

Archaeological Site Report	SiteNo	9/2/403/0002
	Site Name	Umhlatuzana Rock Shelter 2930DD98, Farm Kirkfalls
	Date	14/07/2018 - 20/08/2018 18/08/2018 - 07:00 to 20/08/2018 - 11:00
	Project	
	CaseNID	
	Coords	-29.807257, 30.755746

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SiteAutoID: 26366

CommonName:

Umhlatuzana rockshel...

Physical Type: Overhang

W(m):

43.00

D(m):

6.00

H(m):

16.00

BroadAgeCategory: MSA, LSA

Site Category: Archaeological

Directions:

Just North of N3 between Assagay offramp and Marianhill toll plaza; climb down immediately before bridge across Umhlatuzana river.

SiteComments:

Shallow rockshelter with deposits from the MSA and LSA; some thick-walled pottery on the surface; one figure, likely cattle observed on the rockface. Excavated by Jonathan Kaplan when the N3 highway was built in the 1980s. His trench and witness profiles have been damaged by vandalism in recent years. Esp. North profile severely undercut.

Stone Artefact Types: CCS, Hornfels, Quartz, Quartzite

StoneArtefactNotes:

Quartz, hornfels and quartzite are commonly used. CCS artefacts are rare. Our observations fit Kaplan's cultural stratigraphic determinations with the top of the MSA deposits yielding hollow-based points and the presence of a thick Robberg sequence.

Organic Artefact Types: Bone, Charcoal, Marine Shell

Manufactured Artefact Types: Beads, Ceramics

Deposit Info: Ash, Sandy

Deposit Depth: >1m

DepositComment:

The deposits are about 2.5 meters in depth. During the original excavation, no natural stratigraphy was observed in the Pleistocene part of the sequence (~0.75 - 2.5 meters below surface). Based on the type and abundance of inclusions and slight variations in colour we distinguished 15 stratigraphic units in this part of the sequence. Further investigation using micromorphological methods will be used to determine the character of the lower part of the sedimentary sequence in greater detail. The upper part of the sequence consists of a number of hearth features, ash patches and dug features. The sequence shows extensive signs of bioturbation.

Deposit Disturbance:

The old excavation trench was vandalised leading to severe undercutting of the North and to a lesser degree the East profiles. The trench had been backfilled with plastic sandbags, many of which had been damaged. We have stabilised the profiles by adding scaffolding. We have replaced the plastic sandbags with army-grade sandbags. Upon completion of the archaeological work, we have covered the profiles with geo-tex backfilled the trench with the new army-grade sandbags. We have covered the trench using local sediments so the location of the excavation is not visible to casual observers to attempt to preclude further vandalism.

Damage Types:

Details of Rock Art:

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SiteNo	9/2/403/0002
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One black drawing was observed it appears to depict cattle.