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A REPORT ON THE EXCAVATIONS AT FARAOSKOP ROCK SHELTER IN THE GRAAFWATER DISTRICT OF THE SOUTH-WESTERN CAPE*

ANTHONY MANHIRE

Spatial Archaeology Research Unit,
Department of Archaeology,
University of Cape Town,
Rondebosch, 7700

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ABSTRACT

The results from excavations at Faraoskop Rock Shelter in the south-western Cape are described. The site was occupied during the late Pleistocene and again during the mid to late Holocene. The bulk of the deposits date from the late Pleistocene occupation and are separated from the later deposits by a hiatus of some 6000 years. The changes in the role of the site through time are examined using the artefactual and faunal assemblages and comparisons are drawn with similar sequences in the south-western Cape. Attention is given to the special finds and to the 12 human burials recovered from the site.

INTRODUCTION

Background

The excavations at Faraoskop Rock Shelter began as a rescue operation, prompted by a report from Dr J. Deacon of the National Monuments Council that a large number of human skeletons had been removed from a cave in the Graafwater district. When the exact location of the rock shelter was finally established a preliminary excavation was undertaken by Lita Webley and myself in 1987. Our objectives were to assess the state of damage at the site, establish the basic chronological sequence of the deposits and, if possible, learn something of the context of the human burials previously removed from the shelter. Although the shelter floor had been subjected to a series of informal diggings the site had obvious potential and a more extensive excavation was carried out the following year by Royden Yates and myself.

Site details

Faraoskop Rock Shelter (32.07.31S; 18.36.52E) is situated on the koppie of the same name 3 km NNE of Graafwater (Fig. 1). The rock shelter is located on the boundary line between the farms Hoekfontein and Melkbosfontein. The actual name, Faraoskop, is distinctly unusual and its exact meaning proved elusive. One possibility is that the name refers to a local Khoi person although local opinion favoured the notion that the shape of the koppie resembled the double-crowned head-dress (or pschent) worn by the Pharaohs of ancient Egypt.

Faraoskop Rock Shelter is situated on the highest ridge of the koppie at an altitude of 300 m. It faces west across the coastal plain towards the sea which is clearly visible 30 km away. It commands an exceptional view of the plains which are at an altitude of about 180 m in the vicinity of Graafwater. A small seasonal stream, Peddie's River, flows past the foot of the koppie and joins the Jakkalsrivier just to the south of Graafwater. The Jakkalsrivier is today the only permanent natural water source in the area.

Faraoskop is situationally part of a line of hills and escarpments, running approximately NW/SE, which form an outlying component of the Cape Fold Belt mountains. Geologically they are Table Mountain Group quartzitic sandstone. The extensive coastal plain is composed of sandy soils of Tertiary to Recent origin (Visser & Theron 1973). In terms of vegetation the whole area falls within the fynbos biome whilst Faraoskop is on the boundary zone between dry mountain fynbos and sandy plain fynbos. Karroid shrublands are located to the north of Graafwater (Acocks 1975).

Faraoskop Rock Shelter is 6 m wide, 8 m deep with a maximum height of 4 m at the front of the shelter. There are no rock paintings in the shelter or in the immediate vicinity although numerous rock art sites exist to the south-east of Graafwater where the Jakkalsrivier passes close to the escarpment.

EXCAVATION

The choice of where to excavate was compromised by the fact that the deposits at the back of the shelter had been removed to the level of bedrock and a smaller hole dug

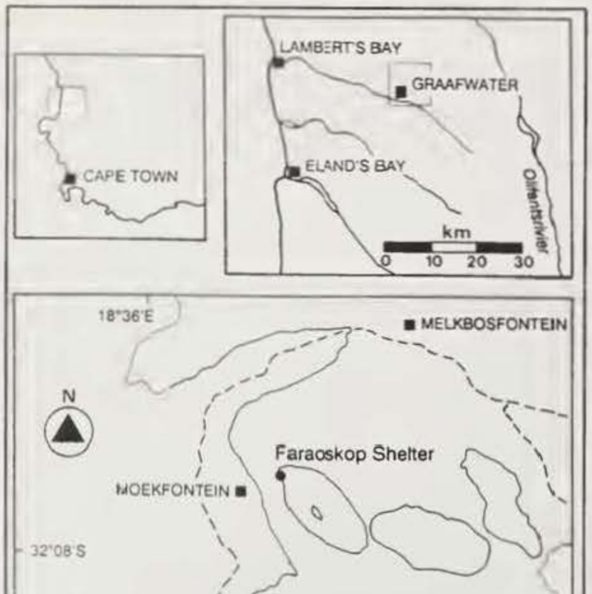

Fig. 1. The location of Faraoskop Rock Shelter in the south-western Cape.

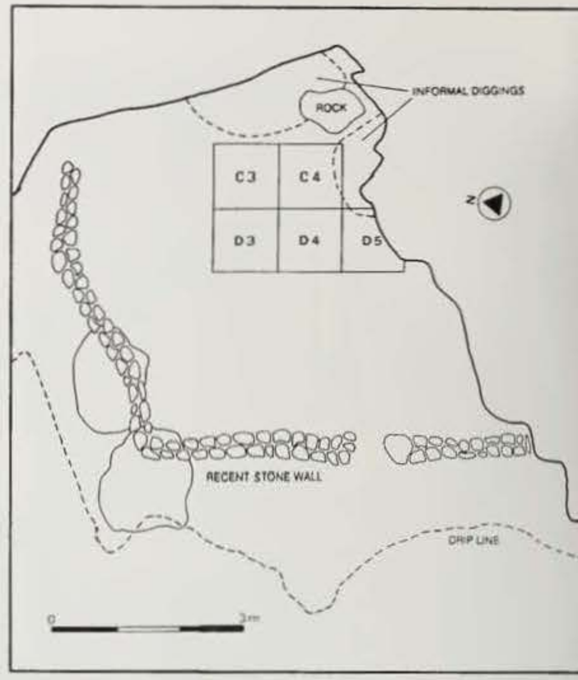

Fig. 2. Faraoskop Rock Shelter: site plan and location of the excavation areas.

next to the southern wall (Fig. 2). Furthermore, the whole surface was in a disturbed condition and material from the holes spread across the floor of the shelter in a series of dumps. Prior to excavating, these were systematically removed and sieved, using a 1 mm mesh sieve, to conserve any cultural material or bone and the excavation undertaken as near as possible to the existing holes.

In all, five square metres were excavated. Two of the squares (C3 & D3) were taken to bedrock with a maximum depth of 0.85 m being reached in square D3. Wherever possible the site was excavated according to the natural stratigraphy except in some of the larger units where 50 mm spits were employed.

A total of twelve human burials were recovered from the site. These included the seven individuals previously removed from the back of the shelter as well as a further five individuals recovered during the 1987 excavation in a partly disturbed context from the hole by the south wall. The site may well contain more human remains, the most likely location being in the north-east corner of the shelter where the back wall overhangs the deposit.

Description of stratigraphy

Five major depositional layers were identified from the excavation. Layer 1 was present in all five squares whilst layer 2 was excavated in all the squares except D5. Layer 3 was almost entirely restricted to square D3 and layers 4 and 5 were only removed from squares C3 and D3, the squares excavated to bedrock. The names of the units are listed in Table 1 with the stratigraphic relationships shown in Figure 3.

Table 1. Names of units.

LAYER 1
Ashy Vegetation (AV)
Brown Ashy Vegetation (BAV)
Base of GAS (BGAS)
Bedding Patch (BP)
Grassy Ashy Soil (GAS)
Grass Patch (GP)
Grass Pit (GPIT)
Loose Sand with Vegetation (LSV)
Vegetation Hearths (VH)
Surface (SURF)
Surface Sand with Hearths (SSH)

LAYER 2
Base of MAC (BMAC)
Basin below MAC (BbMAC)
Brown Ash (BA)
Hard Cream Ash (HCA)
Hearth 4 Cream Ash (H4 (CA))
Hearth 4 Grey Ash (H4(GA))
Light Brown Ash (LBA)
Grass Lining to BbMAC (GL/BbMAC)
Main Ash Concentration (MAC)
MAC Cream (MAC(C))
MAC Hearth 1 (MAC(H1))
MAC Hearth 2 (MAC(H2))
MAC Hearth 3 (MAC(H3))
Top of Brown Ash (TBA)
Vegetation Bone Sand (VBS)

LAYER 3
Consolidated Brown Ash (CBA)

LAYER 4
Ashy Brown Soil (ABS)
Brown Organic Soil (BOS)
Burnt Brown (BB)
Grey Brown (GB)
Loose Grey Soil (LGS)
Orange Brown Soil (OBS)

LAYER 5
Brown Soil (BS)
Dark Brown Soil (DBS)
Mottled Brown Soil (MBS)

Layer 1: had two main components. The uppermost units (Surface and SSH) consisted of a fine reddish sand matrix with areas of charcoal flecked, creamy ash. The underlying units were a mixture of ashy soil and patches of vegetation. Although several small hearths were discernible there were no large ash bodies in layer 1. There was a similar lack of the prominent grass bedding patches which are characteristic of many LSA sites in the

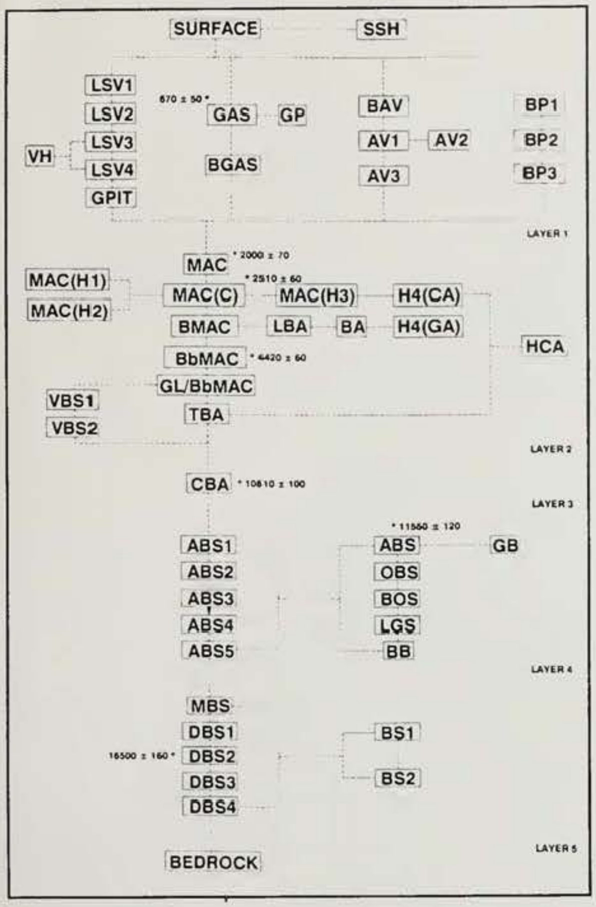

Fig. 3. Faraoskop Rock Shelter: stratigraphic matrix.

south-western Cape occupied during the last 1000 years (Parkington & Poggenpoel 1971, 1987; Kaplan 1987; Nackerdien 1989).

Patches of grass were, however, present in several units, the densest concentration being in Grass Pit in square D5. This was a rather enigmatic feature, full of fine strands of grass in association with wood shavings and other cultural indicators. It had the appearance of a pit but probably owed its origin, at least in part, to animal burrowing. Termite activity was evident in layer 1, particularly in the grass patches. From the presence of nest structures and head capsules the species responsible was identified as *Hodotermes viator* (Mike Picker pers. comm.). Grassy Ashy Soil (GAS) in squares D4/D5 was dated to 670 ± 50 BP (Pta-4811).

Layer 2: consisted almost entirely of a series of predominantly white ash bodies in various stages of consolidation. The uppermost unit (MAC) was a thick white ash body flecked with charcoal which only occurred in squares C3 and C4. It lensed out in these squares and probably reached its greatest concentration in the deposits previously removed from the back of the shelter.

The bulk of the ash deposits in layer 2 were formed by the units MAC(C) and HCA which were more or less equivalent in terms of stratigraphy and composition. They were thick, creamy-white ash bodies containing patches of very hard consolidated ash. There was a fairly arbitrary division between MAC(C) and the underlying BMAC which was also creamy-white in colour but of a softer texture.

The base of the ash complex was formed by a basin of soft grey ash (BbMAC) with a grass lining (GL/BbMAC). The ash complex was separated from layer 3 by a thin layer of grey/brown ashy material (TBA). Charcoal and burnt bone occurred throughout layer 2 and there were a number of discrete hearth units within the ash complex.

Three radiocarbon dates were obtained from layer 2; MAC at 2000 ± 70 BP (Pta-4955), MAC(C) at 2510 ± 60 BP (Pta-4954) and BbMAC at 4420 ± 60 BP (Pta-4809).

Layer 3: consisted of a single unit, Consolidated Brown Ash (Fig. 4a & b). This was an extremely hard grey/brown ash body flecked with charcoal. It was strongly cemented and so compacted that it could only be removed in blocks which were later softened in water. CBA was sharply truncated towards the back of square D3 and appears to have been chopped through by the original inhabitants of the shelter to make way for a new hearth which we excavated as BMAC. CBA is dated to 10 810 ± 100 BP (Pta-4816).

Layer 4: consisted of a set of ashy soil units, generally similar in texture but varying in colour. In square D3 these were excavated as a series of spits (ABS 1-5) which were dark brown in colour at the top of the layer and more orange towards the base. In square C3, units were named separately on the basis of colour but the divisions were fairly arbitrary.

The most prominent feature of layer 4 was the extent to which it had been burrowed by animals (Fig. 5). Numerous burrows were visible going in all directions which added to the complexity of the layer and must have influenced the deposit. This is shown by the various small patches of vegetable matter, often comparatively fresh, probably introduced by burrowing animals (see Robey 1984).

Layer 4 is perhaps best viewed as an unconsolidated ash body considerably churned by burrowing animals. A date of 11 550 ± 120 BP (Pta-4817) was obtained from the unit ABS.

Layer 5: had two basic components. The MBS unit formed a natural break from the overlying ABS units of layer 4 and was a mottled brown soil with patches of white and orange ash. Beneath this there was a darker brown soil (DBS spits) which lacked the ashy patches. The DBS spits of square D3 were roughly equivalent to the BS units of Square C3. Layer 5 was also massively burrowed. A date of 16 500 ± 160 BP (Pta-4822) was obtained from DBS2.

Dating and correlation

Seven radiocarbon dates were obtained from the Faraoskop deposits. Six of these were from *in situ*

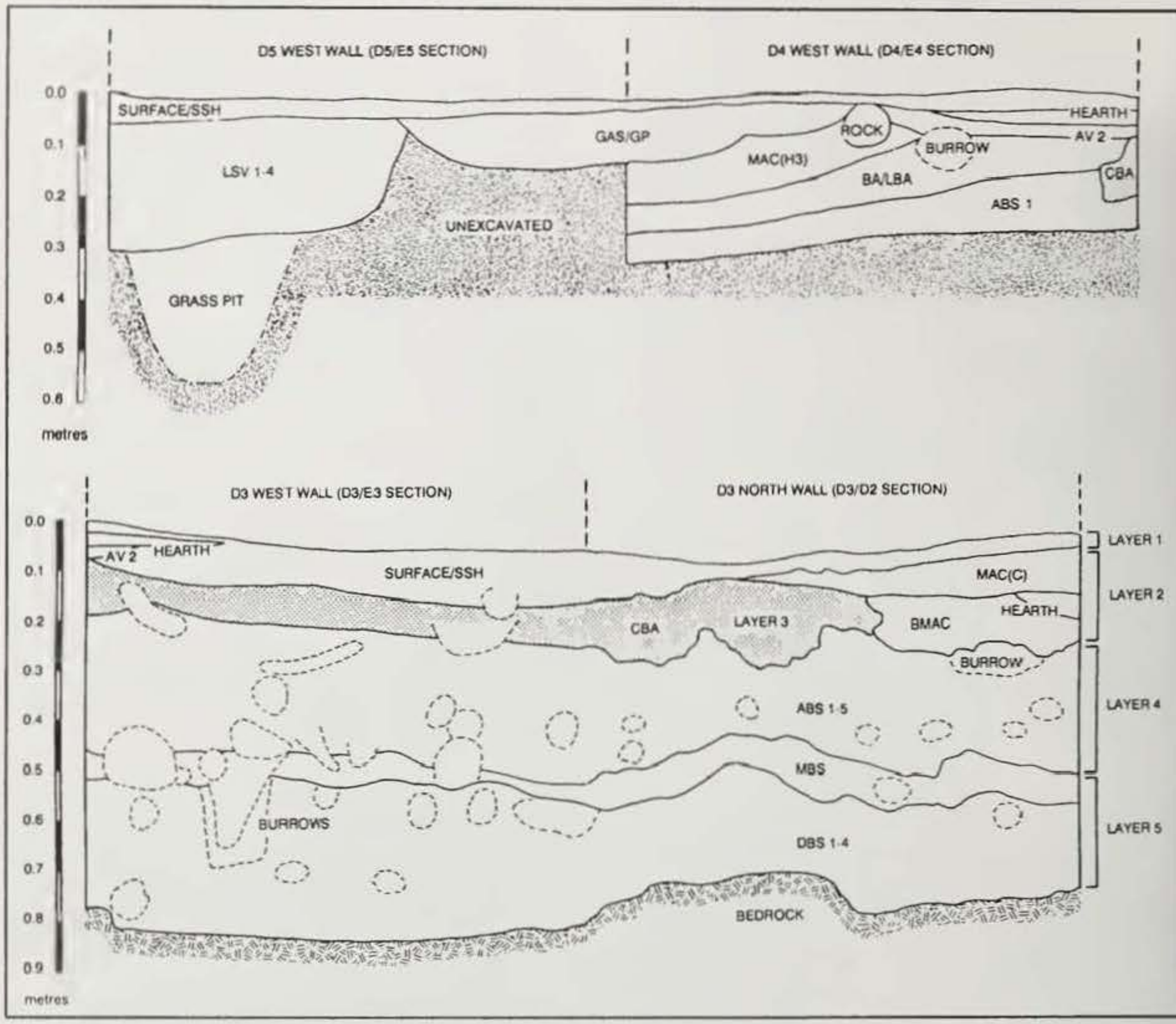

Fig. 4. Faraoskop Rock Shelter. Top: the west-facing sections of squares D5 & D4. Bottom: the west and north-facing sections of square D3.

Fig. 5. Faraoskop Rock Shelter: the west facing section of square D3, showing extensive burrowing.

charcoal samples, the remaining one from grass bedding traces in layer 1. Initially one date was submitted from each layer. This was followed by a further two dates from layer 2 to clarify the sequence of the larger ash bodies. The radiocarbon dates from the excavation are listed in Table 2 with their laboratory numbers.

Obviously this number of dated observations is insufficient to provide a detailed chronology for such a long sequence but a coherent pattern emerged in terms of the stratigraphic layers.

As expected, layer 1 falls well within the last 2000 years with the bulk of the deposits probably belonging to the present millennium. Similar dates have been recorded from a number of Later Stone Age sites in the south-western Cape (Parkington & Poggenpoel 1971; Kaplan 1984; Nackerdien 1989; Anderson 1991; Halkett 1991) and the pattern is by now well established. Other markers which place layer 1 in a recent context include two glass trade beads (from GAS/D4 and BP1/C3) and a small iron bead (from BGAS/D5). Pottery was not common at Faraoskop. Only two sherds were recovered during excavation, one from layer 1 (SSH/D5) and the

Table 2. Radiocarbon dates from the excavation.

Layer	Unit/Square	^{14}C age(years BP)	Laboratory No.
1	GAS/D4-D5	670 ± 50	Pta-4811
2	MAC/C3	2000 ± 70	Pta-4955
2	MAC(C)/D3	2510 ± 60	Pta-4954
2	BbMAC/D4	4420 ± 60	Pta-4809
3	CBA/D3	10810 ± 100	Pta-4816
4	ABS/D3	11550 ± 120	Pta-4817
5	DBS2/D3	16500 ± 160	Pta-4822

other from layer 2 (MAC(H2)/D4) presumably introduced by burrowing animals.

The bulk of the ash bodies in layer 2 belong within the period 2000-2500 BP. This reinforces the evidence from the Klipfonteinrand 2 site (Nackerdien 1989) that large ash concentrations accumulated prior to 2000 BP in the south-western Cape.

There was a clear stratigraphic break between the relatively soft ash complex of layer 2 and the Consolidated Brown Ash (CBA) of layer 3. In terms of chronology this represents a occupational hiatus of some 6000 years (Table 2). A similar hiatus but of shorter duration has been recorded at two other sites in the area. Elands Bay Cave was not visited between about 7900 to 4300 BP (Parkington 1977) while Tortoise Cave had an hiatus of similar dimensions but with a slightly earlier reoccupation date (Robey 1984).

Taken together, layers 3, 4 and 5 represent a period of about 5700 years and in terms of volume, at least two-thirds of the excavated deposit.

CULTURAL ASSEMBLAGES

STONE ARTEFACTS

The classification scheme used here is based on the model proposed by Janette Deacon (1984).

Raw Materials

Table 3 shows the raw material composition of the whole assemblage, Table 4 the stone artefact frequencies and Table 5 the composition of the formal tool component in greater detail. Overall, quartz is by far the dominant raw material at the site with relatively high amounts of silcrete and hornfels followed by smaller quantities of quartzite and cryptocrystalline silicates (CCS). The 'other' category contains small quantities of the less common raw materials such as shale, calcrete and phyllite and also includes ochre.

As expected from similar sites in the south-western Cape, quartz entirely dominates the waste category but a more interesting result is in the relative frequencies of silcrete, CCS and hornfels between the upper and lower parts of the deposit. Silcrete and CCS are more common in layers 1 and 2 than in layers 3, 4 and 5. Hornfels shows a reversal of this trend and is more abundant in the lower layers.

In the formal category, silcrete and quartz are the preferred raw materials and to a much lesser extent CCS. Only one hornfels formal tool was recovered from the excavation. Scrapers were equally common in quartz and silcrete while adzes were made predominantly on silcrete with a few examples in CCS.

Waste

As can be seen from the artefact frequencies listed in Table 4, the site is waste dominated with waste material comprising over 98% of the total assemblage. The bulk of the waste is made up of chips, chunks and flakes (>98% in layers 1, 2 & 3; >97% in layers 4 & 5). The slightly smaller percentages registered in layers 4 and 5 are a function of the higher incidence of quartz bladelets in these layers. This is to some extent mirrored by the relatively high numbers of cores in layers 4 and 5 with bladelet cores reaching their highest frequency in layer 4 (see Table 7).

A total of 5 unmodified quartz crystals were recovered during the excavation (1 each from layers 1 & 2 and 3 from layer 5). One explanation for these kinds of objects is that they were valued as shamanistic paraphernalia (Wadley 1987; Miller *et al.* 1991; Yates & Manhire 1991).

Utilised pieces

These comprised approximately 2% of the artefacts in layers 1 & 2 and 0.8% or less in layers 3, 4 & 5 and consisted almost entirely of utilised flakes and ochre. Most of the ochre was in the form of unmodified chunks with only three pieces having been ground. No grindstones were recovered from the excavation.

Formal tools

These comprised 0.6 - 0.8% of the artefacts in layers 1 & 2 and only 0.1 - 0.3% in layers 3, 4 & 5. These low frequencies are partly due to the fact that a 1 mm sieve was used throughout the excavation resulting in a high recovery of waste material, notably quartz chips. This would effectively suppress the ratio of formal tools especially when compared to sites where a larger mesh sieve was employed.

The formal tools were dominated by scrapers and adzes in the upper layers and by scrapers in the lower layers (Fig. 6). The incidence of backed pieces was very low at the site. No drills were recovered from the excavation. Miscellaneous retouched pieces (MRP's) were consistently present except in layer 3 where the total volume of excavated deposit was very small.

As can be seen from Table 6, most of the adzes came from layers 1 & 2. Furthermore, of the 18 adzes recorded in layer 2, only one came from the lower part of the layer dated to 4420 ± 60 BP. This means that the majority of the adzes date to within the last 2500 years which is consistent with the results obtained from similar assemblages in the south-western Cape such as Tortoise Cave (Robey 1984) and Klipfonteinrand 2 (Nackerdien 1989).

The formal tools recovered from sieving the dumps left from the earlier diggings at the site have also been included in Table 6. Despite being totally out of context the dumps proved quite rewarding as they produced more formal tools than the excavation. The fact that only scrapers, adzes and MRP's were recovered from the dumps, in a ratio that closely resembles layers 1 & 2, suggests that it was mainly these layers that were intercepted by the landowner's excavations at the back of

Table 3. Raw material composition of major artefact categories.

LAYER	QTZ		QTZITE		HORNFELS		SILCRETE		CCS		OTHER		TOTAL
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
						WASTE							
1	2869	86.78	50	1.51	86	2.60	244	7.38	37	1.12	20	0.60	3306
2	2511	84.86	40	1.35	50	1.69	300	10.14	31	1.05	27	0.91	2959
3	521	85.83	2	0.33	64	10.54	17	2.80	1	0.16	2	0.33	607
4	5531	88.74	110	1.76	385	6.18	150	2.41	34	0.55	23	0.37	6233
5	3326	87.85	107	2.83	166	4.38	167	4.41	5	0.13	15	0.40	3786
						UTILISED							
2	5	7.69	-	-	3	4.62	8	12.31	2	3.08	47	72.31	65
2	10	15.87	2	3.17	-	-	8	12.70	-	-	43	68.25	63
3	-	-	1	100.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
4	12	25.00	1	2.08	-	-	3	6.25	-	-	32	6.67	48
5	5	23.81	-	-	3	14.29	1	4.76	-	-	12	57.14	21
						FORMAL							
1	7	35.00	-	-	-	-	12	60.00	1	5.00	-	-	20
2	16	29.09	-	-	-	-	34	61.82	5	9.09	-	-	55
3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	100.00	-	-	-	-	1
4	7	38.89	-	-	-	-	10	55.56	1	5.56	-	-	18
5	2	40.00	-	-	1	20.00	2	40.00	-	-	-	-	5
						TOTAL LAYER							
1	2881	84.96	50	1.47	89	2.62	264	7.79	40	1.18	67	1.98	3391
2	2537	82.45	42	1.36	50	1.62	342	11.11	36	1.17	70	2.27	3077
3	521	85.55	3	0.49	64	10.51	18	2.96	1	0.16	2	0.33	609
4	5550	88.11	111	1.76	385	6.11	163	2.59	35	0.56	55	0.87	6299
5	3333	87.43	107	2.81	170	4.46	170	4.46	5	0.13	27	0.71	3812

Table 4. Stone artefact frequencies.

	LAYER 1			LAYER 2			LAYER 3			LAYER 4			LAYER 5		
	n	% category	% layer total	n	% category	% layer total	n	% category	% layer total	n	% category	% layer total	n	% category	% layer total
WASTE															
Chips	2454	74.2		2065	69.8		537	88.5		4510	72.4		2705	71.5	
Chunks	507	15.3		464	15.7		41	6.8		969	15.6		589	15.6	
Flakes	310	9.4		378	12.8		28	4.6		570	9.1		386	10.2	
Blades	1	0.1		3	0.1		-	-		-	-		7	0.2	
Bladelets	18	0.5		30	1.0		1	0.2		127	2.0		72	1.9	
Cores	16	0.5		19	0.6		-	-		57	0.9		27	0.7	
TOTAL WASTE	3306	100.0	97.5	2959	100.0	96.2	607	100.1	99.7	6233	100.0	99.0	3786	100.1	99.3
UTILISED															
Util. flakes	18	27.7		18	28.6		-	-		15	31.3		9	42.9	
Hammerstones	-	-		2	3.2		-	-		-	-		-	-	
Manuports	-	-		-	-		1	100.0		1	2.1		-	-	
Ochre	47	72.3		41	65.1		-	-		31	64.6		12	57.1	
Ground ochre	-	-		2	3.2		-	-		1	2.1		-	-	
TOTAL UTIL.	65	100.0	1.9	63	100.1	2.1	1	100.0	0.2	48	100.1	0.8	21	100.0	0.6
FORMAL															
Scrapers	8	40.0		27	49.1		1	100.0		9	50.0		2	40.0	
Adzes	11	55.0		18	32.7		-	-		3	16.7		-	-	
Backed pieces	-	-		2	3.6		-	-		2	11.1		1	20.0	
MRP	1	5.0		8	14.6		-	-		4	22.2		2	40.0	
TOTAL FORMAL	20	100.0	0.6	55	100.0	1.8	1	100.0	0.2	18	100.0	0.3	5	100.0	0.1
LAYER TOTAL	3391		100.0	3077		100.0	609		100.0	6299		100.0	3812		100.0

the shelter.

One interesting observation from the Faraoskop shelter was the large number of adzes made on older flakes. This has previously been reported from several locations in the south-western Cape (Kaplan 1987; Manhire 1987; Anderson 1991) as well as on the Cape Peninsula (Rudner & Rudner 1954). The selection of older flakes at Faraoskop was quite specific as only adzes were involved and only silcrete implicated. Of the total number of 68 silcrete adzes from the excavation and the dumps, 30 were made by adapting older flakes. A deliberate collecting strategy seems to have been pursued as a number of faceted platform flakes, presumably of MSA origin, were present in layers 1 & 2 and in the dumps. Whilst most of these retained their original patina intact some displayed utilisation damage which affected the patina and some ended up as fully retouched adzes. A possible source of MSA flakes is the extensive open scatter on the koppie Wolfberg (Manhire 1987) which is situated on a direct line between Faraoskop and the coast.

One further point concerning the adzes at the site was that over a quarter of the sample retained traces of mastic

Table 5. Raw material composition of formal tool classes.

LAYER	QUARTZ n	QUARTZ %	QTZITE n	QTZITE %	HORNFELS n	HORNFELS %	SILCRETE n	SILCRETE %	CCS n	CCS %	OTHER n	OTHER %	TOTAL
SCRAPERS													
1	6	75.00	-	-	-	-	2	25.00	-	-	-	-	8
2	14	51.85	-	-	-	-	12	44.44	1	3.70	-	-	27
3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	100.00	-	-	-	-	1
4	6	66.67	-	-	-	-	3	33.33	-	-	-	-	9
5	1	50.00	-	-	-	-	1	50.00	-	-	-	-	2
ADZES													
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	90.91	1	9.09	-	-	11
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	88.89	2	11.11	-	-	18
3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	100.00	-	-	-	-	3
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BACKED PIECES													
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	1	50.00	-	-	-	-	1	50.00	-	-	-	-	2
3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	100.00	-	-	-	-	2
5	1	100.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
MISCELLANEOUS RETOUCHED PIECES													
1	1	100.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
2	1	12.50	-	-	-	-	5	62.50	2	25.00	-	-	8
3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	1	25.00	-	-	-	-	2	50.00	1	25.00	-	-	4
5	-	-	-	-	1	50.00	1	50.00	-	-	-	-	2

on the back and sides where the tool had been mounted. A single example of an adze with an intact mastic mount was found during the excavation.

OCHRE

Ochre was present in fairly high quantities in layers 1 & 2 and in layers 4 & 5 (Table 8). Traces of ochre were also found in layer 3 but in a highly softened state which could not be quantified. Only three pieces of ground ochre were recovered from the excavation (2 from layer 2 and 1 from layer 4) and a single ochred stone came from layer 5 (BS2 in square C3). Aside from the normal red ochre, two black manganese nodules were present in layer 2.

POTTERY

Pottery was extremely scarce at Faraoskop both on the talus slope and in the shelter. Only two pieces were recovered from the excavation, one from layer 1 (SSH in square D5) and one from the top of layer 2 (MAC(H1) in square D4). Both were adiagnostic and one piece very eroded.

WORKED BONE

Only three pieces of worked bone were recovered from the excavation, two of these were from layer 1 and the remaining piece from layer 2. They included a double-pointed bone awl (Surface in square C3), a small ground fragment (VBS1 in square D4) and a calcaneum of a large feline which had been drilled through (LSV4 in square D5).

A total of 21 bone shavings were present, all from layer 1 and all associated with grass-rich units in squares D4 and D5.

By far the most spectacular pieces of worked bone came from the hole previously dug by the owner of the property at the back of the site. These included several bone points, two spatulas, a bone tube with shaved ends and three highly polished tubular bone beads. A selection of these are illustrated in Figure 7.

OSTRICH EGGSHELL

OES beads

OES beads were recovered from all the layers with the highest frequencies recorded in the upper two layers (Table 9). Unfinished beads were also present throughout the excavation showing that bead manufacture took place at the site during all the occupied phases. Measurement of bead diameters and aperture sizes (Yates *et al.* in press) showed that large beads were generally restricted to layer 1 and that small beads predominated in the pre-2000 BP deposits (layers 2 to 5).

All the OES beads from the excavation were separate from each other aside from a pair of heavily ochred joined beads from layer 1 (SSH in square D5). The only strung beads came from the material removed by the owner from the back of the site. These consisted of two short strings of OES beads with a seed "spacer" between each bead (illustrated in Fig. 8).

Apart from the OES beads, a small number of glass trade beads, seed beads and a single small iron bead were recovered from the excavation. These all came from layer 1 and are listed in Table 8. The glass trade beads were of the type known as "Indian red on a green core" and are most likely of Dutch or Italian manufacture (Sharma Saitowitz pers. comm.).

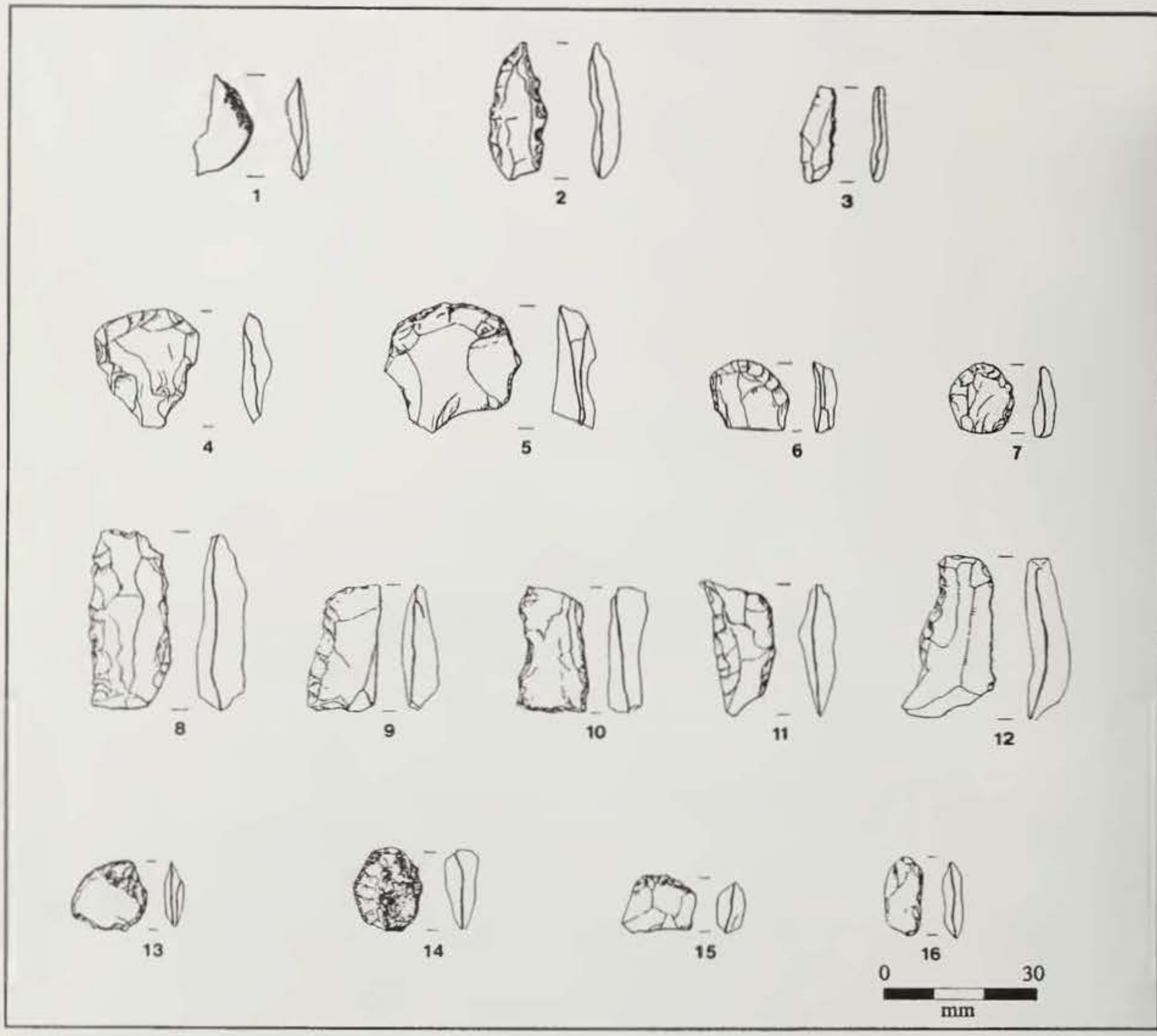

Fig. 6. Faraoskop Rock Shelter stone artefacts. 1 to 3 backed pieces. (1 - quartz segment from layer 2; 2 - silcrete backed scraper from layer 2; 3 - silcrete backed blade from layer 4). 4 to 7 silcrete scrapers (5 & 7 from layer 1, 4 from layer 2, 6 from layer 4). 8 to 12 silcrete adzes (8 from layer 1, 10 & 11 from layer 2, 9 & 12 from layer 4). 13 to 16 quartz scrapers (13 & 15 from layer 1, 14 & 16 from layer 4).

Table 6. Inventory of formal tool assemblage.

	LAYER 1		LAYER 2		LAYER 3		LAYER 4		LAYER 5		DUMPS	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Backed scrapers	-		2		-		1		-		1	
Other scrapers	8		25		1		8		2		42	
Total scrapers	8	40.00	27	49.09	1	100.00	9	50.00	2	40.00	43	43.88
Adzes	11	55.00	18	32.73	0	0.00	3	16.67	0	0.00	45	45.92
Backed blades	-		1		-		1		-		-	
Backed points	-		-		-		1		-		-	
Segments	-		1		-		-		-		-	
Misc.backed	-		-		-		-		1		-	
Total backed	0	0.00	2	3.64	0	0.00	2	11.11	1	20.00	0	0.00
Misc.ret.pieces	1	5.00	8	14.55	0	0.00	4	22.22	2	40.00	10	10.20
TOTAL FORMAL	20	100.00	55	100.00	1	100.00	18	100.00	5	100.00	98	100.00

Table 7. Core types.

	LAYER 1 n	LAYER 1 %type	LAYER 2 n	LAYER 2 %type	LAYER 3 n	LAYER 3 %type	LAYER 4 n	LAYER 4 %type	LAYER 5 n	LAYER 5 %type
Bipolar cores	8	50.00	13	68.42	-	-	24	42.11	4	51.85
Bladelet cores	2	12.50	-	-	-	-	10	17.54	2	7.41
Irregular cores	6	37.50	6	31.58	-	-	23	40.35	11	40.74
TOTAL CORES	16	100.00	19	100.00	-	-	57	100.00	27	100.00

Table 8. Cultural assemblages.

	LAYER 1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
OCHRE						
Ochre	47	41	-	31	12	131
Ground ochre	-	2	-	1	-	3
Manganese	-	2	-	-	-	2
POTTERY						
Fragments	1	1	-	-	-	2
BONE						
Worked bone	2	1	-	-	-	3
Bone shavings	21	-	-	-	-	21
BEADS						
OES beads	70	27	3	14	7	121
Glass trade	2	-	-	-	-	2
Seed beads	6	-	-	-	-	6
Iron beads	1	-	-	-	-	1
OES						
Fragments	938	345	1046	2768	383	5480
Worked OES	3	2	2	20	-	27
Decorated OES	-	1	-	1	-	2
MARINE SHELL						
Unworked	549	370	2	114	26	1061
Worked	24	6	-	1	-	31
WOOD						
Worked wood	2	-	-	-	-	2
Shavings	1207	151	-	26	4	1388
MISCELLANEOUS						
Reeds	129	4	-	-	-	133
Twine	6	1	-	-	-	7
Leather	3	1	-	-	-	4

OES pieces

Pieces of broken ostrich eggshell were ubiquitous throughout the excavation although both the frequency and the degree of fragmentation varied between layers. The total number of pieces recorded for each layer are listed in Table 8 but a better reflection of the relative frequency is obtained from Table 10 where the weights per unit volume are included.

By far the greatest concentration was registered in the terminal Pleistocene deposits (layers 3 and 4), a result which is consistent with other sites covering a similar time span such as Elands Bay Cave (Parkington 1977). Fragmentation of OES was most pronounced in the CBA unit (Layer 3) which had a high count of individual pieces (n = 1046) for a relatively low weight (115.9 g).

Worked and decorated OES

The incidence of worked or utilised OES was generally low at Faraoskop, the highest count being in layer 4 where 20 pieces were recorded (Table 8). Most of the worked pieces were smoothed or polished fragments, the remainder being notched fragments which may originally have been mouth parts of ostrich egg water containers.

Only one piece of decorated OES was recovered from the excavation, this being an OES fragment with a "bar" of cross-hatching from layer 2. This is illustrated in Figure 8 along with a cross-hatched "disc" recovered from the landowner's dump.

MARINE SHELL

Marine shells were present in relatively small quantities and have been included within the cultural assemblages as it is unlikely, for a number of reasons, that they represent items of diet. Although the sea is visible from Faraoskop, at a distance of 30 km, the site is well beyond the shell midden zone which normally extends a maximum of 7 km inland from the sea in this area (Manhire 1987). The species represented at the site and the presence of worked examples suggest that marine shells were introduced into the site specifically for translation into tools or decorative objects.

Unworked shell

Very few whole shells were recovered from the site and the bulk of the sample consisted of fragments of black mussel and white mussel. The species present in the excavation are listed in Table 11.

Although marine shell was present throughout the sequence the greatest density occurred in layers 1 and 2. This is best shown in Table 10 where the weight of shell is expressed in terms of volume.

Worked shell

The only marine shells used as tools at Faraoskop were black mussels and white mussels and, with a single exception, their distribution was confined to layers 1 and 2 (Table 12). Furthermore, the two species were used in distinctive, and quite different, ways.

The white mussel shells showed retouch and often heavy edge damage, characteristically along the broad, curved margin opposite the hinge. The term "Donax scraper" has been applied to these tools (Parkington 1977) and aptly describes their functional attributes (Fig. 8). No obvious retouch was recorded on the black mussel shells, *Choromytilus meridionalis*, and the wear patterns were much less pronounced, usually taking the form of polish and striations along the curved edge opposite, and sometimes adjacent, to the hinge.

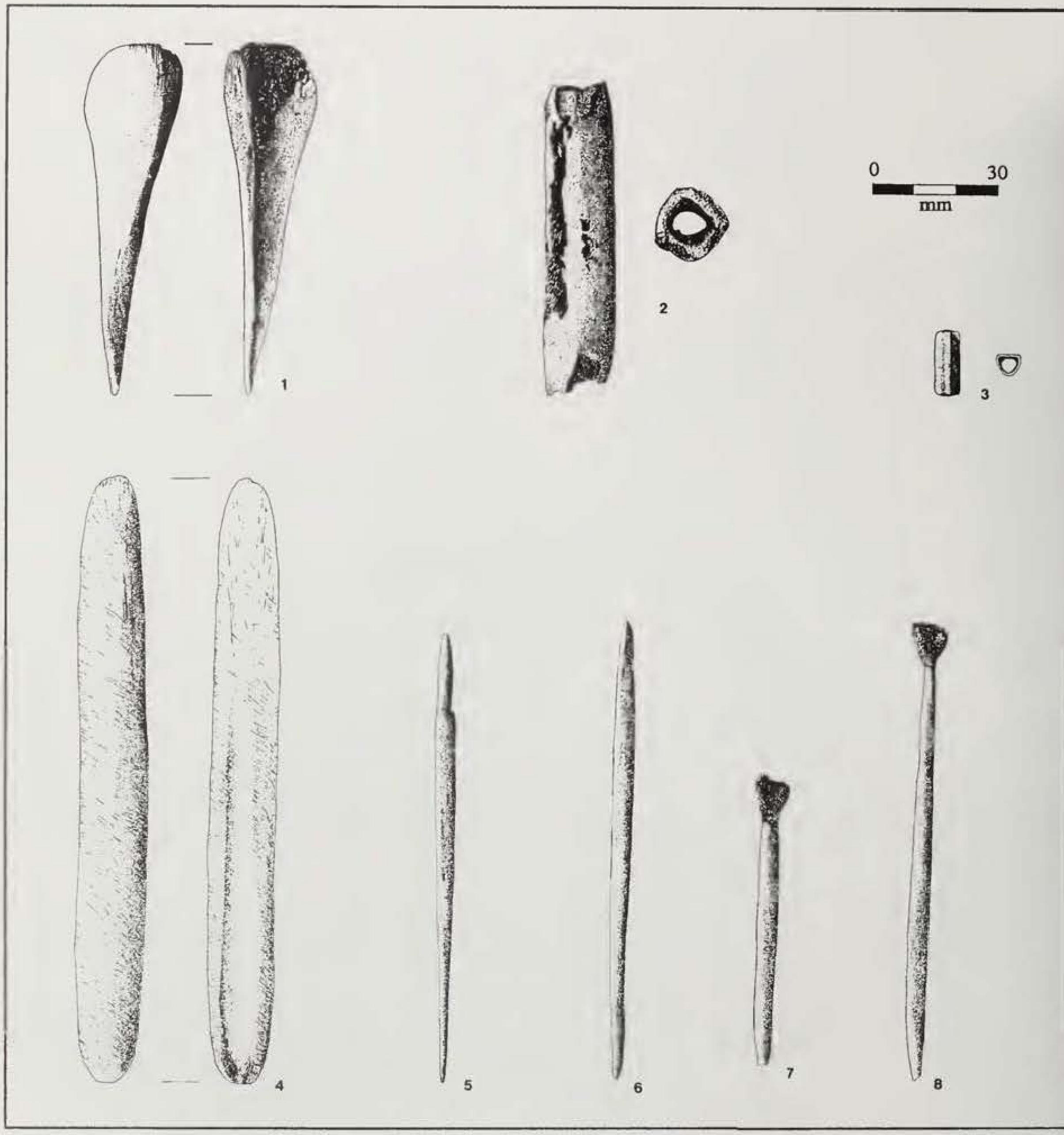

Fig. 7. Faraoskop Rock Shelter bone implements. All recovered from informal excavation by landowner. 1 - awl; 2 - tube with shaved ends; 3 - tube bead; 4 - spatula; 5 & 6 - points; 7 & 8 - points with mastic mounts.

Pendants and ornaments

It is significant that although no shell pendants or shell ornaments were found during the excavation, a total of 21 were obtained from the material dug out from the back of the site by the owner. Furthermore, none of the species used to make pendants or ornaments occurred in the shell sample from the excavation.

The decorative shells occurred in two basic types. Firstly there were whelks which had been perforated and

Table 9. Ostrich eggshell beads.

	LAYER					
	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
Whole	39	18	2	11	6	76
Broken	19	6	-	2	-	27
Unfinished	5	-	-	1	1	7
Broken Unfinished	7	3	1	-	-	11
TOTAL	70	27	3	14	7	121

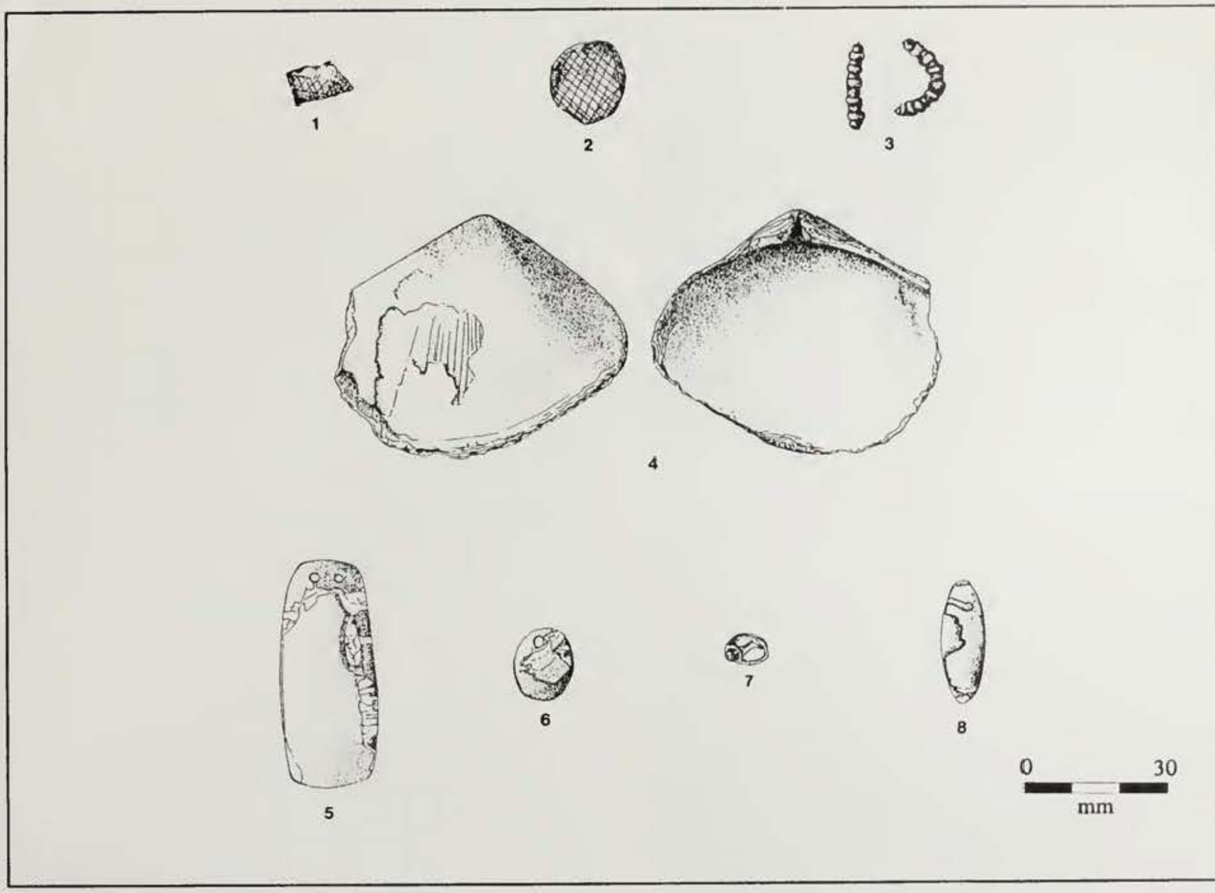

Fig. 8. Faraoskop Rock Shelter ostrich eggshell and marine shell artefacts. All from landowner's informal excavation unless otherwise stated. 1 - OES fragment with cross-hatching (layer 2); 2 - OES disc with cross hatching; 3 - short strings of OES beads with seed "spacers"; 4 - *Donax* scraper; 5,6 & 8 - *T. sarmaticus* shell pendants; 7 - perforated *Nassarius kraussianus* shell with ochre.

Table 10. Weight per volume of ostrich eggshell and marine shell from squares D3 + C3.

Layer	Buckets n	OES g	OES g/100bkt	M.shell g	M.shell g/100bkt
1	5.5	13.8	262.9	8.3	158.1
2	24.5	69.6	284.1	29.1	118.8
3	5.5	115.9	2107.3	0.3	5.5
4	46.5	930.9	1991.2	22.4	47.9
5	38.0	187.8	494.2	11.3	29.7

often showed traces of ochre and, secondly, there were shaped pendants which displayed a nacreous sheen to one of the surfaces. Two species of whelk were present; small shells of *Nassarius kraussianus* and the larger *Burnapena papyracea papyracea*. As far as could be determined, all the pendants were made from "alikreukel" shells (*Turbo sarmaticus*). Apart from the pendants and whelks, there was also a shell "ring" (*Siphonaria* sp.) and two unmodified *Bullia digitalis* shells with ochre staining. A selection of the pendants and shell ornaments are shown in Figure 8.

Table 11. Marine shell (unworked).

	LAYER					
	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
C. meridionalis	513	327	-	97	16	953
A. ater	-	2?	-	-	-	2
D. serra	34	35	2	11	9	91
P. granularis	-	1	-	4	-	5
P. granatina	-	2	-	-	-	2
Patella sp.	2	1	-	-	1	4
Crepidula sp.	-	-	-	1	-	1
Whelk	-	2	-	-	-	2
TOTAL	549	370	2	113	26	1060

Table 12. Worked marine shell.

	Layer					
	1	2	3	4	5	Total
C. meridionalis	19	6	-	-	-	25
Donax serra	5	-	-	1	-	6
Total	24	6	-	1	-	31

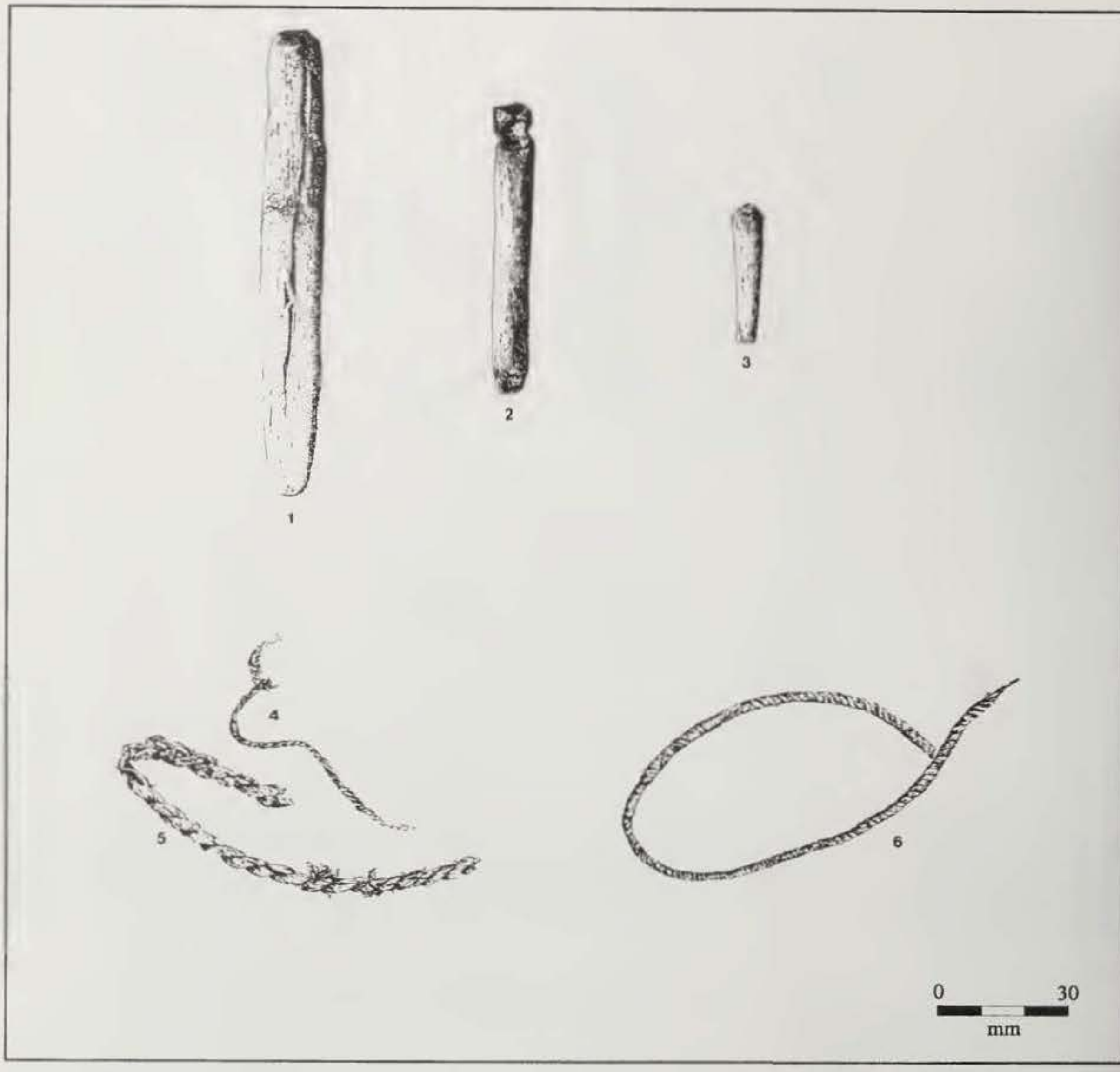

Fig. 9. Faraoskop Rock Shelter wood and plant fibre artefacts. All from landowner's informal excavation unless otherwise stated. 1 - wooden peg (layer 1); 2 - fire stick (layer 1); 3 - fire drill; 4 to 6 - twine.

WORKED WOOD

Only two wooden artefacts were recovered from the excavation, both from layer 1. One was a sharpened wood peg of the kind often found in cracks in rock shelters in the south-western Cape and the other was a fire stick made of soft wood showing burn marks from use as a fire drill (Fig. 9).

Wood shavings were present in all layers, excepting layer 3, with the majority appearing in layer 1 (Table 8). By far the greatest concentration occurred in square D5 (n = 720) where the shavings were associated with the grassy units and in particular with Grass Pit (n = 290).

REEDS

Fragments of *Cyperus textilis* have been found at many of the Later Stone Age sites excavated in the south-western Cape. They are usually associated with grass bedding patches and the regularly spaced perforations found on reed fragments indicate that they were probably used for matting.

At Faraoskop they were almost entirely restricted to layer 1 (Table 8) and consisted mainly of short cut fragments some of which showed the characteristic splitting or perforations. As with the wood shavings, the greatest concentration occurred in Grass Pit in square D5 (n = 61).

TWINE

A total of seven pieces of string or twine came from the excavation, all but one from layer 1, and a further eight pieces were retrieved from the material removed by the landowner from the back of the site. Despite the relatively small sample, there were a variety of types ranging from fine, double-stranded twine to fairly thick, triple-stranded string as well as fragments of knotted fibres (Fig. 9).

LEATHER

Only four pieces of leather were recovered from the excavation, three from layer 1 and one from layer 2. The examples from layer 1 were all small adiagnostic fragments whilst the single leather "object" from layer 2 was far more substantial. In form this was an oblong bundle of tightly folded leather bound with string (Fig. 10). It was buried, in an upright position, within the large ash body (HCA) in square C3. It was encrusted with ash and charcoal but not actually burnt which suggests that it post-dates the ash body but was placed there while the ash was still soft and not in its present compacted form. The object was X-rayed at the UCT Medical School to determine if anything was contained within the bundle but radiographs showed only compressed folds of leather with no inclusions.

Fig. 10. Faraoskop Rock Shelter. Leather bundle bound with string (layer 2).

Several leather items were also retrieved from the material removed from the back of the site. Apart from small fragments and strips of leather there were also some larger sewn sections. The most complete example (Fig. 11) was a large piece of antelope hide, partly folded over and with seams joined by fine stitching. The surface of the hide was scored with numerous thin lines producing a cross-hatched pattern.

ARROWS

The arrows described here were all obtained from the owner of the site and are of particular interest as they are fletched. They were reported to have come from the same area at the back of the shelter as the burials. No similar examples were recovered during the excavation. The sample included one virtually complete reed arrow shaft and three snapped shafts.

The one most complete shaft is notched at the proximal end, has fine thread binding and a socket for a projectile point at the distal end. The total length is ± 350 mm. The unusual features are the feather traces close to the nock of the arrow (Fig. 12). The three broken shafts all resemble the more complete version. One is a distal portion with socket and binding and the other two are proximal portions, both of which have faint feather traces.

Although none of the arrows had projectile points attached there were a number of bone points, from the same source, which fitted the sockets. Two of these were double pointed and two were bone points with mastic mounts still in place (Fig. 7). No link shafts were recovered from the site and it seems likely that the points were designed to fit directly into the arrow sockets.

FAUNA

The Faraoskop faunal assemblage (Table 13), analysed by Liora Horwitz, comprised some 350 mammalian bones and 4400 tortoise bones (excluding carapace fragments). Bioturbation of the deposits by rodents and termites, as well as disturbance by carnivores, resulted in a degree of mixing of the faunal remains. Examination of the tortoise bones (Horwitz n.d.) suggested that the greatest degree of contamination occurred in layers 1 and 2.

As with other faunal assemblages reported from the south-western Cape (Klein & Cruz-Uribe 1987), the Faraoskop mammalian fauna is dominated by bovids. Due to the very poor preservation of the mammalian remains very few of the bones could be identified as to species. In order to maximise the sample size the data for bovids were divided into size classes rather than species and are presented in this format in Table 13 (Horwitz n.d.).

small bovid: grysbok, steenbok size
small-medium bovid: bushbuck, reedbuck size
medium bovid: sheep size
medium-large bovid: blue antelope size
large bovid: buffalo, eland size

There is an increase in the frequency of small bovids

Fig. 11. Faraoskop Rock Shelter. Part of antelope skin, showing stitching and scoring (landowner's informal excavation).

and a decrease in large bovids between the earlier and later deposits. This is seen most clearly in Table 14 where the bovid frequencies are compared using three size groupings. Layers 1 & 2 have the highest numbers of small sized bovids whereas in layer 5 almost as many large sized bovids are represented as small sized ones.

Despite the smaller sample size and lack of specific identification, the Faraoskop results are similar to those reported by Klein and Cruz-Uribe (1987) for Elands Bay Cave. They suggest that the shift from the large gregarious grazers, which dominated the late Pleistocene assemblages, to the small solitary browsers, characteristic of the Holocene, reflect changes in the local vegetation which included more grass before 10-11 000 BP. In the southern Cape (Klein 1980), the shift from grazers to browsers correlates with the change from the cooler temperatures of the Upper Pleistocene to the warmer conditions of the Holocene which commenced at about 10 000 BP.

The carnivore remains at Faraoskop (Horwitz n.d.) included a small felid and a small canid, probably a fox, in layer 1. Similar small sized canid bones were also present in layer 5. Other mammalian remains included a wild pig in layer 4. Among the smaller mammals, bones

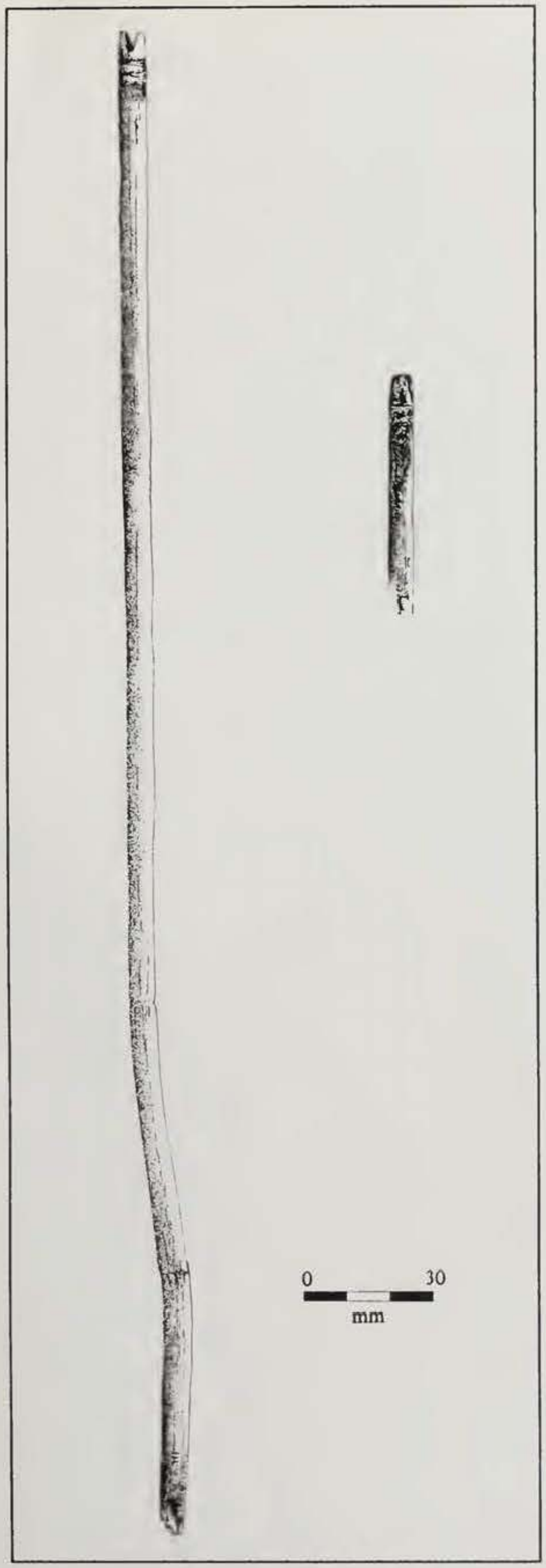

Fig. 12. Faraoskop Rock Shelter. Reed arrow shaft and notched end showing feather traces (landowner's informal excavation).

Table 13. Macrofauna assemblage.

	Layer 1	2	3	4	5
Small bovid	43/3	3/6	9/2	60/4	17/2
S-M bovid	8/2	13/2	0/0	9/1	8/1
Med. bovid	12/2	9/1	2/1	19/2	4/1
M-L bovid	1/1	1/1	6/1	4/1	4/1
Large Bovid	3/1	4/1	0/0	14/2	11/2
TOTAL BOVID	67/9	70/11	17/4	106/10	44/7
Suidae	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/1	0/0
Carnivora	6/2	0/0	0/0	2/1	1/1
Rock hyrax	11/2	3/1	0/0	5/1	16/3
Hare	3/1	3/1	0/0	1/1	1/1
Porcupine	1/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
Hedgehog	0/0	0/0	0/0	5/1	0/0
Tortoise	1190/22	312/9	106/3	1840/48	970/51
Rodent	X	X	0	X	X
Bird	X	X	0	X	X
Reptile*	X	X	0	X	X
Fish	0	X	0	0	X

Key: X = present
* excludes tortoise bones
(Table after Horwitz, n.d.)

of dassie, hare and hedgehog were present in small numbers.

The presence of wild pig and hedgehog in layer 4 are of note as they also occur during the same time period (c. 11-12 000 BP) at Elands Bay Cave with hedgehog in particular being well represented (Klein & Cruz-Uribe 1987). Their absence at Faraoskop and virtual absence at Elands Bay Cave in mid to late Holocene deposits may be indicative of climatic changes. Hedgehog require a minimum annual rainfall of 300 mm (Skinner & Smithers 1990) which is somewhat higher than the normal for the coastal foreland today. Furthermore, there are no confirmed sightings of hedgehog in the south-western Cape during the colonial era (Skead 1980).

Isolated fish bones, mainly vertebrae, were present in layers 2 and 5. Whilst the sample was to small to allow for specific identifications it was noted that the fish were of marine origin (Cedric Poggenpoel, pers. comm.). Bird remains were present throughout, excepting layer 3, with some 10 bones found in layer 1 and less than 5 bones in the remaining layers (Horwitz n.d.).

Rodent cranial and post-cranial remains were fairly common throughout the deposits and were certainly responsible for some, if not most, of the extensive burrowing.

Remains of the angulate tortoise (*Chersina angulata*) were generally abundant in the Faraoskop deposits although fluctuations in absolute numbers occurred throughout the sequence. They were common in the upper units (layer 1) and also in the terminal Pleistocene levels represented by layers 4 and 5 (Table 13). They were also more abundant in these layers relative to bovids (Table 15).

Klein and Cruz-Uribe (1983, 1987) have demonstrated that in both the south-western and southern Cape there was a slight reduction in the size of tortoises from the late Pleistocene through the Holocene culminating in a significant drop in size in the late Holocene. They attribute this to two possible factors: firstly, an increase

Table 14. Comparison of bovid classes.

LAYER	Small bovid NISP	%TOT	MNI	%TOT	Small med./med. bovid NISP	%TOT	MNI	%TOT	Med.large/large bovid NISP	%TOT	MNI	%TOT
1	43	64.2	3	33.3	20	29.9	4	44.4	4	6.0	2	22.2
2	43	61.4	6	54.5	22	31.4	3	27.3	5	7.1	2	18.2
3	9	52.9	2	50.0	2	11.8	1	25.0	6	35.3	1	25.0
4	60	56.6	4	40.0	28	26.4	3	30.0	18	17.0	3	30.0
5	17	38.6	2	28.6	12	27.3	2	28.6	15	34.1	3	42.9

Table 15. Ratios of tortoise to bovid numbers through time.

LAYER	^{14}C BP	TORTOISE:BOVID MNI	NISP
1	670	2.4	17.8
2	2000-4420	0.8	4.5
3	10810	0.8	6.2
4	11550	4.8	17.4
5	16500	7.3	22.0

in the intensity of human predation and, secondly, a slowing of the tortoise growth rate due to adverse environmental conditions. They also note that these two explanations are not mutually exclusive.

Measurements of the Faraoskop tortoise sample (Horwitz, n.d.) show a slight reduction in the size range and mean of both the femora and humeri throughout the sequence although this is not so pronounced as the overall size changes from Elands Bay Cave and Tortoise Cave described by Klein and Cruz-Uribe (1987).

PLANT REMAINS

No systematic analysis of the botanical material was attempted as most of the remains were recovered from the surface units which were in a highly disturbed condition. Some patterning was visible, however, and the following comments relate to the frequency and distribution of the various species recorded. Although plant material was present throughout the excavation, the samples from the lower units were suspect as they were equally well preserved as the surface material and most probably introduced by burrowing animals.

Liengme (1987) notes that three main kinds of plant rich deposits are commonly found at bedding and ash sites in the south-western Cape. These are:

1. Grass-dominated deposits usually at the back of shelters which represent the linings of sleeping hollows scraped into the underlying deposits.
2. Iridaceae-dominated deposits thought to represent food waste.
3. Special deposits such as pits.

Whilst these elements are all present at Faraoskop there was a lack of clear demarcation, particularly between grass bedding and iridaceous patches, which was probably a function of post-depositional disturbance. Although bedding grasses were prominent there were no clearly defined grass-filled bedding hollows. Again this is perhaps not surprising as most of the deposits close to the back wall had been previously removed. Iridaceous material was present in many of the units but in a dispersed rather than concentrated form. The only feature which could be described as a special purpose deposit was Grass Pit in Square D5 which contained large amounts of fibrous grass and corm fragments.

The bulk of the plant remains recovered from the excavated units came from Layer 1 with a much smaller contribution from layer 2. As noted above, plant material was also present in the late Pleistocene deposits (Layer 3 to 5) but was probably introduced. Fragments of unworked wood, twigs and bark were plentiful with greatest concentrations in the surface units. The bark included occasional pieces of Elephant's Foot (*Dioscorea elephantipes*). Bedding grasses and Restionaceae, mainly broken stalks and fragments, were locally abundant particularly in the Bedding Patches in Square C4 and in Grass Pit. The Bedding Patches are small units, truncated by the landowner's hole at the back of the site, and may be remnants of once more extensive bedding hollows.

Geophytes, mostly in the form of corm bases and tunic fragments, were plentiful in the upper units and, whilst local concentrations were discernible, there were no dense iridaceous patches. It is well established (Smith 1966; Parkington & Poggenpoel 1971 for example) that rootstocks were a major item of diet for both hunters and herders and represented an important carbohydrate source (Liengme 1987). The types of corms present at Faraoskop show the site to have more affinities with deposits from interior mountain sites rather than coastal locations. *Hexaglottis* and *Gladiolus* were the most common corms followed by *Moraea*. This is a similar situation to Andriesgrond (Anderson 1991) and Renbaan (Kaplan 1984), in the Oliphants River valley area. At both of these sites *Hexaglottis* is most abundant with *Gladiolus* being present at Renbaan and *Moraea* at Andriesgrond (Liengme 1987). The two other corm types present at Faraoskop, albeit at much lower frequencies, were *Watsonia* and *Homeria*. Corm species are not readily identifiable on the basis of the tunics alone but a single complete corm from Bedding Patch 3 proved to be *Watsonia meriana* (Peter Goldblatt pers.comm.).

In comparison to the quantity of geophyte remains, seeds were by no means common at Faraoskop. The most frequently encountered species, and the only one showing any tendency to concentration in pockets, was *Heeria argentea*. Several Kliphout trees were growing fairly close to the shelter and the seeds may well have been introduced by agencies other than human. Apart from *H. argentea*, various isolated seeds occurred throughout the surface deposits with *Willdenovia* being most common followed by *Rhus*. Also present, but only in small numbers, were *Nylandtia spinosa*, *Chrysanthemoides* and *Ricinus communis*. The first of these, skildpadbessie, is found in the area and its rarity at the site was perhaps surprising. The presence of the other two is more intriguing. *Chrysanthemoides* is more typical of coastal dunes than the mountain fringes whilst the castor-oil plant, *R. communis*, is an exotic which has been recorded at several LSA sites in the south-western Cape (Parkington & Poggenpoel 1971; Liengme 1987).

HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS

A total of twelve human burials were recovered from the site. Whilst burial complexes have been reported from several LSA sites in the southern Cape (Inskeep 1986; Hall & Binneman 1987) Faraoskop is, to date, the only site in the western Cape to yield multiple burials. Seven skeletons were removed by the landowner from the large hole at the back of the site and a further five recovered during the 1987 excavation from the smaller hole left by the owner close to the southern wall (Fig. 2). The skeletons are listed in Table 16, the last five (UCT 394 to 398) being the individuals recovered during the 1987 excavation.

give a weighted average of all the dates (University of Washington, Quaternary Isotope Laboratory, Radiocarbon Calibration Programme), the most likely single event date would be 2096 ± 23. Stable carbon isotope measurements have been carried out on nine of the skeletons and range from -16.8 to -18.8 °/oo (Sealy *et al.* 1992). Although Faraoskop is situated roughly midway between the coast and the interior mountains the skeletons have $\delta^{13}C$ values which reflect only a small marine food intake. The values in fact suggest largely terrestrial diets and are very similar to those reported for skeletons from the Olifants River Valley (Sealy & van der Merwe 1987; Sealy *et al.* 1992)

Preservation of the skeletons was extremely variable ranging from exceptional, as in the case of UCT 385 where the skin and ligaments of one foot were still intact, to very poor (Alder 1988). Four of the individuals were virtually complete whilst the remainder were incomplete post-cranial specimens. There were nine adults, two juveniles and one fragmentary skeleton of indeterminate age (Alder 1988). Details of the sex and age at death are listed in Table 16. One of the most interesting aspects of the burial assemblage was the lack of skulls, a total of twelve individuals yielded only six crania. None of the five skeletons excavated from the hole on the southern side of the site had crania. It is possible that the landowner removed the skull from the uppermost burial (UCT 394) as this skeleton showed signs of interference but the underlying four specimens appeared undisturbed by recent digging and the crania must have been removed sometime during antiquity. This may reflect an attitude towards burial practice although no ethnographic evidence could be found to support this and no similar examples have been reported (Inskeep 1986).

Table 16. Faraoskop skeletons.

Skeleton No.	$\delta^{13}C$(°/oo)	Sex	Age at death	Radiocarbon date	
UCT 385	-16.9	female	25-35	Pta-5281	2130 ± 60
UCT 386	-16.8	male	40-50	Pta-5283	2000 ± 50
UCT 388	-18.8	juvenile	6-7	-	-
UCT 390	-17.2	male	30-40	-	-
UCT 391/389	-17.8	female	25-35	Pta-5284	2110 ± 70
UCT 392/387	-16.9	male	35-45	-	-
UCT 393	-	juvenile	2-3	-	-
UCT 394	-17.5	male	40+	Pta-4964	2150 ± 70
UCT 395	-	female	20-30	-	-
UCT 396	-17.7	indeterm.	30-35	Pta-4965	2090 ± 60
UCT 397	-16.5	female	40+	Pta-4967	2130 ± 45
UCT 398	-	indeterm.	indeterm.	-	-

(After Sealy *et al* 1992)

Unfortunately nothing is known about the burial patterns or context of the first seven skeletons listed in Table 16 apart from the fact that they were removed from the back of the shelter. The mode of burial for the remaining five burials was in the side flexed position with the orientation, based on the line of the backbone, predominantly north (Alder 1988). They were all tightly placed in a small hole such that they tended to encroach upon each other. There were no associated burial goods.

Six of the skeletons have been dated, with three of the dated individuals coming from the landowner's set and three from the UCT excavated sample (Table 16). At two standard deviations (corrected for $\delta^{13}C$) the dates range between 2300 and 1900 BP. It seems probable that the remaining six undated skeletons also fall within this time period. It is also possible, allowing for the overlap at two standard deviations, that a single burial event is represented. If this is so, using the calibration curve to

DISCUSSION

Despite the problems caused by the prior removal of key deposits from the back of the shelter as well as the intensive burrowing by animals Faraoskop remains an important site due to the long sequence and the fact that it is the only excavated site in the south-western Cape, apart from Elands Bay Cave, with terminal Pleistocene deposits. From the point of view of interpretation, there are a number of distinctive trends in the artefactual and faunal record which reflect, at least in part, the changing role of the site through time.

The terminal Pleistocene deposits, as represented by layers 4 and 5, contain a stone artefact assemblage characterised by low numbers of formal tools and large amounts of waste material. Although bladelets never achieve dominance over flakes they are present in significant numbers in comparison with the Holocene levels. This is clearly shown in Table 17 where the flake to bladelet ratios are expressed. Similar results were recorded at Elands Bay Cave (Parkington 1977) and at Byneskranskop in the southern Cape (Schweitzer & Wilson 1982).

Table 17. Ratio of flakes to bladelets.

LAYER	1	2	3	4	5
FL:BL	17.2:1	12.6:1	28.0:1	4.5:1	5.4:1

The other clearly defined trend registered in the Pleistocene stone tool assemblage is the change in raw material frequencies with hornfels becoming more common in layers 4 and 5, mainly at the expense of silcrete and CCS, and with a similar increase in quartzite in layer 5. These raw material trends are best seen in Table 18 where the blanketing effect of chips has been avoided. The highest percentages of hornfels are actually registered in layer 3 but in this case the sample size is too small to admit a definitive reading of the results.

Table 18. Raw material composition of waste category (excluding chips).

LAYER	QTZ		QTZITE		HORNFELS		SILCRETE		CCS		OTHER		TOTAL
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
1	605	71.0	44	5.2	60	7.0	107	12.6	21	2.5	15	1.8	852
2	628	70.2	39	4.4	33	3.7	153	17.1	18	2.0	23	2.6	894
3	37	52.9	2	2.9	27	38.6	4	5.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	70
4	1193	69.2	105	6.1	313	18.2	75	4.4	14	0.8	23	1.3	1723
5	745	68.9	101	9.3	133	12.3	85	7.9	4	0.4	13	1.2	1081

The Pleistocene faunal record shows two major shifts of emphasis from the Holocene. Increased tortoise predation, particularly in layer 4, is demonstrated by an increase in overall numbers of individuals (Table 13) as well as relatively higher weights of tortoise carapace (Table 19). There is also an increase in the weight of mammal bone (Table 19) which, as discussed earlier, is mainly a reflection of the increase in the number of large bovids. As with Elands Bay Cave (Parkington 1988), the other dietary indicator is the high frequency of ostrich eggshell fragments in the period 11 000 to 10 000 BP. This presumably indicates the importance of ostrich eggs as food as well as their use as water containers and decorative items. Examples of worked OES fragments and flask mouth fragments certainly reach their highest numbers in layer 4 (Table 8).

During the period represented by the Pleistocene deposits (16 000 to 10 000 BP) there is a suggestion, as discussed earlier, of cooler temperatures and more extensive grass cover. This may, in part at least, explain the patterns recorded in the faunal assemblage. More certain is the observation that along the western Cape coast the sea level was at least 100 m lower than today and the shoreline some 35-40 km further away (Parkington 1988). The exposed bedrock was probably an undulating Malmesbury Shale partially covered by Cenozoic sands (Rogers 1987). Faraoskop, at this point in time, would have been completely isolated from the sea and have faced onto a coastal plain some 75 km wide. Elands Bay Cave, currently a coastal location, would have been in a situation similar to Faraoskop today with the sea some 35 km distant.

The bulk of the Holocene deposits consist of a series of ash bodies (layer 2) which span the period about 4400 to 2000 BP. As at the Klipfonteinrand site (Nackerdien 1989), the large consolidated ash bodies clearly pre-date the arrival of pastoralists, between 1900 and 1600 years ago, in the south-western Cape (Yates *et al.* in press). Similarly, the majority of adzes from the excavated sample at Faraoskop come from the upper units of layer 2 (c. 2500 to 2000 BP) which suggests that use of plant food staples amongst hunter-gatherers commenced prior to the introduction of pastoralism. Similar adze frequencies have been recorded at Klipfonteinrand (Nackerdien 1989) and Andriesgrond (Anderson 1991). Very few backed pieces were recovered from layer 2, or from the Faraoskop assemblage as a whole, which is in direct contrast to the assemblages characteristic of the large open deflation hollow locations (Manhire 1987). This suggests that the ash bodies are not contemporary with the occupancy of the majority of the deflation hollows and that a pre-4000 BP date is probable for the latter. The layer 2 ash bodies do, however, overlap temporally with the very large open shell middens characteristic of the Elands Bay coastline (Parkington *et al.* 1988).

The upper units (layer 1) which post-date 2000 BP, although lacking any prominent grass bedding patches, do conform to the general pattern established for what are known as bedding and ash sites in the south-western Cape. These sites are characterised by the presence of a main ash concentration associated with wads of grasses identified as sleeping areas (Parkington & Poggenpoel 1971). The spatial arrangement at these sites is usually predictable with a centrally placed hearth surrounded by arcs of bedding grasses placed close to the back wall of the cave or shelter. The De Hangen site (Parkington & Poggenpoel 1971) typifies this pattern which has subsequently been recorded at over 100 sites in the south-western Cape (Spatial Archaeology Research Unit records).

Although Faraoskop is located on the

Table 19. Weight per unit volume of tortoise carapace and mammal bone from square C3.

Layer	Buckets	TORTOISE		MAMMAL	
	n	g	g/100bkt	g	g/100bkt
1	3.0	182.3	6076.7	60.4	2013.3
2	14.5	247.7	1708.3	117.6	811.0
4	26.0	4159.1	15996.5	1403.1	5396.5
5	14.0	1565.4	11181.4	535.9	3827.9

sandveld/mountain interface the post 2000 BP deposits have more in common with bedding and ash sites in the mountains than at the coast. The percentages of scrapers and adzes in layer 1 as well as the cultural assemblages (Table 8) are very similar to the pottery-associated levels of sites in the Olifants River valley (Anderson 1991). Also, the types of geophytes recovered as well as the $\delta^{13}C$ values for the human skeletons (Sealy *et al.* 1992) further indicate that Faraoskop is essentially an inland site.

The two most unusual aspects of Faraoskop, at least as far as the south-western Cape is concerned, are the collection of special finds and the large number of human burials. The two questions which need to be addressed concerning these aspects are, firstly, what is the most likely provenance of the material dug out from the back of the site by the landowner and, secondly, what relationship, if any, exists between the burials and the "cache" of special finds recovered by the owner of the site.

One clue concerning provenance is supplied by the formal tools from the "dumps" (these refer to the series of mounds left on the surface by the landowner after he had removed the skeletons from the back of the shelter) which are listed in Table 6. The fact that no backed pieces were recovered and that fairly high numbers of adzes and scrapers are represented, in percentages similar to layers 1 and 2 suggests that the bulk of the deposits removed from the "hole" came from these layers.

As to the other question, it seems probable, for a number of reasons, that the special finds were not actually burial goods. Although skeletons in the southern Cape have been found with adornments (Inskeep 1986; Hall & Binneman 1987) there are no records of comprehensive burial goods in the entire western Cape. Likewise, the five skeletons recovered during the 1987 excavation had no associated finds. A more likely scenario is that the "cache" was recovered from bedding layers above the skeletons. Some support for this is supplied by the presence of grass fragments found adhering to the large piece of sewn leather illustrated in Figure 11.

The unusual nature of the "cache" is shown by the presence of several items that did not occur at all in the excavation. These include short strings of OES beads, shell pendants, perforated shells, whole shells with ochre and arrow shafts (Table 20). These items do, however, occur at various other sites in the south-western Cape. Ostrich egg shell beads are ubiquitous throughout the area and short strings of beads have been recovered from several locations such as Diepkloof Rock Shelter (Parkington & Poggenpoel 1987) and Putslaagte (Halkett 1991). The latter site is of note as it produced a string of heavily ochred beads with ochre "spacers" between each bead.

Table 20. Cultural assemblages from the landowner's dump and hole.

ITEM	DUMP	HOLE
POTTERY		
Fragments	4	-
BONE		
Worked bone	2	16
Bone shavings	1	-
BEADS		
OES beads	150	15
OES bead strings	3	2
Seed beads	8	-
Iron beads	1	-
OSTRICH EGG SHELL		
Decorated OES	1	-
MARINE SHELL		
Worked	33	8
Perforated	11	2
Whole with ochre	4	1
Shell pendants	2	1
WOOD		
Worked wood	3	3
MISCELLANEOUS		
Reeds	17	12
Twine	3	4
Leather	1	±8
Arrows	-	4

As with ostrich egg shell beads, marine shell is widely dispersed, even at sites in the Cape Fold Belt mountains which are more than 50 km from the sea. The shells appears to have been imported for use as decoration or tools as worked shell is fairly common and shell pendants also occur, particularly at sites in the Olifants River such as Andriesgrond (Anderson 1991) and Renbaan Cave (Kaplan 1987). These linkages with coast are not restricted to the last 2000 years as shell pendants are also present in the much older deposits at the Klipfonteinrand 1 site (Thackeray 1977). Various types of bone artefacts have also been recovered at all of the bedding and ash sites which have been excavated in the mountains. Bone points and awls were present in some numbers at De Hangen (Parkington & Poggenpoel 1971) and Renbaan Cave (Kaplan 1987). Bone tubes are less common but examples similar to those from Faraoskop were also recovered from both of these sites.

Amongst the miscellaneous finds, lengths of twine or string occur at several sites with the most comprehensive collection coming from Diepkloof Rock Shelter where 31 pieces of cordage were recovered including several knotted fragments (Parkington & Poggenpoel 1987). Similarly, leather fragments are not uncommon and pieces of what was possibly a sewn garment with sinew stitches were recovered from De Hangen (Parkington & Poggenpoel 1971). Less common are reed arrow shafts with the best examples coming from De Hangen (Parkington & Poggenpoel 1971) and Diepkloof Rock Shelter (Parkington & Poggenpoel 1987). At the former site, a sinew-bound arrow nock was recovered whilst two, nocked reed shafts were found at the latter site. Although similar to the Faraoskop examples none showed any traces of fletching. The Faraoskop arrow shafts do however show a close resemblance to some of the fletched arrows from pre-1920 ethnographic collections (Deacon 1984).

It is obvious from the above that, with the exception of the fletched arrows, none of the Faraoskop finds are unique to archaeological contexts and that all the items described are widely distributed at sites throughout the south-western Cape. What makes the Faraoskop finds unusual is that most of the objects described were intact apart from minor damage caused by their removal from the site. The other point of note is that, according to information supplied by the landowner who removed them, all the items were recovered from a single location. This suggests they were in fact cached rather than discarded.

CONCLUSIONS

The most important features of Faraoskop Rock Shelter, within the regional context of the south-western Cape, may be summarised as follows:

1. To date, it is the only excavated site situated on the sandveld/mountain interface midway between the coast and the interior mountains.
2. Apart from Elands Bay Cave, it is the only site so far excavated in the south-western Cape with substantial late Pleistocene deposits.
3. The presence of a large number of human burials within the shelter is atypical for the area.
4. The unusually rich collection of special finds which included fletched arrows and sewn animal skins.
5. The site provides further evidence that large, consolidated ash bodies occurred before 2000 BP in the south-western Cape.

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