

# **Koeberg – Ankerlig proposed 132kV power line walk down report**

(Conducted at the request of Eskom in fulfilment of the recommendations of a prior EIA process)

Prepared for:  
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

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## **Executive summary**

ACO Associates cc was appointed by Savannah Environmental Pty Ltd to conduct a walk down of the final proposed alignment for a new 132 kV power line between the Ankerlig and Koeberg Power Stations in the Western Cape. This walk down was commissioned by Eskom Holdings SOC Limited in fulfilment of the recommendations following out of a prior Environmental Impact Assessment process.

The findings of the walk down are that only a single archaeological site was found which is located 100m east of the route. This can easily be protected during construction and maintenance by avoiding it. It will not require any repositioning of pylons. A single stone artefact was noted at Koeberg, while a stone feature that could be a grave was recorded close to the route. The suspected grave was pointed out to Eskom conservation staff who have recorded its position. It is best avoided; however no adjustment of the route is called for. Maintenance teams should cordon it off and avoid it. Alternative 2 lies within a highly disturbed area and is not sensitive.

## **1. Introduction**

ACO Associates cc was appointed by Savannah Environmental Pty Ltd to conduct a walk down of the final proposed alignment for a new 132 kV power line between the Ankerlig and Koeberg Power Stations in the Western Cape with particular reference to the deviation portion known as Alternative 2. This walk down was commissioned by Eskom Holdings SOC Limited in fulfilment of the recommendations following from an Environmental Impact Assessment process.

The following pages contain the results of the findings of the walk down and any recommendations that have arisen from a heritage point of view.

## **2. Methodology**

Before the physical walk down, ACO staff compared the final proposed power line route with data from previous projects undertaken in this area. Parts of the proposed route had already been covered by previous fieldwork related to Ankerlig and Omega TX lines. For these areas this walk down served as a confirmation of current knowledge. On the 26 of May 2016 a further walk down was carried out of areas not yet surveyed. Tracks were recorded with a handheld gps (Figure 1) and photographs were taken of any finds. Within the Koeberg Nature Reserve the team was accompanied by Ms Jurina le Roux of the Koeberg Nature Reserve conservation office. Alternative 2 has been examined and found to be the most disturbed section of landscape in the project area. It runs along the man-made berm at the northern and western edges of Ankerlig, then follows existing (and mainly disused) streets to the abandoned Atlantis station where it continues through a short patch of undisturbed but heavily alien infested veld before connecting with existing servitudes.

## **3. Findings**

The proposed final power line route follows close to largely existing overhead lines. It traverses open space covered by alien vegetation but, nevertheless, near Ankerlig the landscape still contains some relic dunes. The area within the Koeberg exclusion zone is well conserved as far as the Koeberg Power Station control fence, however beyond this point massive disturbance of the landscape took place during the construction of the nuclear plant in 1970's-80s.

The ground surface was mostly heavily covered with leaf litter and vegetation in places thus restricting visibility. The team often had to rely on inspection of mole heaps to get a sense if any archaeological material was present. Ground surface visibility was good in the Koeberg Nature Reserve, particularly in the recently burned areas where large expanses of land surface were visible.

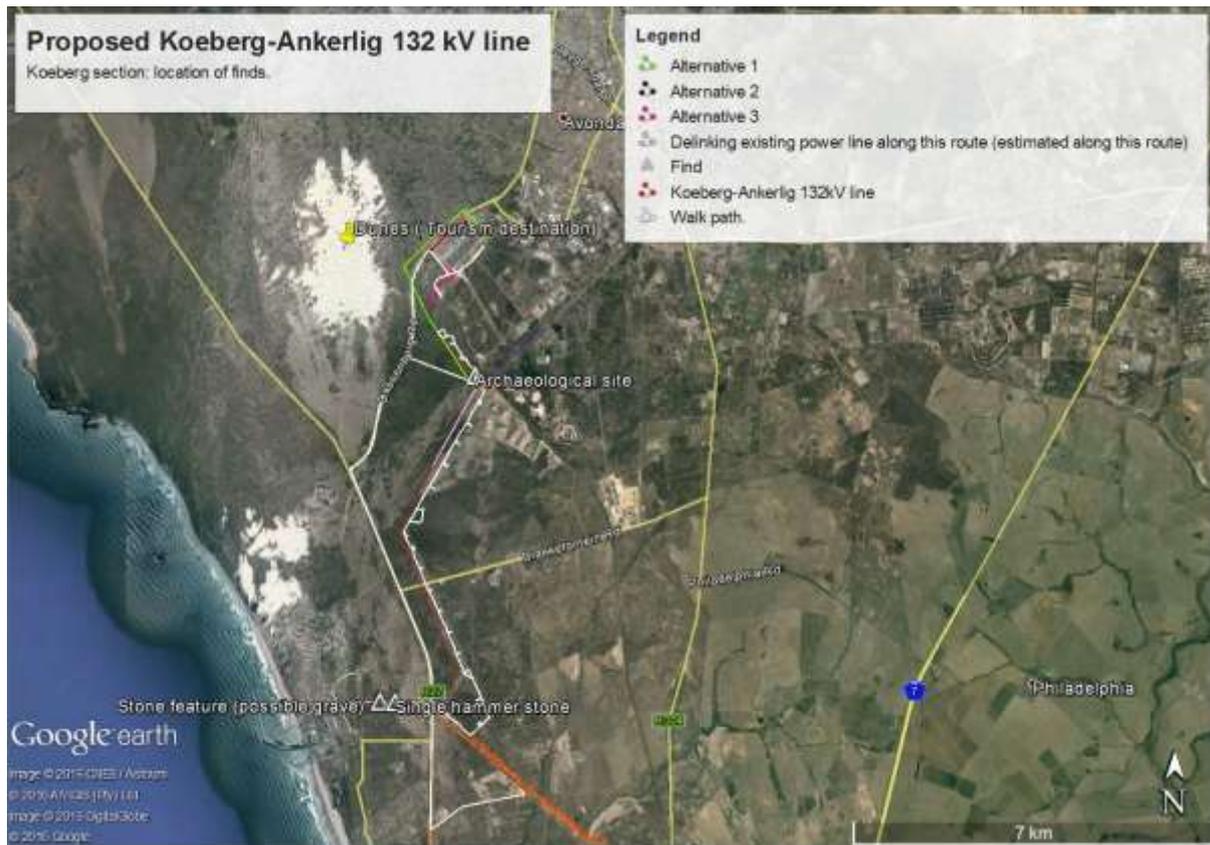


Figure 1 The project area with track log and finds. No material has been found associated with Alternative 2.



Figure 2 Expanded view of track log and finds within the Koeberg Nature Reserve.

Along the proposed power line, one archaeological site was observed (wpt 010) Indicated in Figure 1. This is a low density shell midden situated on one of the remaining fossil dunes (Figures 1,3). It is unknown so far how deep the deposit goes, but it is relatively wide spread over the top and slope of the dune. This site is situated on the edge of the current existing servitude associated with the existing power lines. No further action is required. A single silcrete flake of Middle Stone Age origin, a single



Figure 3 Location of a shell midden at wpt 010

hammer stone is all the archaeological material that was noted within the Koeberg Nature Reserve. This is of very low significance and will not be impacted. There is also a small stone features that is clearly out of natural context (see Figure 2, 4) close to the alignment. The possibility of this being a grave cannot be excluded. The find has been pointed out to the Koeberg conservation officers as the find is easily avoided during maintenance.



*Figure 4 An un-natural alignment of stone which could be a pre-colonial grave.*

#### **Location of finds**

1. Archaeological site 010	33°36'47.58"S	18°27'56.98"E
2. Hammer stone	33°40'12.44"S	18°26'56.07"E
3. Stone alignment (?grave)	33°40'12.04"S	18°26'44.65"E
4. Silcrete flake	33°40'12.73"S	18°26'43.04"E

#### **4. Recommendations**

- With respect to the shell midden (wpt 010) the impact will be minimal as long as the site is avoided. A 20 meter buffer around its location will suffice.
- A further site that needs to be pointed out to the maintenance crew for avoidance is the suspected grave within the Koeberg Nature Reserve. The Eskom conservation office has been informed of the location of the site and has

confirmed that they would be in a position to make sure it is cordoned off and avoided during maintenance.

- As a general rule, it is important to be aware of the possibility that human burials can occur anywhere on the landscape, especially in sandy coastal areas. At the first sign or suspicion of human remains being encountered, the work in that area needs to be halted; the area cordoned off and a qualified archaeologist needs to be notified. An assessment will need to be made on site as to the meaning and importance of the find and the correct way forward.