



COBUS DREYER

Pr. Archaeologist/Heritage Resource Specialist

**P.O. Box 12910
BRANDHOF 9324
Bloemfontein
dreyerj@telkomsa.net**

**Tel: 051-444 1187
Fax: 051-444 4395
Cell: 083 357 7982**

25 NOVEMBER 2006

FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS ON BOSDUIFKLOOF 522 BETHULIE, FREE STATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The proposed residential developments are planned at Bosduifkloof 522 near Gariep Dam in the district of Bethulie.

Archaeological material occurred in the form of some highly patinated scattered stone flakes. No other cultural material was found on the proposed site.

The finds seem to be of minor significance and I recommend that the planning of the development of the site should proceed.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

The site for the proposed residential developments on the farm Bosduifkloof 522 near Gariep Dam in the district of Bethulie was visited on 26 April 2006 and 24 October 2007 in the company of Dr Johan du Preez of MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein. At the farm we were received by the landowner, Mr Bertus Kotze.

The area was examined for possible archaeological and historical material and to establish the potential impact on any cultural material that might be found. The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is done in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), (25 of 1999) and under the Environmental Conservation Act, (73 of 1989).

LOCALITY

The farm Bosduifkloof is located along the R701 from Gariiep Dam to Bethulie (Map 1&2) (Surveyor-General 1973).

Vegetation of the area is described as mixed karooid grassland.

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken (3025DA):

Farm stead Hestershoek 30°31'55"S 025°36'43"E Altitude 1318m.

Bosduifkloof 30°32'39"S 025°37'48"E Altitude 1312m.

Point A (HHK/BDK) 30°32'50"S 025°36'48"E Altitude 1277m (Fig.2).

Point B 30°33'01"S 025°38'02"E Altitude 1287m (Fig.3).

RESULTS

FINDS

A small number of highly patinated stone flakes were collected in the area near the old farmhouse at Bosduifkloof. This collection represents a very small find and is limited to the specific area. No other cultural material was found in the area.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

The proposed developments at Bosduifkloof 522, Bethulie, will have no impact on the historical remains of the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that the proposed developments at Bosduifkloof 522 near Bethulie, may proceed.

There is no obvious reason to delay further planning and development of the site.

MITIGATION

Concerning the area for the proposed developments, no mitigation measures will be required.

The ash heap at Boesduifkloof should be avoided.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Dr Johan du Preez of MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, for taking me to the site.

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:



Map 1 The locality of Bethulie in relation to Gariep Dam in the southern Free State.



Map 2 Bosduifkloof 522, Bethulie along the R701 (3025DA).



Fig.1 Raptor Ridge Bed & Breakfast facility at Hestershoek 356, Bethulie.



Fig.2 Point A (HHK/BDK) at Bosduifkloof 522, along the R701 near Bethulie (See Map 2).



Fig.3 Point B at Bosduifkloof 522, along the R701 near Bethulie (See Map 2).



Fig.4 Patinated stone flakes from the area around the chalets, Hestershoek. (Pocket knife = 83mm).