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An investigation of a Later Stone Age  
open-air surface site on Blauwbosch  
364, Northern Cape

by

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for the degree

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- 2.5. Flora and fauna

  - 2.5.1. Vegetation
  - 2.5.2. Trees and shrubs
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Bloubos, chronological depth, Luvuvhuvala industry, surface, homogeneous sample, hunting, Later Stone Age, culture, Northern Cape, open-air surface sites, subsistence strategies, Vogel scale, Waller model.



**An investigation of a Later Stone Age  
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by

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**Magister Artium (Archaeology)**

The farm Blaubosch 364 (known as Bloubos), situated some 50 kilometres north-north-west of Upington, would have been ideally suited for both hunters and herders during the last 2000 years. The property is characterised by several Later Stone Age (LSA) open-air surface sites consisting of lithic and ceramic scatters. One such site, Bloubos 5 (BB5), was closely investigated and a radiocarbon date of  $1810 \pm 45$  years BP obtained for it. Results of the typological and metric analysis of the BB5 sample were compared to another open-air site on the farm, Bloubos 7 (BB7) as well as to other LSA cave and open-air sites in the study area in order to determine a temporal and spatial context for the site. It was established with the aid of the Vogel scale, that BB5 represents a homogeneous LSA lithic sample with little chronological depth. A limited number of ceramic fragments are also present. The BB7 sample was obtained from a stone circle containing some deposit which provided the dates  $340 \pm 50$  (upper spits) and  $2370 \pm 45$  (lower spits) years BP for the site. Comparison between the two assemblages indicated no significant differences and that they probably belong to the same LSA industry. The comparison between BB5 and contemporaneous samples from Wonderwerk cave, Klein Witkraans shelter, Limerock II, Swartkop Excavation I and Biesje Poort II, also indicated no significant differences. However, it is apparent that the Bloubos sample is most similar to that of Biesje Poort II. The latter has been identified as belonging to the local Wilton variant, the Doornfontein Industry (Beaumont, Smith & Vogel 1995). It thus follows that the BB5 sample too, belongs to the (early phase?) Doornfontein Industry. Beaumont associates the Doornfontein Industry with final LSA herders in the Northern Cape, thus pastoralism as a LSA subsistence strategy is a distinct possibility on Bloubos (Beaumont, Smith & Vogel 1995). It is concluded that documentation of all land use patterns in the environment which include open-air surface sites, open-air deposits and cave deposits, is crucial to the complete reconstruction of prehistoric subsistence strategies. Other issues addressed in this dissertation include the minimum number of artefacts needed to understand the nature of an open-air surface site, the need for standardisation of terminology and methods for typological and metric analysis, the use of the median instead of the mean when conducting a metric analysis, and the continuing relevance of stone tool analyses in Later Stone Age research.

**Bloubos, chronological depth, Doornfontein Industry, herders, homogeneous sample, hunters, Later Stone Age, median, Northern Cape, open-air surface sites, subsistence strategies, Vogel scale, Wilton variant**

# 'n Ondersoek van 'n Latere Steentydperk-opelug oppervlakterrein op Blaubosch 364, Noord-Kaap

deur

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Die plaas Blaubosch 364 (bekend as Bloubos) wat ongeveer 50 kilometer noord-noord-wes buite Upington geleë is, sou teen ongeveer 2000 jaar gelede ideaal gewees het vir beide jagters en herders. Die eiendom word gekenmerk deur 'n hele paar Latere Steentydperk (LST) -opelug oppervlakterreine wat bestaan uit klipwerktyg- en keramiekversamelings. Een só 'n terrein, naamlik Bloubos 5 (BB5), is van nader ondersoek en 'n radiokoolstofdatum van  $1810 \pm 45$  jaar VH is daarvoor verkry. Die resultate van die tipologiese en metriese analise van die BB5-monster is met nog 'n opelug terrein op die plaas, Bloubos 7 (BB7), asook met ander LST-grot- en -opelug terreine in die studiegebied vergelyk sodat 'n tyd-ruimtelike konteks vir die terrein bepaal kon word. Met behulp van die Vogelskaal is daar gevind dat BB5 'n homogene LST-klipwerktygmonster met beperkte chronologiese diepte verteenwoordig. Dit is ook geassosieer met 'n beperkte aantal keramiekfragmente. Die BB7-monster asook die datums  $340 \pm 50$  (boonste lae) en  $2370 \pm 45$  (onderste lae) jaar VH vir die terrein, is verkry van die afsetting binne 'n klipsirkel. 'n Vergelyking tussen die twee versamelings het aangedui dat geen betekenisvolle verskille tussen hulle bestaan nie en dat hulle waarskynlik tot dieselfde LST-industrie behoort. Die vergelyking tussen BB5 en kontemporêre versamelings van Wonderwerksgrot, Klein Witransskuiling, Limerock II, Swartkop Opgraving I en Biesje Poort II, het weereens geen betekenisvolle verskille aangedui nie. Die Bloubos-monster is egter mees soortgelyk aan die Biesje Poort II-versameling. Laasgenoemde is geïdentifiseer as behorende tot 'n plaaslike Wiltonvariant, die Doornfonteinindustrie (Beaumont, Smith & Vogel 1995). Dit volg dus dat die BB5-monster ook tot die (vroeë fase?) Doornfonteinindustrie behoort. Aangesien Beaumont die Doornfonteinindustrie assosieer met finale LST-herders in die Noord-Kaap (Beaumont, Smith & Vogel 1995), is pastoralisme as 'n LST-bestanswyse op Bloubos 'n sterk moontlikheid. Dit word gestel dat die dokumentering van alle patronen van grondgebruik in die omgewing, wat opelug oppervlakterreine, opelug afsettings en grotterreine insluit, van die uiterste belang is vir die volledige rekonstruksie van prehistoriese bestaanswyses. Ander temas wat in hierdie verhandeling aangespreek word sluit in die minimum aantal artefakte benodig om die aard van 'n opelug oppervlakterrein te identifiseer, die behoeftte aan gestandardiseerde terminologie en metodes vir tipologiese en metriese analise, die gebruik van die mediaan in plaas van die gemiddeld wanneer 'n metriese analise uitgevoer word, en die voortgesette belang van klipwerktyiganalises vir LST-navorsing.

Bloubos, chronologiese diepte, Doornfonteinindustrie, herders, homogene monster, jagters, Latere Steentydperk, mediaan, Noord-Kaap, opelug oppervlakterreine, bestaanswyses, Vogelskaal, Wiltonvariant