

ARCHAEOLOGY OF EARLY DOMESTICATED ANIMALS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

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SHEEP

EARLIEST DATED SHEEP REMAINS (AMS DATES):

LEOPARD CAVE (NAMIBIA): c. 2200 BP, this is consistent with other excavated material from northern Kalahari, e.g. Toteng c. 2000 BP

SPOEGRIVIER (NAMAQUALAND): 2100 BP

BLOMBOS (SOUTH COAST): 1960-1880 BP

KASTEELBERG (WEST COAST): 1630-1430 BP

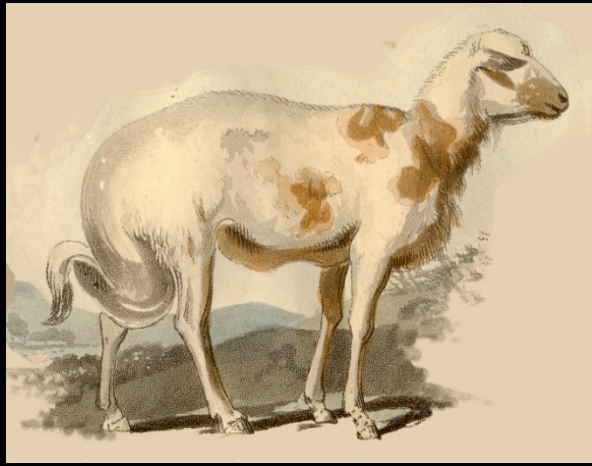
Other Cape dates on charcoal:

DIE KELDERS (SOUTH COAST): 2020-1465 BP

KASTEELBERG: 1860-1790 BP.

Some rock paintings of fat-tailed sheep in Western Cape.





GOATS

Very few goat remains found: Namaqualand c. 800 BP
--most come from Later Iron Age occupations, i.e.
after 1000 BP.



CATTLE

Cattle bones found at Toteng, Kalahari c. 2000 BP

Cattle are rare in Western Cape:

BYNESKRANSKOP (South Coast): 2100 BP

KNERSVLAKTE (inland W. Cape): c. 1700 BP

Large bovids at KASTEELBERG A: 1860 BP,
and KBB c. 1300 BP (increase after 1000 BP)

No cattle paintings in Western Cape

Most cattle bones in southern Africa associated with
Later Iron Age sites, i.e. after 1000 BP.

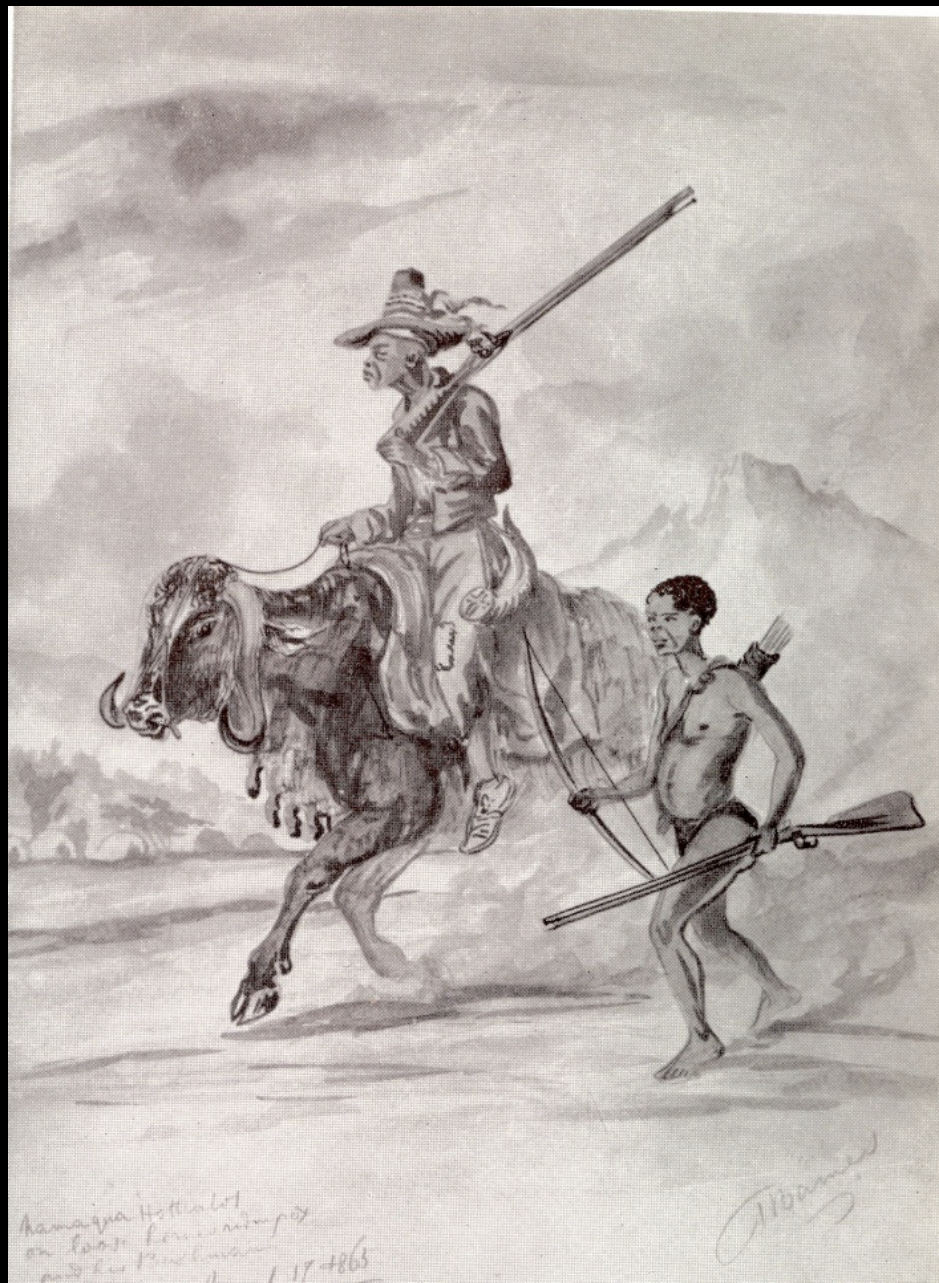




Dofatten tolken blafen in de hoefoten mit een bamboesje of mit de mont
om dat zij milder milk zoud krijgen, trear door zij offt magt vreden
want haer miltste oledergout is milk, want zij mit gesein de flagte, om
dat hit vrede zoud vooft wils







Kanaiya Hattalot
on last horse riding
at the 17-1863

J. B. ...



CATTLE DRAWN OVER ELAND

DOGS

- In spite of a very detailed study of canids in archaeological contexts by Mitchell (2014), the evidence for domestic dogs (as opposed to jackals) is difficult to prove. Mitchell's conclusion is that dogs probably came to Southern Africa with herders in the 1st millenium AD, but more attention needs to be made of faunal collections from known herder sites.