



UNIVERSITY *of the*  
WESTERN CAPE

# Museum and Heritage Studies

Centre for Humanities Research

## Site Management Plan (SMP)

of

**Robben Island**

*Reference: Irish Graveyard*



Robben Island

# **Draft outline of Site Management Plan**

(Reference: Irish Graveyard)

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## **1. Introduction**

### ***1.1 -General state of conservation***

The Irish Cemetery/ Staff Cemetery situated below the Minto's Hill at the south end of the village served during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Both exterior and interior on the graveyard is fenced by rough stone wall, which cover the North, East and South. Meanwhile the West part of the grave I fenced by trees. There are two entrances south and north respectively. Unlike the leper cemetery, it has a clear boundary in the form of a wall and entry is via turn styles. However there is a continuation of stones either side- North and South which the condition of the fenced stone wall is poor though it still managed to keep it shape. Inside the graveyard where the graves are situated there is fairly much growth of vegetation which blocks some graves from being visible. The surrounding/associated landscape is the wooden and concrete base Celtic Cross (this has much significance too) just close by on the Southern direction of the Irish Graveyard, three solid pillars of cement and blue quarry concrete stone on the Eastern direction. Also the tombstone themselves are all facing the Eastern direction. The cemetery is overgrown in places and does not appear to have been maintained for some time. A number of gravestones have been broken while others have fallen. Supplementary spread of vegetation may negatively impact the graves in the future, this area needs more attention.

### ***1.2 -Methodology***

The research was conducted by me and later Sinazo Mtshemla assisted me in counting the graves. The process took about 4 hours with an hour of lunch in between. We started from the southern part (by the southern entrance) of the cemetery; one surveyor was placed on the South-Eastern direction of the cemetery just at the right angle from the Southern entrance; while the other surveyor was placed on the South-Western direction vis versa from the Southern entrance. The method used in this research so far is quantitative but later qualitative maybe be used too. The area covered by the graveyard is  $\pm 90\text{m}$  by  $36\text{m}$  ( $A = L \times W$ ). It is advisable to start conducting this research around about 10:00am as the weather could get warmer as the day progresses.

**Note:**

About 50 graves were not surveyed; reason there was not enough time. More time was needed as there is much of overgrown vegetation.

### **1.3 -Data sheet of cemeteries**

*Starting from the South-Eastern Part and South-Western respectively meeting in the middle of the graveyard Southern-End.*

No.	Description	Name	Dates	Material	Condition	Comments
1	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription.	Christian Fridrich Kroger	3/07/1904	Marble stone, iron, concrete cement.	The tombstone is fair but the gate on the grave is poor. Generally poor.	Iron gate needs more attention.
2	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription.	Daisy C. Clark	11/02/1920	Concrete cement.	Poor.	Writing on tombstone rusty and losing legibility.
3	Only remains of sand and stones.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Poor.	
4	The tombstone and a broken cross. Also growth of weeds.	Patrick Connor	25/10/1904	Marble stone, concrete cement and iron.	Fair.	
5	There are not visible markers of whose grave this is.	N/A	N/A	Concrete cement.	Poor.	
6	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription.	Micheal Hendry Sauders	19/07/1902	Limestone, concrete cement and iron.	Fair but generally poor.	
7	The tombstone, inscription not visible and a broken cross. Also growth of weeds.	William B. Sharman	19/09/1900	Concrete cement.	Poor.	
8	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription.	Aubrey Drew	07/04/1898	Limestone and concrete cement.	Generally poor but fair.	
9	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription.	James Nutt	03/11/1895	Limestone and concrete cement.	Fair.	
10	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription.	Richard Henry Smith	06/06/1895	Limestone, concrete cement and iron.	Fair.	

11	Only a concrete foundation remains.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
12	Tombstone had deteriorated and inscription not visible.	N/A	N/A	Slate.	Poor.	
13	Remains of a wooden cross with no inscription.	N/A	N/A	Wood and concrete.	Poor.	Keep the cross in upright position. Attention to concrete too.
14	Remains of a wooden cross with no inscription and concrete stand.	N/A	N/A	Wood and concrete.	Poor.	Keep the cross in upright position. Attention to concrete too.
15	Grave visible but cement on the grave cracking and inscription fading slightly on the slate.	George Heremman	16/07/1861	Slate and concrete cement.	Poor.	
16	Remains of a wooden cross with no inscription and concrete stand.	N/A	N/A	Wood and concrete.	Poor.	Keep the cross in upright position. Attention to concrete too.
17	Remains of a wooden cross with no inscription and concrete stand.	N/A	N/A	Wood and concrete.	Poor.	Keep the cross in upright position. Attention to concrete too.
18	Remains of a wooden cross with no inscription and concrete stand.	N/A	N/A	Wood and concrete.	Poor.	Keep the cross in upright position. Attention to concrete too.
19	Remains of a wooden cross with no inscription and concrete stand.	N/A	N/A	Wood and concrete.	Poor.	Keep the cross in upright position. Attention to concrete too.
20	Can't see the inscription because the grave is covered by weeds and sand.	N/A	N/A	Slate.	Poor.	Attention on clearing vegetation and sand.
21	The grave is still visible, but broken and crack on the grave itself, visible inscription.	Joseph Oldham Edwin Oldham	27/04/1858 10/03/1859	Slate and concrete cement.	Poor.	
22	Remains of a wooden cross with no inscription and stones keep the shape of the grave.	N/A	N/A	Wood and stones.	Poor.	Keep the cross in upright position.
23	Remains of a wooden cross with no inscription and stones keep the shape of the grave.	N/A	N/A	Wood and stones.	Poor.	Keep the cross in upright position.
24	The grave is still intact; tombstone with visible inscription. Iron on top of the grave cracking.	Walter William Dent	Born: 29/04/1869 Dead: 25/10/1904	Limestone, concrete cement and iron.	Poor.	Rusty and chipping iron needs restoration.

25	Just sand and stones	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
26	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription. Inscription fading.	Micheal Connor	28/06/1903	Limestone and concrete cement.	Fair.	
27	The grave is still intact; tombstone with visible inscription. Iron on top of the grave cracking.	Maria Wilhemina Keet	16/08/1901	Limestone and concrete cement.	Fair.	
28	The tombstone, inscription not visible and a broken cross. Also growth of weeds.	William Dent	Not Visible.	Limestone and concrete cement.	Fair.	
29	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription. But cross decorated with stones.	Rosina Margarete Lanz	24/11/1897	Slate and concrete cement.	Fair.	
30	Only a concrete foundation remains.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
32	There are not visible markers of whose grave this is.	N/A	N/A	Concrete cement.	Poor.	
31	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription. Inscription fading.	Edith Swanson	30/12/1909	Limestone and concrete cement.	Poor.	
32	Only a concrete foundation remains.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
33	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription. Inscription fading.	Carolin Clark Charles Jame Ckark	16/02/1892 23/04/1899	Limestone, concrete cement and iron.	Fair.	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription. Inscription fading.
34	There are not visible markers of whose grave this is.	N/A	N/A	Concrete cement.	Poor.	
35	Remains of a wooden cross with no inscription and stones keep the shape of the grave.	N/A	N/A	Wood and concrete.	Fair	
36	Remains concrete stand with no inscription and stones on top of the grave.	N/A	N/A	Concrete cement and stones.	Poor.	
37	Remains concrete stand with no inscription.	N/A	N/A	Concrete cement.	Poor.	
38	Inscription fading and tombstone breaking.	Mary Russell	Not visible.	Limestone, concrete cement and	Poor.	

				iron.		
39	Remains of concrete stand.	N/A	N/A	Concrete cement.	Poor.	
40	Remains of a wooden cross with no inscription and concrete stand.	N/A	N/A	Concrete and wooden cross.	Poor.	
41	Only a concrete foundation remains.	N/A	N/A	Concrete cement.	Poor.	
42	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones.	N/A	N/A	Stones	Poor.	
43	Only a concrete foundation remains.	N/A	N/A	Concrete slabs	Poor.	
44	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
45	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
46	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
47	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
48	Inscription visible and tombstone breaking.	G. C. Williams	03/01/1908	Limestone and concrete cement.	Poor.	
49	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
50	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
51	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
52	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
53	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
54	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
55	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
56	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription. Inscription fading.	Richard Sagelsodorff	Born: 30/01/1848 Dead: 27/11/1892	Limestone and concrete cement.	Fair.	
57	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
58	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
59	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
60	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
61	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
62	Only visible shape of a	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

	grave by pattern of stones					
63	Inscription not visible.	Johnna Mary Dunbar Margaret Simpson	17/12/1872  07/05/1877	Concrete cement, face- brick and slate.	Poor.	
64	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
65		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
66	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription.	David Allen (light keeper)	10/05/1872	Limestone, concrete cement, face- brick, slate and iron.	Fair but generally poor.	

67	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
68	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
69	Inscription visible and limestone.	Louis Hugo	Born: 1846 Dead: 1867	Limestone.	Fair.	
70	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones.	N/A				
71	N/A	N/A				
72	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription.	Mary Ann Angess Nutt	Born: 1867 Dead: 1910	Limestone and concrete cement.	Good.	
73	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription.	James Fox	1910	Limestone and concrete cement.	Fair.	
74	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription.	Fendrik King	Born: 1857 Dead: 1911	Limestone, concrete cement and face-brick	Fair	
75	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones.	N/A	N/A			
76	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones.	N/A	N/A			
77	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones.	N/A	N/A			
78	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones.	N/A	N/A			
79	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones.	N/A	N/A			
80	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones.	N/A	N/A			
81	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones.	N/A	N/A			
82	Only visible shape of a grave by pattern of stones.	N/A	N/A			
83	Only sand and stone keeping the pattern of a	N/A	N/A			



	grave.					
84	Only sand and stone keeping the pattern of a grave.	N/A	N/A			
85	Only sand and stone keeping the pattern of a grave.	N/A	N/A			
86	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription.	Jacob Lanz	Born: 1862 Dead: 1910	Corrugated Zink	Fair.	
87	Remains of concrete stand.	N/A	N/A	Face-brick and tombstone	Fair.	
88		Alice Jane Hury	Born: 1875 Dead: 1890	Iron, limestone and marble stone	Fair but need more attention.	
89		Owen Wynne MaryWynne	1885 Born: 1886 Dead: 1887	Limestone and concrete cement.	Good.	
90	Only sand and stone keeping the pattern of a grave.	Joseph Harold	3 months, 9 days.	Slate, cement and seashells.	Good.	
91	Only sand and stone keeping the pattern of a grave.	George	4 year	Limestone, iron, marble and concrete cement.	Fair.	
92	Only sand and stone keeping the pattern of a grave.	N/A	N/A	Concrete cement	Good.	
93	Only sand and stone keeping the pattern of a grave.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
94	Remains of concrete stand.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
95	Only sand and stone keeping the pattern of a grave.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Comments
96	Remains of concrete stand.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
97	Remains of concrete stand.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
98	Remains of concrete stand.	NA	N/A	N/A	N/A	
99	Remains of concrete stand.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
100	Remains of concrete stand.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
101	Remains of concrete stand.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
102	Only sand and stone keeping the pattern of a grave.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
103	Remains of concrete	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

	stand.					
104	Only sand and stone keeping the pattern of a grave.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
105	Only sand and stone keeping the pattern of a grave.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
106	Only sand and stone keeping the pattern of a grave.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
107	Only sand and stone keeping the pattern of a grave.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
108	Only sand and stone keeping the pattern of a grave.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
109		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
110	There are not visible markers of whose grave this is.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
111	There are not visible markers of whose grave this is.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
112	There are not visible markers of whose grave this is.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
113	There are not visible markers of whose grave this is.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
114	There are not visible markers of whose grave this is.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
115	There are not visible markers of whose grave this is.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
116	There are not visible markers of whose grave this is.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
117	There are not visible markers of whose grave this is.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
118	There are not visible markers of whose grave this is.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
119	There are not visible markers of whose grave this is.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
120	Only sand and stone keeping the pattern of a grave.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
121		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
122		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
123		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

124	Remains of concrete stand.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
125	Remains of concrete stand.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
126	Remains of concrete stand.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
127	Remains of concrete stand.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
128	Remains of concrete stand.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
129	Remains of concrete stand.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
130	Remains of concrete stand.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
131	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription.	James Cairns	Born: 1851 Dead: 1888	Slat and cement.	Good	
132	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription.	Gerald Morin	1923	Limestone and concrete cement.	Good	
133	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription.	Mary Moor	1906	Limestone and concrete cement.	Fair.	
134	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription.	Issac Elliot	1868 age 48	Iron, stone and cement.	Fair.	
135	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription.	J. H. Murry	Born: 1852 Dead: 1876	Slat and cement.	Good.	More attention is needed on slate and paint.
136	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription.	Joseph Maddison	1877 age 54.	Slat and cement.	Fair.	Fair but more attention is needed on slate and paint.
137	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription.	Elizabeth Maria Edwards & Christina Susan Smith	22 May, 1875  6 May, 1883, 14 years, 5months, 4 days	Limestone, face-brick, marble, iron and cement.	Poor.	Restoration needs to be done on the iron and chipping on the limestone should be taken care off.
138		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
139		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
140	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription.	John Souire Taylor	18 March 1903 age 74 years.	Limestone, face-brick and concrete cement.	Good.	Good but tombstone and painting need attention.
141	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair	William Tweedie	1896 age 70 years.	Limestone, face-brick and	Good.	Good but tombstone needs attention.

	condition though with visible inscription.			concrete cement.		
142	The grave is still intact but its cracking, visible inscription.	Burton Tubb	1892 aged 42.	Limestone, face-brick and concrete cement.	Fair.	Fairly ok, cement broken on the grave. Overgrown vegetation.
143	There are not visible markers of whose grave this is.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
144	The grave is still intact but its cracking, visible inscription.	Victoria Maud Grace Gertrude William	1 October, 3 years, 1890. 11 October, 1 year, 1898.  16 July, 5 ½ years, 1894.	Limestone, blue quarry stones and cement.	Poor	Family grave.
145	Visible pattern of graves, stone and sand only, with vegetation growing.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
146		Aan Carol Taylor	Born: 21 March 1823 Dead: 16 December 1874, age 51	Slate, face-brick and cement.	Poor	
147		J.T. & E. Taylor	4 years, 1887	Face-brick, limestone and cement.	Poor	These could have been twins.
148	The grave is still intact; fair condition though with visible inscription.	G.W, lack	15 months February 1875	Tombstone, slate and stones	Fair	Tombstone needs attention.
149	There are not visible markers of whose grave this is.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
150	There are not visible markers of whose grave this is.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
151	There are not visible markers of whose grave this is.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
152	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription.	Marouret C. E. Howes	Born: 21 May 1878 Dead: 12 June 1880	Slate and concrete cement.	Fair	Overgrown vegetation.
153		N/A				
154	The grave is still intact; fair condition though with visible inscription.	George William Berndt	2 years, 12 months, 1882	Slate, face-brick and cement.	Fair.	
155	Visible pattern of graves, stone and sand only, with vegetation growing.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
156	Visible pattern of graves, stone and sand only, with vegetation growing.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

157	The grave is still intact; tombstone is in fair condition though with visible inscription.	James Reid	Dead: 7 June 1883 Aged 48.	Limestone, face-brick, Iron, cement and marble.	Fair.	
158	Visible pattern of graves, stone and sand only, with vegetation growing.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

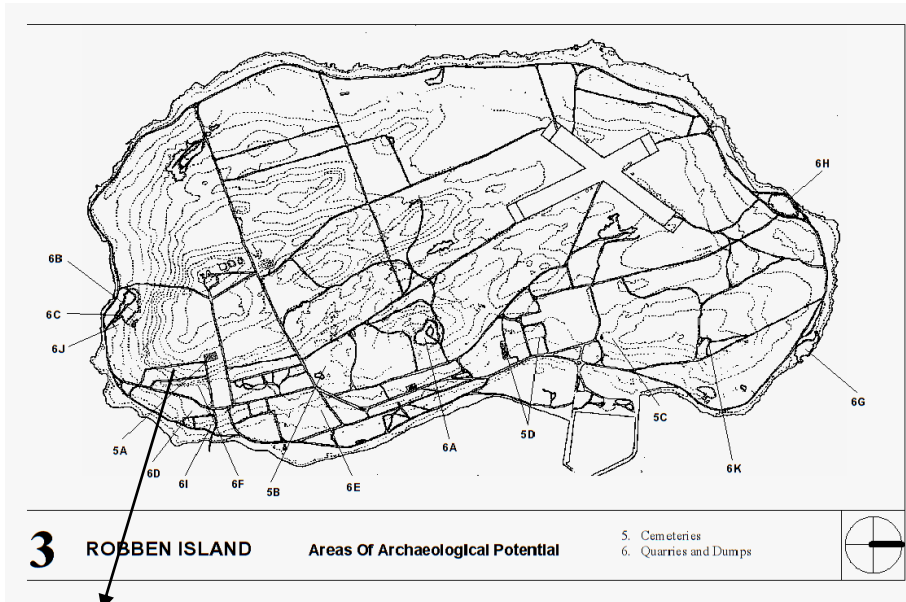
158+50 Total: 208

**SITE PLAN & LAYOUT**



**Irish Cemetery/ Staff Cemetery**

**PHOTOGRAPHS & ORTHO**



**Note:** 5A is the Staff/ Irish Cemetery

**Source:** PHASE 1  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSESSMENT OF ROB BEN  
ISLAND WORLD HERITAGE  
SITE (April 2001)

## **2. Statement of significance:**

The significance of the Irish Cemetery better known as the Staff Cemetery, it is the old burial ground which date back to the 1860's. The graves are formal and marked with inscriptions. The genealogical society has recorded the inscriptions on the gravestones. It was used between 1858-1923 (Riley 1993). During the leprosy period which these ground were used to burry mostly the medical staff and some officials that worked on the Island e.g.David Allen who was a lighthouse keep who dead on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1872. It is surrounded by a rough stone wall (Bassett, B.W & Rudner, J., Robben Island: an annotated survey of building and sites of architectural, historical and contextual importance, and recommendations concerning a conservation policy for the island. January 1986. NMC)

### *2. 1 a) Associated Landscape*

About one metre away from the rough stone wall by the graveyard is what use to be the pathway made of sea shells but this has been destroyed by the contractors were asked to remove outside vegetation by the rough stone walls. Try may cause the rough stone walls to be weaker in future. Just on the south end of the Minto Hill there is a Celtic Cross. This

### *2.1 b) Authenticity*

There are no signs of alteration on most of the graves as they seem to be all in their authentic state. Also the R. Cane & Son company which did most of the tombstones also did the Garrison Church's engraved stones, this is the linking evidence between the two sites. Although most of the graves are in poor condition therefore restoration would be required and during this process it should try maintain authenticity as much as possible. The above mentioned company and the Lanz family (is part of the people that were buried in the cemetery-(one great grandson is still alive)) could be the starting point to search for when the restoration is about to take place

### *2.2 -Historical:*

The general area where the cemetery is situated is part of the Irish Town located below the Minto's Hill since the late 1800's. More research should be done on this site as it is

the oldest burial ground. More focus has been attended to the Leprosy Cemetery and the Irish Cemetery has been sidelined. Historical photographs and drawings could not be accessed at the time of conducting this research.

### *2.3 -Environmental*

It has significance because it is a landmark with the village and contributes to the character of the area.

### *2.4 -Spiritual*

The site too has significance of spiritual as it hold souls of the dead people and memories are being hold to remember the dead people. This is where close families come to find closure.

## **3. Management Activities:**

### *3.1 -Risk to site*

#### The Problem:

Though there are numerous factors posing a risk to the site, yet the main problem within the site is overgrown vegetation both in the interior and exterior of the site and this poses a huge treat if not managed on regular basis. Below I will point out some few other risks.

#### **Overgrown vegetation**

*Problem:* Most of the site itself is infested by vegetation but my focus is more on the Irish Graveyard site. Within the graves themselves its hard to walk as pathways are filled by overgrown vegetation. It is said that there use to be pathways that were build from seashells, which prevented growth of vegetation. Some of the graves are hard to identify as a result of this vegetation. *Solution:* By clearing up pathways would benefit both the site (graves) and the visitors (human). Also building those pathways with seashells would be ideal, as this would be cost effective- using the available resources. People would move more easily between the graves and they would no more step on some graves with in turn would cause damage to the site.

*(a) Infested vegetation within the graves.*



**Associated vegetation**

Problem: There is plenty of vegetation outside (exterior) the site too. The falling of branches from trees and logs being blown by gusty winds inside the graveyard could pose a risk. Solution: Both these vegetation should be maintained seasonally, that would be twice a year- just before the hot summer months to prevent wild-fires and just before the rainy winter months to prevent overgrowth. If both of these managerial elements are not practised on these months, vegetation can have devastating impact on the site. Also regular monitoring of the growth of vegetation should be a priority and there should be no logs placed next to the graveyards.

*(a)Vegetation outside (exterior) the site.*





## Developments

Generally there is not much of development happening in this site as its not the centre of attraction like other site (I assume as I've been on a tour bus and the bus didn't stop at this site). Also this could be that the site is not being occupied, used and it dated back to the 1920's. Vegetation removal is the only thing I've noted as form of development which could have some impacts on the site. The photo below will illustrate this.

*(a) Removal of vegetation*



### Problem:

If one looks closely just next to the rough stone wall there used to be a one metre path of seashells just outside the stone wall. The Contractor removed vegetation including that path. This can have effect on the walls as erosion can easily occur as there is wont be a strong base, causing the walls to fall weak on the foundation resulting in falling of the stones from the wall (currently this has stated to occur). This is perhaps the major cause for the degradation of the site.

*Problem:* The rough stone walls are starting to fall apart starting from the foundation. Generally the stone wall is not in a good condition at all, evidence of erosion can be seen as some part on the Northern part of the site have completely fallen. The issue is said to have been caused by contractors that were hired to clear up vegetation on the

surrounding of the site. However those contractors could have clipped away the seashell pathways around the graveyard which acted as a supporting foundation to the rough stone walls and it too helped to prevent growth of vegetation, hence there are eroding from the bottom/foundation. If doing a comparison with the seashells that are on the Garrison church, it is evident that seashells do prevent vegetation grown **(Picture below of the Garrison Church)**. As a result some of the stones are falling on top of graves which are close by the stone wall. *Solution:* Have those seashells places in there place again which will help in supporting the foundation of the rough stone walls.

*(a) Seashell Pathways t the Garrison Church.*



*(b) The rough stone walls are falling apart as a result of weak foundation.*



*(c) Rough stone walls still intact, can see the seashells are still in place so the foundation is strong.*



### **Natural factors**

*Problem:* The rusty iron bars on the grave pose a risk to the graves themselves e.g. when they rust on top of the marble stone of limestone they cause them to crack and be weaker, more especially the 1800's graveyards. Also the falling tombstone on top of the grave poses a hazard to the grave itself. Growth of algae which make it hard to read the inscriptions from the tombstone is a risk too.

*(a) Rusty iron bars on top of the marble grave.*



*(b) Slanting of a tombstone on top of a grave... It has been broken.*



*(c) Growth of algae which makes it difficult to read inscriptions.*



### **Reiterating on Risks:**

- Weathering (Sand and Wind) - This can be a risk to the site as it exacerbate the rate of erosion to both the graves and the wall. Hence the site is by the ocean.
- Animals (Birds) – As birds and other animals are living on the site; their infestation may have a large carrying capacity which may alter the site.

- Degradation of material (Period of years) – The worn-out material on the grave may cause a risk to other material within the grave e.g. rust on marble.
- Human intervention – Such as development within the site and littering.

### *3.2-Risk to visitors*

#### The Problem

The Irish graveyard is not marketed and exposed to visitors as other site e.g. the Leprosarium graveyard which is north of the Church of the Good Shepherd. It is just as important as all other sites within Robben Island.

#### **No visible signage**

*Problem:* There is no visible signage to inform visitors of the site, though the site has much significance and relates to Robben Island Museum- hence the grave of the lighthouse keeper (David Allen- Died: 10/05/1872) is situated in the Irish graveyard. Also this site is also known as the Staff cemetery as most of the medical staff was buried here. *Solution:* To inform and attract visitors it would be advisable to have signage of the Irish graveyard and perhaps supply some info

(a) *No visible signage at the Irish graveyard.*



#### **Pathways**

*Problem:* Vegetation remains the major threat to visitors which I already mentioned in the *Risk Management Plan (RMP) to the site.* When the site has experienced rain it would be muddy making it hard for visitors to move within the graves as it is not paved. *Solution:* Fencing pathways between the graves would clearly indicate and

prevent visitors from step on the graves. Having seashell paved pathways similar to the Garrison Church would perhaps alleviate the problems that would be experienced by visitors when moving within the graves at the Irish Graveyard.

(b) Garrison Church



Also trying remove away the vegetation would assist but anyone doing this maintenance should be observant of the animals and not harm them as the site has become their habitat.

(c) Tortoise in its shelter



This being the site of great significance mostly to the effected families, it is likely that people will be emotional when visiting the site so it think to create some privacy it would be right to fence the site as people would not want to be disturbed by animals

which may run around, hence its close to the scrubs and trees. Fencing the site will be beneficial both to the visitors and the site itself e.g. the wont be running around of stray animals which could bump the tombstones off hence the springboks. With signage in place there should be rules and regulations put in place so that the visitor sees the instructions for the site e.g. *No Littering. Do not interfere with the site. Further enquiries as the tour guide.* The site should be incorporated in the site-tour of Robben Island when the tourists are taken around RIM by bus because it has some significant value too as mentioned before.

#### **4. Maintenance plan:**

The structure of this maintenance plan should be of short-term basis, which ranges from 6 months to 1 year. This short-term plan should be more on the basis of maintenance which includes the daily running of a site. Monitoring of the maintenance programme is necessary. This will assist in prevent irreversible danger such as mixing wrong cement or the building of rough stone wall which might be encountered during those maintenance plans.

#### **5. Challenges:**

Challenges experienced were around producing this plan. Not much work has been done or conducted about this site and work that has been done is mostly outdated which made it very hard to get all this done on time. The resource centre on Robben Island provided some information but mostly was through informal discussions with relevant people. The weather played a huge part as it would sometime rain and make it difficult to go to Robben Island as boats would not travel when swells are high.

#### **6. Conclusion:**

The aim of this management plan would be to help develop policies that are both practical and compatible with reinforcement, preservation and even highlight the sites significance. Just to highlight a few elements that need more attention when the management plan is implemented, the issue of overgrown vegetation, deteriorating rough stone wall and restoration of seashell pathways. The site should also be made an attraction point, so that visitors/ tourist can be taken to it or shown the site- hence it has historical significance which date back from the 1800's.

## **6. Bibliography:**

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Photographs taken by myself (Asandiswa Alex Manatha)

Map source: PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF ROB BEN ISLAND WORLD HERITAGE SITE (April 2001)