

Prepared for:

**ESKOM NORTHERN REGION
AND
URGENEG**

**A PHASE I HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) STUDY
FOR ESKOM'S PROPOSED 132KV POWER LINE RUNNING
FROM THE SOEKMEKAAR SUBSTATION TO THE PROPOSED
NEW MASHUA SUBSTATION IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE OF
SOUTH AFRICA**

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October 2008

EXCECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study contains the report on the Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment study which was done according to Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) for Eskom's proposed new 132kV power line running from the Soekmekaar Substation via the Singo Substation to the proposed new Mashua Substation in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. The construction of the new power line and substations is hereafter referred to as the Eskom Project while the alternatives for the proposed substations are referred to as the Eskom Project Area.

The Eskom Project may impact on any of the types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in Section 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999). Consequently, Urgeneg and Eskom commissioned the author to undertake a Phase I HIA study for the proposed Eskom Project Area with the following aims

- To establish whether any of the types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in Section 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) (see Box 1) do occur within the perimeters of the Eskom Project Area and, if so, to determine the level of significance of these heritage resources.
- To make recommendations regarding the mitigation or the conservation of any significant heritage resources that may be affected by the proposed Eskom Project.

The Phase I HIA study for the proposed Eskom Project Area revealed the following types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in Section 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) near the Eskom Project Area, namely:

- Two graveyards (GY01, GY02).
- A Late Iron Age site (LIA01).

These heritage resources were geo-referenced, mapped and discussed in this report (Figure 3, Tables 1-2). The significance of the heritage resources is indicated and mitigation measures are outlined should they be affected by the Eskom Project.

Possible impact on the heritage resources

GY01 and GY02 as well as LIA01 are located near the proposed new power line that will be established between the Soekmekaar Substation and the proposed new Mashua Substation.

It is unlikely that either GY01 or GY02 or Site LIA01 will be impacted by the Eskom Project. Nevertheless, the significance of the graveyard and the Late Iron Age site is indicated by means of stipulations derived from the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) and other legislation.

The significance of the graveyards

All graveyards and graves can be considered to be of high significance and are protected by various laws. Legislation with regard to graves includes Section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) whenever graves are older than sixty years. The act also distinguishes various categories of graves and burial grounds.

Other legislation with regard to graves includes those which apply when graves are exhumed and relocated, namely the Ordinance on Exhumations (No 12 of 1980) and the Human Tissues Act (No 65 of 1983 as amended).

The significance of the Late Iron Age site

The stone walled site (Site LIA01) qualifies as an archaeological and historical site and is protected by Section 38 of the National heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999).

Mitigating the heritage resources

It is unlikely that GY01 or GY02 or Site LIA01 will be impacted (affected, altered, destroyed) by the construction of the proposed Soekmekaar/Mashua power line or substations. However, if any of these remains are to be affected by the Eskom Project the following mitigation measures for the graveyards and the Late Iron site have to be adhered to, namely:

Mitigating the graveyards

GY01 and GY02 can be mitigated by following the following strategy, namely:

- The graveyards can be avoided by the proposed new Soekmekaar-Mashua power line.

Mitigating the Late Iron Age site

The Late Iron Age site may not be affected before the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) has authorised such an impact on the site. An archaeologist accredited with the Association for Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) has to apply for a permit from SAHRA which would authorize the destruction of these remains.

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Enquiry by Property

as at 09:32 on 21/06/2013

Registrar Pretoria
Property Type Farm
Registration Division KQ
Farm Number 437
Portion Number 40
Farm Name Marakeli

Information

Province Limpopo
Registration Division KQ
Local Authority Thabazimbi Local Municipality
Previous Description OF PRTN 39
Diagram Deed Number T64535/2007
Extent 1.0125h

Owners

1 of 1
Person Type Company
Name Khaya Kwa Marakele Beheer Liggaam
ID Number 200600171508
Title Deed T64535/2007
Registration Date 20070516
Purchase Price R 49 000.00
Share
Purchase Date 20060818
Microfilm Reference Awaiting Mfilm
Multiple Properties No
Multiple Owners No

Endorsements

1 of 1
Document GENERAL PLAN FROM ()
Kq , 437 , 39
Amount Unknown
Microfilm Reference Awaiting Mfilm

History

1 of 1
Document T45530/2005 (Transfer)
Super Size Inv 11 CC
Amount/Price G/P
Microfilm Reference 2008 0578 0063

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However, it is possible for the proposed Soekmekaar/Mashua power line to avoid Site LIA01 therefore ensuring that the above application needs not to be lodge to SAHRA.

The power line

The proposed Soekmekaar/Mashua power line corridor is therefore suitable for the construction of the proposed new power line.

The substations sites

Alternative 1 (north of a dirt road) and Alternative 2 (south of the dirt road) for the proposed new Singo Substation revealed no heritage resources of significance. Both these sites therefore can be used for the new substation.

Alternative 1 (east of drainage channel) and Alternative 2 (west of drainage channel) for the proposed new Mashua Substation revealed no heritage resources of significance. Both these sites therefore can be used for the new substation.

General

If any heritage resources of significance is exposed during the Eskom Project the South African Heritage Resources Authority (SAHRA) should be notified immediately, all development activities must be stopped and an archaeologist accredited with the Association for Southern African Professional Archaeologist (ASAPA) should be notify in order to determine appropriate mitigation measures for the discovered finds. This may include obtaining the necessary authorisation (permits) from SAHRA to conduct the mitigation measures.

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Local Authority Thabazimbi Local Municipality
Previous Description OF PRTN 39
Diagram Deed Number T82461/2006
Extent 1.8225h

Owners

1 of 2

Person Type Private Person
Name Kruger Petrus Jacobus
ID Number 6210195011084
Title Deed T82461/2006
Registration Date 20060710
Purchase Price R 295 000.00
Share *
Purchase Date 20060120
Microfilm Reference 2007 0693 0702
Multiple Properties No
Multiple Owners Yes

2 of 2

Person Type Private Person
Name Kruger Susanna
ID Number 6508150037089
Title Deed T82461/2006
Registration Date 20060710
Purchase Price R 295 000.00
Share *
Purchase Date 20060120
Microfilm Reference 2007 0693 0702
Multiple Properties No
Multiple Owners Yes

Endorsements

1 of 2

Document B105315/2006 (Bond)
Absa Bank Ltd
Amount R 295 000.00
Microfilm Reference 2007 0740 0552

2 of 2

Document GENERAL PLAN FROM ()
Kq , 437 , 39
Amount Unknown
Microfilm Reference Awaiting Mfilm

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Document T45530/2005 (Transfer)
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Microfilm Reference 2008 0578 0063

1 INTRODUCTION

This study contains the report on the Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment study which was done according to Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) for Eskom's proposed new 132kV power line running from the Soekmekaar Substation via the Singo Substation to the proposed new Mamaila Substation in the Limpopo Province of South Africa.

The construction of the new power line and substations is hereafter referred to as the Eskom Project while the alternatives for the proposed power line corridors and substations are referred to as the Eskom Project Area.

Focused archaeological research has been conducted in the Limpopo Province of South Africa for more than four decades. This research consists of surveys and of excavations of Stone Age and Iron Age sites as well as the recording of rock art and historical sites. The Limpopo Province has a rich heritage comprised of remains dating from the pre-historical and from the historical (or colonial) periods of South Africa. Pre-historical and historical remains in the Limpopo Province therefore form a record of the heritage of most groups living in South Africa today.

Various types and ranges of heritage resources that qualify as part of South Africa's 'national estate' as outlined in Section 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) occur in the Limpopo Province (see Box 1, next page).

Box 1: Types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in Section 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999).

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999, Section 3) outlines the following types and ranges of heritage resources that qualify as part of the national estate, namely:

- (a) places, buildings structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- (b) places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- (c) historical settlements and townscapes;
- (d) landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- (e) geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- (f) archaeological and paleontological sites;
- (g) graves and burial grounds including-
 - (i) ancestral graves;
 - (ii) royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
 - (iii) graves of victims of conflict
 - (iv) graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;
 - (v) historical graves and cemeteries; and
 - (vi) other human remains which are not covered by in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No 65 of 1983)
- (h) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
- (i) moveable objects, including -
 - (i) objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and paleontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
 - (ii) objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
 - (iii) ethnographic art and objects;
 - (iv) military objects;
 - (v) objects of decorative or fine art;
 - (vi) objects of scientific or technological interest; and
 - (vii) books, records, documents, photographs, positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No 43 of 1996).

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999, Art 3) also distinguishes nine criteria for places and objects to qualify as 'part of the national estate if they have cultural significance or other special value ...'. These criteria are the following:

- (a) its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- (b) its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (c) its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (d) its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects
- (e) its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- (f) its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- (g) its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- (h) its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa;
- (i) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa

2 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Eskom Project may impact on any of the types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in Section 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999). Consequently, Eskom (Northern Region) and Urogeneg commissioned the author to undertake a Phase I HIA study for the proposed Eskom Project Area with the following aims

- To establish whether any of the types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in Section 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) (see Box 1) do occur within the perimeters of the Eskom Project Area and, if so, to determine the level of significance of these heritage resources.
- To make recommendations regarding the mitigation or the conservation of any significant heritage resources that may be affected by the proposed Eskom Project.

3 THE ESKOM PROJECT AREA

3.1 Location

The Eskom Project Area falls within the Lowveld of Limpopo, an area to the east of the Drakensberg Escarp which is located 600m above sea level at its highest points. The region has an annual rainfall of well over 1 000mm.

The Lowveld region is the focal point of South Africa's subtropical fruit industry. The range which is utilized is large and includes mangoes, litchis, paw paws, bananas and avocado pears together with citrus, fruit pecan and other nuts. Other products include sugar cane, tobacco and timber from exotic forests that cover many of the mountain slopes. The region is also the country's winter vegetable garden.

The Lowveld houses several exquisite nature and game reserves. It is also home to the king of all sanctuaries, namely the National Kruger Park.

The Lowveld is also of importance for its minerals. The world's third largest deposits of phosphate are mined at Phalaborwa. Other major commodities from the region include copper, mica, vermiculite and iron.

The Eskom Project Area stretches from near the eastern end of the Soutpansberg south-westwards across the former homeland of Venda to the village of Soekmekaar located roughly mid-way between Louis Trichardt in the north and Polokwane in the south. The Eskom Project Area therefore partly overlaps with the former sphere of influence of the Venda in the north and with the sphere of influence of the Lobedu in the south (2330 Tzaneen & 2328 Polokwane 1: 250 000).

3.2 The Eskom Project

The Eskom Project Area involves a large number of farms stretching from the Soekmekaar Substation north-eastwards to the proposed new Mashua Substation located in the southern foothills of the Soutpansberg. The Project Area incorporates several eco-zones which vary from slight rolling bushveld in the south-west, a rough

mountainous area in the central part and some of the lower foothills of the Soutpansberg in the far north-east.

Eskom's proposed new 132kV power line running between the Soekmekaar and Mashua Substations will be approximately sixty kilometres long (1:250 000 Tzaneen 2330) (Figures -1-3).

The Eskom Project involves the following components:

- The construction of a 132kV power line from the Soekmekaar Substation *via* the Singo Substation to the Mashau Substation. No alternatives have been identified for this power line.
- The construction of the Singo and Mashua Substations on one of two alternatives sites for each of these substations. Alternative 1 for the Singo Substation is to the north of a dirt road and Alternative 2 to the south of this dirt road. Alternative 1 for the Mashua Substation is to the east of a non-perennial stream and Alternative 2 to the west of this non-perennial stream.

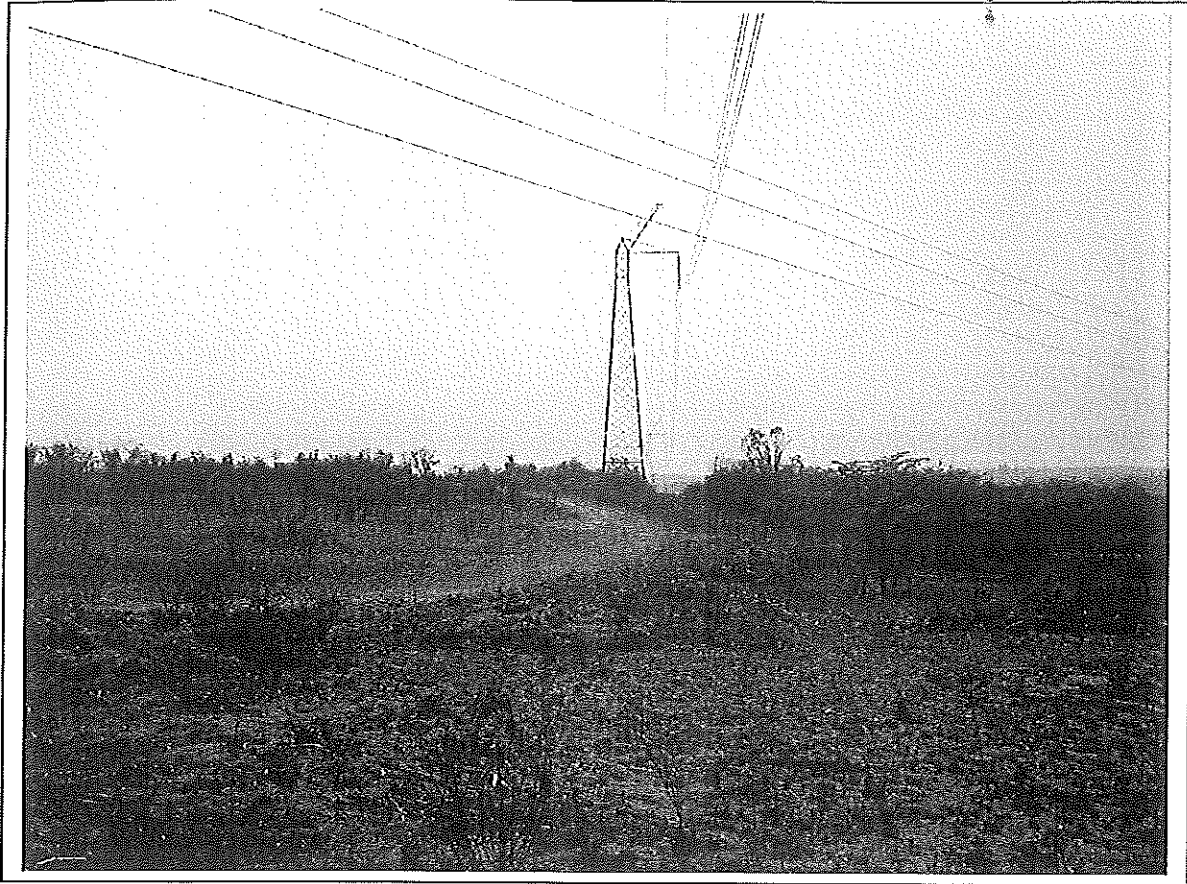


Figure 1- The proposed new Soekmekaar-Mashua power line runs across different eco-zones. These landscapes vary between a slightly rolling bushveld between the Soekmekaar and Singo Substation and mountainous areas further to the north-east in the Project Area.

Note the Kahorra-Bassa power line which will run parallel with the new Soekmekaar-Mashua power line. These two power lines will run along relatively flat to slightly rolling bushveld north-east of Soekmekaar (above).

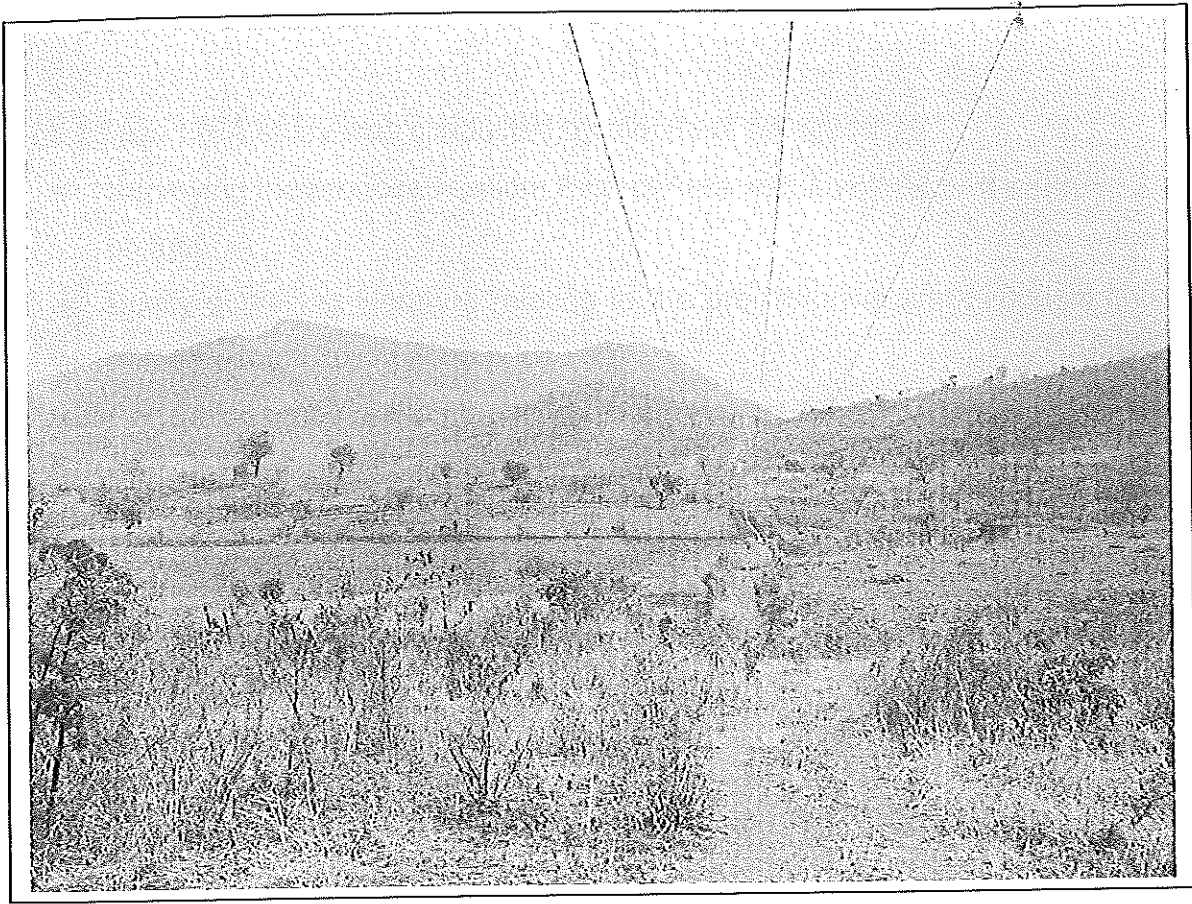


Figure 2- The proposed new Soekmekaar-Mashau power line runs across different eco-zones. These landscapes vary between a rolling bushveld between the Soekmekaar and Singo Substations and a rough, mountainous region between the Singo and and Mashau Substations.

Note part of the mountainous Project Area near the Mashau Substation (above).

4 METHODOLOGY

This Phase I HIA study was conducted by means of the following:

- Surveying the proposed Eskom Project Area with a vehicle and selected spots on foot.
- Briefly surveying literature relating to the pre-historical and historical context of the Eskom Project Area.
- Consulting maps of the proposed Eskom Project Area.
- Consulting archaeological (heritage) data bases.
- Consulting spokespersons regarding the possible presence of graves and graveyards in the project area.
- Synthesising all information obtained from the data bases, fieldwork, maps and literature survey.

4.1 Fieldwork

The proposed Eskom Project Area was surveyed with a vehicle where accessible roads existed while selected, sensitive spots in the project area were surveyed on foot.

4.2 Databases, literature survey and maps

Databases kept and maintained at institutions such as the Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (PHRA) and the Archaeological Data Recording Centre at the National Flagship Institute (Museum Africa) in Pretoria were consulted to determine whether any heritage resources of significance has been identified during earlier heritage surveys in or near the Eskom Project Area.

The author is not unacquainted with the Eskom Project Area at large as he had done several heritage impact assessment studies near the proposed project area (see Part 8, 'Select Bibliography').

Literature relating to the pre-historical and the historical unfolding of the Eastern Highveld where the Eskom Project Area is located was reviewed (see Part 5, 'Contextualising the Eskom Project Area').

It is important to contextualise the pre-historical and historical background of the Eskom Project Area in order to comprehend the identity and meaning of heritage sites in and near the project area.

In addition, the Eskom Project Area was studied by means of maps on which it appears (2330 Tzaneen & 2328 Polokwane 1: 250 000).

4.3 Assumptions and limitations

It is possible that this Phase I HIA study may have missed heritage resources in the Eskom Project Area as heritage sites may occur in thick clumps of vegetation while others may lie below the surface of the earth and may only be exposed once development commences.

If any heritage resources of significance is exposed during the Eskom Project the South African Heritage Resources Authority (SAHRA) should be notified immediately, all development activities must be stopped and an archaeologist accredited with the Association for Southern African Professional Archaeologist (ASAPA) should be notify in order to determine appropriate mitigation measures for the discovered finds. This may include obtaining the necessary authorisation (permits) from SAHRA to conduct the mitigation measures.

4.4 Some remarks on terminology

Terms that may be used in this report are briefly outlined in Box 2.

Box 2. Terminologies that may be used in this report

The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) referred to in the title of this report includes a survey of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) (See Box 1).

Heritage resources (cultural resources) include all human-made phenomena and intangible products that are the result of the human mind. Natural, technological or industrial features may also be part of heritage resources, as places that have made an outstanding contribution to the cultures, traditions and lifestyles of the people or groups of people of South Africa.

The term 'pre-historical' refers to the time before any historical documents were written or any written language developed in a particular area or region of the world. The historical period and historical remains refer, for the Eskom Project Area, to the first appearance or use of 'modern' Western writing brought to the Eskom Project Area by the first Colonists who settled in this area during the 1830's.

The term 'relatively recent past' refers to the 20th century. Remains from this period are not necessarily older than sixty years and therefore may not qualify as archaeological or historical remains. Some of these remains, however, may be close to sixty years of age and may, in the near future, qualify as heritage resources.

It is not always possible, based on observations alone, to distinguish clearly between archaeological remains and historical remains, or between historical remains and remains from the relatively recent past. Although certain criteria may help to make this distinction possible, these criteria are not always present, or, when they are present, they are not always clear enough to interpret with great accuracy. Criteria such as square floor plans (a historical feature) may serve as a guideline. However, circular and square floors may occur together on the same site.

The term 'sensitive remains' is sometimes used to distinguish graves and cemeteries as well as ideologically significant features such as holy mountains, initiation sites or other sacred places. Graves in particular are not necessarily heritage resources if they date from the recent past and do not have head stones that are older than sixty years. The distinction between 'formal' and 'informal' graves in most instances also refers to graveyards that were used by colonists and by indigenous people. This distinction may be important as different cultural groups may uphold different traditions and values with regard to their ancestors. These values have to be recognised and honoured whenever graveyards are exhumed and relocated.

The term 'Stone Age' refers to the prehistoric past, although Late Stone Age peoples lived in South Africa well into the historical period. The Stone Age is divided into an Earlier Stone Age (3 million years to 150 000 thousand years ago) the Middle Stone Age (150 000 years to 40 000 years ago) and the Late Stone Age (40 000 years to 200 years ago).

The term 'Iron Age' refers to the last two millennia and 'Early Iron Age' to the first thousand years AD. 'Late Iron Age' refers to the period between the 16th century and the 19th century and can therefore include the historical period.

Mining heritage sites refer to old, abandoned mining activities, underground or on the surface, which may date from the pre-historical, historical or the relatively recent past.

The term 'study area', or 'Eskom Project Area' refers to the area where the developer wants to focus its development activities (refer to plan).

Phase I studies refer to surveys using various sources of data in order to establish the presence of all possible types of heritage resources in any given area.

Phase II studies include in-depth cultural heritage studies such as archaeological mapping, excavating and sometimes laboratory work. Phase II work may include the documenting of rock art, engraving or historical sites and dwellings; the sampling of archaeological sites or shipwrecks; extended excavations of archaeological sites; the exhumation of bodies and the relocation of graveyards, etc. Phase II work may require the input of specialists and requires the co-operation and approval of SAHRA.

5 CONTEXTUALISING THE ESKOM PROJECT AREA

The following brief overview of pre-historical, historical, cultural and economic evidence will help to contextualise the proposed Eskom Project Area.

5.1 Stone Age sites

Stone Age sites are marked by stone artefacts that are found scattered on the surface of the earth or as parts of deposits in caves and rock shelters. The Stone Age is divided into the Early Stone Age (covers the period from 2.5 million years ago to 250 000 years ago), the Middle Stone Age (refers to the period from 250 000 years ago to 22 000 years ago) and the Late Stone Age (the period from 22 000 years ago to 200 years ago).

The Later Stone Age is also associated with rock paintings and engravings which were done by the San, Khoi Khoi and in more recent times by Iron Age farmers.

Heritage surveys up to now have recorded Stone Age sites, rock paintings and engravings in the Lowveld.

5.2 Iron Age remains

The Iron Age is associated with the first agro-pastoralists who lived in semi-permanent villages and who practised metal working during the last two millennia. The Iron Age is usually divided into the Early Iron Age (covers the 1st millennium AD) and the Later Iron Age (covers the first 880 years of the 2nd millennium AD).

The Lowveld, near the Eskom Project Area, has been occupied by Early Iron Age communities as well as by Late Iron Age communities. The Eskom Project Area stretches across the former spheres of influence of the Venda in the north and partly across the sphere of influence of the Lobedu in the south. These communities

occupied numerous settlements in the area. A brief historical background to these Late Iron Age communities is provided in this report (see below).

5.3 The historical period

The Eskom Project Area partly collates with people who can claim a Lobedu and a Venda ancestry. A brief survey of literature relating to the Lobedu (or Balobedu) and Venda people who occupied the Tzaneen and Soutpansberg areas for the past four centuries were undertaken. Particular attention was given to the origins, divisions and settlement history of the Lobedu and Venda. No ethnographic information regarding these two groups is presented. Whilst the Lobedu is also known as the people of Modjaji, the name given to the queens who ruled this clan and who are renowned for their abilities 'to make rain' the Venda is known for cultural traditions such as the *thondo* (an enclosed hut where boys are thought how to protect royals and *domba* (a pre-marital rite held in or near the assembly area of royal villages).

5.3.1 The Lobedu

The Lobedu is collectively referred to as the Kolobe tribes. Sotho tribes who have the *kolobe* (bushpig) as totem trace their origin to the Lobedu. These groups include the Kolobe of Mmamaila, Sekgôpô, Mmamabolo and Rakwadu.

The Lobedu in all likely-hood broke away from the Karanga during the time of the legendary kingdom of Monomotapa (in Zimbabwe) and moved southwards, eventually in main becoming Sotho-ized. The group originally settled west of Louis Trichardt from where they moved, under Mohale the founder of the Lobedu, south-westwards. Shortly before AD 1700 they arrived in their present territory. (At this stage, the Kolobe of Mmamabolo had already broken away from the main group).

Among the Lobedu the tribal heads claim to authority is based on his ability to use the rain medicine in his possession. During the rule of the last male tribal leader, Môgôdo, he entrusted the rain medicine to his daughter, Maselegwane, as his sons were conspiring to murder him. When he died Maselegwane succeeded her father as she

possessed the rain medicine and became the first women ruler of the Lobedu. She called herself Modjaji and banished her brothers and half brothers from the kingdom.

Since the succession of Maselegwane the position of tribal leader, rain queen and the name 'Modjaji' was passed on to the daughter of the reigning queen. Modjaji II was historically the most famous of all the Lobedu queens as she led her people in a revolt against the government of the ZAR at the end of the 19th century. The Lobedu are today the main group in the Bolobedu district.

During and shortly before the stormy reign of Mōgôdo (AD 1800) various splinter groups such as the Kolobe of Sekgôpô and Rakwadu broke away from the Lobedu. The descendants of these clans currently live in Sekgosese and Lobedu. The Kolobe of Mamaila had already broken away from the Lobedu around AD 1750 and moved northwards where they found refuge amongst the Venda in the Njelele Valley. After skirmishes with Albasini they moved southwards to Lebowa, shortly after 1855. By 1925 the tribe had undergone a final division. One part now lives in Sekgosese and the other in Bolobedu. Although the connection between the two tribes is recognised, each division is fully independent today.

After the Kolobe of Mmamabolo broke away from the Lobedu around AD 1700, the Mmamabolo settled on the Haenertsburg escarpment and led a nomadic existence. They settled in Sekhukhuneland for a short time and on their way back to Haenertsburg they overcame and assimilated various groups. The tribe divided into two groups after a succession dispute, namely that of Sekwala and the group of Mankweng who both live in the Thabamopo district.

5.3.2 The Venda

Venda speakers are currently wedged between a predominantly Sotho-speaking region south of the Soutpansberg and the Shona linguistic cluster north of the Limpopo River. Venda, however, is by no means a uniform language. Three regional variants can be distinguished, namely in the north-western Soutpansberg people speak an archaic form of Venda known as Tawamamba a (mixture of Northern-Sotho and Kalanga). Tawamamba has largely been replaced by the Ilafuri dialect

(with more recent Sotho elements) in the western and central Soutpansberg. Lastly, the eastern Tshimbedzi variant (with fewer Sotho elements) can be distinguished which is also spoken in southern Zimbabwe.

Two schools of thought dominate an understanding of Venda origins, namely an older version which supports migration and the current view which is based on local development. Only the older migration theory is outlined below.

The migration theory is mainly based on Singo traditions. Singo is the 'totemic name' or *mutupo* for the politically dominant group amongst the Venda. Most ethnographers agree on a homeland for the Singo north of the Limpopo River amongst the Rozwi (Shona). Various capitals are mentioned. The Singo separated from the Rozwi as a result of dissention and migrated south with some Lemba allies who were Africanized Muslims traders and craftsmen.

Dates for these early origins vary. Most genealogies list at least three rulers living north of the Limpopo River and at least five to six rulers ruling in the Soutpansberg before the installation of chief Makhado in 1864.

The first Singo chief settled in the Soutpansberg six generations before 1864. This would place the earliest Singo settlement in the latter part of the seventeenth century. Once the Singo settled at Dzata in the Nzhelele Valley they extended their power base subjugating sections of the Dau, Kwevhu, Kwinda, Mbedzi, Ndou and Nyai *mitupo* (totemic groups). (Ethnographers used to lump these pre-Singo groups in an amorphous group called the Ngona).

With the expansion of the Singo elite from Dzata the Lemba became scattered amongst various Sotho and Ndebele communities in the Limpopo Province. The united Singo front came to an end with the dispute over the succession of chief Thoyo-ya-Ndou. The Singo polity may have broken up in the Nzhelele Valley between 1750 and 1800.

The three main sections that emerged during the split were the western Ramabulana Singo and their close Ndalamo allies, the eastern Tshivhase and Mphapuli section

and a southern section which includes former vassals of the Singo that were gradually incorporated in Sotho chiefdoms.

6 THE PHASE I HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 Types and ranges of heritage resources

The Phase I HIA study for the proposed Eskom Project Area revealed the following types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in Section 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) near the Eskom Project Area, namely:

- Two graveyards (GY01, GY02).
- A Late Iron Age site (LIA01).

These heritage resources were geo-referenced, mapped and discussed in this report (Figure 3, Tables 1-2). The significance of the heritage resources is indicated and mitigation measures are outlined should they be affected by the Eskom Project.

The Phase I HIA study is now briefly discussed and illustrated with photographs.

| Heritage resources | Coordinates | Significance |
|---|-------------------------|--------------|
| Graveyard 01 Near Soekmeaar substation | 23° 28.498' 29° 54.727' | HIGH |
| Graveyard 02 near mountain with Late Iron Age site | 23° 11.972' 30° 12.153' | HIGH |

Table 1- Coordinates for GY01 and GY02 near the Eskom Project Area (above).

| Heritage resources | Coordinates | Significance |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Late Iron Age site on mountain | 23° 12.059' 30° 12.104' | HIGH |

Table 1- Coordinates for Site LIA01 near the Eskom Project Area (above).

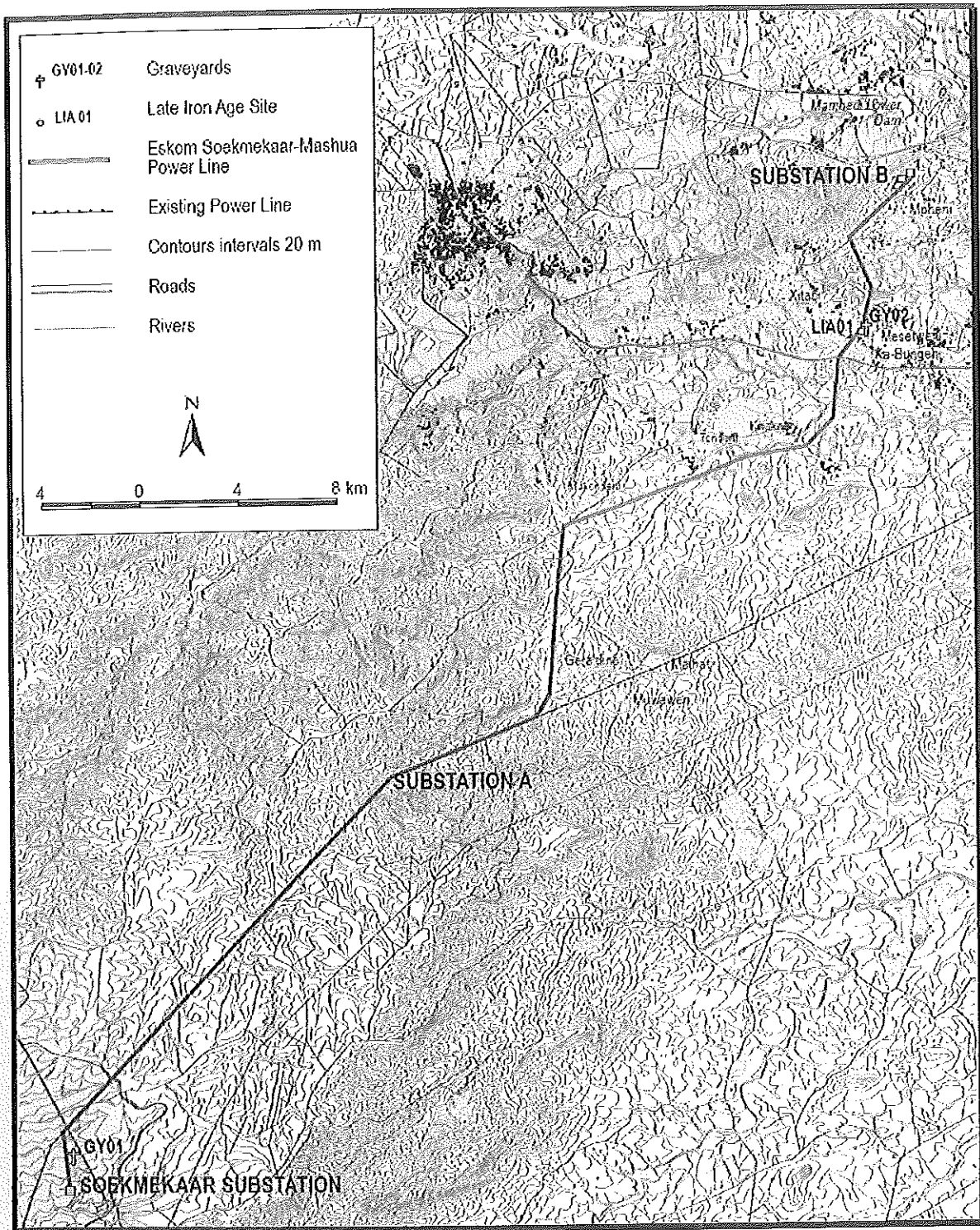


Figure 3- The Eskom Project Area involves a proposed new 132kV power line running between the existing Soekmekaar Substation via the Singo Substation to the proposed new Mashua Substation in the Limpopo Province of South Africa.

Note the presence of two graveyards and Late Iron Age site near the proposed Soekmekaar/Mashua power line (above).

6.1.1 Graveyards

Two graveyards (GY01, GY02) were observed near the proposed new power line running between the Soekmekaar Substation and the Mashua Substation. The two graveyards respectively occur near the start (Soekmekaar Substation) and the end of the power line, namely:

6.1.1.1 Graveyard 01

GY01 is a large formal graveyard located near the north-western perimeter of the Soekmekaar Substation. It houses several hundred graves but is not demarcated in any way. Most of the graves consist of piles of stone although a number is fitted with granite headstones.

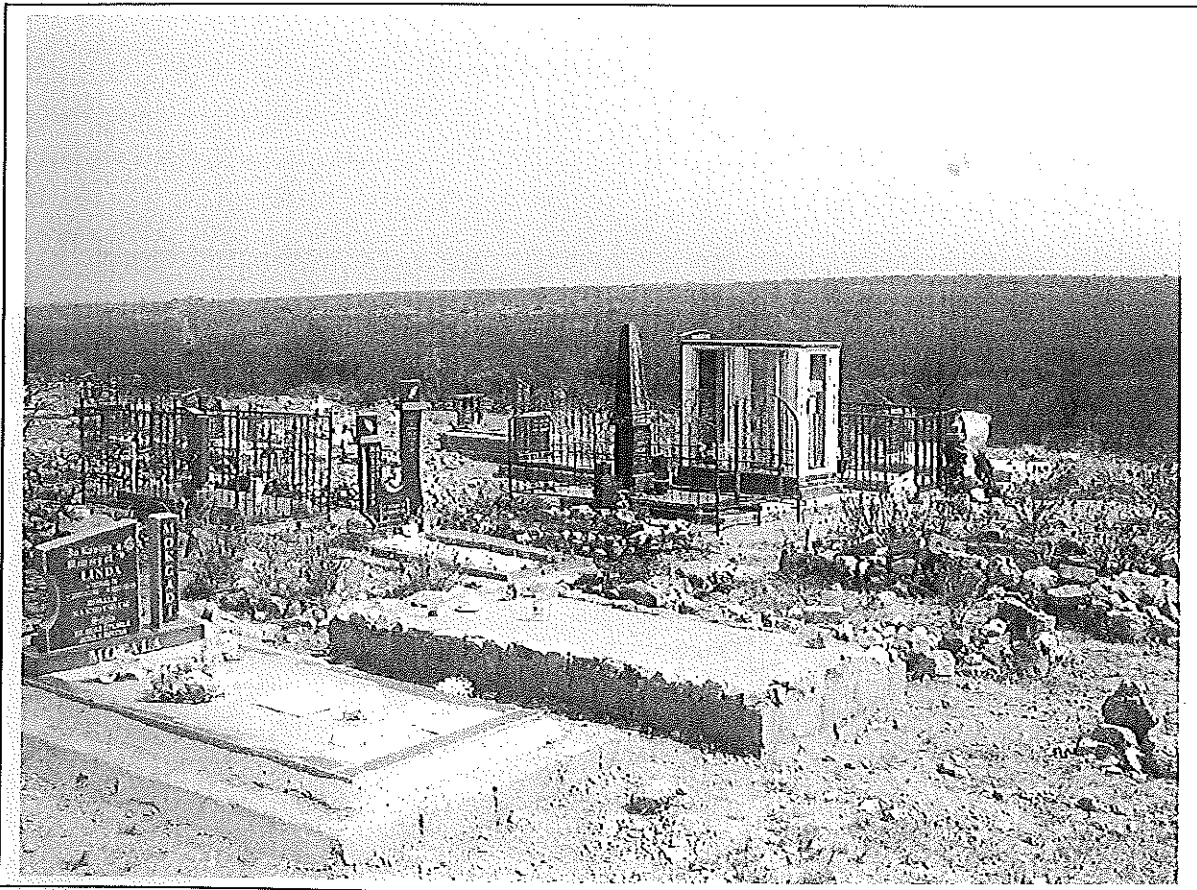


Figure 4- GY01 is a large formal cemetery near the north-western perimeter of the Soekmekaar Substation (above).

6.1.1.2 Graveyard 02

GY02 is a second large formal graveyard located to the north of the low mountain on which the Late Iron Age site (LIA0) is located.

This graveyard is demarcated with a concrete fence and houses hundreds of graves.

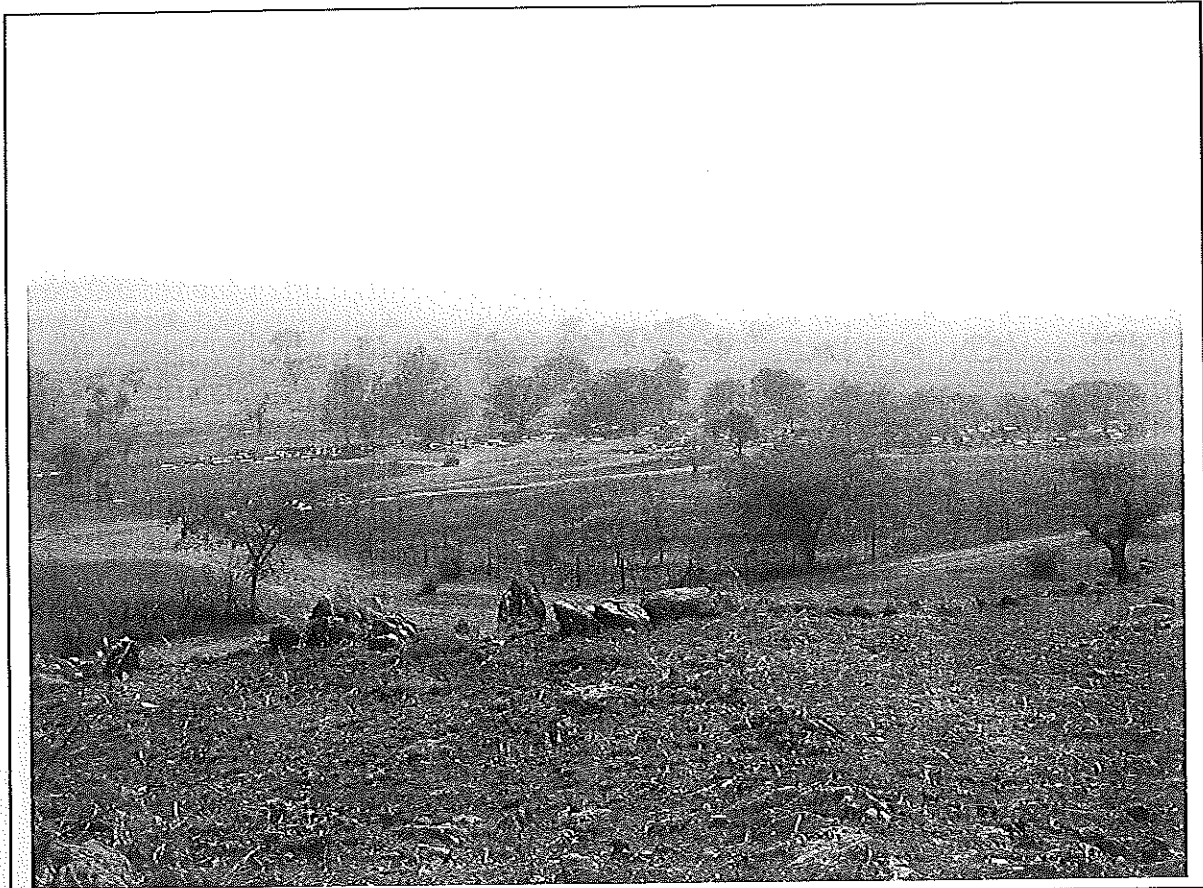


Figure 5- GY02 in the background is a large formal cemetery located to the north of a low mountain which is associated with Site LIA01 (above).

6.1.2 The Late Iron Age site

This Late Iron Age settlement (Site LIA01) is composed of stone walls which are scattered along the lower slope of a low raising mountain as well as along higher plateaux and near the top of the mountain.

The stone walls demarcate platforms where huts, which were used as dwellings, were constructed. It is possible that some of the stone walls may demarcate areas where stock such as cattle and goat were kept. The site was probably occupied by a Venda community during the period AD1700 to AD1880.

Site LIA01 is still in an excellent condition although some of its walls were destroyed on the eastern end of the mountain when reservoirs were constructed here in the past.

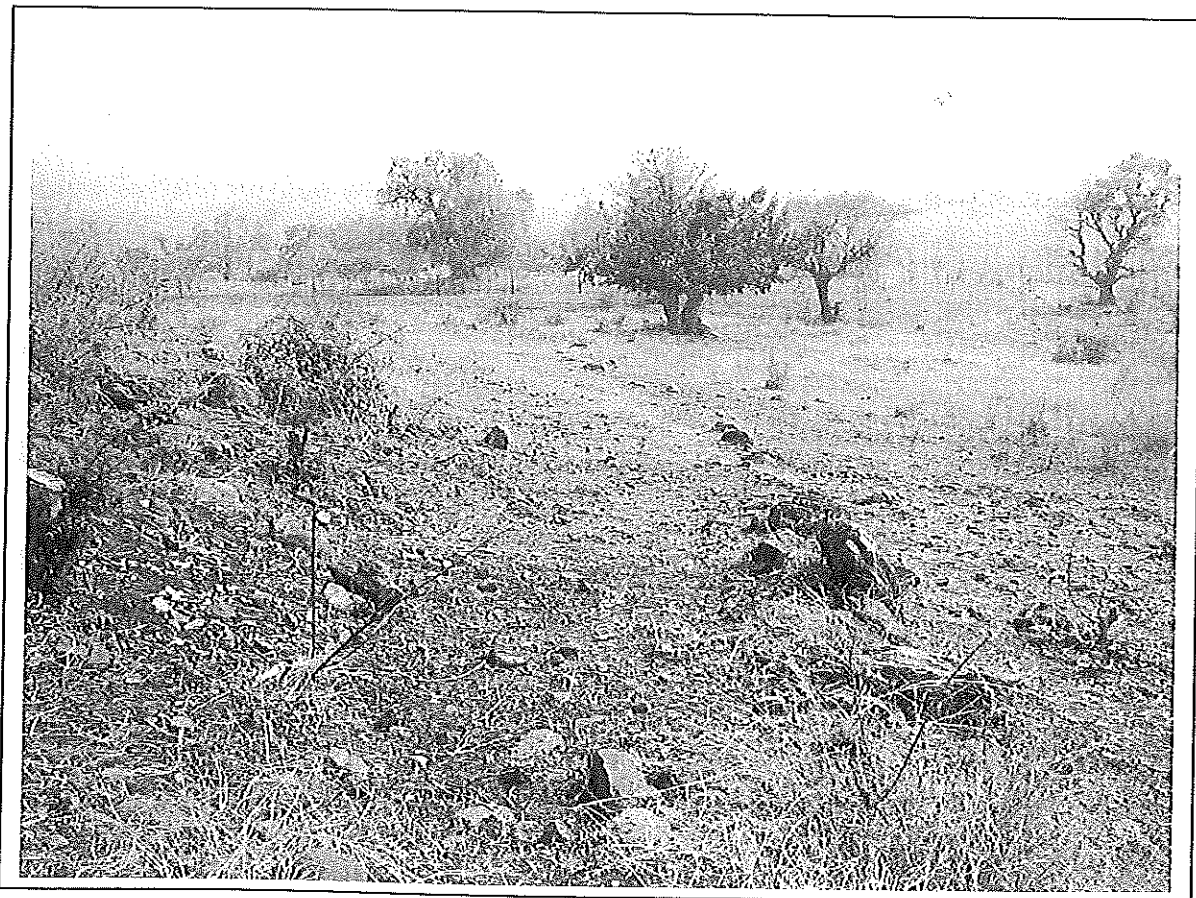


Figure 6- Terrace walls along the north-eastern foot of a low mountain which is part of Site LIA01. Dwellings were constructed along these platforms (above).

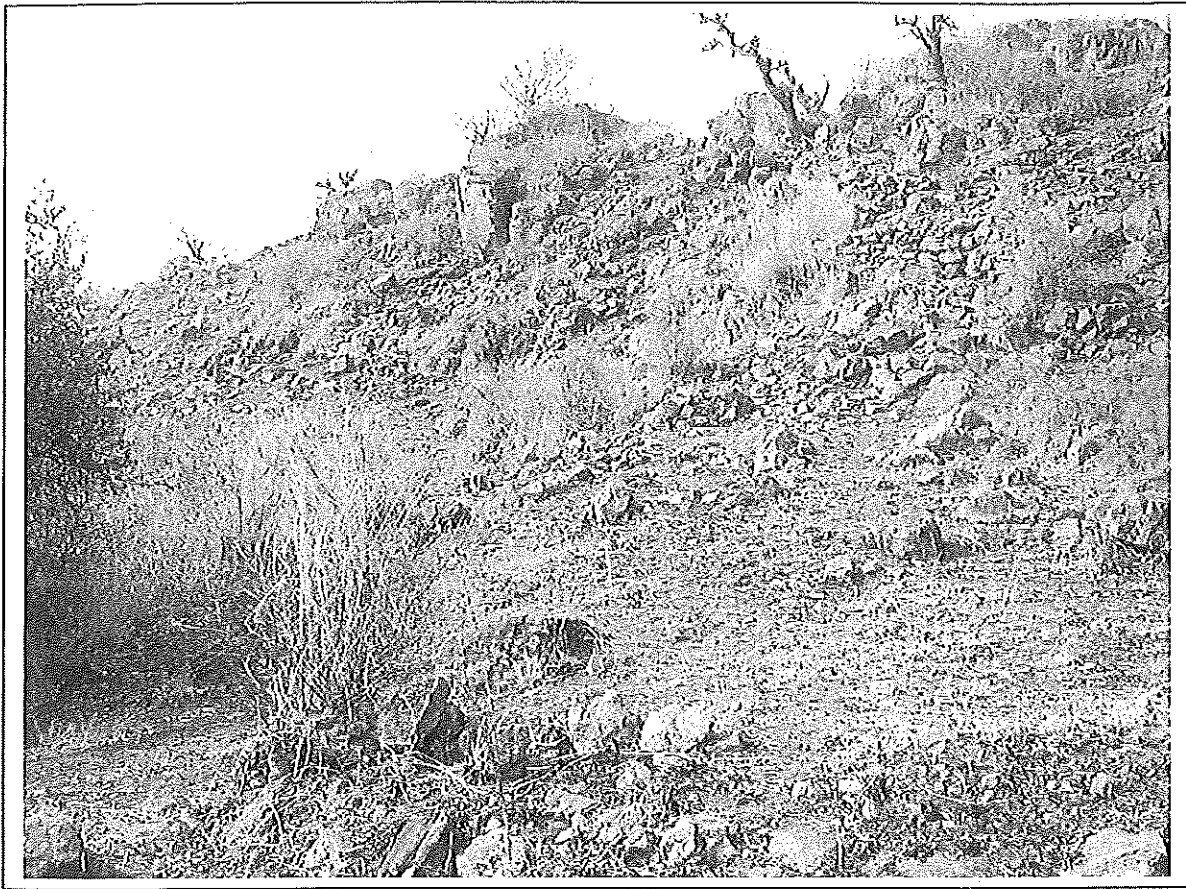


Figure 7- Note terrace walls against lower foot of mountain and dilapidated stone walls higher up the slope of the mountain. These walls date from the Late Iron Age (AD1700 to AD1880) and can possibly be associated with early Venda people (above).

6.2 Possible impact on the heritage resources

GY01 and GY02 as well as LIA01 are located near the proposed new power line that will be established between the Soekmekaar Substation and the proposed new Mashua Substation.

It is unlikely that either GY01 or GY02 or Site LIA01 will be impacted by the Eskom Project. Nevertheless, the significance of the graveyard and the Late Iron Age site is indicated by means of stipulations derived from the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) and other legislation.

6.2.1 The significance of the graveyards

All graveyards and graves can be considered to be of high significance and are protected by various laws. Legislation with regard to graves includes Section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) whenever graves are older than sixty years. The act also distinguishes various categories of graves and burial grounds.

Other legislation with regard to graves includes those which apply when graves are exhumed and relocated, namely the Ordinance on Exhumations (No 12 of 1980) and the Human Tissues Act (No 65 of 1983 as amended).

6.2.1 The significance of the Late Iron Age site

The stone walled site (Site LIA01) qualifies as an archaeological and historical site and is protected by Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999).

6.2.2 Mitigating the heritage resources

It is unlikely that GY01 or GY02 or Site LIA01 will be impacted (affected, altered, destroyed) by the construction of the proposed Soekmekaar/Mashua power line. However, if any of these remains are to be affected by the Eskom Project the following mitigation measures for the graveyards and the Late Iron site has to be adhered to, namely:

6.2.2 Mitigating the graveyards

GY01 and Gy02 can be mitigated by following the following strategy, namely:

- The graveyards can be avoided by the proposed new Soekmekaar-Mashua power line.

6.2.2 Mitigating the Late Iron Age site

The Late Iron Age site may not be affected before the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) has authorised such an impact on the site. An archaeologist accredited with the Association for Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) has to apply for a permit from SAHRA which would authorize the destruction of these remains.

However, it is possible for the proposed Soekmekaar/Mashua power line to avoid Site LIA01 therefore ensuring that the above application needs not to be lodge to SAHRA.

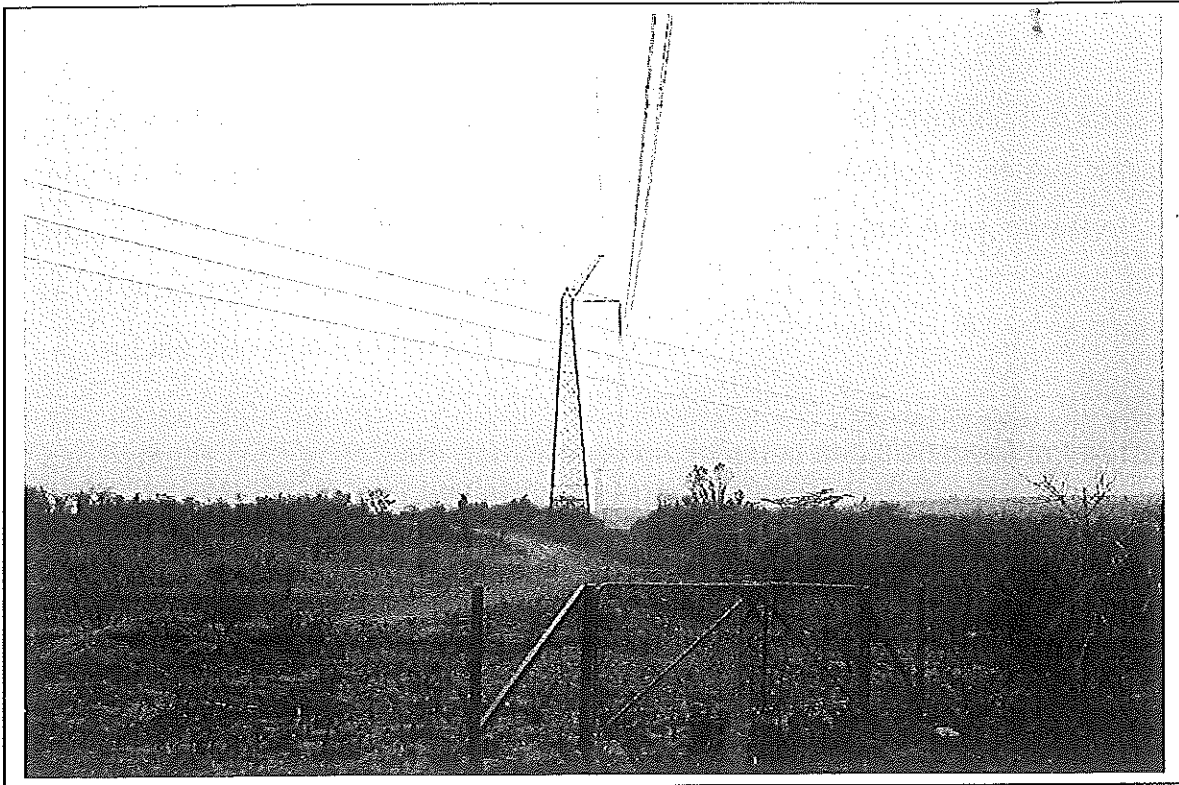
6.3 The power line

The proposed Soekmekaar/Mashua power line corridor is therefore suitable for the construction of the proposed new power line.

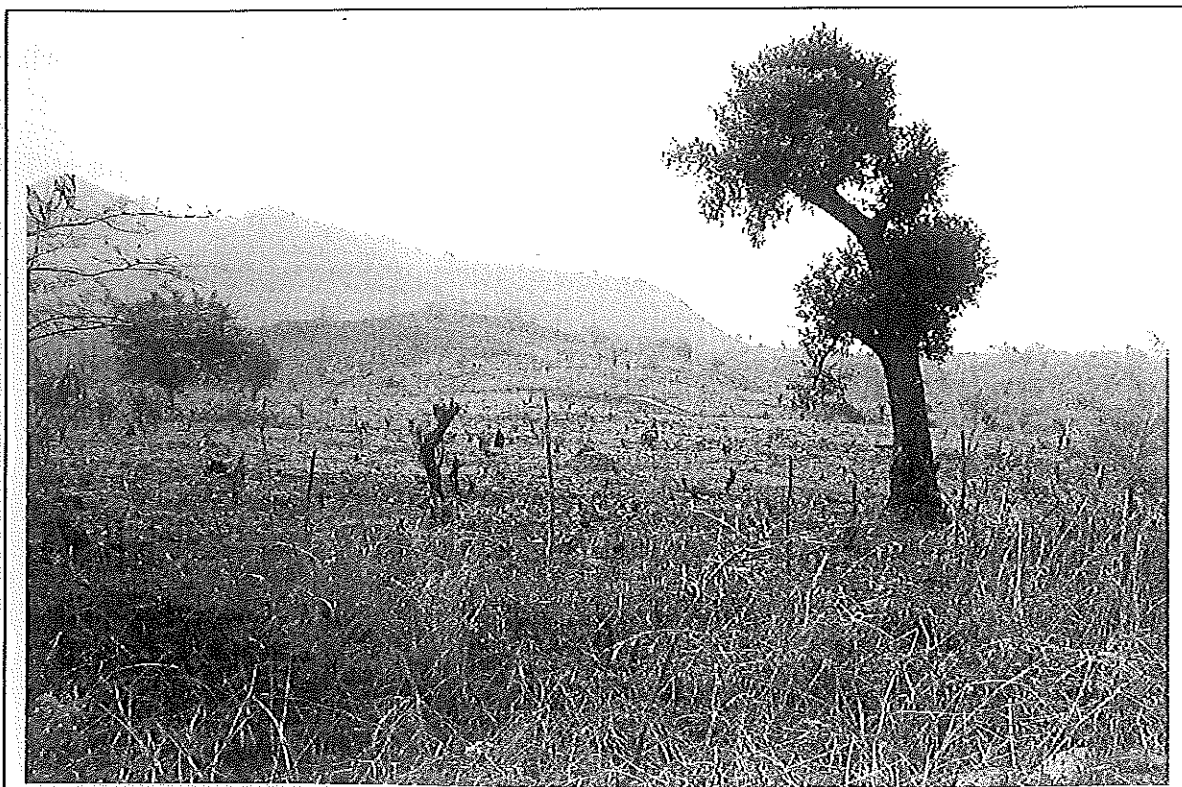
6.4 The substations sites

Alternative 1 (north of a dirt road) and Alternative 2 (south of the dirt road) for the proposed new Singo Substation revealed no heritage resources of significance. Both these sites therefore can be used for the new substation.

Alternative 1 (east of drainage channel) and Alternative 2 (west of drainage channel) for the proposed new Mashau Substation revealed no heritage resources of significance. Both these sites therefore can be used for the new substation.



Figures 8 & 9- The Singo Substation may be located to the north (Alternative 1) or to the south (Alternative 2) of a dirt road (above) while the Mashua Substation can be established to the east (Alternative 1) or to the west of a drainage channel (Alternative 2) (below).



7 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Phase I HIA study for the proposed Eskom Project Area revealed the following types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in Section 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) near the Eskom Project Area, namely:

- Two graveyards (GY01, GY02).
- A Late Iron Age site (LIA01).

These heritage resources were geo-referenced, mapped and discussed in this report (Figure 3, Tables 1-2). The significance of the heritage resources is indicated and mitigation measures are outlined should they be affected by the Eskom Project.

Possible impact on the heritage resources

GY01 and GY02 as well as LIA01 are located near the proposed new power line that will be established between the Soekmekaar Substation and the proposed new Mashua Substation.

It is unlikely that either GY01 or GY02 or Site LIA01 will be impacted by the Eskom Project. Nevertheless, the significance of the graveyard and the Late Iron Age site is indicated by means of stipulations derived from the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) and other legislation.

The significance of the graveyards

All graveyards and graves can be considered to be of high significance and are protected by various laws. Legislation with regard to graves includes Section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) whenever graves are older than sixty years. The act also distinguishes various categories of graves and burial grounds.

Other legislation with regard to graves includes those which apply when graves are exhumed and relocated, namely the Ordinance on Exhumations (No 12 of 1980) and the Human Tissues Act (No 65 of 1983 as amended).

The significance of the Late Iron Age site

The stone walled site (Site LIA01) qualifies as an archaeological and historical site and is protected by Section 38 of the National heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999).

Mitigating the heritage resources

It is unlikely that GY01 or GY02 or Site LIA01 will be impacted (affected, altered, destroyed) by the construction of the proposed Soekmekaar/Mashua power line or substations. However, if any of these remains are to be affected by the Eskom Project the following mitigation measures for the graveyards and the Late Iron site have to be adhered to, namely:

Mitigating the graveyards

GY01 and GY02 can be mitigated by following the following strategy, namely:

- The graveyards can be avoided by the proposed new Soekmekaar-Mashua power line.

Mitigating the Late Iron Age site

The Late Iron Age site may not be affected before the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) has authorised such an impact on the site. An archaeologist accredited with the Association for Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) has to apply for a permit from SAHRA which would authorize the destruction of these remains.

However, it is possible for the proposed Soekmekaar/Mashua power line to avoid Site LIA01 therefore ensuring that the above application needs not to be lodge to SAHRA.

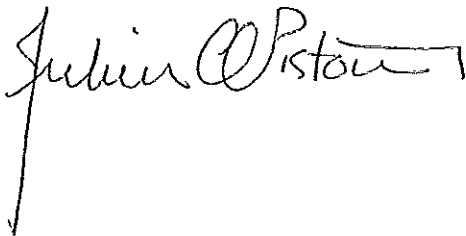
The power line

The proposed Soekmekaar/Mashua power line corridor is therefore suitable for the construction of the proposed new power line.

The substations sites

Alternative 1 (north of a dirt road) and Alternative 2 (south of the dirt road) for the proposed new Singo Substation revealed no heritage resources of significance. Both these sites therefore can be used for the new substation.

Alternative 1 (east of drainage channel) and Alternative 2 (west of drainage channel) for the proposed new Mashua Substation revealed no heritage resources of significance. Both these sites therefore can be used for the new substation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Julius CC Pistorius". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end of the name.

DR JULIUS CC PISTORIUS
Archaeologist &
Heritage Management Consultant
Member ASAPA

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