

# Beach Vondst Kijkduinpark apparent bone of woolly rhinoceros



*by Alice van Duijn*

**On July 24, 2012, we received an email from Mr. Admiral with pictures of a brown gray discolored bone. He had found it on the beach at Kijkduin, shortly after the flood had been. The question Naturalis: what is it for bone and what kind of animal was it?**



*Photo of the bone found by Mr. Admiral (back)*

At first glance it just looks like a crumpled piece of clay. There is discovering little symmetry structure is rather coarse, and the bone has both raw edges and smooth surfaces. Yet just made this combination of striking features that one of my colleagues went up a light.



*Photo of the bone found by Mr. Admiral with some dimensions (front)*

### **Hoof Bone ... a rhino!**

It is a coffin bone. That's a bone where the hoof keratin, the material our fingernails and hair from existence around it. The coffin bone is not a horse, because that's more or less symmetrical. It is also not a domestic cow, because those are somewhat triangular. We arrive at something very special: a coffin bone of a woolly rhinoceros! Truly a rarity, because this kind of bones are rarely found and even less recognized.





*Hoof Horse Leg (besides euros) is symmetrical*



*Hoof Leg domestic cow is triangular*



**Three toes**

the woolly rhinoceros was just like the current rhino three toes per foot. Each toe has three phalanges, of which the hinge joints on one another. The lower phalange is also called coffin bone called because it is surrounded. The hoof The coffin bone Kijkduin is the outer toe of the right front or hind. The bone is almost complete. There is only a fragment broken off at the "eye".

*Photo left:  
1 tarsal bones  
2 second metatarsal bone  
3 first and second phalanx  
(third phalanx behind the hoof)  
4 hoefnagel*



*Hoof Leg (circled in red) that the hoof is broken*



*Foot of a rhinoceros (model)*



*Example of complete hoof leg with eye from the North Sea (Brown Bank)*

Unlike most of the bones, the coffin bone prominent ridges. This structure is important for proper adhesion of the hoof. The holes vessels have run. The blood vessels caused the need of nutrients was provided.

### **Animal of the mammoth steppe**

The hoof bone is rapidly about 50,000 years old. It dates back to the last ice age. The North Sea was part of the vast and cold mammoth steppe. This was not only the habitat of woolly mammoths and woolly rhinoceroses, but also grazing steppe bison, reindeer, musk oxen, and predators like lions and hyenas caves. Regular ice age fossils of animals found on our coast, especially in places where sand is sprayed that comes from great depths of the North Sea floor. This is what happened off the coast between Ter Heijde and Kijkduin, where the coffin bone is found. There's even a peninsula reclaimed: the Sand Motor, a popular spot for fossil collectors.

Links: [Description woolly rhinoceros on geologievannederland.nl](#) [Find of dial woolly mammoth on Nkids Naturalis](#) [Schooltv image bank clip on woolly rhinoceros more about choosing woolly rhinoceros](#) .