

Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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05 January 2005

Mr Neville van der Westhuizen
Settlement Planning Services
PO Box 3405
Cape Town 8000

Dear Mr van der Westhuizen

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT METROPOLITAN CEMETERY STUDY PHASE II – KHAYELITSHA

The site visit and assessment took place on the 17 December 2004.

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

An aerial photograph of the affected property is illustrated in Figure 2.

The site is bounded by Swartklip Road and Steve Biko Road in Khayelitsha in the Western Cape Province.

The proposed site is 3.3 ha in extent.

The Terms of Reference for the specialist archaeological assessment are to:

- Identify and map archaeological heritage resources on the proposed site;
- Determine the importance of archaeological heritage resources on the proposed site;
- Determine and assess the potential impacts of the proposed development on the archaeological heritage resources, and
- Recommend mitigation measures to minimise impacts associated with the proposed development.

The site comprises major sand dunes, mostly infested with alien vegetation, and low-lying troughs underlain by older tertiary dunes. Some open areas do occur in places where vegetation has been cut for fuel. Evidence of a recent fire is also visible. A number of footpaths cut across the site, and some dumping of domestic refuse is also evident (Figures 3 & 4).

Recent test excavations undertaken by Settlement Planning Services indicate that the below ground deposits comprise mainly white dune sand, some humic material, and small amounts of aeolianites (fossilised dune sand).

No hard-pan calcretes occur on the site, which might otherwise indicate or suggest the possible presence of fossil archaeological remains. Fossil archaeological material may, however, lie buried beneath the aeolian (wind-blown) sands. It is important to

note that fossil material has been found on some sand mines on the Cape Flats, for example, the Anglo Alpha mine near Zandvliet¹.

No archaeological-heritage remains were located during the assessment of the proposed site.

No old buildings or structures occur on the site.

The proposed site is not used for cultural or initiation practices (Neville van der Westhuizen pers. comm.).

The probability of locating significant archaeological heritage remains during implementation of the project is likely to be improbable, although archaeological and fossil material may lie buried beneath aeolian sands.

Precolonial human burial remains may also be uncovered during preparation (i.e. cut and fill operations) of the site, and excavation for services.

If a human burial is encountered by accident during construction, the remains must be left as undisturbed as possible. The local police must be informed as well as the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) (Mrs. Mary Leslie 021 4624502). If the burial is deemed to be over 60 years old and no foul play is suspected, an emergency exhumation permit may be issued by SAHRA for an archaeologist to exhume the remains under such provisions as SAHRA deems appropriate.

The study has shown that the proposed site is suitable for development.

The assessment of the proposed project has rated the potential impacts to archaeological material as being low provided that:

- An archaeologist is immediately informed if any archaeological or fossil remains are uncovered during construction activities.
- Human burials uncovered during bulk earthworks not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Kaplan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jonathan Kaplan

¹ Halkett, D. & Hart, T. 1997. Archaeological assessment of the proposed Cape Flats freeway extension. Report prepared for the Cape Flats Consortium. Archaeology Contracts Office. University of Cape Town.

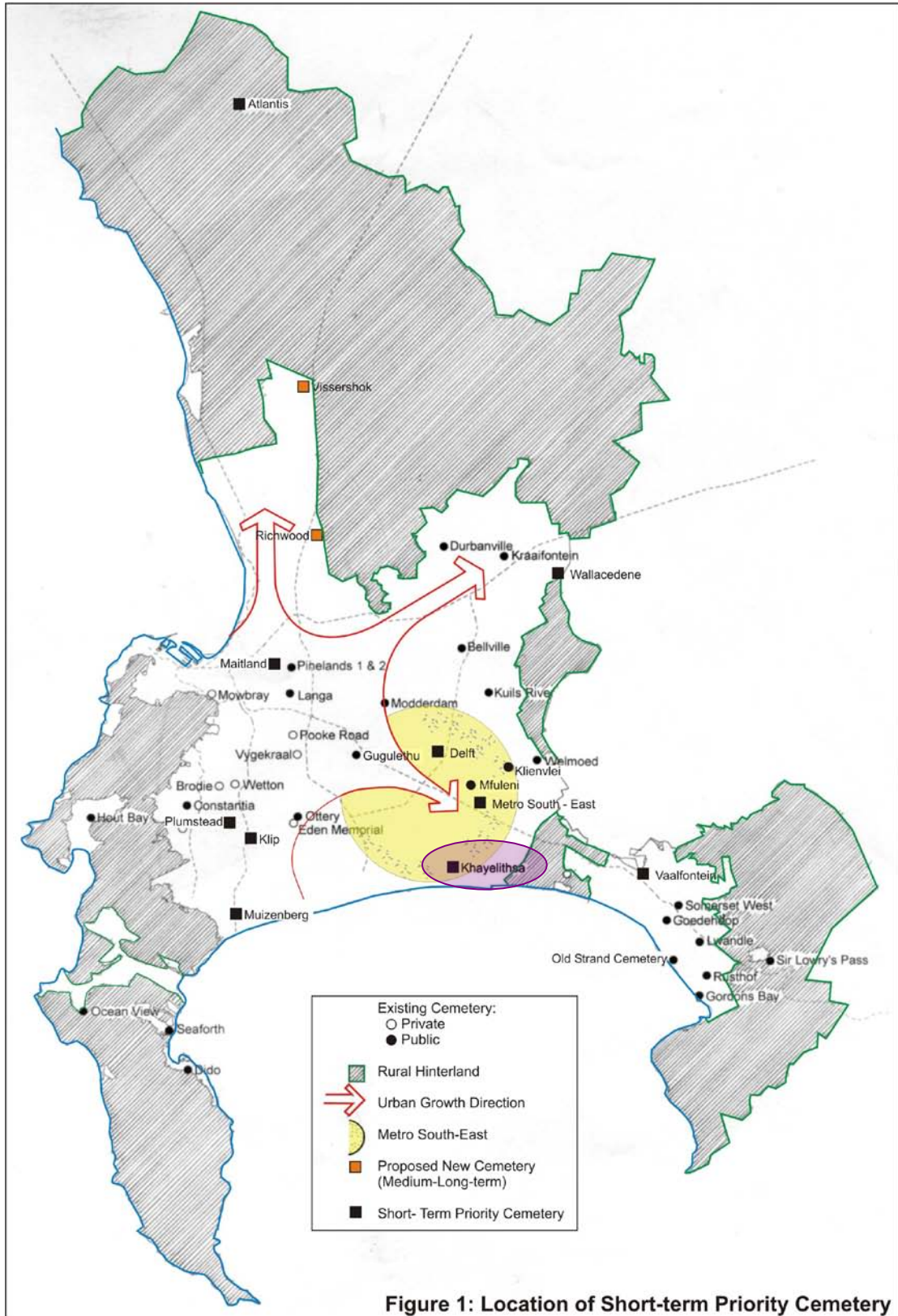


Figure 1: Location of Short-term Priority Cemetery

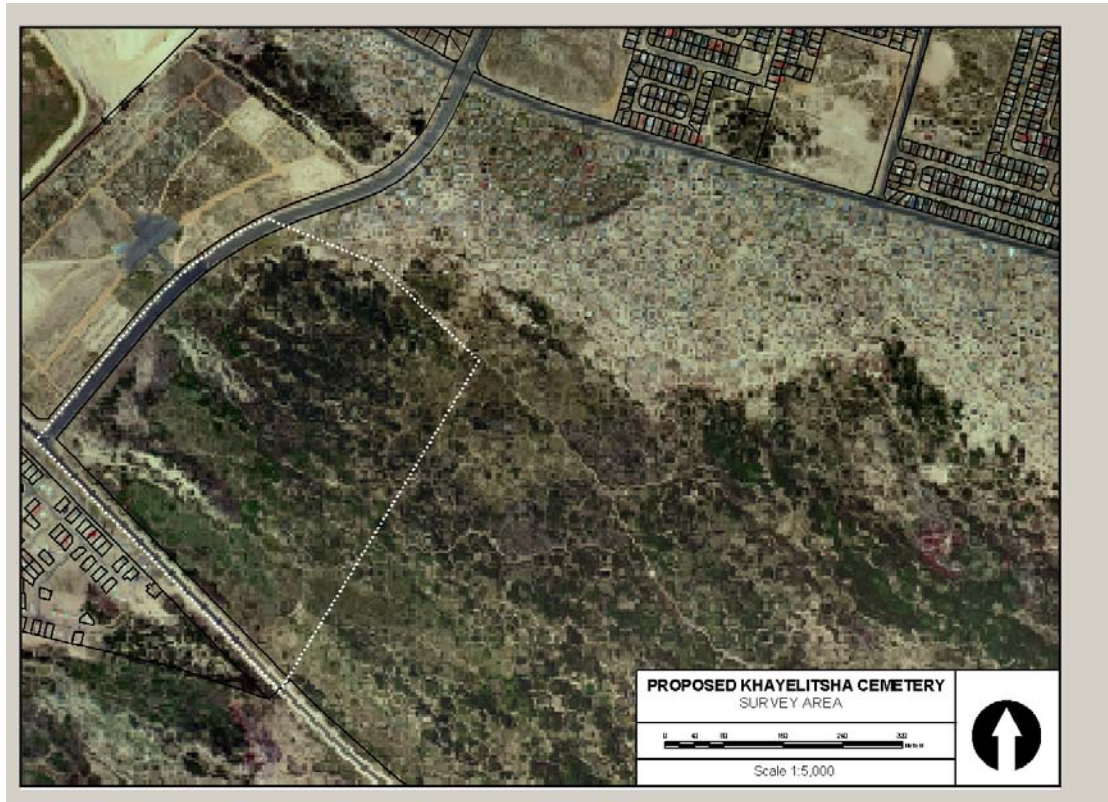


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the site.



Figure 3. The site facing east.



Figure 4. The site facing east.