



***Provincial Government Buildings***

***Built: circa 1964***

*City Grade: No grading*

*Architect:*

*Extent:*

*Zoning: General commercial C2*

*Exhumations not conducted in terms of 1906 Disused Cemeteries Act.*

Erf 564 contains 4 blocks of government buildings presently used by the Provincial Government of the Western Cape for housing the Regional Police Headquarters, Medical Stores and Library services. The buildings were all built after 1953, are ungraded and unprotected by heritage legislation.

Given that the buildings on Erf 564 are relatively recent and are ungraded, the buildings themselves cannot be considered heritage indicators and may therefore be demolished or adapted.

***3.1.2. Archaeology***

Human remains: The site was used as a place of informal burial for paupers and slaves. A site inspection has revealed that sub-surface disturbance across the erf has been significant. There is a significant parking basement over at least half the site, while the construction of ramps, footings for the building and general lowering of levels below street elevations will have largely destroyed or displaced the human remains that existed here. Furthermore the archaeological traces of the Old Somerset Hospital are unlikely to have survived. The possibility of undisturbed pockets of landscape along with human remains cannot be ruled out; although it seems that the likelihood of such areas surviving is very low.

It is probable that there is still human bone on site, but in the form of un-articulated fragments that have been left behind after being disturbed by the clearing of the old hospital, and later on by the excavation of basement and footings for the set of government buildings. Had this site not been previously disturbed, it has the same potential for contestation as the Rockwell which would mean that no below surface excavations would be permitted. Given the fact that the damage was done years ago, this concern is greatly reduced.

***3.1.3. Heritage indicators: Erf 564***



The site itself was the site of the Old Somerset Hospital, which was demolished in 1938. After a number of failed development attempts the site appears to have been left vacant until it was utilised by the provincial government for its current purpose.

The significant aspects of the site's history relate to its use as a hospital for slaves and the underclass, but before that time its use as an informal burial ground is supported by various forms of evidence. Historical accounts of human remains being found on the site when the Old Somerset Hospital was built. Human remains have been found under the pavements and street surfaces of the adjacent Prestwich Street and under the adjacent Red Brick building during construction.

#### **3.1.4. Recommendations: Erf 564**

Alteration and re-adaptation of existing buildings is acceptable.

Demolition and complete redevelopment is acceptable taking into account existing trends in building styles along Prestwich Street and respect for significant historic buildings in the area

Excavation of underground parking within the existing building footprint is acceptable.

If sub-surface redevelopment or excavation is required for redevelopment, it will be necessary to obtain a precautionary Section 36 excavation permit from SAHRA for the relocation of human remains. If any human remains are found, these must be interred at the Prestwich Memorial built to house human remains found in the Green Point area.

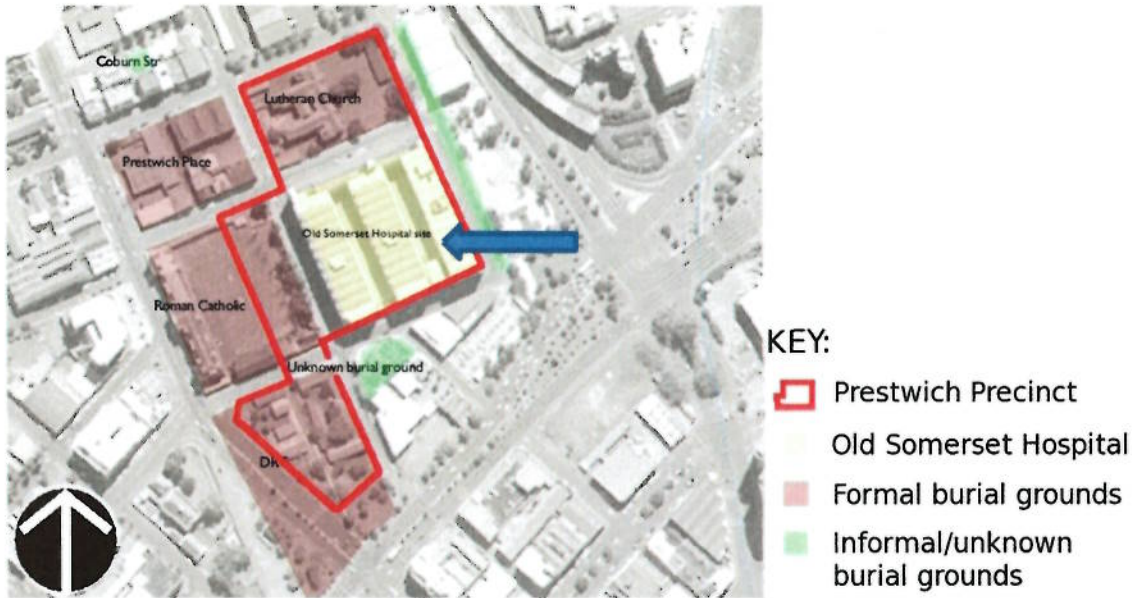


Figure 1 Erf 654 is indicated in yellow.