

Archaeological Impact Assessment Report

SHELL MIDDENS ON THE I&J PROPERTY AT GANSBAAI

Introduction

This report was compiled following a visit to Danger Point and the I & J developments there. There area is rich in archaeological shell middens and this is a sensitive section of coast line because there are graves of victims of the Birkenhead disaster.

Assessment of the impact of developments

The excavation of a site for a house construction has truncated a major midden deposit (see sketch plan), possibly a deposit contained in a collapsed shelter. This deposit has a measured thickness of 3,30 m. The midden is rich in a number of shellfish species, *Haliotis midae*, *Turbo samarticus* and *Patella* spp. as well bone. This midden is extensive, the section exposed is 15-20 m in length, and there are outlying occurrences that may be of the same or associated middens. The excavation of trenches leading to and from a tank has disturbed midden materials and bone and shell is associated with the ground that has been used to refill these trenches.

Human remains uncovered are reported to have been reburied in the back fill of the trenches. Some or all are likely to have been the remains of individuals from the Birkenhead.

Along the path leading to the development for staff housing on the property midden materials were recorded. That development is having a further impact.

A fuller assessment of the impacts would require a phase 1 survey.

Provisional quotation for mitigation of impacts

1. Mapping and sampling of the midden:

a) Survey, section and plan drawing- 1 day (team of two): fixed cost - R1500-00

Only based on the results of this work can decisions be made on details of sampling.

b)excavating out a 1 m square sample from the midden through the full 3,30 m thickness, sorting and sieving this material- 6 days (team of four): approximate cost - R1500-00 per diem

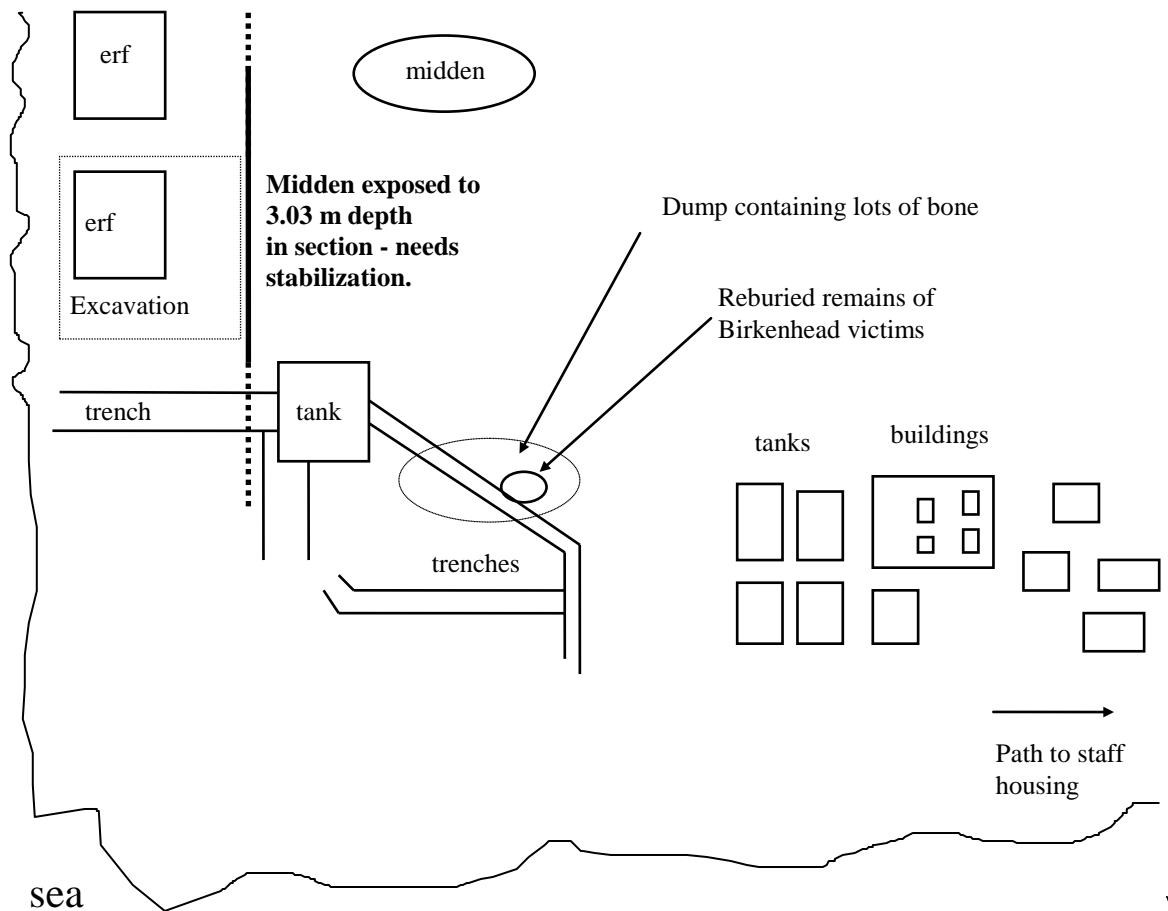


Figure 1: Sketch Map of Development at Gansbaai (not to scale).

2. Recover of human remains :

a) Sieving and sorting through dumps to recover any disturbed human remains-2 days (team of three)- approximate cost - R750-00 per diem

3. Stabilization of midden section:

We have had considerable experience in the stabilisation of such deposits. This work will have to be undertaken after appropriate technical information has been obtained. The section can be stabilised by a löffelstein retaining system if the slope is 70° or less. This would require approximately 40 cu m of sand banked against the face of the midden covered in geotextile. The system to be adopted will have to be decided through consultation with the management and contractors on site. It not a task for which a quote can be given at this stage. Attached is a system designed for another of our investigations that may be used here.

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16 September, 1996