

Archaetnos Culture & Cultural
Resource Consultants
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**SCOPING REPORT FOR THE HERITAGE ASSESSMENT RELATED TO THE
PROPOSED ESKOM KUDU-ORANJEMUND PROJECT IN THE NORTHERN
CAPE PROVINCE**

For:

**LANDSCAPE DYNAMICS
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REPORT: **AE01639V**

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1. Introduction

This report deals with the results of a scoping baseline (desktop) study relating to the Heritage Assessment for the proposed ESKOM Kudu-Oranjemund Project. The project entails the following:

- Establishment of the existing 400kV AT Oranjemund including –
 - 400kV yard and equipment including busbar;
 - Installing a 1 x 315MVA 400/220kV transformer;
 - Create at least 4 x 400kV line bays to allow for potential development;
- Construction of 2 x 400kV lines from the Orange River to Oranjemund Substation – approximately 5 km of which a 3 km wide corridor should be investigated and authorized.

2. Methodology

- ***Terms of reference***
 - Identify as much as possible objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the property.
 - Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value.
 - Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions.
 - Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources.
 - Recommend suitable mitigation measure should there be any sites of significance that might be impacted upon by the proposed development.
 - Review applicable legislative requirements.
- ***Plan of 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. The scoping report will mostly deal with this aspect.
 - A field survey will be conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and will be aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of cultural significance in the area of proposed development. If required, the location/position of any site will be determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS), while photographs will also be taken where needed.
 - All sites, objects features and structures to be identified will be documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Co-ordinates of individual localities will be 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.

- Reporting

3. Discussion of baseline information

The Kudu-Oranjemund Project is situated in the north-west of the Northern Cape Province and the south-west of Namibia. The study will only deal with the South African side of the project, with the Namibian side to be handled separately.

The study area on the South African side of the border is located to the east of Alexander Bay and adjacent (south) to the Orange River (Figure 1-3). The applicable farm name for the project is Groot Derm 10.



Figure 1: Location of Alexander Bay in the Northern Cape Province.



Figure 2: Location of the study area in relation to Alexander Bay.

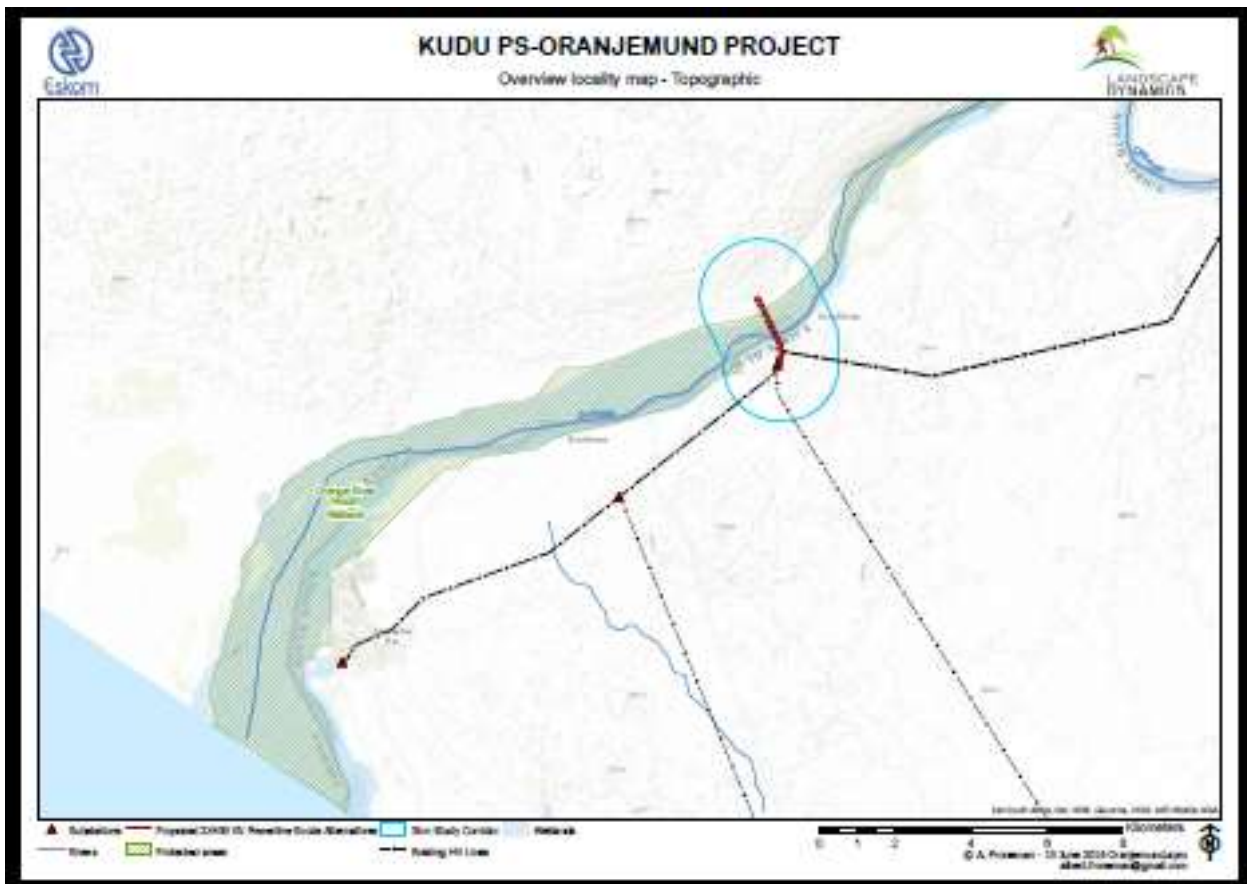


Figure 3: Detail of the proposed development.

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 no such sites are indicated here, but there are a few heritage surveys that were done in the area.

It should also be noted that the Richtersveld World Heritage Site is situated towards the south-east of the project area. It however is more than 50 km away and therefore no impact is expected. The palaeontological assessment done indicates that there are no records of invertebrate or trace fossils from the study area (Bamford 2016).

3.1 Stone Age

The nearest substantial site is 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. Additional specularite workings with associated Ceramic Later Stone Age material and older Fauresmith sites (early Middle Stone Age) are known from Lylyfeld, Demaneng, Mashwening, King, Rust & Vrede, Paling, Gloucester and Mount Huxley to the north (Morris 2005: 3).

The onset of the Middle Stone Age coincided with a widespread demand for coloured or glittering minerals that arose at the time for still unknown reasons. The intensive collection of such substances soon exhausted surface exposures and led to the quest being extended underground and thus to the birth of mining practice. Specularite was commonly mined in the Postmasburg area. In 1968 AK Boshier, working in collaboration with P Beaumont, found a number of underground specularite mines on Paling (De Jong 2010: 35). Stone and Iron Age communities mined specularite associated with iron ores for cosmetic purposes at Blinkklipkop, Paling, Gloucester and other farms (De Jong 2010: 41; Snyman 2000: 3).

A number of Stone Age sites and scattered finds of Stone Age material were identified on the nearby farm Paling during an earlier survey (Pelser and Van Vollenhoven 2010: 12-17). Many Middle and Late Stone Age tools have been found by Archaetnos during surveys in the Northern Cape. These sites are located close to Griekwastad, Hotazel, Postmasburg and Kenhardt (Archaetnos database). On the farm Konkooksies 91 in the Pofadder district, five sites with Middle and Late Stone Age tools were identified (Pelser 2011). The environment here seems very similar to that at the study area, indicating that sites are most likely to be found within the proposed mining area. Rock engraving (rock pecking) sites are known from

Beeshoek and Bruce (Morris 2005: 3; Snyman 2000: 3). The latter are associated with the Late Stone Age.

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, with the /Xam towards the Gariep (Orange) River. These people were hunters and gatherers which means that they would have moved around, leaving little trace of their existence.

All the mentioned sites are however relatively far from the study area. Hart (2015) did an archaeological assessment of the nearby proposed Richtersveld Solar Facility which is located towards the east of the study area. He indicates that shell middens, associated with Late Stone Age people, are to be found along the coastal regions of the Northern Cape (Hart 2015: 13). A number of heritage surveys were done along the coast, but information about Stone Age sites from these are of course only an indication that Stone Age people were present in the broader geographical environment. Hart (2015:13-14) also indicates that human burial are found here, but that these are mostly disturbed by mining activities.

Research in the Namaqualand area is only a recent event, and although a few publications have been resulting from this, none has direct impact on the study area (see Webley 1984, 1986, 1990, 1992, 1997, 2001, 2007; Brink & Webley 1996; Miller & Webley 1994; Webley et.al. 1993; Smith et.al. 2001 and Orton 2007a, 2007b, 2007c).

Hart identified more than a hundred scatters of Stone Age material in the area surveyed by him (Hart 2015: 36-39). This indeed indicates that Stone Age material could be found in abundance in the area. Although found in abundance, Townsend (2015: 15) indicates that these finds are of minimal heritage significance.

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.

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 (De Jong 2010: 36).

This however is geographically far from the study area. It is nevertheless known that Late Iron Age people did utilize the area further to the west, albeit briefly, as they did mine copper in the Northern Cape (Inskeep 1978: 135).

Iron Age people therefore probably did not settle in the study area. The chances of finding any Iron Age remains in the study area are thus extremely slim, if not impossible.

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 18th 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, Hlakwana 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. At the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th 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 (De Jong 2010: 36). Again this is far towards the east of the study area.

Looking closer at the study area one can indicate that Nama Historical accounts up until 1913 suggest that Nama-speakers were living very much like their ancestors centuries before. The Nama-speaking inhabitants of the region follow a seasonal transhumant cycle, meaning that they are not nomadic but tend to use a specific area on a seasonal basis. There is no clear indication of boundaries, and early traveler's record meeting with Nama groups as far south as Steinkopf (Hart 2015: 15-16). Although pastoralism did allow for larger herder settlements, historic accounts suggest that the dry Northern Cape could not support the group sizes of several hundred observed further to the southwest. Therefore population density was low, resulting in little competition for land. Villages or kraals were centered around important water holes. Their houses consisted of the traditional 'matjieshuis' which

could easily be packed up and transported to a next geographical area (Hart 2015: 16).

Hart (2015:14) also indicates that the first travelers to the Gariiep River includes elephant hunters such as Jacobus Coetzee in 1660. The earliest penetration of the Richtersveld via the coast was done by William Paterson and Colonel Robert Jacob Gordon in 1779. In 1830 Dr. E Richter of the Rhenish Mission Society visited the area, which bears his name. In the mid-19th century a mission station was established at Kuboes. The Sendelingsdrift area was visited in 1837 by Captain James Edward Alexander who also prospected for copper at Kodas.

The South African Mining Company was formed in 1846. They send Thomas Fannin to the Gariiep River to survey the area and begin with the mining of copper. The mine that he started is believed to be the oldest commercial mine in South Africa (Hart 2015: 14-15).

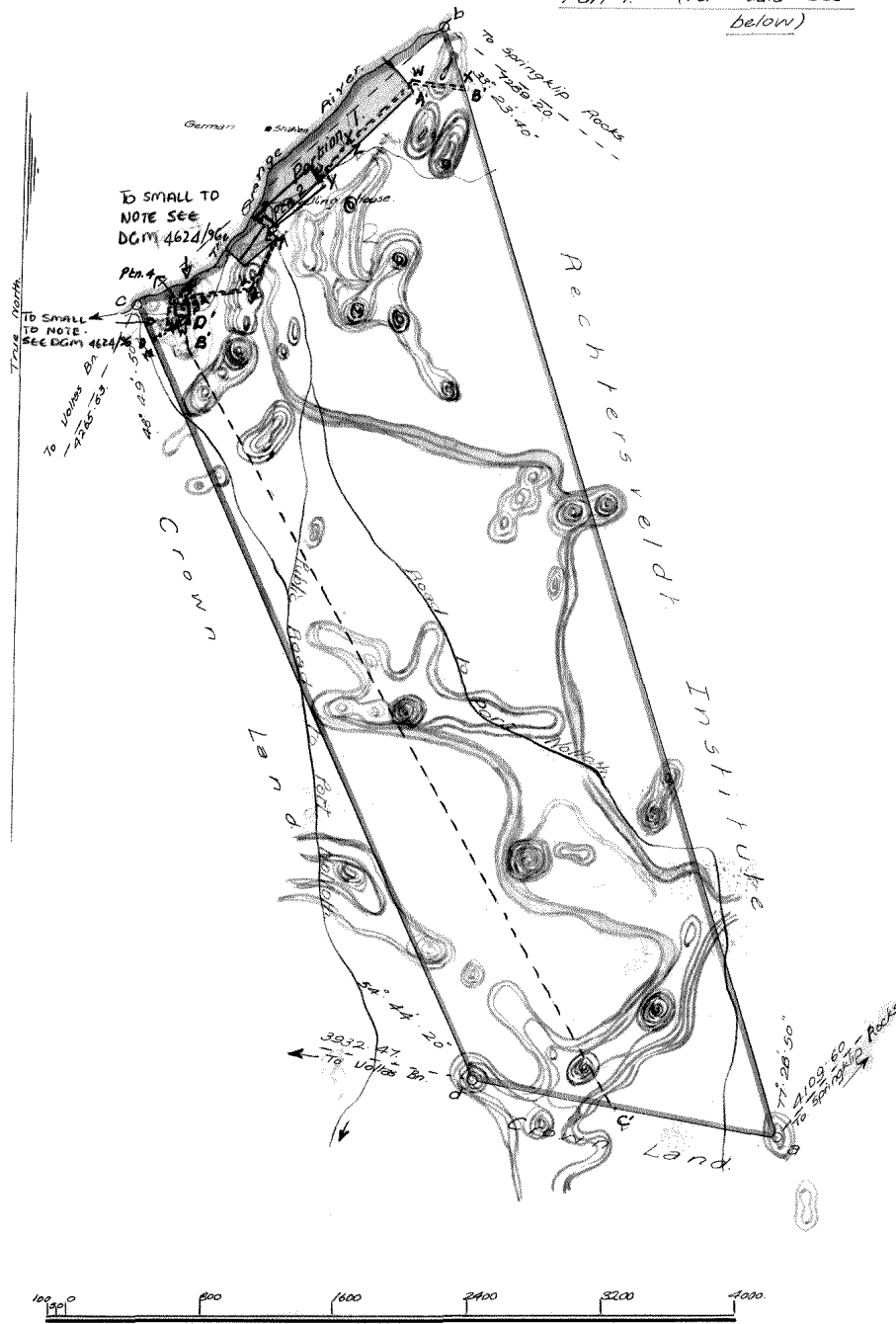
The British extended their control to the Gariiep River in 1847. The Richtersveld was included in the Namaqualand district. By the 1890s, the inhabitants of the Richtersveld demanded clarity regarding land ownership. Eventually in 1934 a formal “ticket of occupation” was issued by the government which gave indigenous groups communal rights to the land which was technically still held in trust by the state. Hereafter the Richtersveld became a “coloured reserve” under a management board (Hart 2015: 15).

Diamonds were only discovered by Europeans in the early 20th century. The first was Dr. Bernhard Dernburg who discovered diamonds in southern Namibia in 1908, although a certain person named Pohle had been the first to recognise the potential for finding diamonds in the Gariiep River. In 1925 the first Namaqualand diamond was discovered at a site 10,5 km south of Port Nolloth by Jack Carstens. The first diamonds of Alexander Bay was found in November 1926 by Dr. Ernst Reuning. In December 1926 Israel Gordon’s party found diamonds near Alexander Bay. Public digging was prevented at Alexander Bay when on 22 February 1927 the government banned prospecting on Crown land. State mining operations began in 1928. This later became the Alexcor or State Diamond mines (Hart 2015: 15).

The oldest map of the farm Groot Derm, identified in the Office of the Surveyor-General dates to 1914, but it was likely already surveyed in 1909 (Figure 4). The farm was surveyed for HAM Louw. It is indicated that it was surrounded by government land as well as the Richtersveld Institute, the latter likely to indicate the so-called native reserve. The diagram shows a rough road running between hills/sand dunes as well as the Orange River (Surveyor-General 1247/1909). The only deduction that can be made from it is that it is a typical environment of Stone Age people. However, the presence of a farmer here may indicate that structures linked to farming activities was also later on added.

One may therefore expect sites associated with the first white farmers, early missionaries and mining companies. This may include graves.

F
 S. G Dgm. No 1247/1909.
 Part 1. (For data see
 below)



Copied from the diagram relating to
 Title Deed No. 1247/1909
 dated 30th May 1914. In favour of
 H. A. M. Louw
 W. E. Handrick
 for SURVEYOR-GENERAL
 24.8.1949.
 1704/1949.

DE FLAAS Groot Derm No 10
 NMAIKWALD
 FOR ENDORSEMENTS
 SEE BACK OF DIAGRAM
 For list of
 details see
 back of diagram
 10

Figure 3: Surveyor-General's diagram of the farm Groot Derm 10.

4. Preliminary 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, but only if found intact, which rarely is the case with open air sites.
- Chances to find Iron Age sites and occurrences are extremely slim.
- During the HIA survey one might 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.

5. Proposed management measures for potential impacts

- Loose stone tools found are usually of minor significance and should just be left as it is.
- Areas where a substantial number of stone tools are found together should be geo-referenced and left alone until such time as an archaeologist can visit the site to determine its significance.
- Although chances of finding Iron Age remains are slim, it should be treated similar to the above. Potshards found out of context should be left alone, but areas with stone walling or substantial pottery and other cultural remains should be geo-referenced and left alone until investigated by an archaeologist.
- All buildings and remains of buildings and other structures believed to be older than 60 years should be geo-referenced and left alone until and a heritage expert can be called in to determine the cultural significance thereof.
- Graves should be left in situ, geo-referenced and left alone until investigated by an archaeologist.

6. Sources

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