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REPORT ON A VISIT TO THE PROPOSED GUMENI BOSLOOP 132 KV POWER LINE NEAR MACHADODORP MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

A site visit was done on the 18 August 2011 together with various specialists. The proposed power lines will run through a Mountainous area which forms part of the escarpment. The area from Badplaas towards Lydenburg is well known for the hundreds of archaeological sites from the Late Iron Age. These sites all have circular stone walls as well as terraces at the larger sites. The sites are associated with the so called Khoni people. Originally they were Ndebele people who eventually under Pedi rule became Sotho speaking.

During the visit it was decided to reroute the first section of option 1 to follow the existing route of the Gumeni Nkomati line. This will shorten the line and it will run parallel to existing lines.



Stone walls of site 4 on the Gumeni Nkomati line

Option 1

The proposed power line will run from Gumeni substation and cross the R36 tar road to Carolina. From here it will follow the Gumeni – Nkomati power line route up to the dirt road south of the R541. The Gumeni Nkomati line is presently under construction and crosses six archaeological sites. These sites are at present being mitigated – see photograph.



If the new line runs parallel to this line there should be no problem as the Heritage sites will have been mitigated. From the dirt road the line runs relatively straight south to Bosloop. It is expected that some archaeological sites will be found along the route of the line. The last section of the line near Bosloop crosses an archaeological site, which has partially been destroyed by farming – see photograph.



**Portion of the destroyed archaeological site near
Bosloop**

Option 2

This line will be a totally new route across open grassland. From Google images it seems that it too will cross some archaeological sites. Near the Bosloop substation it will cross the same archaeological sites as mentioned before in option 1. See photograph above

Option 3

The proposed line will run to a large extent through open grassland. The last section will run more or less parallel to option 2 and option 1. Some small archaeological sites might occur in the last section of the line.

The last section of the line north of Bosloop will run through some archaeological sites.



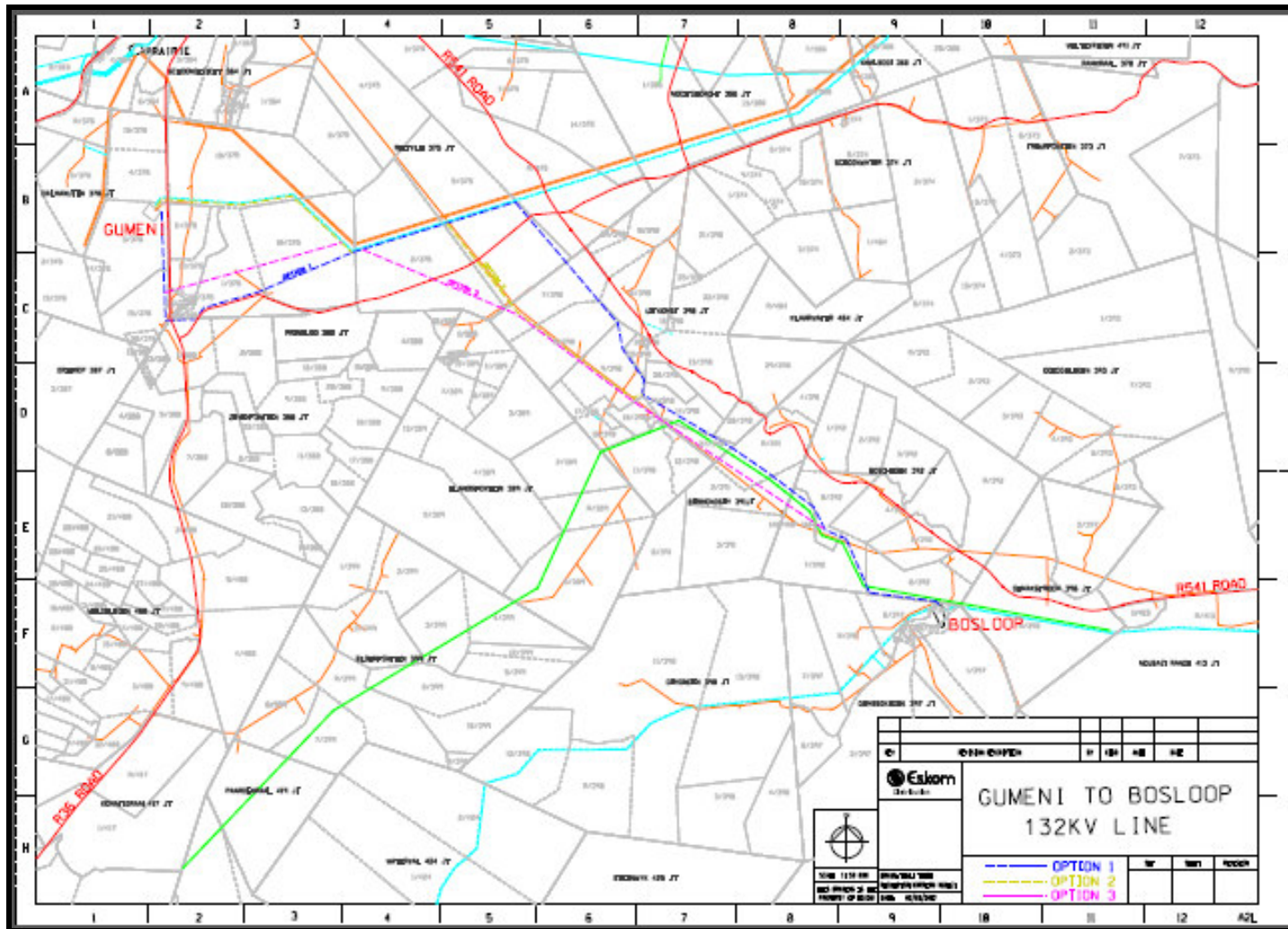
The line coming in from the north might cross some archaeological sites

Conclusion

The area of the proposed new Gumeni/Bosloop power line will run through an area well known for the many archaeological sites that occur in the area. Of the three possible routes Option 1 seems to be the preferred route as it will partially follow an existing power line route which has been mitigated. The last section of the line also follows an existing line which is good from an infrastructure point of view.

References

- Delius Peter (Ed.) 2007. Mpumalanga – History and Heritage
- Küsel U.S. 2011, Cultural Heritage Resources Impact Assessment of the proposed new power lines for Nkomati Machadodorp Mpumalanga Province



SCALE: 1:10,000
 1:10,000
 1:10,000

PROJ. NO. 132KV
 DRAWING NO. 132KV-01
 DATE: 2014/01/20

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GUMENI TO BOSLOOP 132KV LINE			
--- OPTION 1 --- OPTION 2 --- OPTION 3	NO YES RECD	NO YES RECD	NO YES RECD

A2L