



A Fossil Chance Find Procedure, however, *is strongly recommended*, by SAHRA for developments in areas with low palaeontological sensitivity (SAHRIS scales) and is outlined below for both potential surface finds and underground finds.

The key personnel would be the environmentalist/developer/project manager/other and would be present during early excavation or mining stages and throughout the construction period of the proposed development, and if required, the palaeontologist contracted for the project to visit the site at pre-arranged times and to look at fossil material, or preferably photographs of fossil material, when fossils are uncovered. For visits to the construction site by the palaeontologist all stipulated safety procedures must be strictly adhered to.

Fossil Chance Find Procedure

1. Early Phase (development of building/road/mine/etc and access and surface infrastructure):

Surface excavations should be monitored by the key person and any fossil material disturbed should be put aside and the palaeontologist called to inspect the material within a reasonable timeframe in order to minimise delays to the project. The key person should also receive from the palaeontologist some photographs and descriptions of what palaeontological material to look out for.

If any fossils are found then a schedule of monitoring should be set up between the developer and palaeontologist and the agreement letter submitted to SAHRA.

If it is not feasible for the palaeontologist to visit the site timeously then digital photographs of good quality and resolution should be sent to the palaeontologist to assess and make recommendations.

From visits or photographs supplied the palaeontologist must make the following recommendations:

- a. Material is of no value so development can proceed, or
- b. Fossil material is of some interest so a representative sample should be carefully collected and put aside for further study and incorporated into a recognised repository (Museum, Council for Geosciences, Pretoria);

Evolutionary Studies Institute, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg)
and a permit obtained from SAHRA for the removal of the fossils, then
development may proceed, or

- c. Fossils are scientifically important and the palaeontologist must obtain a SAHRA permit to excavate the fossils and put them into a recognised repository, then development may proceed.

If you need any clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Bamford', with a horizontal line underneath.

Prof Marion Bamford
Palaeobotanist
