

appendix

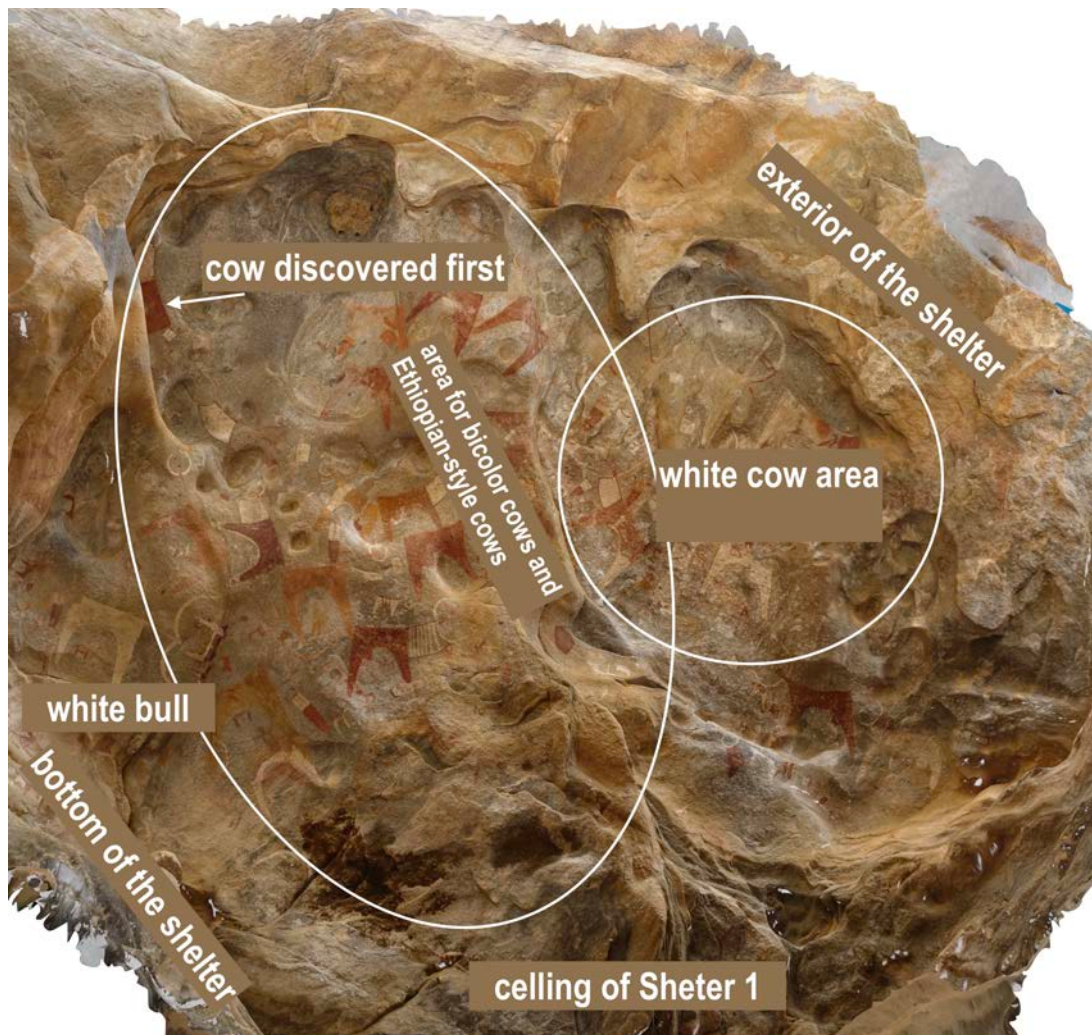
Main points of interest for visitors - Accessibility & improvements

plans, figures, and few explanations...

Shelter 1

Main points of interest for visitors

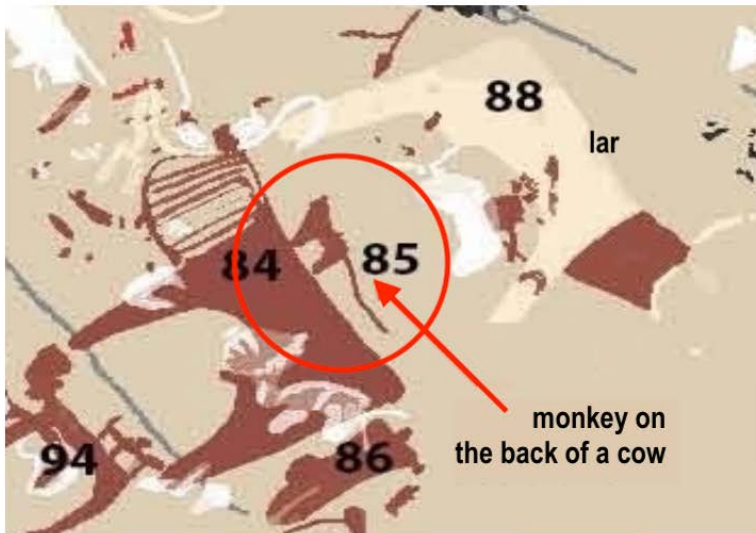
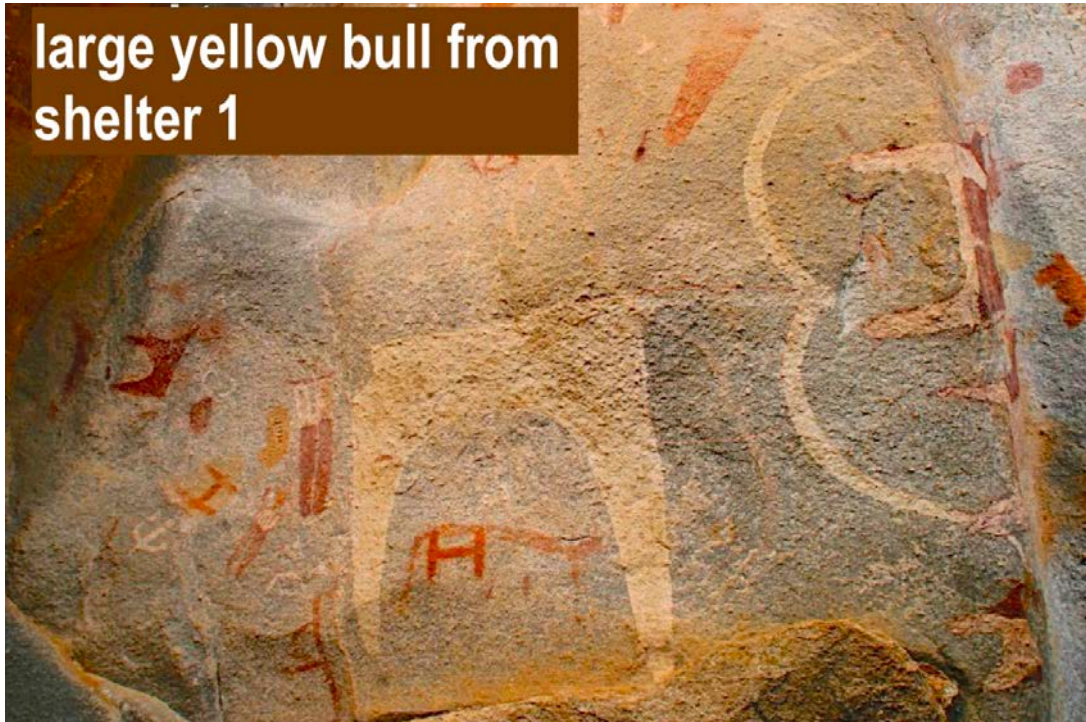
A high density of figures and a strikingly polychromatic appearance compared with other rock shelters. The colours of the cows and anthropomorphic figures are exceptionally well preserved. Their positioning is adapted to the morphology of the rock faces. The figures are arranged to follow the recesses and raised areas.



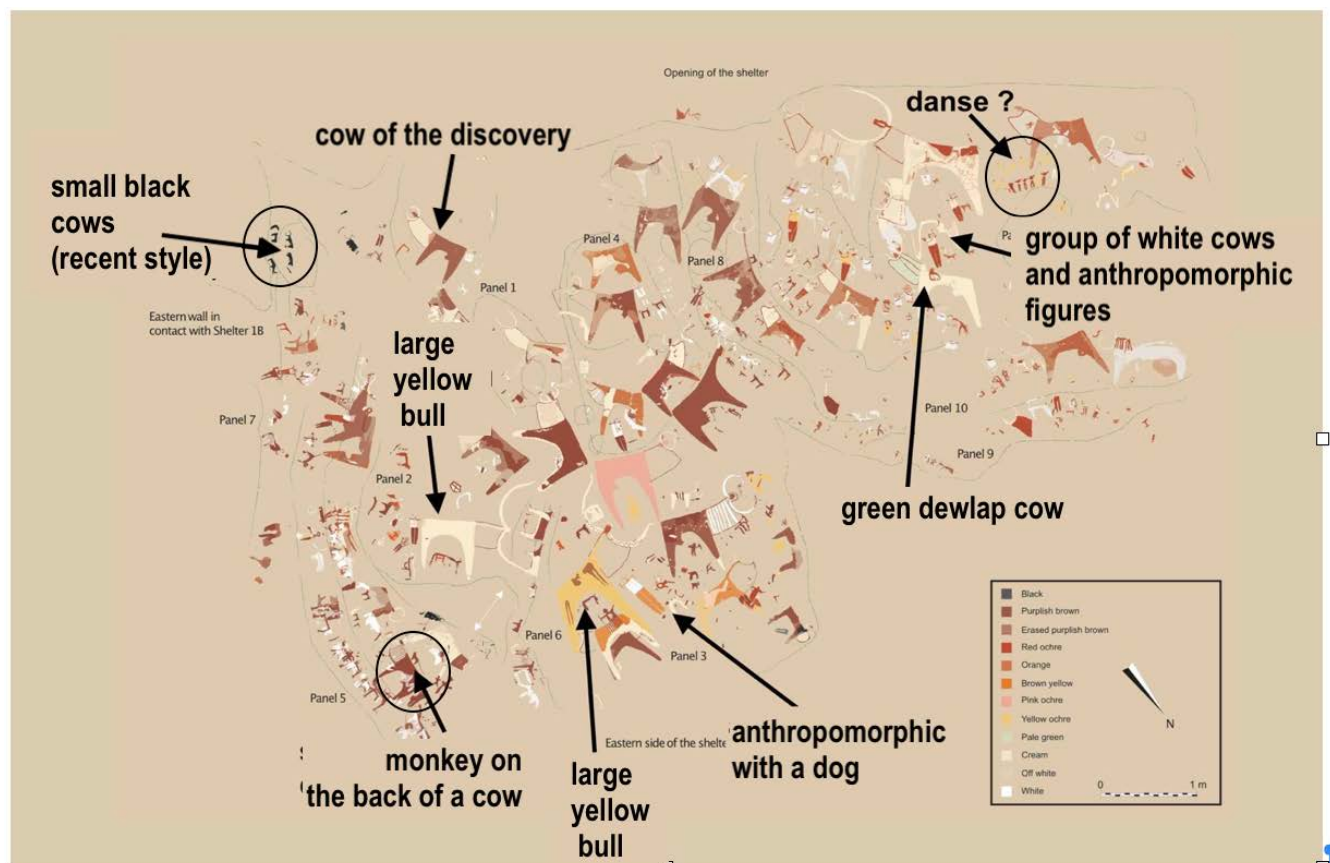
We can also highlight the specific distribution of certain figures, such as groups of anthropomorphic figures on the right-hand side and rows of dancers, which date from a later period than the cows and anthropomorphic figures in the Laas Geel style. On the left-hand side, the white and red cows form a separate group. These are also the ones that catch the eye first. As a side note, there is a monkey on the back of a cow.

Name? : Discovery Shelter, Dancers' Shelter,

large yellow bull from shelter 1



large anthropomorphic figure with dog



Accessibility improvements

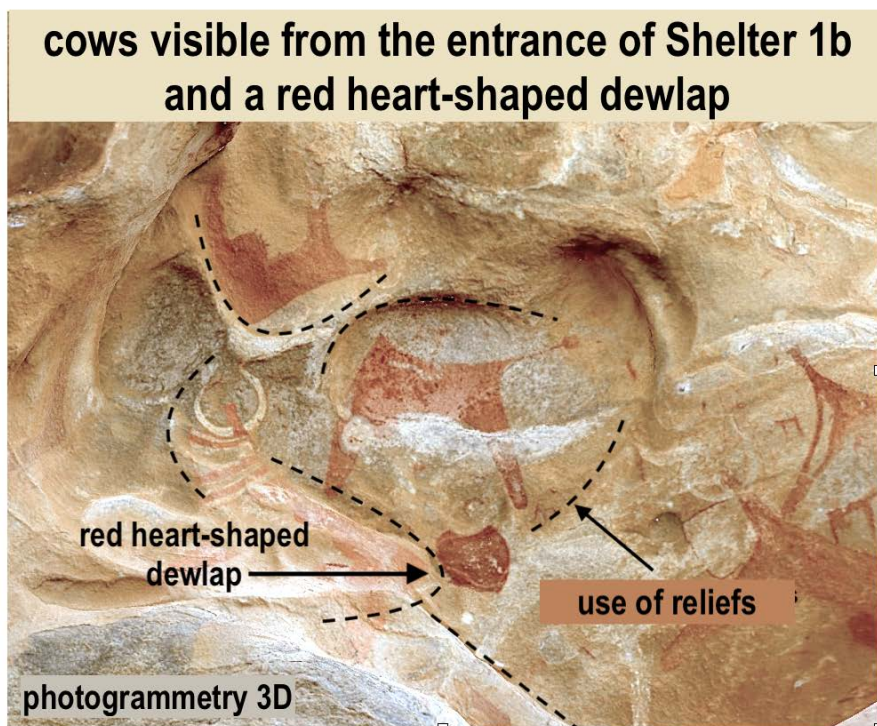
(e.g. clearing of undergrowth, access ramp, rope, etc.)

Clearing of undergrowth, removal of barbed wire. For this shelter, a removable barrier would prevent the goats from entering. Another removable barrier would allow shelter 1B to be closed off, as the space is narrow and repeated passage could damage the paintwork due to the risk of rubbing.

Shelter 1b

Main points of interest for visitors

The shape of the walls and ceiling makes it difficult to explore. The figures are in varying states of preservation. There are fewer figures here than in Shelter 1. Some figures are located at the back of niches and are not immediately visible. A large red cow can be seen from the entrance.



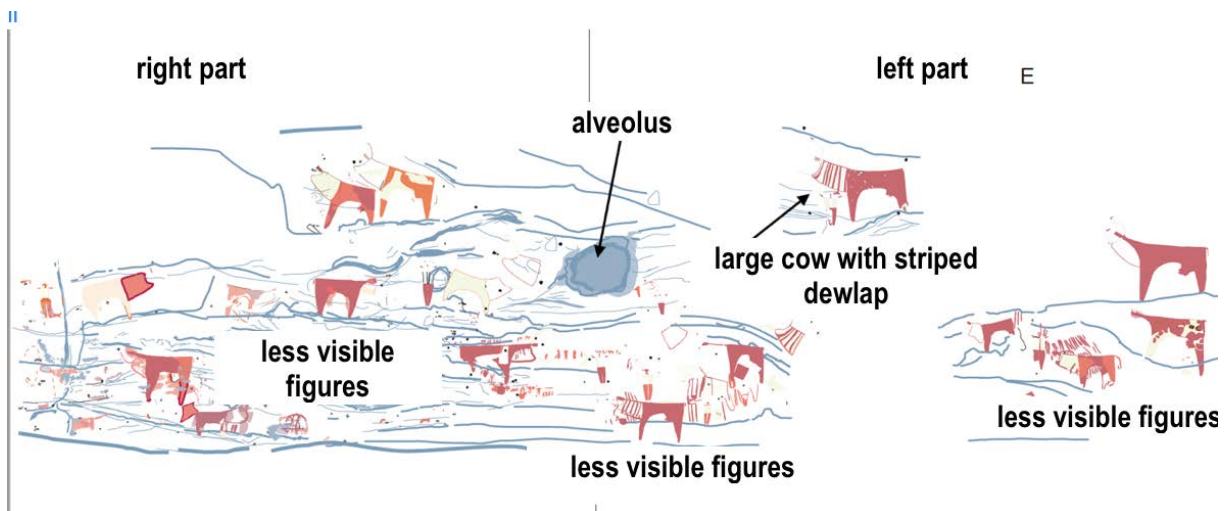
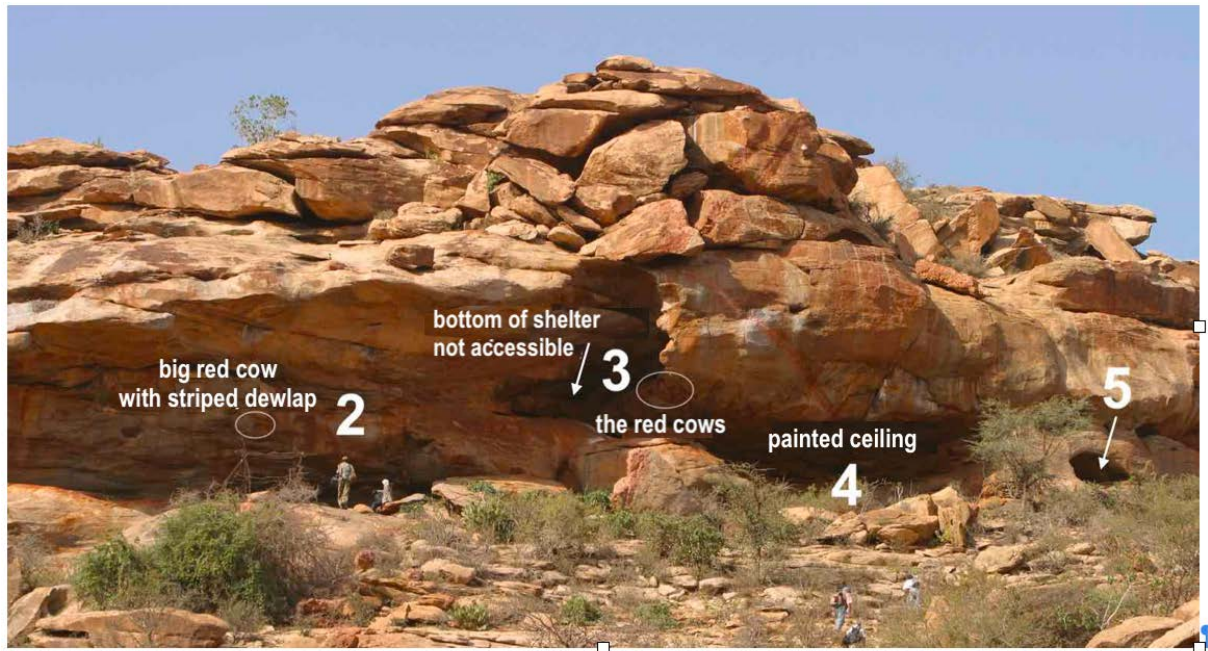
Accessibility improvements

(e.g. clearing of undergrowth, access ramp, rope, etc.)

This shelter, which is an extension of Shelter 1, is not particularly suitable for public access. Only a small group accompanied by a guide, standing at the entrance to the shelter, can hear the commentary.

Shelter 2

Main points of interest for visitors

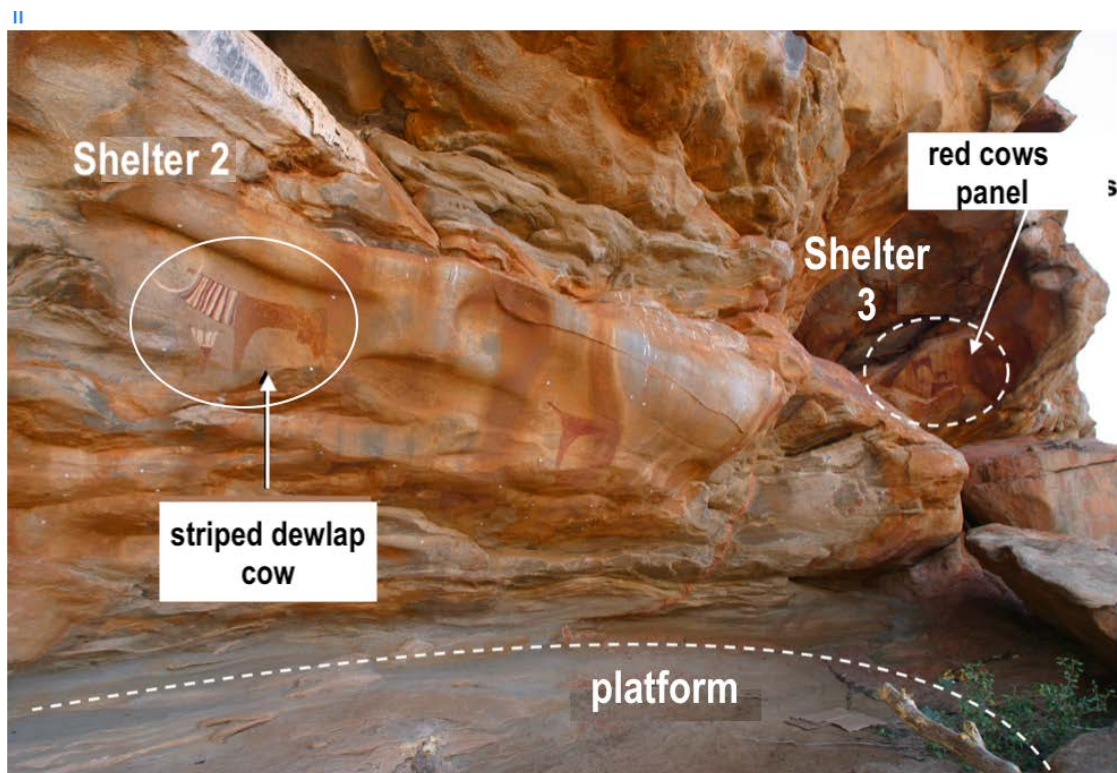


The large red cow and the anthropomorphic figure situated just below it are the main attractions of this vast rock shelter. It is this cow that serves as the emblem of Laas Geel, and in a sense, of Somaliland. It has been reproduced countless times by commercial enterprises and public institutions. The other figures are less well-preserved or less visible to the untrained eye. This rock shelter, with its vast rocky platform which is easy to walk around, offers a remarkable view of the wadis and the rock face opposite. The height of the painted panel also gives visitors to the site a unique impression. Name: Rock shelter of the Great Cow...



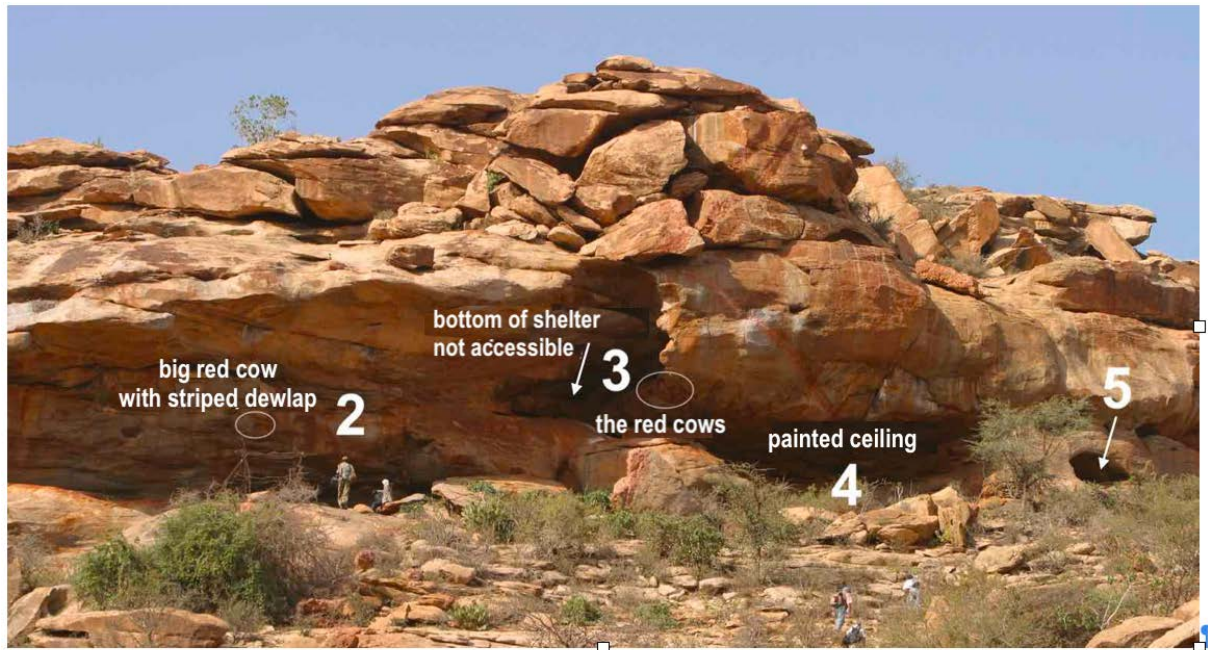
**Accessibility improvements
(e.g. clearing of undergrowth, access ramp, rope, etc.)**

This shelter presents no accessibility issues, except that the climb up to the platform – which forms the floor of this spacious shelter – from the nature trail is short but somewhat steep. Visitors tend to stay longer here than at other shelters because the flat area in front of the shelter is wide open. Natural benches (hewn granite blocks) could be installed here to allow people to rest and admire the scenery; some people – and not just the elderly – show signs of fatigue after the fairly steep climb from the start of the steps, despite a stop at Shelter 1.



Shelter 3

Main points of interest for visitors



red cows from shelter 3

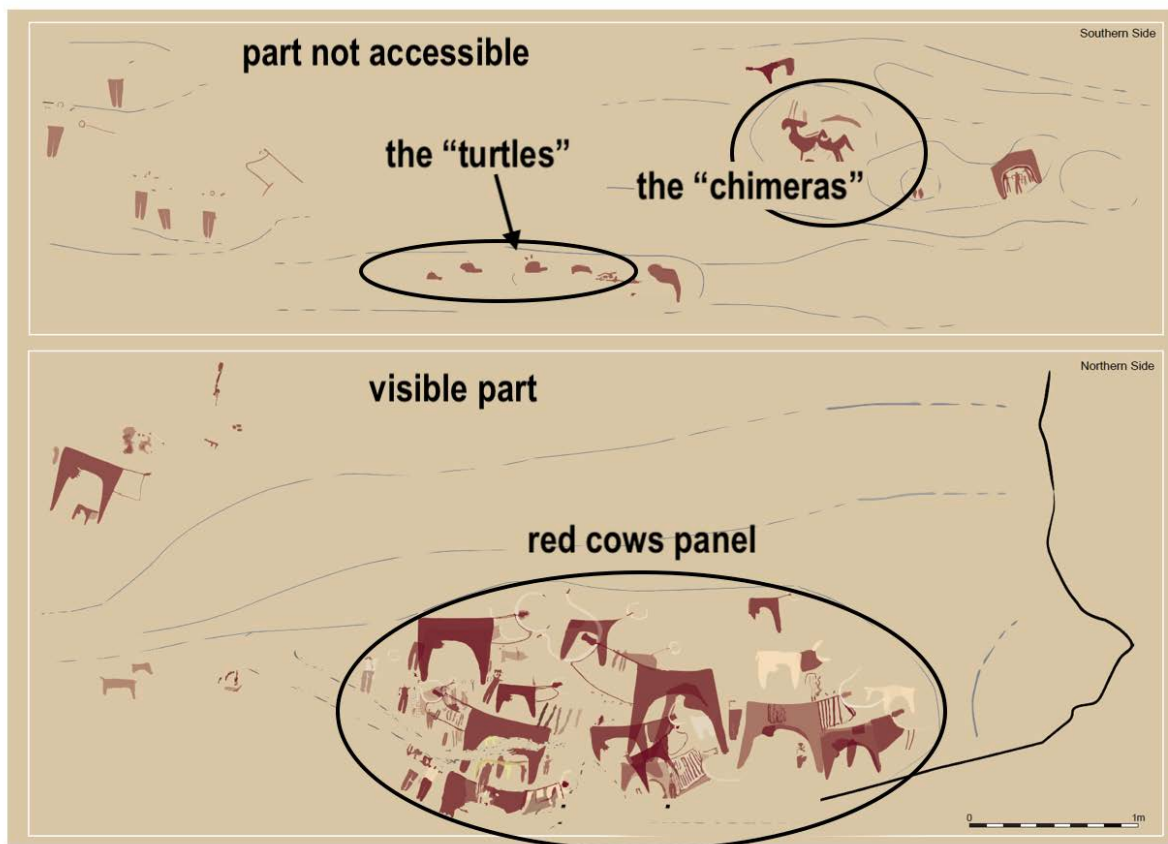
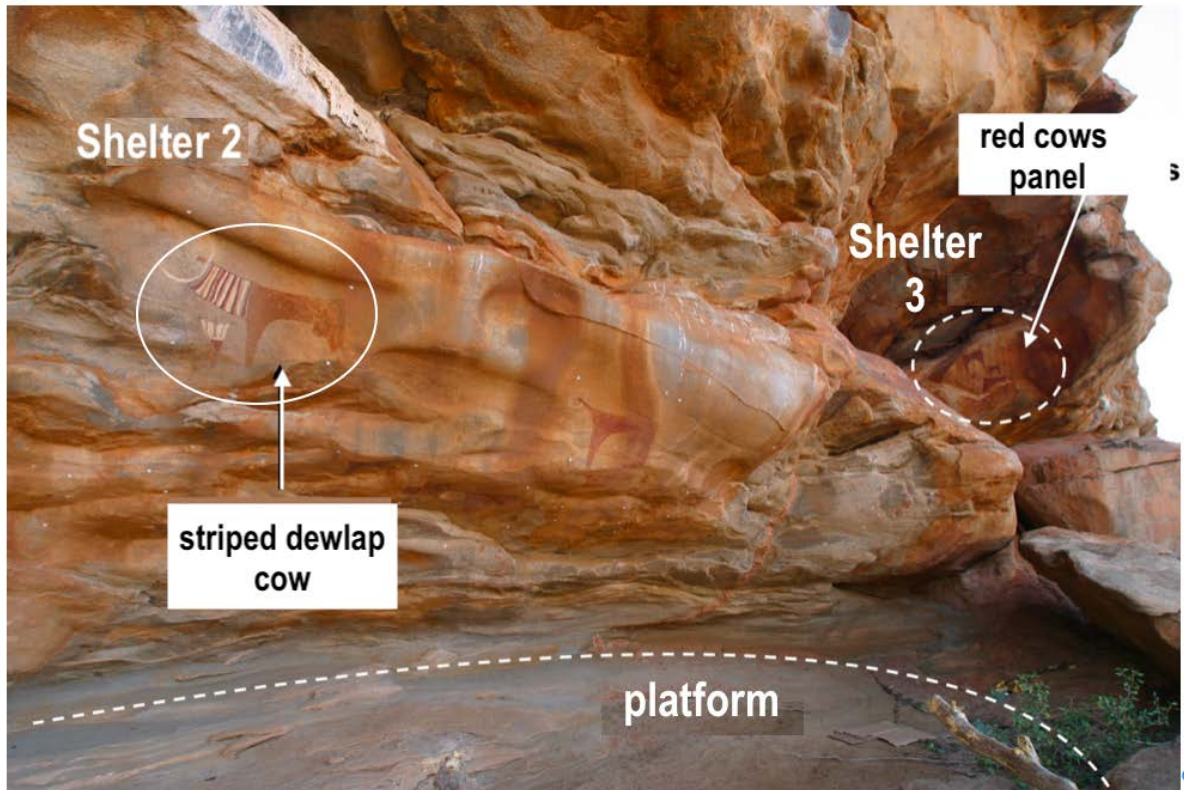
Depth and height of the rock shelter. Figures of interest to archaeologists (such as turtles) are difficult to see and very faint. It is mainly the group of red cows that catches the eye from shelter 2. This group is very well preserved.

Name?: Shelter of the Red Cows...

Accessibility improvements

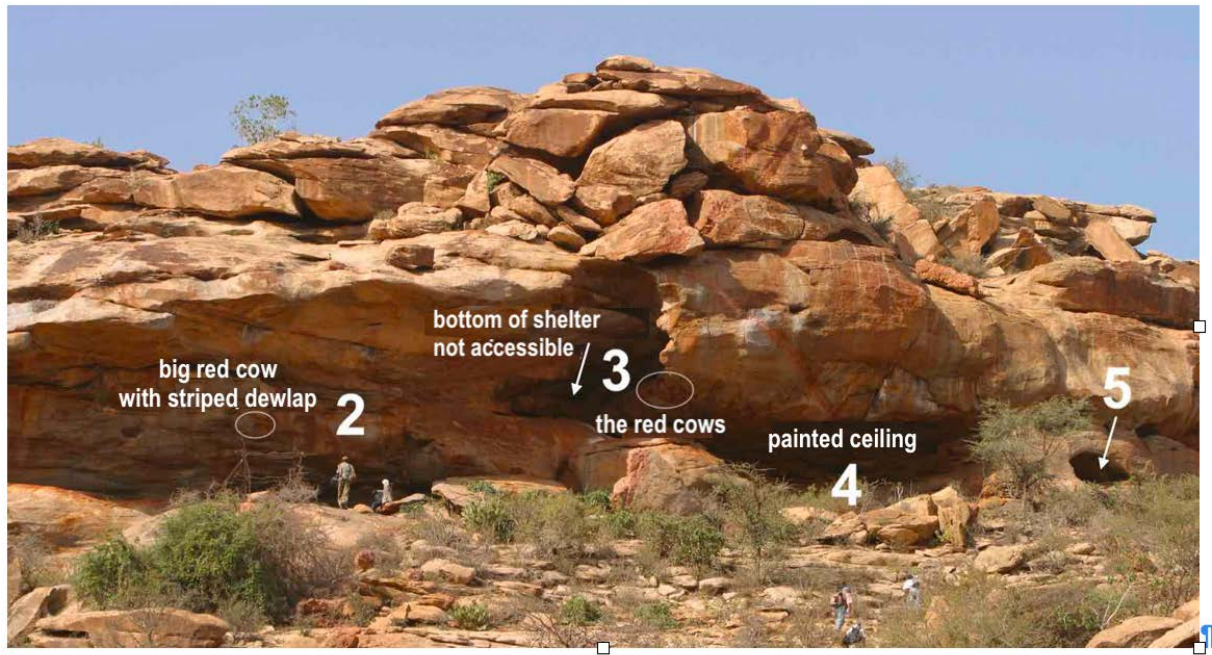
(e.g. clearing of undergrowth, access ramp, rope, etc.)

Option to consider: an observation platform from Shelter 2, where the large red cows are clearly visible. Access from Shelter 4 is difficult. Do not use this route. This passage is reserved for site staff and researchers.



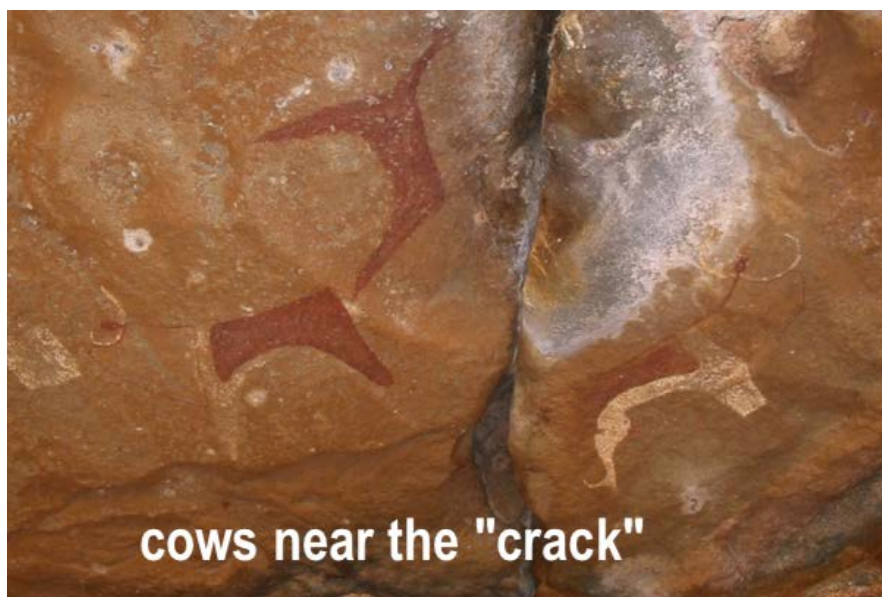
Shelter 4

Main points of interest for visitors



A site of moderate interest. There are many ancient impact marks, and a layer of calcite obscures the figures. This is a sloping painted ceiling divided into two sections by a large vertical crack. Almost all the cows depicted are walking in the same direction, as if in a herd, and appear to be led by a larger bovine. Two-coloured cows and a red cow in the style of Shelter 3 stand out clearly from the others near the crack. There are few anthropomorphic figures compared to other shelters. However, the figures are sometimes weathered, as the shelter is particularly exposed.

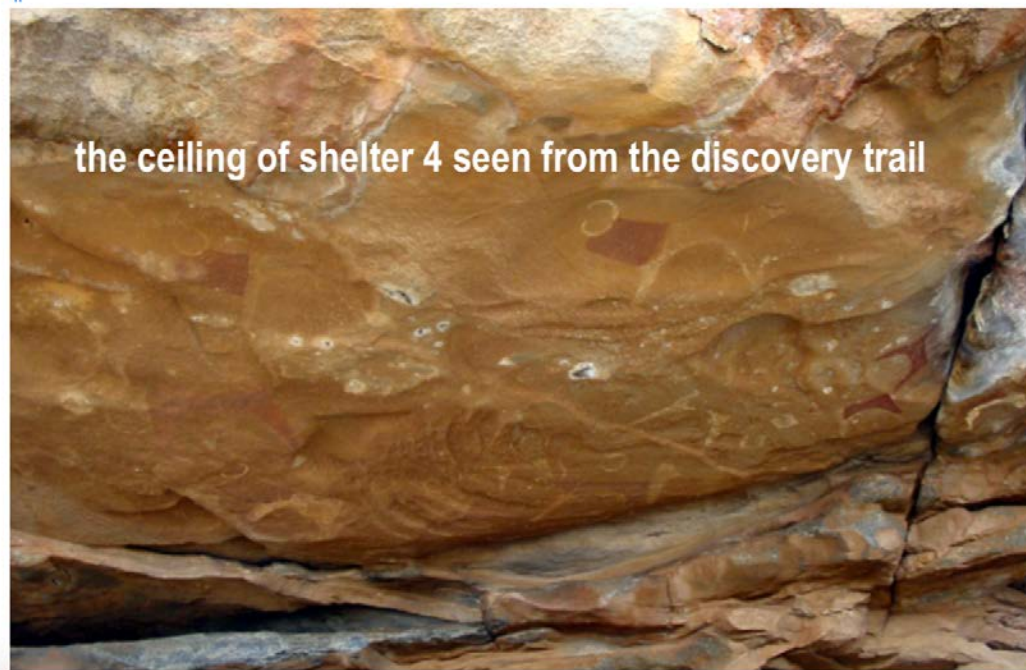
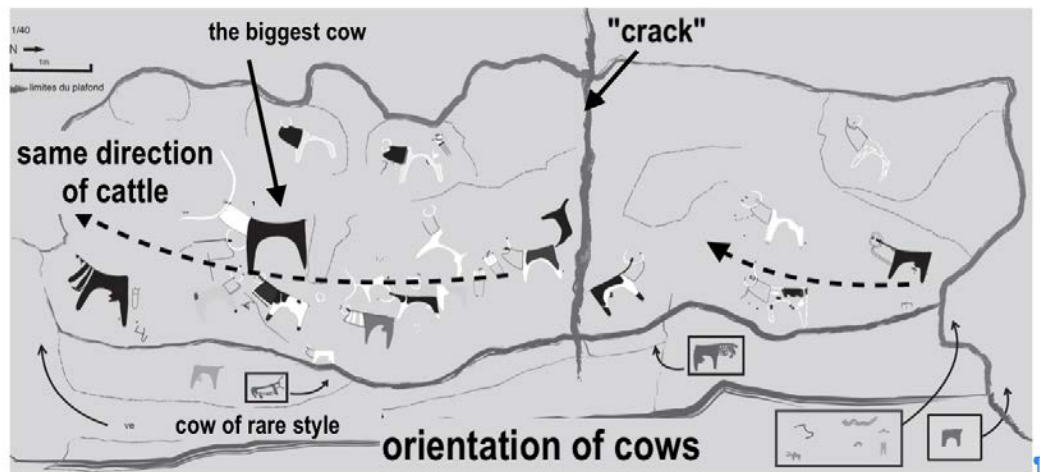
Name? : Shelter of the herd, of the crack...



Accessibility improvements

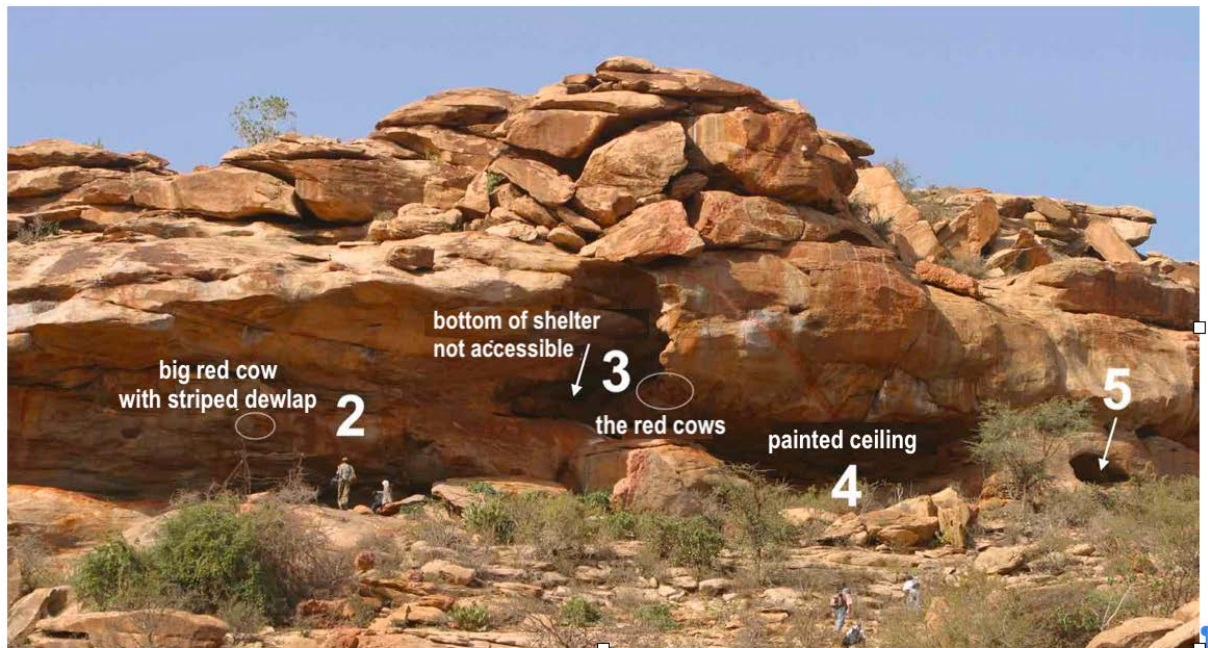
(e.g. clearing of undergrowth, access ramp, rope, etc.)

It is located along the route, right next to the nature trail. There are no particular risks, provided you do not try to get too close to the figures on the ceiling: there is a risk of scraping them.



Shelter 5

Main points of interest for visitors)



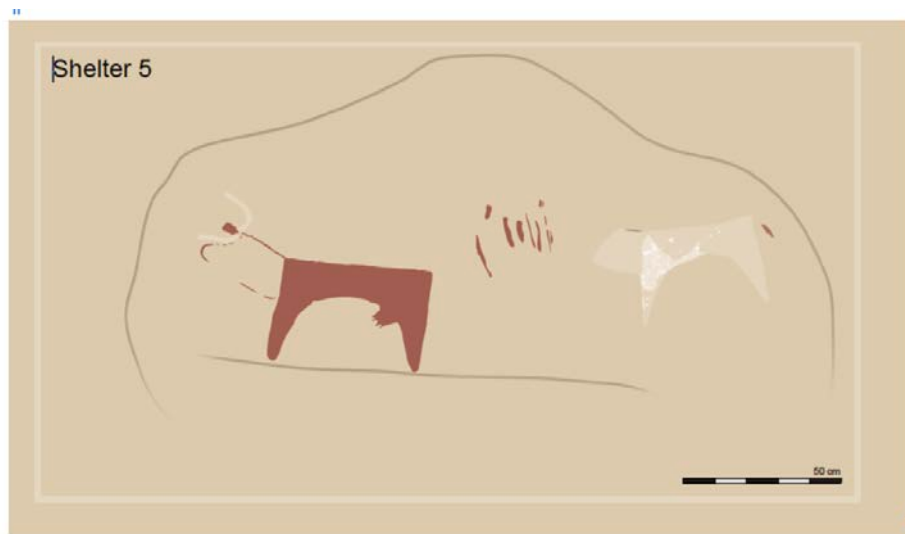
It contains few figures (two bovine figures and some linear marks), but is immediately recognisable as a narrow alcove cut directly into the rock face.

Name?: Alcove Shelter,...

Accessibility improvements

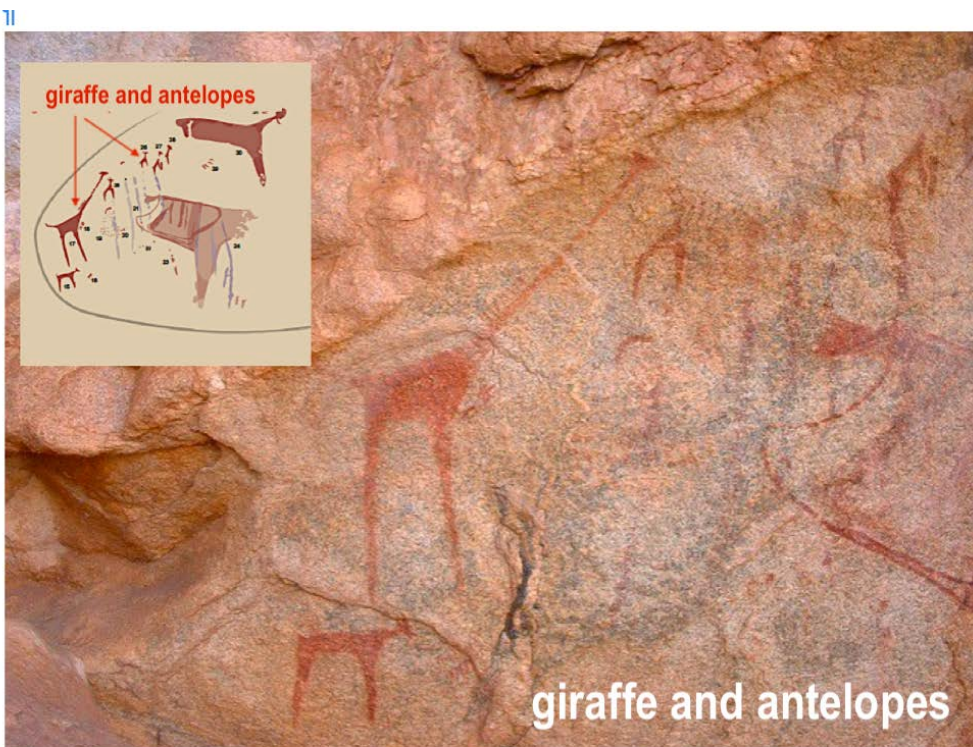
(e.g. clearing of undergrowth, access ramp, rope, etc.)

Located beside the nature trail, just past shelter 4. No one goes inside the shelter. A small sign in front of the opening might indicate that the figures can only be seen from the outside.



Shelter 6

Main points of interest for visitors



Shelter 6 is situated 4 metres above the nature trail, just past Shelter 5. It is shallow. The figures are weathered, but a giraffe and four antelopes are depicted alongside domestic cattle.

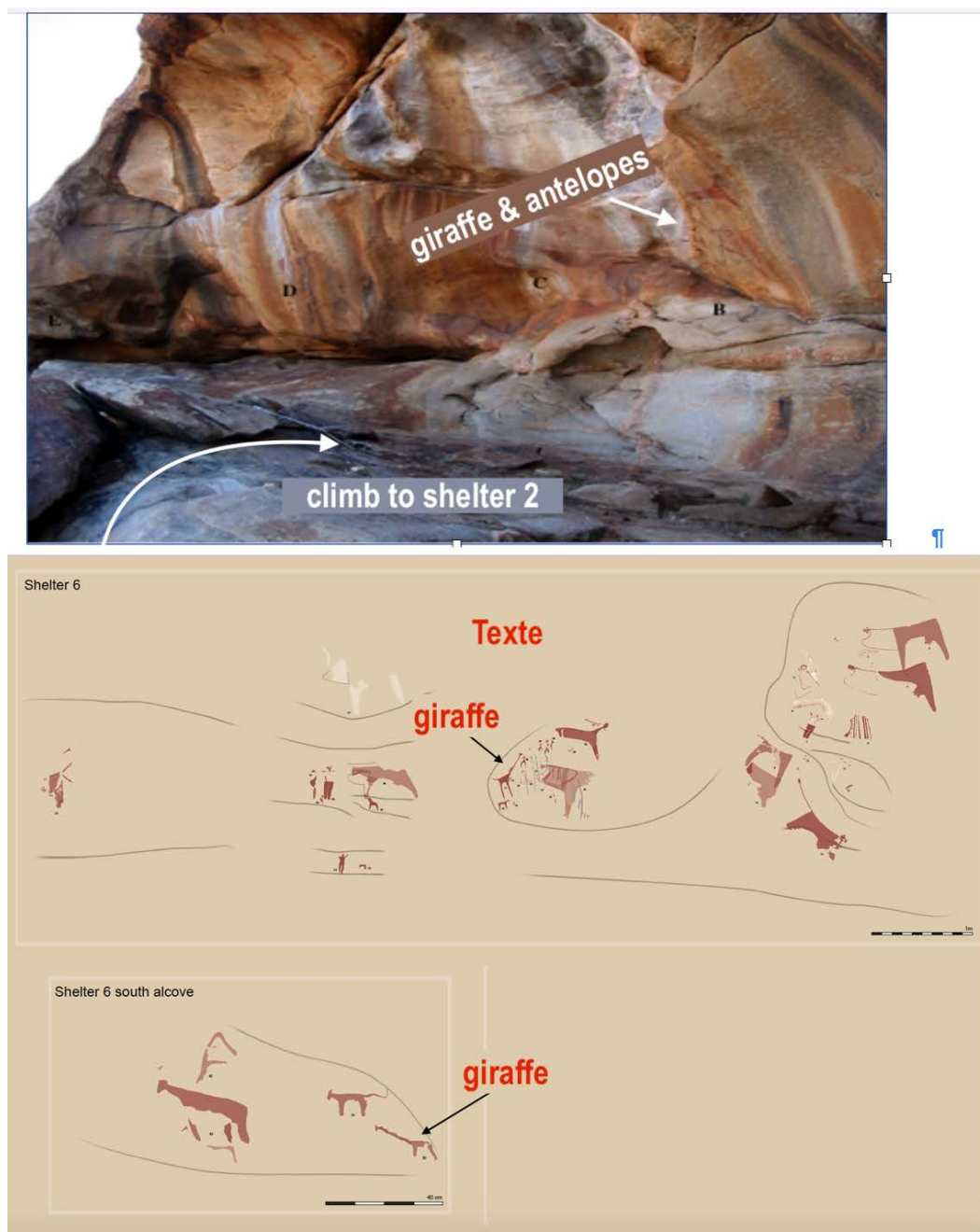
This is a rare depiction of wildlife at the site and the only shelter at Laas Geel Rock where a giraffe appears.

Name: The Giraffe and Antelope Rock Shelter.

Accessibility improvements

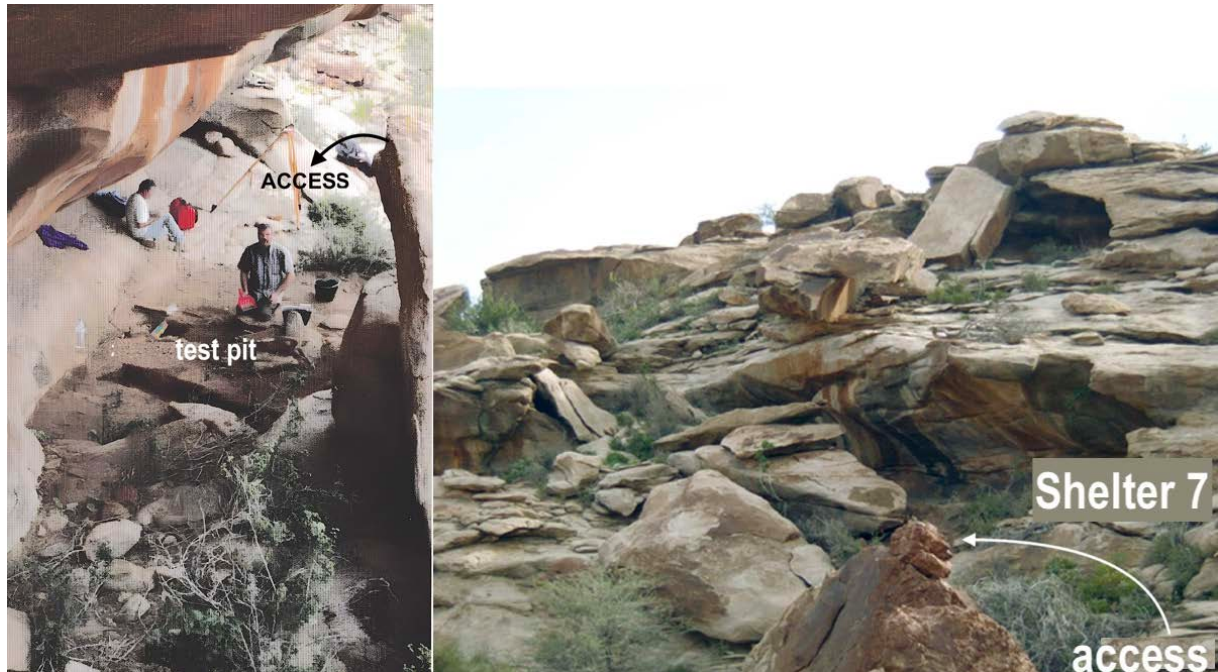
(e.g. clearing of undergrowth, access ramp, rope, etc.)

Access to the rock slab from the footpath. A guided tour is required and is restricted to those able to climb the rock slab. No more than three or four people at a time. Consider the possibility of a system that allows visitors to view the contents of the shelter without having to climb up, such as an information panel placed at the bottom near the nature trail.



Shelter 7

Main points of interest for visitors



There is nothing particularly new about the paintings for visitors. The shelter is mainly of interest because of the archaeological excavations that have been carried out there.

Name? : Archaeologists' Shelter, Excavation Site, French Shelter, Dominique and Amélie's Shelter (the specialist archaeologists who led the excavations)

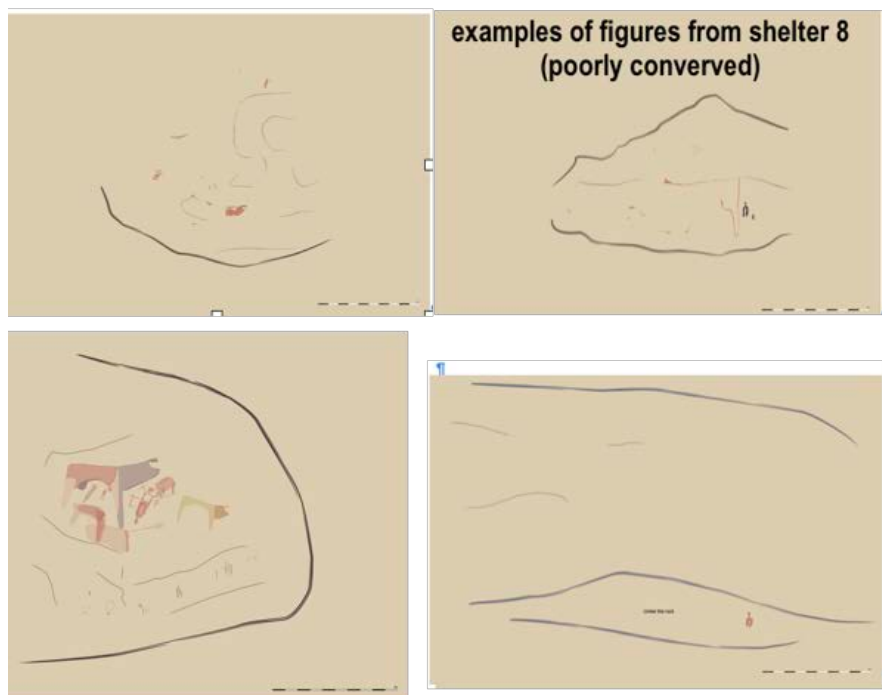
Accessibility improvements (e.g. clearing of undergrowth, access ramp, rope, etc.)



The shelter is located above No. 6. Access to it is not easy. It will be essential to install a hand-drail to enable visitors to climb up to the shelter from the nature trail. A platform will need to be installed to cover the depression where the excavations took place. This is to protect the preserved part of the archaeological deposits from being trampled on. No more than 3 people, accompanied by the guide, for any potential visit

Shelter 8

**Main points of interest for visitors and accessibility improvements
(e.g. clearing of undergrowth, access ramp, rope, etc.)**

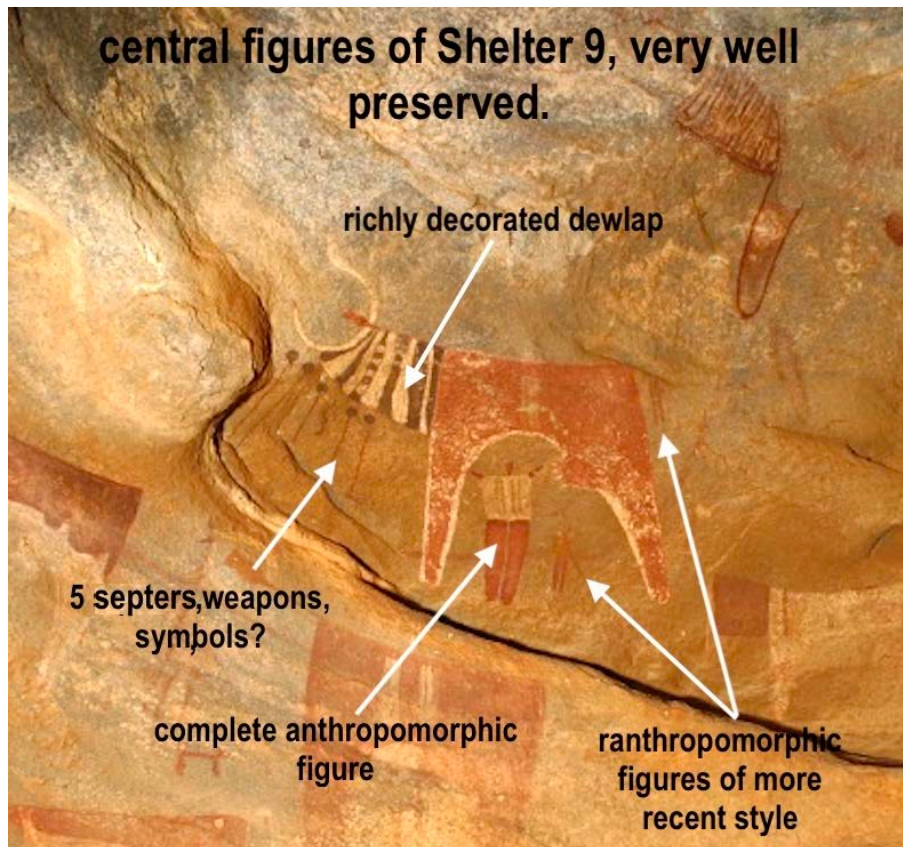


Access to shelter 8 is dangerous. It contains features of great interest to researchers but requires a trained eye as they are often difficult to make out. Name?: There is no specific name for this shelter, which is excluded from the tour.

Shelter 8 is difficult to access. It contains features of great interest to archaeologists but requires a trained eye as they are often faint. It should be excluded from public access.

Shelter 9

Main points of interest for visitors



It is a niche (tafoni) that is difficult to access. The figures are particularly beautiful and vivid, but may be damaged by visitors due to the confined space

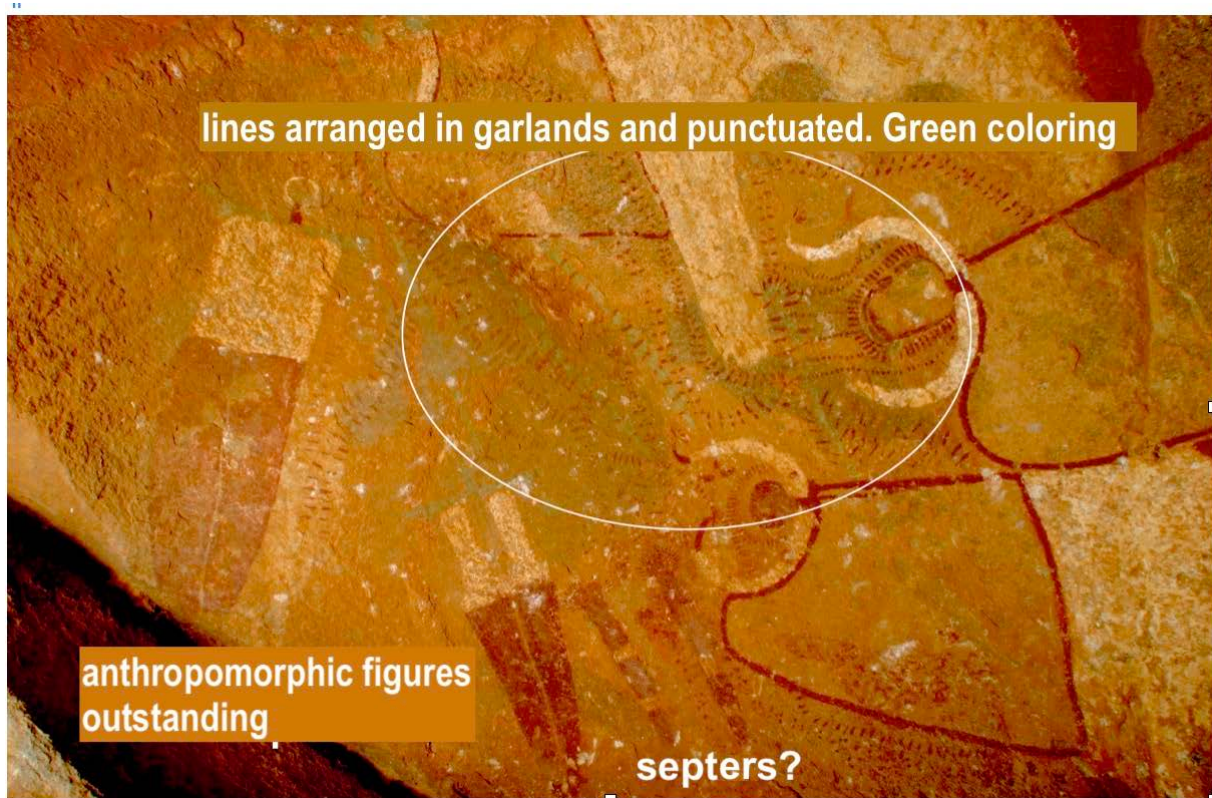
Accessibility improvements
(e.g. clearing of undergrowth, access ramp, rope, etc.)

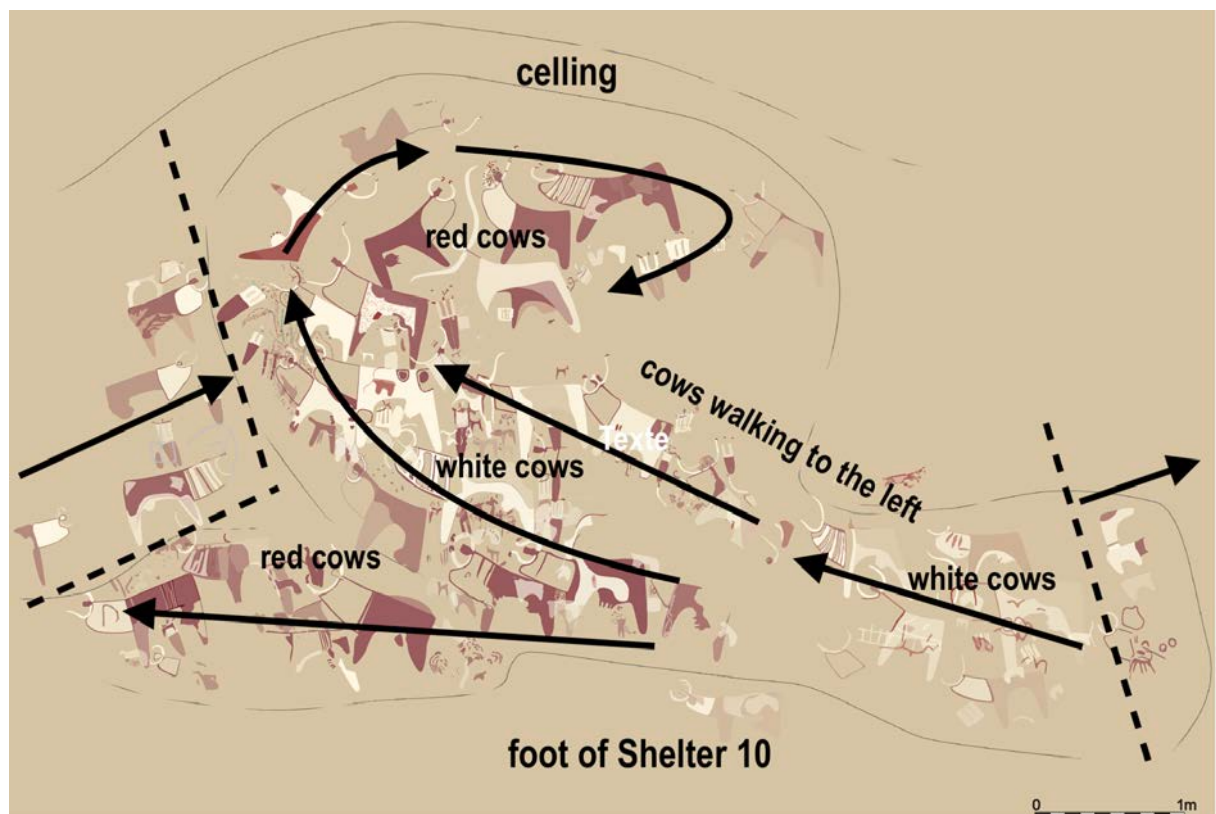
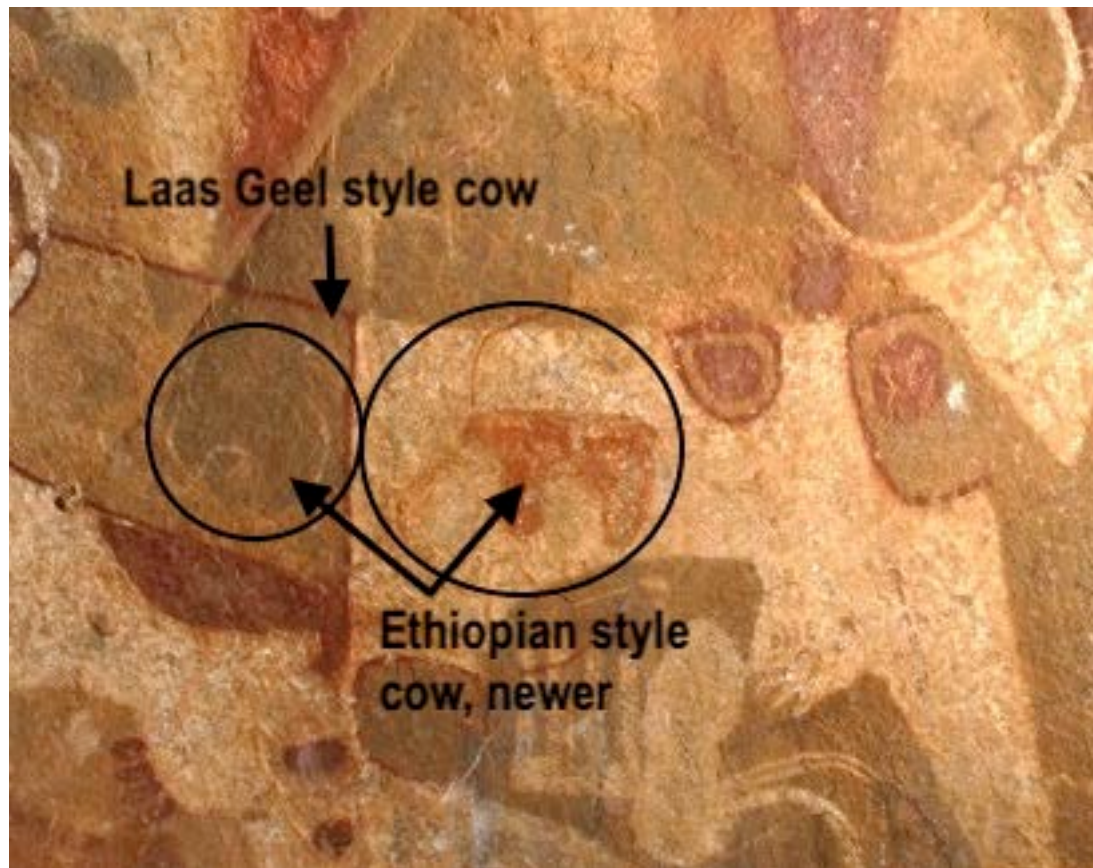
This is a typical tafoni that is difficult to access. Due to the limited space available and the rather perilous access, it must be excluded from the tour.

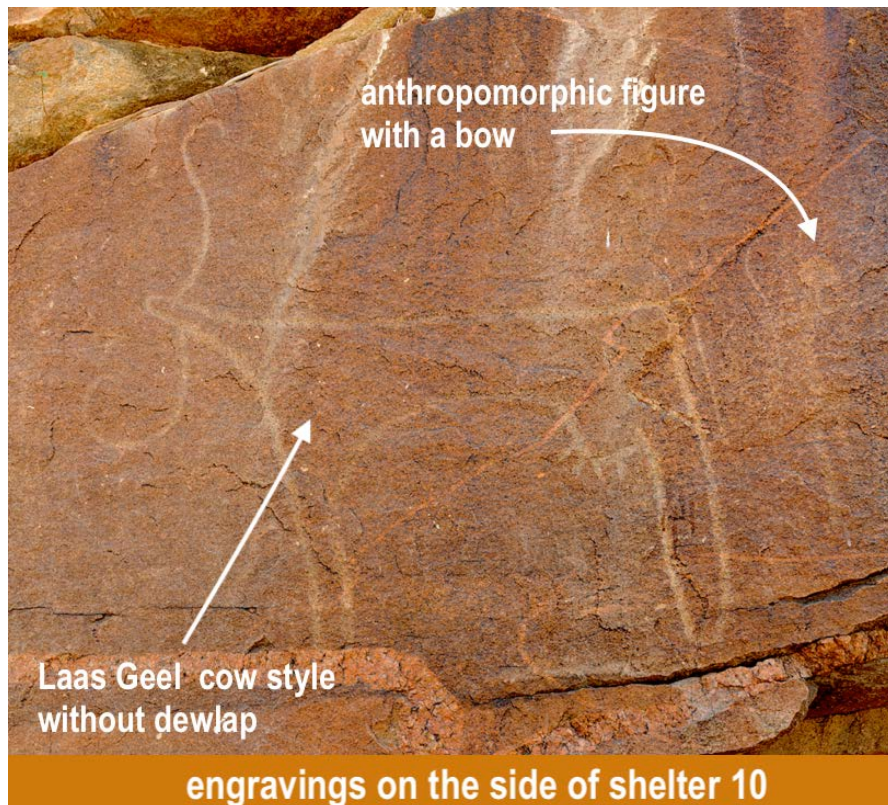
Shelter 10

Main points of interest for visitors

Visitors conclude their tour in front of one of the most beautiful painted walls at the Laas Geel site. The arrangement of the paintings is predominantly vertical, very different from that of Shelter 1, which is essentially horizontal. The cattle also have a distinctive style in this shelter, particularly in the central section. The superimposed figures are clearly visible, notably those of the small, stocky cattle in the Ethiopian style (all too often mistaken for elephants by the guides). One also notes the direction taken by the cows facing left, which appear to follow one another from the right-hand wall up to the ceiling in a circular motion. Here too, the reliefs on the wall are used to separate a group of cows facing the opposite way, this time looking to the right (barely visible on the left-hand side of the rock shelter) . The dotted lines surrounding some of the cattle are particularly striking. On the side of the rock shelter, one can see the site's only engraving: a cow and an anthropomorphic figure shooting a bow.



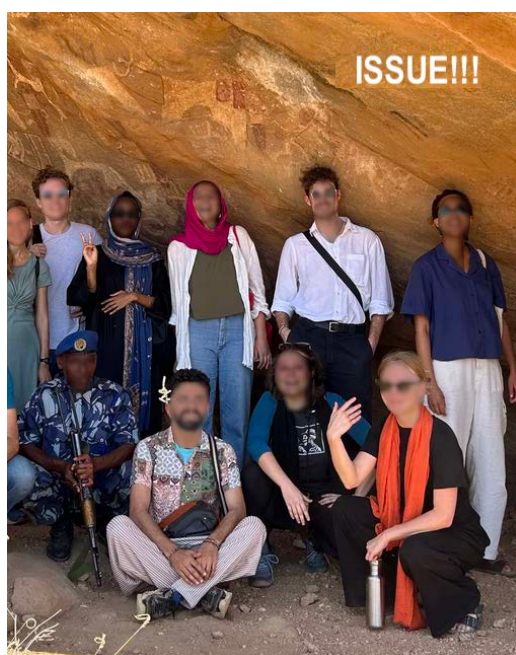




Accessibility improvements

(e.g. clearing of undergrowth, access ramp, rope, etc.)

This is the most accessible of the three shelters. Visitors often lean against the walls, making it particularly vulnerable. The footpath should be moved away from the base of the shelter: a barrier or thick rope should be installed to restrict access, and guides should be clearly instructed to keep visitors at a safe distance.



Shelter 11

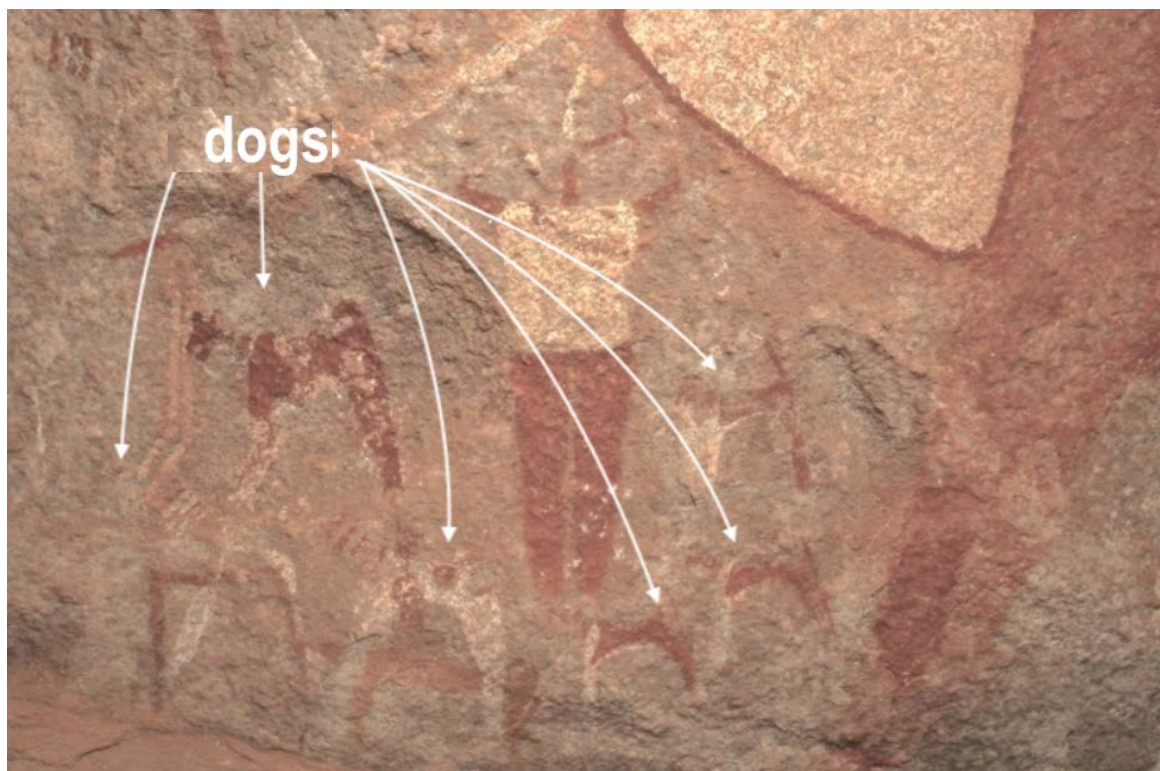
Main points of interest for visitors



This is one of the best-preserved rock shelters, notable for its possible depiction of a mating scene and its rare figure of a bull. It is also the shelter featuring one of the most striking decorated panels, reminiscent of a fabric pattern.

Name? : the Bull's Shelter, the Cow's Shelter with Arabesques,...





Accessibility improvements
(e.g. clearing of undergrowth, access ramp, rope, etc.)

Some form of protection is needed – such as stones or a low barrier – to indicate that visitors may look at the figures from the path but must not get too close to them.