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**HERITAGE SCOPING REPORT RELATED TO THE ESKOM KIMBERLEY  
STRENGTHENING PHASE 4 PROJECT BETWEEN THE BETA AND  
BOUNDARY SUBSTATIONS IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

For:

***Landscape Dynamics  
PO Box 9467  
Groenkloof  
0027***

**REPORT: AE01414V**

By:

***Dr. A.C. van Vollenhoven (L. Akad. S.A.)***

BA, BA (Hons), DTO, NDM, MA (UP), MA (US), DPhil (UP), Man Dip (TUT), DPhil  
(History)

Accredited member of ASAPA  
Accredited member of SASCH

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Archaetnos  
P.O.Box 55  
GROENKLOOF  
0027  
Tel: **083 291 6104**  
Fax: 086 520 4173  
Email: antonv@archaetnos.co.za

Members: AC van Vollenhoven BA, BA (Hons), DTO, NDM, MA (Archaeology) [UP], MA (Culture History)  
[US], DPhil (Archaeology) [UP], Man Dip [TUT], DPhil (History) [US]

## **1. Introduction**

This heritage report deals with the results of a scoping baseline (desktop) study relating to the ESKOM Kimberley Strengthening Phase 4 Project between the Beta and Boundary substations. This is in the Northern Cape Province.

## **2. Methodology**

- ***Terms of reference***

- Providing a broad description of heritage sites expected in the study area.
- Visiting the area to assess the environment and possible heritage sites.
- Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions.
- Recommend suitable mitigation measure should there be any sites of significance that might be impacted upon by the proposed development.

- ***Study***

- A survey of literature will be done in order to obtain background information regarding the area. Sources consulted in this regard will also be indicated in the bibliography.
- A field visit was done and the area screened by means of a helicopter as well as motor vehicle in order to locate possible objects, sites and features of cultural significance in the area of proposed development. When necessary a foot survey was done. If required, the location/position of any site was determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS), while photographs were also be taken where needed.
- All sites, objects features and structures identified were documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Co-ordinates of individual localities, if applicable was determined by means of the Global Positioning System (GPS). The information will be added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

## **3. Discussion of baseline information**

The ESKOM Strengthening Phase 4 Project from the Beta to Boundary substations entails the erection of approximately 90 km of double circuit powerline, as well as the building of a new substation at Beta and another one next to the existing Boundary substation. The project is situated to the east of Kimberley. Three possible routes for the powerlines were investigated (Figure 1-2).

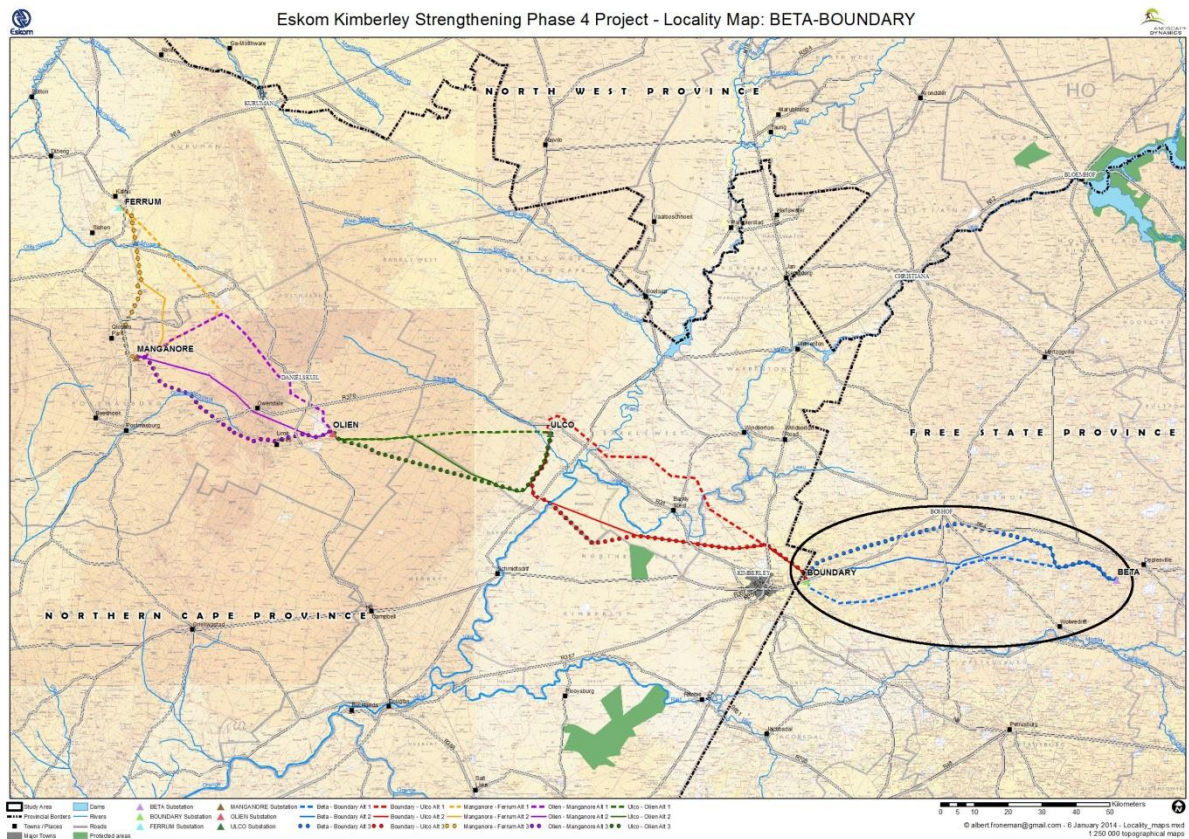


Figure 1: Map indicating the three possible routes for the Beta to Boundary project.

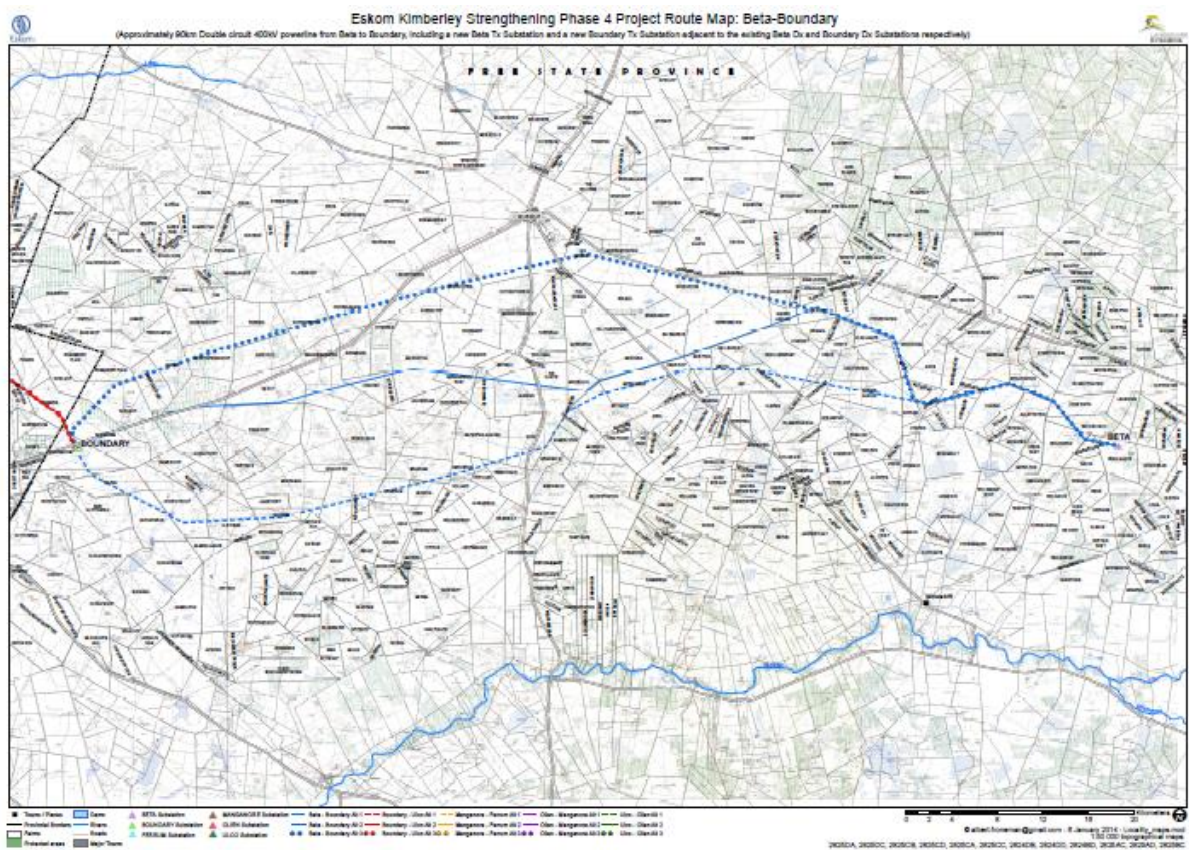


Figure 2: Detailed map of the alternative route corridors.

The first of these runs to the south of the R64 road, mainly following farm boundaries and existing ESKOM lines. The second also runs to the south of the R64 road, but closer thereto, again following farm boundaries and existing ESKOM lines. The third follows the R64 road, sometimes to the north and sometimes to the south thereof.

This geographical area is not well-known as one containing many prehistoric sites. One however has to realize that this most likely only indicates that not much research has been done here before. On the existing SAHRA Database only a few such sites are indicated here.

### 3.1 Stone Age

The nearest are the Doornlaagte Early Stone Age archaeological site close to Kimberley, some buildings at Postmasburg and a specularite mine close to Postmasburg (SAHRA database).

No Early Stone Age sites are known from the study area or the immediate geographical region. Stone Age sites are known to occur in the larger geographical area, including the well-known Wonderwerk Cave in the Kuruman Hills to the east, Tsantsabane, an ancient specularite working on the eastern side of Postmasburg, Doornfontein, another specularite working north of Beeshoek and a cluster of important Stone Age sites near Kathu (Morris 2005: 3). These however are more than 100 km from the study area.

Many Middle and Late Stone Age tools have been found by Archaeos during surveys in the Northern Cape. These sites are located close to Griekwastad, Hotazel, Postmasburg and Kenhardt (Archaeos database). Again these are actually far from the study area.

The mentioned Late Stone Age sites are associated with the San people. Mitchell (2002: 126) indicates that the language group who occupied the northern Cape is the /Auni-//Khomani and Eastern /Hoa. These people were hunters and gatherers which means that they would have moved around, leaving little trace of their existence.

From the above mentioned it is clear that Stone Age people did utilize and settled in the area. One will therefore more than likely find sites or associated with these people. Stone Age sites may be encountered at hills especially those with shelter such as caves and overhangs which may even contain rock paintings. The dolerite hills in the vicinity may host rock engravings.

### 3.2 Iron Age

No Early or Middle Iron Age sites have been identified in the area of study. Iron Age people occupied the central and eastern parts of southern Africa from about 200 A.D., but the San and Khoi remained in the western and southern parts (Inskeep 1978: 126; see also Huffman 2007).

During the Late Iron Age (LIA), people stayed in extensive stonewalled settlements, such as the Thlaping capital Dithakong, 40 km north of Kuruman. Sotho-Tswana and Nguni societies, the descendants of the LIA mixed farming communities, found the region already



sparsely inhabited by the Late Stone Age (LSA) Khoisan groups, the so-called 'first people'. Most of them were eventually assimilated by LIA communities and only a few managed to survive, such as the Korana and Griqua. This period of contact is sometimes known as the Ceramic Late Stone Age and is represented by the Blinkklipkop specularite mine near Postmasburg and finds at the Kathu Pan (De Jong 2010: 36).

It is however known that Iron Age people settled in the eastern parts of the Northern Cape (Bergh 1999: 12). The chances of finding any Iron Age remains in the study area are thus reasonably slim. However, some Iron Age stone walling was seen the R64, but to the north of where the ESKOM line is planned. It will therefore not be impacted on.

### 3.3 Historical Age

The historical age started with the first recorded oral histories in the area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write. This era is sometimes called the Colonial era or the recent past. Due to factors such as population growth and a decrease in mortality rates, more people inhabited the country during the recent historical past. Therefore much more cultural heritage resources have been left on the landscape.

Factors such as population expansion, increasing pressure on natural resources, the emergence of power blocs, attempts to control trade and penetration by Griquas, Korana and white communities from the south-west resulted in a period of instability in Southern Africa that began in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and effectively ended with the settlement of white farmers in the interior. This period, known as the *difaqane* or *Mfecane*, also affected the Northern Cape Province, although at a relatively late stage compared to the rest of Southern Africa. Here, the period of instability, beginning in the mid-1820s, was triggered by the incursion of displaced refugees associated with the Tlokwa, Fokeng, Hlakhwana and Phuting tribal groups (De Jong 2010: 36).

The *difaqane* coincided with the penetration of the interior of South Africa by white traders, hunters, explorers and missionaries. The first traders in the Northern Cape were PJ Truter's and William Somerville's journey of 1801, which reached Dithakong at Kuruman. They were again followed by Cowan, Donovan, Burchell and Campbell and resulted in the establishment of a London Mission Society station near Kuruman in 1817 by James Read (Bergh 1999: 12-13; De Jong 2010: 36). During the 1870's William Sanderson, John Ryan and John Ludwig passed through the area close to Postmasburg (Snyman 2000: 3).

The Great Trek of the Boers from the Cape in 1836 brought large numbers of Voortrekkers up to the borders of large regions known as Bechuanaland and Griqualand West, thereby coming into conflict with many Tswana groups and also the missionaries of the London Mission Society. The conflict between Boer and Tswana communities escalated in the 1860s and 1870s when the Korana and Griqua communities became involved and later also the British government. The conflict mainly centered on land claims by various communities. For decades the western border of the Transvaal Boer republic was not fixed. Only through arbitration (the Keate Arbitration), triggered by the discovery of gold at Tati (1866) and diamonds at Hopetown (1867) was part of the western border finally determined in 1871. Ten years later, the Pretoria Convention fixed the entire western border, thereby finally excluding Bechuanaland and Griqualand West from Boer domination (De Jong 2010: 36).

Geographically, the study area is part of a region known as Griqualand West. At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Griqua tribes coming from the south settled in the region in order to escape encroachment of Afrikaner Trekboere who was active along the Orange River. They established the town of Klaarwater, renamed Griquatown in 1813. After the discovery of diamonds in 1867 a serious dispute over the ownership of the diamond fields ensued, involving the Transvaal and Orange Free State Boer republics, Griqua, Korana and Thlaping communities and the Cape colonial government. In October 1871 the diamond fields were proclaimed British territory under the name Griqualand West. In 1879 it was annexed to the Cape Colony (De Jong 2010: 36).

The incorporation of Griqualand West into the Cape Colony promoted colonial settlement in the area from the 1880s. Government-owned land was surveyed and divided into farms, which were transferred to farmers. Surveyors were given the task of surveying and naming some of the many farms in this region. These farms were allocated to prospective farmers, but permanent settlement only started in the late 1920s and the first farmsteads were possibly built during this period (De Jong 2010: 36). The Griqua town of Blinkklip (established in 1882), originally a mission station, was renamed Postmasburg in 1892 and became the centre of a magisterial district (Snyman 2000: 6).

Kimberley came into being after the so-called Diamond rust of the 1860's and 1870's (Van Zyl 1986: 16-17). Accordingly it has many buildings with historical significance (SAHRA database).

The Northern Cape and Free State also saw action during the Anglo-Boer War. The town of Kimberley was beleaguered by the Boers during the Anglo-Boer War, from 3 November 1899 until 15 February 1900 (Pretorius 1985: 15; 21).

One may therefore expect sites associated with the first white farmers, early missionaries, Anglo-Boer War and mining companies. This of course would include graves.

Two grave yards were indeed identified along route alternative 3. The first is a farm family cemetery to the east of Boshof. This cemetery lies to the south of this corridor and will therefore most likely not be impacted on. The second is a very large cemetery to the east of Boshof, but very close to the town. Again it would not be impacted on as it lies to the north of the corridor that was surveyed.

A military cemetery is known from the farm Vendusiedrift in the Boshof district. The site where the Anglo-Boer War hero, General De Villebois-Mareuil was killed in combat is found on the farm Middelkuil in the Boshof district. Lastly a battlefield from this war, the Battle of Paardeberg, is also located in the Boshof district. These sites are all declared provincial heritage sites (SAHRA database).

The town of Boshof hosts a number of building which are of historical interest, being the town hall, high school (Rooidakskool), powder magazine, Chris van Niekerk Museum and the Dutch Reformed Church. It also includes some monuments such as the one of Dr SH Pellissier, the later Director of Education in the Free State Province and founder of the Afrikaans Folk Dance Movement. Two monuments commemorating the founding of Folk Dancing in 1914, is found to the north of the town on the farm Vuisfontein (AVVB

Gedenkbundel 2014: 4-5; 18; 35; 38). The powder magazine is a provincial heritage site and the town hall a Grade III heritage site (SAHRA database).

## 5. Possible environmental/ social impacts expected

From the desktop data the following potential impacts can be indicated:

- It can be concluded that the chances of finding Stone Age sites is reasonably high. Due to the lack of research in the area it will then most likely have a high cultural significance.
- Chances to find Iron Age sites and occurrences are very slim. However, should such sites be found it would most likely have a medium to high cultural significance due to the scarcity thereof. Also, finding some evidence such as pottery lying around is always possible, but such occurrence would not be regarded as important.
- One will more than likely find historical structures dating to the first white farmers in the area, the missionaries and early mining activities. These will include ruins and foundations of houses and other outbuildings on a farm as well as possible cattle kraals. Significance can only be determined on identification of such features.
- Graves always is a distinct possibility and two sites are already known. Graves always are of a high cultural significance due to the religious and social context thereof. If such sites are identified it will undoubtedly have to be dealt with in accordance with ethical guidelines and legislation in this regard.

## 6. Sources

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