

South African Heritage Resources Agency
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To Dr Mariagrazia Galimberti

Proposal for the excavation of for four test holes on Robben Island for the proposed Sewage Package Plant, including an excavation plan

Camdekon Engineers have been appointed by the Department of Public Works (hereafter, DPW) to construct a Sewage Package Plant on Robben Island. This plant will treat sewage generated on the island prior to discharge to the ocean via a sea outfall pipeline. WSP Environment and Energy has been appointed as the Environmental Consultants for this project and will manage the Environmental Authorisation and permit applications required before the project can commence. This includes Environmental Authorisation and a Waste Management License from the Department of Environmental Affairs and authorisation from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in terms of Section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act.

This letter discusses the need for an excavation permit from SAHRA for the digging of four test pits on site. Below details on the proposed activity are provided, indicating the proposed locality of the test pits as well as providing motivation as to why the test pits are required.

Description and Location of the Test Pits

It is proposed that four trail test pits be excavated on the site. These test holes will be approximately 1.8m long and 0.8m wide and 2.0m deep. These pits will be dug by hand. It is estimated that one day on site is required for this. The process will be supervised by the appointed engineer and it is proposed that an archaeologist also be present on the site during the excavation. Dr Ute Seeman will be the archaeologist present during the excavation process.

The location of these pits is indicated in the figure below (Figure 1) and in the survey plan attached in **Appendix A** of this letter. The coordinates of these trail pits are detailed below:

- Point A: 33°48'16.74"S; 18°22'35.99"E
- Point B: 33°48'17.43"S; 18°22'36.60"E
- Point C: 33°48'15.73"S; 18°22'37.33"E
- Point D: 33°48'16.33"S; 18°22'37.82"E

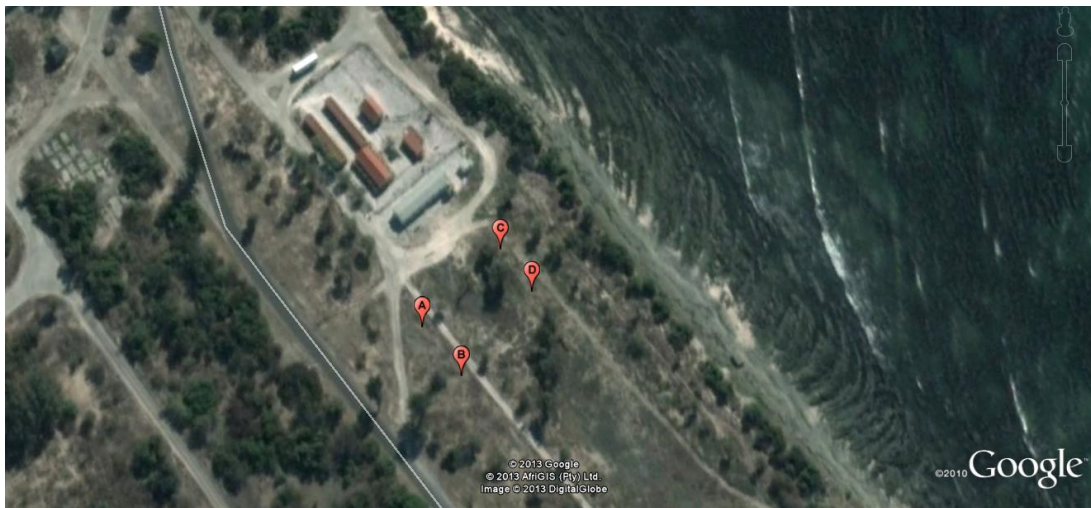


Figure 1. Proposed locations of the four test pits.

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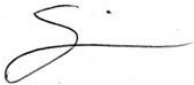
Motivation of test pits

Due to the proposal for the sewage package plant to be partially submerged, it is necessary to establish the type of material that is present on the site to determine the likely maximum depth of excavation as well as to understand the geotechnical conditions at the site. In addition, an indication of the depth of the subsurface water at the proposed site is required. To this end, the test trail pits will provide the necessary information in terms of geotechnical conditions associated with the site and are necessary for the planning and design of the plant going forward.

The test pits will be supervised by an archaeologist and have been authorised by the landowner, DPW. This test pits will be managed in such a way to ensure that no archaeological artefacts and/or heritage value associated with the site is negatively impacted on.

If you have any queries in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Brink', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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Appendix A- Location of Test Pits

