

**BASE CAMP TO SUMMIT TEAM**  
**BY**  
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If you take base camp as the Preparation unit and the summit team as the Scientists, you will start to get a picture of just how far a fossil travels before it achieves its position on the scientists table for study. There are fossils on top of Everest at 8,848mtrs and it sometimes feels we have been there and back with some fossils. For the fossil one of the most important times is from the field to the end of its preparation, as in the field it will receive its positional coordinates and field number. The fossil is then taken to the preparation unit, where it is hoped it is prepared to the highest scientific standard as possible as to give the scientist the best chance for its description. The preparator needs the scientist as much as the scientist needs the preparator, but I think this situation is not achieved in many museums over the world. This situation has to change not only for the good of science, but for the good of the fossils themselves. WHY? The answer is simple: it is our duty to preserve the past for the future, this is our trade, but I think the type of work and the feeling for it is slowly being lost, due mostly to cost cutting, time pressure and job cuts. We are maybe unable to change this situation, but we still must not loose our standards of thought, our feeling for our trade, or the future, and the most important is our view of the fossils in our control. They have been waiting a long time for us to do the best for them, so we must not disappoint them, as not only do they hold the key to their past, but also to ours.

**WE MUST GIVE LIFE TO THE PAST WITH GOOD PREPARATION NOW**

Many years into the future (if the world lasts that long and we do not completely destroy it), the preparation we do now hopefully will be a guide to Preparators, Conservators and also Scientists in the future; we must give them that chance.

**GOOD PREPARATION GIVES A FUTURE TO THE PAST**



Something I prepared earlier, a lovely 47million year old Grube Messel Horse