

Proposed export of scientific analysis of the small mammal material from Holley Shelter

Letter

IN TERMS OF SECTION 40(8) OF THE KWAZULU-NATAL AMAFA AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE ACT (ACT 05 OF 2018)

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Faro, Portugal

SAHRIS Object: Object Codes/References:

The small mammal material recovered via excavation at Holley Shelter represents more than 10,000 individuals and more than 50,000 skeletal and dental elements in total. The proposed scientific analysis of the small mammal material from Holley Shelter will provide a detailed list of all species present and the preservation of the dental and skeletal remains. The diversity of small mammal species will inform our interpretation of the type of vegetation present around the site and the amount of rainfall and temperature ranges that this part of KZN experienced in the past. This will contribute to our understanding of what plant and animal resources the hunter-gatherers who occupied Holley Shelter had access to exploit as part of their subsistence base and as resources for various activities. The detailed picture of past temperature and rainfall amounts will also contribute to our understanding of how often and how intensely the site of Holley Shelter was used in the past compared to similarly aged cave and rockshelters in Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa.

Case Discussion

- The intention is to analyse the material outside the country (Portugal), the responsibility for issuing an **export permit** falls under **SAHRA**.
- The committee clarified that while they do not handle export applications, they must still **grant permission for the analysis** of the material.

Case Decision

- The intention is to analyse the excavated material in Tübingen. An export permit to export the material outside the country should be obtained from SAHRA.

Please be advised as follows:-

1. No deviation will be permitted without the prior written approval of KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute.
2. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that artefacts are preserved in their original state while in his/her possession.
3. The KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute does not issue an export permit for scientific analysis; however, it states clearly that the Institute supports the issuing of the export permit by the South African Heritage Resources Agency on condition that the Agency deems the application for export compliant.
4. **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE CONDITIONS WILL RENDER ANY ACTIVITY CONDUCTED UNLAWFULLY, AND THE KWAZULU-NATAL AMAFA AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CANCEL THIS PERMIT AND INSTITUTE CRIMINAL AND/OR CIVIL ACTION AGAINST THE PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE.**

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully



Zola Daniels
Heritage Officer
KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute



HERITAGE IDENTIFICATION, MANAGEMENT & PROTECTION

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Date: Monday, 14 July, 2025

Case ID: 25536

Our Ref: SAH25/25536 & 25/034

Amafa 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 the Institute immediately.
3. The Institute reserves the right to request additional information as required.

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.org.za/382866>