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10th of October 2017

Attention: Ms. M. Mahumela,

Re: Offset for the Eskom 400kV Transmission Powerline, Kudu Integration Project in the Richtersveld Local Municipality of Namakwa District in Northern Cape Province.

The above project has reference. Herein is the specialist opinion statement submitted by Vhubvo Archaeo-Heritage Consultants Cc.

Yours faithfully,

Munyadziwa Magoma

Principal researcher

for Vhubvo Archaeo-Heritage Consultants Cc
Masters in Archaeology (University of Pretoria)
ASAPA CRM Member (No. 313)

Introduction and Rationale

Vhubvo Archaeo-Heritage Consultants was requested by Nsovo Environmental Consulting to offer an opinion about the heritage around the area proposed for Kudu Integration Project – Western Cape Province. The aim of the study was to offer an opinion about the Offset area which is located in the vicinity of the proposed area for the construction of the 400Kv powerline, and to suggest recommendations. It is noteworthy that this area will not be directly affected. To understand the area, a brief background study was undertaken. This report thus includes an impact study on potential archaeological and cultural heritage resources that may be affected by the proposed development. The findings of this report has limitations since no site survey was initiated. The study was conducted as part of the specialist input for the Environment Management Plan exercise.

Sites Location and Description

The proposed Kudu 400 kV transmission powerline is located between Oranjemond substation in the Northern Cape and Juno substation in the Western Cape. The Offset is located east of the Town of Port Nolloth which fall under the jurisdiction of Richtersveld Local Municipality in the Namakwa District of Northern Cape Province.

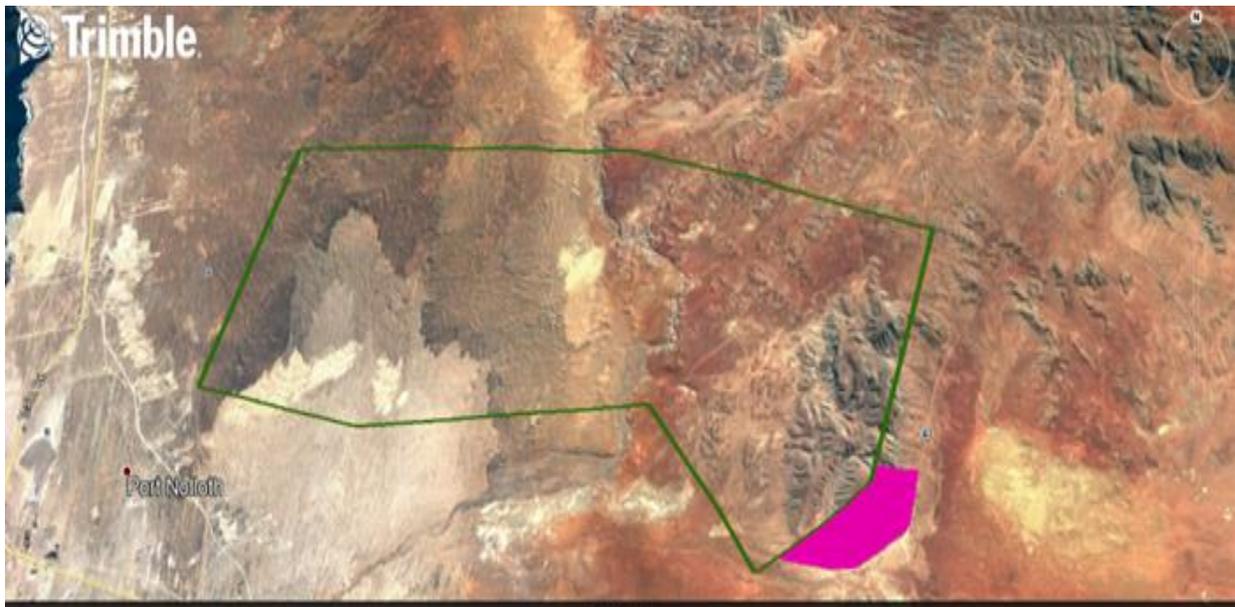


Figure 1: An overview of the Offset area.

Purpose of the Cultural Heritage Study

This opinion is issued in relation to the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for the transmission line, and is compiled in accordance with the Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) philosophy (DEAT, 2004). This philosophy aims to achieve a desirable balance between conservation and development (DEAT, 1992), and is a key instrument of the National Environmental Management Act [NEMA] (Act No. 107 of 1998).

Legal Compliance

National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999). Section 38 (1) of the National Heritage Resources Act requires that where relevant, an Impact Assessment is undertaken in case where a listed activity is triggered. Such activities include:

- (a) *the construction of a road, wall, powerline, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300m in length;*
- (b) *the construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50 m in length; and*
- (c) *any development or other activity which will change the character of an area of land, or water -*
 - (i) *exceeding 5 000 m² in extent;*
 - (ii) *involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or*
 - (iii) *involving three or more erven or divisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or*
 - (iv) *the costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA or a Provincial Heritage Resources Authority;*
- (d) *the re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m² in extent; or*
- (e) *any other category of development provided for in regulations by SAHRA or a Provincial Heritage Resources Authority, must at the very earliest stages of initiating such a development, notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development.*

Methodology and Approach

Background

The methodological approach is informed by the Client. As part of this study, a limited literature review as well as consultations with the Client was conducted, both leading to the production of this report.

Restrictions and Assumptions

The recommendation presented is based on limited background study since there was no site inspection done.

Archaeological Account of the Area

Stone Age

This period began approximately 2.5 million years ago and ended around 200 000 years ago. According to Robbins *et al.* (1998) the Stone Age is the period in human history when stone was mainly used to produce tools such as flakes, core, scrapers and borers. In addition, large quantity of art and ornaments were also made during this period. Prehistoric rock art in the Cape is found in the form of both paintings and engravings, and are generally found on cave and shelter walls in the coastal regions and in mountain ranges. Several sites dating to the Stone Age are known to exist around the area of the proposed development.

Iron Age

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce artefacts. In South Africa this period began around 200A.D and lasted up to approximately 1850A.D. According to Schapera (1952:6), the Kgalagadi were the first group of the Tswana to have encountered the San in the larger area of the proposed development (Levitas 1983). The Rolong and Tlhaping group of the Tswana were the next to arrive, on arrival, they absorbed the Kgalagadi and San people who were found in the area (Schapera 1652). Breutz (1989) and Levitas (1983) indicated that these groups arrived between 1200 and 1350. Very few sites associated with this period is expected in the proposed area.

Historical period

Since the arrival of the white settlers - c. AD 1650s - in this part of the country, these settlers were largely self-sufficient, relying on cattle/sheep farming and also hunting. Except for historical houses which are known by the developers, no sites dating to this period are expected.

Discoveries and Encounters

Although few sources were consulted, the area is known to contain heritage resources especially dating to the Stone Age and mostly in the form of *flakes* and *cores*. It is also envisaged that there might be previously unknown archaeological sites in the area.

Recommendations

In compliance with the National Heritage Legislature, there was no observable development activities associated with the proposed project.

It is believed that the area won't be impacted at all by the proposed development or by any impact related to the proposed development. Henceforth, there was no need for the Desktop Heritage Assessment Study or a full Heritage Assessment Study. In consideration of such, the following recommendation is stipulated:

- The developer should not establish any construction site camp in the proposed area or use the area for any means related to access road.

Should the need in future arise to utilise the site for whatsoever reason, a Heritage Assessment Study should be commissioned.

Conclusion

The proposed development can proceed on condition that No construction activities will happen in the Offset area as demarcated in the provided map.

References

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