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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP EXTENSIONS AT CLOETESPARK, BETHULIE, FREE STATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A additional township extension is planned at Cloetespark, Bethulie, Free State.

No archaeological remains were found in the development area. A small collection of house hold debris, which contained material, which date from the Anglo-Boer War. The origin of these remains could not be clarified and the finds seems to be an isolated occurrence.

I recommend that the proposed developments and planning of the site may proceed.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

The site for the additional township extensions at Cloetespark, Bethulie, was visited on 8 February 2007. Mr Piet de Bie from Phethogo Consultants, Bloemfontein, gave directions to the site.

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 adjacent to the existing township of Cloetespark (Map 1) along the entrance road from Bethulie (Map 2).

The area is bisected by footpaths (Fig.7), prominent storm water furrows (Figs.5&6), muddy pools and water catchment dams (Fig.3). It seems as if the whole area lies in the actual flood plain of the natural storm water flow.

The culvert (Fig.4) directs storm water from the residential area onto the land proposed for township development (Fig.1). The soil cover consists of natural grazing (Fig.2).

The placing of the proposed developments is indicated on Map 3 (3025DB) (Surveyor-General 1973).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken:

A	30°30'28"S. 025°58'20"E Altitude 1278m (Fig.1).
B	30°30'25"S. 025°58'24"E Altitude 1272m (Fig.2).
C	30°30'15"S. 025°58'25"E Altitude 1273m (Fig.3).
D	30°30'13"S. 025°58'06"E Altitude 1280m (Fig.4).
Point 2	30°30'23"S. 025°58'09"E Altitude 1284m (Fig.5).

RESULTS

FINDS

The area appears to be void of any cultural and historical material.

However, a concentration of household material was found on what seemed to be an ash heap (Fig.9). The porcelain (Fig.13), heavily soldered tin cans (Fig.8), a glass ink well, and an unfired ,303 cartridge shell of Anglo-Boer War origin (Fig.11). The head stamp indicates the well-known RAL C II, from the Royal Laboratory at Woolwich, United Kingdom (Fig.12).

The origin and purpose of these remnants could not be ascertained. It is known that the Anglo-Boer War concentration camp and ash heaps had been placed on

the northern side of Bethulie during the War, which is far away from the present area of development.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The proposed residential developments at Cloetespark, Bethulie, will have no impact on any archaeological or cultural heritage remains at the site.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no obvious reasons to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site and I recommend that the proposed residential developments at Cloetespark, Bethulie, should proceed.

MITIGATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Mr Piet de Bie of Phethogo Consulting, Bloemfontein, for involving me in the project.

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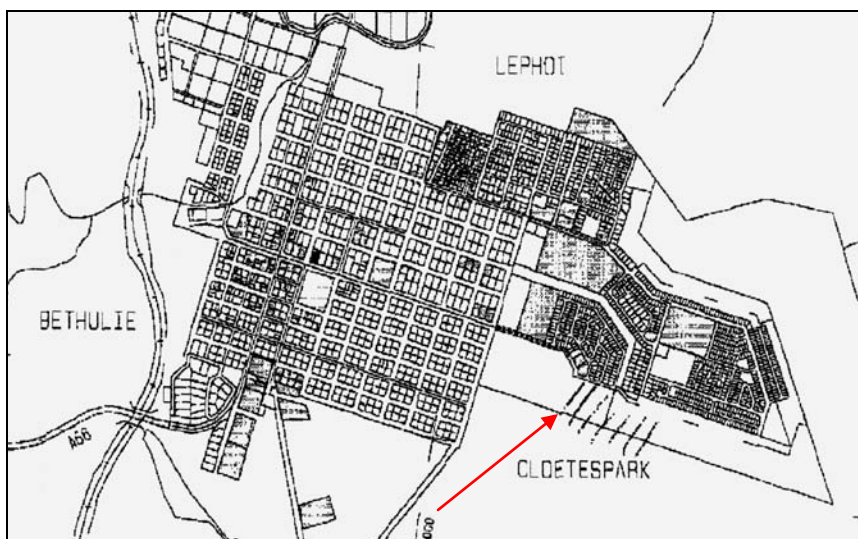
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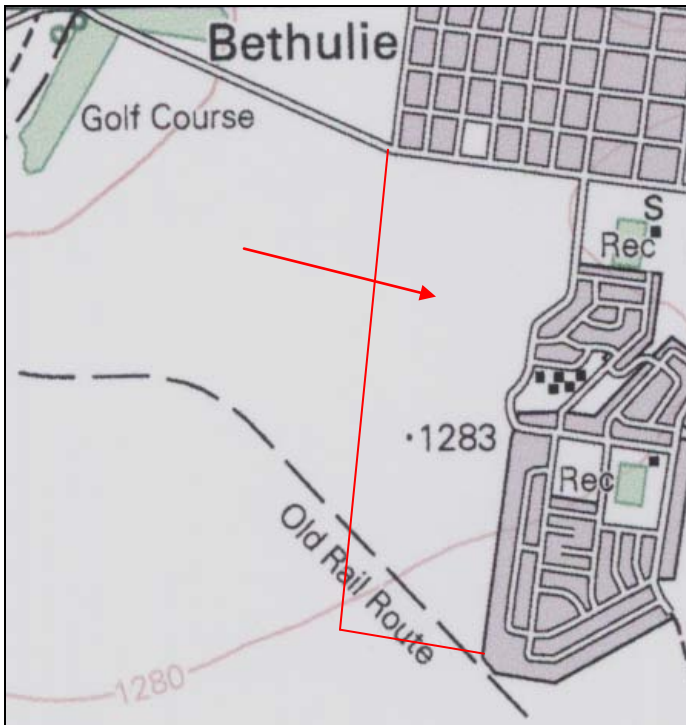
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Map 1 Locality of Bethulie in relation to Springfontein and Gariep Dam.



Map 2 Locality of the proposed township extensions to Cloetepark, Bethulie.



Map 3 Locality of the proposed area of development at Cloetespark, Bethulie (3025DB).



Fig.1 View across the proposed development area.



Fig.2 View from Cloetespark towards town.



Fig.3 View of the dam facing south.



Fig.4 Culvert where storm water from town enters the proposed development area.



Fig.5 Storm water furrow running through development area.



Fig.6 Storm water ditch from point D.



Fig.7 View from Point 2 facing east.



Fig.8 Soldered tin cans dating from the Anglo-Boer War. (Pocket knife=8cm).



Fig.9 Remains of household debris on what seemed to be an ash heap.



Fig.10 Glass, metal objects and a cartridge shell on the ash heap.



Fig.11 Ink well and cartridge case of Anglo-Boer War origin. (Pocket knife=8cm).

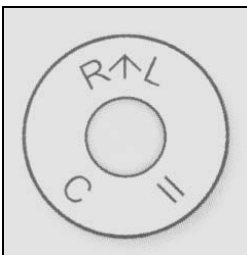


Fig.12 Head stamp of unfired ,303-calibre Anglo-Boer War cartridge shell manufactured at the Royal Laboratory, Woolwich, United Kingdom.



Fig.13 Porcelain resembling tableware from the Anglo-Boer War.