Field and Technical Report

EARLY FIRST MILLENNIUM PASTORALISTS ON KASTEELBERG? THE UB/UCT EXCAVATION AT KBA

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INTRODUCTION

KBA (32°48'50"S, 17°56'55"E) is an open-air archaeological site on the summit of Kasteelberg, west coast of South Africa (Fig. 1). In the 1980s and early 1990s members of the UCT Archaeology Department under the direction of Andrew Smith excavated 45 square metres at KBA (Smith 1987a: 30; 2006: 20–31). Two radiocarbon dates from two neighbouring square metres in the northwest corner of the site indicated the presence of sheep and pottery around 1800 years ago (Smith 1987b: 393; 2006: 70–71). This is often treated as the date when Khoekhoe pastoralists first reached the southwestern Cape (e.g. Klein 1986: 7, 10; Smith 2006: 70–71), even though direct dating of two bones from the same square and level as KBA's oldest date indicated the sheep were significantly younger (Sealy & Yates 1994).

A small, three by one metre trench excavated at KBA in 2000 by a joint team from the Universities of Botswana (UB) and Cape Town (UCT) provides no evidence for such an early occupation of the Kasteelberg hilltop by pastoralists, Khoekhoe or otherwise. The UB/UCT trench, only a few metres to the east of the squares that produced KBA's earliest dates, showed that the principal occupation of the site dates from the seventh to the twelfth centuries AD. Beneath this main occupation layer, faint traces point to an earlier occupation, which may indeed be associated with the early first millennium AD dates obtained in the UCT excavation. But these faint traces could just as well have been left behind by hunters-with-sheep.

KBA DATES

Smith (2006: table 4.2) has published a list of 12 radiocarbon dates from KBA, including two AMS dates on sheep bones obtained by Sealy and Yates (1994). For ease of reference, these 12 dates are reproduced here along with eight new dates from KBA (Table 1). Following the methodology of Aitken (1990: 111–113), the 20 dates can be statistically grouped into six coeval sets and two individual outliers (Table 2).

The earliest are three dates from the first half of the first millennium AD: Smith's two oldest (Pta-3461 & Pta-3711), and the older of the two AMS dates on sheep bones (OxA-3864). At the other extreme, the latest dates include a coeval set of three (Pta-4257, Pta-4337 & Pta-4340) whose weighted mean calibrates within the historic period. These recent dates may be associated with the glass bead and piece of iron found in the UCT excavation (Smith 2006: 29). There is also a pre-contact period outlier (Pta-5082) that dates from the mid 13th to the late 14th centuries AD. The remaining 13 dates from KBA fall into four coeval sets spanning the late first and the early second millennia AD. Given that these 13 dates come from bone, charcoal and shell samples, from both the UCT and UB/UCT excavations, as well as from surface collections of shell from four different parts of the site, it seems safe to say that the main occupation of KBA lasted from the early seventh to the late 12th centuries AD. The span of this main occupation perhaps can be divided in an earlier and a later phase, separated by the one or two century long gap between the two older and two younger weighted mean dates.

Not all the 20 dates from KBA are equally reliable. Only two of the KBA charcoal dates seem to have come from hearths

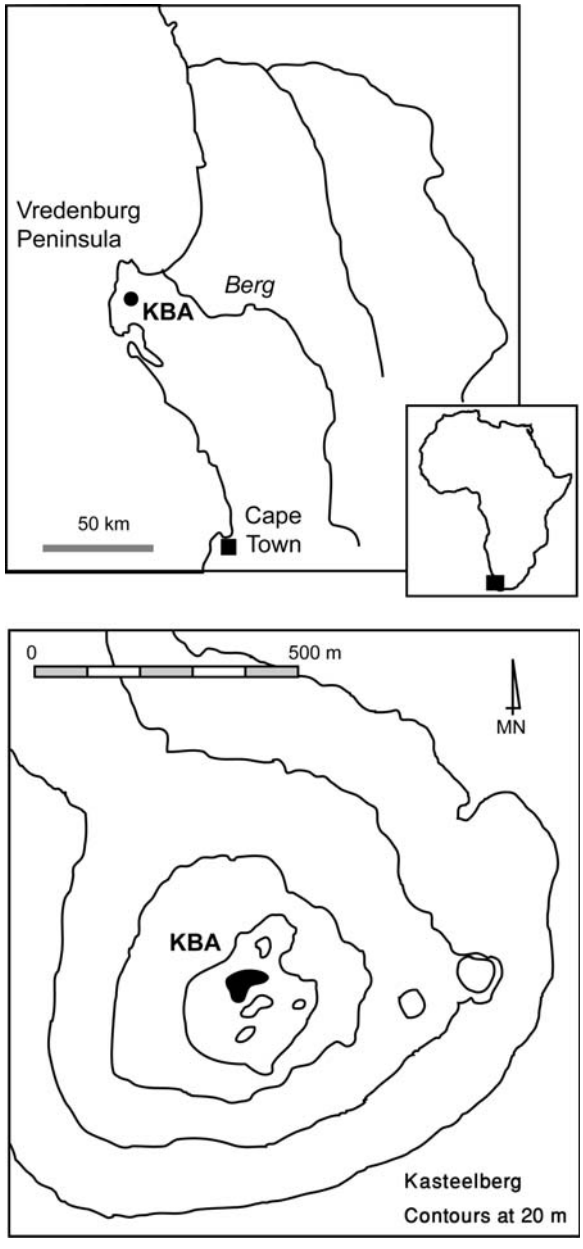

FIG. 1. *Map showing the location of site KBA Kasteelberg.*

TABLE 1. *All radiocarbon dates from KBA. Of the surface collected dates, the KBAw samples (Pta-8963 & Pta-9141) were collected about 30 m west and south of the UB/UCT trench. The KBA1 and KBA2 surface samples (Pta-9020 & Pta-9143) were collected from around 10 m west and 2 m south of square C19. Pta-8476 is a date for charcoal fragments combined from several excavated boxes in the lower half of the deposits in the UB/UCT trench. C = Charcoal; S = Shell; B = Bone. CAL FROM and CAL TO give the range of corrected and calibrated dates at 2 sigma. Dates have been corrected and calibrated using the software program CAL4H, developed by the Quaternary Dating Research Unit, CSIR, Tshwane (Pretoria) in June 1997 and updated in October 2001. The charcoal and bone dates were calibrated with SH98 Southern hemisphere data obtained from INTCAL98 (Stuiver* et al. *1998), adjusted by 40 years (Vogel* et al. *1993). For marine shell the WC93 South African West Coast marine calibration curve derived from Stuiver & Braziunas (1993) was utilized with a local correction of –400 years.*

Lab	Number	Square	Level	Material	Years BP	Sigma	CAL FROM	Midpoint	CAL TO	Reference
Pta-	3461	21a	50–60 cm	C	1790	40	214	257	397	Smith 2006: 24
Pta-	3711	A20	30 cm	C	1860	60	66	222	365	Smith 2006: 24
Pta-	4257	20b	LSSI	C	100	50	1678	1955	1955	Smith 2006: 24
Pta-	4336	20c	25 cm	C	970	50	1007	1097	1217	Smith 2006: 24
Pta-	4337	20b	18 cm	C	220	50	1643	1775	1954	Smith 2006: 24
Pta-	4340	20b	12 cm	C	140	50	1667	1883	1955	Smith 2006: 24
Pta-	5082	12a	9 cm	C	730	40	1266	1291	1390	Smith 2006: 24
Pta-	5085	12a	25 cm	C	970	50	1007	1097	1217	Smith 2006: 24
Pta-	5728	20c	50–60 cm	S	1810	50	660	731	851	Smith 2006: 24
Pta-	5937	A20	20–30 cm	C	1230	40	716	869	963	Smith 2006: 24
OxA-	3864	A20	20–30 cm	B	1630	60	348	438	607	Sealy & Yates 1994
OxA-	3865	A20	20–30 cm	B	1430	55	567	653	706	Sealy & Yates 1994
Pta-	8459	3	C3.2	S	1690	20	821	877	917	
Pta-	8461	3	C2.5	S	1570	60	877	1006	1103	
Pta-	8462	3	B1.11	S	1735	20	776	815	871	
Pta-	8476	1 & 2	Lower	C	1170	40	793	899	997	
Pta-	8963	KBAw1	Surface	S	1580	60	865	999	1085	
Pta-	9020	KBA1	Surface	S	1670	60	759	896	1019	
Pta-	9141	KBAw2	Surface	S	1420	70	1013	1158	1285	
Pta-	9143	KBA2	Surface	S	1590	70	821	990	1103	

(Pta-4257 and Pta-4336). The other charcoal samples all consist of pooled fragments each obtained from as much as a tenth of a cubic metre of deposit (A.B. Smith, pers. comm. 2007; R.Yates, pers. comm. 1997). Given the intense dune mole rat activity on archaeological sites in this area, it is difficult to place much confidence in dates from scattered charcoal fragments. Shell dates seem more reliable since burrowing rodents would probably not displace larger specimens. The marine shell from KBA has provided a tighter range of dates than the charcoal. They form a coeval set of five dates and three single outliers (Table 3). The three outliers overlap at two sigma and suggest a period of occupation from the mid-seventh to the early tenth centuries AD. The five coeval dates range from the mid-tenth to the mid-eleventh centuries.

STRATIGRAPHY IN THE UCT EXCAVATION

Smith (1987a: 28) noted that at KBA "…the strata are horizontal, and, […] there are basically three levels: a) surface to around 30 cm; b) 30–60 cm (these are the herder levels), and c) below 60 cm (the MSA level above bedrock)." The stratigraphic sequence, although not uniform over the entire site (Fig. 2), seems generally similar.

TABLE 2. *Weighted means of coeval radiocarbon dates from KBA.*

	Lab	Number	Years BP	Sigma	Mean years BP	Mean sigma	CAL FROM	Midpoint	CAL TO
	Pta-	4257	100	50	153	29	1675	1817	1955
	Pta-	4340	140	50					
	Pta-	4337	220	50					
	Pta-	5082	730	40			1266	1291	1390
	Pta-	4336	970	50	980	32	1018	1042	1178
	Pta-	5085	970	50					
	Pta-	9141	1020	70					
	Pta-	8476	1170	40	1172	29	869	898	985
	Pta-	8461	1170	60					
	Pta-	8963	1180	60					
	Pta-	9143	1190	70					
	Pta-	5937	1230	40					
	Pta-	9020	1270	60					
	Pta-	8459	1290	20	1312	14	691	747	774
	Pta-	8462	1335	20					
	Pta-	5728	1410	50	1419	37	622	657	688
	OxA-	3865	1430	55					
	OxA-	3864	1630	60			348	438	607
	Pta-	3461	1790	40	1812	33	157	247	355
	Pta-	3711	1860	60					

TABLE 3. *Marine shell dates from KBA and weighted mean of coeval set.*

Lab	Number	Years BP	Sigma	Mean years BP	Mean sigma	CAL FROM	Midpoint	CAL TO
Pta-	9141	1420	70	1573	28	948	1004	1039
Pta-	8461	1570	60					
Pta-	8963	1580	60					
Pta-	9143	1590	70					
Pta-	9020	1670	60					
Pta-	8459	1690	20			821	877	917
Pta-	8462	1735	20			776	815	871
Pta-	5728	1810	50			660	731	851

> From squares A2–A8 there is basically only one unit of a grey brown shell matrix to a maximum depth of 50 cm. From A9–A20 below the grey brown shell matrix at around 30 cm, there are loose, almost sterile gravels that become increasingly cemented with depth. The cemented gravels contain MSA stone tools and fossilized bone (Smith 2006: 20).

Smith (2006: 22) divides the stratigraphic sequence along the 13 line in three major units: a) humic matter to 25 cm and grey/brown loamy matrix to 40–50 cm; b) loose reddish gravels; c) cemented gravels. Around A20–22c, the same sequence exists but with finer distinctions recorded within the major units (Smith 1987a: fig. 9, p. 29). Excavators have remarked that these finer distinctions are difficult to differentiate (Smith 2006: 22). It is worth noting that Smith's two earliest dates, Pta-3711 and Pta-3461, came respectively from the interface and from well within the almost sterile, reddish, loose gravel layer.

THE UB/UCT EXCAVATION

The earlier UCT excavations were carried out principally in 10 cm spits, and occasionally in natural stratigraphic units. The later UB/UCT excavation of squares C17–C19 followed the method used by Sampson in the Seacow valley rock shelters (Sampson *et al.* 1989: 7). This is a refinement of the spit method, with the excavation units being 1/16th of a square metre (25 × 25 cm) and on average only about 3 cm deep. By plotting the artefact distributions across these stacked micro-spits, cultural stratigraphy can be reconstructed independent of the natural stratigraphy.

Once excavation of the UB/UCT trench was complete, its northern wall revealed three stratigraphic units (Fig. 3). A thick, middle stratum is easily distinguished by much fragmented shell. This shell-rich stratum could visually be subdivided in two, with the upper half being darker brown, and the lower being light brown-grey, presumably ashier. Faint soil and ash lenses could be vaguely discerned here and there but they were not coherent enough to map over the length of the profile. Above the shell-rich, thick middle stratum, a thin, grey, relatively shell-free layer of soil covered the western two metres (squares 1 & 2). Below the shell-rich stratum there was gritty, orange-hued sediment. This is equivalent to Smith's (2006: 20, 22) loose, reddish, almost sterile gravels. The orange-hued sediment at the bottom of the UB/UCT trench contained quite a few rocks up to cobble size. In plan view, their distribution across the base of the trench suggested part of an arc, but a test of whether they in fact form a feature would require significant lateral expansion of the trench. With depth, the orange sediment became more cemented and excavation ceased. This is the cemented deposit which reportedly contains MSA artefacts and fauna (Smith 2006: 20).

For the purpose of this paper, it will suffice to examine only the northernmost 25 cm wide excavated slice of the three-metre trench (slice 1). A complete report of the UB/UCT excavations on Kasteelberg is in preparation, which will include descriptions of the finds in the remaining three slices of KBA. The vertical distribution of artefacts and faunal remains in the slice 1 of the UB/UCT trench indicates one major cultural horizon, which corresponds to the shell-rich middle stratum noted in the trench profile. This is the main occupation of KBA, and the source of all the shell dates and some of those on charcoal and bone. In the excavated stacks of micro-spits, a narrow gap is visible in the vertical distribution of bone and marine shell within this main horizon, which allows a subdivision into an upper and a lower half.

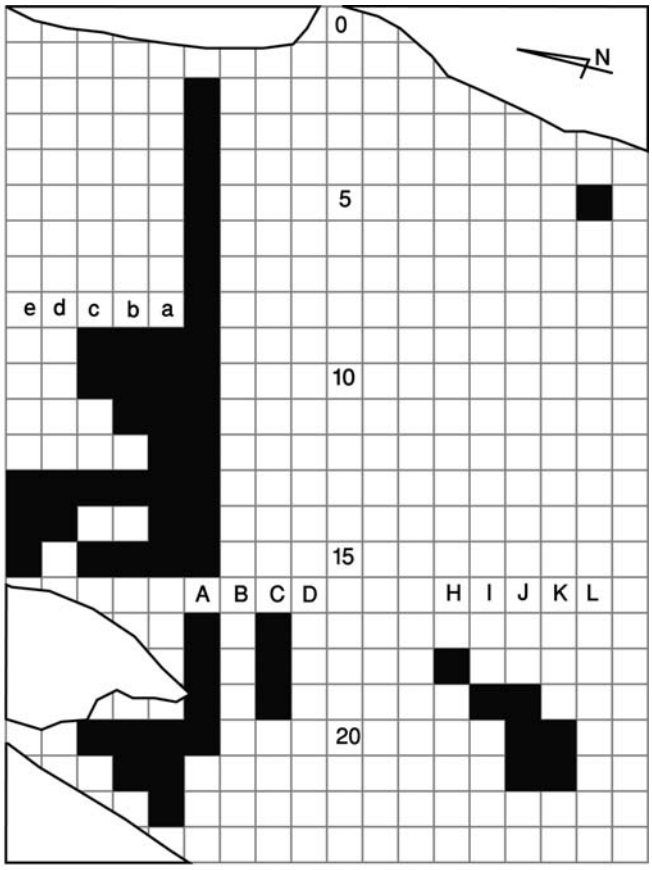

FIG. 2. *Alphanumeric grid and excavated squares at KBA.*

For clarity, the upper half of the main horizon is labelled layer 2 and the lower as layer 3 (Fig. 3). Layer 1 above and layer 4 below the main horizon contain very few cultural remains.

MARINE SHELL

Nearly 24 kg of marine shell was excavated from slice 1. The distribution of shell-rich boxes (i.e. the standard excavation units of 25 × 25 × ~3 cm with more than 50 g of shell/cm of

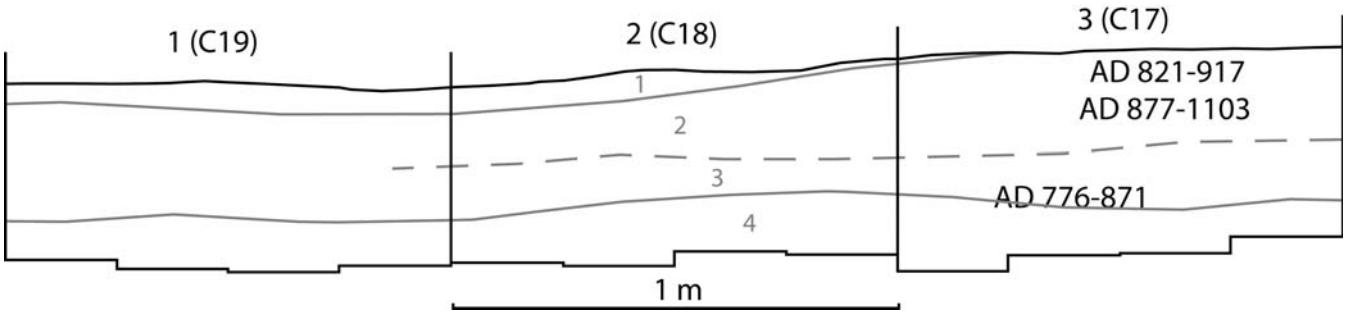

FIG. 3. *Profile of the north wall of the UB/UCT trench showing sedimentary strata and the four cultural layers. The three shell dates in square 3 show the corrected and calibrated range at two sigma.*

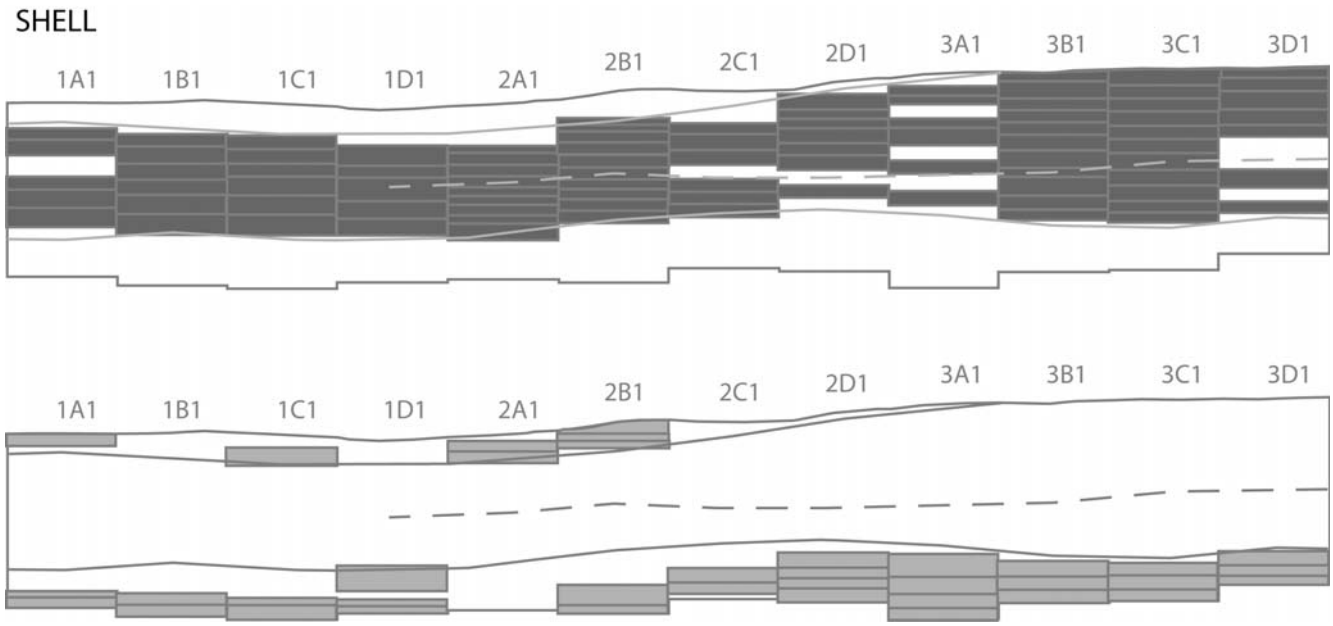

FIG. 4. *Above, the distribution of shell-rich (>50 g/cm) and, below, shell-poor (<20 g/cm) boxes in slice 1 of the UB/UCT trench.*

depth of deposit) provides a clear view of the main horizon at KBA. The inverse view is provided by the distribution of boxes containing less than 20 g/cm of shell, which all occur in layers 1 and 4 (Fig. 4).

Table 4 shows the distribution of marine shell by species. The top three layers contain similar proportions of species, but layer 4 is noticeably richer in black mussels at the expense of limpets. The relative homogeneity of the shell assemblage in the top three layers may indicate that the few shells in layer 1 were brought up from the shell-rich layers 2 and 3 by burrowing dune mole rats, which infest this landscape and contribute much to the vertical displacement of archaeological materials. This conclusion is supported by the four surface collected samples of shell which dated to the same period as the samples excavated from the main horizon (Tables 1 & 3). The small but distinct shell assemblage in layer 4, on the other hand, suggests a separate occupation preceding the main one in layers 2 and 3.

Three of the four radiocarbon dates obtained in the UB/UCT trench were from shell samples. Their distribution is projected onto the north wall profile in Fig. 3. At two standard deviations, these corrected and calibrated dates indicate that the lower half of the main horizon (layer 3) probably dates

TABLE 4. *Distribution of marine shell in layers 1–4, northernmost 25 cm slice of the UB/UCT trench. The black mussel count is only for the right or left valve, whichever was more numerous in that layer. The Limpets include* argenvillei, granatina, granularis, *and* barbara. *Whelks include* Bullia digitalis *and* Nucella lapillus. *Other includes* Oxystele *and unidentified shells.*

	Layers							
Marine shells	**1**	%	**2**	%	**3**	%	**4**	%
Black mussel, *Choromytilus meridionalis*	**56**	61.5	**640**	61.3	**469**	63.4	**138**	75.0
Limpets	**25**	27.5	**320**	30.7	**210**	28.4	**34**	18.5
Whelks	**7**	7.7	**60**	5.7	**42**	5.7	**9**	4.9
White mussel, *Donax serra*	**2**	2.2	**12**	1.1	**11**	1.5	**1**	0.5
Barnacle	**1**	1.1	**9**	0.9	**4**	0.5	**1**	0.5
Other	**0**	0.0	**3**	0.3	**4**	0.5	**1**	0.5
Total	**91**	100.0	**1044**	100.0	**740**	100.0	**184**	100.0

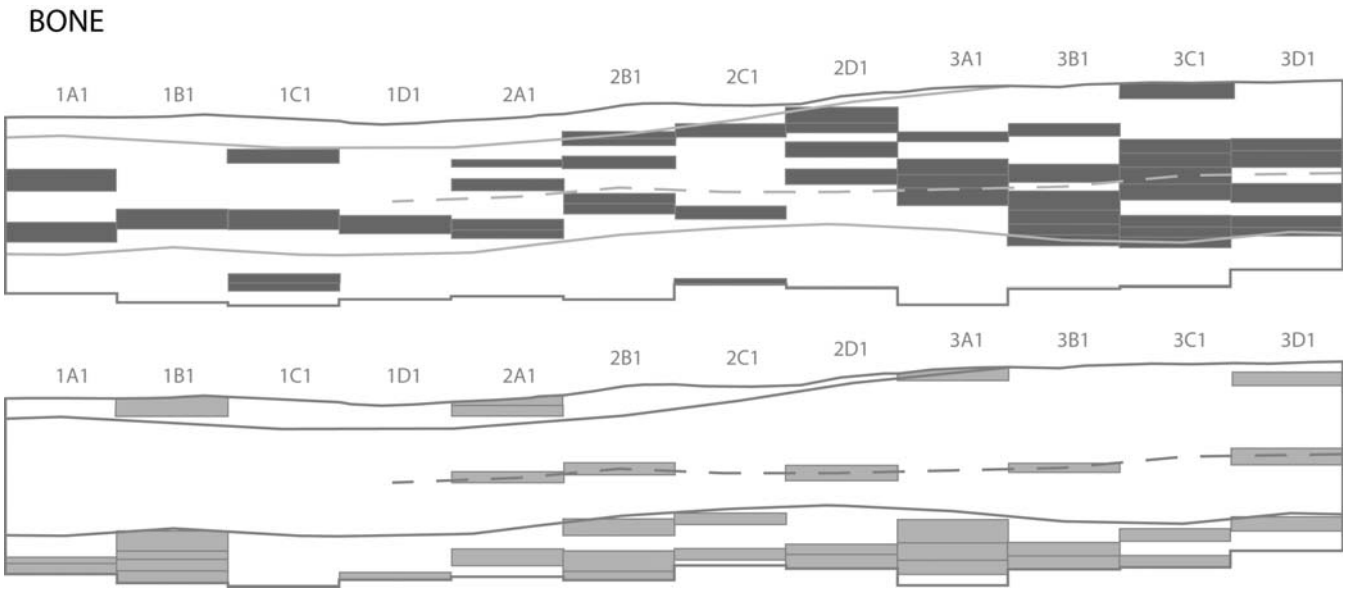

FIG. 5. *Above, the distribution of bone-rich (>2 g/cm) and, below, bone-poor (<0.5 g/cm) boxes in slice 1.*

somewhere between the late eighth to the late ninth centuries AD, and that the upper half (layer 2) falls within a range from the early ninth to the early 12th centuries.

BONE

Slightly more than half a kg of bone was obtained from slice 1. The distribution of bone-rich boxes (>2 g/cm depth) is similar to that for shell (Fig. 5). Nearly all the bone-rich boxes come from the middle two layers. The boxes with fewest bones (<0.5 g/cm) come from the top and bottom layers, as well as at the interface between layers 2 and 3.

As Table 5 shows, the main species represented in the faunal remains of this slice are seal, sheep and tortoise. Probably most of the small–medium bovid bones at KBA are from sheep (Klein & Cruz-Uribe 1989: 84). The samples of identified species in the top and bottom layers are too small to draw any reliable conclusions. The bones here may have originated from the main horizon, or may represent distinct *in situ* bone assemblages. Layers 2 and 3, however, contain statistically adequate bone samples. Layer 2 has a significantly higher proportion of tortoise bones, and a correspondingly lower proportion of sheep bones than layer 3. Whether this represents a regionally significant pattern reflecting, say, environmental change or changes in subsistence activities, or whether it represents a significant shift in site use from more feasting to less (see Sadr 2004), or whether it merely represents a small scale shift in the location of food preparation, consumption, and bone deposition areas in this part of KBA, cannot be ascertained without comparing these results to the much larger bone assemblage obtained in the UCT excavation. Alas, this cannot be done from the published reports which count only the mammalian sample and lump these regardless of their depth in the deposits (Klein & Cruz-Uribe 1989; Smith 2006: table 4.5).

CHARCOAL

Only 21.1 g of charcoal were retrieved from slice 1, and most came from the lower half of the trench (Fig. 6). Given that the charcoal distribution straddles the boundary between

TABLE 5. *Number of identified individual bone specimens in slice 1.*

		Layers							
Species		**1**	%	**2**	%	**3**	%	**4**	%
	Hare					**3**	2.0		
	Rodent					**3**	2.0		
	Small carnivore			**1**	0.7				
Procavia capensis	Hyrax			**1**	0.7				
Arctocephalus pusillus	Seal	**1**	14.3	**12**	8.8	**17**	11.2	**2**	10.0
Sylvicapra grimmia	Duiker			**1**	0.7				
Raphicerus	Steenbok					**2**	1.3		
Ovis aries	Sheep			**11**	8.0	**19**	12.5		
Bos taurus	Cow			**2**	1.5	**3**	2.0		
Bov I	Small bovid			**4**	2.9	**5**	3.3	**1**	5.0
Bov II	Small–medium bovid	**1**	14.3	**7**	5.1	**22**	14.5	**3**	15.0
Bov III	Medium bovid					**1**	0.7		
Hippopotamus amphibius	Hippo					**1**	*0.7*		
Chersina angulata	Tortoise	**5**	71.4	**94**	68.6	**64**	42.1	**12**	60.0
Jasus lalandii	Crayfish			**2**	1.5	**1**	0.7	**1**	5.0
	Marine fish			**2**	1.5	**5**	3.3	**1**	5.0
	Bird					**6**	3.9		
Total		**7**	100.0	**137**	100.0	**152**	100.0	**20**	100.0

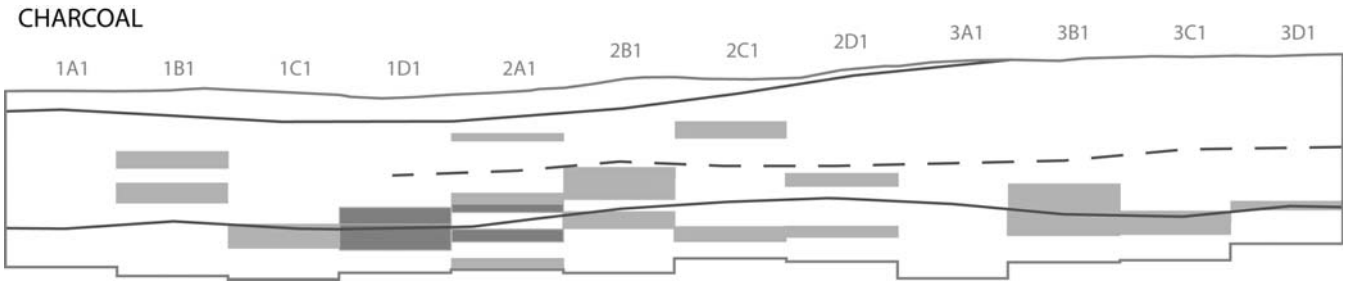

FIG. 6. *Distribution of boxes with >0.1 g of charcoal. Darker boxes contributed to dated sample.*

layers 3 and 4, and that there seems in general to have been more human activity here in layer 3 times than in 4, it seems probable that the charcoal originated in the lower part of layer 3 and subsequently smeared into the higher and lower sediments through rodent activity and trampling. To obtain a conventional radiocarbon date, scattered charcoal fragments from 13 boxes in eight stacks from across all four slices were pooled into one sample (Pta-8476). Figure 6 shows only the slice 1 boxes that contributed to this pooled sample. This calibrated charcoal date spans the late eighth to the late tenth centuries AD, and thus matches the shell dates from the main occupation unit.

TABLE 6. *Distribution and density of potsherds in slice 1.*

	Layers			
	1	2	3	4
Undecorated sherds	10	67	36	9
SPIMP		3	1	
SPINC		1		
Cubic m of deposits in layer	0.031	0.114	0.086	0.085
sherds/cubic m	320	624	429	106

POTSHERDS

The vast majority of all diagnostic potsherds excavated over the years from KBA are from spouted vessels decorated with shell-edge impressions on the rim (type SPIMP) or with broad incised lines on the rim and neck of the vessel (type SPINC) (Sadr *et al.* 2003: 29). These types were previously labelled lower-KBB and KBA styles (Sadr & Smith 1991). On Kasteelberg, the spouted pots date to the second half of the first millennium AD and perhaps the first century or two of the second (Sadr *et al.* 2003: 29). The succeeding ceramic type was lugged and undecorated (type LUND) (Sadr & Smith 1991). LUND is thought to date within the first half of the second millennium AD. A few diagnostic LUND potsherds (lug fragments and flat-top rims indicating vessel diameters greater than 10 cm) are found at KBA (Sadr & Smith 1991: Fig. 3; Smith 2006: 24).

A total of 127 potsherds were retrieved from slice 1. They occur in all four layers, but the majority come from the main horizon and then mostly from layer 2 (Table 6). Five of the potsherds are decorated, four SPIMP and one SPINC. All five are from the main horizon, four in layer 2 and one in layer 3 (Fig. 7). It is unclear whether the few sherds in layers 1 and 4 are intrusive or not: refitting the potsherds might shed some light on this.

LITHICS

There is very little flaked stone at KBA (Smith 2006: 24, tables 4.3 & 4.4). A total of 44 flaked stones and one piece of ochre were retrieved from slice 1, two-thirds of them from layers 3 and 4 (Table 7). It is difficult to judge whether the flaked stones in layer 1 were brought up from layer 2. In layer 4, a third of the flaked pieces (all silcrete) are from the Middle Stone Age. These may have been scraped up from the cemented deposits at the base of the trench, or they may represent a re-utilization of ancient flakes collected elsewhere. It is worth noting that the only formal tools in slice 1 come from layer 4. As for the main horizon, considering the large numbers of animal bones, it is surprising to see so few sharp-edged pieces of flaked stone, but butchery may have taken place elsewhere. This paucity of lithics contributed to the interpretation of KBA as a possible feasting site (Sadr 2004: 174–175).

BEADS

Slice 1 produced 21 whole and broken ostrich eggshell beads (Fig. 8). Layer 1 contained none and layer 4 only two. It is not possible to determine whether the beads in layer 4 are intrusive. Seventeen of the beads could be measured for external diameter and 12 for aperture diameter (Table 8). The average external diameter is 6.9 mm, and none of the beads are less than 5 mm in diameter.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The northernmost 25 cm-wide slice of the UB/UCT trench sheds some light on the cultural stratigraphy of site KBA. It suggests that the controversial early first millennium AD dates obtained in the UCT excavation may indeed refer to the earliest

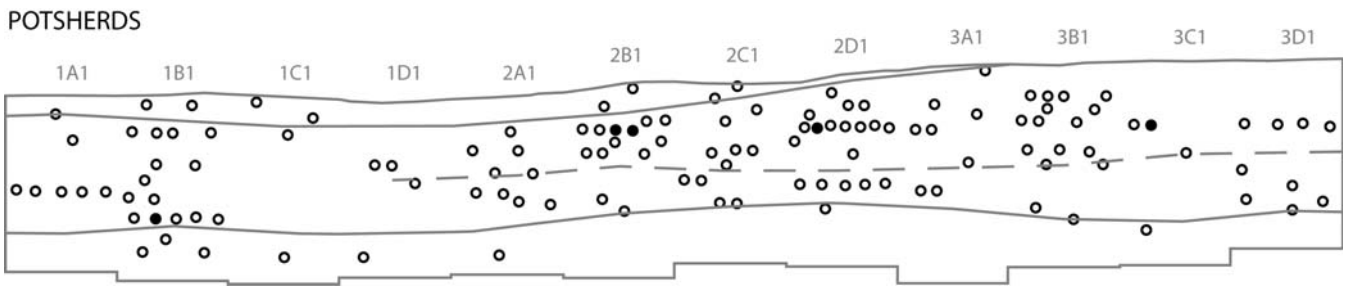

FIG. 7. *Distribution of potsherds in slice 1. Filled circles are decorated sherds.*

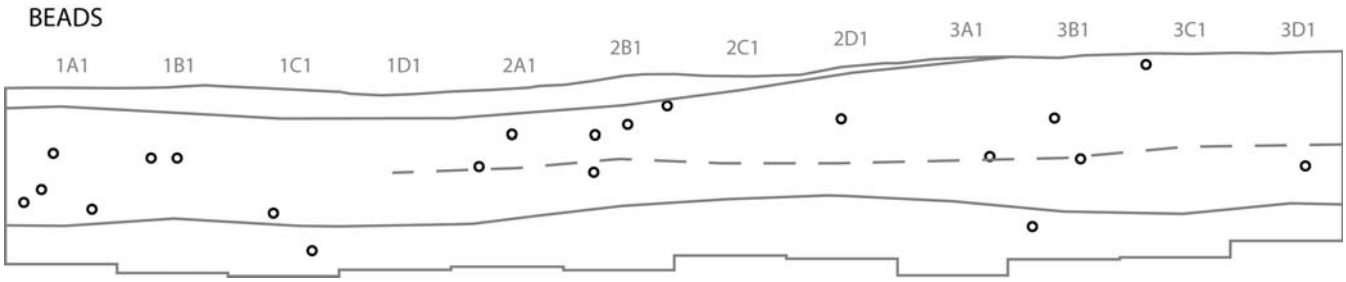

FIG. 8. *Distribution of ostrich eggshell beads in slice 1.*

TABLE 7. *Distribution of lithics in slice 1.*

	Layers			
	1	2	3	4
Typology				
Bipolar core	1	1	2	
Irregular core		1		
Sidescraper				1
Utilized piece		1	1	1
Flake		2	1	2
Chunk	1	4	6	2
Chip	2		4	4
MSA flake			1	
MSA chunk				4
MSA formal tool				1
Mill-edged pebble			1	
Total	4	9	16	15
Raw material				
Quartz	4	6	13	9
Silcrete		1		5
Quartzite			2	
Other		2	1	1
Ochre				1
Total	**4**	**9**	**16**	**16**

TABLE 8. *Diameters of ostrich eggshell beads from slice 1.*

Layer	External (mm)	Aperture (mm)
2	7.84	2.72
2	7.57	3.11
2	5.34	2.57
2	7.19	broken
2	5.69	2.74
2	8.48	2.30
2	8.46	broken
2	5.78	2.71
2	6.02	broken
2	6.19	2.49
2	7.84	3.12
3	7.02	3.39
3	5.24	2.33
3	5.00	2.16
3	6.30	broken
3	8.79	broken
4	8.24	2.48
Mean	**6.88**	**2.68**
n	**17**	**12**

LSA level at the site, but there is no evidence to indicate that it was an occupation by pastoralists, Khoekhoe or otherwise (Smith 2006: 70).

The natural stratigraphy visible in the north wall of the UB/UCT trench, the materials found in the northernmost slice, and the radiocarbon dates all point to one principal, shell-, bone- and potsherd-rich occupation horizon at KBA with dates from the seventh to the twelfth centuries AD. The top layer in this trench does not seem to represent an occupation horizon: the cultural material in layer 1 may well have been brought up by burrowing rodents. Earlier excavations had provided some charcoal dates from the historic period, but there are few material remains at KBA that can be associated with that period (Smith 2006: 29), and none were recovered in the UB/UCT trench.

The LSA occupation in the orange-hued gritty sediment beneath the main horizon in the UB/UCT trench may be associated with the two earliest dates obtained in the UCT excavations. Its marine shell assemblage differs significantly from that in the main horizon, so these are unlikely to have simply filtered down. There are a few potsherds in the lowest layer, but none are diagnostic. Of the two ostrich eggshell beads found in this layer, one is over 8 mm in diameter. The lithics from this layer contain a significant proportion of MSA pieces on silcrete. The only formal tools from the northernmost slice come from this bottom layer.

The paucity of cultural materials in this lowest layer of the UB/UCT trench, which nevertheless includes a few sheep bones, undecorated potsherds, large ostrich eggshell beads, formal stone tools including possibly re-utilized MSA pieces on silcrete, all recall the early first millennium materials from sites KBG and KBM, located about three hundred metres to the northeast and southeast of KBA. These two occupations have been interpreted as sites of local hunters-with-sheep (Sadr *et al.* 2003). In view of their proximity, it would not be surprising to find low-density remains of their ephemeral camps atop Kasteelberg as well. As such, the lowest level in the UB/UCT trench lends no support to the proposition that 'Khoekhoe pastoralists' occupied KBA in the early first millennium AD.

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