

## **Archaeological Survey of the Nseleni substation site**

The Institute for Cultural Resource Management was contracted by Eskom to undertake an archaeological survey of the Nseleni substation. Potential foundations had already been observed, and I was asked to comment on its significance and mitigation if required.

All archaeological sites are protected by the National Monuments Act of 1969 which makes it an offence to damage archaeological sites without a permit from the National Monuments Council. As from April 1998 the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act will replace the national legislation. Engineering activities are not exempt from either Act and the NMC may hold contractors responsible for any damage accrued to a site where they have deviated from the permit requirements. It is up to the developers to apply for a permit if they intend to damage, alter or remove any aspects of a site.

### **The survey**

The archaeological survey inspected the whole area to be affected by the Nseleni substation as well as the surrounding area.

There were two slightly raised mounds along the eastern side of the site. The mounds were circular in shape and appear to be the foundations of a house. Most of the material debris of the site was concentrated downslope from these mounds and appear to be recent.

I correlated the location of these circular mounds with the 1:50 000 map. This correlation indicated that the mounds were indeed part of a homestead as shown on the 1966 1:50 000 map.

The homestead is too recent to be of archaeological and/or historical value. The site is therefore of no archaeological nor historical significance and no mitigation is required. No permit would be required for the damage or destruction of the site.