

# **Strathalan Cave Excavation Project**

## **Annual Report for 2022**

Permit Number: APM-BG/22/03/001

SAHRIS Case ID: 141599

Author of report: Dr Jerome Reynard

Date of report: 26 March 2023

Name of SAHRA permit officers on permit: Sello Pitso

Date of permit issue: 15 March 2022

Report due date: February 2023

Expiry date of permit: April 2025

Permit Holder - as on permit (name and affiliation): Dr Jerome Reynard

Permit To (names and affiliations of researchers): Jerome Reynard, University of the Witwatersrand

Name of locality/site(s): Strathalan Cave

### **Executive Summary**

Between 29 September and 3 October 2022, Strathalan Cave A, B and C was surveyed and plotted using a total station. This was done to establish a spatial reference for future excavations and to allow high-resolution spatial documentation in any area of the shelter complex. Backsights were marked and plotted on various surfaces around the main shelter and inside the three caves to allow the total station to be set up anywhere in the shelter. Where possible, surviving grid markers from the Opperman excavations in Caves A and B were plotted to allow the integration of the existing excavation grids into the new coordinate system and any future excavation grid. No excavations took place, and no archaeological material was removed from the sites. A test excavation will be conducted in 2023.

SAHRIS Object or Site Links: N/A

Location Details:

- Location name(s): Strathalan Cave A and Cave B
- GPS coordinates: 30°59'22.81"S; 28°23'18.59"E (Fig.1)
- Adequate mapping: See Appendix 1. Map number 3028CD

- Nearest town: Nqanqarhu (Maclear)
- Local District: Joe Gqabi
- Magisterial District: Maclear
- Province: Eastern Cape
- Approximate age of materials: Cave A is dated from c. 10,000 – 2,000 years ago. Cave B is dated from c. 29,000 – 22,000 years ago. Cave C is undated.



*Fig. 1: Strathalan Cave and the local geomorphological context. White bar = 500 metres*

List of all Participating Researchers: Dr Jerome Reynard (PI), Prof. Dominic Stratford & Mr Peter Morrissey.

Curation of Materials:

Archaeological Research Collections and Excavations:

<b>Responsible person 1</b>	Jerome Reynard
<b>Responsible person 2</b>	Dominic Stratford
<b>Responsible person 3</b>	Peter Morrissey
<b>Duration of field work</b>	29 September – 3 October 2022
<b>Excavation equipment used</b>	Trimble C5 total station

(e.g., trowels, picks, chisels, total station, screen mesh sizes)	
<b>Indication of volume excavated</b> numbers or names of stratigraphic units removed, approximate volume excavated (estimated bucket count)	None
<b>Samples</b> provide a list of all samples taken and what analysis is planned to be carried out. (e.g. charcoal samples taken for radio-carbon dating, samples and placement of scimitars for TL dating) and (photo)graphic images.	None
<b>Description of work/methodology</b> excavation strategy, recording techniques used etc.	Strathalan Cave A, B and C was surveyed using a Trimble C5 total station. Backsites were plotted throughout the shelter (Fig. 2). Details of the survey procedure can be found in the attached submitted paper. No excavation took place.
<b>Site management</b> and conservation measures put in place between field seasons and site closure procedures. (erosion control, site rehabilitation etc.)	No excavation occurred so no site rehabilitation was undertaken. Thicket and bushes near the entrance to the site were trimmed for ease of access.

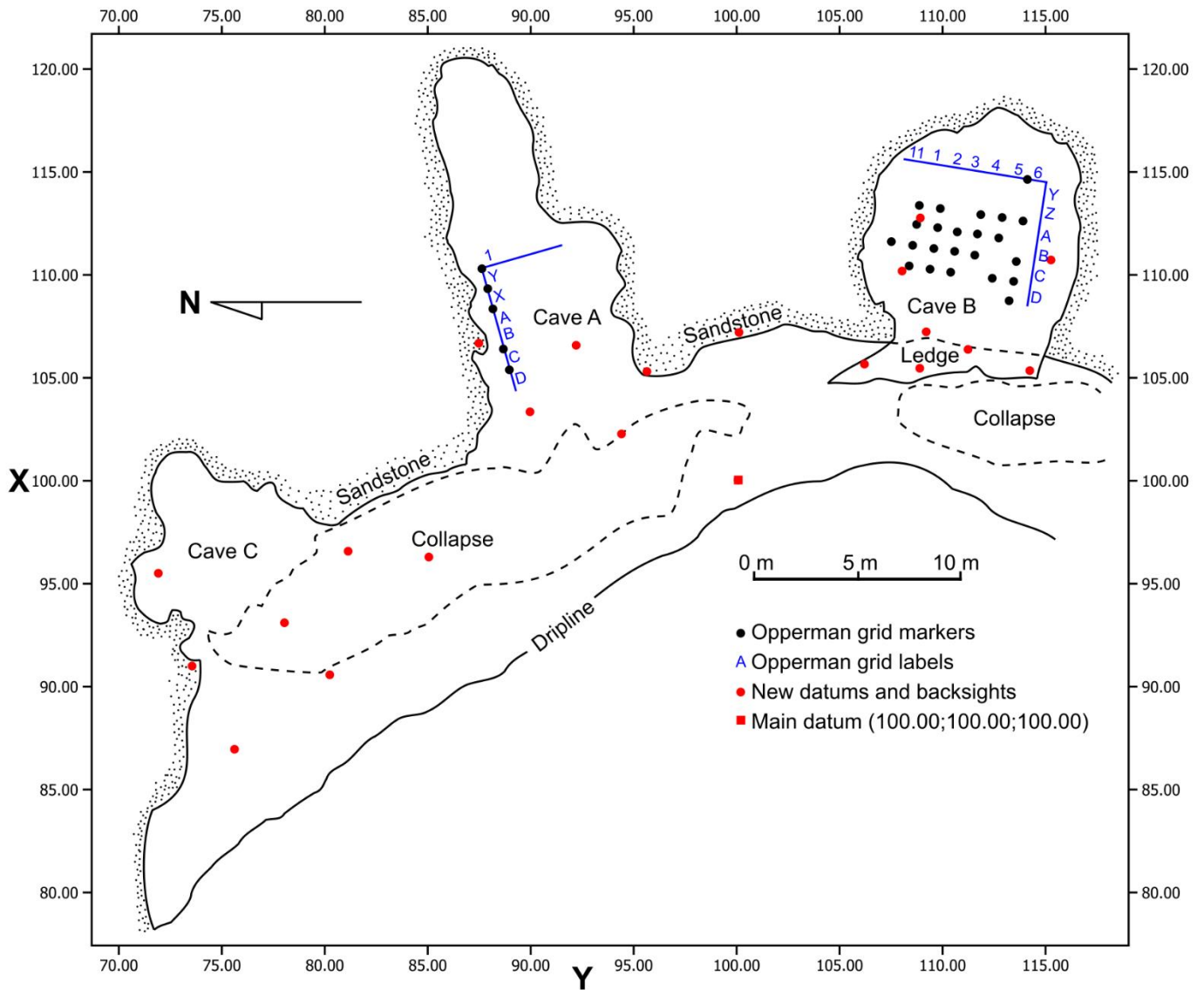


Fig. 2: Site map with grid-markers plotted during the survey

**Appendix:**

Additional documents attached to this report include a geographic map of the region (Appendix 1), a and a paper submitted to the African Archaeological Review journal.