

**Application for mitigation permit: circa 1950s midden intercepted during fibre-optic trenching for Frogfoot Networks in Kimberley: corner of Hercules Street and Aristotle Avenue, Belgravia to Cassandra Link**

**Case ID: 16396**

David Morris & Abenicia Henderson , McGregor Museum

**Introduction**

David Morris of McGregor Museum was contacted on 29 April 2022 about trenching for fibre-optic installation by Frogfoot Networks having intercepted old glass bottles, porcelain, metal and other materials. The site was visited immediately and reported to SAHRA and Christine Havenga and Associates.

It was determined that mitigation was required and hence a mitigation permit is being applied for.

**Location**

The trench is situated alongside a short section of service road at the corner of Hercules Street and Aristotle Avenue, as indicated in the following maps.





The points A-C indicate the 51 m stretch of approximately 30 cm wide trench that intersects with midden material.

### **Midden contents**

A small sample of the midden material retrieved by workers from heaps alongside the trench on 29 April includes broken glass coldrink bottles and medicine bottles, part of a bayonet light bulb, bone (butchered beef, mutton, chicken), and rusted metal. The glass coldrink bottles are 'Sullivans' (a local producer) and of a form that can be dated approximately to the 1950s, consistent also with the other bottles and objects found.

The midden is hence clearly not an early Kimberley ashheap (such as have been found and documented elsewhere in the city).





Trench: 29 April 2022



Small assemblage of randomly gathered material from the ash midden after it was encountered during trenching (includes material from heaps alongside the trench, gathered by workmen on the project).

### **Significance and mitigation proposal**

The significance of the material is not considered to be high, and it is not judged to be of such importance that major mitigation work is needed. Determining the full extent of the midden is not thought to be justified (test excavations would need to be undertaken in private household gardens [Erf 3720, 3716 & 2992] on the one side and in busy roads [including the MR905/R64 Class 3 provincial-urban road, Aristotle Ave] on the other).

It is considered sufficient in this instance to retrieve all the material displaced by the trench by sieving the heaps of sand and rubble alongside the trench. This would be done systematically by:

- Documenting the sections in the trench to establish depth and thickness of the midden (in places it appears to occur as a shallow lens).
- Retrieve material from the dump alongside in 2-metre sections (3 mm sieve) so as to have spatial control to detect any possible changes along the length of what is effectively a transect through the midden.
- Analysis of the material at the museum to characterise the midden (with comparative material coming from other Kimberley ashheap deposits as well as the cultural history department's material culture collections).

### **Mitigation permit**

For this mitigation process we seek a mitigation permit.

Provided with this document are:

- Landowner permission and associated documentation (wayleave documents provided to Frogfoot by Provincial Roads and Public Works and by Sol Plaatje Local Municipality).
- Letter from the repository undertaking curation of the material.