

University
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Johannesburg



Institute for Human Evolution

Palaeosciences Centre, University of the Witwatersrand, Private Bag 3, Johannesburg, WITS 2050, South Africa

9 May 2012

Attention: Colette Schreermeyer
SAHRA
Head Office
Cape Town

Re: Application for Sterkfontein caves excavations permit

Dear SAHRA,

I am the current permit holder for the Sterkfontein caves excavations. I fully support the application of Dr Dominic Stratford for the renewal of this permit in his name. He will work in collaboration with myself and Prof. K. Kuman of this university. We have both served as his research thesis supervisors and can confirm that Dr Stratford is highly qualified to direct these excavations. He completed both his MSc and PhD on Sterkfontein research projects. Both have involved his own excavations in the Sterkfontein Formation, using innovative methods that have demonstrated his abilities and special skills in karst cave research. In addition, Dr Stratford has the leadership qualities necessary for directing future research at this important national heritage site, and we wish to continue his mentorship for the future of research at Sterkfontein.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. J. Clarke'.

Ronald J. Clarke, PhD, FRSSAf
Professor and Reader
Institute for Human Evolution

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