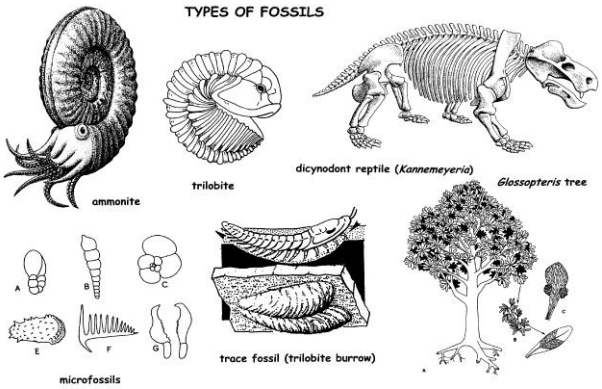
# ANNEXURE 4 – FOSSIL FINDS POSTER

## Palaeontology: what is a fossil?

Fossils are the traces of ancient life (animal, plant or microbial) preserved within rocks and come in two forms:

- Body fossils preserve parts, casts or impressions of the original tissues of an organism (e.g. bones, teeth, wood, pollen grains); and
- Trace fossils such as trackways and burrows record ancient animal behaviour.




## How to report chance fossil finds: What should I do if I find a fossil during construction/mining?

If you think you have identified a fossil:

Immediately inform the ECO or Site Agent. He/she will then contact HWC and write a report and if necessary operations will stop in that specific area until the fossil is recovered

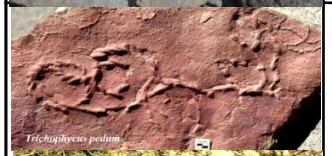
Heritage Western Cape
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iLifa leMveli leNtshona Koloni
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## Types of palaeontological finding - What does a fossil look like?

Fossils vary in size, from fossilised tree trunks and dinosaur bones down to very small animals or plants. Finds can be **individual fossils** (one isolated wood log or bone) or **clusters and beds** (several bones, teeth, animal or plant remains, trace fossils in close proximity or bones resembling part of a skeleton). A bed of fossils is a layer with many fossil remains.

Below there is a list of few examples of fossils which may be identified during excavations in the Western Cape.

| Image | Description | Image | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | Leaves |  | Snail shells and other shells |
|  | Fossil wood |  | Bones of larger animals |
|  | The remains of fish and marine life (e.g. teeth, scales, starfish) |  | Large burrows made by moles and other animals |
|  | Stromatolites |    | Traces made by burrowing insects (ants, wasps, dung-beetles etc.). |
|  | Animal footprints | | |

Images provided by Dr John Almond

Text by HWC's Archaeology, Palaeontology & Meteorites Committee June 2016