

**REPORT ON GRAFFITI REMOVAL FROM ROCK ART SITES ON FARM
MATJIESRIVIER, CLANWILLIAM DISTRICT**

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Following an inspection of rock art sites on the property known as Matjiesrivier in the Clanwilliam District in October 1994 at the request of Bernard de Witt, Cape Nature Conservation, Bellville, a report with management proposals was submitted. The NMC recommendation to remove graffiti from the Olifantgrot near the Stadsaal and from a rock shelter on Truitjieskraal, labelled Truitjieskraal 1 was accepted. During the visit a third shelter, labelled Truitjieskraal 2, was located but the graffiti were not removed.

A team of twelve completed the work over the weekend of 12/13 November with the assistance of Stephen Bassett who loaned his generator and air compressor. The team included Stephen Bassett, Janette Deacon, Toby Durden, Peter Farmer, Anthony Hannival, David Hart, Ron Martin, Shireen Martin, Morris Nojoko, Collette Pietersen, Benedict Rogers, Jennifer Wallis and Mr Jan Zimmi from the Algeria Forest Station who conducted us to Truitjieskraal on Sunday morning. Accommodation was provided at Matjiesrivier by kind permission of Cape Nature Conservation. Transport and subsistence costs were met by a grant to Janette Deacon from the Swan Fund.

OLIFANTGROT

Work at the site, situated at approximately 32.30.83S, 19.18.77E, commenced at about 13:15 and was completed at about 16:30 on Saturday 12 November. On arrival it was noted that there was a hole in the fence. I did not recall seeing it there two weeks previously. The existing noticeboard is only loosely supported by rocks and should be replaced as soon as possible.

We were impressed by the number of people who visited the site while we were there. On the Saturday and Sunday we saw at least eight vehicles, each with between two and eight people.

A plan of the site was drawn to scale and all the discernible graffiti were recorded. The shelter is about 10,5 m wide across the mouth and about 6 m from the mouth to the back wall at the centre. From the right-hand (southern) side of the shelter the wall was marked into blocks 1 m wide. The following names, dates and initials were discernible and are listed per block:

Block 0-1:

LOB J.L.V B 13.13
E. HES, S HES P ? VV I

MAR 1987

GEFH

Simon Maxwell 1.8.44

Block 1-2

Nurder Spa

Ernst Nieuwoudt

TIOVEYS 2/10/16
19/17

D. Cuthbert Stellenbosch 19/1/27

EWK

T THEART 26/2/64

H Panter

Holmes

Outline drawing of comic figure with hat

Outline drawing of an insect (?)

Block 2-3

W du Toit

J Schmolke

Annie Nieuwoudt

Minnie Theron

P Schmolke

E Nieuwoudt

3.11.1908

Crude drawing of a face in klipsweet

S Kla

K Ber

W. OATH 6/7/16

HA

G N Ester

A M Martinson

Block 3-4

Jaco Malherbe 1918

Johanna Malherbe (or possibly Wallace??)

M Walters Piquetberg 18.12.08

P J Nieuwoudt Darling 1918

Linde 1928

M E Ballie 28/6/14

P I N 12/1/21

J G L

Block 4-5

J.B.
FOOL
G WEJAM 20/ /14

Block 5-6

C.W.A.
C A Visser 6.7.16 (in klipsweet)
#+

All the rock paintings are in blocks 6-10.

As most graffiti were done with paint, crayon and klipsweet, all were removed by sand blasting with the air compressor. No graffiti were found to overlie rock paintings. Commercial grit was used as well as sand sieved from the road below the shelter. As the rock surface is dense and hard, it was not necessary to reintegrate patches where paint had been removed. Colour prints and slides were taken of each panel before and after graffiti removal.

ADDITIONAL SITES IN VICINITY OF OLIFANTGROT

After completing the graffiti removal we visited two further sites that had been located by our team.

The first is in the same rock outcrop as the Olifantgrot and is on the south-east-facing side, a little lower than the main site. The GPS position was recorded as 32.30.81S, 19.18.80E. The paintings include a fine bichrome eland and an exceptionally tall human figure in maroon with a white face. No graffiti were seen here.

The second site is to the north at position 32.30.77S, 18.18.65E. It includes a number of small monochrome red human figures, an eland with the back outlined in white, and red antelope. Paintings in parts of the shelter are covered with natural salts. There were no graffiti in evidence.

As they seem to be seldom visited, it is recommended that these two sites should not be advertised to the public as attractions. If the Olifantgrot is well signposted and protected, it will discourage all but the most enthusiastic visitors from exploring further.

TRUITJIESKRAAL 1

The site visited in October with Bernard de Witt and others was recorded on 13 November at position 32.32.63S, 19.19.64E. A plan of the shelter was made and the existing graffiti were recorded. The width of the mouth of the shelter is about 9,5 m and the maximum depth from the mouth to the back wall is 6,5 m. The shelter wall was marked off into 14 x 1 m blocks from south to north and the following discernible graffiti were recorded. All were in charcoal unless otherwise stated.

Blocks 0-3

AC S 191
--inbel 91
1966 Sondag

Blocks 3-6

Denzil 1978
H Bosman

Blocks 6-9

E Wagener
CC
W
EW

Blocks 9-12

Arthur 1977 (in klipswaat)
1975 (drawn in red ochre with lines)
1971
BH
Crude human figure

Block 12-13

A Conradie	In
W. Hough	white
G. Wagener	paint
15.8.31	

The charcoal was removed with rolling poultices and distilled water. Sand blasting was used only for the klipswaat and painted signs. Paintings alongside these were covered with tracing film to protect them from the sand blasting. A photographic record was made before and after the removal of the graffiti with colour prints and slides.

TRUITJIESKRAAL 2

On information received from Mrs Olive Nieuwoudt, we searched for a rock shelter said to be 'below the Stadsaal'. A path and stone cairns were found in the vicinity and a rock shelter with paintings and graffiti was located at 32.31.58, 19.18.95. The paintings are clearer and in many ways more interesting than those at Truitjieskraal 1. They include a long line of running male figures with bows, bichrome eland and bags. There are charcoal, klipswaat and black painted graffiti, including the name of Carl Leipoldt 1918 and another date of 1947. As the shelter is clearly visited fairly often, it could be included in those to be shown to school groups. The graffiti will be removed on another occasion.