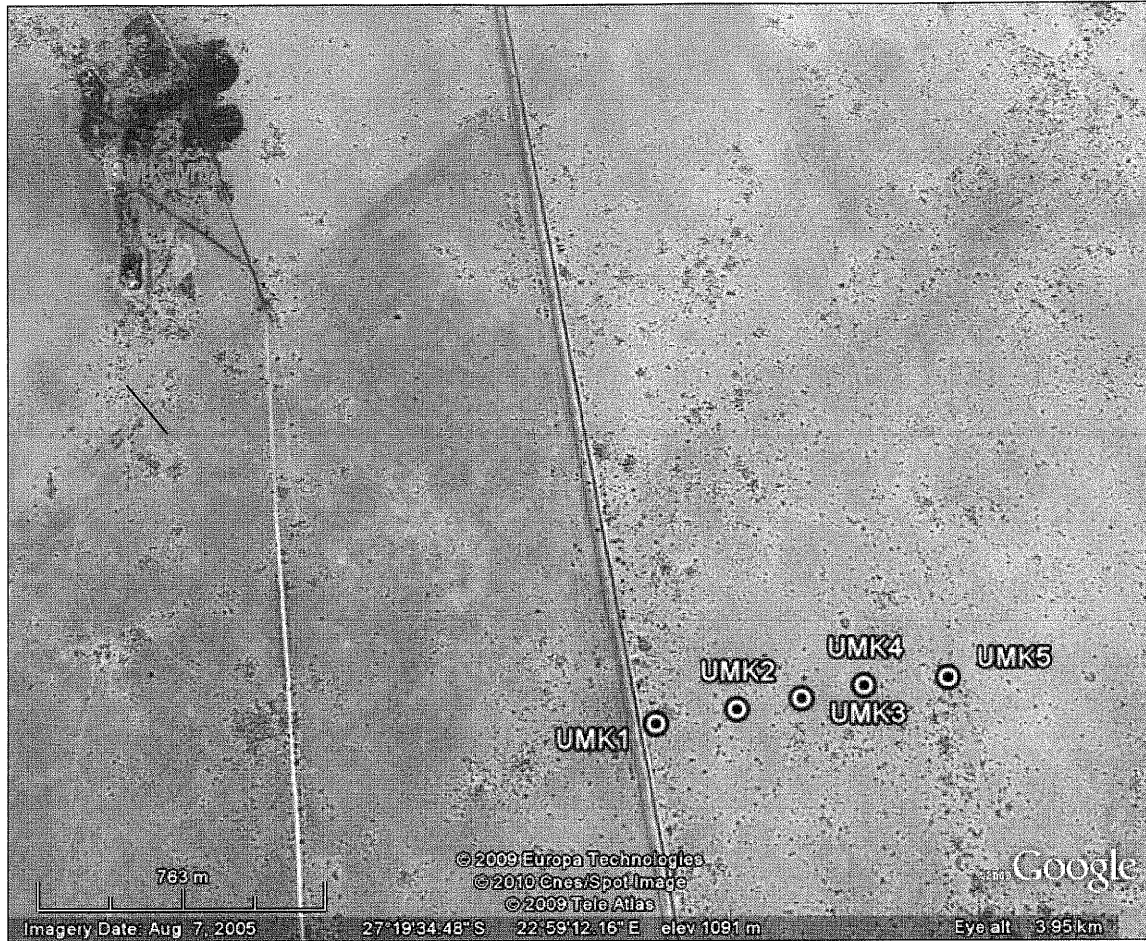


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site indicating the powerline footings



Figure 3. View of the powerline route facing south



Figure 4. View of the powerline route facing south



Figure 5. View of the powerline route facing south

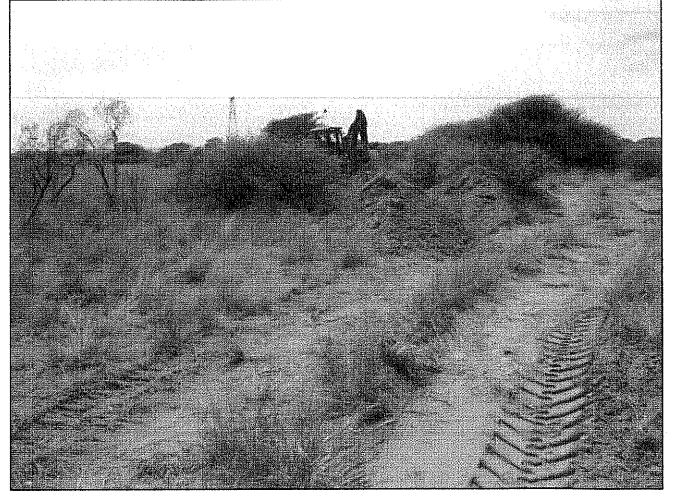


Figure 7. View of the powerline route facing south



Figure 6. View of the powerline route facing south

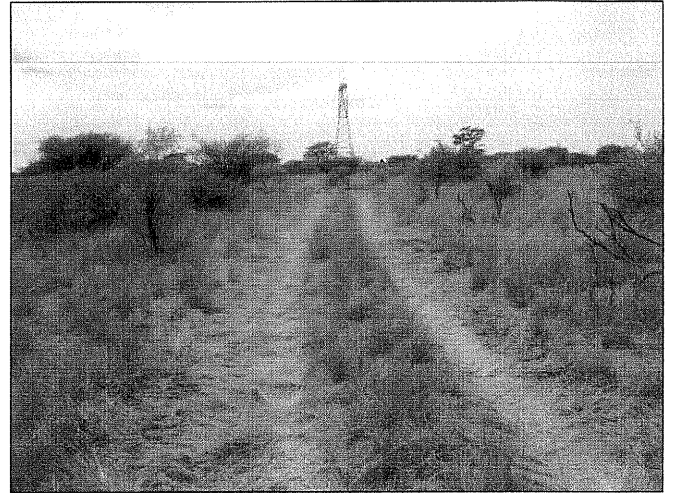


Figure 8. View of the powerline route facing south

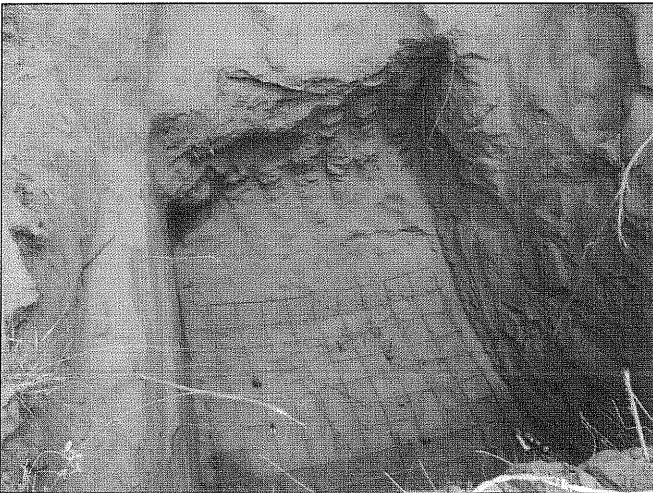


Figure 9. UMK 1

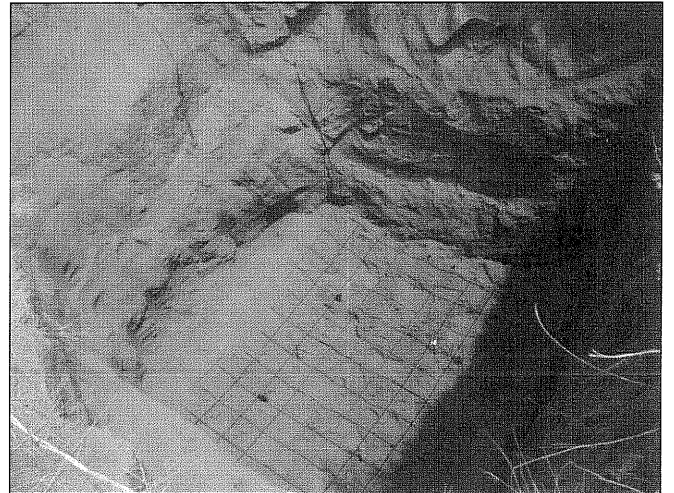


Figure 10. UMK 2

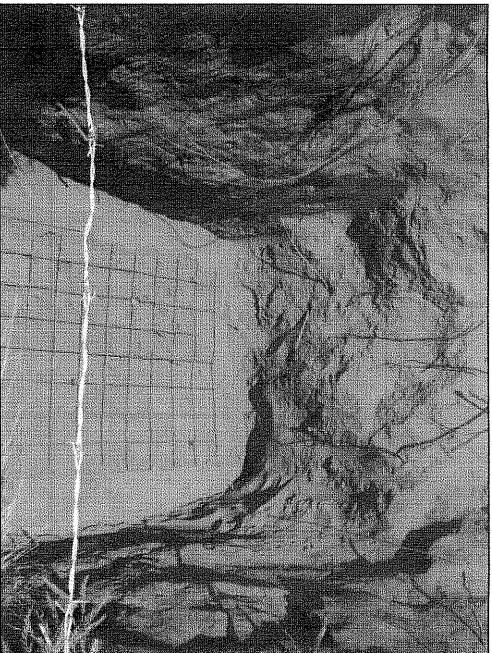


Figure 11. UMK 3

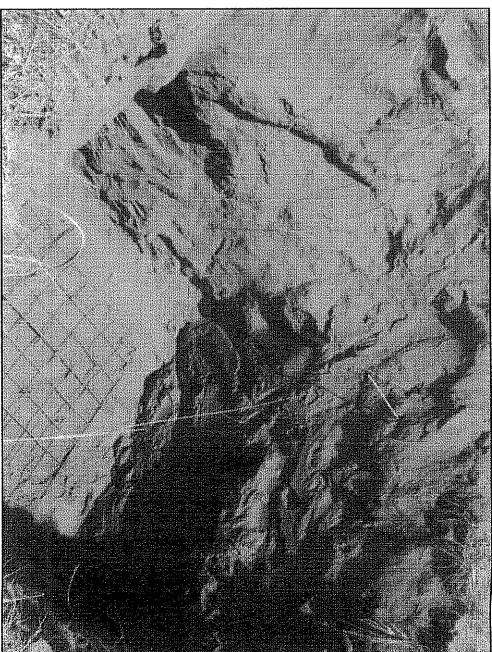


Figure 13. UMK 5



Figure 12. UMK 4