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**FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL / CULTURAL HERITAGE  
ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED RESEDENTIAL  
DEVELOPMENT AT SUBDIVISION 3 AND SUBDIVISION 2 AND  
SUBDIVISION 7 OF THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM MUSKET  
2718, BLOEMFONTEIN**

**INVESTIGATION**

The site for the proposed residential development is located at subdivision 3 and subdivision 2 and subdivision 7 of the remainder of the farm musket 2718, Bloemfontein. (Surveyor-General O.F.S. 1973). The land was visited and inspected on 16 February and again on 10 December 2004 in the company of Dr Johan du Preez and Niel Devenish of Cebo Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein. During the first visit Stephen le Roux and Manie Rossouw, developer and landowner, respectively, were also present.

The area was examined for possible archaeological and historical material to establish the potential impact on any cultural relics that might be present. 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).

The following observations were made.

**LOCALITY**

The proposed residential development lies to the west of the N1 main road (2926AA 1993) and stretches over part of the hill and also contains even farmland covered in planted pastures.

The following co-ordinates were taken at the outer corners of the proposed land:

Corner beacon near quarry 29°03'20"S. 026°11'05"E Altitude 1430m  
North eastern corner 29°03'16"S. 026°11'10"E Altitude 1427m  
Concrete pole 29°03'06"S. 026°10'59"E Altitude 1427m  
Southern point along main road 29°02'56"S. 026°10'48"E Altitude 1412m  
Near main entrance 29°03'20"S. 026°10'34"E Altitude 1424m

The surface cover consists of sandy soil with dense grass and scattered patches of low thorny shrubs.

## **FINDS**

The only finds of historical or cultural significance occur on top of the hill, where low circular stone-walling (29°03'12"S. 026°10'58"E Altitude 1430m) was found near a dolerite quarry (29°03'15"S. 026°10'58"E Altitude 1428m). The walls resemble Late Iron Age structures but the purpose and date of these structures is unknown.

An assemblage of patinated Late Stone Age scrapers and tools were found scattered on the surface (Fig.).

A single piece of vitrified slag (Fig.) was discovered on a dolerite bank (29°03'12"S. 026°10'58"E Altitude 1430m). The purpose and origin of the slag is not known. A sample has been submitted to the Geology Department, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, for analysis, but the results are still in progress.

A concentration of stones (Fig.) was spotted on the surface (29°03'10"S. 026°10'59"E Altitude 1425m), but the purpose or origin could not be identified.

A single round nosed rifle bullet was found on the surface. According to the groove markings, the bullet had been fired. The projectile has a maximum diameter of about 8mm identifying it as .303 calibre (Loock 2003 and pers.com.). The origin of the bullet is unknown.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

No obvious reasons could be found during the examination to delay the commencement of any further planning and development of the site.

It is, therefore, recommended that the proposed developments may proceed.

## **MITIGATION**

Concerning the area for the proposed development, mitigation measures are not needed.

However, it is alarming to witness the amount of good quality arable land that is presently being destroyed in the development of residential areas in Bloemfontein and elsewhere. Although it falls outside the scope of this archaeological and cultural report, it is recommended that the environmental consultants should bring this phenomenon to the attention of the authorities.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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