# AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE, BETHAL, ON THE FARM SUNNYSIDE,

CLARENS DISTRICT

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## INTRODUCTION

and affinities of the site so that a decision can be taken on it by the South African archaeological assessment undertaken by the author is to establish the extent, condition this archaeological site (named Bethal) for the past three years. The purpose of the destruction, should this take place Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) who would have to issue the permit for its 290"E) located there. Prof. Susan Kent of Old Dominion University, USA, has excavated the farm. This potential dam will flood an archaeological site (28° 32' 976"S and 28° 27' Free State. The new owner of the farm, Mr R. Hudson, wishes to develop a trout dam on The farm, Sunnyside 1425, is located about 8 kms south east of Clarens in the eastern

This report therefore deals with the following aspects:

- extent of the site
- the condition of the site
- affinities of the material from the site
- the site in the context of other Middle Stone Age (MSA) sites in the vicinity
- the site in its context of other open-air MSA sites

Annexure 1. Certain recommendations will then be made based on the assessment of the above A report on the excavations at the site by Prof. Kent will be included as

### THE SETTING

small stream trickles through the donga into the Little Caledon, creating a marshy area in the base of the donga the eastern side of the donga, near its termination at the Little Caledon River (Fig. 2). A large donga which runs away from the river in a southerly direction. Sunnyside (Fig. 1). Near the base of the bend on the eastern side of the river there The Little Caledon River makes a large horse-shoe bend in the middle of the farm The site

grassland is subject to severe frosts. The area is a summer rainfall region, with about 900 grassland". This is vegetation associated with the "rocky slopes and ravines of the lower between -5°C and 36°C slopes of the Drakensberg, at altitudes greater than 1 750m" (ibid:44). The mountain Low and Rebelo (1986) classify the vegetation of the area as "wet, cold Highveld falling per year. The average temperature is 16°C, with the variation ranging

### THE SITE

the donga and one smaller testpit near the bottom of the slope the donga below this concentration. Prof Kent has excavated five 2m x 2m testpits just back from the edge of the donga in the central section of the occurrence, in the edge of east side of the donga. There are numerous artefacts scattered on the sides and floor of Artefacts are randomly eroding out of the sides of the donga (indicated by numbers on 2). The densest collection comes from an area about 40 metres in length along the

also yielded a few artefacts at the same level. the excavations the artefacts were most dense between 2.05 and 2.50 m below the surface Kent pers. comm.). A stratigraphic pit about 20 m to the east of the excavated area has artefacts seem to be eroding out from between 1.5 m and 2.5 m below the surface.

# THE GEOLOGY AND SEDIMENTOLOGY

which was her intention This is an important consideration if one is to undertake a spatial analysis of the material, Her main concern was to determine whether the artefacts from the site were in situ or not. Prof Kent commissioned two geological studies of the area (Fouche 2000, Scholtz 2001).

artefacts are mainly cryptocrystalline silicates and quartzite. The silicates weather from eroded to form the donga, cover the landscape between the sandstone outcrops. The stone dolerite intrusion with a small quartzite formation (ibid). Quaternary sands, which have The rocks in the vicinity are mainly from the Elliot Formation (Scholtz 2001). There is a

distance of the site the Drakensberg Formation basalt in the region, while the quartzite occurs within a short

layer above a hard, orangy layer From personal observation the artefacts seem to come principally from a yellowish-grey

has not been reworked by fluvial activity (ibid:11). fluvial clasts were found amongst the artefacts to indicate a fluvial deposit (ibid). The site However, the flow regime was not high enough to transport the larger flakes. No have removed some of the smaller chips, which are the debris from artefact manufacture indicating a possible palaeosol. This palaeosol would have developed when the horizon was exposed for a few years. After this a weakly drained marsh developed. This could silty clay. It contained small calcareous-rich concretions, which are interpreted as Fouche (2000:3) interprets the horizon from which the artefacts come as being a dark

has been from afar. those minerals present, have a rounded appearance, which usually indicates that transport medium, which has been interpreted to indicate wetland conditions (ibid:35). However, near absence of heavy minerals from the artefact layer suggests an absence of a transport to angular which would indicate that transport had taken place over a small distance. The clayey silt changing to a silty clay. Quartz grains from the soil samples were sub angular Scholtz's (2001) interpretation of the unit from which the artefacts come is that it is

due to transport by water, and therefore they conclude that the artefacts are in situ Both Fouche and Scholtz state that the artefacts show no signs of rounding or chipping

# THE LITHIC MATERIAL FROM THE SITE AND SURROUNDING AREA

on the plan (see numbers indicated on Fig. 2). The material discovered at the occurrences at the edge of the property was searched for lithic material. All occurrences were plotted The entire area of the donga from its termination at the Little Caledon River to the fence presented in Table 1. The lithics examined had either eroded out of the side of the

artefacts were examined, and no selection was made to make the sample as representative material. For the purposes of the analysis it will be treated as one collection. All visible extensive, but can give some indications of what is present and the affinities of the donga, or were still lodged in the side of the donga. The collection is therefore not very possible

depositional disturbance at the site so one must infer that it is either a sampling problem or that there has been posttrimming and platform rejuvenation flakes, and chunks are represented in the collection underrepresented in the archaeological horizon for one of two reasons. Either knapping absent, which could be due to the nature of the samples, or to the fact that they are present (60.5%). The second highest category is chunks, which one would expect if depositional forces. knapping had taken place on site. Chips, the best indicator of on-site knapping are almost As expected from an unselected collection, irregular flakes represent most of the artefacts not taken place on-site or the chips have been removed from the horizon by post-The first explanation appears to be not the case here, as cores.

The formal tool component (the knife and the scraper) make up 0.6% of the collection indicators of the affinity of the collection, and will be discussed in more detail below. form about 36% of the combined flake-blade and bladelet category in the Middle Stone Flake-blades and bladelets occur in equal quantities. At Rose Cottage Cave bladelets sequence. The three triangular flakes and the knife from Bethal are also significant

triangular flakes are therefore directly related to the site, bladelets. Occurrences eroded out of the donga edge where the main concentration occurs. eleven flake-blades, including the classic Middle Stone Age flake-blade, and ten The knife comes from the northern end of the donga ot 1 15, 25 to 26, and 29 to 37 are directly related to the site in that they as are the three possible bladelet

Table 1. Artefacts from the donga at Sunnyside (for an explanation of the terminology see Appendix 1). Total number of artefacts is 334.

	craper (s)	lake (pr) so	einvenation f	i) nlatform r	a knife (kn	r flakes (tri)	* Other includes triangular flakes (tri) a knife (kni) platform rejuvenation flake (pr). scraper (s)	* Other inch
(1.8%)	(3.9%)	(18%)	(2.4%)	(4.5%)	(4.5%)	(4.5%)	(60 5%)	722 Jo %
6	13	60	8	15	15	15	202	Total
		2					18	Slope
							_	12
		دما		_			-	11
		-					+-	40
			-				-	39
					-		1	38
		-						37
		_						36
							2	35
						-		34
		Ç.			_	2	1.2	33
							1	32
		2	1		2		12	31
2 (tri.)		2					2	30
		6			_	5	15	29
2 (pr.s)		-		l (frag.)			2	28
		+-		1	-		15	27
		-					1	26
		-					7	25
						l (prox)		24
l (kni)		2	Journel			_	2	23
		C+1		-		2	+	22
		-					2	21
							2	20
		-					S	19
					-			18
							1	17
							2	16
		4					S	15
			1	I (frag.)	-		11	11
		4-	-		-		2	13
							1	12
		2		1(bldlt)		-	8	11
		U					7	10
l (m.)						1	1	9
		Ç.i	1				6	00
	7	-		l (frag.)	1	1	2	7
	S		2	1 (frag.)	2		11	6
							6	S
	-	_		l (frag.)	-		7	+
		2			-		+	G3
					-		6	2
		ړي		6 (2bldlt)			12	-
	1		flakes	Cores	Dinderen	blades	flakes	Occurrence
Other*	Chips	Chunks	Core trim	Cores	Bladelets	Flake	Tanda.	11.

Other includes triangular flakes (tri), a knue

irregular flakes at Bethal respectively, shaped flakes 32.4% and 16.5% and flake tools 0.8% and 1%. Flake tools percentages of irregular flakes become 66.8% and 82.5% for Florisbad and Bethal for other Middle Stone Age assemblages. If macrodebitage is left out of the equation, the assemblage is largely intact (Henderson 2001a). It can therefore be used as a comparison nearly 60% of the assemblage (Table 2), and it is one of the indications that the Florisbad have more-or-less equivalent percentages at the two sites. The percentage of shaped Florisbad is an in situ butchery site where knapping took place. Macrodebitage represents during the experimental knapping were between 60% and 70% for all the experiments shapes have been copied (Schick 1986). The proportions of macrodebitage generated underrepresented. Knapping experiments have been undertaken where various tool Florisbad (about 340 km to the north west of Clarens) indicates that the macrodebitage A comparison of the percentages with those from the open-air Middle Stone Age site of at Bethal is about half of that at Florisbad, whereas there is a higher percentage of

Table 2. A comparison between the artefact percentages from Florisbad (Henderson 2001a) and Bethal

	Florisbad: Frequency	Percentage	Bethal: Frequency	Percentage
macrodehitage*	2329	59 76	50	77 77
irregular flakes	1048	26.89	165	63.71
shaped flakes**	508	13.04	33	12.74
flake tools	12	0.31	2	0.77
TOTAL	3897	100	259	100

including flakes < 20 mm<sup>2</sup> therefore a higher number than chips from Table

is drawn between the Middle Stone Age site of Florisbad and Bethal. Dihedral and technologies (Goodwin 1928, 1929, Volman 1984). Prepared butts (also referred to as platforms) are used to distinguish Middle Stone Age facetted butts are an indication of prepared butts The nature of the butts of the flakes is also an indication of the affinities of the collection bladelets and triangular flakes are compared in Tables 3 and 4, and a comparison The butts of irregular flakes, flake-

<sup>\*</sup> flake-blades, bladelets and triangular flakes

Table 3. Bethal: Comparison of the butts of all flakes: the percentages are calculated from the total number (f=187, all flakes with but: missing excluded)

TOTAL	flakes	Core trim.	flakes	Irregular	Knives	flakes	Triangular	Bladelets	Flake-blades		
4		0		4	0		0	0	0	f	Cortical
2.13				2.13						%	cal
112		دی		93	-		1	6	00	f	Plain
9		1.6	ယ	49.7	0.53		0.53	3.21	4.28	%	
42		1		33	0		2	2	4	f	Dihedral
5		0.53	4	17.6			1.06	1.06	2.13	%	Iral
4		0		4	0		0	0	0	f	Facetted
2.13				2.13						%	ted
25		0		22	0		Ô	ы	-	Ť	Other
7			6	11.7					0.53	%	

Table 4. Florisbad: Details of butts of all flakes: the percentages are calculated from the total number (f=1271) (Henderson 2001a).

	)		7		1		1	-		-
	Col	Cortical	P	Plain	DI	Dihedral	Fac	Facetted	0	Other
	f	%	f	%	f	%	Ŧ,	%	٠٠	%
Flake-blades	1	0.08	128	10.07	46	3.62	36	2.83	13	1.02
Bladelets	2	0.15	33	2.6	6	0.47	4	0.31	S	0.39
Triangular	0		27	2.12	22	1.73	19	1.49	2	0.16
flakes										
Points	0		1	0.08	0		-	0.08	0	
Burins	0		2	0.15	0		0		0	
Scrapers	0		_	0.08	2	0.15	0		0	
Denticulates	0		1	0.08	0		2	0.15	0	
Irregular flakes	12	0.94	562	44.22	133	10.46	57	4.48	65	5.11
Core trim. flakes	-	0.08	63	4.6	9	0.71	7	0.55	S	0.39
Plat. rej. flakes	0		2	0.15	0		0		_	0.08
TOTAL	16	1.26	820	64.51	218	17.15	126	126 9.91	91	91 7.16

### Raw material:

Raw material percentages of the artefacts presented in Table 1 are as follows:

Cryptocrystalline: 61.7%

Quartzite: 37.8%

Quartz: 0.3%

Unknown: 0.3%

# AFFINITIES OF THE MATERIAL

The designation of the material is Middle Stone Age for the following reasons

## Triangular flakes:

The presence of triangular flakes is a characteristic of the Middle Stone Age (Goodwin 1929, Volman 1984).

### 2 Flake-blades:

has a plain butt, and is of quartzite parallel-sided Middle Stone Age flake-blade, with dimensions of 119 mm by 39.5 mm. It These are present in the Bethal sample. One, in particular, from occurrence 34 is a classic

### Prepared butts

24.58% for Bethal and 27.06% for Florisbad particularly if the total of the two categories is taken together. This gives figures of collection compare favourably with those of the Florisbad Middle Stone Age Horizon, Dihedral and facetted butts are present in the Bethal sample. The percentages in the

collections at sites in the Eastern Free State. These are knives and bladelets Two other categories of artefacts present at Bethal also occur in Middle Stone Age

#### Knives

units, the Howieson's Poort levels (Wadley & Harper 1989). occur mostly in the basal and upper Middle Stone Age units and are rare in the central Knives occur in the Middle Stone Age levels at Rose Cottage Cave near Ladybrand. They

### Bladelets

Stone Age horizon (Henderson 2001a). backed tools, a characteristic of the Howieson's Poort. There were three possible bladelet bladelets examined in this report showed signs of backing, nor were there any other 1997a:473), with higher percentages in the Howieson's Poort levels. None of the Bladelets also occur throughout the Rose Cottage Middle Stone Age sequence (Harper from the sample, all cryptocrystalline. Bladelets also occur in the Florisbad Middle

# OTHER MIDDLE STONE AGE SITES IN THE EASTERN FREE STATE

one of which yielded an occupation level of 200 mm which rested on bedrock (ibid). adjoining farm of Schaapplaats (Harper 1997b). This site was excavated as part of the The closest known Middle Stone Age site to Bethal is the site of Twin Caves on the Cave project. Four 1 metre<sup>2</sup> squares were excavated in the northern cave

(Volman 1984), of which there are none at Twin Caves this designation. The most common retouched tools of the MSA 1 are denticulates has tentatively assigned the assemblage to the MSA 1, although there are problems with dihedral butts). Raw material comprises 59% opaline (cryptocrystalline). Harper (1997b) Irregular flakes made up 21% of the collection, with flake-blades at 7% and bladelets There were no formal tools in the assemblage, which was dominated by chunks (60%). Eighteen percent of the flakes had facetted butts (this category would include

transitional industry (Clark 1999), and the Later Stone Age, including the Robberg (Wadley 1996) Cottage covers the Middle Stone Age (Wadley & Harper 1989, Harper 1997a), been extensively excavated, most recently by Lyn Wadley (1997). The sequence at Rose Rose Cottage Cave is situated at Ladybrand, some 160 km south-west of Bethal. It has

easy, as most of the Middle Stone Age is beyond the range of radiocarbon dating. The Howieson's Poort (Wadley & Harper 1989, Harper 1997a). Dating the sequence is not The Middle Stone Age includes pre- and post- Howieson's Poort levels as well as the

presence at sites which have been dated by other methods, most notably Klasies River BP (Clark 1999) (Deacon & Deacon 1999). The final Middle Stone Age at Rose Cottage is dated to 28 000 Howieson's Poort industry is thought to center around 70 000 years ago, based on its

percentages during the Howieson's Poort (ibid). Backed tools are almost exclusively made on cryptocrystallines, which is why it has high Middle Stone Age sequence (Wadley & Harper 1989), gradually increasing through time Cryptocrystalline (opalines) is the most common raw material in the Rose Cottage

Denticulates are "almost entirely" restricted to the pre-Howieson's Poort levels (ibid:31). relatively high proportion of irregular flake-blades, and many points and knives particularly side scrapers in the Late Middle Stone Age assemblages. There is also a characterise the Howieson's Poort. The post-Howieson's Poort is dominated by scrapers, by knives as the dominant class. Backed tools and a wide range of tool classes sided flake-blades dominate the assemblage (Wadley & Harper 1989). This is followed In the pre-Howieson's Poort levels at Rose Cottage points, large flakes and large parallel-

the appropriate designation of the whole excavated collection may well bring the subtleties to light necessary to make Howieson's Poort. It must either pre-date or post-date the Howieson's Poort. An analysis but the absence of backed tools seems to indicate that it does not belong to the not possible to assign a position to the Bethal sample in the Rose Cottage sequence.

# OTHER OPEN-AIR MIDDLE STONE AGE SITES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

One of these is the Middle Stone Age horizon at Florisbad (Henderson 2001a) Several open-air Middle Stone Age sites have been excavated in southern Africa few of them have the quality of data necessary for a spatial analysis of the site

integrity of the horizon and the large-scale of the excavations has permitted a Florisbad is a butchery site dating to 121 000  $\pm$  6 000 years BP, where the spatial

processed meat and marrow various antelope carcasses, such as blesbok, took place at the site. The hearth, uncovered represented at the site are restricted. Knapping and the processing of Hippopotamus and dimension. It is a special activity location, and the range of artefacts and activities 2001b). Bone is also preserved at this site, which gives the spatial analysis an added reconstruction of the activities of the Middle Stone Age people at the site (Henderson one portion of the site, seems to have acted as a focus for the consumption of the

data is not as good, or is not available, are the sites of Kalkbank, ≠Gi and Zeekoegat 27 Other Middle Stone Age sites for which plans are available, but for which the quality of

floor was sealed by over a metre of calcrete and clay deposits, and was first exposed brown sand in which were the artefacts and faunal remains 1958) and further investigated by him in 1966 (Mason 1988). The Middle Stone Age Pietersberg (Polokwane). It was initially excavated by Revil Mason in 1954 (Mason Kalkbank is located in the drainage area of the Hout River, about 60 km north-west of sides of a water pit. Mason used dynamite to remove the calcrete onto the underlying

artefacts are made of quartz, with quartzite and diabase also being utilised (Mason 1958) the horizon indicates that humans were not the dominant players at the site. Most of these non-human marks on the bone (233 or 3.6%) are higher than those unquestionably made human and carnivore damage marks were identified on the bones (Brown 1988). The excavation only. It therefore is only a sample of the spatial patterning at the site. published plan (Mason 1988) of the excavated material relates to the 1966 (4 or 0.06%). This together with the small number of stone artefacts found in

& Hitchcock 1978). Hunting blinds were constructed at the pan, and animals were Ngamiland in Brookes and John Yellen (Brookes & Yellen 1977). The excavations revealed a Middle Ethnographic research indicates that present-day hunters hunt at the Age and a Later Stone Age component to the site. ≠Gi pan is situated in north-west a pan site which was investigated in the late 1960s and mid-1970s by Alison Botswana, close to the Namibian/Botswanan border, north of the Aha

the edge of the pan as well MSA level has been interpreted as representing MSA hunting by ambush techniques at As the location of the site is in the same place as LSA and present-day ambush sites, the similarity in prey acquisition species between the present and the LSA and MSA units ambushed when they came to drink or came to the salt-licks. Excavations revealed

published. The horizon is thought to have developed during the last interglacial, some level (Brooks & Yellen 1977). The spatial distributions have, however, not been dimensionally, and untrimmed flakes and debitage were recorded to square and ten cm locations of all faunal remains, cores and retouched lithics were plotted three 125 000 years ago (ibid) The MSA floor was covered by a calcrete layer, and was thus well-preserved. The

cobbles could have held (thornbush) branches in place (Sampson 1968, 1974). circular arrangement of cobbles represents the outline of a windbreak, and that the post-Howieson's Poort affinities (ibid) so is late MSA. A 'very small sample' of bone flakes, and have been interpreted as flaking foci (Sampson 1974). The assemblage has arrangements of rocks. These four clusters contain cores, blades, hammerstone and artefacts appear to form four clusters on the floor, three of these in the outer circular "compact calcareous red-buff silt with abundant concretions" (Ibid 1968:63). The rocks as well as artefacts form a distinctive circular distribution pattern in a sealed Another open-air site for which spatial patterning is available is the site of Zeekoegat 27 dental fragments was found at the site. It is suggested that the ± 10 m diameter 1968) situated near a tributary of the Orange River. Dolerite and sandstone

27 site, as the artefacts were not numbered during curation have been a habitation site. Unfortunately it is not possible to reconstruct the Zeekoegat Kalkbank and ≠Gi were special purpose sites like Florisbad, whereas Zeekoegat 27 could

### SUMMARY

that occurred, particularly at the Florisbad site excavated in the detail required for spatial analysis, apart from the sites of Middle Stone Age affinities. Few, if any, open-air Middle Stone Age sites It would appear from the small sample of artefacts analysed from Bethal that the site has Bone is preserved at these sites, and it has been possible to reconstruct the activities have been Florisbad

artefacts over the entire donga area on the Sunnyside farm would appear to indicate that concentration m to the east has only yielded a few artefacts at that same level. The random scatter of is unknown how far it stretches in an easterly direction, as the stratigraphic pit, about 20 Bethal has a rich concentration of artefacts over at least 40 m in a north-south direction. site is diffusely scattered over a fairly large area, with at least one focus

currently being worked on For a detailed spatial analysis of the site a wider area will need to be opened up than is

## RECOMMENDATIONS

is to be destroyed further investigation. I would therefore recommend that more work is done at the site if it The site is extensive enough, and appears to be consistently Middle Stone Age, to warrant

On a another note, I would recommend changing the name of the site for two reasons:

- 000 maps the farm is indicated as Sunnyside The site is actually on the farm Sunnyside and not Bethal (although at the time of its Sunnyside was owned by the owner of Bethal, the adjacent farm). On the 1:50
- Museum, Department of Archaeology, records There is already a Later Stone Age site with the name of Bethal in the National

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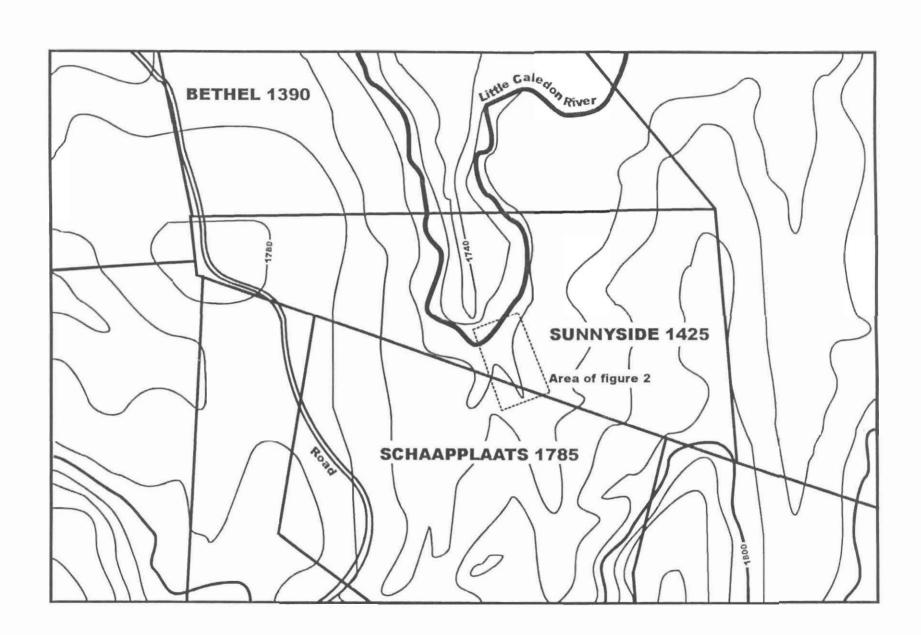


Figure 1. Map of the area indicating Sunnyside farm, the Little Caledon and the donga area. This map is enlarged from the 1:50 000 map, 2828CB CLARENS

Figure. 2. Plan of the donga area. Numbers indicate occurrences, as presented in Table 1. North is to the right of the plan, and the distance between 36 and 15 is about 40 m.

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220 African prehistory and palaeoenvironments. Rotterdam & Boston: A.A. Balkema: 169-Volman, T.P., 1984. Early Prehistory of southern Africa. In: Klein, R.G. (ed.) Southern

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collection. South African Archaeological Bulletin 44:23-32 & Harper, P. 1989. Rose Cottage Cave revisited: Malan's Middle Stone Age

# APPENDIX 1: TERMINOLOGY USED

Thackeray & Kelly (1988), Clark (1997), Harper (1997a), Schick (1986) and Kuman The terminology used to describe the artefacts under discussion is based on work by

Bladelets: flakes less than 26 mm in length, and less than 13 mm in width (Harper 1997a:473, 1997b:96)

Chips: flakes less than 10 mm.

Core trimming flake: thick flake with a triangular midsection (Kuman 1989:293)

Dihedral butts: two flakes have been removed to shape the butt (Inizan et al 1992).

Facetted butt: more than two facets on the butt (Thackeray & Kelly 1988)

Flake-blades: Flakes more than twice as long as they are wide (Thackeray & Kelly 1988)

1997:452-453), Bordes' straight scraper (Wadley pers. comm.). Knives: have a straight cutting edge, with an angle of less than 40 degrees (Clark

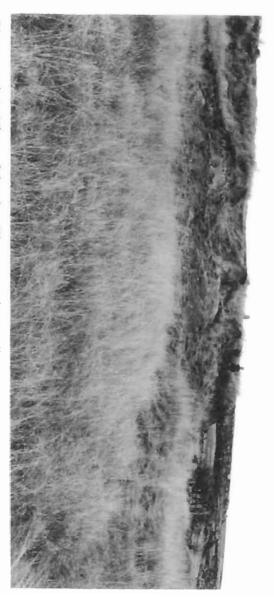
Macrodebitage: flakes less than 20 mm (Schick 1986)

Triangular Flakes: (illustrated Kuman 1989:125)

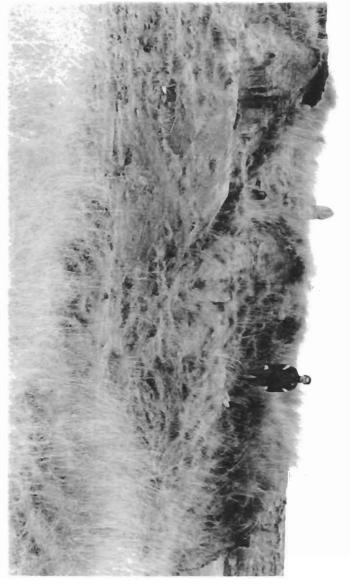
# APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SITE AND MATERIAL



of the donga in the centre of the photograph. The large gully at right angles to the main donga is the gully indicated on the left hand side of Fig. 2. Photograph 1: View looking east across the site which is situated in the left hand portion



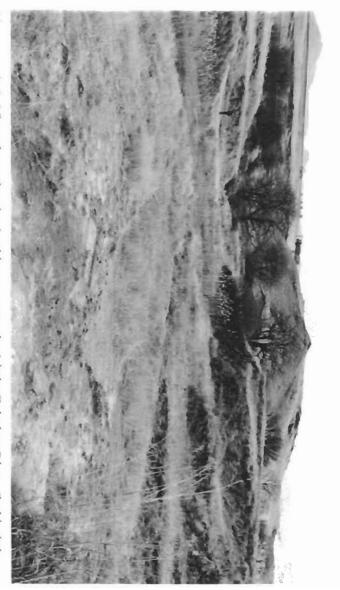
Photograph 2: View of the site. The person is standing at occurrence 30 (Fig. 2)



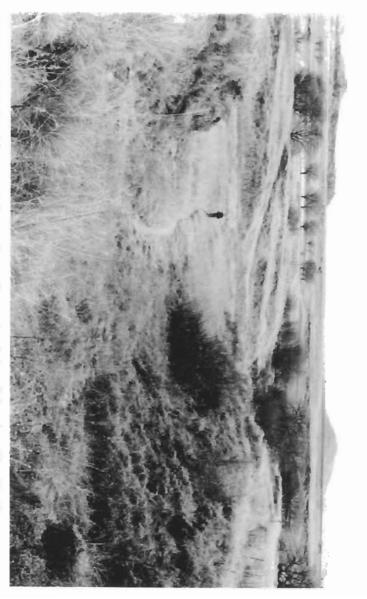
To the left is the excavation in the slope (on Fig. 2, the excavation between 29 and 5), the base of which is in the lighter soil. Photograph 3: Close up of the site looking east. The person is standing at occurrence 30.



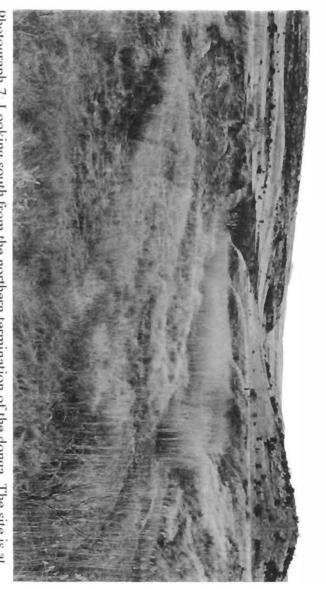
filled excavation pits indicated by the row of three pits in Fig. 2. Photograph 4. View across the top of the site looking north. In the foreground are the



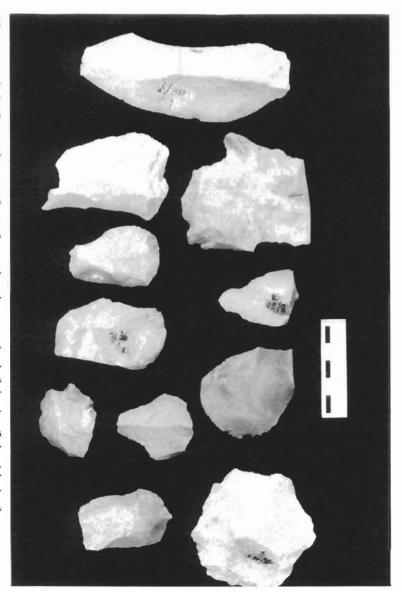
large trees in the centre of the picture). The person is standing on the road. In the centre foreground is the excavation on the slope (between 4 and 9 in Fig. 2) Photograph 5: View from the site looking west to the Little Caledon River (behind the



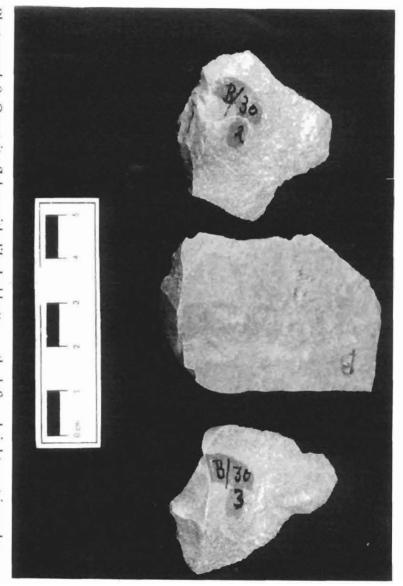
Photograph 6: Looking west down the gully to the right of the site (Fig. 2). Occurrence 18 would be located at the base of the bare cliff in the centre left of the picture.



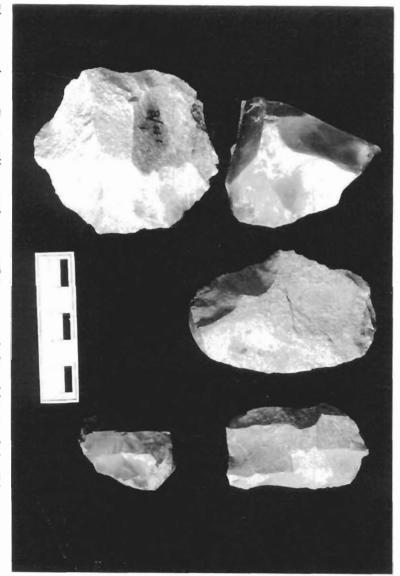
centre left of the photograph Photograph 7: Looking south from the northern termination of the donga. The site is at



occurrence 34. Photograph 8: Quartzite artefacts from the site: on the left is the flake-blade from



flakes, from occurrence 30 Photograph 9: Quartzite flakes with dihedral butts, on the left and right are triangular



lower right Photograph 10: Cores, all quartzite apart from upper left and lower right. Bladelet core at

# APPENDIX 3: REPORT BY SUSAN KENT

# A UNIQUE MIDDLE STONE AGE OPEN-AIR HABITATION SITE ALONG THE LITTLE CALEDON RIVER: BETHAL 1

Susan Kent Old Dominion University

understanding the prehistory of South Africa, and of all modern humans, is that it is a habitation campsite sites are not pristine, but Bethal 1 is both horizontally and vertically intact. This single fact, its unique available anywhere, either nearby in the Little Caledon River region, or even elsewhere in South Africa The only in situ Middle Stone Age open-air sites known anywhere in southern Africa, including Botswana Stone Age in South Africa. Another attribute of Bethal that makes it an uncommonly valuable resource in spatial preservation, makes Bethal one of the most important archaeological discoveries for the Middle rather than a special purpose site, that has retained its spatial integrity. Most known Stone Age open-air horizontally disturbed. Bethal is the only open-air Middle Stone Age archaeological habitation campsite past several decades because it is an open-air habitation occupation that has not been vertically or special purpose kill or butchering/processing sites. Therefore, Bethal 1 provides information not Bethal 1 is one of the most fascinating sites that has been uncovered in South Africa over the

skills that characterize modern humans crucial clue to understanding the development of intellectual modernity and basic social organizational spatial integrity. Such sites are very rare and are few and far between most of the known sites in southern Africa because most open-air sites are disturbed. The spatial distribution of artifacts at Bethal provides modernity of these Middle Stone Age peoples, it is necessary to examine their use of space at a site with not yet know if these people were also behaviorally and intellectually modern. To determine the extent of During the Middle Stone Age in southern Africa, physically modern humans appeared, but we do

# Open-Air Versus Rockshelter Sites

pit was dug). The closest site to Bethal that contains in situ deposits is Rose Cottage Shelter, located Witwatersrand; however, the deposit was not pristine and the excavation was halted after a 1 x archaeological material in situ (one rockshelter was tested by a graduate student from the University of None of the rockshelters sites in the Little Caledon River region proper have Stone Age

archaeology of South Africa investigating rockshelter sites at the expense of investigating open-air sites. This, then, will change the site, South African archaeologists will have to modify their current excavation strategy of only If it can be demonstrated that the spatial patterning differs significantly at Bethal because it is an open-air air sites, and those that are present only because not enough of Bethal has been excavated at this point at Bethal to distinguish those differences that result from the very different settings, rockshelter vs. openrelatively small portion of area that has been excavated at Bethal. Additional units need to be excavated significantly from the preliminary work at Bethal and the reason for this needs might be attributable to the near Ladybrand. It displays a very different artifact inventory. Moreover, the spatial patterning differs way in which the Stone Age is investigated in South Africa. Bethal, therefore, is a pivotal site in the

# Multipurpose Habitation / Special Purpose Sites

different uses of the sites, as special purpose in contrast to habitation sites, or are only apparent because but requires more excavations at the site and the collection of dates from various depths of the site dates also need to be secured from Bethal to distinguish possible different times of site utilization not enough of Bethal has been excavated to determine the frequency of tool types and uses. Additional Temporal differences based on future dating of Bethal could explain the variance in artifact assemblages Shelter and other Middle Stone Age rockshelter sites in southern Africa are real and represent actual to know if its dissimilar artifact inventory compared to those assemblages from Lesotho and Rose Cottage all strongly suggest that the site is a multipurpose habitation camp. More work is required at Bethal The artifact distribution (see informal and formal tool tables) and the debitage found thus far at

patterned their behavior and exhibited a range of behavior that is similar to modern humans. The range of the overall repertoire of Middle Stone Age activities and behaviors. One of the key questions concerning understanding of hunting, but it is critical to excavate habitation sites like Bethal in order to understand however, they are special purpose kill and/or butchering sites. Stone Age hominids is whether they organized space in a way analogous to intellectually modern Florisbad and Gi are some of the few well preserved open-air sites in all of southern Africa The second most essential question needing evaluation is whether Middle Stone Age hominids Such sites are important to

Shelter that has been more thoroughly investigated Middle Stone Age sites the result of the small portion of the site excavated compared to Rose Cottage More investigations at Bethal are necessary to determine if the preliminary artifact dissimilates between imperative to excavate habitation sites to gain an understanding of the evolution of cultural modernity behavior cannot be determined from a site with restricted behaviors, like a kill site. Therefore it is

#### Geology

probable source again showing that the site is in situ. The surrounding sandstone from the Elloit Formation was the deposited (Scholtz 2002). The silt contained heavy minerals that varied between sub-angular and Below the organic top soil level is very fine orangey-red sterile silt that probably was aeolian (wind cm in depth and formed a protective cap that probably accounts for some of the preservation of the site rounded in shape. Because of the sub-angular grains, transport distance was probably relatively small, Bethal has unique geological deposition in that the upper dark organic level varied from 13 to 16

silt that contained artifacts. It extended to 250 cm below surface, or basically the entire occupation level. below 105 cm. The heavy minerals became more common, suggesting more mesic period and / or more However, in 2002, a second occupation level was detected but we did not have time to investigate Just under the occupation level was sterile silty clay that went to 300 cm. We did not excavate further minerals. The sterile silt continued to around 180 cm below the round surface. Just below was a clayey flowing streams, but by 145 cm below surface, the soil returned to the previous low level of heavy providing some insights. We can see that there was oscillating periods of aridity. The soil changed a Very little is known of the geology of the Little Caledon River, but the site excavations are

# rtifacts — A New Middle Stone Age Horizon

includes backed tools and segments or crescents common. Bethal is fascinating because cherts and artifacts termed the Howiesons Poort has been uncovered at Rose Cottage Shelter, where the horizon transcend geographical regions. A precocious poorly known horizon that contains cryptocrystalline flakes, triagnular points, prepared cores, flakes with facetted platforms, and other similarities that tend to Middle Stone Age is characterized in most areas by moderate to large quartzite or hornsfelds

and other artifacts associated with the Howiesons Poort simply reflect the small portion of the site that diagnostic of the Howiesons Poort Horizon have not yet been uncovered. Only one backed tool has been chalcedonies predominate the artifact assemblage (as can be seen in the following tables), but artifacts South African Middle Stone Age artifact typology. has been excavated. Further excavation is required to place the Bethal artifacts within the established uncovered at Bethal and crescents or segments are absent. It is possible that the paucity of backed tools

Betha confines of space and the conflation of activities resulting in artifact palimpsests that are not present at is intriguing and suggests that the absence of activity areas at Rose Cottage Shelter may result from the Shelter where the excavator suggested that Middle Stone Age hominids did not use space in ways that produced activity areas. Again, more of the site needs to be excavated. However the preliminary analysis apparently multipurpose activity areas are in contrast to the spatial patterning reported for Rose Cottage One of the most exciting discoveries at Bethal 1 is the presence of discrete activity areas. These

the shatter, raw material quality, and its distribution at the site further reduced regardless of its quality. Further investigations are necessary to investigate the nature of behavior. Preliminarily, at Bethal it seems that any crytoptocrystalline nodule was brought to the site and extent at Bethal as it did at later sites occupied by humans who were completely modern in thought and rock from stones that have numerous internal flaws that make them unflakable, which implies that the usual selection of raw material for quality pieces that can be made into tools did not occur to the same addition, there appears to be an inordinate amount of lithic shatter from the initial breakage of

### Conclusions

0 Stone Age habitation site known in all of South Africa - other open-air sites from this time period appear sites known in the general region of the Little Caledon River. More importantly, Bethal 1 is the only Middle before, Bethal can provide insights into the development of modern human intellectual development that not possible at other archaeological sites. There are no other open-air undisturbed Middle Stone Age be special purpose kill or butchering/processing sites, rather than habitation sites. However, in order to Because of its unusual spatial preservation due to a series of geological processes described

the confines of a rockshelter habitation sites. Bethal allows us to explore activity area patterning during the Middle Stone Age without understand the development of modern human behavior and intellect, it is necessary to excavate

later inhabitants at Bethal lower occupation need to be undertaken in order to determine if this represents a habitation camp like the site in relationship to the artifacts already dug. Additional dates need to be obtain in order to securely place the investigations. It is necessary to excavate a sample of this newly found material in order to understand its above it or if this is a short-term special purpose site and if it was occupied by similar peoples as the its temporal positioning of other sites known for the Middle Stone Age period. Excavations of this second occupation underlying the floor of the excavations was discovered during the 2002

Bethal. questions Bethal in order to ascertain if Bethal represents a new, unreported artifact horizon. If a new horizon, then at least several thus far is unknown for the Middle Stone Age and it is crucial to see if other activity areas assemblage we need to determine what this new artifact horizon might mean in terms of it being a temporally distinct tools, segments or crescents, and other artifacts not yet recovered. More investigations are critical at which so far, is unique. The assemblages that most closely resemble the Bethal artifacts include backed further exploration of the site is necessary to know the margins of the camp. Another reason for the need excavate additional units is to explore the possibility of more activity areas at the site. The presence of reason is to determine the extent of the site. We only have the northeast boundary uncovered and Units need to be dug to the south and west of the current excavations for a number of reasons crucial to understanding the prehistory of South Africa necessitate further excavations at or one geographically confined to the Clarens municipality. Clearly, these and other Further excavations are also necessary in order to understand the artifact assemblage

Table 1. Table of investigations at Bethal 1 by year.

Year	Length of Investigations	Activities Conducted
2002	6 weeks; June 8 - July 25	Excavated two 2 x 2 m units
2001	5 weeks; June 4 - July 30 (with 3 weeks offExcavated two 2 x 2 m units	Excavated two 2 x 2 m units
	site, 2 conducting laboratory work in	n.)
2000	8 weeks; June 3 - July 30	Excavated one 2 x 2 m unit

1999 1 day; July 12

Excavated one 2 x 2 m unit
Excavated one 1 x 1 m offsite
stratigraphy pit located off of the
archaeological site for comparative
geological data; surveyed local area for
artifacts and other sites
Visited the site and recorded its
location

Total time excavating the site thus far (and including 2002): 19 weeks Current excavation permit: Valid until 1 November 2004

Table 2. Analyzed debitage by unit at Bethal 1 (note that artifacts from the 2002 excavations have not be analyzed and only have a field designation and are, therefore, not included)

	1	1 ( 0.2%)	1 (0.1%)	Side flake w/edge damage
Idake         Unit 119N96E         Unit 111N96E           Take         49 (6.7%)         19 (4.4%)           Proken flake         194 (26.4%)         20 (4.6 %)           I flake         1 (0.1%)         9 (2.1%)           I flake         1 (0.1%)         9 (2.1%)           ake w/prox missing         30 (4.1%)         21 (4.8%)           ake w/prox missing         5 (0.7%)         1 (0.2%)           flake w/edge damage         23 (3.1%)         26 (6.0%)           lake w/edge damage         6 (0.8%)         13 (3.0%)           lake spall or splinter)         33 (4.5%)         33 (7.6%)           lake spall or splinter)         33 (4.5%)         33 (7.6%)           lake spall or splinter)         33 (4.5%)         33 (7.6%)           lake spall or splinter)         3 (0.4%)         4 (0.9%)           lake frag w/multifacetted         —         1 (0.1%)           lake frag w/multifacetted         —         1 (0.2%)           lake w/edge damage         5 (0.7%)         4 (0.9%)           lake w/edge damage         7 (1.0%)         6 (1.4%)           lake w/edge damage         7 (1.0%)         5 (1.2%)           lake w/dihedral platform         1 (0.1%)         5 (1.2%)			2 ( 0.3%)	Bladelet w/edge damage
NGE         Unit 109N96E         Unit 111N96E           lake         49 (6.7%)         19 (4.4%)           proken flake         194 (26.4%)         20 (4.6 %)           flake         1 (0.1%)         9 (2.1%)           prial flake w/distal missing         30 (4.1%)         21 (4.8%)           ake w/prox missing         5 (0.7%)         6 (1.4%)           flake w/dihedral platform         2 (0.3%)         1 (0.2%)           lake w/edge damage         23 (3.1%)         26 (6.0%)           lake w/edge damage         6 (0.8%)         13 (3.0%)           ake spall or splinter)         33 (4.5%)         33 (7.6%)           lake spall or splinter)         3 (0.4%)         4 (0.9%)           lwdistal missing         1 (0.1%)            lwdistal missing         1 (0.1%)            lwdistal missing         1 (0.1%)         4 (0.9%)           lwdistal missing         1 (0.1%)         1 (0.2%)           lwdistal missing         1 (0.1%)         4 (0.9%)           lwdistal missing         1 (0.1%)         4 (0.9%)           lwdistal missing         1 (0.1%)            lake w/edge damage         5 (0.7%)            lake w/edge damage	1 (1.0%)		9 (1.2%)	Cortical chunk
AGE         Unit 109N96E         Unit 111N96E           lake         49 (6.7%)         19 (4.4%)           proken flake         194 (26.4%)         20 (4.6 %)           flake         1 (0.1%)         9 (2.1%)           rial flake w/distal missing         30 (4.1%)         21 (4.8%)           ake w/prox missing         5 (0.7%)         6 (1.4%)           flake w/dihedral platform         2 (0.3%)         1 (0.2%)           lake w/edge damage         23 (3.1%)         26 (6.0%)           lake w/edge damage         6 (0.8%)         13 (3.0%)           ake spall or splinter)         33 (4.5%)         33 (7.6%)           ake spall or splinter)         33 (4.5%)         33 (7.6%)           mming flake         1 (0.1%)         4 (0.9%)           tw/distal missing         1 (0.1%)         4 (0.9%)           tw/distal missing         15 (2.0%)         2 (0.5%)           tw/distal missing         15 (2.0%)         0           tw/distal missing         15 (2.0%)         1 (0.2%)           tw/di	1 ( 1.0%)	2 ( 0.5%)	1	Triangular Flake
Idake         Unit 109N96E         Unit 111N96E           Proken flake         49 (6.7%)         19 (4.4%)           If lake         194 (26.4%)         20 (4.6 %)           If lake         1 (0.1%)         9 (2.1%)           If lake w/distal missing         30 (4.1%)         21 (4.8%)           If lake w/dihedral platform         2 (0.3%)         1 (0.2%)           If lake w/edge damage         23 (3.1%)         26 (6.0%)           Iake w/edge damage         23 (3.1%)         26 (6.0%)           Iake spall or splinter)         33 (4.5%)         33 (7.6%)           Iw/distal missing         1 (0.1%)         4 (0.9%)           Iw/distal missing         1 (0.1%)         4 (0.9%)           Iake frag w/multifacetted         —         1 (0.1%)           Iake frag w/multifacetted         —         1 (0.2%)           Iake w/edge damage         5 (0.7%)         4 (0.9%)           Iake w/edge damage         5 (0.7%)         5 (1.4%)           Iake w/edge damage         5 (0.7%)         5 (1.2%)		4 ( 0.9%)	1 (0.1%)	Partial flake w/dihedral platform
Idake         Unit 109N96E         Unit 111N96E           Idake         49 (6.7%)         19 (4.4%)           If lake         194 (26.4%)         20 (4.6%)           If lake         1 (0.1%)         9 (2.1%)           If lake         1 (0.1%)         9 (2.1%)           If lake w/distal missing         30 (4.1%)         21 (4.8%)           If lake w/prox missing         5 (0.7%)         6 (1.4%)           If lake w/dihedral platform         2 (0.3%)         1 (0.2%)           If lake w/edge damage         23 (3.1%)         26 (6.0%)           Iske w/edge damage         23 (4.5%)         174 (40.0%)           In (0.1%)         13 (3.0%)         13 (3.0%)           In (0.1%)         33 (4.5%)         33 (7.6%)           In (0.1%)         4 (0.9%)         4 (0.9%)           In (0.1%)         1 (0.1%)	24 (23.5%)	48 (11.0%)	25 ( 3.4%)	Shatter
AGE         Unit 109N96E         Unit 11N96E           lake         49 (6.7%)         19 (4.4%)           flake         194 (26.4%)         20 (4.6%)           flake         1 (0.1%)         9 (2.1%)           rtial flake w/distal missing         30 (4.1%)         21 (4.8%)           ake w/prox missing         5 (0.7%)         6 (1.4%)           flake w/dihedral platform         2 (0.3%)         1 (0.2%)           lake w/edge damage         23 (3.1%)         26 (6.0%)           w/edge damage         299 (40.7%)         174 (40.0%)           ake spall or splinter)         33 (4.5%)         33 (7.6%)           ake spall or splinter)         33 (4.5%)         33 (7.6%)           w/distal missing         1 (0.1%)         4 (0.9%)           w/distal missing         1 (0.1%)         -           tw/distal missing         1 (0.1%)         -           mid-section of flake         5 (0.7%)         4 (0.9%)           lake frag w/multifacetted         -         -           -         1 (0.1%)         -           lake w/edge damage         5 (0.7%)         6 (1.4%)           lake w/edge damage         5 (0.7%)         5 (1.2%)           lake w/edge damage         5 (0.7%) </td <td></td> <td>1 ( 0.2%)</td> <td>4 (0.5%)</td> <td>Partial bladelet</td>		1 ( 0.2%)	4 (0.5%)	Partial bladelet
Idake         Unit 109N96E         Unit 111N96E           Proken flake         49 (6.7%)         19 (4.4%)           If lake         194 (26.4%)         20 (4.6%)           If lake         1 (0.1%)         9 (2.1%)           Irrial flake w/distal missing         30 (4.1%)         21 (4.8%)           ake w/prox missing         5 (0.7%)         6 (1.4%)           Iake w/edge damage         2 (0.3%)         1 (0.2%)           Iake w/edge damage         23 (3.1%)         26 (6.0%)           w/edge damage         6 (0.8%)         174 (40.0%)           w/edge damage         6 (0.8%)         13 (3.0%)           w/edge damage         33 (4.5%)         33 (7.6%)           w/edge damage         1 (0.1%)         4 (0.9%)           w/edge damage         15 (2.0%)         4 (0.9%)           w/edge damage         15 (2.0%)         1 (0.2%)           lake frag w/multifacetted         —         1 (0.2%)           mid-section of flake         5 (0.7%)         —           7 (1.0%)         1 (0.2%)           lide struck flake         2 (0.3%)         2 (0.5%)	1 ( 1.0%)	5 (1.2%)	1 (0.1%)	Whole flake w/dihedral platform
NGE         Unit 109N96E         Unit 111N96E           Bake         49 (6.7%)         19 (4.4%)           broken flake         194 (26.4%)         20 (4.6%)           flake         1 (0.1%)         9 (2.1%)           rtial flake w/distal missing         30 (4.1%)         21 (4.8%)           ake w/prox missing         5 (0.7%)         6 (1.4%)           flake w/dihedral platform         2 (0.3%)         1 (0.2%)           lake w/edge damage         23 (3.1%)         26 (6.0%)           lake w/edge damage         23 (4.5%)         174 (40.0%)           mming flake         6 (0.8%)         13 (3.0%)           uvenation flake         3 (0.4%)         4 (0.9%)           tw/distal missing         1 (0.1%)         -           tw/distal missing         15 (2.0%)         4 (0.9%)           lake frag w/multifacetted         -         1 (0.2%)           lake w/edge damage         5 (0.7%)         -           lake w/edge damage         7 (1.0%)         -           lake w/edge damage         2 (0.3%)         2 (0.5%)	_	12 ( 2.8%)	10 (1.4%)	Core
AGE         Unit 109N96E         Unit 111N96E           Bake         49 (6.7%)         19 (4.4%)           proken flake         194 (26.4%)         20 (4.6 %)           flake         1 (0.1%)         9 (2.1%)           rtial flake w/distal missing         30 (4.1%)         21 (4.8%)           ake w/prox missing         5 (0.7%)         6 (1.4%)           flake w/edge damage         23 (3.1%)         26 (6.0%)           lake w/edge damage         23 (3.1%)         26 (6.0%)           w/edge damage         23 (3.1%)         174 (40.0%)           w/edge damage         6 (0.8%)         13 (3.0%)           uvenation flake         1 (0.1%)         4 (0.9%)           w/distal missing         1 (0.1%)         -           tw/distal missing         1 (0.1%)         1 (0.2%)           lake frag w/multifacetted         -         1 (0.2%)           mid-section of flake         5 (0.7%)         -           7 (1.0%)         6 (1.4%)		2 ( 0.5%)	2 (0.3%)	Whole side struck flake
AGE         Unit 109N96E         Unit 111N96E           Blake         49 (6.7%)         19 (4.4%)           proken flake         194 (26.4%)         20 (4.6 %)           flake         1 (0.1%)         9 (2.1%)           rtial flake w/distal missing         30 (4.1%)         9 (2.1%)           ake w/prox missing         5 (0.7%)         6 (1.4%)           flake w/dihedral platform         2 (0.3%)         1 (0.2%)           lake w/edge damage         23 (3.1%)         26 (6.0%)           w/edge damage         29 (40.7%)         174 (40.0%)           w/edge damage         6 (0.8%)         13 (3.0%)           ake spall or splinter)         33 (4.5%)         33 (7.6%)           w/distal missing         1 (0.1%)         4 (0.9%)           tw/distal missing         1 (0.1%)         -           tw/distal missing         1 (0.1%)         -           lake frag w/multifacetted         -         1 (0.2%)           mid-section of flake         5 (0.7%)         -		6 (1.4%)	7 (1.0%)	Whole flake w/edge damage
AGE         Unit 109N96E         Unit 111N96E           Plake         49 (6.7%)         19 (4.4%)           Proken flake         194 (26.4%)         20 (4.6%)           flake         1 (0.1%)         9 (2.1%)           flake w/distal missing         30 (4.1%)         21 (4.8%)           ake w/prox missing         5 (0.7%)         6 (1.4%)           flake w/edge damage         23 (3.1%)         26 (6.0%)           lake w/edge damage         23 (3.1%)         26 (6.0%)           w/edge damage         23 (3.1%)         174 (40.0%)           w/edge damage         6 (0.8%)         13 (3.0%)           ake spall or splinter)         33 (4.5%)         33 (7.6%)           uvenation flake         1 (0.1%)         4 (0.9%)           w/distal missing         1 (0.1%)         -           t w/distal missing         1 (0.1%)         1 (0.2%)           t missing         1 (0.2%)         1 (0.2%)	1 ( 1.0%)	1	\$ (0.7%)	Broken mid-section of flake
Unit 109N96E         Unit 111N96E           49 (6.7%)         19 (4.4%)           e         194 (26.4%)         20 (4.6%)           e         1 (0.1%)         9 (2.1%)           flake w/distal missing         30 (4.1%)         21 (4.8%)           w/prox missing         5 (0.7%)         6 (1.4%)           e w/dihedral platform         2 (0.3%)         1 (0.2%)           w/edge damage         23 (3.1%)         26 (6.0%)           ge damage         6 (0.8%)         174 (40.0%)           pall or splinter)         33 (4.5%)         33 (7.6%)           ng flake         1 (0.1%)         4 (0.9%)           istal missing         1 (0.1%)         1 (0.2%)           15 (2.0%)         4 (0.9%)	1	1 ( 0.2%)		Whole flake frag w/multifacetted platform
Unit 109N96E         Unit 111N96E           en flake         49 (6.7%)         19 (4.4%)           e         194 (26.4%)         20 (4.6 %)           flake w/distal missing         30 (4.1%)         9 (2.1%)           w/prox missing         5 (0.7%)         6 (1.4%)           e w/dihedral platform         2 (0.3%)         1 (0.2%)           w/edge damage         23 (3.1%)         26 (6.0%)           ge damage         299 (40.7%)         174 (40.0%)           pall or splinter)         33 (4.5%)         33 (7.6%)           ng flake         3 (0.4%)         4 (0.9%)           ation flake         1 (0.1%)         —           istal missing         1 (0.1%)         1 (0.2%)	2 ( 2.0%)	4 ( 0.9%)	15 ( 2.0%)	Bladelet
Unit 109N96E         Unit 111N96E           en flake         49 (6.7%)         19 (4.4%)           e         194 (26.4%)         20 (4.6%)           flake w/distal missing         30 (4.1%)         9 (2.1%)           w/prox missing         5 (0.7%)         6 (1.4%)           e w/dihedral platform         2 (0.3%)         1 (0.2%)           w/edge damage         23 (3.1%)         26 (6.0%)           ge damage         299 (40.7%)         174 (40.0%)           ge damage         6 (0.8%)         13 (3.0%)           ge damage         33 (4.5%)         33 (7.6%)           ation flake         1 (0.1%)         —	Î	1 ( 0.2%)	1 (0.1%)	Bladelet w/distal missing
Unit 109N96E         Unit 111N96E           en flake         49 (6.7%)         19 (4.4%)           e         194 (26.4%)         20 (4.6%)           flake w/distal missing         30 (4.1%)         9 (2.1%)           m/prox missing         5 (0.7%)         6 (1.4%)           e w/dihedral platform         2 (0.3%)         1 (0.2%)           w/edge damage         23 (3.1%)         26 (6.0%)           ge damage         299 (40.7%)         174 (40.0%)           ge damage         33 (4.5%)         33 (7.6%)           pall or splinter)         33 (0.4%)         4 (0.9%)		1	1 (0.1%)	Core rejuvenation flake
Unit 109N96E         Unit 111N96E           en flake         49 (6.7%)         19 (4.4%)           e         194 (26.4%)         20 (4.6 %)           flake w/distal missing         30 (4.1%)         9 (2.1%)           w/prox missing         5 (0.7%)         21 (4.8%)           e w/dihedral platform         2 (0.3%)         1 (0.2%)           w/edge damage         23 (3.1%)         26 (6.0%)           ge damage         299 (40.7%)         174 (40.0%)           pall or splinter)         33 (4.5%)         33 (7.6%)		4 ( 0.9%)	3 ( 0.4%)	Core trimming flake
Unit 109N96E         Unit 111N96E           en flake         49 (6.7%)         19 (4.4%)           e         194 (26.4%)         20 (4.6%)           flake w/distal missing         30 (4.1%)         9 (2.1%)           w/prox missing         5 (0.7%)         21 (4.8%)           e w/dihedral platform         2 (0.3%)         1 (0.2%)           w/edge damage         23 (3.1%)         26 (6.0%)           w/edge damage         29 (40.7%)         174 (40.0%)           ge damage         6 (0.8%)         13 (3.0%)		33 (7.6%)	33 (4.5%)	Chip (flake spall or splinter)
Unit 109N96E     Unit 111N96E       20 (4.4%)       20 (4.6%)       20 (4.6%)       20 (4.6%)       20 (4.6%)       20 (4.6%)       20 (4.6%)       20 (4.6%)       20 (4.6%)       21 (4.8%)       21 (4.8%)       24 (4.8%)       25 (0.7%)       26 (6.0%)       299 (40.7%)       299 (40.7%)	3 (2.9%)	13 ( 3.0%)	6 ( 0.8%)	Chunk w/edge damage
Unit 109N96E     Unit 111N96E       20 (4.4%)       20 (4.6%)       20 (4.6%)       20 (4.6%)       20 (4.6%)       20 (4.6%)       20 (4.6%)       20 (4.6%)       20 (4.6%)       21 (4.8%)       21 (4.8%)       24 (0.3%)       25 (0.3%)       26 (6.0%)	24 (23.5%)	174 (40.0%)	299 (40.7%)	Chunk
Unit 109N96E         Unit 111N96E           en flake         49 (6.7%)         19 (4.4%)           e         194 (26.4%)         20 (4.6%)           flake w/distal missing         1 (0.1%)         9 (2.1%)           w/prox missing         30 (4.1%)         21 (4.8%)           e w/dihedral platform         2 (0.3%)         1 (0.2%)	8 ( 7.8%)	26 ( 6.0%)		Partial flake w/edge damage
Unit 109N96E     Unit 111N96E       49 (6.7%)     19 (4.4%)       20 (4.6%)     20 (4.6%)       e     1 (0.1%)     9 (2.1%)       flake w/distal missing     30 (4.1%)     21 (4.8%)       5 (0.7%)     6 (1.4%)		1 ( 0.2%)		Cortical flake w/dihedral platform
Unit 109N96E         Unit 111N96E           49 (6.7%)         19 (4.4%)           20 (4.6%)         20 (4.6%)           6         1 (0.1%)         9 (2.1%)           6         1 (0.1%)         21 (4.8%)	1 ( 1.0%)	6 ( 1.4%)		Distal flake w/prox missing
Unit 109N96E         Unit 111N96E           49 (6.7%)         19 (4.4%)           20 (4.6 %)         20 (4.6 %)           1 (0.1%)         9 (2.1%)	1 ( 1.0%)	21 (4.8%)	30 (4.1%)	Prox Partial flake w/distal missing
Unit 109N96E     Unit 111N96E       49 ( 6.7%)     19 ( 4.4%)       20 ( 4.6 %)     194 (26.4%)	Value	_		Cortical flake
Unit 109N96E Unit 111N96E 49 (6.7%) 19 (4.4%)	13 (12.7%)	20 ( 4.6 %)	194 (26.4%)	Partial/broken flake
Unit 109N96E Unit 111N96E	6 (6.1%)		49 (6.7%)	Whole flake
	Unit 115N100E	Unit 111N96E	Unit 109N96E	DEBITAGE

	355	736	TOTAL
MATE IN COLUMN TO SERVICE AND	2(0.5%)	Į.	Cortical flake w/multi-facetted platform
	1 (0.2%)	-	Cortical flake w/edge damage
	1 (0.2%)		Bladelet core
ļ	1 (0.2%)		Flake w/multi-facetted platform and edge damage
	2 (0.5%)	Ĭ	Side struck flake w/dihedral platform
	2 ( 0.5%)		Whole blade (>2.5 cm)
1 (1.0%)	4 ( 0.9%)	1	Dihedral platform flake w/edge damage
		1 (0.1%)	Shatter w/edge damage
	I	1 (0.1%)	Core w/edge damage
1	1	1 (0.1%)	Blade w/edge damage
I	1	4 (0.6%)	Flake blade

Table 3. Distribution of Tools By Unit (note that the artifacts from the units excavated in 2002 have only preliminary field identifications and are not included here).

Notched Flake Blade	Utilized Flake Blade	Utilized Blade	Bladelet With Utilization	Notched Flake With Utilization	Notched Flake With Edge Damage	Notched Flake	Chunk With Notch	Utilized Flake With Dihedral Platform	Notched Flake With Dihedral Platform	Utilized Core	Utilized Chunk	Utilized Flake	Core With Retouch	Flake With Retouch	Chunk With Retouch	Denticulate	Backed Flake With Utilization	Side Scraper With Notch	End Scraper	Side Scraper	TOOL TYPE
	_	1		٦	1		٦	2	2		2	9			2	1				_	Unit 109N96E
			٦		1	3					ω	7		3		_	1	٦	1	9	Unit 111N96E
											3	1									Unit 115N100E

RAW MATERIAL	Unit 109N96E	Unit 111N96E	Unit 115N100E
Unknown	46 (6.3%)	10 ( 2.3%)	
Chert	382 (51.9%)	198 (45.5%)	19
Chalcedony	100 (13.6%)	85 (19.5%)	13
Agate	28 ( 3.8%)	21 ( 4.8%)	40
Dolorite	2 ( 0.3%)	1 (0.2%)	4
Quartz	86 (11.7%)	47 (10.8%)	9
Quartzite	87 (11.8%)	70 (16.1%)	
Hornsfeld		2 (0.5%)	
Carnelian	1 (0.1%)	1 ( 0.2%)	_
Melitite (bloodstone)			_
Fossilized Wood	1 (0.1%)		1
Chert and metamorphized chalcedony	1 (0.1%)		-
Conglomerate	1 (0.1%)		_

Unit Highlights:
Unit 115N100E One chunk was from carnelian
One piece of shatter was from fossilized wood

Table 3. Informal tools by raw material and by excavation unit at Bethal.

#### UNIT 109N96E

#### RAW MATERIAL TYPE

INFORMAL TOOLS	Chert (1)	Chalcedony (2)	Quartz (6)	Quartzite (7)	Hornsfeld (8)	Dolorite (13)	Unknown (0)	TOTAL
Chunk w/Retouch	1					1		2
Flake w/Retouch			1					1
Core w/Retouch								
Utilized Flake	3	3		2			I	9
Utilized Chunk	1	- The state of the						2
Utilized Core							1	1
Notched Flake w/Dihedral Platform							1	1
Utilized Flake w/Dihedral Platform		1		***************************************	1			2
Chunk w/Notch	1							I
Utilized Flake w/Natural Backing								_
Notched Flake				Annual military (management) and		- AND THE COLUMN TO SERVICE OF THE SERVICE OF THE COLUMN TO SERVICE OF THE SERVICE OF THE SERVICE OF THE SERVICE OF THE S	A	_
Notched Flake w/Edge Damage	I	-						1
Notched Bladelet								1-
Notched Flake w/Utilization	1							1
Bladelet w/Utilization							I	1
Utilized Blade	1	480000000000000000000000000000000000000			***************************************			1

Utlized Flake Blade	1				I
Notched Flake Blade		1			1
TOTAL					25

#### UNIT 111N96E

#### RAW MATERIAL TYPE

INFORMAL TOOLS	Chert (1)	Chalcedony (2)	Quartz (6)	Quartzite (7)	Hornsfeld (8)	Dolorite (13)	Unknown (0)	TOTAL
Chunk w/Retouch								_
Flake w/Retouch	2	1						3
Core w/Retouch								_
Utilized Flake	3			-	2		1	6
Utilized Chunk	3							3
Utilized Core								_
Notched Flake w/Dihedral Platform			and the first test to the first test to the first test test test test test test test t				Medialização por proprio de la compressión de la	_
Utilized Flake w/Dihedral Platform			**************************************			ee ———————————————————————————————————	The state of the s	_
Chunk w/Notch		VIIII A CO CONTRACTOR A CONTRAC						-
Utilized Flake w/Natural Backing	1							1
Notched Flake	1	1		1			***************************************	3
Notched Flake w/Edge Damage	J	**************************************	***************************************				And the state of t	1
Notched Bladelet								
Notched Flake w/Utilization								

18	TOTAL
_	Notched Flake Blade
_	Utlized Flake Blade
_	Utilized Blade
I	Bladelet w/Utilization 1

#### Unit HSN100E

			ILE	LIMINI	RAW MAT
TOTAL	Quartzite	Shang	Agate	Chert	INFORMAL TOOLS
I	I				Denticulate
3		I	I	I	Utilized Chunk
Þ	I	I	I	I	TOTAL

#### Table 4. Formal tools by raw material and by excavation unit at Bethal (no formal tools were found in 115N100E).

**UNIT IIIN96E** 

#### RAW MATERIAL TYPE

<b>TOTAL</b>	пмомп (0)	otiztzenQ (7)	Sand (4)	Agate (E)	Chalcedony (2)	Chert (1)	FORMAL TOOLS
6			8	I			Side Scraper
I					111111111111111111111111111111111111111		Euq Zelyper
1						1	Side Scraper with Notch
I					I		Knife (backed flake- blade w/utilization)
I	I						Denticulate
13	I	_	8	I	7	I	JATOT

NAIT 109N 96E

#### RAW MATERIAL TYPE

TATOT	Unknown (0)	Ouartzite (7)	Sand (4)	Agate (£)	Chalcedony (2)	Срет (1)	FORMAL TOOLS
I						I	Side Seraper
_							End Scraper
I		I					Denticulate
7							TOTAL

Appendix 1. Site Excavation Permits Issued By the South African Heritage Resources Agency. Note that current excavation permit is valid until November 2004.

# South African Heritage Resources Agency

111 HARRINGTON STREET, CAPE TOWN, 8001 P.O. BOX 4837, CAPE TOWN, 8000 TEL (021) 462-4502 - FAX (021) 462-4509

9/2/300/12

### PERMIT

No 80/01/07/003/51

Issued under Section 12(4) of the National Monuments Act. Act No 28 of 1969 as amended Permission is hereby given

- 0 B Kent,
- 0 the Department of Anthropology, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA 23529, United States of America, and working with the National Museum, Bloemfontein
- io. the excavation of the site Bethal,
- ar. Bethel, at approximately 28 32 591S, 28.27.163E
- on the farm Bethel, near Clarens 1390,
- E Bethlehem District, Free State Province

## The following conditions apply

- of each site Heritage Resources Act must be used. Adequate recording methods as specified in the Regulations and Guidelines pertaining to the National Note that the position of all excavations must be marked on a plan
- A standard site record form must be ledged with the National Museum
- All material collected and excavated will be curated by the National Museum
- ينة فدة عكم the availability of notes to other researchers for a period of years determined by the researcher Copies of all field notes are to be lodged on completion of the project. A moratorium can be placed on
- i,a All material must be clearly labelled and boxed (boxes not larger than 35 cm broad and 19 cm high). A progress report must be submitted to SALIRA on or before 1 November 2002 and 1 November 2003 and
- Ç\* a final report is due on or before 1 November 2004. SAHRA reserves the right to withhold further permits if progress is not deemed satisfactory.

  Reprints of all published papers, or copies of theses or reports resulting from this work must be lodged.
- WITH SAHRA
- 20 in terms of the permit will be made available to researchers on request If a published report has not appeared within three years of the lapsing of this permit, the report required
- 5 10 It is the responsibility of the permit holder to fill in excavations and protect sites during and after conditions of access imposed by the landowner must be observed It is the responsibility of the permit holder to obtain permission from the landowner for each visit, and
- 300.05 300.00 SAHRA shall not be liable for any losses, damages or injuries to persons or properties as a result of any excavation to the satisfaction of SAHRA and the landowner.
- activities in connection with this permit.

  SAHRA reserves the right to cancel this permit upon notice to the permit holder

شىد ئىخ

Date 29 October 2001 ARCHAEOLOGIST

This permit is valid until 1 November 2004

Place: Cape Town