

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

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CaseID: 14691

Date: Tuesday March 10, 2020  
Page No: 1

## Letter

### In terms of Section 35(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Justin Bradfield  
Evolutionary Studies Institute  
Private Bag 3  
WITS, 2050

**We propose to establish a direct date and DNA profile for the human hair sample found at Kruger Cave in 1982. The hair, which was found adhering to a sheep's bladder, which was probably worn as a hat, comes from an undated layer. It is presumed to date to the 19th century based on ethnographic accounts, but the absence of other 19th century material in the cave suggests it could be far older. We propose to sample three tufts of hair for ancient DNA (aDNA) testing at Uppsala University, Sweden, and about 20 mg of bladder tissue for AMS dating. If the bladder cap comes from the 1st millennium AD contact period we would be able to determine whether it belonged to a person of Bantu-speaking or San origin, and potentially the extent of population admixture at this time. This would add substantially to our knowledge of forager/farmer contact relations in the western Magaliesberg, North West Province.**

Dear Dr Justin Bradfield,

Thank you for your application to sample three tufts of human hair and about 20mg of non-human bladder tissue from Kruger Cave and permanently export the samples for DNA analysis at the Uppsala University, Sweden.

SAHRA has reviewed the application including the submitted proof of public participation and is satisfied with the engagement with interested and affected parties, including representatives of the San Council.

As such SAHRA has decided to approve the application.

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.

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Yours faithfully

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Ragna Redelstorff  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/532447>

**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.