

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, PhD

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CaseID: 20415

Date: Tuesday May 23, 2023

Page No: 1

Letter

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

Attention: Elizabeth Velliky

Centre for Early Sapiens Behaviour University of Bergen, Norway

The goal of this project is to chemically and mineralogically analyze selected ochre and mineral pigment pieces from the Klipdrift Shelter site (KDS) located in the De Hoop Nature Reserve, southern Cape, South Africa. A recent re-investigation of the ochre and mineral pigment assemblage revealed some 597 individual pieces, some with anthropogenic modifications. Previous geological survey work on the southern cape of South Africa, both by the author and by other researchers (1-3) revealed several numerous potential ochre outcrops that were likely accessed by ancient populations living along the coast of the Western Cape. The goal of this study is to augment this research by conducting a provenance-based analysis of several select ochre and pigment pieces from the KDS assemblage using state-of-the-art techniques to potentially compare the archaeological materials to their geological place of origin. The output of this research will allow for new interpretations regarding pigment collection strategies, responses to environmental and climatic changes, long-distance trade and regional movement, functional uses, social signalling and group cohesion, cognitive evolution, and symbolic mediation. Overall, this project will contribute to an ever-growing body of research on the role of the southern Cape in the emergence and evolution of modern human behaviours.

Dear Ms Samantha Mienies and Dr Elizabeth Velliky,

Thank you for your application to permanently export 105 ochre samples from Klipdrift Rock Shelter for mass spectrometry and neutron activation analysis at the University of Missouri Research Reactor (MURR), Columbia, Missouri.

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.

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Yours faithfully

Ragna Redelstorff, PhD
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/611499>

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.