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**FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL
DEVELOPMENTS AT THE FARM BOSCHPUNT 2218,
KROONSTAD, FREE STATE**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Residential developments are planned on a part of the farm Boschpunt 2218, Kroonstad. The farm contains several clusters of Late Iron Age stone-walls, which are of special value to archaeologists and other students of history.

I recommend that the further planning of the building developments could continue, provided that the stone-walled sites should be avoided. All developments should be planned and executed in close consultation with the archaeologist.

Care should be taken to avoid damage to any of the walls or to destroy ash heaps during the installation of services and the building of roads. The removal of stones from the walls should be strictly prohibited.

I also recommend that provision should be made in the planning to include at least two monitoring visits by the archaeologist to the site during the construction phase.

Potential buyers of the properties should be informed about the significance of the stone-walled structures.

Basic rules recommended for the protection of archaeological sites, which have been approved by the South African Association of Professional Archaeologists are enclosed herewith and should be implemented as guide lines for the management of the site.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Iron Age archaeology of the Free State is characterised by a wide distribution of stone-walled sites along the flat-topped ridges and hills. Studies have revealed detail and consistency in the arrangement and design of the structures. People's expression of culture has left its imprint on the material environment. Thus, recognised settlement patterns display human perceptions with regard to social clustering, economic system and political organisation. Patterns are indicated by the arrangement of huts, byres and ash heaps in a particular order and in relation to one another. Spatial organisation in general is characterised by the central position of stock byres and the placing of the main dwelling area on the perimeter of the settlement.

During the Later Iron Age, emphasis was not only on stone building, for additional structures of perishable materials, supplementing living space, have also been revealed. All the characteristics of settlement patterns allow the immediate recognition of specific cultural groups of people populating the landscape.

A classification of settlement patterns produced a standardised archaeological framework for the ordering of structures and sites characterised by connecting walls, surrounding walls and huts with bilobial courtyards respectively. Furthermore, the research indicated that the division of sites based on layout is confirmed by associated pottery assemblages with different decoration styles. Different settlement patterns also produced huts of different materials in different styles.

The classification of sites is based on the assumption that settlement layout is bound and prescribed by cultural perceptions. The identification of different ethnic groups is thus possible from the way in which these traditional peoples have organised their different living places in terms of space and time. The final result was directed by cultural preference (choice) and function. The importance of livestock, personal status, kinship, social organisation and the diverse roles of men, women and offspring have always been important in the understanding of settlement patterns.

BOSCHPUNT SETTLEMENTS

I anticipate that the Boschpunt settlements will have the same site arrangement as those found at the neighbouring farm Middenspruit 151, across the Vals River. This type of settlement is sparsely scattered over a relatively limited part of the Free State ranging from Doringberg (Maphororong) in the Willem Pretorius Game Reserve near Ventersburg. These sites are also found at Sandrivierspoort

(Mariba), adjacent to the N1 main road between Winburg and Ventersburg, and in the districts of Kroonstad and Bothaville to the north-west along the Vals River, including a few sites on the Renoster River, east of Viljoenskroon (Maggs 1976).

Hut remains normally show up as a ring of upright stones surrounding a paved floor. From this, it is concluded that these dwellings consisted of a cone on cylinder hut with stone-walled courtyards at both front and rear, forming a bilobial layout, which is visible in the plan of the stone-walls forming a figure 8. These bilobial dwellings are arranged around a cluster of central cattle byres. Raw materials have been substituted at different localities, resulting in a variation in settlement pattern where clay walls replaced stone-walling of the front lobe at Bothaville and at Middenspruit 151 on the Vals River, west of Kroonstad and near the Sand River in the Willem Pretorius Game Reserve, Ventersburg (Dreyer 1997).

Cattle byres occupy the central area of the settlement with bilobial dwellings arranged on the outside.

Pottery decorations associated with this settlement type are characterised by shallow line incisions in bands and triangles below the rim and on the shoulder, combined with straight or curved lines and areas of red ochre burnish on the body of clay vessels (Maggs 1976).

The occupation of the sites with bilobial dwellings is ascribed to Batswana (Thlaping and Rolong) groups. It is also possible to link Kubung people to every known site of this kind (Maggs 1976).

According to radiocarbon dating and oral history, these sites were occupied from the 16th and 17th to early 19th century at Ventersburg, and 18th to early 19th century at Bothaville. A single bone sample from Jansfontein in the Doringberg, Ventersburg, produced a calibrated date of 1670, which is slightly later than the Ventersburg date (Dreyer 1992).

INVESTIGATION

The site for the proposed residential developments at the farm Boschpunt 2218, Kroonstad, was visited on 8 August 2006. At the farm, the landowner Mr. George Fullard and his son accompanied us.

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 proposed residential developments are planned on the farm Boschpunt 2218, Kroonstad (Map 2). The land lies on the southern bank of the Vals River (Map 1) (Surveyor-General 1973). The proposed area is indicated on maps 2-4.

The following GPS coordinates were taken (Cape scale) (2727CA):

Old Farm House	27°35'28"S 027°05'16"E Altitude 1349m (Fig.3).
Vals Escarp	27°35'43"S 027°06'00"E Altitude 1346m (Fig.5).
Point A	27°35'51"S 027°05'55"E Altitude 1363m (Fig.6).
Point B	27°35'49"S 027°05'57"E Altitude 1363m (Fig.7).
Point C	27°35'46"S 027°05'57"E Altitude 1363m (Fig.8).
Point D	27°35'45"S 027°05'58"E Altitude 1350m (Fig.9).
Point E	27°35'45"S 027°05'58"E Altitude 1346m (Fig.10).
Point F	27°35'42"S 027°05'57"E Altitude 1343m (Fig.11).
Point G	27°35'42"S 027°05'57"E Altitude 1345m (Figs.12&13).
Point H	27°35'43"S 027°05'56"E Altitude 1346m (Fig.14).
Point J	27°35'41"S 027°05'53"E Altitude 1344m (Fig.15).
Point K	27°35'37"S 027°05'46"E Altitude 1346m (Fig.16).
Quarry	27°35'40"S 027°05'42"E Altitude 1351m (Fig.17).

RESULTS

FINDS

STONE-WALLING

The farm contains several clusters of Late Iron Age stone-walls, which are of special value to archaeologists and other students of history. The area for the proposed developments at Boschpunt 2218, Kroonstad, contains an elaborate

number of Later Iron Age stone-walls (Figs.7-14). The walls are mostly in a poor and rundown state of preservation (Figs.10-14), while others show evidence of heavy wall-robbing (Figs.1-4). Despite the wall-robbing, the settlement pattern is still recognisable.

A quarry where stones were removed for the building of the ancient walls was found at the site (Fig.17).

There is a thick grass stand all over the site (Figs.6-14) and no pottery or any other cultural material was visible on the surface.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

The proposed residential developments will have a serious impact on the archaeological and cultural remains at Boschpunt 2218, Kroonstad. To lessen the impact on the cultural heritage remains, the proposed residential developments at the farm will have to be moved away from the areas of stone-walling.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that further planning and development of the site could continue, provided that the stone-walled areas and ash heaps are avoided.

Care should also be taken to avoid damage to any of the walls or to destroy ash heaps during the installation of services and the building of roads. The removal of stones from the walls should strictly be prohibited.

All developments should be planned and executed in close consultation with the archaeologist. I also recommend that the planning should include at least two monitoring visits by the archaeologist to the site during the construction phase.

It will be essential to inform potential buyers about the significance of the structures. Certain rules, which are recommended by the archaeologists for the protection of cultural heritage sites should apply to the site at Boschpunt 2218, during the construction phase and afterwards.

MITIGATION

Care should be taken not to damage any of the walls or destroy ash heaps during the installation of services and roads. The removal of stones from the walls should be prohibited.

The archaeologist must be consulted before and during the planning and building stages of the development.

Basic rules recommended for the protection of archaeological sites, which have been approved by the South African Association of Professional Archaeologists are enclosed herewith and should be implemented as guide lines for the management of the site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Dr. Francois Retief from Global Green Environmental Consultants, Potchefstroom, Jako Viviers from LMV Environmental Consultants, Kroonstad, and Mr. Charles Booth from Kroonstad for assistance during the fieldwork.

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

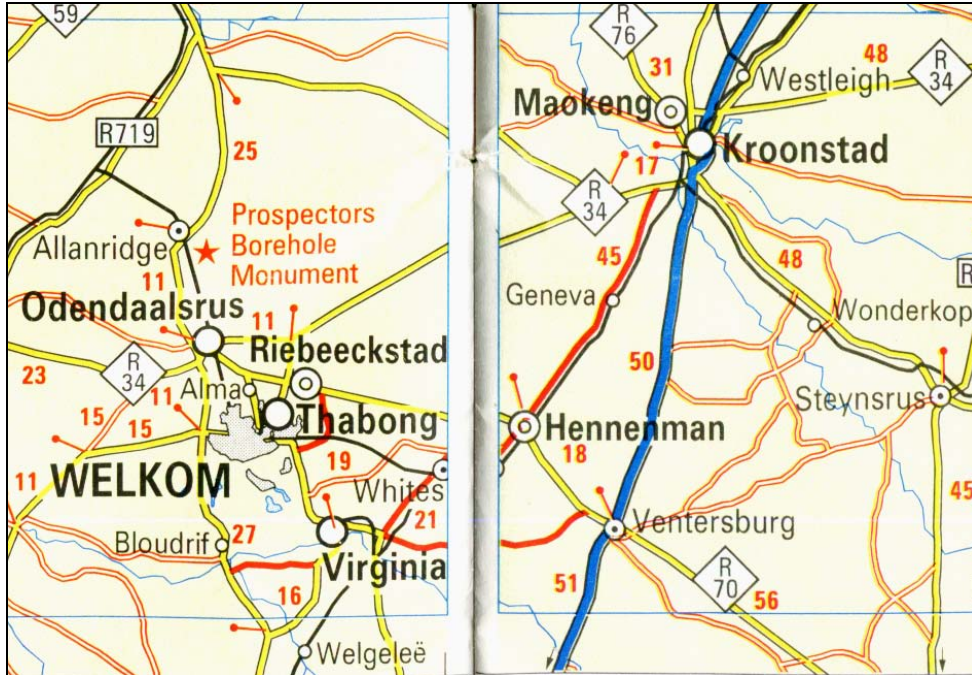
The recommendations and guidelines for the utilization and preservation of the site are made in the knowledge that **all archaeological, historical and palaeontological finds are protected in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), (25 of 1999).**

The following minimum standards are approved by archaeologist and are prescribed for site museums or other places of interest open to the public. The guidelines are therefore strongly recommended as the basic rules at any archaeological site, and are applicable in the case of Middenspruit, Kroonstad.

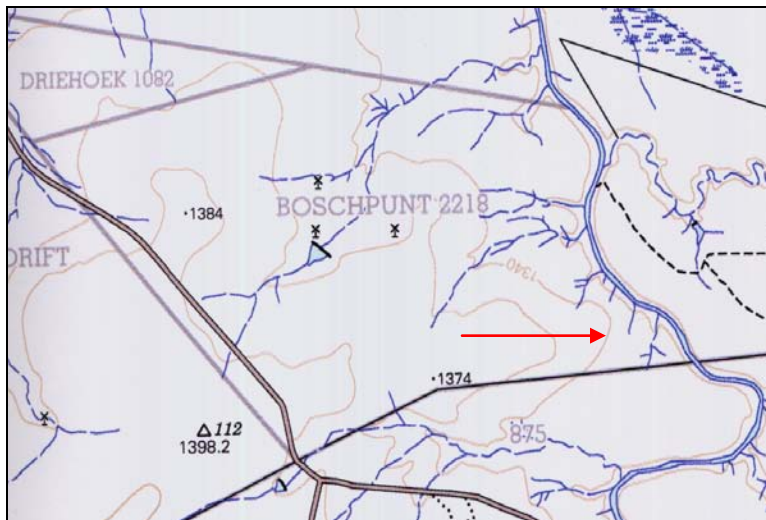
- Do not allow unauthorised visitors to the ruins;
- Always have a knowledgeable guide available to accompany visitors to the site;
- Allow visits to certain selected sites only;
- Educate the regular visitor about preserving the site;
- Prepare an explanatory brochure for the farm;
- Have a single access road to the site;
- Provide a clearly marked parking area at the site;
- Plan hiking routes where the site can not be damaged;
- Prevent people from climbing on to the walls;
- Control vegetation growth at the site;
- Consider a notice board explaining the sites;
- Do not **restore** the walls, leave them as they are;
- Do not remove any finds (e.g. stone tools, beads or potsherds);
- Provide a litter bin at the parking area or along the hiking trail;
- Visit sites regularly to check on litter, damage, vegetation etc;
- Use a qualified archaeologist when planning any developments;

(SA3 Newsletter 37, 1992)

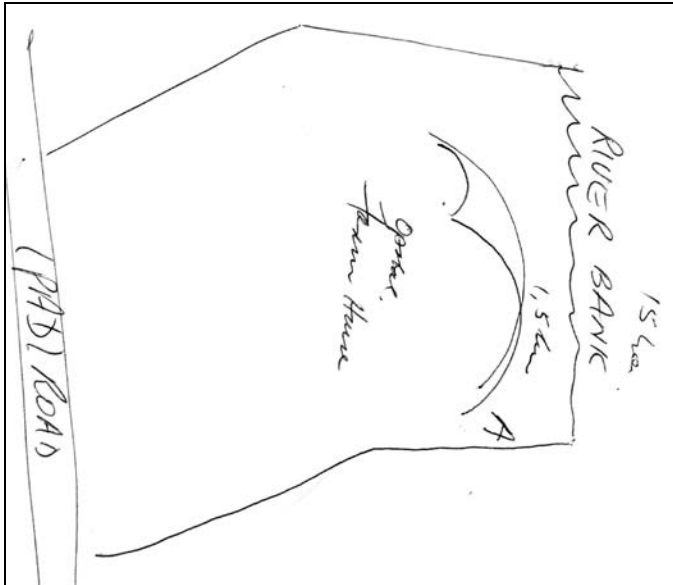
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Locality of Kroonstad in relation to Welkom, Hennenman and Ventersburg.



Map 2 Locality of the developments on the farm Boschpunt 2218, Kroonstad (2727CA).



Map 3 Sketch of the farm indicating Point A and the locality of the proposed residential developments.



Map 4 Distribution of residential stands indicated by blue lines and red arrows.



Fig.1 Stone-walled enclosures above the old farmhouse.



Fig.2 Stock enclosure wall.



Fig.3 Remains of old farmhouse walls.



Fig.4 Remains of old stock enclosure.



Fig.5 View across the Vals River towards Middenspruit 151.



Fig.6 View at Point A.



Fig.7 Stone-wall at Point B.



Fig.8 Stone-walls at Point C.



Fig.9 Stone-walls at Point D.



Fig.10 Stone-wall at Point E.



Fig.11 Stone-wall at Point F.



Fig.12 Stone-wall at Point G.



Fig.13 More stone-walls at Point G.



Fig.14 Stone-walls at Point H.



Fig.15 View of the area at Point J.



Fig.16 Hill at Point K.



Fig.17 An ancient quarry where Later Iron Age building material had been removed.



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18 July 2008

The Local Representative
South African Heritage Resources Agency
Standard Bank Building
West Burger Street
Bloemfontein

Attention: Gabriel Thlapi

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION BOSCHPUNT 2218, KROONSTAD

An archaeological and cultural investigation had been done as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on the farm Boschpunt 2218, Kroonstad.

I have found that the farm contains a stone-walled Iron Age site which falls within the classification by Tim Maggs (1976).

The walls show signs of stone robbing many of the structures are still in good condition of preservation.

I recommend that the planning of the developments may proceed on certain conditions.

Could I please have comments from SAHRA on this report, a copy of which is included herewith.

A speedy reply would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Cobus Dreyer