

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  
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Ragna Redelstorff, PhD

Tel: +27 (0)21 202 8651

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CaseID: 20209

Date: Wednesday February 01, 2023

Page No: 1

## Letter

### In terms of Section 35(4) 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

**This application seeks permission to undertake continuing palaeoanthropological research at the World Heritage site of the Sterkfontein Caves, Krugersdorp, Gauteng Province primarily under the direction of Professor Dominic Stratford with Dr Matthew Caruana as co-permit holder. Professor Marion Bamford represents the landowner, Wits University. All excavations were seriously hindered between 2019 and 2021 due to the covid19 pandemic. This application therefore seeks permission to continue excavations for research in the underground and surface-exposed fossiliferous deposits that were previously proposed for the 2019-2022 permit period but not completed. In addition, permission is sought for ongoing excavations as part of the Member 4 stabilisation project to mitigate serious structural fragility from previous excavations. In addition, this application includes the development of fossiliferous breccias and sediments resulting from past and present excavations together with associated research and curation of the yielded fossils following SAHRA and Wits University curatorial standards.**

Thank you for submitting permit reports as requested.

The following permit reports for permits under your name were approved:

<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/export-permit-border-cave-sediment-samples-micromorphological-preparatio>  
[n](#)

<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/export-permit-sediment-samples-micromorphological-and-chemical-analysis>

<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/expedition-unknown>

<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/sterkfontein-caves-palaeoanthropological-research-and-excavation-permit-re>  
[newal](#)



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<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/stabilisation-sterkfontein-member-4-excavation-walls>

<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/permanent-export-flowstone-material-sterkfontein-caves-analyses>

For the following permits reports have been submitted and are pending curator letters:

<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/palaeoanthropological-research-sterkfontein-caves-2019-2021>

<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/export-stw-573-cranium-isis-neutron-scanning-facility>

<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/destruction-permit-maropeng-stone-tools>

<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/maropeng-archaeological-excavations-permit-renewal>

<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/export-stw-573-cranium-diamond-light-source-synchrotron-facility>

<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/maropeng-archaeological-excavations-permit-renewal>

<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/exploration-and-sampling-soetwater-farm-cradle-humankind>

There are now only four permits under your name with outstanding report:

<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/permanent-export-flowstone-material-sterkfontein-caves-analyses>

<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/destruction-permit-maropeng-stone-tools>

<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/proposed-filming-human-origins-namibia-sterkfontein-national-heritage-site>

<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/excavation-maropeng-interpretation-centre-0> (same as

<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/excavation-maropeng-interpretation-centre>)

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Page No: 3

Please note that the excavation/export/destructive analysis permits require curator letters confirming return or receipt of material. Please let me know if you have any questions.

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, PhD  
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: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/609607>

**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.

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Page No: 4

3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.