

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

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CaseID: 20209

Date: Tuesday March 28, 2023

Page No: 1

PermitID: 3963

PERMIT: Excavation

In terms of Section 27(10) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Permit Holder: Dr Dominic Stratford

University of the Witwatersrand - Institute for Human Evolution

P.Bag 3 Wits 2050

Johannesburg

Site: Sterkfontein Caves, Zwartkrans, Krugersdorp District (9/2/233/0004)

For excavation at Sterkfontein Caves National Heritage Site within the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site as detailed in condition 3 below.

Conditions:

1. This permit is issued to Dr Dominic Stratford (School of Geography Archaeology and Environmental Studies, University of the Witwatersrand) in collaboration with Dr Matthew Caruana (University of Johannesburg Palaeo Research Institute).
2. If the permit holder is not to be present on the site at all times then SAHRA must be provided with the names and qualifications of the authorised representatives.
3. Excavation activities will include sampling and stratigraphic analysis of the Member 3 deposit and excavation in Member 2 of the Silberberg Grotto; excavation in Member 2; excavation in Jacovec cavern; small controlled test-pit excavation in the western Milner and MH1 excavation; continued stabilisation through stepping of Member 4. Site maps must be created and a total station must be used to record the finds.
4. Adequate recording methods as specified in the Regulations and Guidelines pertaining to the National Heritage Resources Act must be employed. Note that the position of all excavations and objects collected must be marked on a plan of the site. Materials will be bagged per quadrant and labeled carefully.
5. A standard site record form must be lodged with the Evolutionary Studies Institute (ESI).
6. All material collected and excavated, as well as field notes and records, will be curated by the Evolutionary Studies Institute (ESI), who will be responsible for the permanent curation and safekeeping of all artefactual material in a condition that allows ongoing research.



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7. Annual permit reports on the results of the excavations and analyses must be emailed to apmpermitreports@sahra.org.za on or before 31 March 2024 and 2025, and a final permit report on or before 31 March 2026 using the template in the following link: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/content/apmpermitreports>. SAHRA reserves the right to withhold further permits if progress is not deemed satisfactory. Permit reports can be made available to researchers on request within three years of the lapsing of this permit.

8. Reprints of all published papers or copies of theses and/or reports resulting from this work must be lodged with SAHRA.

9. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to obtain permission from the landowner for each visit, and the excavator is responsible for ensuring that he or she has an understanding with the landowner concerning: the number of visitors and workers; conditions for camping on the property; speed limits on access roads; possible prohibitions on off-road driving; size, type and number of vehicles permitted; possible prohibitions on trespassing beyond the site; disturbing fauna, flora or substrate; erection and demolition of structures on the site; appropriate hours of visiting and working on the site; use of firewood, electricity and water; lighting fires and the prevention of uncontrolled fires and any fencing necessary to protect livestock. Conditions of access imposed by the landowner must be observed.

10. The permitted excavator shall be responsible for the activities and impacts of all colleagues, students and employees under his or her supervision.

11. Excavators must take measures to ensure the safety of any person who may enter the excavation site as part of their excavation team or as their visitor.

12. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to protect sites during and after excavation and to ensure that, where appropriate, excavations are filled in or stabilised with adequate materials (e.g. Loffelstein blocks or army bags in geotextile) to the satisfaction of SAHRA and the landowner.

13. SAHRA shall not be liable for any losses, damages or injuries to persons or properties as a result of any activities in connection with this permit.

14. SAHRA reserves the right to cancel this permit by notice to the permit holder.

15. This permit is subject to a general appeal and may be suspended should an appeal against the decisions be received by SAHRA within 14 days from the date of the permit. SAHRA may not be held responsible for any costs or losses incurred in the event of the suspension or retraction of this permit.

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16. Request to renew permits must be done at least two months prior to the expiry of the existing permit.

This permit is valid from
28/03/2023 to 31/03/2026

Ragna Redelstorff, PhD
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

Additional Info:

Please note that this permit may be suspended should an appeal against the decisions be received by SAHRA within 14 days from the date of the permit. SAHRA may not be held responsible for any costs or losses incurred in the event of the suspension or retraction of this permit.

ADMIN: Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/609607>