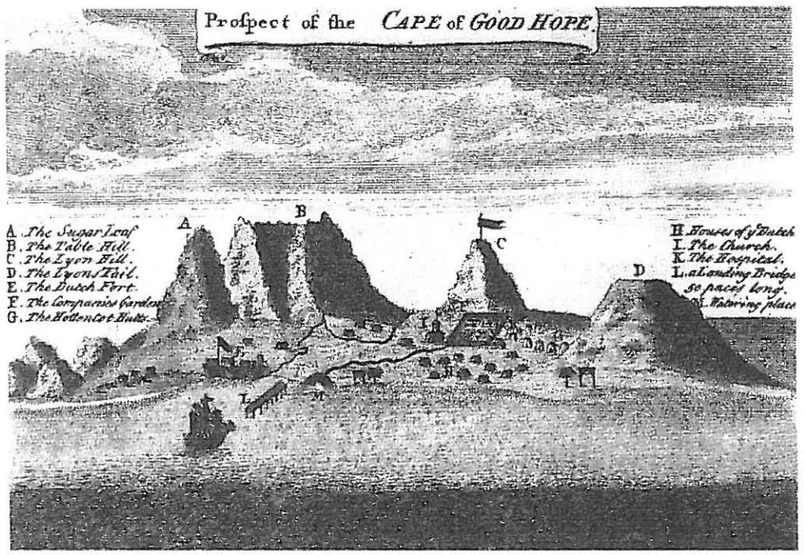
Archaeological Impact Assessment
Green Point Common
Erf 1059, Green Point



Prepared for Cape Town Metropolitan Council
Environmental Resource Management Department

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Front Page: Location map showing the position of the proposed sites for the development of the 2010 World Cup Stadium (courtesty Jeanette Kane).

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Cover Page: Early view of Cape Town William Fehr GH6
Front Page: Location map showing the position of the proposed sites for the development of the 2010 World Cup Stadium

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Acknowledgements

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Executive Summary

This report was commissioned by the Cape Town City Council's Environmental Resource Management Department and forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment of the Green Point Common as a potential site for a stadium for the 2010 World Cup Soccer Series. Cape Archaeological Survey cc was approached to assess the likelihood of human burials being found on the site of the proposed stadium as well as identifying other archaeological and/or heritage elements within the study area. The scope of the work was to conduct background archival research, to conduct a field survey of the footprint of the proposed stadium, implement a series of trial test excavations and establish the presence of archaeological elements, both human skeletal and cultural material, including built environment features.

The result of this impact assessment suggests that the Green Point Common has always been a public open space since the start of the establishment of the settlement at Cape Town in 1652. The area now encompassing the Green Point Common originated as a raised beach terrace which was prone to season flooding. Furthermore, there is very little soil depth within the areas of the proposed stadium footprints. Trail excavation established that the underlying geology of the common appears not to have been suitable as a burial ground and no evidence was found of the Common itself being used as an informal or formal burial ground during the historical times: the Green Point burial area seems to be restricted to the area between the Buitengraght and the Table Bay harbour.

Erf 1056: Green Point Common
First Phase Archaeological Impact Assessment

1. Introduction

This report was commissioned by the Cape Town City Council's Environmental Resource Management Department and forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment of the Green Point Common as a potential site for a stadium for the 2010 World Cup Soccer Series (Front page). Cape Archaeological Survey cc was approached to assess the likelihood of human burials being found on the site of the proposed stadium as well as identifying other archaeological and/or heritage elements within the study area. The scope of the work was to conduct background archival research, to conduct a field survey of the footprint of the proposed stadium, implement a series of trial test excavations and establish the presence of archaeological elements, both human skeletal and cultural material, including built environment features.

The Green Point Common lies on the boundary of the area designated by the Green Point Protocol as having a potential of finding burials: for this reason, permission was granted by Mrs Mary Leslie of the South African Heritage Resources Agency to undertake this work without a Section 36 permit with the provision that should human skeletal remains be found, that all work would cease and the relevant permit applied for. The trial excavations were undertaken under a Section 35 permit issued by Heritage Western Cape.

2. Methodology

A desktop study of the available published material on the Green Point Common as well as a selection of maps and photographs at the Cape Archives formed the basis for the background history of the site. The formal (and informal) cemeteries along Somerset Road, has formed the focus of a number of research dissertations as well as archaeological reports and it is our opinion that a comprehensive understanding now exists of the use of the eastern edge of the city as a burial ground.

Although the Common was used by people well before the establishment of Cape Town in 1652, the land was only granted to the Cape Town City Council in 1923: Erf 1056 Green Point. The transfer history does not shed any light on its early history. Furthermore, the deed is in a very bad condition and has detached from the bound volume (CF31:28), and owing to the poor condition of the document, it has not been possible to identify conditions relating the granting of the Common. Records relating to this transfer are also available in the National Archives repository at Pretoria, but a lack of funds, at this time, precludes these being investigated.

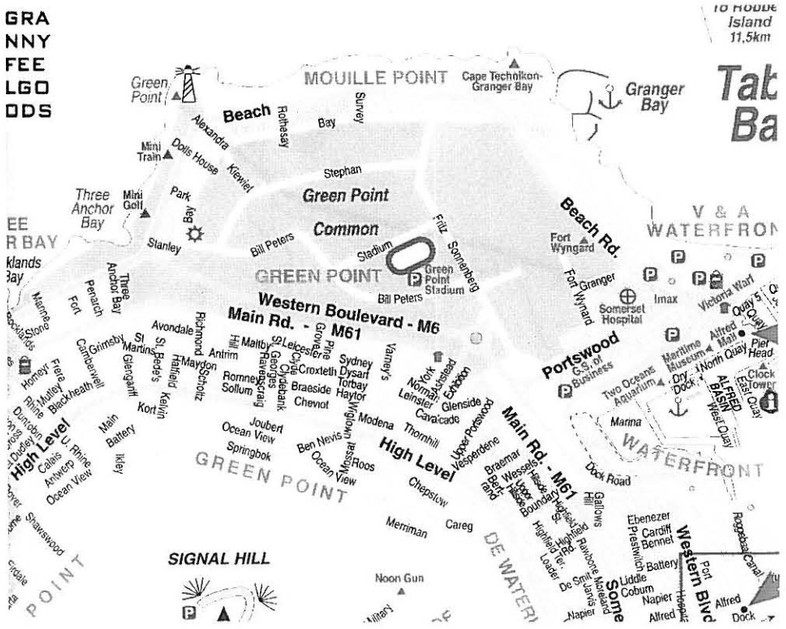

Figure 1: Location map of the Green Point Common

Aerial photography for Cape Town became available in 1926. A range of aerial photographs covering the period 1926 – 2001 shows the Green Point Common as a relatively stable open space, mostly used as sports/recreational grounds. The outlines of pitches are clearly visible on some of the photographs.

After the completion of the background history, trial excavations were undertaken in the areas where the Cape Town City Council had indicated as possible locations for the new Green Point Stadium. The methodology will be discussed under Section 5.

3. Background history

The open space, today referred to as the Green Point Common, originally extended from the seaward end of Bree Street and the Buitengracht towards Three Anchor Bay and was bounded on the southern edge by Lions Head/Signal Hill and the Atlantic Ocean on the northern edge (Picard 1964a, Murray 1964).

3. 1. Pre-colonial period

According to Hart (2003) the Malmesbury shale and granite geological substrata of the coastal area, including the Green Point Common, contains trace elements which are essential in maintaining the health of domestic stock. The grasslands of the interior are deficient in these trace elements, which resulted in a seasonal migration of herding people between the interior and the coastal plains. Four individuals buried in a style consistent with Later Stone Age coastal burials and associated with a Khoekhoen lifestyle were discovered at Cobern Street in 1995. These individuals were interred in two cairn burials and both graves appear to have

been reused, as the occupants of the graves were not buried at the same time (Apollonio 1998; Cox 1999). Little is known about pre-historical burial practices in terms of whether certain locations were preferred, or whether people were simply buried where they died, but the presence of four individuals buried in two graves, all at different times, suggests that other prehistoric burials may have taken place in the dunes along the Atlantic coast. Historical records and maps describe Khoekhoe using the Green Point Common as camping sites well into the 18th century (Hart 2003).

3. 2. 17th and 18th century

During the 17th and 18th centuries the coastal plain to the west of the town of Cape Town was referred to as *de Waterplaats* (the waterfront), and by the beginning of the 19th century as *de vlakte genaamdt de Groene Punt* (Murray 1964; Todeschinni and Japha 1988). The area was used for grazing cattle and livestock.

Figure 1 shows the layout of Cape Town in relation to the coastal plain to the west of the town. The 'wildness' of the landscape is expressed by the mountainous dunes which seem to overpower the town. The land in the vicinity of Green Point was known as a wilderness, covered in dense shrub and frequented by lions and Khoekhoe (Kagan 1975:5).

At the foot of the dune closest to the town are a gallows and two small crosses. As early as 1710, according to Cox (1999), it was common practice to bury corpses from the Company hospital as well as dead slaves in the dunes outside the town.

The coastline of Table Bay was characterized by a number of batteries and defence lines (Figure 2).

On the seaward boundary of the common, the Chavonnes Battery was constructed in 1715, followed by the Amsterdam Battery in 1787 (Figure 3), the Mouille Battery and the Kyk in de Pot Battery, which was constructed in 1795

In 1755 the Dutch Reformed Church was granted land on the eastern edge of the Common to be used as a burial ground. This cemetery was situated next to the *soldaaten begraafplaas* in which the soldiers in the service of the VOC were interred. To the west of the *soldaaten begraafplaas*, in an unwalled area, were buried the slaves, heathens and paupers and possibly also sailors who died at the Cape without the means of paying for their burial in the official cemeteries.

Furthermore, public hangings took place at Gallows Hill from the early part of the 18th century, and the remains of the executed were left on display. Their bones were later buried on the eastern slopes of Gallows Hill (Murray 1964).

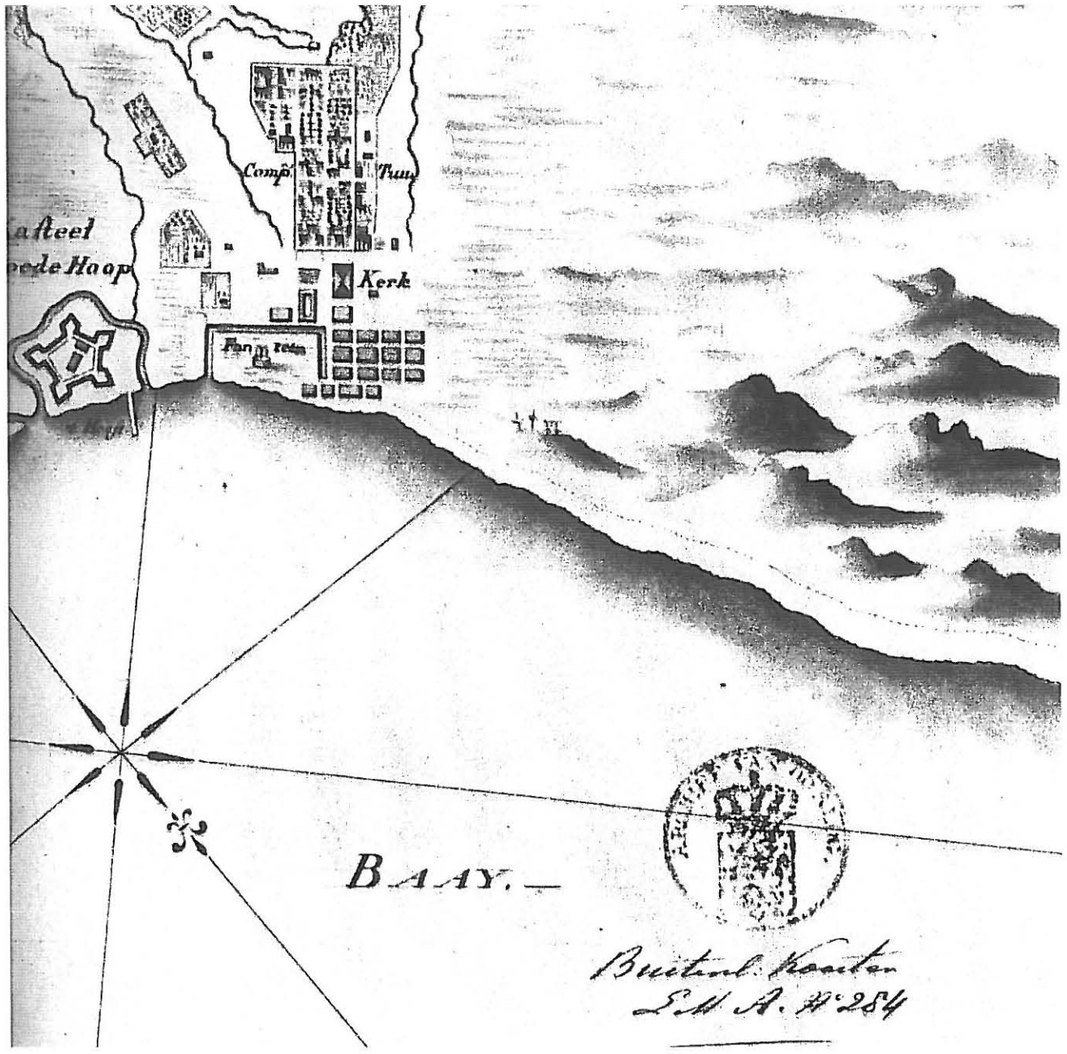

Figure 2: M1/967, early 18th century (Cape Archives)

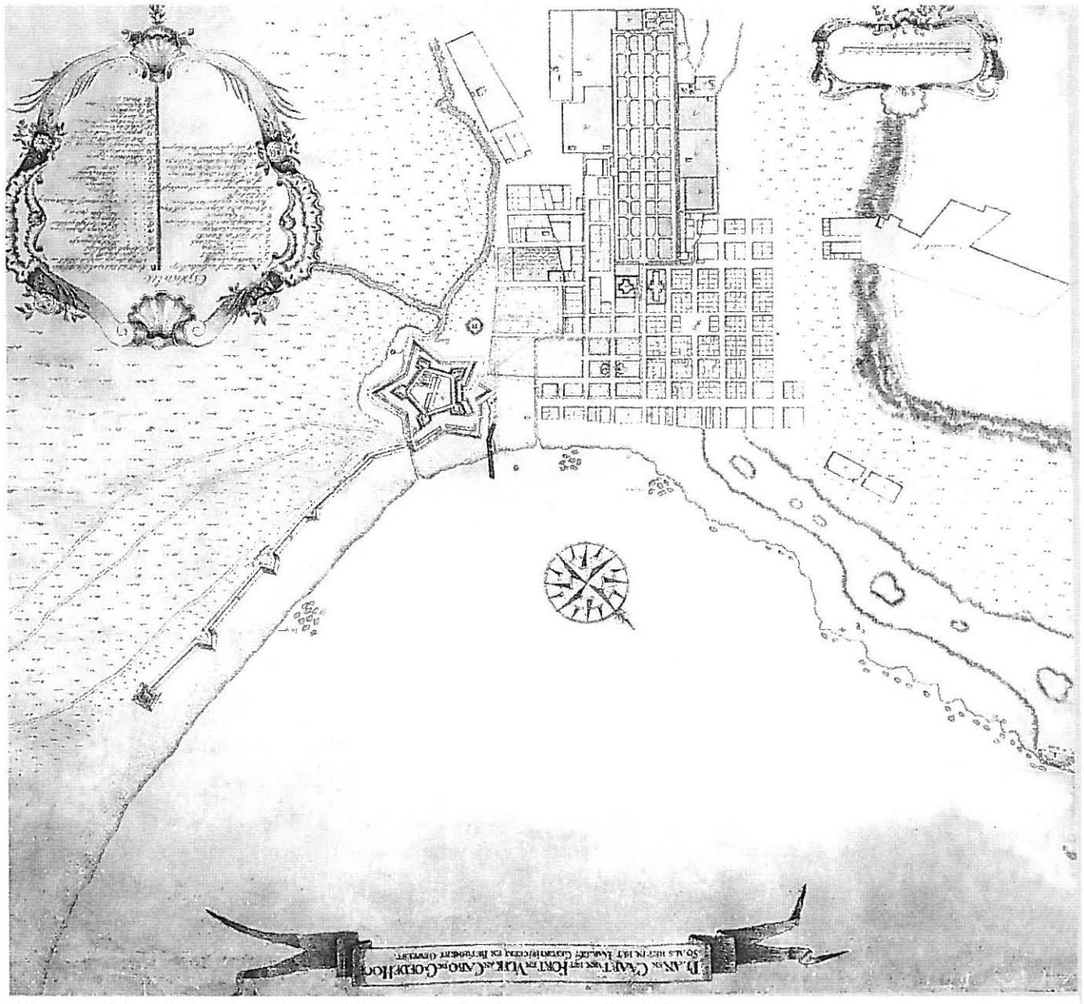

Figure 3: Map of the Cape of Good Hope c1767 (Worden et al 1998)

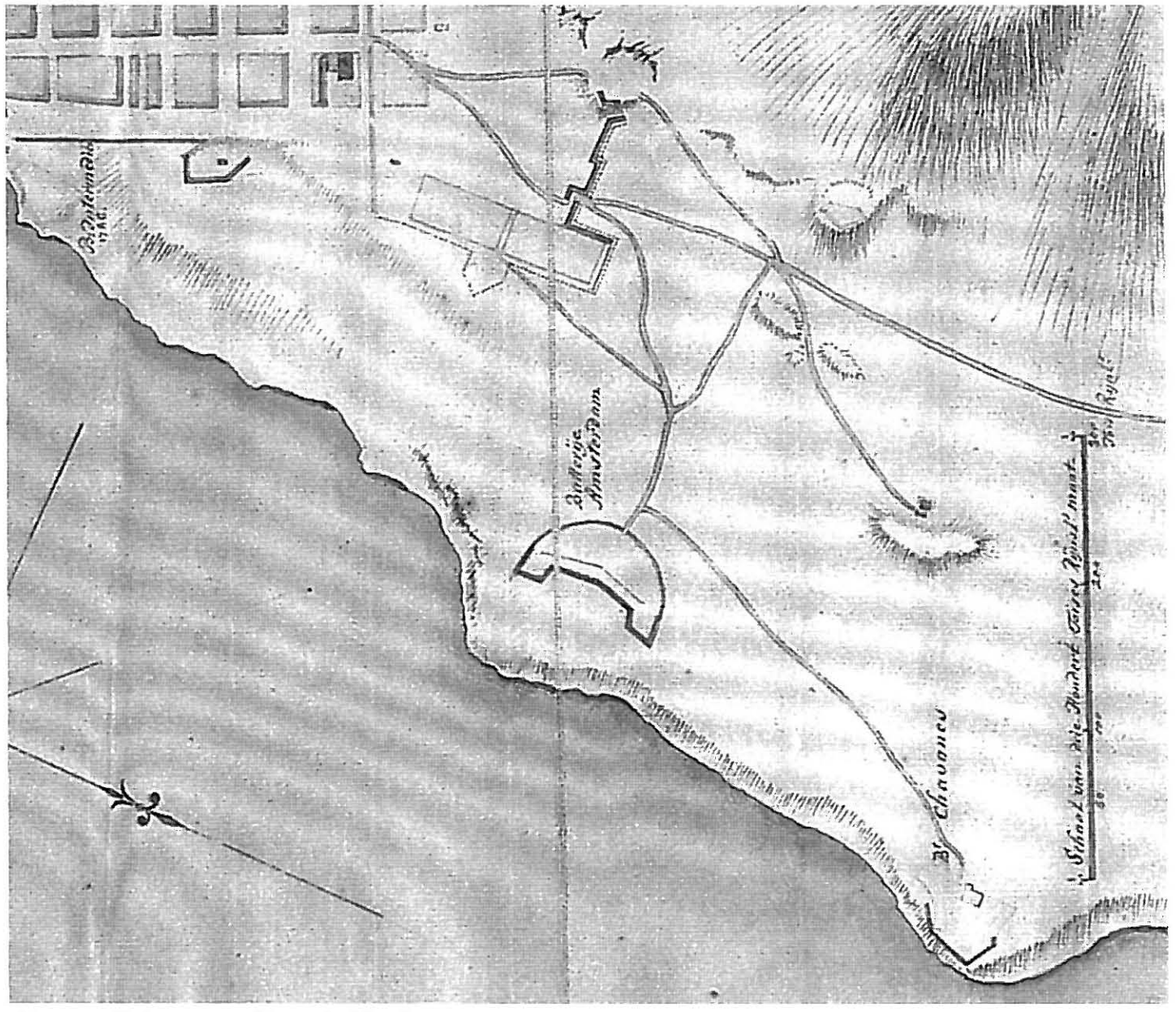

Figure 4: M1/339 c1786 (Cape Archives)

3.3. 19th century

During the first half of the 19th century, the Common was still very much on the outskirts of Cape Town, a place characterized by execution grounds[1], formal and informal cemeteries and defence structures on its eastern end, and horse racing and the Heerenhuis or Society house at the western end.

Horse racing on the Common was made popular by the British: soon after their Occupation of the Cape in 1795, regular horse racing became and institution on the western end of the Common and by 1797 the African Turf Club as established (Kagan 1975). William Duckitt, who visited the Cape in the early 19th century described the Common being used for horse racing and for grazing cattle (Todeschinni & Japha 1989:92).

Robert Semple, who visited the Cape in 1805, described the slave burial ground as 'close by the road and perfectly open; beside it, near to the town are two burying places belonging to particular inhabitants, and walled round' (Semple 1968). According to local custom, members of the Dutch Reformed Church were buried within the walled cemeteries, while unbaptised slaves and heathens were buried in the unwalled area beyond. The expansion of the town into this area during the early 19th century, however, caused some problems in this regards. In 1819 the Cape Town Gazette published a proclamation forbidding the burial of bodies outside the walled cemeteries, as several complaints had been lodged before the Senate. A location was found 'between the Mouile and Chavonne Battery for the internment of slaves and those (other than Moslems) that are not of the Christian persuation' (*Cape Town Gazette* July 1819 IN Murray 1964:22). Murray (1964:22) later locates this cemetery as the site of the Breakwater prison, which was built in 1859; in which case the proclamation should have read between the Amsterdam and Chavonnes Battery.

In 1813, the first lots of erven along the Signal Hill side of the Common were alienated (Figure 4). These 28 lots of ground were above the track leading to Green Point and Sea Point (later Somerset Road) and situated between the Malay burial ground and Mr Mellet's farm[2] (Murray 1964:15; Kagan 1975). The (old) Somerset Hospital was built in 1818 and was located adjacent to the walled cemeteries (Figure 4).

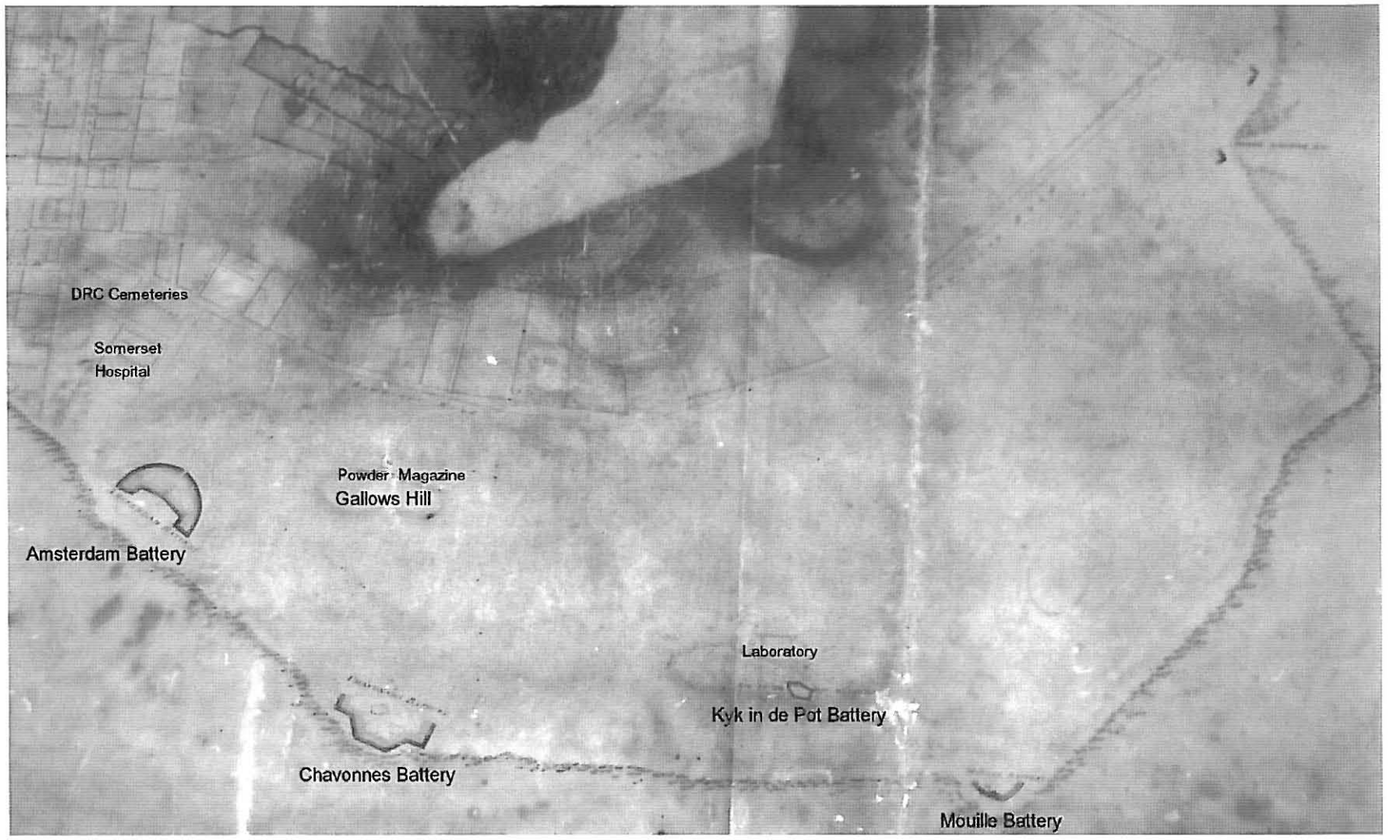

Figure 5: M5/16 c1820 (Cape Archives). Note the vlei to the right of the Kyk in de Pot Battery.

[1] Murray (1964) describes Gallows Hill as a chalky rise about 20 feet high. The top was paved with blue (slate) flag stones. Sockets were to be found at either end in which the bars of the crossbeam, from which the bodies of the executed were hung, were sunk. According to Murray (1964:22) the execution place moved from the top end of Strand Street to Gallows Hill in 1835, but the historical maps suggest that this site was in use a lot earlier.

[2] Mr David Mellet, incidentally, was an undertaker!

During the first half of the 19th century, several lots of land along Somerset Road, near the DRC cemeteries, were granted to the different denominations to be used as burial grounds. Figure 5 shows the location of DRC cemetery (1), the Scottish – situated on the old Military or *Soldaaten begraafplaats* (2), the English (3) and South African Missionary Society (4) cemeteries. Figure 5 also shows the location of what is very likely the paupers burial ground known as 'White Sands', situated between and Amsterdam and Chavonnes Battery to the seaward side of the Gallows Hill.

The mid 19th century was also characterized by an increased use of the Common for sporting events, including horse racing. The race stand was built during this period (Plate 1 and 2). As these photographs show, the Common was also extensively used as grazing land by diary farmers along Beach Road. Cows grazing on the Common were an everyday sight until the 1930s.

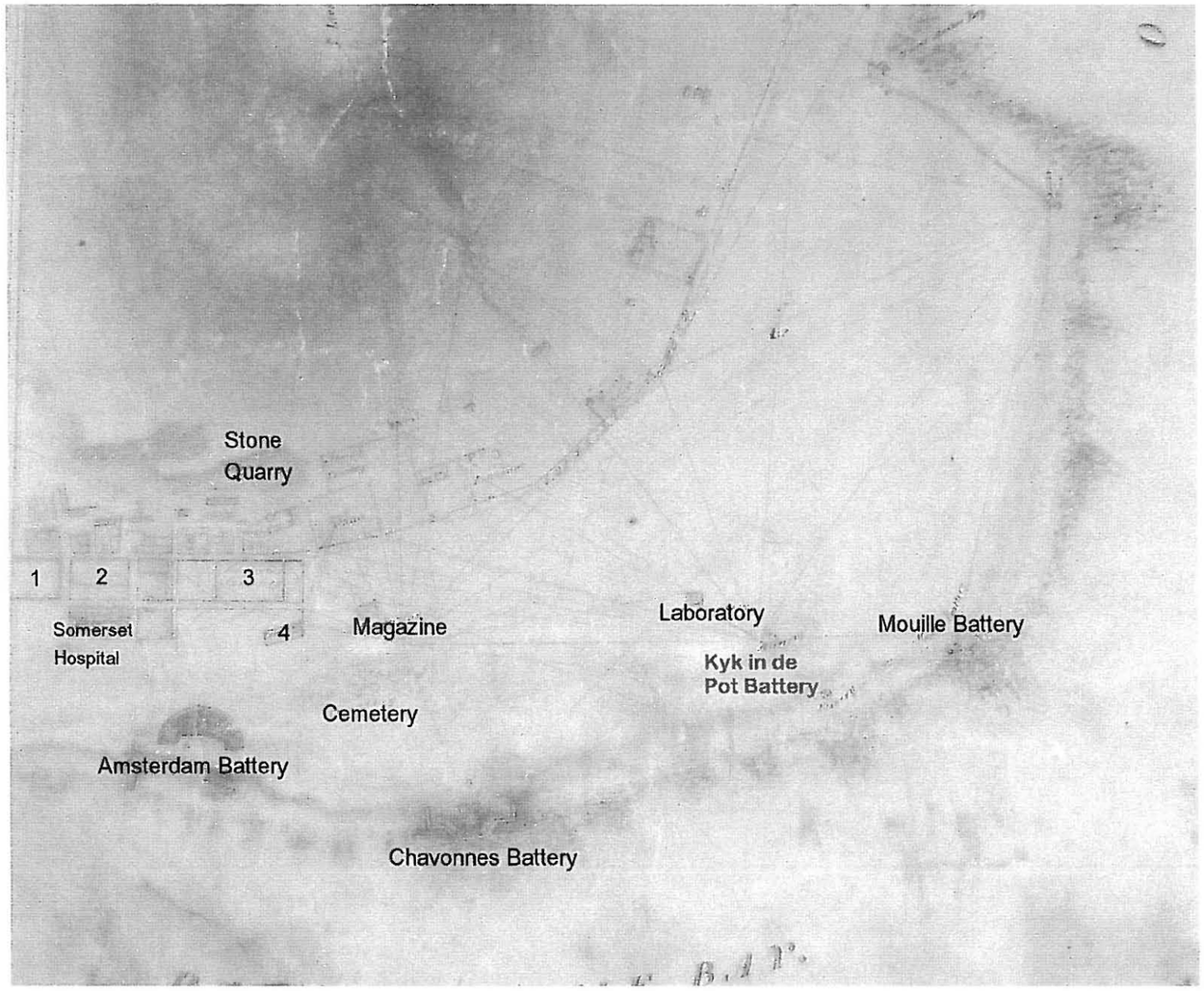

Figure 6: The area marked "Cemetery" is probably the "White Sands" paupers burial ground. (M1/571 c1836 Cape Archives)

Plate 1: (DrJ 723 c1895 Cape Archives) showing the race stand, with the (new) Somerset Hospital in the background.

Plate 2: (Dr J319 c1895 Cape Archives) showing the race stand in the middle ground on the left, with Devils Peak in the background.

The *Cape Monitor*, October 1850, reported on a cricket match played between the officers of the garrison and civilians. The *Cape Argus,* March 1862, reported on a football match played near the Race Course. And after 1869, cycle races became popular (Picard 1964b:135). The Common was also well known for its diverse bird life, wild flowers (and even the occasional deer).

Furthermore, the vlei was a popular venue for boating and canoeing as, after the winter rains, it was over 5 foot deep and had a circumference of 1 mile (Figure 6, Plate 3).

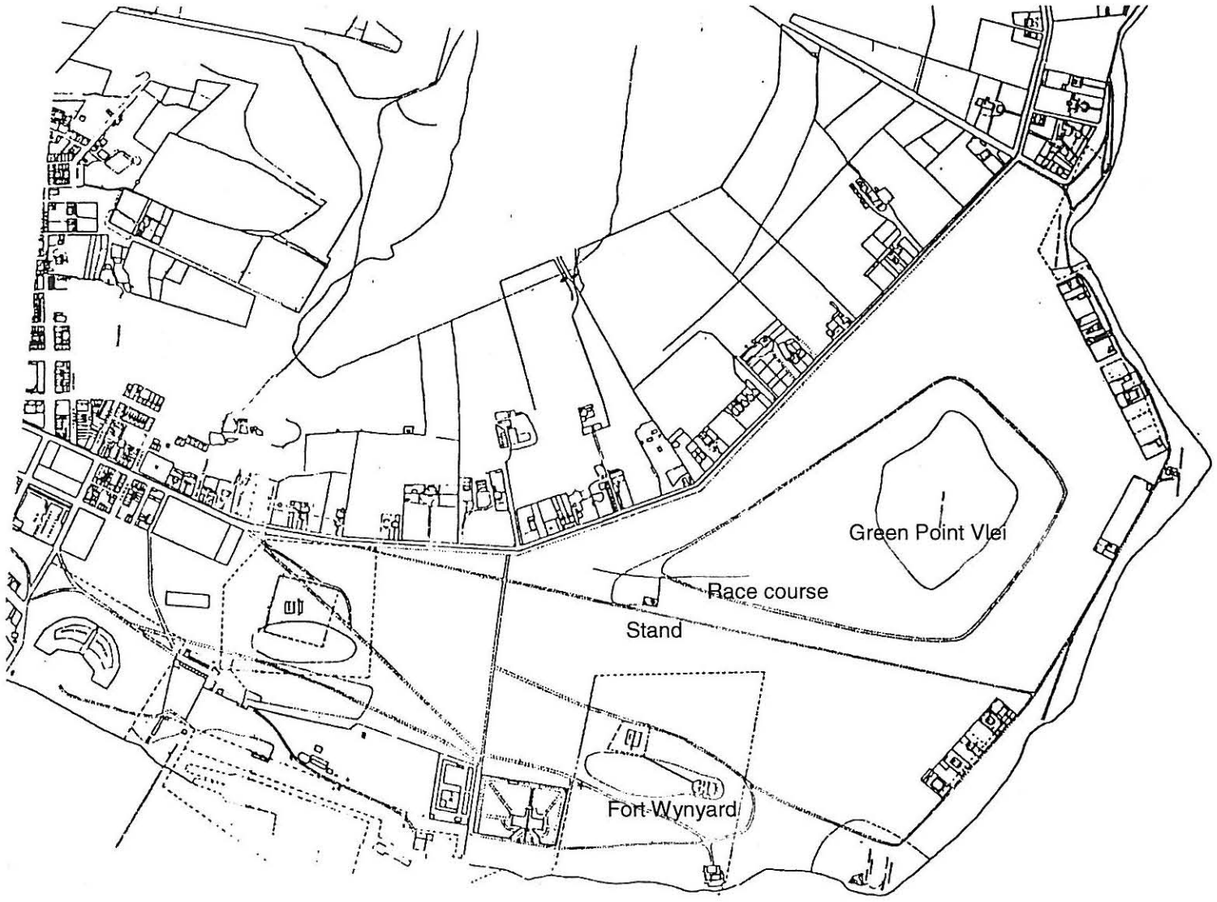

Figure 7: Snow's map of Cape Town c1860 (Cape Town City Council)

Plate 3: The vlei and surrounding houses along Beach Road in the background and Main Road in the foreground (Dr J 250 c1889 Cape Archives).

During the mid 19th century, the new Somerset Hospital was built on the eastern edge of the Common between Fort Wynyard and the Breakwater Prison.

Towards the end of the 19th century, the impact on the eastern end of the Common as a result of the harbour development was profound. The Chavonnes Battery was already demolished in the 1850s with the construction of the Alfred Docks. The construction of the railway network also dates to this period. The Table Bay Harbour Board bought additional land in a strip situated between the Amsterdam Battery and the (new) Somerset Hospital (Figure 7, Plates 4 and 5), effectively destroying large parts of the Gallows Hill, as well as parts of the 'White Sands' paupers burial ground.

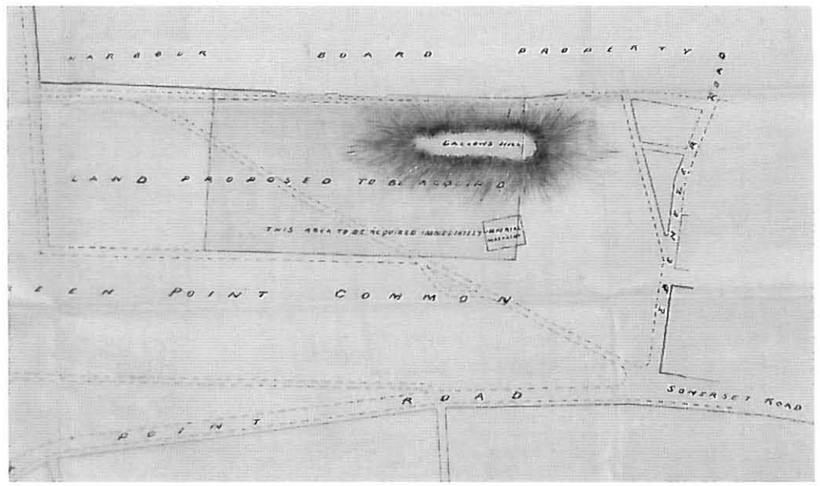

Figure 8: Diagram showing land to be purchased by the Table Bay Harbour Board. Note the position of Gallows Hill in relation to the Green Point Road, Somerset Road and Ebenezer Street and the powder magazine (CHB 263 No 67 c1889).

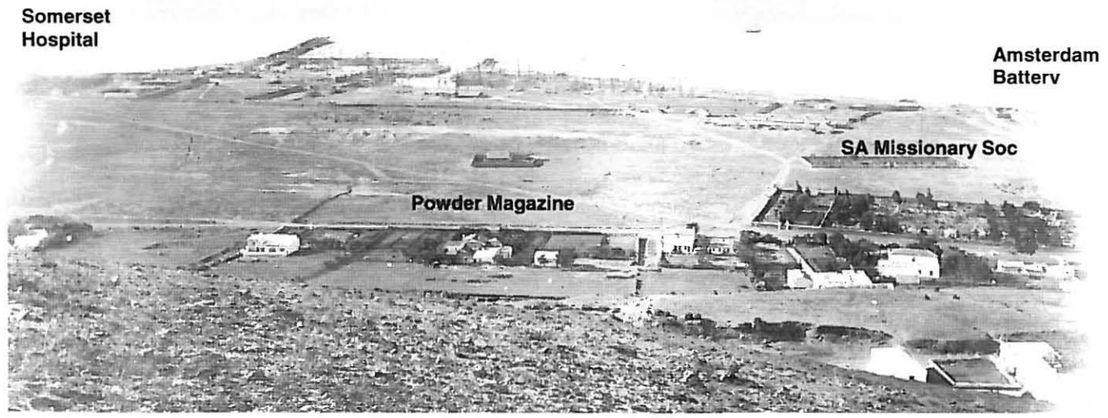

Plate 4: A small portion of Gallows Hill and the remains of the White Sands burial ground is visible between the Powder Magazine and the new harbour (AG 4122 Cape Archives)

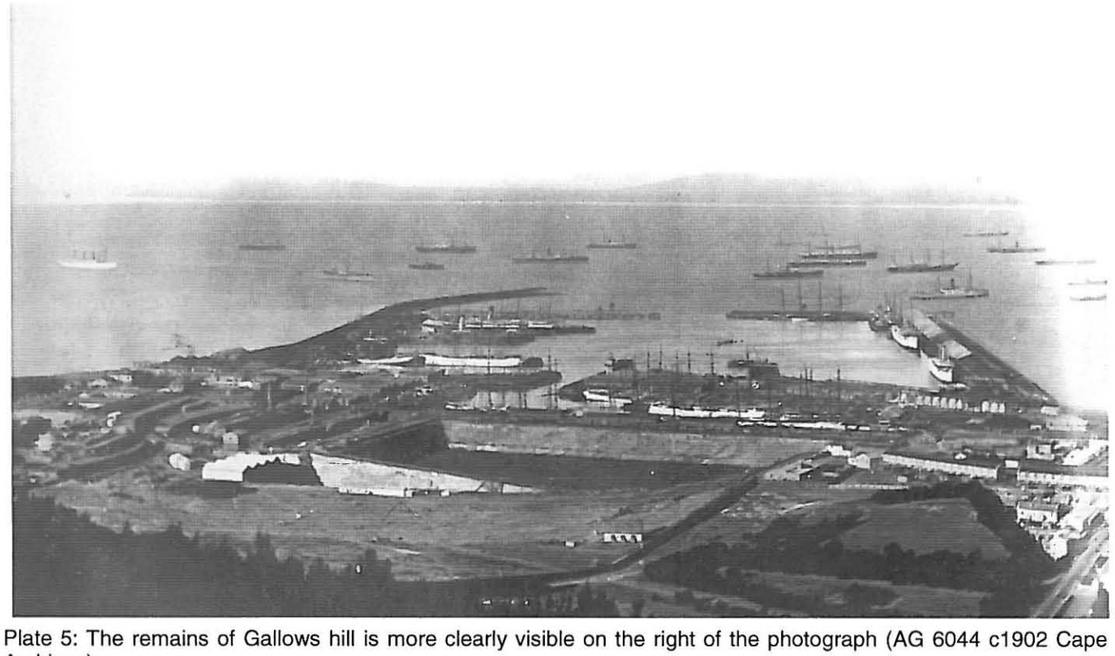

Plate 5: The remains of Gallows hill is more clearly visible on the right of the photograph (AG 6044 c1902 Cape Archives)

At the same time that the Table Bay Harbour Board was buying up land on the eastern edge of the Green Point Common for the excavation of the harbour, the cemeteries along Somerset Road had been closed and proposals for the new location of the public cemetery were under review. One of these proposed locations was Green Point Common (Figure 8). This proposal was not accepted, and the public cemetery was located at Maitland.

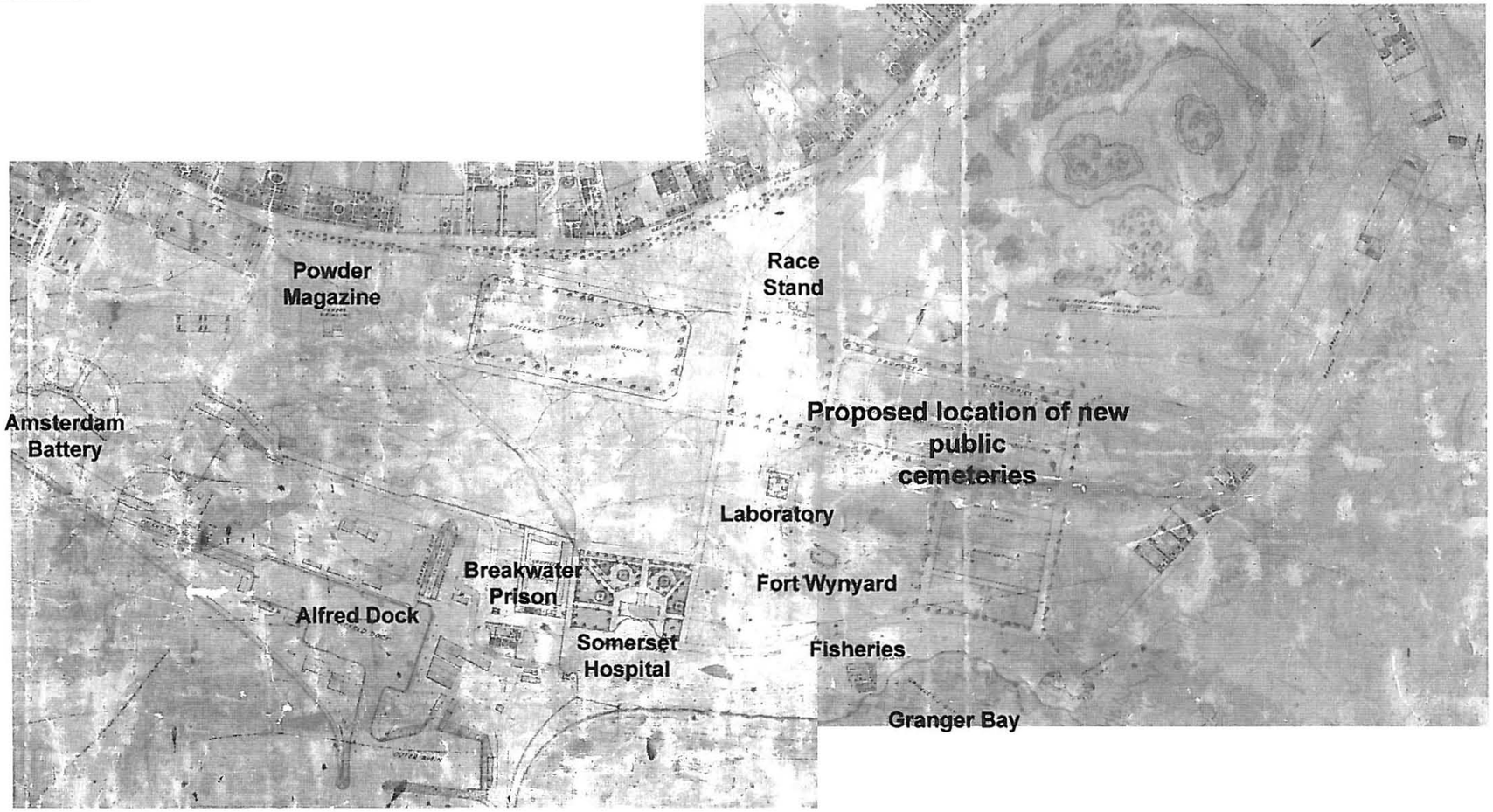

Figure 9: Wilson's map of Cape Town c1870, showing the proposed new location of the public cemeteries on Green Point Common.

At the end of the 19th century, the Green Point Track was built, close to the race stand. Thoms' map of Cape Town (Figure 8) clearly shows the outline of the buildings on the Somerset Hospital precinct, Fort Wynyard, the cycle track and the race stand, as well as the powder magazine. The positions of three old guns towards the road, behind the race stand, have also been mapped; their significance is uncertain, and they do not appear on any of the other maps.

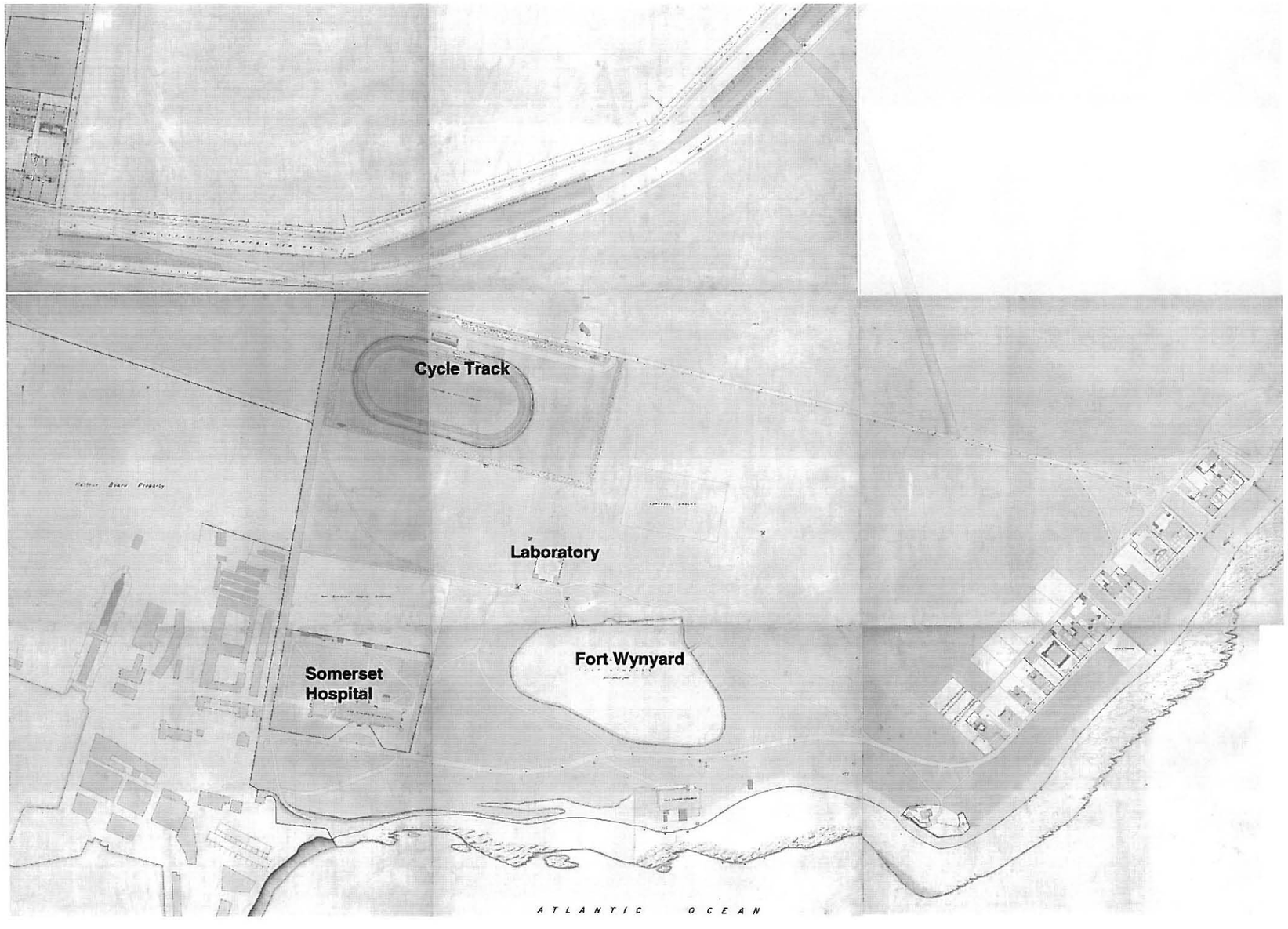

Figure 10: Thom's map of Cape Town c1898 (CTCC)

3.4. 20th century

The Anglo Boer War broke out in 1899 and lasted until 1902. Although most of the action took place in the erstwhile Boer Republics, Cape Town was an important transit point: British soldiers were landed and deployed from Cape Town and Boer prisoners of war were shipped to St Helena, Ceylon and Bermuda from Cape Town.

The main British camp sites were situated at Maitland, Rondebosch showground and on Green Point Common. Although the Somerset Hospital remained a civilian hospital, a Military Hospital was situated near the Green Point Track (Plate 6). The men lived in canvas tents, but a number of more permanent rectangular buildings were also erected (Plates 7-10).

Plate 6: The military hospital c1900 (DrJ 935 Cape Archives).

Plate 7: E9356 Cape Archives showing the variety in structures on the Common

Plate 8: The Common c 1899 (DrJ 80 Cape Archives

Plate 9: The extent of the encampments on the Common during the Anglo Boer War. The Boer prisoners were confined to the Green Point Track (R1443 (Cape Archives)

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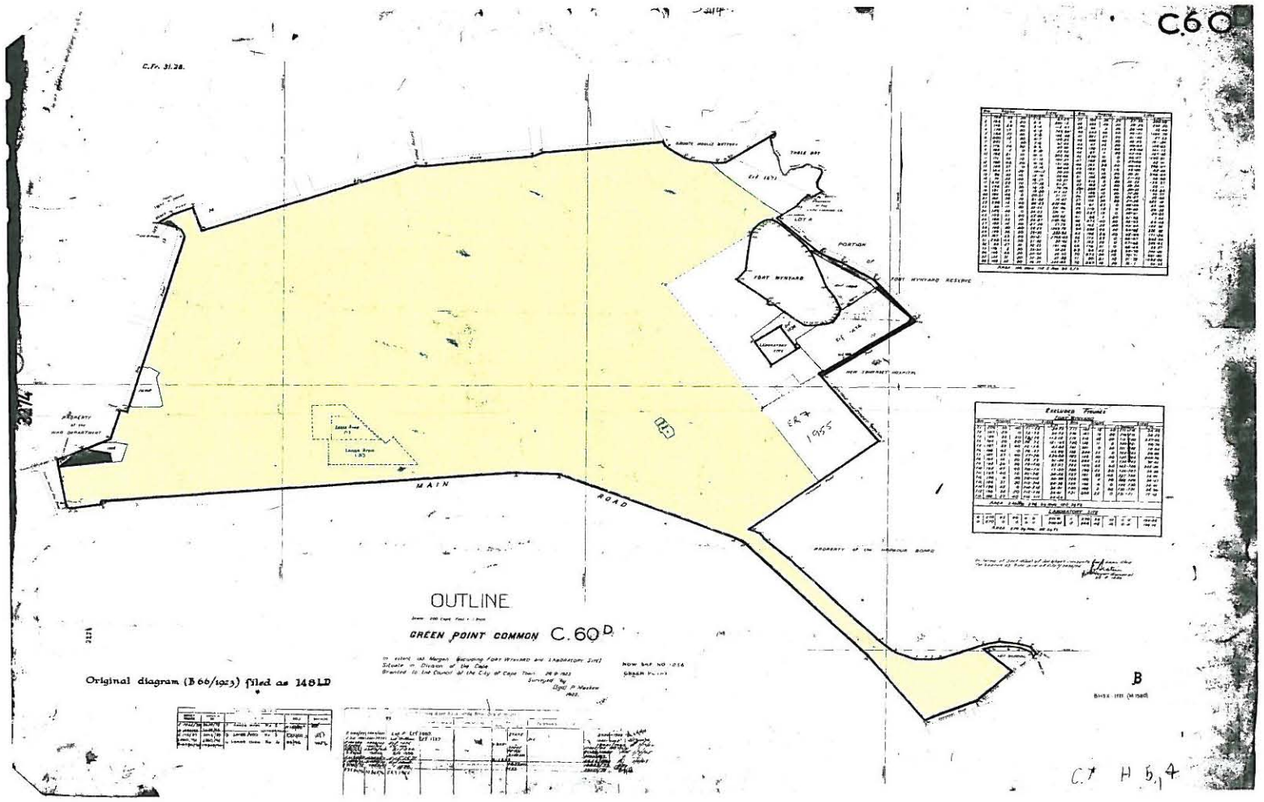

Figure 11: Survey diagram of the Green Point Common c1923 (B66/1923) – the shaded area shows the extent of Erf 1059, Green Point.

Figure 11: Survey diagram of the Green Point Common c1923 (B66/1923) – the shaded area shows the extent of Erf 1059, Green Point

Plate 10: 1926 aerial photography of the eastern end of the Green Point Common (Trig Survey 1926 Strip 3 Photo 836). The rectangular soil marks visible inside the Cycle Track and on the southern part of the Common, may be the imprint of some of the more substantial structures built to house soldiers during the Anglo Boer War. No similar marks are visible on the Metropolitan Golf Course as the course was rebuilt in 1902 as the camp site had rendered the fields unplayable (Anon 1995).

Plate 11: 1945 aerial photography of the Green Point Common (Job 203A Strip 4 Photo 612 and 614). The powder magazine seems to have been demolished. Note the structures near the old race stand: these were probably associated with troop movements during the Second World War, when the Common again served as a camp site for soldiers in transit. Vlei Road and Green Point Road are still visible, crossing the Common.

Plate 12: 1960 aerial photography of the Green Point Common (Job 454 Strip 18 Photo 7625). Note the present Green Point Stadium, under construction. During the 1950s the sports fields were developed and a number of sports culb houses built. Portions of Vlei Road and Green Point Road have been closed off, creating the present alignment of Fritz Sonnenberg Road.

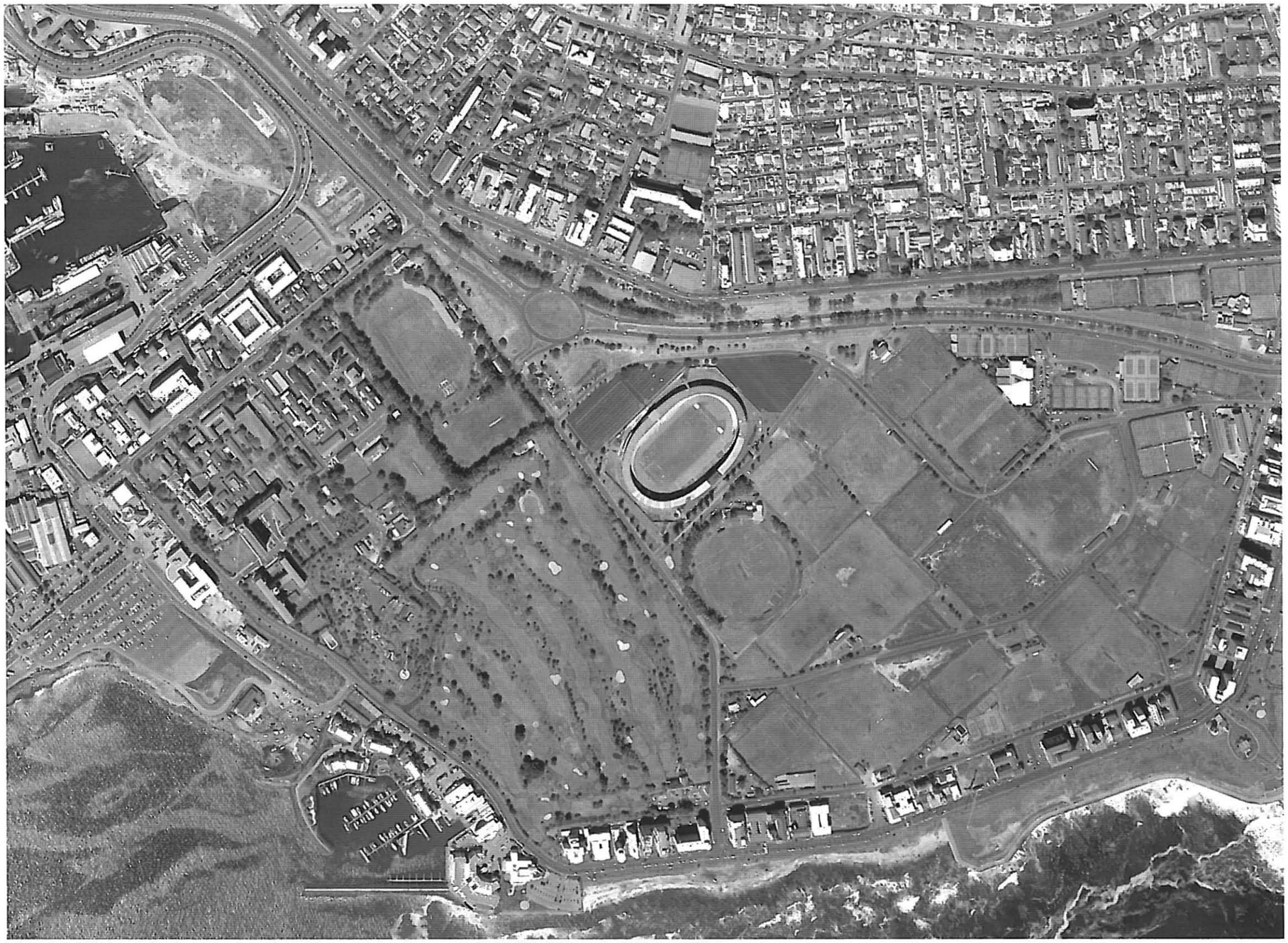

Plate 13: 2001 aerial photography of the Green Point Common (Job 498_388 Strip 6 Photo 0086)

4. Archaeology

Test trenches were excavated using a mechanical digger in the areas designated by the Cape Town City Council as the proposed sites for the new 2010 Stadium, one on the Metropolitan Golf Course and one at the existing Green Point Stadium (Front page). The location of the trenches were restricted to areas which fell outside existing playing fields, both on the golf course and on the cricket, rugby and soccer fields near the existing stadium. The grass sods were removed using spades, after which, the mechanical digger removed ground in spits of 100 to 150mm. An archaeologist was on site at all times while the test trenches were being excavated. The mechanical digger continued to remove soil in spits until bedrock was reached. The soil layers were recorded and artefactual material[3] was collected and the provenience recorded.

4.1. Metropolitan Golf Course

The location and length of the test trenches on the Metropolitan Golf Course was restricted to areas in the 'rough', so as not to disturb players nor destroy the freeways or greens. Misters Pierre du Plessis and Simon Tamako, who are in charge of maintaining and landscaping the golf course, were on hand to indicate where the irrigation pipes and power points were situated. Figure 11 shows the location of the proposed 2010 stadium, as well as the outline of the location of the proposed cemeteries dating to the end of the 19th century. Plate 14

Test Trench 1
This trench was situated close to Fritz Sonnenberg and the existing Green Point Stadium. No cultural material was found and bedrock lay 720mm below the surface. Test Trench 1 was 10m long and 1m wide.

Test Trench 2
This trench was situated along the south-eastern edge of the proposed site of the new 2010 stadium, and also fell within the boundary of the area indicated on Wilson c1870 (Figure 8) as the location of the new proposed cemeteries. No cultural material was found and bedrock lay 420 to 490mm below the ground surface. Test Trench 2 was 6m long and 1m wide.

Test Trench 3
This trench was situated near the Cycle Track, and inside the area of the proposed new cemeteries dating to the end of the 19th century. The trench was also close to the road running between the Cycle Track and the golf course towards the site of the Laboratory (now demolished) and Fort Wynyard. A single shard of Asian domestic ware was found. Test Trench 3 was 10m long and 1m wide.

Test Trench 4
This trench was located along the northern edge of the proposed site of the new 2010 stadium, and fell within the boundary of the 19th century proposed new cemeteries. No cultural material was found. Test Trench 4 was 3m long and 1m wide.

Test Trench 5
This trench was situated near Fort Wynyard. This location was chosen to test whether the hill/dune on which Fort Wynyard is situated extended into the golf course and whether any cultural remains associated either with the Fort (extant since 1795) or the prehistory of the coastline was preserved. One nail and an iron hook were found in the humic soil just above the *in situ* yellow/white clay which is associated with the bedrock. Test Trench 5 was 4m long and 1m wide.

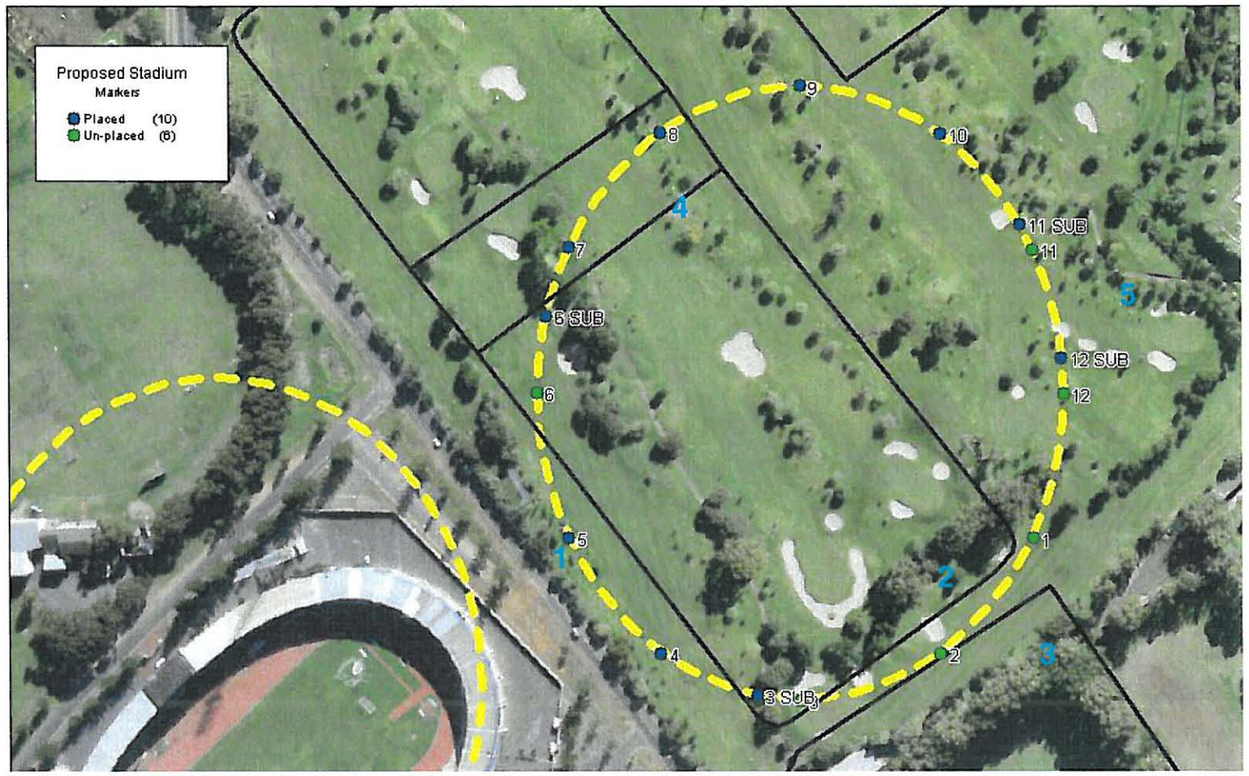

Plate 14: Location of the test trenches on the Metropolitan Golf Course. Yellow dashed line indicates the proposed location of the 2010 stadium, and the solid black line, the location of the proposed 19th century cemeteries. (Courtesy of Mr Brian Martin)

[3] Two shards of oriental porcelain, two animal bone fragments, an old electric fitting and a metal hook were the sum total of artifacts found in all the test trenches.

Plate 15: Location of Test Trench 1.

Plate 16: Location of Test Trench 2.

Plate 17: Location of Test Trench 3.

Plate 18: Northeastern section of Test Trench 1.

Plate 19: Southeastern section of Test Trench 2.

Plate 20: Southeastern section of Test Trench 3.

Plate 21: Location of Test Trench 4.

Plate 22: Location of Test Trench 5.

Plate 23: Eastern section of Test Trench 4.

Plate 24: Eastern section of Test Trench 5, showing the slate rubble along the northern end of the trench.

Plate 25: Eastern section of Test Trench 5. The remainder of the trench displays a very shallow humic layer, with bedrock associated white/ yellow clay 200 to 300mm below the surface.

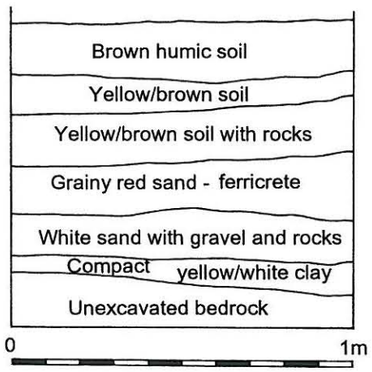

Figure 12: Soil layers in Test Trench 1

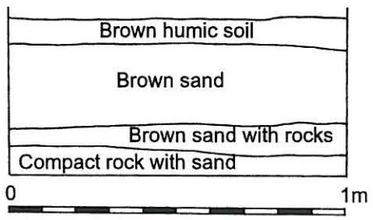

Figure 13: Soil layers in Test Trench 2.

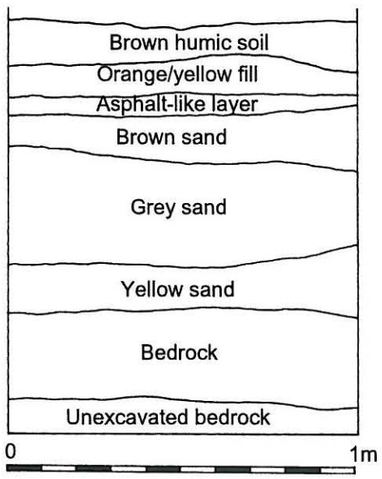

Figure 14: Soil layers in Test Trench 3.

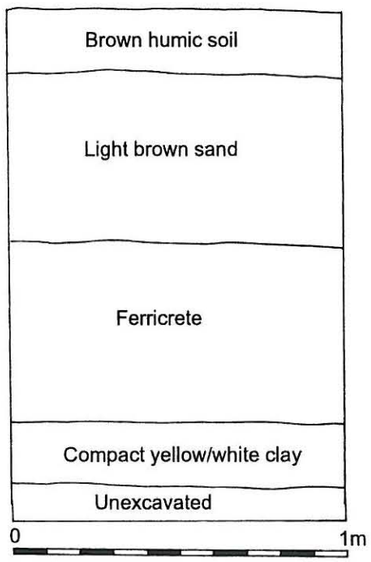

Figure 15: Soil layers in Test Trench 4.

Comments

While the trail excavation on the Metropolitan golf course gave great insight into the geological formation of the Green Point Common, very little material of cultural or historical interest was found. With the exception of an iron nail and hook in Test Trench 5 (near Fort Wynyard) and a shard of Asian porcelain in Test Trench 3 (near the Cycle Track) no cultural remains were found. We know that the golf course was landscaped after the end of the Anglo-Boer war, when the troops no longer camped on the site, but photographs dating to the end of the 19th century, show the Common as a flat open area covered in grass. It is therefore likely that the absence of artefactual material relates to the fact that this part of the Common has always been an open, undeveloped public space.

Plate 26: Fragment of Asian porcelain plate, domestic market ware.

4.2. Green Point Stadium

The test trenches for the proposed 2010 stadium in the vicinity of the existing Green Point Stadium were concentrated in the area to the north of the existing stadium. As with the golf course, the location and size of the test trenches were restricted by playing fields that are still in use. Figure 16 shows the proposed location of the new 2010 Stadium overlaying the existing Green Point Stadium. The red, blue and green represent the various municipal service pipes. As with the golf course, the location and length of the test Trenches were restricted by the sports fields in the surrounding area, which are still in use. Mr Balmo Brookes and the grounds man for the stadium and the surrounding fields, as well as the housekeeper for the cricket pitch were consulted with regards to the location of the test trenches with regards to irrigation pipes and playing fields.

Test Trench A
This trench was situated in the triangle of land formed by Fritz Sonnenberg and the road separating the cricket pitch and the preset Green Point Stadium. No cultural material was found, but a similar ashy/asphalt-like layer to that found in Test Trench 3 was present under the humic soil layer. Bedrock was shallow, at 250 to 300mm below the surface. Test Trench A was 3m long and 750mm wide.

Test Trench B
This trench was situated just inside the embankment of the cricket pitch, but outside the playing field. This location also corresponded with one of the field's irrigation pipes, and the test trench had to be abandoned. The embankment consisted of building rubble which contained fragments of glass, ceramic and brick. A compact clay layer was observed moments before contact was made with the irrigation pipe, and one can assume that here, also, the *in situ* clay layer is relatively shallow. No further work was possible in this trench.

Test Trench C
This test trench was situated along side the rugby and soccer field adjacent to the cricket club and opposite the present Green Point Stadium. Some cultural material was found in this trench: an Asian porcelain bowl, a porcelain electric fixture and two fragments of bone. This trench was dug to a depth of 110m, but ferricrete deposits were already present at 700mm below the surface. Test Trench C was 10m long and 750mm wide.

Test Trench D
This test trench was situated in the same line as Test Trench C, but more to the southwest. No cultural material was found. There was a layer of brick rubble above the *in situ* shale, which was 350mm below the surface. Test Trench D was 3m long and 750mm wide.

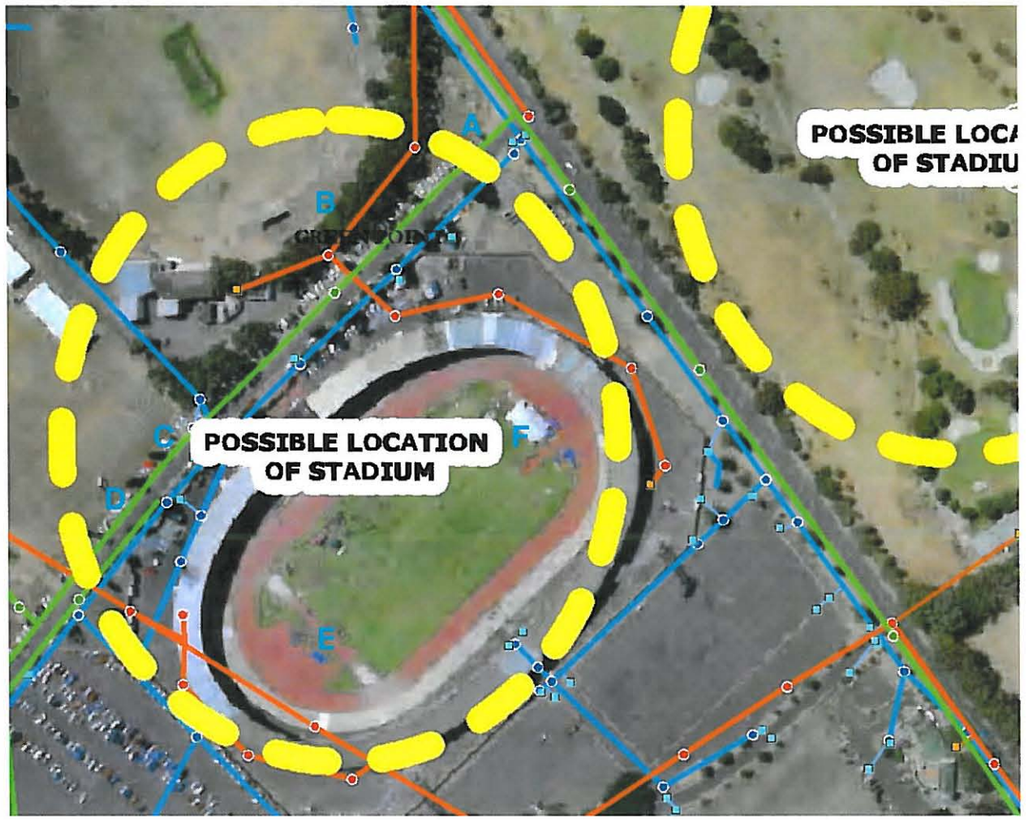

Plate 27: Location of the test trenches at the existing Green Point Stadium. (Courtesy Jeanette Kane).

Test Trench E
This test trench was situated in the southern end of the present Green Point Stadium. Similarly to Test Trenches 3 and A, an ashy/asphalt-like layer was present in this trench, mixed with modern brick, probably rubble associated with the building of the present stadium. No cultural material was found. Shale bedrock was 800mm below the surface. Test Trench E as 5m long and 750mm wide.

Test Trench F
This test trench was situated in the northern end of the present Green Point Stadium. No cultural material was found. Ferricrete deposits were present at 700mm below the surface.

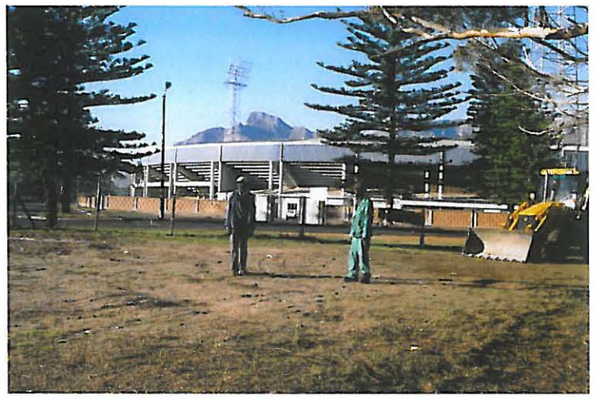
Plate 28: Location of Test Trench A.

Plate 29: Location of Test Trench B.

Plate 30: Location of Test Trench C and D

Plate 31: Northeastern section of Test Trench A.

No section photographs nor section drawings are available for Test Trench B, as this hole was flooded when contact was made with an irrigation pipe.

Plate 32: Eastern section of Test Trench D.

Plate 33: Location of Test Trench E inside the present Green Point Stadium.

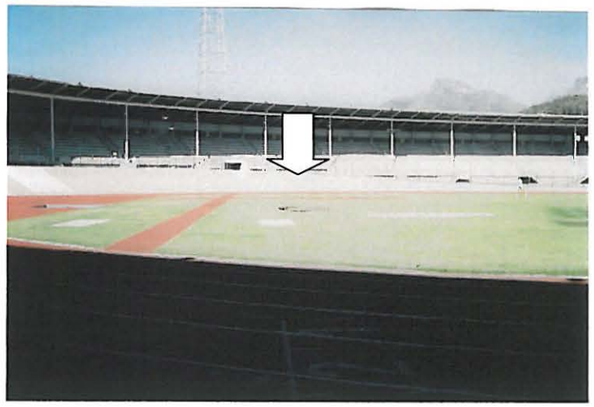

Plate 34: Location of Test Trench F inside the present Green Point Stadium.

Plate 35: Eastern section of Test Trench E.

Plate 36: Northeastern section of Test Trench F

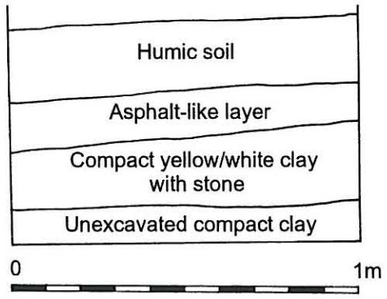

Figure 16: Soil layers in Test Trench A.

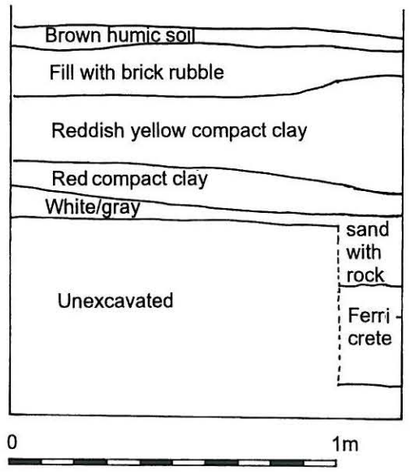

Figure 17: Soil layers in Test Trench C.

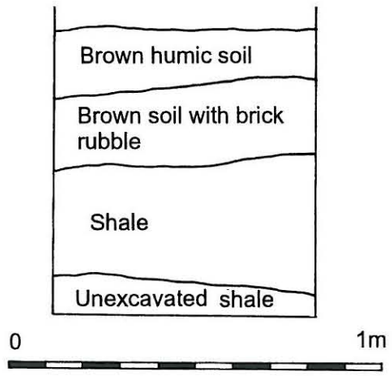

Figure 18: Soil layers in Test Trench D.

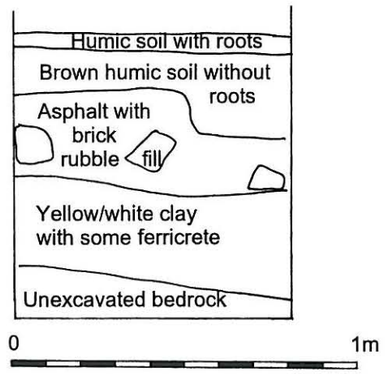

Figure 19: Soil layers in Test Trench E.

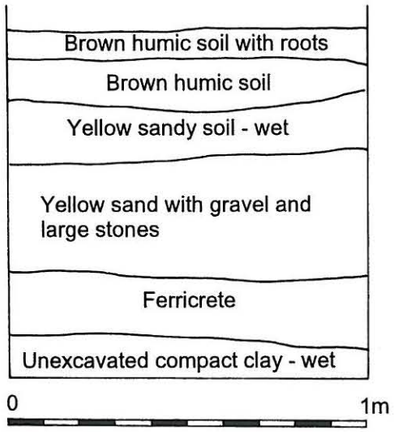

Figure 20: Soil layers in Test Trench F.

Comments

The trial excavations the area adjacent to the present Green Point Stadium also proved to have very little material of archaeological interest. The reasons for this paucity of archaeological material, no doubt is associated with the use of the Common as a public open space.

Plate 37: Asian porcelain bowl, domestic market ware and an electrical fitting from Test Trench C

5. Conclusion

5. 1 Burials

No evidence of burials nor human skeletal remains were found in the 11 trial excavations in the footprint of the proposed locations of the new stadium, on the Metropolitan Golf Course and the existing Green Point stadium. Furthermore, the *in situ* bedrock, and layers associated with bedrock (eg dense yellow and white clay or ferricrete) were very shallow beneath the existing ground surface, not presenting favourable conditions for use as burial grounds.

It is known that the coast surrounding Table Bay was occupied by indigenous communities until the 18th century. During the ground penetrating radar, Mr Jon Mac Stay (pers comm. 2006), identified a portion of *in situ* coastal dune along Beach Road, near Fort Wynyard. There is still a possibility that some Stone Age shell middens as well as human skeletal remains may be found in this area.

It is our opinion that the informal burials associated with the Green Point Burial Area did not extend into the Green Point Common, but were confined to the area between the Buitengracht and the present Portswood Road.

5. 2 Heritage resources/sites

The Green Point Common is an historical open space, which has been in existence since the establishment of the settlement at the Cape in 1652. It is our opinion that this open space defines the character of this part of Green Point and the impact of the new stadium on this historical open space needs to be assessed by the Heritage Impact Assessment.

Furthermore, the eastern portion of the Green Point Common has a concentration of heritage sites:

<u>Kyk in de Pot Battery/Fort Wynyard: Provincial Heritage Site</u>
This fortification adjoins the Metropolitan Golf Course and stands to be directly impacted should the new stadium be built on this eastern part of the golf course. It is the last remnant of a series of defence batteries that stretched along the coastline of Table Bay on either side of the Castle. The Kyk in de Pot Battery was constructed in June 1795 on a small hill overlooking Granger Bay in response to the threat of an English take-over (which was realized in that same year with the First British Occupation of the Cape). Although the Battery was ordered to be dismantled in 1827, it was re-commissioned in 1861 when the American Civil War broke out. The Battery was improved and renamed Fort Wynyard in 1862. It was remodelled again in 1888 and was in active duty until 1958 (Winter & Bauman 2006; Bisset n.d.). Fort Wynyard is a Provincial Heritage Site and is protected under the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 (D Hart 2006 pers comm.).

We would like to draw attention to the fact that the Metropolitan Golf Course includes some land belonging to Fort Wynyard and the proposed location of the new stadium on the Metropolitan Golf Course would infringe on Fort Wynyard.

<u>Somerset Hospital Complex : Provincial Heritage Site</u>
Although not directly adjoining Erf 1056, this complex is historically and socially extremely significant and is currently the focus of a Phase 2 Heritage Impact Assessment (Winter and Bauman 2006).

<u>Green Point Race Stand (Erf 1056, Green Point): Structure older than 60 years</u>
The Green Point Race Stand was built in 1851 for the South African Turf Club, after a design by G McDougall and was used by the Metropolitan Golf Club from 1906 until 1959 as a Clubhouse (Anon 1995). It has also been used as an art centre and a series of restaurant/pubs. It presently serves as a McDonalds outlet. According to Fransen (2004:78), although the building has been altered, the late Georgian two storey five-bay core is still intact and has been a familiar landmark on the Green Point Common since the mid 19th century.

<u>Green Point Cycle Track (Erf 1056, Green Point) : Structure older than 60 years</u>
Although the Green Point Cycle Track is not a declared heritage site, it is protected under the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 as it is older than 60 years. The cycle track and cricket field were built towards the end of the 19th century (Hart 2002) and is significant in being possibly the oldest formal sporting facility in Cape Town. Schools from poorer areas such as Bo-Kaap, District Six, Docks area, Tramway road, Sea Point and St Augustines in Kloof Street held annual athletics meetings here, organized by the Central School Sports Union (Winter & Bauman 2006). The World Amateur record for cycling was set by Jack Rose at this track in 1899. Furthermore, during the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902, Boer prisoners of war were held inside the Cycle Track.

<u>Metropolitan Golf Course (Erf 1056, Green Point): Older than 60 years</u>
Although the Green Point Common hosted a golf course since 1895, the present location of the Metropolitan Golf Course dates to 1902 (Tiffin 1989).

Anglo-Boer War camp site

The Green Point Common, including parts of the Somerset Hospital complex and the Green Point Track was used extensively during the Anglo Boer War. Although it is unlikely that much remains of this occupation as far as archaeological remains are concerned, the site is significant in terms of historical association. The tents of British soldiers waiting to be deployed, or transported back home, stretched across the entire extent of the Common. Boer prisoners on war were held within the confines of the Green Point Track.

6. Recommendations

The Green Point Golf Course is older than 60 years and is therefore protected by the current National Heritage Resources Act. A full Heritage Impact Assessment should be completed, paying particular attention to Section 38 of Act which evaluates the impact that the proposed development will have on the surrounding cultural landscape, particularly the eastern edge of the common, before any proposed development be implemented.

The social history of the proposed development area falls outside the scope of this project, but needs to be addressed as part of the wider Heritage Impact Assessment in relation to the Golf Course and the existing Green Point Stadium.

Because of the size of the area to be affected by the construction of the 2010 stadium, it is our recommendation that an archaeologist undertakes a number of site visits during the earth moving activities as a precaution, as past experience has shown that trail excavations are not an absolute indicator of archaeological material.

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Personal Communication
Mr Vic Bradshaw, TMF Drilling
Mr Jon Mac Stay, WSP Environmental

8. Appendix 1: Background history of Green Point in brief

Period	Role /Theme	Associations/ People/Events Activities/Elements/Buildings	Material evidence Physical/Documentary
Precolonial	Transient camping, grazing and hunting site	*__Green Point Common__ consisted of a flat coastal plain with some prominent dunes with a large seasonal vlei situated along the western part of the Common. Hart (2003) locates the large vlei at the present stadium. * Early maps make reference to a Hottentot village on the outskirts of Cape Town (Malan n.d.). * Granite and Malmesbury shale geological substrata result in grazing rich in trace elements (Hart 2003).	1995 excavations at Cobern Str: four individuals were found, buried in traditional Khoekhoe style with broken pot and grindstone. Burials dated to c1000 BP (Cox 1999). Until end of 1920s cattle still grazed on Common – dairies along strip between Beach Road and the Common (Murray 1964; see photos CA)
Dutch: 1652- 1806	Grazing land Defensive batteries situated along its coastal edge eg Chavonnes, Amsterdam and Kyk in de Pot Execution grounds Along town's edge – cemeteries, both formal and informal Recreational/horse racing	*__Green Point Common__ was used by the VOC to graze company cattle. The area was referred to as *de Waterplaats* or Waterfront. By end of 17th century the area still has no permanent structures or settlement (Picard 1969b). *1715 Chavonnes Battery constructed Gallows Hill used as an execution ground *1743 Mole (unsuccessfully) constructed at present day Mouille Point. Remains still visible at low tide * 1755 formal DRC graveyards established on the outskirts of the village in the vicinity of present day Somerset Road – as well as informal graveyards for slaves, paupers, small pox victims and the executed. * c1786 description of 4 sailors found guilty of murder and whose remains were put on display on poles erected near the sand dunes near the Mole at Mouille Point [Murray 1964:22] *1795 *Kyk in de Pot* battery constructed in answer to threat of British take-over. * 1797 African Turf Club founded in Cape Town, their first race held at Green Point race track (Changed name to SA Turf Club in 18060 [Murray 1964] 1801 & 1802 Additional land granted to the DRC adjacent to the 1755 grant for use as cemetery	* Common was defined by Lions Head, Signal Hill the shoreline from Three Anchor Bay to the lower end of Bree Street. Consisted of a number of seasonal vleis CA M1/967 (mid 18th century) shows little development on the area of the common, excepting two crosses (?representing the cemeteries) as well as the gallows. The map is possibly not very accurate, but shows a dune cordon running along the coast at Green Point. CA M1/960 (1786) shows Amsterdam Battery and Chavonnes Battery CA M1/339 (c18th century) De Graaf, Thibault & Barbier shows two walled cemeteries along western edge of town. **Kaapse Plakkaatboek:** Complaints against people burying slaves without notifying official gravediggers (Cox 1999:72) and presumably anywhere. **Cape Town Gazette July 1819:** 'In consequence of complaints lodged before the President and members of the Burgher Senate that dead bodies are buried outside the walls of the General Burial places to the great nuisance of the Public … and burial of such Dead Bodies are hereby seriously forbidden … There is now a place, fixed between the Moulie and Chavonne Battery for the internment of slaves and those (other than Moslems) that are no of the Christian persuasion' [Murray (1964) puts the location of this cemetery along present Portswood road, on the site that the Breakwater prison was built in 1859]
British: 1806 – 1850	Recreational/ natural wild flower reserve Eastern edge of Common characterised by cemetery expansion as well as services: hospital and execution grounds: Morbid	* early 19th century Common is referred to as '*de vlakte genaamdt het Groen Punt*' * William Duckett c1800 describes horse racing on the Common, as well as it being used for grazing livestock * Peter Borchards c1803 describes military execution which took place on the sand dunes of the Common 'three deserters shot at Green Point … kneeling upon the small heap of white sand..' * 1813 Burgher Senate auctions of land along the lower slopes of Signal Hill – start of residential fringe * 1813 Land near Amsterdam Battery granted to the SA Missionary Society for use as cemetery for baptised 'slaves and heathens' (Apollonio 1998) * 1818 Old Somerset Hospital built on block bounded by Chiappini, Prestwich, Dixon and	CA M5/16 (1820) CA M1/571 pre 1836 Grey Plan of Green Point **Cape Town Gazette April 1813:** Notifying public that 28 lots 'situate between the Malay Burying grounds and the farm belonging to Mr D Mellet' put up for public auction. Land is situated on Signal Hill side of Main road. Newspapers reporting on cricket matches Gallows Hill systematically demolished: 1891the hill was bisected by the Sea Point Railway track. 1897 the northern slope was destroyed by the construction of the Alfred Docks. The eastern side was levelled in 1900. William Burchell in 1810 describes the wealth of wild flowers growing on the Common. By 1900 wild flowers still plentiful.

		?? Streets * 1827 Land near DRC cemetery along Somerset Road granted to the Episcopal (Scottish) Church for use as cemetery * 1832 Land near DRC cemetery along Somerset Road granted to the English Church for use as cemetery * 1834: James Backhouse describes Cape cemeteries as situated 'contiguously to each other, on a sandy flat towards the light-house, and on the adjacent ascent of the Lion Hill unfenced, on the open wastes …Those cemeteries belonging to different Christian congregations are enclosed by walls, and those of the Malays … and Chinese are fenced in, but one in which slaves have been interred, lies, to the disgrace … unfenced in the open waste. Adjoining the burial place of the slaves, useless horses are shot…' (IN Cox 1999:77) * 1835 execution place moved from Strand Street to Gallows Hill – chalk rise situated just over 90 metres to the east of the powder magazine. Hill was just over 18metres high and the top was paved with bluestone [slate] flagstones. At either end of the paving were end sockets for erecting the crossbeam from which the executed bodies were suspended. The executed were buried below the eastern slopes of Gallows Hill [Murray 1964:22] * 1840 The old Military burial ground granted to the Roman Catholic Church for use as cemetery (Cox 1999) * 1840 The Ebenezer Church in Ebenezer Street granted land which was previously used to bury paupers from the (old) Somerset Hospital as well as convicts (CCP 1/2/2/1/22 A2) as cemetery * By 1850 – only two buildings existed on the Common; the race stand (McDonalds) and the powder magazine (demolished in 1906). Race Course extended all the way to the Green Point Lighthouse * 1850 Moves afoot to close the Somerset Road cemeteries as they were overcrowded.	CA M1/574 Melvill & Dewet c1816 (lost) **Cape Argus June 1864** reports rheebok grazing on the Common, as well as a number of birds, water fowl and frogs Old Turf Club building: Built in 1851 by the SA Turf Club after a design by G McDougall (Fransen 2004). Also used as Metropolitan Golf Club clubhouse. Several modern additions, but original two-storey five-bay Georgian nucleus in tact. CA M3/558 c1858 Skead's map showing the cpastline from Camps Bay to beyonf Blouberg
1851 – 1900	Military Recreation	* 1862 Kyk in de Pot Battery upgraded and renamed Fort Wynyard *?c1866 Cape Volunteers camped on Common in response to cemetery riots around the moving of the public cemeteries to Maitland * 1882 race course opened at Kenilworth, and Common course loosed popularity * c1889 CT Municipality deepened the vlei, which was about 1.5 metres deep, and much water sports – boating, canoeing etc took place * 1893 used as showground for military review *1894 Somerset Road cemeteries closed	CTCC Snow's Survey 1860 shows the large vlei with race track around it CTCC Wilson's map of Cape Town shows the proposed location of the new public cemeteries on Green Point Common. Proposal not accepted and new public cemeteries located at Maitland. CA M1/235 1891 Dunscombe CTCC Thom's map of Cape Town c1898
Anglo Boer War 1899-1902	Military Recreational/Sport	* Main troop camps at Maitland, Rosebank showgrounds and **Green Point Common**. British soldiers lived in tents or huts. * Camp hospital situated on Common (Somerset Hospital used as civilian hospital during the war) *1899 Boer prisoners confined to inside the Cycle Track at Portswood Road, near the Infectious Disease Hospital (Known as No6 Stationary Hospital)	CA AG7116 c1889 (should read c1898?) shows Fever Hospital, Ward? And dead house? As well as tents close to Cycle Track CA E9356 shows British encampments on Common

		* 1899 World Amateur record for cycling set by Jack Rose at the Green Point Track Green Point vlei drained – problems with mosquitoes *1901 Plague breaks out in Green Point. *1903 Automobile Sports Meeting held test trials at Green Point Track * Establishment of the Metropolitan Golf Course	
1902-WWII	Recreation/Tourism Dairy farming/ Stock grazing	* After Anglo-Boer War recreational pursuits encouraged: several sports clubs (white and coloured) allocated land on Green Point Common. * 1904 site on the Cape Town Industrial Exhibition and Fair * 1906 Disused Cemeteries Appropriation Act 28 of 1906 passed * Race Stand, although much altered, became the Metropolitan Golf Club * 1907 First Coon carnival held on Green Point Common. * 1910 Rehearsal venue for the 'Great Pageant *1914 Military personnel en route to German South West Africa, encamped on Green Point Common * Common granted to the Cape Town City Council – conditions regarding encroachment on Fort Wynyard. 'Buffer zone' already around Fort Wynyard. Powder Battery/Laboratory demolished * Cows still a regular site grazing on the Common. Dairy farmers specifically located along Beach Road, with properties backing onto the Common to allow cows easy access. By end of 1920s legislation passed that dairies were not to be situated within residential limits. By 1936, no more cows to be seen. * 1934 Historical Pageant held at Green Point Track. Pageant was the commemoration of the centenary of the emancipation of the slaves. 'celebrated the diverse roots of Cape Town's coloured people'	1919: remaining portion of Gallows Hill levelled when new school was built near Ebenezer Street [Murray 1964] CA M3/206 1930