

CHANCE FIND PROCEDURE

Chance Fossil Finds Procedure: Geelster 1 near Aggeneys, Northern Cape Province.	
Province & Region:	Northern Cape Namakwa District Municipality
Responsible Heritage Authority	South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) 111 Harrington Street PO Box 4637 Cape Town 8001 Phone: +27 (0)21 462 4502. Fax: +27 (0)21 462 4509. Web: www.sahra.org.za
Rock Unit(S)	Late Caenozoic superficial deposits esp. aeolian sands, surface gravels and alluvium. Possible calcretised ancient alluvial gravels.
Potential Fossils	Bones, teeth and horncores of mammals, reptiles and fish, terrestrial gastropods, calcretised burrows
ECO Protocol	1. Once alerted to fossil occurrence(s): alert site foreman, stop work in area immediately (<i>N.B.</i> safety first!), safeguard site with security tape / fence / sand bags if necessary.
	2. Record key data while fossil remains are still <i>in situ</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Accurate geographic location – describe and mark on site map / 1: 50 000 map / satellite image / aerial photo » Context – describe position of fossils within stratigraphy (rock layering) and depth below surface » Photograph fossil(s) <i>in situ</i> with scale, from different angles, including images showing context (e.g. rock layering)
	3. If feasible to leave fossils <i>in situ</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Alert Heritage Resources Authority and project palaeontologist (if any) who will advise on any necessary mitigation » Ensure fossil site remains safeguarded until clearance is given by the Heritage Resources Authority for work to resume
	3. If <i>not</i> feasible to leave fossils <i>in situ</i> (emergency procedure only): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Carefully remove fossils, as far as possible still enclosed within the original sedimentary matrix (e.g. entire block of fossiliferous rock) » Photograph fossils against a plain, level background, with scale » Carefully wrap fossils in several layers of newspaper / tissue paper / plastic bags » Safeguard fossils together with locality and collection data (including collector and date) in a box in a safe place for examination by a palaeontologist

		» Alert Heritage Resources Authority and project palaeontologist (if any) who will advise on any necessary mitigation
	4. If required by Heritage Resources Authority, ensure that a suitably qualified palaeontologist is appointed as soon as possible by the developer.	
	5. Implement any further mitigation measures proposed by the palaeontologist and Heritage Resources Authority	
Specialist Palaeontologist	Record, describe and judiciously sample fossil remains together with relevant contextual data (stratigraphy / sedimentology / taphonomy). Ensure that fossils are curated in an approved repository (e.g. museum / university / Council for Geoscience collection) together with full collection data. Submit Palaeontological Mitigation report to the Heritage Resources Authority. Adhere to best international practice for palaeontological fieldwork and the Heritage Resources Authority minimum standards.	

