



AFRICAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC

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23 March 2013

CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED NEW ERMELO UITKOMS 88 kV POWER LINE SOUTH OF ERMELO MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON PROJECT:

(a) Whether the report is part of a scoping report/EIA/HIA or not

Report is part of a heritage Impact Assessment

(b) Type of development (e.g. low cost housing project, mining etc).

Construction of a new 88kV Power line South of Ermelo

(c) Whether re-zoning and/or subdivision of land is involved.

Servitude will be registered once finality has been reached

(d) Developer and consultant and owner and name and contact details;

Project applicant: Eskom Distribution Mpumalanga Operating Unit
Trading name: Eskom Holding Limited
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(e) Legislative requirements of Act 25 of 1999.

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

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

- Structures or parts of structures older than 60 years.
 - Archaeological sites and objects.
 - Paleontological sites.
 - Meteorites.
 - Ship wrecks.
 - Burial grounds.
 - Graves of victims of conflict.
 - Public monuments and memorials.
 - Structures, places and objects protected through the publication of notices in the Gazette and Provincial Gazette.
 - Any other places or objects, which are considered to be of interest or of historical or cultural significance.
- 1.1 Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance.

- 1.2 Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.
- 1.3 Objects to which oral traditions are attached.
- 1.4 Sites of cultural significance or other value to a community or pattern of South African history

Description of the Property of Affected Environment

Details of area surveyed:

- Full location Data for Province, Magisterial District/Local Authority and property (e.g. farm/erf) name and number etc.;

Proposed new Ermelo Uikoms 88kV power line south of Ermelo Mpumalanga Province

Local Authority: Ermelo Local Municipality.

List of Farm names attached pages 21 - 24

B. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Eskom plans a new power line to replace an existing power line south of Ermelo. The Highveld region is poor on archaeological sites. Some Late Iron Age sites occur northwest of Ermelo at Tafelkop.

The town of Ermelo was destroyed during the Anglo Boer War as well as all farmhouses. The area had to be rebuilt after the war.

Two possible routes for the power line were investigated.

Route 1 follows the route of two existing power lines to the east of the town mainly following existing water courses and then turns southwest to the substation near Camden Power Station.

No important cultural heritage resources were found near this route.

Route 2 firstly follows two existing power lines and then turns south and east following another power line route across a mining area and just north of Camden Power Station to the substation.

There is no objection to the construction of either of the two power lines from a cultural heritage point of view.

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D. BACKGROUND TO THE ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF THE AREA.

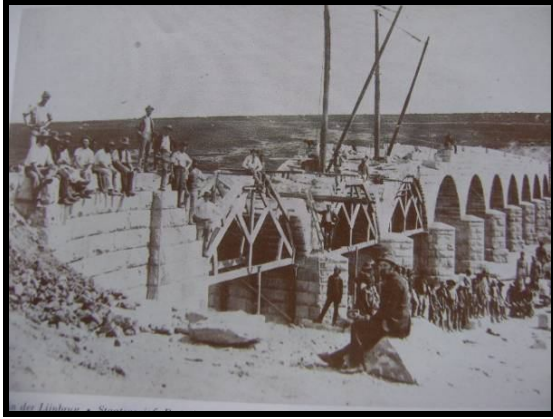
The proposed new power lines will run through Highveld grassland. The Highveld was to a large degree avoided by early people because there was no wood available for fire making and building. The archaeological database of the National Museum for Cultural History in Pretoria has no archaeological data on the area south of Ermelo. The nearest Late Iron Age sites are early Sotho sites on Tafelkop some twelve kilometres north west of Ermelo. These were the so-called Leghoya and were associated with the stone huts which mainly occur in the north-eastern Free State (Mason R 1962, pp385 and Maggs TM 1972, pp54 – 65) (GPS S26° 27' 35.18 & E29° 48' 32.71")



Archaeological sites of the Late Iron Age on Tafelkop north of Ermelo

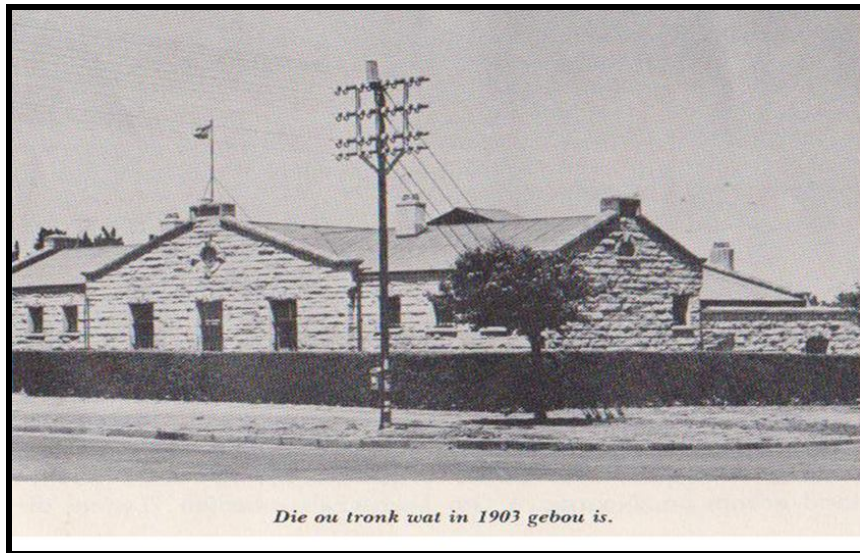
Ermelo was founded by the Dutch Reformed Churches reverent Frans Leon Cachet. He named the settlement Ermelo after a town in the Netherlands where Hermanus Willem Witreveen lived, which had a great influence on Cachets life. A congregation was started at Ermelo in 1870.

The town developed at a steady pace as it was on the wagon route between Durban and the Eastern Transvaal Goldfields. Halfway between Ermelo and Amersfoort is the beautiful sandstone bridge known as "Begin der Lijbrug" over the Vaal River. This name comes from the fact that the original border fence between the ZAR and Swaziland started here. The bridge was inaugurated on the 12th April 1898 and declared a National Monument in 1955 (Oberholster JJ 1972, p329 and Transvaal Archive records) – see photograph.



“Begin der Lijnbrug” bridge
during construction
Photograph: Transvaal Archive

During the Anglo Boer War the town was totally destroyed with only one house surviving. The same happened to Boer farmhouses in the district. After the war the town was totally rebuilt (Erasmus BP 2004, p302). One of the oldest buildings in the town which is about 500 metres from the new proposed power line route is the old Prison built in 1903 with sandstone. The building was in use till 1990 (Lombard RTJ 1980, p26).



E. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY OR AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

(a) Detail of area surveyed

- (i) Location Province
- (ii) Location maps: Ermelo 2629DB & Camden 2630CA
- (iii) Site map

(b) Description of methodology

(i) How the area was searched

The site was visited for one full day together with the Environmental Consultants specialists as well as all the other environmental specialists including staff of Eskom. The two possible routes were travelled by vehicle and also inspected on foot. The proposed new power lines will follow to a large degree the route of an existing power line which will be demolished.

The town itself was visited to collect historic data and to visit one of the oldest surviving buildings the 1903 Prison. Literature on the town's history was searched at the local library and on History on line.

A detail Google search was done on the proposed routes of the line as any human disturbance in grassland can easily be found on Google images. The Archaeological database of the National Museum of Cultural History is Pretoria was also visited.

(ii) Restrictions to the study area

It was quite easy to follow the first section of the route as it follows an existing line. Line option 1 continues along an existing line while option 2 deviated from the present line to the south. This section's route goes over an intensively mined area where the surface has been totally depleted through mining activities. It also has exotic vegetation over large areas. The line option 2 will also cross a very wet area.

(iii) Data acquired

G.P.S. readings were taken at each bend in the proposed routes. Photographs were taken of the area as well as a nearby old farm settlement.

F. DESCRIPTION OF SITES IDENTIFIED AND MAPPED

As already mentioned two possible routes were investigated.

Route 1

The line starts at S26° 30' 42.48" & E29° 58' 44.07" and runs southwards through a section of Ermelo town and uphill near a stream to cross the watershed and then downwards a valley near a stream to S26° 36' 04.77" & E30° 06' 51.90" . From here it turns south to end at a substation near Camden power station at S26° 37' 03.74 & E30° 05' 46.21" – see photographs.



Start of power line on the outskirts' of Ermelo



From the town the power line will run up hill to the water shed



Power line running down wards in the easterly direction



Power line near stream
where the line bents south



Substation where both lines will start

Once the new power line has been constructed the existing power line will be demolished as the poles of the old line are badly corroded. Another problem of this line is that it mainly follows existing water runoff areas which are not allowed any more from an environmental point of view.

No important heritage sites were found near route one. The nearest possible heritage site is 500 metres north of the line. It is a 1940`s farm settlement with a gabled farmhouse – see photograph.



1940`s Farmhouse north
of power line route

Route 2

This route follows the same existing power line to the east of Ermelo as Route 1. At $S26^{\circ} 33' 11.16''$ & $E30^{\circ} 04' 17.64''$ the proposed route bends south on a new route firstly along the border of a maize field and crosses the N2 road to Piet Retief (Mkonto). From here it crosses a depleted mining area up to $S26^{\circ} 34' 53.05''$ & $E30^{\circ} 03' 01.66''$ to continue southwards along the route of an existing power line to the substation at $S26^{\circ} 37' 03.74''$ & $E30^{\circ} 05' 46.21''$ – see photographs.



Route 2 will pass north of Camden power station



Route 2 will mainly follow the route of an existing power line to join up with route 1

No important heritage sites could be found near route 2.

No heritage sites were found during the survey. There is no objection to the construction of any one of the two routes from a cultural heritage resources point of view.

G. DESCRIPTION OF THE ARTEFACTS, FAUNA, BOTANICAL OR OTHER FINDS AND FEATURES

None

H. CLEAR DESCRIPTION OF BURIAL GROUNDS AND GRAVES

None

I. FIELD RATING

None –no heritage sites were found along the proposed power line routes

J. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

None –no heritage sites were found along the proposed power line routes

K. RECOMMENDATIONS

No heritage sites were found during the survey. There is no objection to the construction of any one of the two routes from a cultural heritage resources point of view.

L. CONCLUSION

On the routes of the two options investigated no important cultural heritage resources are visible above the ground. There is no objection to the construction of the new power line from a cultural heritage resources point of view.

If during construction any cultural heritage resources or graves are unearthed all work has to be stopped until the site has been inspected and mitigated by a cultural heritage practitioner.

M. BIBLIOGRAPHY

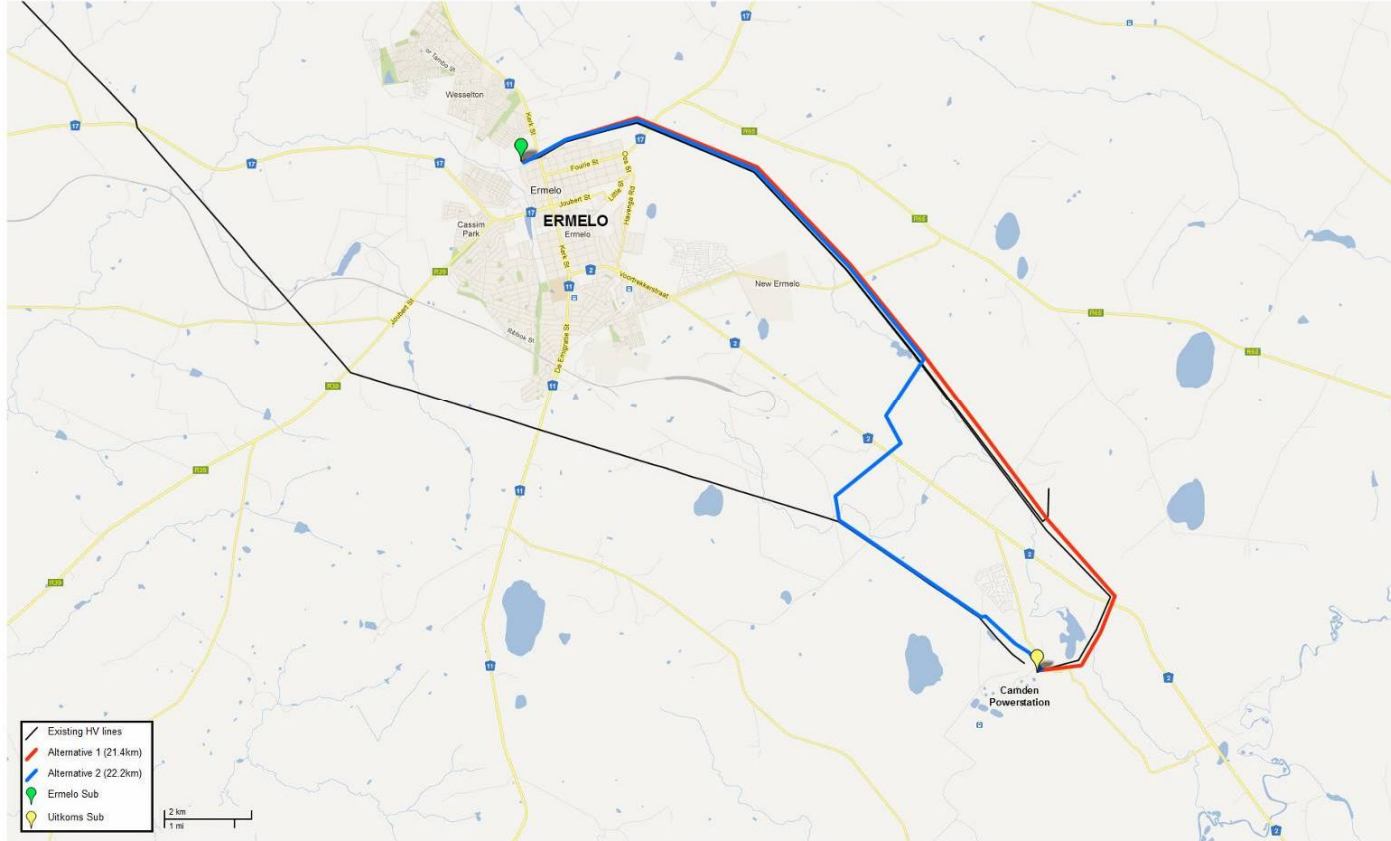
- Erasmus, B.P.J. 2004. Op pad in Suid Afrika
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- Lombard, R.Y.J. 1988. Ermelo 1880 – 1980
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- Maggs, T.M. 1976. Iron Age Communities of the Southern Highveld (Occasional Publication 2) Pietermaritzburg Natal Museum
- Oberholster, J.J. 1972. Die Historiese Monumente van Suid Afrika

- Google Maps
- History of Ermelo Wikipedia
- Transvaal Archives

N. APPENDIX

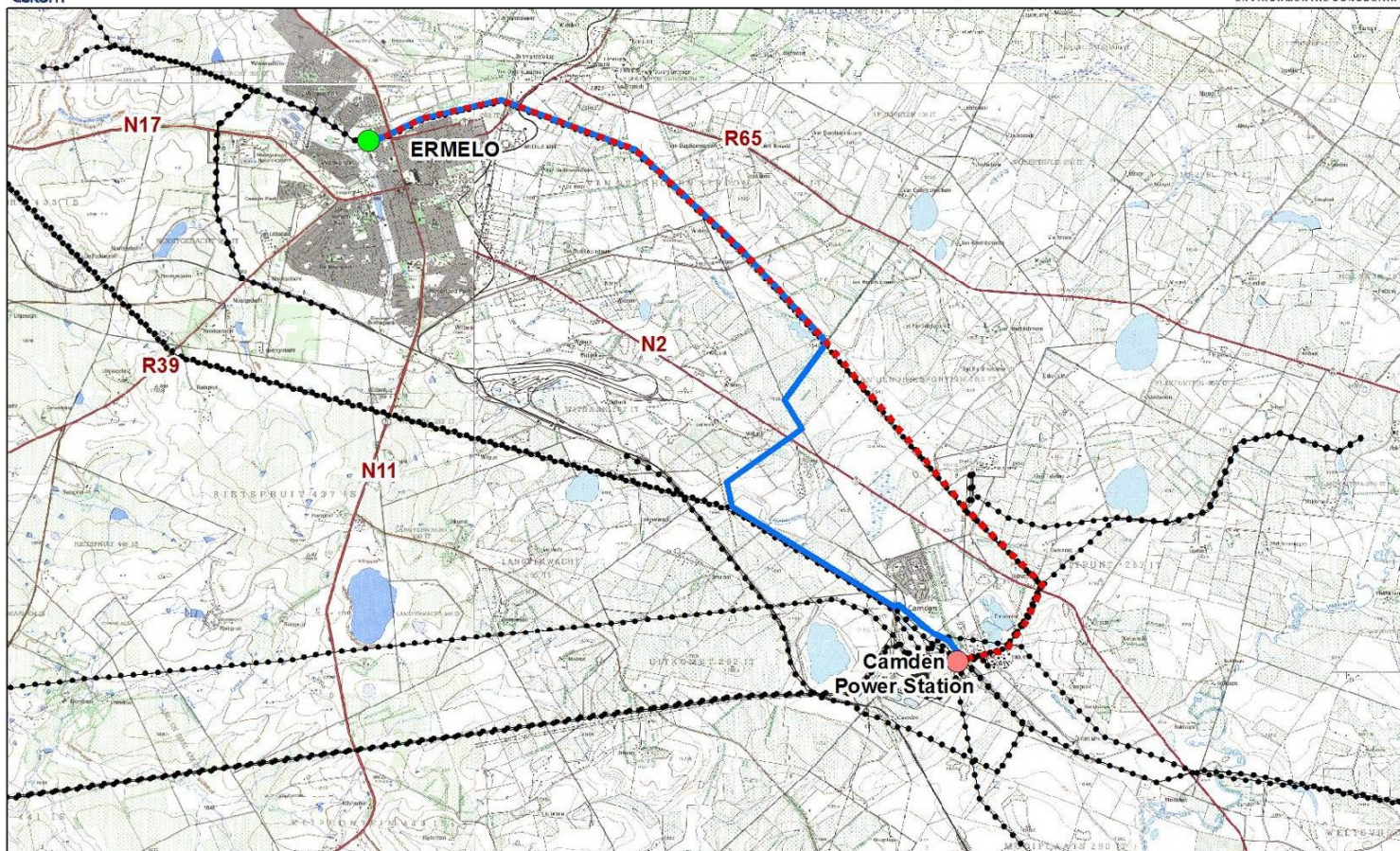
- Maps pages 13 – 20
- Ermelo – Uitkoms Farm names and owners information pages 21 - 24

Ermelo-Uitkoms 88kV line - Locality Map



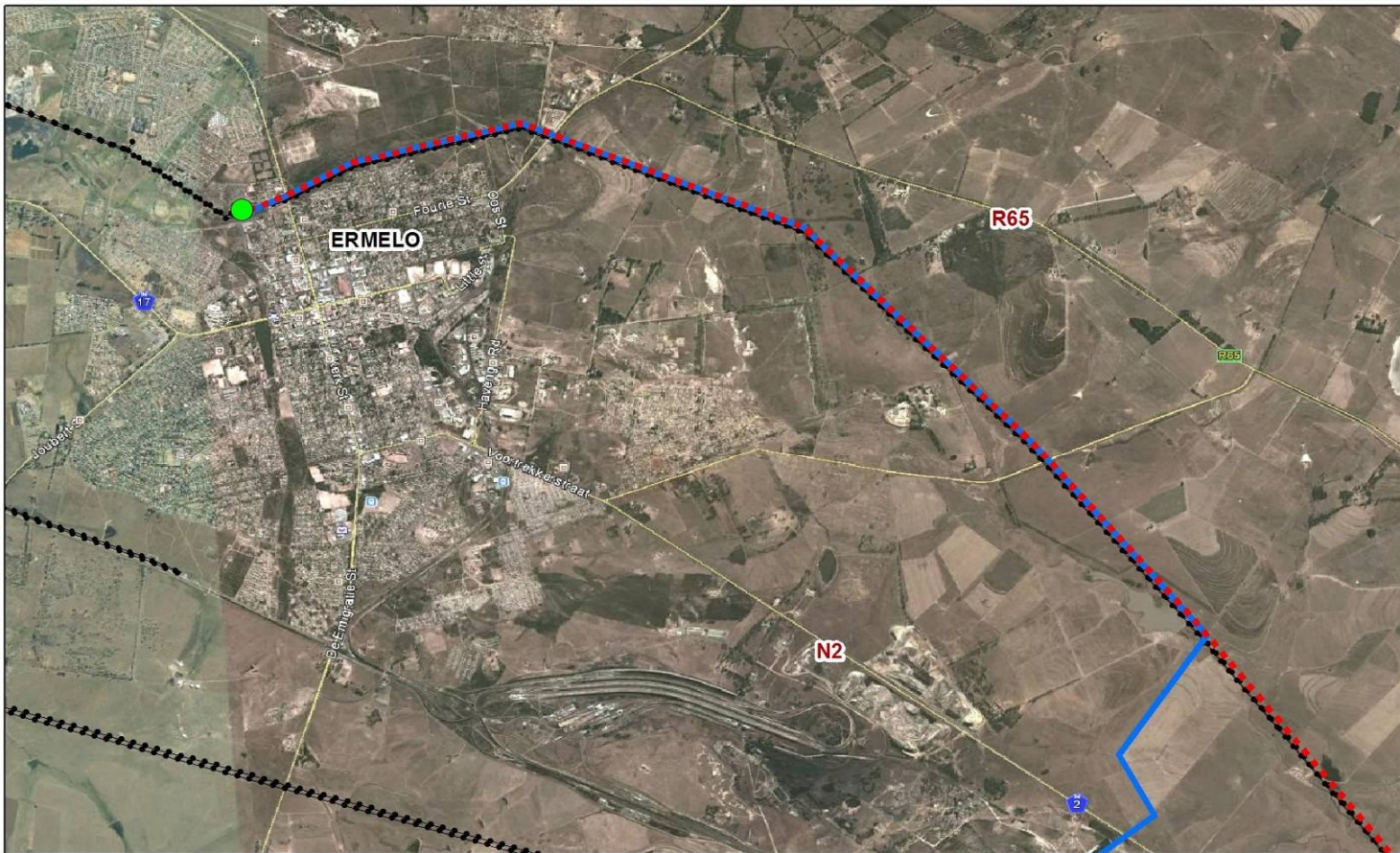


Ermelo-Uitkoms 88kV line - Locality Map



- Substations
- Alternative 1
- Existing HV lines
- Ermelo
- Alternative 2
- Uitkoms

0 1 2 4 6 8 Kilometers
1:50 000 Topographical base maps: 2629BD, 2629DB, 2630AC, 2630CA
Uitkoms Ermelo.mxd © A. Froneman
23 March 2013



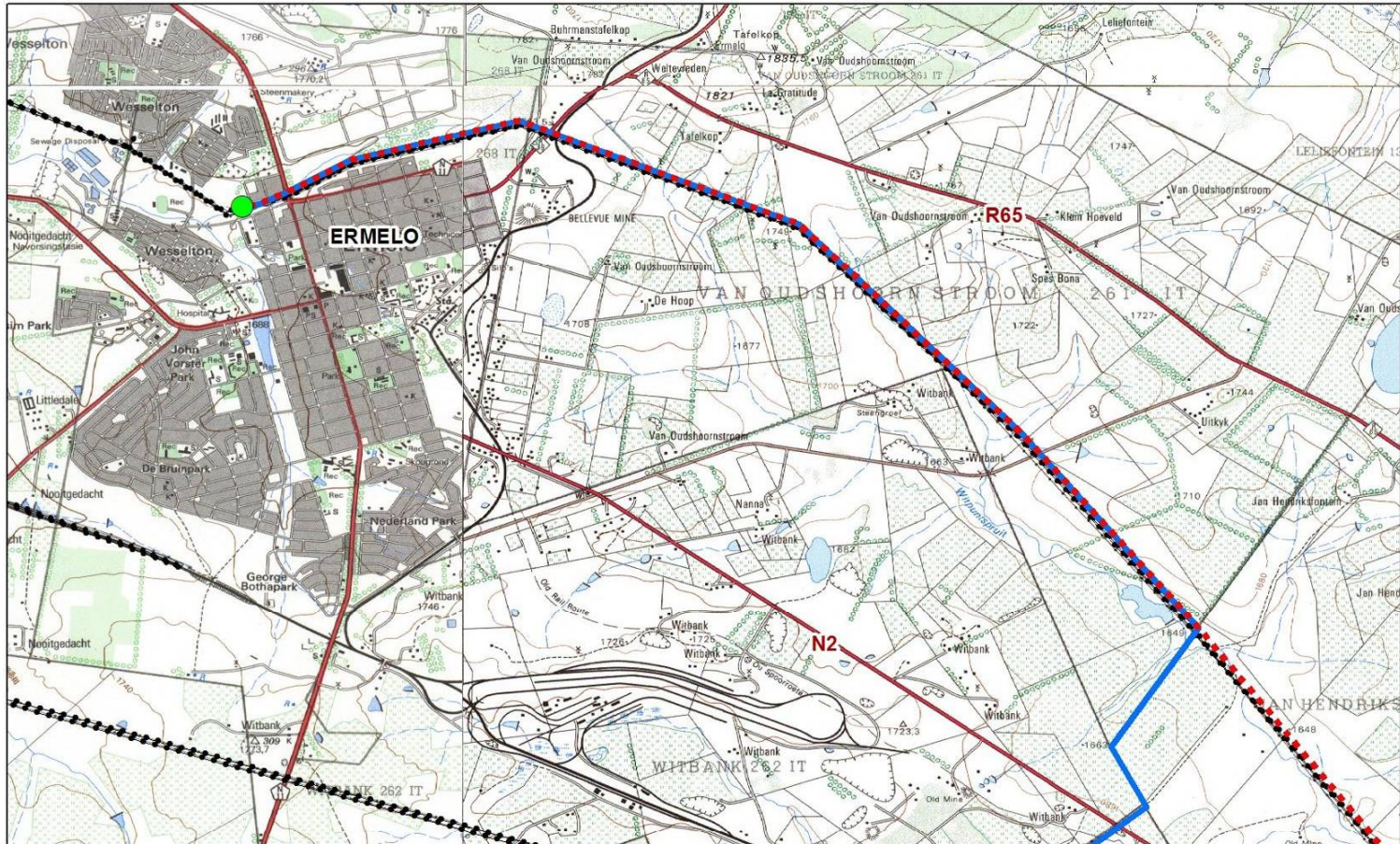
- Substations**
- Alternative 1
 - Alternative 2
 - Existing HV lines
 - Ermelo
 - Uitkoms

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

1:50 000 Topographical base maps: 2629BD, 2629DB, 2630AC, 2630CA
 Uitkoms Ermelo.mxd © A. Froneman
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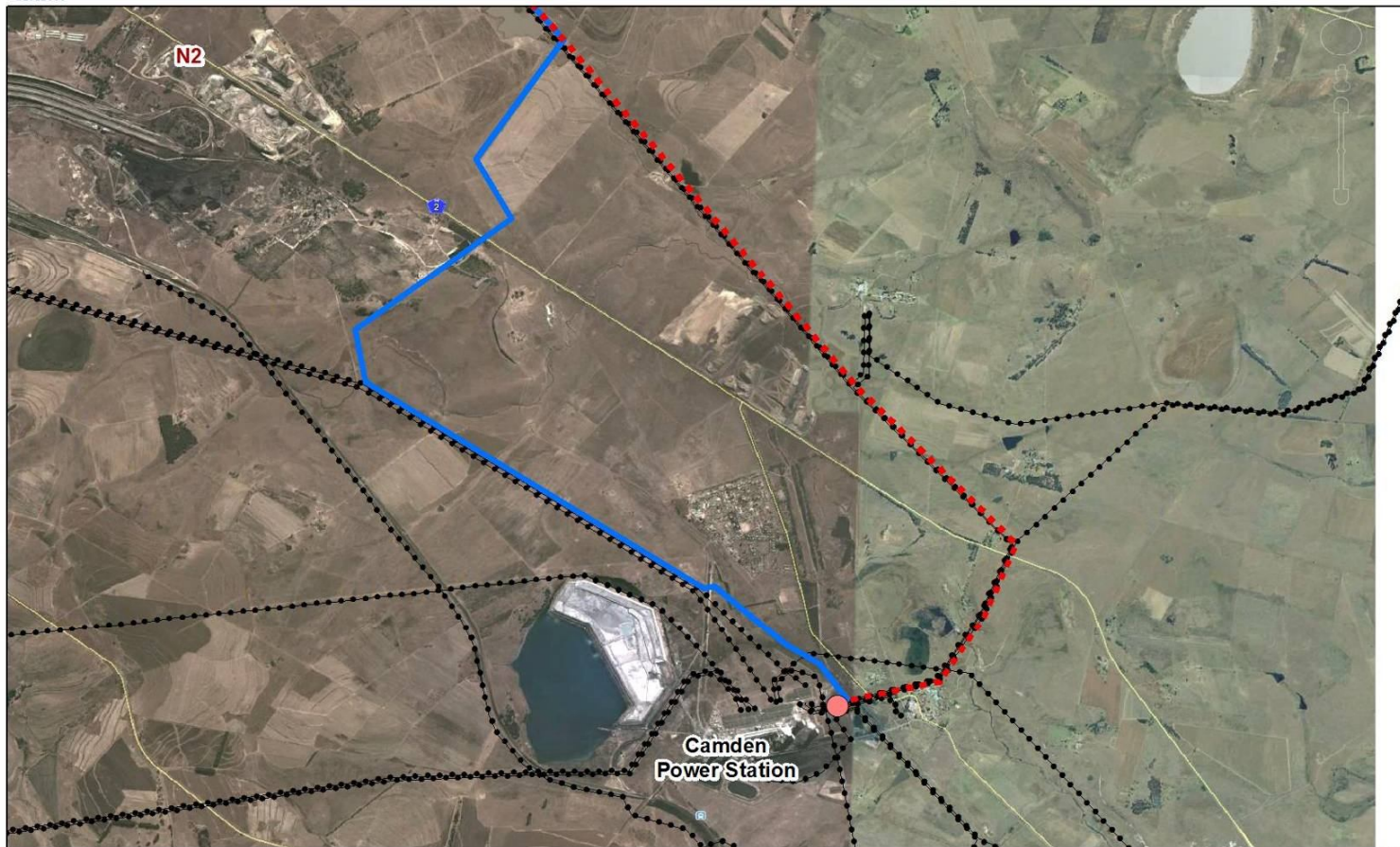


Ermelo-Uitkoms 88kV line - Route Map - 1 NW



- Substations** - - - Alternative 1 - - - - Existing HV lines
● Ermelo — Alternative 2
● Uitkoms

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1:50 000 Topographical base maps: 2629BD, 2629DB, 2630AC, 2630CA
Uitkoms Ermelo.mxd © A. Froneman
23 March 2013



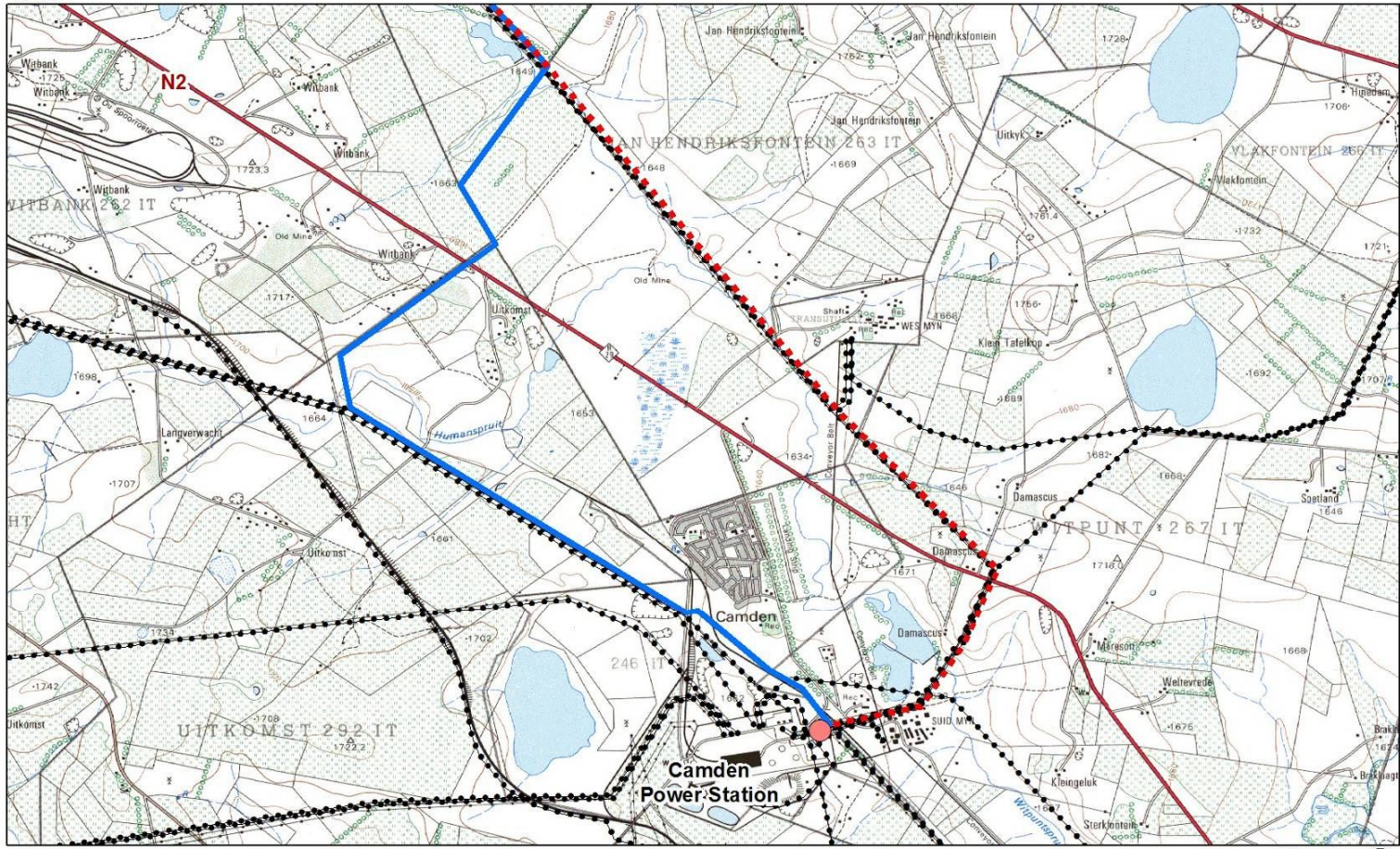
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● Ermelo ■ Alternative 2
● Uitkoms

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Uitkoms Ermelo.mxd © A. Froneman
23 March 2013



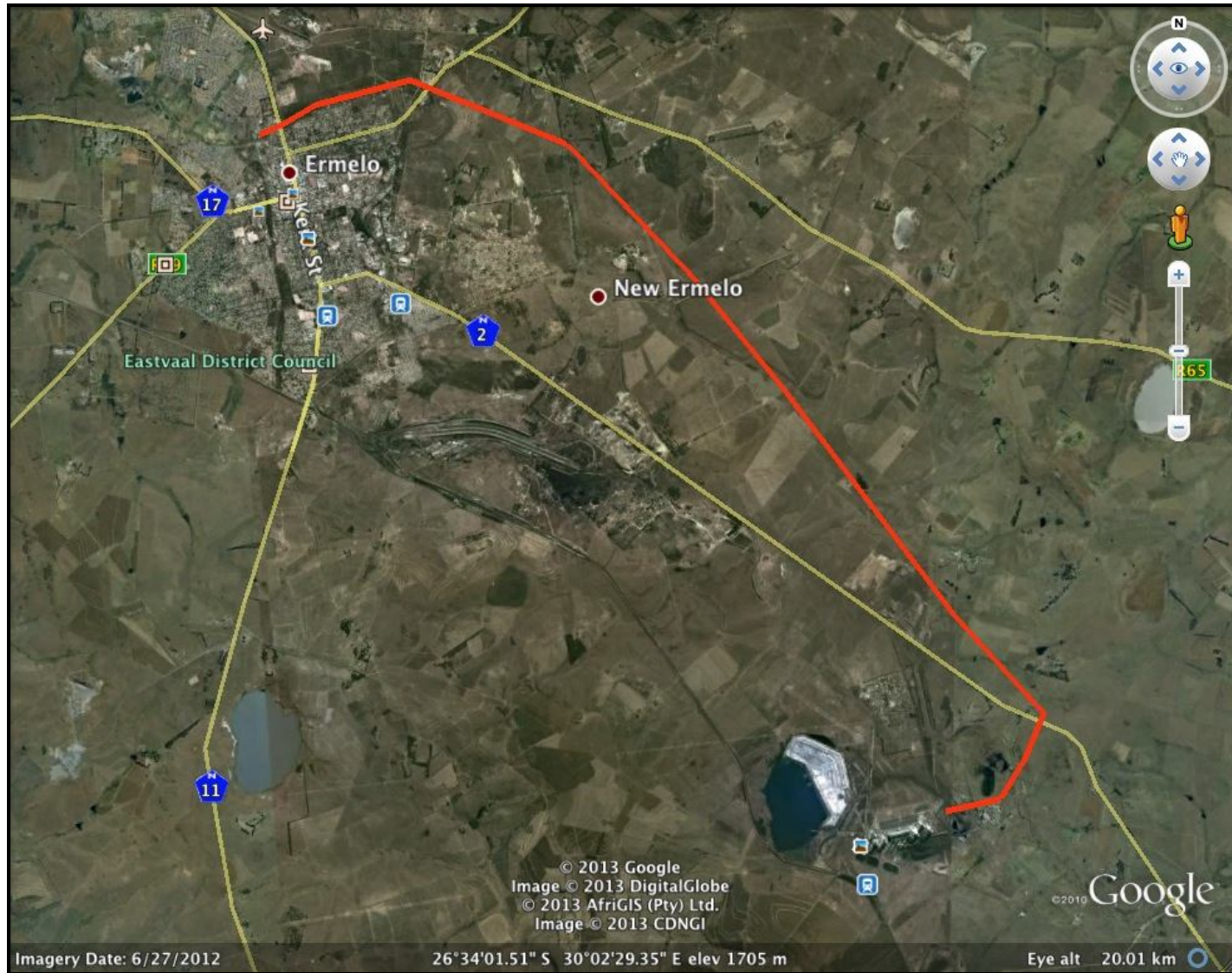
Ermelo-Uitkoms 88kV line - Route Map - 2 SE

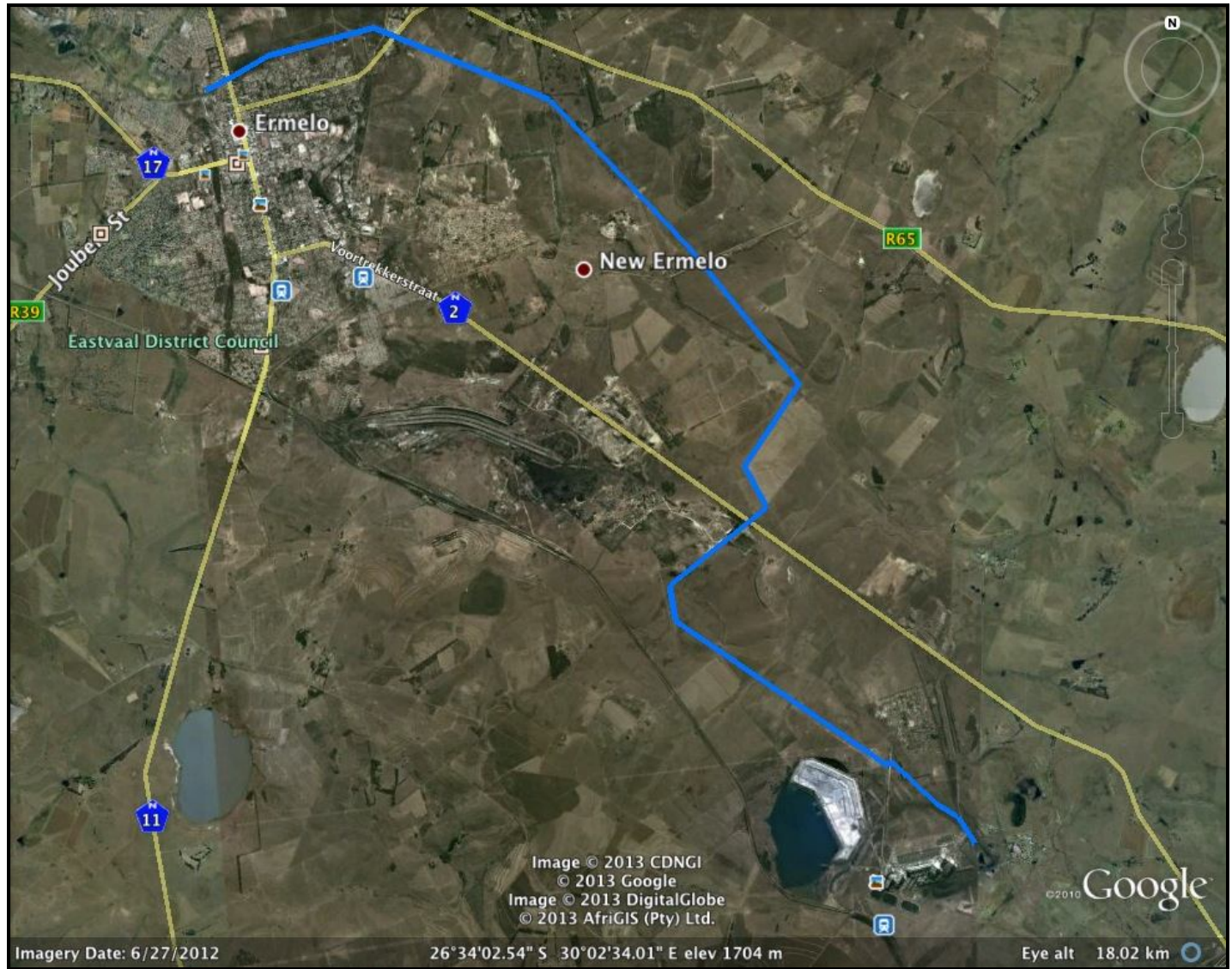


- Substations
- Alternative 1 (Red dashed line)
- Alternative 2 (Blue solid line)
- Existing HV lines (Black dashed line)
- Ermelo (Green circle)
- Uitkoms (Red circle)

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

1:50 000 Topographical base maps: 2629BD, 2629DB, 2630AC, 2630CA
Uitkoms Ermelo.mxd © A. Froneman
23 March 2013





ERMELO-UITKOMS								
Item Nr.	Farm Name and No.	Por	Owner	Contact Person	Postal Address	Tel no.	Fax nr	E-mail
<u>Alternative Route 1</u>								
1	Ermelo Town	?	Ermelo Municipality	Jan Bouwer/ Ms E Landman	Not available	072 275 3604/017 801 3605	Not available	jbouwer@mukaligwa.gov.za/ elandman@mukaligwa.gov.za
2	Van Oudshoornstroom 261 IT	86	Fourie Abraham Johannes	Jacobus Fourie	PO Box 848 Ermelo 2350	082 786 3321	Not available	Not available
3	Van Oudshoornstroom 261 IT	27	Ermelo Municipality	Jan Bouwer/ Ms E Landman	Not available	072 275 3604/017 801 3605	Not available	jbouwer@mukaligwa.gov.za/ elandman@mukaligwa.gov.za
4	Van Oudshoornstroom 261 IT	57	Mentz Trust	Hein Mentz	PO Box 775 Ermelo 2350	082 900 5230	086 645 9534	admin@menkor.co.za
5	Van Oudshoornstroom 261 IT (<i>might not be affected depending specialists studies</i>)	75	Hendrik Mentz	Hein Mentz	PO Box 775 Ermelo 2350	082 900 5230	086 645 9534	admin@menkor.co.za
6	Van Oudshoornstroom 261 IT	9	Jacobus Ignatius Neethling	Jacobus Neethling (De Wits Motors)	Not available	072 129 1250	Not available	kmneethling@gmail.com
7	Van Oudshoornstroom 261 IT	Rem	Jan Hendrik Gerhardus Breedt	Jan Breedt	Postnet 354 P/Bag X9013 Ermelo 2350	083 284 7712	086 516 1861	jhgbreedt@vodamail.com
8	Van Oudshoornstroom 261 IT	12	Jan Hendrik Bothma	Howard Bothma	PO Box 64 Ermelo 2350	082 644 0337	Not available	howardbothma@gmail.com and/or jptwinkletows3@gmail.com
9	Van Oudshoornstroom 261 IT	4	Johannes Petrus Kotze (New owners Ngisana Spesbona Farming CC)	Elize (Manager)/Mr Alton Mphethi	PO Box 409 Ermelo 2350	017 819 1998 Elize/ 082 938 5633 Alton	017 811 3643	math04@mweb.co.za
10	Van Oudshoornstroom 261 IT	17	Ngisana Spesbona Farming CC	Elize (Manager)/Mr	PO Box 409 Ermelo 2350	017 819 1998 Elize/ 082 938	017 811 3643	math04@mweb.co.za

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11	Van Oudshoornstroom 261 IT	5	Ngisana Spesbona Farming CC	Elize (Manager)/Mr Alton Mphethi	PO Box 409 Ermelo 2350	017 819 1998 Elize/ 082 938 5633 Alton	017 811 3643	math04@mweb.co.za
12	Van Oudshoornstroom 261 IT	1	Pierre Theron Familie Trust	Pierre Theron	PO Box 2254 Ermelo 2350	082 447 7385	Not available	p.theron@vodamail.co.za
13	Jan Hendriksfontein 263 IT	3	Johannes Vos	Johannes Vos	P/Bag X9013 Postnet Suit 377 Ermelo 2350	082 388 3474/5 or 017 801 1920	086 552 1516	Johan (Bestuurder) 082 388 3475
14	Jan Hendriksfontein 263 IT	4	Pierre Theron Familie Trust	Pierre Theron	PO Box 2254 Ermelo 2350	082 447 7385	Not available	p.theron@vodamail.co.za
15	Jan Hendriksfontein 263 IT	9	Sara Maria Steyn	Hannes Hugo	Not available	082 823 7631	017 811 4913	jphugobdy@gmail.com
16	Jan Hendriksfontein 263 IT	14	Buena Vista Trading 69 Pty Ltd (New owners: Vunene Mining Pty Ltd)	Muhammad Moolla/Corrie	Not available	082 570 5698/ 082 885 2967	Not available	usutugeology@gmail.com
17	Jan Hendriksfontein 263 IT	15	Sara Maria Hugo	Hannes Hugo	Not available	082 823 7631	017 811 4913	jphugobdy@gmail.com
18	Transutu 257 IT	0	BHP Billiton Energy Coal South Africa Ltd (Vunene Mining)	Muhammad Moolla/Corrie	Not available	082 570 5698/ 082 885 2967	Not available	usutugeology@gmail.com
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20	Witpunt 267 IT	9	Eskom Holdings Ltd	Jan de Klerk	Not available	011 800 2264	011 800 3917	jan.dklerk@eskom.co.za
21	Witpunt 267 IT	22	Indawo Estate Pty Ltd	Jacques van der Linde	Not available	083 311 7323/ 072 779 9748	086 509 7065	indawo01@gmail.com
22	Witpunt 267 IT	34	Indawo Estate Pty Ltd	Jacques van der Linde	Not available	083 311 7323/ 072 779 9748	086 509 7065	indawo01@gmail.com
23	Witpunt 267 IT (Consolidated to Portion 40 of 267 IT)	1	Hallat's Hope Trust	Sam Hallat	Private Bag X9013 Ermelo 2350	082 490 5804	Not available	shallatt@gmail.com

24	Witpunt 267 IT	35	National Government of the RSA	Dan Nyoni	Private Bag X11303 Nelspruit 1200	013 766 6067/8	Not available	DWNyoni@ruraldevelopment.gov.za
25	Witpunt 267 IT	36	National Government of the RSA	Dan Nyoni	Private Bag X11303 Nelspruit 1200	013 766 6067/8	Not available	DWNyoni@ruraldevelopment.gov.za
26	Camden Power Station 329 IT	Rem	Eskom Holdings Ltd	Jan de Klerk	Not available	011 800 2264	011 800 3917	jan.dklerk@eskom.co.za
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14	Uitkomst 292 IT (Consolidated to Portion 18 of 292 IT)	3	Catharina Elizabeth du Toit (in process of selling to Mr Jan van Staden)	Gawie du Toit (Son)	31 Jacobs St, Ermelo 2351	017 819 1569	Not available	info@gawie.co.za
15	Camden Power Station 329 IT	Rem	Eskom Holdings Ltd	Jan de Klerk	Not available	011 800 2264	011 800 3917	jan.dklerk@eskom.co.za
16	Witpunt 267 IT	35	National Government of the RSA	Dan Nyoni	Private Bag X11303 Nelspruit 1200	013 766 6067/8	Not available	DWNyoni@ruraldevelopment.gov.za
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