

Proposal to export micromammal bone fragments for the purposes of species identification by ZooMS – feasibility test (NHRA section 35(4))

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
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Enquiries: Phillip Hine
Tel: 021 462 4502
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CaseID: 13400

Date: Wednesday March 27, 2019
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Letter

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

Attention: Prof. Christopher Henshilwood
Evolutionary Studies Institute
University of Witwatersrand
Private Bag 3

The proposal is to test potential of identification of micromammal species from Middle Stone Age (MSA) sequences by use of Zooarchaeology by Mass Spectrometry (ZooMS). Our study aim to 1) establish if there is sufficient amounts of collagen present in micromammal bone material from MSA levels at Klipdrift Shelter (KDS), De Hoop Nature Reserve, suitable for genus/species identification by using ZooMS and 2) establish appropriate techniques for sampling by either leaching or bone powder. The micromammal bone material is from section and surface cleanings of MSA deposits. The total weight of the sample is 23.52 grams and consist of post-cranial and cranial micromammal skeletal elements and unidentified bone fragments. The samples will be returned to the KDS collection after analyses.

Dear Prof. Henshilwood,

Thank you for your application for the temporary export of 23.52 grams of micromammal fauna from the site of Klipdrift Shelter, located within the De Hoop Nature Reserve, South Africa. It is noted that the material will be exported for Zooarchaeology by Mass Spectrometry (ZooMS) analysis at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History (MPI-SHH) in Jena, Germany.

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has reviewed your application and 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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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/520453>