

Ref: Motivation Perdeby Shelter Excavation

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SAHRA

To whom it may concern

Description:

Application for the test excavation of Perdeby Rock Shelter on the farm Oog van Malmanie 333 JP, Mafikeng District, North West Province.

Motivation:

Perdeby Rock Shelter is located at 25°49'44.73"S; 26° 3'14.06"E. The property is managed and owned by North West Parks board, who has granted permission for the excavation.

Site description:

Perdeby Rock Shelter is a small shelter with mostly LSA stone tools and ostrich eggshell fragments on the surface. Isolated MSA material outside of the drip line of the shelter could indicate an earlier occupation as well. The shelter is approximately three meters deep and approximately 8 meters wide. In the context of western portion of the trans-Vaal Highveld, the site is unique as almost no shelters or cave sites are known from the area. Furthermore the archaeological deposit seems to be in tact with very little surface disturbance. The closest Stone Age sites that have been reported on are to the south west of Baberspan at Kathu Pan (Wilkins, 2012; Wilkins & Chazan, 2012) and Taung (DACERD, 2003).

Excavation method: The excavation will be exploratory to establish the potential of the site. A one by two metre trench will be located from the back of the shelter towards the drip line. Each metre square will be subdivided into 50 cm quadrants and material excavated will be bagged by quadrant. Mapping and piece plotting will be done with a total station, so that all x, y and z co-ordinates of artefacts and features are mapped. Sediments will be excavated stratigraphically. All sediments will be screened through 2 mm and 1 mm mesh to recover potential botanical remains as well as lithics and bone. Sediment samples will be collected for optically stimulated luminescence dating. Sediment samples will also be collected for phytolith analysis. For the technological component of the project, lithic attribute analysis will follow Wilkins, *et al.* (2014) this will allow comparison with other coastal and interior sites e.g. Pinnacle Point at Mossel Bay and Kathu Pan close to Kuruman. Curation of sampled material will be housed in the Ditsong National Museum of Cultural History.

Kind regards



Jaco van der Walt

Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting CC (HCAC)