

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
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Enquiries: Ragna Redelstorff
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CaseID: 13948

Date: Friday June 21, 2019
Page No: 1

Letter

In terms of Section 32(19) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Dr Dominic Stratford
University of the Witwatersrand - Institute for Human Evolution
P.Bag 3 Wits 2050
Johannesburg

The StW 573, 'Little Foot' skeleton represents the most complete Australopithecus yet found. Every part of the skeleton, except for the cranium has been subjected to high resolution microCT scanning at the Evolutionary Studies Institute at the University of the Witwatersrand. These scans have been crucial to the multiscale and multidisciplinary study of this specimen. Due to issues with the size, shape and density of the cranium, we have not obtained satisfactory results using the MicroCT facility and so we are applying to export the specimen to the specialist synchrotron and neutron scanning facility located in Oxford, UK. This facility has the capacity to scan the whole cranium with much higher penetration than the MicroCT and at higher resolution - providing the data that we need to fully realise the scientific value of the specimen.

Dear Dr D. Stratford,

Thank you for your application to temporarily export the cranium of specimen StW 573 from Sterkfontein Caves NHS for neutron scanning on I12-JEEP at the Diamond Light Source and on IMAT at the ISIS facilities, Didcot, UK, between 5 and 9 July 2019. It is noted that the specimen will be kept in a secure safe room for sensitive fossils at Diamond Light Source at all times when not being scanned.

SAHRA has reviewed the application and has decided to approve it.

We wish you every success with this project.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

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Ragna Redelstorff
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/524512>

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.