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# 11 Buitengracht Street

## Historical Background and Trial Excavations at Erf 798 Cape Town



Prepared for TCI Property Developers  
June 2005

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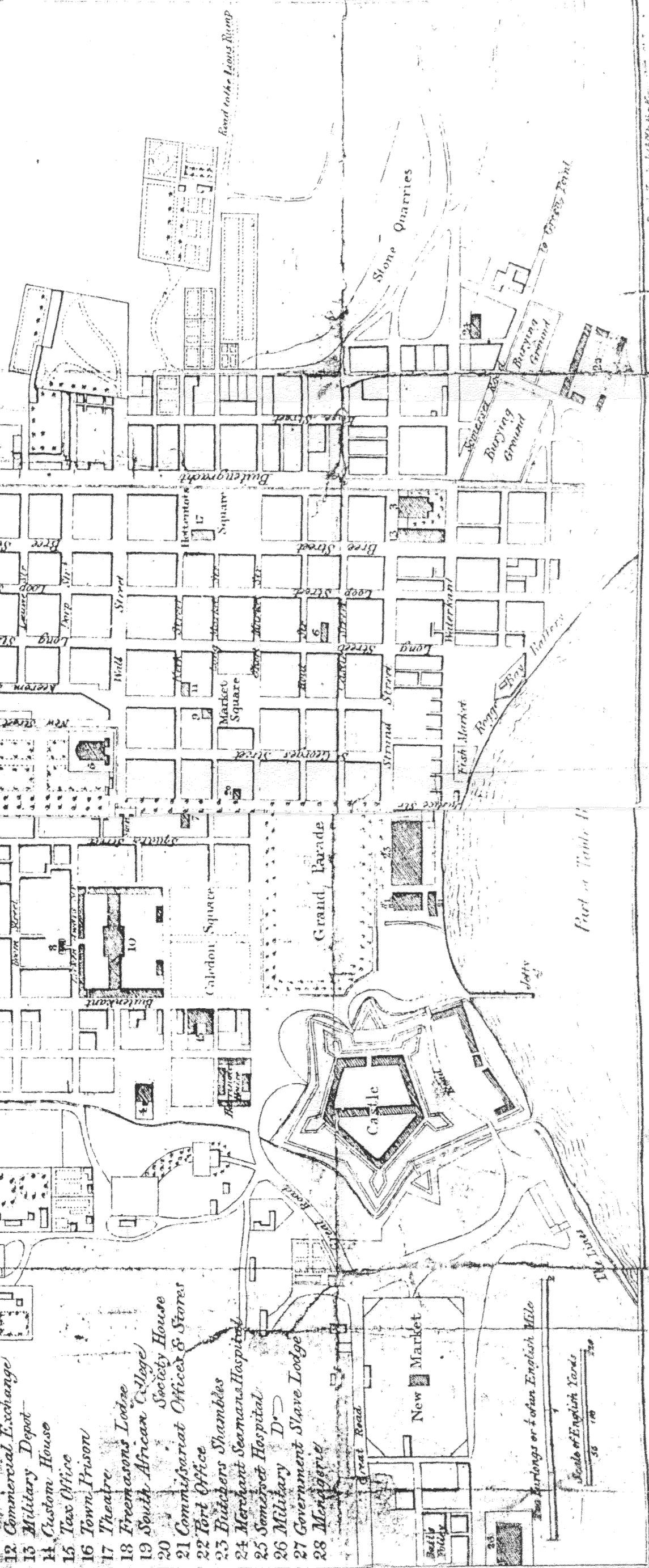
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**PLAN  
of  
CAPE TOWN  
and  
Environs, &c.)**

Lithographed  
for

G. GREIG'S  
Cape of Good Hope,  
Directory & Almanac.

± 1/2 MILE



Greig's Map of Cape Town showing the urbanization of Cape Town and the historic burial ground.

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Cape Archaeological Survey was commissioned by TCI Property Developers (Pty) Ltd, to assess the potential of 11 Buitengracht Street, Cape Town, in fulfilment of the Interim Green Point Protocol<sup>1</sup> which sets out areas in the Western City from Long Market Street in the Bo-kaap, northeast to the historic coastline of Table Bay, and northwest from Bree Street to Fort Wynyard, which contain archaeologically sensitive sites and burial grounds. Demolition, and subsequent construction work in this part of the city has alerted the Heritage Authorities to the presence of previously unmarked graves in the vicinity of formal burial grounds, which date from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century. Accordingly developers are obliged to simultaneously apply for a Section 35 (Heritage Western Cape) and Section 36 (South African Heritage Resources Agency) permit to undertake an Archaeological Investigation prior to demolition and development.

Archaeological research undertaken at the above property suggests that the current site has both an early 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century component with both a Dutch East India (VOC) and British occupation similar in context to other finds in the city. The site does not contain in-situ burials which could be considered part of the historic burial grounds set out along Somerset Road. Instead, the fragment of at least two disarticulated human skeletons was found, the result of secondary deposition by a mammal sometime after the original burial, or the partial removal of burials from their original context, by early 19<sup>th</sup> century development on the western side of the village of Cape Town.

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<sup>1</sup> Bo-Kaap, De Waterkant, Green Point and V& A Waterfront Area in which there is a probability of burials being found. Draft Interim Archaeological Protocol for Developers to follow in the Green Point Area until there is a 'Heritage Area' 27 October 2004. South African Heritage Resources Agency, Heritage Western Cape and Cape Town City Heritage Resources Section.

**No 11 Buitengracht - Erf 798 Cape Town**  
**Phase 1-2 Archaeological Assessment**

## 1. Introduction

This report was commissioned by TCI who wish to develop Erf 798 on the corner of Buitengracht and Prestwich Street for commercial and residential use. Cape Archaeological Survey was requested to conduct a desktop study and trial excavations to test whether any spill-over from the known 19<sup>th</sup> century burial grounds in the immediate vicinity was present, and test the archaeological potential of the site in terms of the 19<sup>th</sup> century development of the lower Table Valley. The site is located at approximately at 33° 55' 01. 12205"S, 18° 25' 13.43324"E and falls within the Green Point Conservation Area. Figure 1 shows the location of the site in the city.

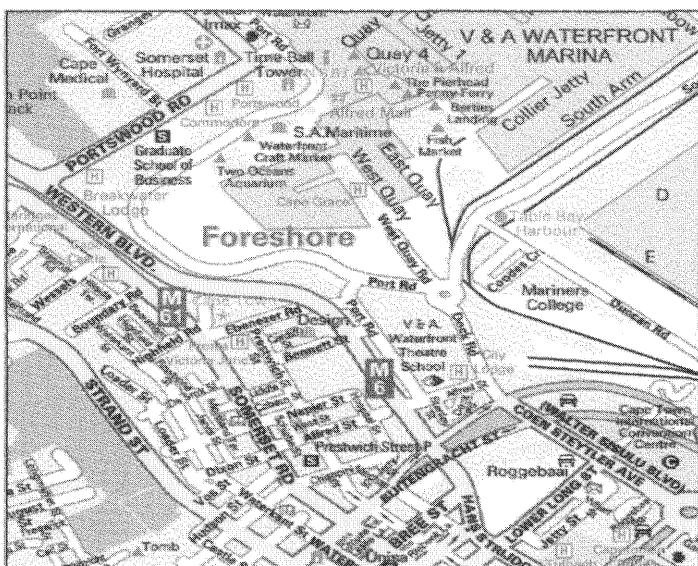


Figure 1. The geographical location of the site in the western city. Accidental discovery of burials have been found in the block bounded by Prestwich, Napier and Alfred Streets (2003 & 2004) as well as in the block bounded by Prestwich, Napier and Coburn Streets and Prestwich and Chiappini Streets (2005).

## 2. Historical Background – Lower Table Valley

By the middle of the Eighteenth Century the small settlement at the Cape had evolved into a thriving little town, with well-defined streets, albeit dusty or muddy according to the season, laid out in a formal grid pattern. It soon became obvious, however, that the water tumbling down from the mountain in a myriad streams which spread unchecked throughout the valley would need to be harnessed and funnelled to the sea, and to this end canals (grachts) were dug along several of the main thoroughfares – notably the Heerengracht and the Keisergrech – names still in use today. The last of these canals was commissioned by the Burgher Council in 1771, and Engineer Carel David Wentzel was instructed to build it along the length of Bree Street. Finding the ground there too rocky, however, Wentzel took it upon himself – much to the anger of the Council – to dig his ditch further west towards Signal Hill and this, owing to its position on the very edge of the settlement, became known as the Buitengracht or Outer Canal. So it was that in those early years the town was largely confined to the Table Valley, with only a few of the more affluent citizens building their

“gardens” further afield. Indeed proximity to the sea was vital as almost all trade was in some way or other reliant on the ships which called at the Bay in order to replenish their supplies of fresh food and water during their long voyages to and from the East.

By the end of the century the population had grown to about 15 000, half of which were slaves and about 20 percent free blacks and Khoikhoi<sup>1</sup>, and as the population grew so too did the need for burial places. The relatively level area at the lower end of Table Valley was perceived as being the most suitable, and over the years from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century several graveyards were established there, eventually stretching around the foot of Signal Hill towards Green Point.

In 1755 the Dutch Reformed church established two cemeteries, one specifically for the burghers and one for slaves, expanding these in 1801 and 1802.<sup>2</sup> (Vide Figure 2). In the years that followed several new cemeteries were established along Somerset Road, namely that of the South African Missionary Society (1813), the English Church cemetery (1832), the Scottish and Lutheran cemeteries (1833), and the Roman Catholic and Ebenezer cemeteries in 1840

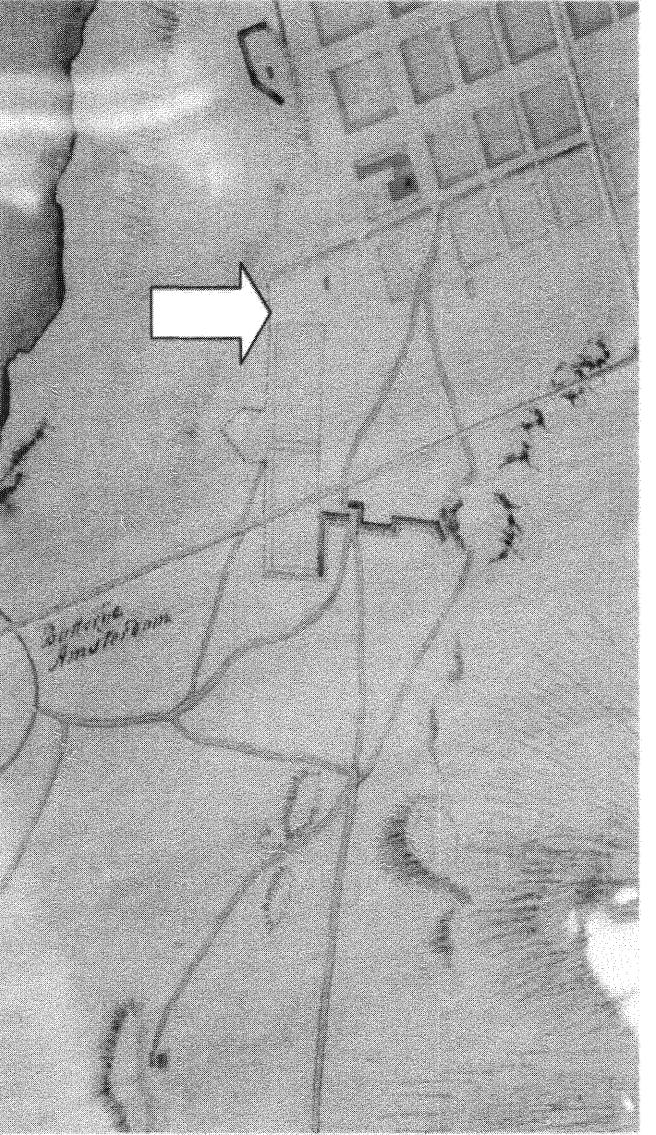


Figure 2. 1786 Map by de Graaff, Thibult & Barber showing the study area and the position of the Dutch Reformed Graveyards on the western edge of the village of Cape Town

Only Christian burials were allowed in these cemeteries and the dead of other denominations were buried elsewhere, the most notable of these being the Tana Baru on the slopes of Signal Hill where Muslim burials occurred from at least as early as 1795. The majority of non-Europeans were buried in cemeteries lying further away from Table Valley to the North West, near today’s Ebenzer Road in Green Point. There was a Mozambique cemetery for slave burials, which was also, used for free persons who were neither Christian nor Muslim, and a cemetery for Coloureds was opened in 1819

<sup>1</sup> Worden, N. Van Heyningen, E. Bickford-Smith, V (1998) *Cape Town The Making of a City: An Illustrated History*. David Philip Publishers. Cape Town.

<sup>2</sup> Cox G. (1999) Coburn Street Burial Ground, Investigating the Identity and Life History of the Underclass of Eighteenth Century Cape Town. Unpublished MA, Department of Archaeology.

on what became Portswood Road, the site of the later Breakwater Prison.<sup>3</sup> Those who could not afford the burial fee resorted to the indiscriminate practice of burying the dead in informal cemeteries in open land between the cemeteries. In 1858 the cemeteries lying along Somerset Road became the focus of enquiry led by the Cape Peninsula Cemeteries Board, and an attempt was made to formally close them and have the contents of the graveyards exhumed and removed to Maitland with that the last official date for legal burials set for 15 January 1886.<sup>4</sup> The first public cemetery in Maitland opened in 1884. However the disposal of the dead in the greater Cape Town area continued to be a random event occurring at the discretion of the individuals, and lying outside the jurisdiction of any urban local authority. This fact was highlighted by a survey undertaken by Dr John Gregory in 1895 on behalf of the Colonial Secretary, which lists private and public cemeteries in existence in the Cape Peninsula at this time. Gregory was to conclude that most of these cemeteries posed a public health risk by the indiscriminate positioning of cemeteries close to public wells, and recommended that they be closed immediately and that all burials should be concentrated at Maitland Cemetery.<sup>5</sup>

In the early years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the continued influx of British and European settlers, it became apparent that the town would need to expand beyond its existing boundaries, and a more formal development was initiated by the Burgher Senate with the survey of new roads and building Lots in the area between Strand Street and the sea and further west along the Somerset Road. It was at this stage that the roads in the vicinity of the Study Area were laid out, and as early as 1806 a “projected” road along the Buitengracht was referred to in plans and Title Deeds.<sup>6</sup> This was completed some time during the next ten years, as a plan (SG 37/1817) marks Buitengracht Street in 1817. During the 1830s a beginning was made to cover over the canals throughout the Valley and by 1865 all were covered with the exception of the Buitengracht where for some years a small trickle of water continued to run until it, too, was covered over in 1904.<sup>7</sup>

Cape Town’s commercial enterprises expanded considerably and could no longer be served by the single jetty at the foot of the Heerengracht. Accordingly, in 1840 the North Wharf at the lower end of Bree Street was opened, followed in 1857 by an act of Parliament authorizing the construction of a breakwater and a new harbour in Table Bay. Rapid residential and commercial development followed between Somerset Road and the dock area as shown in Surveyor’s maps of that time, and by 1862 new streets were declared and several of the Somerset graveyards had been closed. In 1867 the area at the bottom of Buitengracht, Bree Street and below Strand Street to the seashore was proclaimed as District One (Vide Figure 3).

Very soon, however, probably due to its proximity to the docks, the area began to fall into decay and in a recent report by Seemann she concludes that by the 1880s the city blocks under investigation had become a multi-purpose, functional working-class neighbourhood and, despite its large concentration of Muslim communities, it also contained a large concentration of bars, hotels

<sup>3</sup> Cox G. (1999) Coburn Street burial Ground: Investigating the Identity and Life History of the Underclass of Eighteenth Century Cape Town. Unpublished MA, Department of Archaeology.

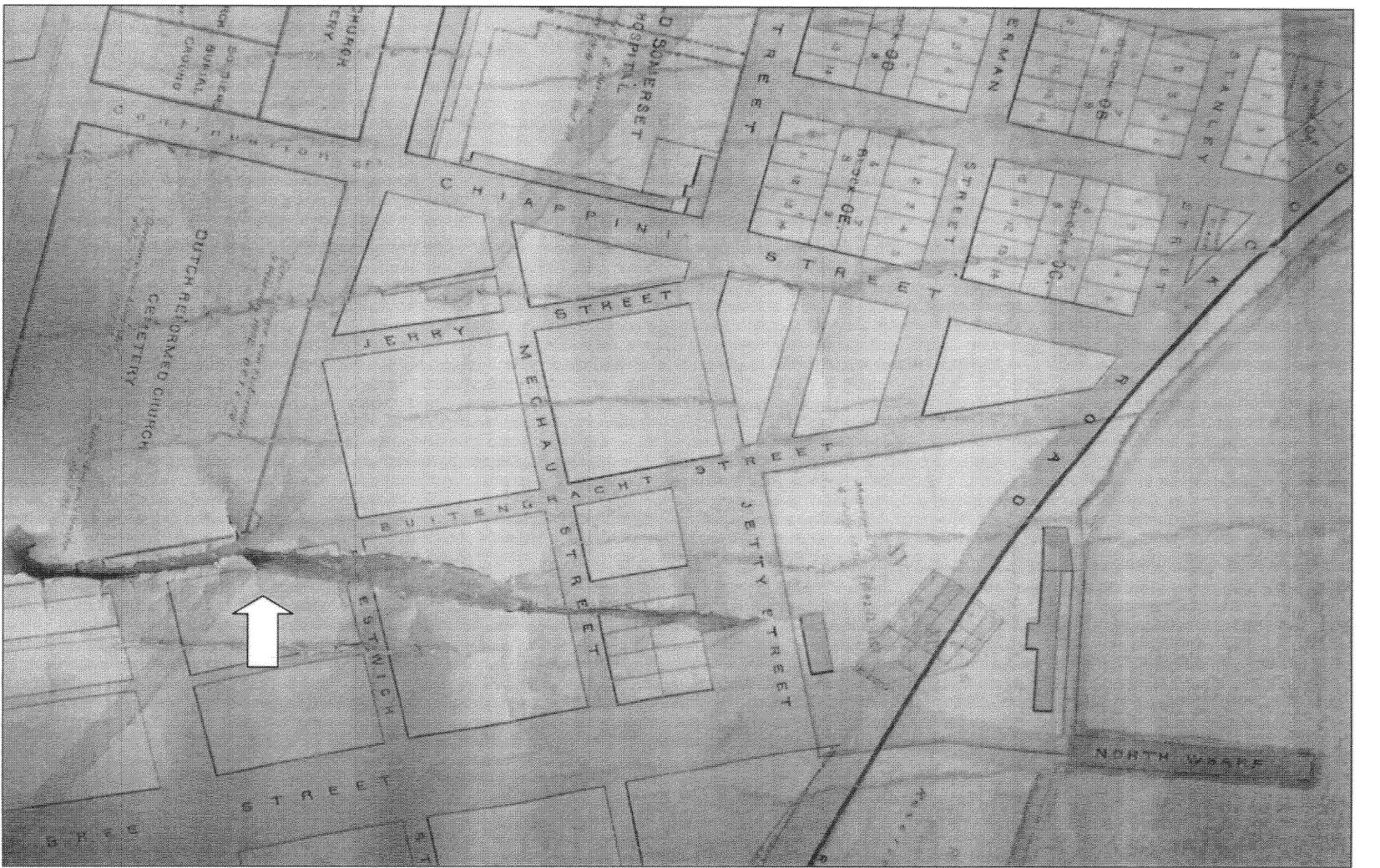
<sup>4</sup> Malan A. (2003) Green Point: District One. Unpublished Paper. HAG, Department of Archaeology, University of Cape Town.

<sup>5</sup> Gregory, AJ (1895) Report on Suburban Cemeteries. W.A. Richards & Sons, government Printers, Castle Street, Cape Town

<sup>6</sup> Plan SG 77 of 1806

<sup>7</sup> Hymen, W.Picard, H. (1986) The Gentleman’s Walk. Struik. Cape Town.

Figure 3. General view of the study area in District One (Erf 798 marked with an arrow) (M1/65)



and bottle stores.<sup>8</sup> Overcrowding of hire-houses was prevalent, and it is possible that a certain amount of neglect by absentee land-lords led to the run-down and unsanitary state of the properties.

In January 1901 the first cases of Plague were reported and spread rapidly – predominantly in the over-crowded areas of the lower valley. By the end of February at least eight new cases were being registered daily and large areas came to a standstill. Houses with identified cases had yellow flags fastened to their gables and large yellow circles painted on their walls giving the date of discovery, and at night carts could be heard rattling along the darkened streets, isolating the sick and removing the dead before the arrival of the cleansing patrols the following day.

In the case of the Moslem dead, however, the removal of the bodies caused great objections on religious grounds, and rioting ensued. It soon became obvious that Municipal authorities could not cope, and for a while the Government took over and mounted a crusade against rats and the prevailing unsanitary conditions. A determined effort to reduce the over-crowding was made, and to this end Blacks were removed from the area to a section of the Uitvlugt Forestry Reserve near present-day Pinelands which became known as N'dabeni. During the 1920s this community was moved again to an area on the Cape Flats which would in time become the township of Langa.

### *3. Description of the Study Area*

The Study Area, Erf 798 Cape Town, now known as No 11 Buitengracht lies on the corner of Buitengracht and Prestwich Streets, and extends on its south-western side to Prestwich Lane. As will be seen from Diagram 5186 of 1939 the area covers Erven 797, 800, 801 and 802 and was originally bisected by a narrow alleyway from Prestwich Street (erf 799) which no longer exists.

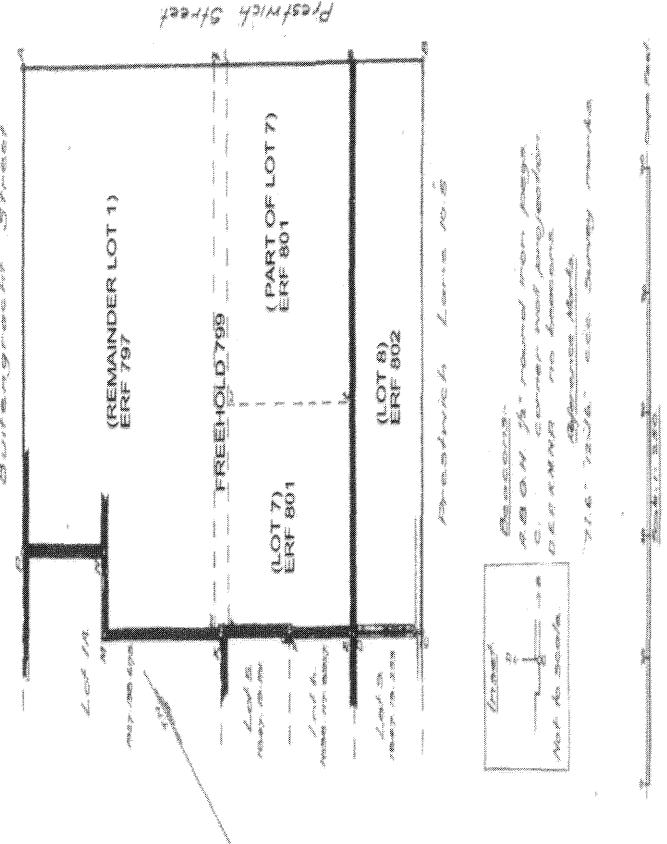


Figure 4. Diagram 5186 shows the position of the erven which make up the study area

<sup>8</sup> Seemann, U. (2004) Report on 31 Mechau Street, Erf 742 Cape Town. Unpublished Report submitted to Bestscape Property Developers (Pty) Ltd. Cape Town.

#### 4. Property Ownership

In 1806 an application for a piece of land at the lower end of Table Valley was made by Jan Bernhard Hoffman, and on 24 November of that year a Grant in Freehold of 249 sq.rds 24 sq.ft was made to him for land near the Whale Fishery, signed by Lt General Sir David Baird, Knight of the Order of the Crescent, Colonel of the 54<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and Commander of His British Majesty's Troops at the Cape of Good Hope (Old Cape Freehold Vol. 5 No 125). Less than three weeks later, however, on 12 December 1806 (T 267) the property was transferred to Carel Willem Dieleman, a German born in Visbeek in the Duchy of Hessen Schaumburg. Unfortunately, a volume containing the above Deed and a subsequent transfer is not at present available from the Deeds Office, but it is known that Dieleman was married to Adriana Berrange, and that on his death his property was transferred into her name.

As has been mentioned, the Second British Occupation saw a huge influx of settlers from Europe and especially from England, and more and more land at the lower end of the valley, near the sea, was being sold. On 19 September 1817 transfer was passed by the Raad de Gemeente (Burgher Senate) to an Englishman, George Anderson, for a piece of land measuring 77 sq.rds 44 sq.ft and described as being above the Whale Fishery, NE to the land of G.Meyer, NW to the projected Street or Buitengracht, SW to a projected street, and S to the land of George Anderson. This property – a portion of which is incorporated into the study site (Erf 797 Remainder Lot 1) lies adjacent to the Buitengracht on the corner of what later became Prestwich Street. The widow Adriana Dieleman, whose land bounded with that of George Anderson, eventually married her neighbour, and on her death her property was transferred from her Insolvent Estate into George Anderson's name (Vide Tables 1,2,3, 4 and 5). By this time the combined property constituted a large number of portions, five of which form the study site, and the accompanying tables will show the successive owners – one of which was William Prestwich who bought Erf 802 (Lot 8) from George Anderson's Estate in 1847. It would seem that Prestwich Street was named after him at about this time as SG Plan 210 of 1847 shows the street clearly marked as such.

Reference to the owners of the five portions comprising the study site, and to the descriptions of the property, where given, indicate that this particular area comprised predominantly business premises. In most cases the owners are known to be merchants with extensive properties throughout Cape Town, and in many cases the Title Deeds specify a Store and Yard. Indeed by the beginning of the 1900s when the Juta's Directories became available giving detailed information as to tenants and activities, we learn that for many years from the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the address known as 11 Buitengracht was a Skin and Wool Store.

One question has arisen, however, which has not been satisfactorily answered. An 1854 map (Ref M3/24) shows a building on the study site – at the corner of Buitengracht and Prestwich Streets. The accompanying key indicates that the building is St John's Chapel – and the 1854 Cape Almanac confirms that St John's Chapel was indeed in Prestwich Street although it does not indicate its exact location. An archival search has so far thrown no light on the chapel, although St. John's Anglican Church was located in Waterkant Street in the mid-1800s on the site of what is now known as St John's Place. The Title Deeds for the period give no indication of a chapel – from 1847 to 1889 the property was owned by George Smithers and passed from his estate to Skin and Wool Merchant Charles John Manuel on 16 August 1889 (T 190) – and it is possible that the

Description	SG Diagram	Title Deed	Date	Extent	From	To
Certain piece of land above the Whale Fishery - NE to land of G. Meyer, NW to projected street or Buitengracht, SW to a projected street, and S to land of George Anderson	37/1817	T 26	19.9.1817	77 sq.yds 44 sq.ft	Road de Gemeente (Burgher Senate)	George Anderson
Situated at the Buitenkant (sic) near the Whale Fishery		T 185	24.7.1847	1) 2 sq.yds 70 2) 62 sq.yds 56 sq.yd 36 sq.yds	Estate late George Anderson	George Smithers
2) With buildings thereon		T 190	16.8.1889	1) 2 sq.yds 70 2) 62 sq.yds 56 sq.yd 36 sq.yds	Estate late George Smithers	Charles John Manuel
		T 10493	23.11.190	62 sq.yds 56 (Para 4) 6 sq.yd 36 sq.yds	Estate late Charles John Manuel Kingsley	Charles William Manuel
Remainder Lot 1		T 6174	24.6.1927	36 sq.yds 1 sq.yd 36 sq.yds	Charles William Manuel Kingsley Jacob Horwitz and Barony	Jacob Horwitz and Barony
		T 3480	12.4.1939	36 sq.yds 1 sq.yd 36 sq.yds	Estate late Barony	T.W. Beckett & Co. Ltd
		T 3095	5.4.1940		Horwitz	T.W. Beckett & Co. Ltd
		5186/1939			T.W. Beckett & Co.	Certificate of Amended Consolidated Title

TABLE 1: Erf 797 (Remainder Lot 1) Now incorporated into Erf 798 Cape Town

Description	SG Diagram	Title Deed	Date	Extent	From	To
Freehold Grant		Old Cape Freehold Volume 5 No. 125	24.11.1806	249 sq.yds 24 sq.ft	Jan Bernhard Hoffmann	
Remainder of Grant made to Jan Bernhard Hodftmann in 1806 - forming a narrow alleway	5186/1939	T 3095	5.4.1940	Narrow alleway	Certificate of Amended Consolidated Title	T.W. Beckert & Co. Ltd alleway

TABLE 2: Erf 799 (Alleway) now incorporated into Erf 798 Cape Town

Description	Diagram	Title Deed	Date	From	To	Old Cape Freehold	24.22.1806	24 sq.yds	Signed by Lt General Sir David Baird, Colonel of the 54th Infantry Regiment & No 125 Commander of H.M. troops at the Cape of Good Hope	Jan Bernhard Hoffmann
VOLUME MISSING		T 267	12.12.1806			Carrel Willlem Dileman			Jan Bernhard Hoffmann	Property passed to Carrel Dileman
CROSS-WITNESSING ON ABOVE FREEHOLD						Carrel Willlem Dileman			Jan Bernhard Hoffmann	Grant indicates that the whole
PROPERTY	207/1847	T 11	8.7.1835	95 sq.yds	120 sq.yds	Bestate late Carrel Willlem Dileman			George Anderson (born Bertramme)	Prestwich Street, SW to Ribbeck Street, and partly to Lot 5, SE to Lots 8 and 9 and NW to Lots 1 and 5
CERTAIN PIECE OF LAND LYING NE TO PRESTWICH STREET, SW TO RIBBECK	T 129	11.1.1854	11.1.1854	23 sq.yds	114 sq.yds	Estate late William Dobie	A Chappini & Co.		George Anderson (born Bertramme)	Certain piece of land lying NE to Prestwich Street, SW to Ribbeck Street, and partly to Lot 5, SE to Lots 8 and 9 and NW to Lots 1 and 5
	T 200	17.12.1855	17.12.1855	23 sq.yds	48 sq.yds	Johnannes Albreitus Laubsccher	E.C. Tulpin & J.A. Schickerling		Johnannes Albreitus Laubsccher	
	T 73	8.7.1856				Johannes Albreitus Laubsccher	E.C. Tulpin & J.A. Schickerling		E.C. Tulpin & Charles Collier	
	T 105	8.12.1859				Jacobsus Schickerling	E.C. Tulpin & Thomas Puzey		William & Thomas Puzey	
	T 488	22.3.1862				E.C. Tulpin and C. Collier	Johannes Andres Truter		Johannes Andres Truter	
	T 45	3.2.1870				William and Thomas Puzey	David de Pas & John Spence		David de Pas & John Spence	
	T 118	14.6.1871				Isosverem Estate J.A. Truter	Alfred Townsend		Alfred Townsend	
	T 426	16.7.1881				Daniel de Pas and John Spence	John Spence		John Spence	
STORE	T 30	2.6.1883				Isosverem Estate Alfred	Isosverem Estate Alfred		Isosverem Estate Alfred	
	T 107	18.1.1888				Townsend	John Spence		John Spence	
	T 1049	23.11.1906				Charles John Manuel	Charles John Manuel		Charles John Manuel	
	T 6174	24.6.1927				Kingsley	Charles William Manuel		Charles William Manuel	
	T 3480	12.4.1939				Hornwitz Brothers	T.W. Becken & Co.		T.W. Becken & Co.	
										Certificate of Amendec
										Consolidation Title

TABLE 3: Erf 801 (Remeinder Lot 7) now incorporated into Erf 798 Cape Town

TABLE 4: Ert 800 now incorporated into Ert 798 Cape Town

Description	Diagram	Title Deed	Date	Extent	From	To
Eft 800 - Part of Lot 7 (See Table Three)						
Store and Yard	689/1855	T 129	11.1.1854	Estate late William Dobie	A. Chappini & Co.	
Certain two pieces of land comprising a Store and Yard situated between Rebeek and Prestwich Streets						
Store and Yard		T 194	27.7.1847	38 sq.yds 114 sq.yd 96 sq.yds sub-divisions Andreson	Estate late George Andreson	William Dobie
Store and Yard	T 200	17.12.1855	14 sq.yds 143	A. Chappini & Co	Johannes Alberius	Laubscher
Store and Yard	T 73	8.7.1856	8.7.1856	Johannes Alberius	E.C. Turnip & Laubscher	J.A. Schickerling
T 105 (Half-share Schickerling)	8.12.1859	8.12.1859	8.12.1859	J.A. Laubscher	E.C. Turnip & Laubscher	J.A. Schickerling
T 488 (Half-share of Turnip)	22.3.1862	22.3.1862	22.3.1862	E.C. Turnip	William Puzey	
T 45 (Half-shares of Puzey & Collier)	3.2.1870	3.2.1870	3.2.1870	14 sq.yds 143 sq.yd 48 sq.yds William Puzey (Half shares)	J.A. Truter	De Pas, Spence & Co
T 118 (Half-shares of Puzey & Collier)	14.6.1871	14.6.1871	14.6.1871	14 sq.yds 1343 sq.yd 48 sq.yds J.A. Truter	J.A. Truter	De Pas, Spence & Co
T 426	16.7.1881	16.7.1881	16.7.1881	De Pas, Spence & Co	Alfred Townsend	
T 30	2.6.1883	2.6.1883	2.6.1883	Alfred Townsend	Alfred Townsend	
T 107	18.1.1888	18.1.1888	18.1.1888	Alfred Townsend	Alfred Townsend	
T 10493 (para 1)	23.11.1906	23.11.1906	23.11.1906	Imsoverint Estate John Charles William Manuel	Charles John Manuel	Kingsley
T 6174	24.6.1927	24.6.1927	24.6.1927	Charles William Manuel	Jacob Horwitz & Barmey	Hornwitz
T 3480	124.1939	124.1939	124.1939	Estate late Barmey	Hornwitz	Beckett & Co. Ltd
Part of Lot 7	5186/1939	T 3095	5.4.1940	5.4.1940	Beckett & Co. Ltd	Certificate of Amendend Consolidated Title

Description	Deed	Title Deed	Date	Exemt	From	To
Certain piece of land situated in Prestwich Street - NW to Lot 7, SW to Lot 9 and SE to a lane by which it is separated from Mr. Prestwich's property	T 11	8.7.1835	95 sq.yds	120 sq.yds	Insolvent Estate of Adriana Anderson (born Berrangle) George Anderson	
Certain lot of Ground marked No 210/1847	T 223	29.7.1847	14 sq.yds 6 ft.	16 sq.yds	Estate late George Anderson	William Prestwich
Certain lot of Ground marked No 8 with Store erected thereon	T 194	25.1.1853			Insolvent Estate of William Prestwich	Johan Godfried Bam
	T 45	3.11.1866			Johan Godfried Bam	Gilles Johannes de Korte
	T 236	14.3.1878			Gilles Johannes de Korte	Johannes Rammer Marguard
	T 2	5.1.1885			Estate late J.R. Stephan Bros.	Stephan Bros.
	T 7427	16.10.190	8		Estate late J.C.J. Stephan and Henry John Charles Stephan	Henry John Charles Stephan
	T 9167	10.10.192	H.J.C. Stephan		Estate late H.R. Stephan	Charles William Manuel Klingseley
	T 6174	24.6.1927	C.W.M. Klingseley		Estate late Barney Horwitz	Jacob Horwitz and Barney Horwitz
	T 3480	12.4.1939	(Para 5)		T.W. Beckett & Co. Ltd	Certificate of Amendend
					Beckett & Co. Ltd	Consolidated Title
					5186/1939	T 3095

TABLE 5: Erf 802 (Lot 8) now incorporated into Erf 798 Cape Town

location of the chapel was a cartographical error. However the proximity to the old burial grounds may give some credence to the possibility that a chapel did stand on the site for a short while, but unfortunately this remains unconfirmed.

In June 1927 all the erven comprising the study area were transferred to Jacob and Barney Horwitz, and on Barney's death were transferred on 12 April 1939 to T. W. Beckett & Co. Ltd. A Certificate of Amended Consolidation (T 3095) was issued on 5 April 1940.

## 5. Trial Excavations

### 5.1 Methodology

Seven 1m x 1m trial holes were excavated between the 23 and 28 May in order to assess the archaeological sensitivity of the proposed development site. The property was still being used as a workshop so the trial holes had to be carefully located so as not to disrupt the working environment. Three holes were situated along the Buitengracht Street side of the premises (1, 2 and 7). Another three were in the workshop area (3-5) and a further hole (6) was located in the former rest room on the south\western edge of the site (Vide Figure 5 & Appendix 1).

The concrete surface was broken with a jackhammer, and building rubble was removed, using spades and when necessary picks, to a depth of between 0.64m and 1.00m. In four of the holes, a second concrete layer was present underneath the rubble and the jackhammer had to be used for a second time. Otherwise the excavation proceeded in 15-20cm spits, using either trowels or spades and picks, depending on the situation. Structural remains deemed archaeologically significant were kept in tact and the excavation continued around them. Human remains were cleaned, photographed, three-dimensionally plotted and carefully removed. Section drawings were done of every hole at a scale of 1:20. Other selected features were also planned at a scale of 1:20. The three test holes on the Buitengracht Street side reached the water table between 1.90m and 2.16m below the surface. Holes 3, 4 and 6 on the south\western side of the site hit bedrock at a depth of between 1.22m and 1.64m. Hole 5, the most easterly located hole, was excavated to a depth of 2.02m before sterile, clay and gravel was encountered.

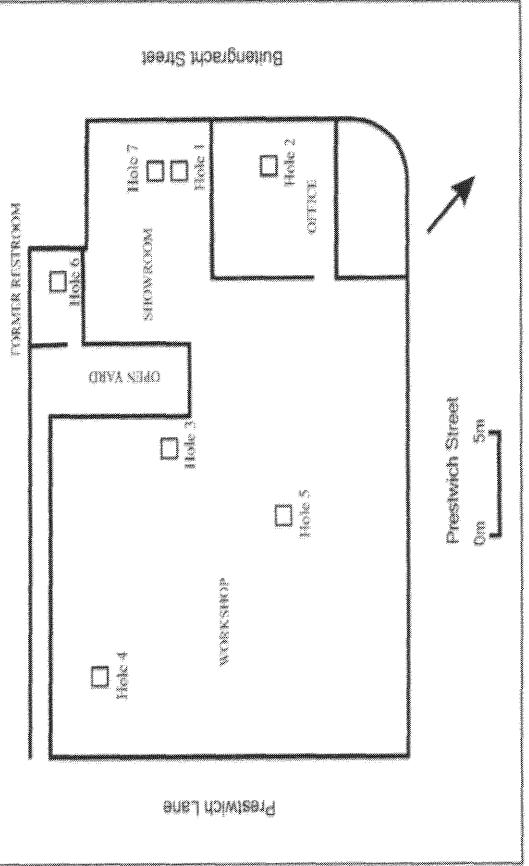


Figure 5: Plan of 11 Buitengracht Street showing the location of the seven trial holes.

## 5.2 Fieldwork Findings

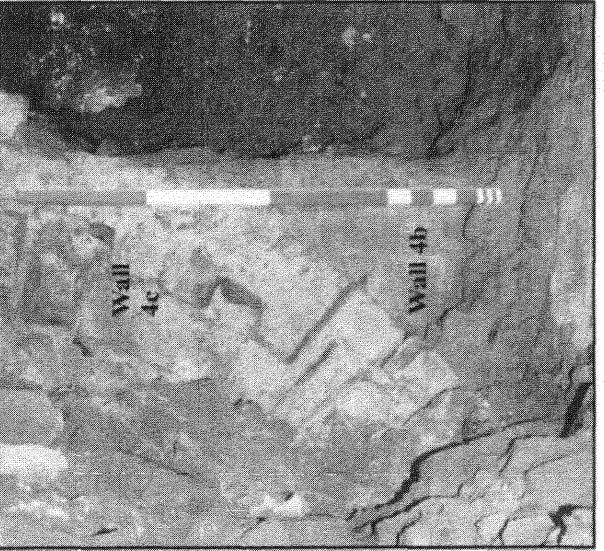
Hole 1 is located in the former showroom fronting onto Buitengracht St. Under the present concrete floor (1a), lay a thick rubble layer (1b) extending to 0.93m below the surface. At this level was a second concrete floor (2), and an underlying, thin (0.03m) bed of slate (3). At 1.30m, a greyish brown sandy soil (5) and a rubble deposit (4d) were encountered.

The rubble was removed and a curved brick structure (4c) was uncovered along the south/eastern edge of the hole. The excavation continued in the north/western half of the hole alongside the structure. The curved arrangement consisted of three courses of well-fired bricks, laid with a bed of mortar onto one course of dark-red under-fired bricks(4b). This foundation layer of bricks was aligned straight (in contrast to the curved upper portion), in a north/east-south/west orientation and was itself, mortared directly onto a slate foundation wall consisting of both large square blocks and irregular pieces (4a). A thick lime mortar covered the northern face of the slate wall.

Along side the wall, the sandy layer (5) continued to a depth of 1.06m. Underneath was a thick, grayish-brown stony layer (6). This layer butted directly up against the foundation wall and consisted of 30% angular slate stones (maximum length 0.20m) and 70% gravelly coarse sand.

The final layer excavated in Hole 1 was a black, oil-stained gravelly sand(7) of which 0.16m was removed before hitting the water table at 2.16m below the present floor surface.

The builders of the wall would have been well aware of the high water table in this area and the use of mortar on the foundations and the thick slate layer(6) reflects this. The mortar would protect the structure against the damp and the slate layer would have raised the ground level and allowed for free drainage on the outside of the wall.



Photograph 1: The curved brick structure in Hole 1 looking south\west

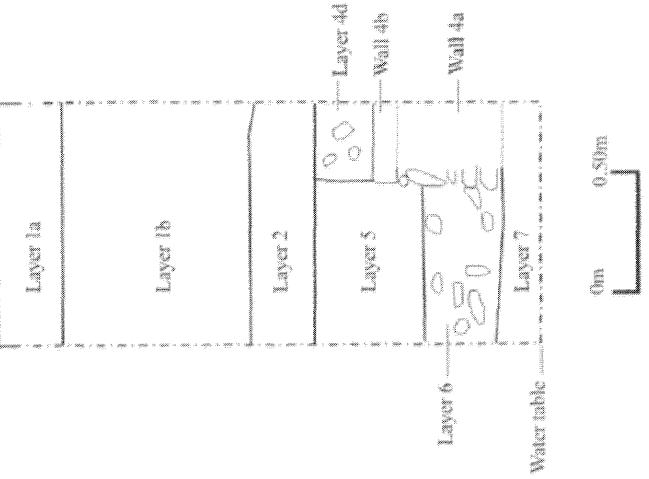


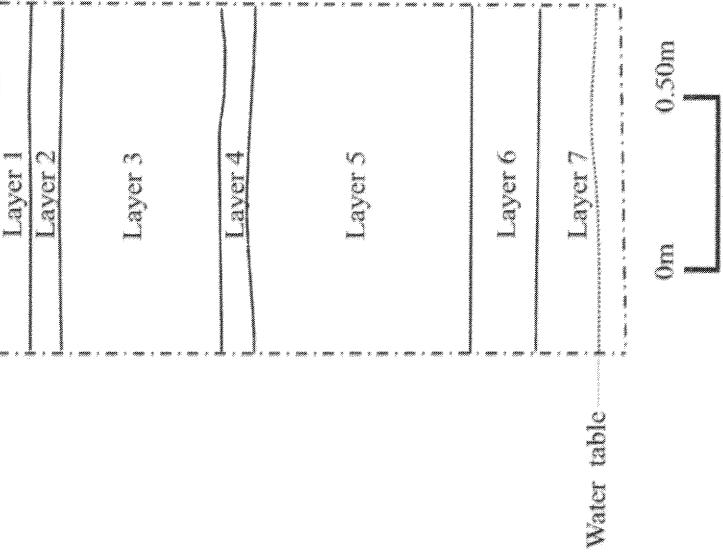
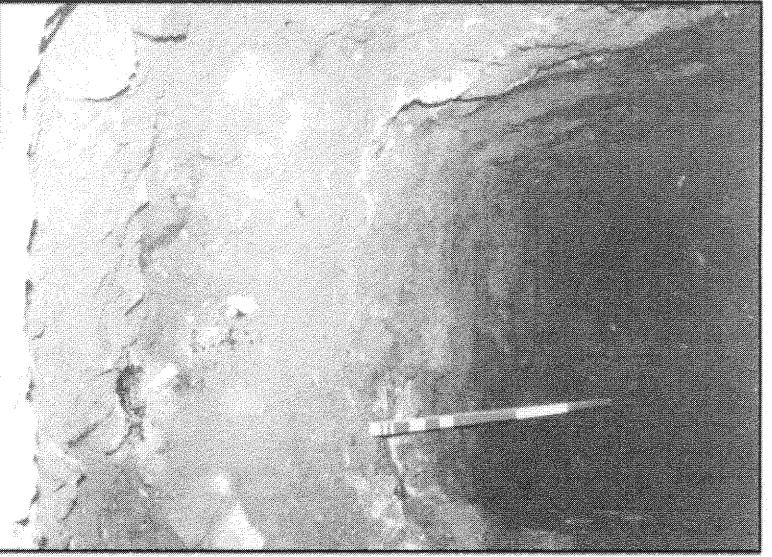
Figure 6: South\west section of Hole 1

**Hole 2:**

Hole 2 was located in the office fronting onto Buitengracht St. The upper sequence in Hole 2 was the same as in Hole 1, with a concrete floor (1/2) overlying a rubble layer (3) which in turn lay on top of a second concrete floor (4).

Underneath, at a depth of 1m, was a yellowish-brown, sand layer (5) with occasional brick and mortar inclusions. At 1.48m was a dark brown silty sand deposit (6) consisting of 20% angular slate stones (maximum length: 0.20m), and occasional brick and mortar inclusions. Large quantities of artefacts were retrieved from layer 5 and layer 6.

As in Hole 1, an oil stained layer (7) was encountered before reaching the water table, although here the water was reached at the slightly shallower depth of 1.88m.



Photograph 2: North\east facing section of Hole 2.  
Note the water in the base of the Hole.

Figure 7: North\east facing section of Hole 2.

**Hole 3:**

Hole 3 was situated on the south\western side of the workshop adjacent to the open yard. Under the concrete floor (1) was a dark greyish-brown, fine sand with a moderate amount of modern rubble inclusions (2). Underlying the sand on the north\west edge of the hole was a slate stone wall (5). The upper course was only 0.44m below the surface and consisted of loose, un-mortared slate blocks (5c). These were removed to reveal a solid wall of large mortared blocks (5b).

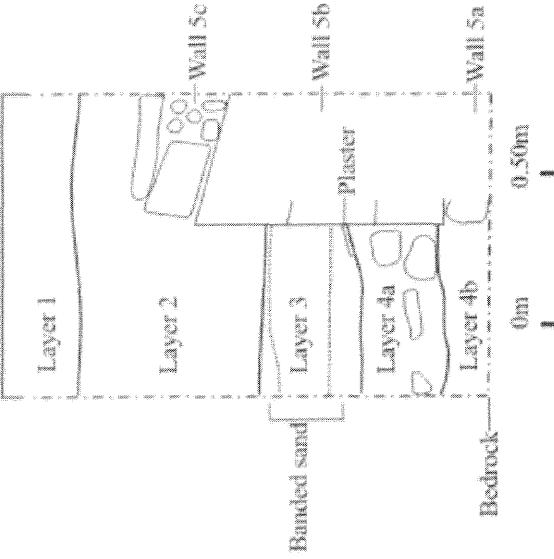
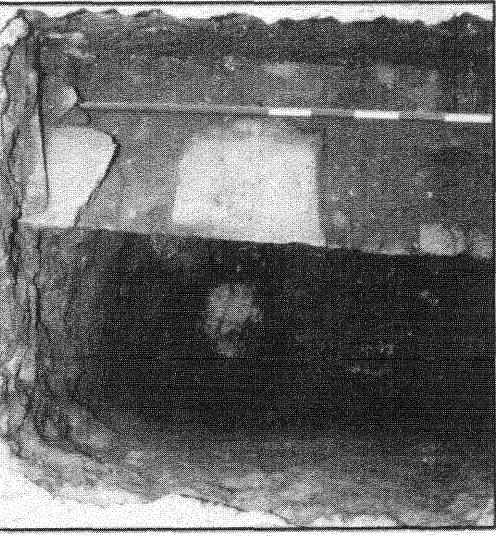


Figure 8: North\west facing section of Hole 3.

The excavation continued in the southeastern half of the hole to expose the face of the wall. At 0.86m there was a notable change in the sand to lighter brownish grey (3) with a relatively low frequency of building material or stone included in its make-up but a high frequency of artefacts. Distinct bands were visible indicating consecutive episodes of deposition, perhaps from repeated dumping of waste up against the wall. The sand abutted directly up against the wall, and as it was excavated, a coarse white/grey plaster was revealed, indicating this section of the wall was once above ground and not a buried foundation wall.



Photograph 3: Hole 3, looking south\west over Wall 5b. Note the bedrock at the base of the hole.



Photograph 4: South/east face of wall 5b, showing The associated floor surface on top of layer 4a

The banded sand continued to 1.18m below the surface, at which depth a compacted layer of greyish brown fine sand was exposed (4a). The plaster on wall 5b also stopped at this depth,

indicating that this was the former ground level associated with the wall. In the north/west corner of the Hole a small spread of plaster lay over the top of Layer 4a. The plaster was limited in extent and is more likely to represent spillage during construction rather than an actual plastered floor. Layer 4a was 0.32m thick and very similar to Layer 6 in Hole 1, being composed of about 20% angular slate stones and directly abutting the base of the foundations. As was suggested for layer 6 in Hole 1, Layer 4a is may have been deposited in order to raise the ground level and allow for free drainage.

Underneath Layer 4a, the un-plastered face of wall 5b continued, and at 1.48m, the excavation reached the same oil stained gravel (4b), as seen in Holes 1 and 2. The base of the foundation wall consisted of a bedding layer of un-mortared irregular slate stones (5a), lying on top of bedrock at 2.02m.

#### Hole 4:

Hole 5 was situated in the southern corner of the workshop. The upper sequence was the same as seen in Hole 1 and 2 with the modern floor (1) overlying rubble (2) which in turn lay on top of a second concrete layer (3). Underneath, at 0.64m below the surface, was a layer of crushed brick and coarse sand (4). Another deposit of fine rubble (5) was excavated next, consisting of alternate thin layers of soot, crushed brick and a lens of dark yellowish brown sand. At 1.06m was a thick layer of fine-grained sand (6). As in Hole 3, banding was noticeable within the sand and many artefacts were retrieved suggesting that similar depositional circumstances occurred here as in Hole 3. Layer 6 was lying directly on top of the bedrock, at 1.65m below the surface on the western side of the hole, and 1.90m on the eastern side.

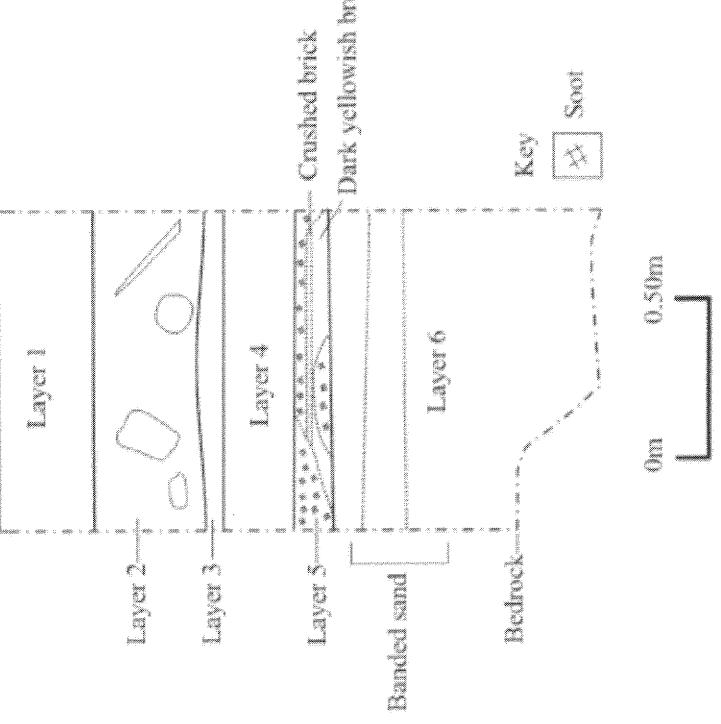
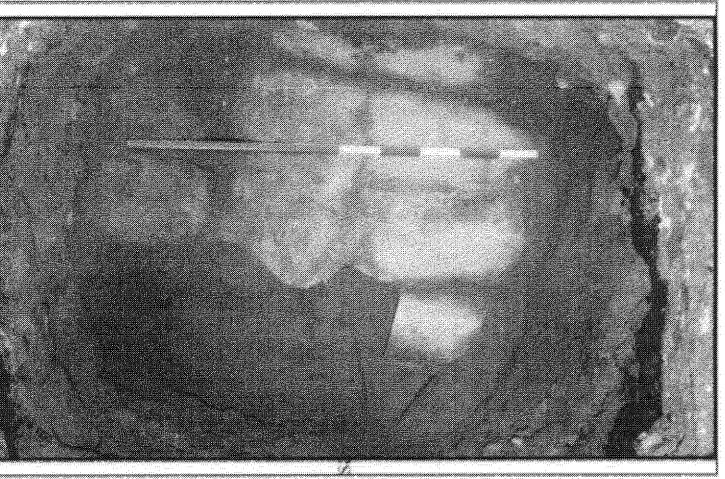


Figure 9: West section of Hole 4.



Photograph 5: Bedrock in the base of Hole 4.

**Hole 5:**

Hole 5 was located in the centre of the workshop area. Underneath the concrete floor (1) was a 0.42m thick layer of loose modern bricks (2). The bricks themselves lay on top of a collapsed section of 20<sup>th</sup> century walling consisting of both cemented and loose bricks and slate blocks, some of which appeared to be in their original position. The collapsed structure was considered to be of low archaeological significance and the excavation proceeded.

At 0.98m was a dark brown, coarse sand (4) with modern brick inclusions. The sand continued to 1.22m below the surface, at which depth a line of cream 20<sup>th</sup> century tiles (5) was revealed on the northwestern edge of the hole. The tiles were lying directly on top of sand with no associated surface. They are, nonetheless, likely to represent an old ground level, and are perhaps the edge of a surface that continues northwards outside the boundary of the present excavation. Underneath the tiles, at 1.25m was a deposit of light grey, fine-grained sand (6) with moderate grit inclusions and some small slate stones. Human bone was discovered near the base of this layer at 1.43m below the surface.

The excavation was halted, without moving the bones, for a thorough investigation. The remains consisted of two tibias and the proximal end of a humerus found together with animal bone. No burial shaft was visible. The bones were cleaned, photographed and their exact position plotted by the archaeological team. The forensic police and the state pathologist were informed and an examination was undertaken by a forensic anthropologist who verified that the bones were in an anatomically incorrect position and did not represent a formal burial.

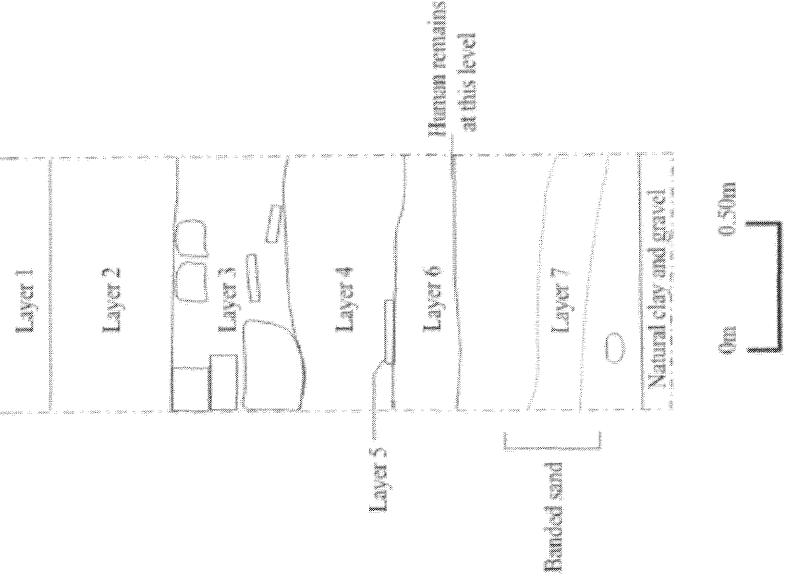
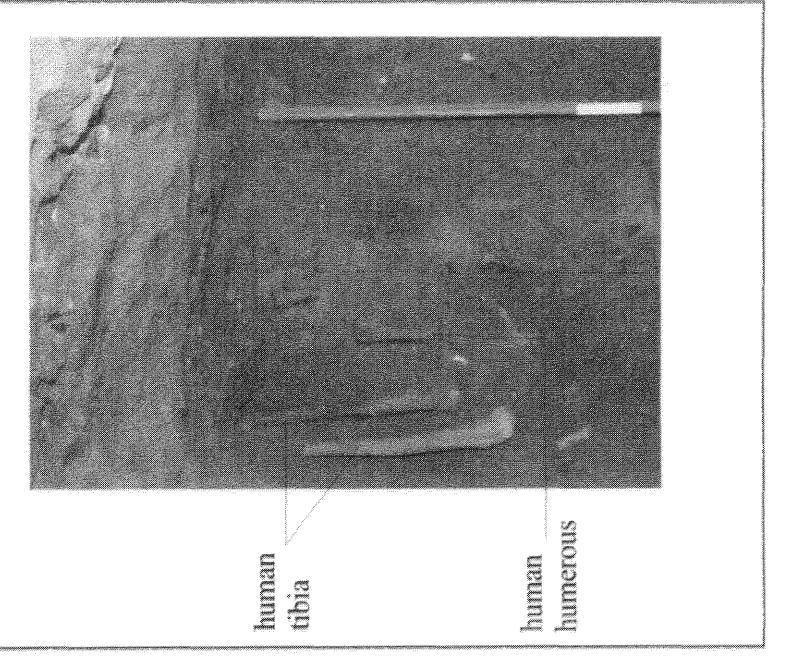


Figure 10: West section Hole 5

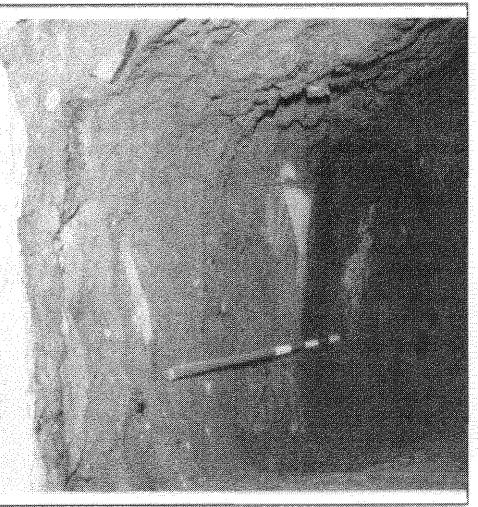


Photograph 6: Human Remains in layer 6

Permission was granted to proceed with the excavation and the bones were carefully removed. The underlying deposit (7) was thoroughly examined for evidence of associated human remains but none were found. The upper 0.30m of this layer was similar to the overlying layer 6, but darker. Half way down the deposit, a 0.20m thick band of dark brownish-yellow, coarse sand and gravel was excavated. Underneath was a fine grained, light grey, beach sand, again similar to layer 6, but with less grit and slate inclusions. Iron staining and charcoal flecks were recorded throughout this lower section. A relatively high frequency of animal bone was retrieved from layer 7, including numerous cow foot bones from the lower band. This was the final layer to be excavated in Hole 5 and a sterile deposit of mixed clay and gravel was reached at 2.02m.

#### Hole 6:

Hole 6 was located in the former rest room on the south\west edge of the property. Underneath the concrete floor was a 0.60m thick layer of greyish brown fine sand (2), containing discrete lenses of building lime, crushed brick and mortar in the upper 0.20m. At 0.80m below the surface, was a greyish brown clayey sand (3) with frequent angular slate and sandstone fragments and occasional brick and mortar inclusions. Bedrock was encountered at the shallow depth of 1.03m on the north\west edge of the hole and 1.60m in the centre of the hole. Some oil staining was noted in the bottom 0.10m of layer 3.



Photograph 7 Hole 6: North\east section

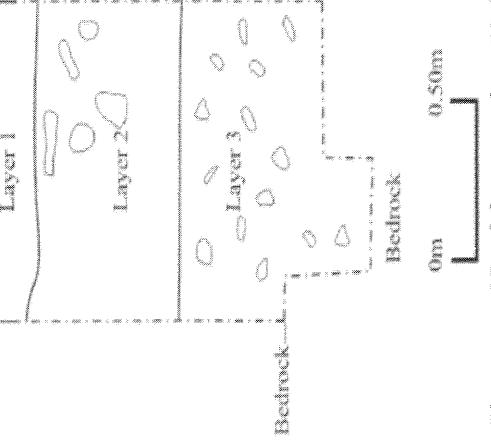
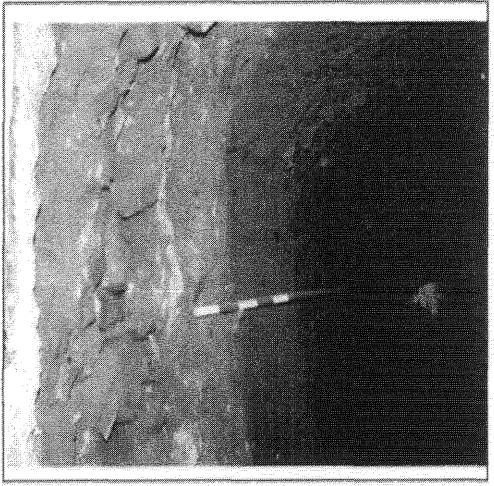


Figure 11. North/east section: Hole 6

#### Hole 7:

Hole 7 was excavated in the former showroom, adjacent to Hole 1. Prior to the commencement of this project a non-archaeological trial excavation uncovered bone in this location and the hole was immediately back-filled. It was therefore decided to re-open the hole to check for human remains. The concrete floor (1) was removed and the rubble back-fill dug out to a depth of 1.20m (at which depth the bone was reportedly discovered). The spoil was carefully examined as it was excavated, but no human remains were identified, but rather the mandible and humerus of a sheep.

This section showed the same upper sequence as seen in Hole 1 and 2 with rubble (2) on top of a lower concrete layer (2a). At 1.20m the excavation proceeded below the previous excavation and again the sequence matched that in Hole 1 and 2. Dark yellowish brown sand (3) overlying a slate rich brownish grey deposit (4). The stony layer continued to 2.04m below the surface, at which point, oil stained gravel and the water table were encountered.



Photograph 8: Hole 7 North\east section.

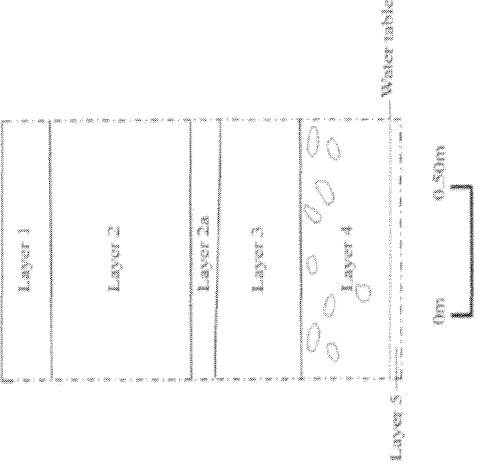


Figure 12. North\east section . : Hole 7

### 5.3 Human Skeletal Remains

Although human skeletal remains were recovered from two separate holes and layers (hole3, layer2 and layer4; hole 5, layer 5, layer 6 and layer 7 these human remains are most likely intrusive and are present because of the burrowing behaviour of dogs and rats and no sign of formal inhumation was seen. The sample consists of seven bones from hole 3, a metatarsal, a pair of tibial shafts, a fragment of the distal shaft of a femur, a fibular shaft, the fragment of a humerus and one parietal cranial vault fragment. Three human bones were excavated from hole 5, two right tibia and the fragment of a right humerus. The tibia are from two different individuals and were orientated in a different directions in the trial excavation which suggests that these are clearly isolated bones and do not represent burials either formal or informal (Vide Figure 10 & Appendix 2).<sup>9</sup>

This is interesting in light of the sites close proximity to the Dutch Reformed Church graveyards set out in 1755, 1801 and 1802, and the accidental discovery in 1981 of the partial remains of four individuals who were exposed during the construction phase of the new Buitengracht Freeway. Morris<sup>9b</sup> identified the skeletal remains and noted that part of the construction site was an old cemetery (Vide Appendix 3). There was no trace of a formal or informal cemetery was seen in the 2005 field session.

<sup>9</sup> Morris, A. (2005) Report on Human Skeletal Remains from 11 Buitengracht. Unpublished Report submitted to Cape Archaeological Survey cc. Cape Town.

<sup>9b</sup> Morris, A. (1981) Report and Sworn Affidavit on the Accidental Finds of Human Skeletal Material on Buitengracht Road (UCT 315). Unpublished report submitted to the South African Police. Harrington Street, Cape Town.

## 5.4 Ceramic Assemblage

14

The ceramics from this assemblage date from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century, representing the transition from a typical Dutch (17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century) to an English (19<sup>th</sup> onwards) range of ceramics. The bulk of the ceramic assemblage is made up of Asian porcelain, consisting of plates, cups and saucers made specifically for the export market, as well as bowls and large dishes made for the local market. A small percentage of the sherds are shell-edged wares (1780s-1900s), single coloured prints in blue (from 1790s), brown and black (from 1790s) and green (1820s) and Industrial slipware – Mocha (1790s onwards). Willow pattern was popular since the 1790s, and it is only marginally represented at this site. A number of sherds had hand painted decorations (blue or ‘soft colour’ underglaze) and only two sherds had so called ‘harsh colours’ typical seen from the 1830s onwards.



Figure 13: Asian porcelain made for the European market. Vessel types are mainly plates, cups and saucers and serving dishes.



Figure 14: Asian porcelain made for domestic consumption. The vessel types are mainly bowls of varying size.

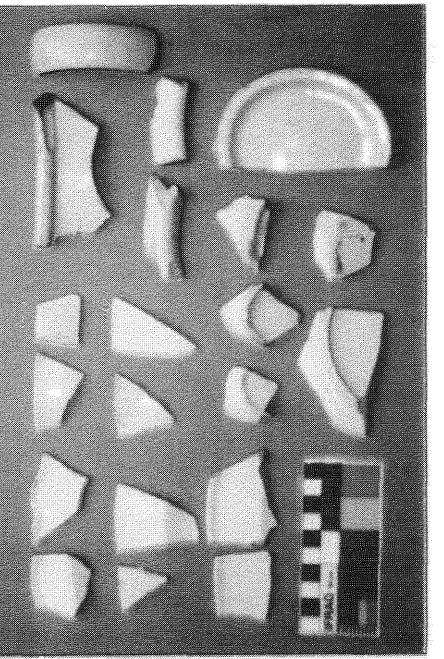


Figure 15: Creamware is well represented in the sample. Vessel types include plates, cups and saucers as well as the remains of two chamber pots.



Figure 16: Hand painted REW. The colours are 'soft' typical of the earlier half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century

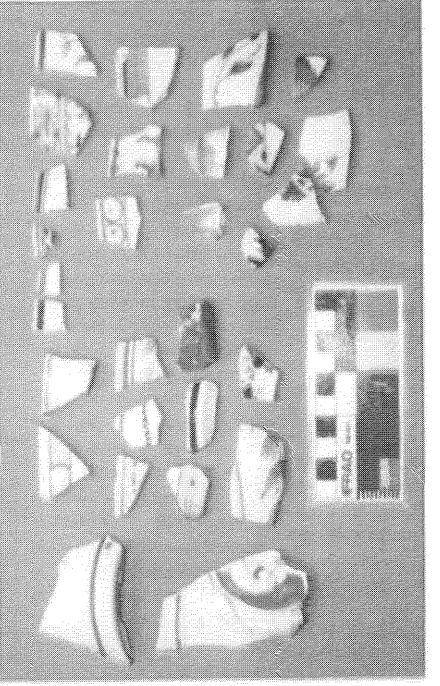


Figure 17: Transfer printed ware.

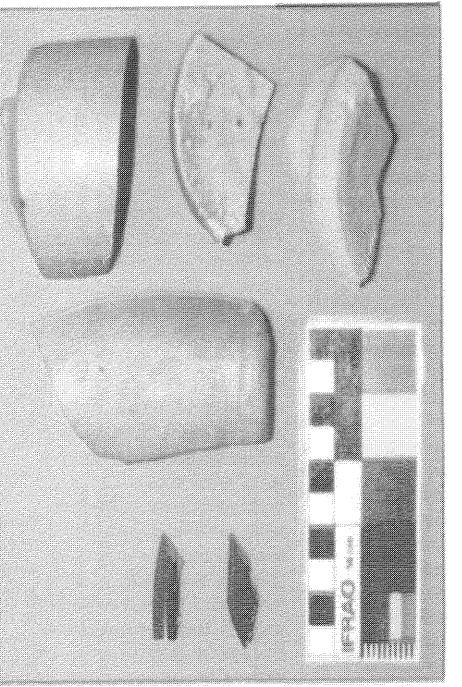


Figure 18: The bulk of the stoneware is English gin containers. On the left are two shards of Japanese stoneware, part of a *Donabe*, used for cooking (Malan pers comm 2005).

A small number of fragments of tin-glazed earthenware are present. Tin-glaze is not particularly hardy and in Europe it was systematically replaced by Chinese porcelains from the 17<sup>th</sup> century and by English refined earthenwares (REW) from c1750. By the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, English

potters are no longer producing tin-glaze.<sup>10</sup> There is no obvious change in the composition of the ceramic assemblage through out the layers indicating different deposition episodes, suggesting that this area (originally on the edge of the town, along the buiten gracht, near the sea shore) was used as a dump prior to its being developed in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The assemblage is very similar to that found at James House, Sea Street<sup>11</sup>

Table 6: Summary table of ceramic frequencies recovered from the site

Types presented:	Frequency (* Low, ** Moderate, *** High)
Asian porcelain - export market	***
Asian porcelain - domestic/provincial market	***
English refined earthenware - creamware	**
- pearlware	*
- single colour transfer print	**
- hand painted	**
Tin glaze	*
Stoneware - English, gin	*
- Japanese, Donabe-type	*
Coarse earthenware - locally made or imported	**

## 5.5 Glass

Hand-blown, dark green glass wine bottles form the bulk of the glass assemblage. With the exception of two modern inclusions, the glass predates 1860. The evolution in bottle glass manufacturing and the use of moulds provide a relative date for when the bottle was made. Bottles with pontil scars were usually hand-blown and manufactured before the 1860s<sup>12</sup>. The bulk of the bottles were hand-blown, with pontil scars and no visible seams indicating that they were mould blown. The large square<sup>9</sup> bottle base from Hole 1/Layer 6, may have been blown into a square mould; the base is flat, suggesting that the pontil would have been attached to the lip. The shape and the style of the diagnostic fragments (necks and bases) suggest an 18<sup>th</sup>, early 19<sup>th</sup> century date of deposition. Glass from Hole 7 was not analysed as this hole had already been excavated while doing geo-testing and the finds are from a disturbed context. Only diagnostic pieces are listed below.

<sup>10</sup> Klose, J. & Malan, A. (2000) Understanding Ceramics; Excavated Ceramics from Colonial Sites in the South Western Cape. An Introduction to the Analysis and Interpretation of Excavated Ceramics. Unpublished Historical Archaeology Research Group (UCT) Handbook.

<sup>11</sup> Klose, J. & Malan, A. (1997) Analysis of Ceramic Assemblages from Four Colonial Sites dating from late 17<sup>th</sup> to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. MA Archaeology Dissertation. University of Cape Town.

<sup>12</sup> Square bottles although always moulded, were not necessarily mould-blown; the flat sides were also created by flattening the sides of a newly blown bottle (E & A Lastovica 1990 Bottles and Bygones. Don Nelson. Cape Town.



Figure 19 and 20: Bottle bases predating 1860.

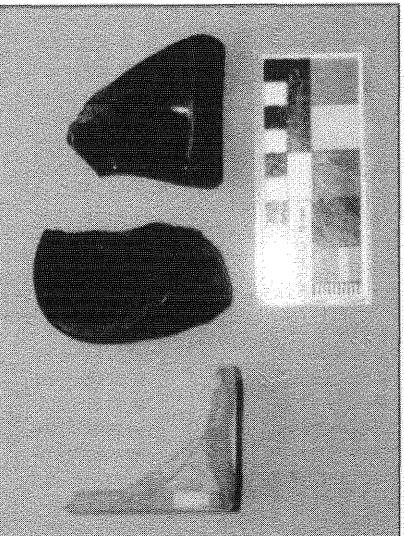


Figure 21: Modern bottles, mould blown post 1860

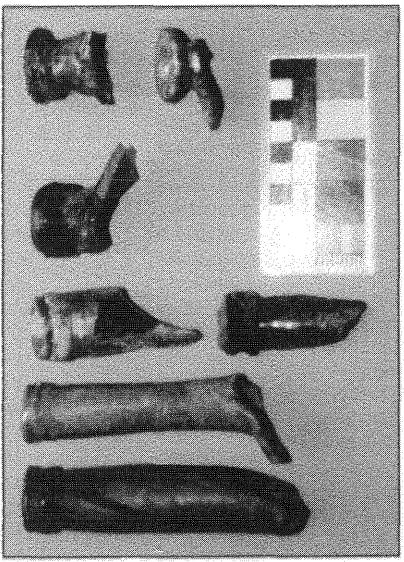


Figure 22: Handmade bottle necks.

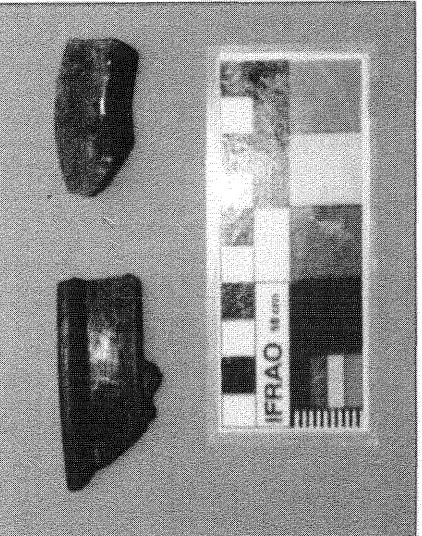


Figure 23: Glass bowl rims. Shard on right has shape very similar to that of a chamber pot.

## 5.6 Faunal Remains

The faunal material was identified to lowest possible taxon using the reference collection housed in the Historical Archaeology Research Group lab in the Department of Archaeology, at the University of Cape Town. At times, only the size class could be identified but this also has value. The taxon, element, side, end, age-at-death and sex were recorded for every bone, when possible. The age-at-death was determined using species specific dental eruption and wear patterns and epiphyseal fusion rates.<sup>13</sup> Identifying the sex of a specimen is difficult at best, but can be done using sexual dimorphic traits such as horn cores, pelvis, and overall size differences in adults. Modifications made to the bone were also recorded including spiral fractures, carnivore gnawing, and various cut marks. The data was entered into an excel spreadsheet where it could be queried. The analysis is described using standard measures: N.I.S.P (number of individual specimens) and M.N.I (minimum number of individuals). This faunal analysis is based on the material removed from test holes 3, 4, and 5. The material was analysed separately, but the data was lumped together in order to have a sample size large enough to produce a meaningful analysis. It was determined that there were no temporal differences in species distribution within the test holes, thus what was found in one layer was representative of the total sample for that particular hole.

### *Human*

The sample consists of 3 human remains, accounting for 0.8% of the sample and one individual (Vide Table 7). The bones are a calcaneus, a metatarsal, a scapula, and a fragment of cranial bone. These bones were scattered throughout the site. They were found in two separate holes and layers (hole3, layer2 and layer 4; hole 5, layer 6 and layer 7). Considering the close proximity of the graveyard, these human remains are most likely intrusive and are present because of the burrowing behaviour of dogs and rats.<sup>14</sup>

### *Sheep*

The sample consists of 143 sheep bones, accounting for 31% of the sample (Table 7), representing at least 6 individuals. All elements were present including good cuts of meat such as legs and waste bones such as teeth and toe. The presence of all of the elements indicates that animals were butchered and consumed on-site. The dentition has identified that the majority of individuals were between 1.5 and 3.5 years of age. The still fusing proximal humeral epiphysis identifies at least one individual that is approximately 3.5 years of age. A fully fused lumbar vertebra identifies an individual over four years of age and there is at least one adult male based on the morphology of the pelvis. Thus, while the majority of the sheep were slaughtered as young adults, at least two individuals were mutton. The sheep was distributed throughout the site as every layer within holes 3, 4, and 5 produced sheep bones. The majority of the sheep remains came from hole4 layer 6 at 94 bones or 66% of the total sheep. The evidence for bone modifications is low with only 11.9% of the sheep sample showing evidence of cut marks, however the cuts marks identified were made by either an axe or a knife and not the typical butchery tool: a saw. The lack of saw cuts may indicate that either: the local butcher did not yet have a saw; there was no professional butcher nearby; or the animals were butchered “at home.”

<sup>13</sup> Silver, I.A. (1969) The ageing of domestic animals. In: D. Brothwell and E. Higgs (eds.), Science and Archaeology. Bristol: Thames and Hudson Bristol 285-302.

<sup>14</sup> Dewar, G, (2005) Faunal Analysis for 11 Buitengracht Street. Unpublished Report submitted to Cape Archaeological Survey cc. Cape Town.

**Rat**

The sample of rat bones is small at 1 bone, consisting of 0.2% of the total sample (Table 7). These bones were most likely intrusive and are the remains of a rat dying in an underground burrow or else brought into the site by neighbourhood pets.

**Dog**

The dog bones remains come from a single burial located in layer 6, hole4. The skeleton is nearly whole with only a few elements missing. The animal was older than 3.5 years of age as all epiphyses were fused including the vertebrae. The dog was of medium size body with a long snout. As the dog was found whole, it is most likely the remains of the intentional burial of a family pet.

**Steenbok**

The sample consists of one steenbok bone, accounting for 0.2% of the sample (Table 7), representing one individual. Steenbok are common in the region and have been hunted throughout prehistory. However, the presence of a single mandible makes it unclear how the bone arrived. As mandibles and teeth are waste products, the presence of the mandible does not prove that people were eating steenbok roasts. Therefore, the mandible may be intrusive and not reflect the eating habits of the people who inhabited this site.

**Cattle**

The sample consisted of 14 cattle bones, accounting for 3% of the sample (Table 7), representing one individual. The cattle remains consisted entirely of foot bones, the waste products of a butcher. The lack of carnivore gnawing and puncture marks on the bone rules out that these were leftovers purchased for the family dog. Cattle bones were found in all three holes, but were mainly located in layer 6 of hole 4 and layer 7 in hole 5. As there were only two bones exhibiting evidence of cut marks, the sample is too small to say anything about butchery techniques.

**Horse**

The sample contained two horse bones, accounting for 0.4% of the sample (Table 7), representing one individual. These are toe bones, both found in layer 7 hole 5. There are no butchery marks identified on the horse remains.

**Chicken**

The sample consists of three chicken wings and another two chicken size bird long bones (Table 7). Of note is the lack of the rest of the carcass as chickens are not large and are usually roasted whole.

All of the faunal material recovered from holes 3, 4, and 5 were analysed producing a total of 465 bones with 196 identified to species and the remaining 269 identified to size class. The identification of 42% of the sample indicates a very high preservation of the bone, as a typical faunal analysis has a frequency of identifiable bone closer to 10%. In addition, the molluscs were identified with a total of 125 shells and 61 identified to species. The sample is dominated by domestic animals for a total of eight species, with only five considered appropriate food products: sheep, cattle, horse, steenbok, and chicken. The remaining species are most likely intrusive into the deposit and include human remains, dog, and rat.

The faunal sample was well preserved enabling a very high frequency of identification of bone elements to species (42%). With a total N.I.S.P of 465 bones, eight species were identified with five of those species being probable food sources, for a total M.N.I of 15 individuals. The presence of human remains is most likely intrusive from the neighbouring graveyard. The sample is dominated by typical domesticate animals: sheep, cattle, chicken, dog, and horse, but also includes a mandible from a steenbok and a rat femur. The lack of variety of species may be due to a British influence as they tend to stick to the species they know, rather than try new “game.” However, the status of the family may also dictate access to exotic food remains. The distribution of elements varies depending on species with sheep and dog being represented by all elements; however the dog is an intact single burial. The presence of all the sheep bones including good cuts and waste products suggests that the sheep were being slaughtered and consumed on-site. The horse and the cattle remains are represented in the sample as toe bones or waste products, suggesting that they were butchered on-site. The steenbok and rat are represented by only one element per species and are probably intrusive to the sample. Thus, the elements present in these test holes suggest that animals were being butchered on site and the occupants were consuming mainly young adult sheep and older mutton. The lack of burnt bone supports the identification of a butchery site as there is no evidence of food processing or cooking meat.

Table 7. The species present in the sample.

Species	N.I.S.P	M.N.I
Human ( <i>Homo sapiens</i> )	4	1
Rat ( <i>Rattus rattus</i> )	1	1
Dog ( <i>Canis familiaris</i> )	25	1
Steenbok ( <i>Raphicerus campestris</i> )	1	1
Sheep ( <i>Ovis aries</i> )	143	6
Cattle ( <i>Bos Taurus</i> )	14	1
Horse ( <i>Equus caballus</i> )	2	1
Small-medium mammal	210	-
Large mammal	60	-
Total mammal	460	12
Chicken	3	2
Aves	2	1
Total Aves	5	3
Total sample	465	15

#### Bone Modifications

The types of modifications identified on bone include spiral breaks, transverse breaks, carnivore gnawing, knife cut marks, axe chop marks, and trowel trauma. Spiral breaks that indicate bone was broken when fresh, is found on 13.1% of the sample, while transverse breaks, indicative of bone broken while old and dry, is present on 1.1% of the sample (Table 8). The low frequency of carnivore gnaw marks and the low incidence of transverse breaks (Table 8) suggests that the faunal material was buried rapidly, preventing local dogs and other carnivores from having access to the refuse. The presence of both chop and knife cut marks is common on butchered food remains in archaeological contexts. The lack of saw cuts is interesting as they are typically found on large dense bones and at least 16.3% of the sample is from large mammals. The lack of

saw cuts may indicate that the local butcher did not have a saw; or there was no professional butcher nearby and/or the animals were butchered “at home.” This is of note as the faunal remains from the nearby site of 34 Prestwich place did exhibit saw cut marks in conjunction with axe or knife cut marks. The frequency of trowel trauma is particularly low in this sample at 3.2%.

**Table 8. Bone modifications identified on the sample.**

Species	Spiral fracture	Transverse fracture	Gnaw marks	Knife marks	Cut	Chop marks	Trowel trauma
Sheep n=143	23/16%	3/2%	12/8.4%	4/2.7%	13/9.1%	7/4.8%	
Cattle=14	0	0	0	1/7.1%	1/7.1%	4/28.6%	
Chicken n=3	1/33.3%	2/66.6%	0	0	0	0	0
Large mammal n=60	13/21.6%	0	0	3/5%	11/18.3%		
Small-medium mammal n=210	24/11.4%	0	2/0.9%	4/1.9%	4/1.9%	4/1.9%	
<b>Total n=465</b>	<b>61/13.1%</b>	<b>5/1.1%</b>	<b>14/3%</b>	<b>12/2.6%</b>	<b>29/6.2%</b>	<b>15/3.2%</b>	

#### Shellfish

While shellfish is present, it is not a dominant feature of this sample. There are a total of 125 individual shell fragments with 61 identified to genera or species (Table 9). All species are local and are found within two kilometres of the site. The dominant species are mussels with three species present: white mussel (*Donax serra*), black mussel (*Choromytilus meridionalis*), and ribbed mussel (*Aulaconya ater*). Followed by the limpets with four species: *Scutellastra argenvillei*, *Patella Barbara*, *P. miniata*, and *P. tabularis*. A large proportion of the shell is water worn (61%) and may represent the accumulation of shell for use in lime production.

**Table 9. Shellfish species present in the sample**

Species	N.I.S.P	M.N.I
<i>Scutellastra argenvillei</i>	13	
<i>Patella Barbara</i>	6	6
<i>Barnacle</i>	1	1
<i>Choromytilus meridionalis</i>	17	11
<i>Bulla</i> sp.	1	1
<i>Burnupena</i> sp.	5	5
<i>Donax serra</i>	33	10
<i>Cymbula granatina</i>	16	8
<i>Keyhole limpet</i>	1	1
<i>Patella miniata</i>	6	6
<i>Aulaconya ater</i>	1	1
<i>Patella tabularis</i>	1	1
oyster	8	5
unknown	16	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>61</b>

#### 6. Conclusions

## 6. Conclusions

The current site was developed on a freehold grant from 1806 on the western outskirt of the village of Cape Town and was used predominately to develop business premises. Analysis of ceramics, fauna, and the systematic recording of building features suggests that this site dates from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century, representing the transition from a typical Dutch occupation to an English 19<sup>th</sup> onwards occupation. The range of ceramics is interesting in that there is no obvious change in the composition of the ceramic assemblage through out the layers indicating different deposition episodes, suggesting that this area (originally on the edge of the town, along the *buitengracht*, near the sea shore) was used as a dump prior to its being developed in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. In this regard the assemblage is very similar to that found at James House, Sea Street (Klose 1997).

The faunal sample has the same pattern as the site “34 Prestwich Place,” with large mammals being butchered, while the occupants were consuming sheep. The primary difference between these sites is the lack of saw cut marks on the “11 Buitengracht” faunal sample. Five edible species were identified, namely, sheep, cattle, horse, steenbok and chicken. The presence of shellfish in the deposit could be from people collecting them for consumption, as the sample is dominated by known edible genera, mussels and limpets. However, 61% of the sample is water worm, suggesting that the shellfish may have been collected to make lime and used as a building material.

The presence of human skeletal material in the trial excavations below an early 19<sup>th</sup> century living floor effectively helps date the deposition of the human remains, and suggests that this particular burial occurred in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, or possibly earlier, it may even be part of a prehistoric burial similar to those found at Cobern Street (Morris 1994). Morris and Dewar independently identified that the presence of human skeletal material in the deposit as a secondary deposition rather than an in-situ burial, and this is indicative of two things. Either the developers of the land in the 19<sup>th</sup> century disturbed in-situ burials, or the remains were deposited by a large mammal some time after the initial inhumation. While the remains have been carefully analysed, there is no conclusive evidence to indicate which process is at work here. On overlay of the current street plan on Wilson’s 1878, and Thom’s 1897 maps show that erf 798 lies outside the formal Dutch Reformed Church cemeteries, indeed the position of the extension of the *Buitengracht* freeway did not encroach into the cemetery, but that the Rieebek street expansion did.

## 7. Recommendations

1. There is no documentary evidence to suggest that a burial ground lies below Erf 798, however, in light of the recent discoveries of isolated burials at 29 Chiappini<sup>15</sup> it is strongly recommended that an archaeologist monitor the site clearance, and foundation excavation for the new development. In the event that in-situ burials are exposed during these processes a cease work order should be implemented and a 60 day public participation process initiated.

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<sup>15</sup> Patrick, M. Cliff, H. (2005) Report on a Monitoring Brief at 29 Chiappini Street (Erf 741), Cape Town. Unpublished report submitted to Southern Helicopters Pty (Ltd). Cape Archaeological Survey cc. Cape Town.

2. The presence of edible shell in the trial excavations should be followed up and any opportunity to map and recorded the extent of this deposit should be undertaken during site clearance, once the current cement floor is removed.
3. The 19<sup>th</sup> century foundations represent a transition phase between wasteland being developed on the western outskirts of the village of Cape Town and the early commercial development of the area. Once the current floor is removed any opportunity to photograph and record the foundations of this development should be undertaken.

## *8. Acknowledgements*

The authors of this report wish to thank the following people for their support and input while undertaking trial excavations at 11 Buitengracht Street:

Mr Colin Hibitt - TCI Property Developers (Pty) Ltd  
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 Mr Mark Beak – Trust Panel Shop  
 Mr Peter Leppan – Grinaker – LTA

### **Field Crew:**

Ms Mary Patrick  
 Mr Charles Arthur  
 Ms Harriet Clift  
 Mr Tony Manhire  
 Mzikizi Tshetu  
 James Babi  
 Vincent Dlela  
 Vuyo Dyapu  
 Ayanda Madzikane  
 Mbuzo Kalashe

### **Specialist Analysis:**

Prof Alan Morris (Human Skeletal Remains) Department of Human Biology, UCT  
 Dr Antonia Malan (Ceramics) Department of Archaeology, UCT  
 Ms Harriet Clift (Ceramics & Glass) Cape Archaeological Survey cc  
 Ms Genevieve Dewar (Fauna & Shellfish) Department of Archaeology, UCT  
 Mr David Hart (Geomatics) The South African Heritage Resources Agency

### **Report Preparation:**

Ms Mary Patrick  
 Ms Jean Blankenberg  
 Ms Harriet Clift  
 Mr Charles Arthur

*Appendix 1*

**Hole 1**

<b>Layer</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Artefact frequency</b>	<b>Thickness</b>
1a	Concrete	None	0.27m
1b	Rubble: 70% brick, 30% mortar, slate etc.	Low	0.66m
2	Concrete layer.	None	0.28m
3	Slate under concrete.	None	0.03m
4d	Rubble: 60% loose modern bricks, 30% reddish brown sandy soil with frequent mortar and slate.	None	0.22m
4c	Curved brick structure on top of 4b.	None	0.11m
4b	Possible floor level associated on top of 4a.	None	0.06m
4a	Slate block foundation.	1 Sample of plaster	0.43m
5	Mid greyish brown sandy soil.	High	0.42m
6	Mid greyish brown gravelly coarse sand, 20% angular slate stones (up to 0.20m in max length).	Moderate	0.32m
7	Black, oil stained, coarse sand and gravel. Water table 0.12m below top of layer 7.	Low	>0.16m

**Hole 2**

<b>Layer</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Artefact frequency</b>	<b>Thickness</b>
1	Concrete.	None	0.10m
2	Concrete bedding.	None	0.10m
3	Rubble: 70% modern brick, 30% reddish brown soil with frequent mortar and slate.	Low	0.52m
4	Concrete layer.	None	0.10m
5	Mid yellowish brown sand occasional brick and mortar inclusions.	High	0.70m
6	Dark brown silty sand with 20% angular slate stones (up to 0.20m in max length), occasional brick and mortar fragments.	High	0.22m
7	Black, oil stained, coarse sand and gravel. Water table hit 0.18m below top of layer 7.	Moderate	>0.12m

**Hole 3**

<b>Layer</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Artefact frequency</b>	<b>Thickness</b>
1	Concrete.	None	0.25m
2	Dark greyish brown fine sand, moderate amount of brick, slate, concrete, mortar and charcoal inclusions. Notably less brick than other holes.	None	0.64m
3	Light brownish grey fine sand with very occasional small gravel inclusions. Bands visible within the sand, indicating separate dumps.	High	0.34m
4a	Mid greyish brown fine sand. Frequent angular slate fragments. Built up against wall A. Compact upper surface. Thought to be old floor level associated with wall.	Moderate	0.32m
4b	Light grey sandy silt with black oil stained patches and clay lenses. On top of bedrock.	?	0.16m

**Hole 4**

<b>Layer</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Artefact frequency</b>	<b>Thickness</b>
1	Concrete.	None	0.30m
2	Rubble: 50% brick, 50% mortar, slate, and other modern building waste.	None	0.36m
3	Concrete	None	0.10m
4	Crushed rubble: 50% brick dust, 50% mortar dust. Some larger fragments included.	None	0.20m
5	Alternate thin lenses of soot, crushed brick and dark yellowish brown sand.	None	0.10m
6	Dark fine beach sand with frequent small gravel. Notable band of lighter sand. On top of bedrock.	High. More faunal than ceramic. Includes many dog bones.	0.62m

**Hole 5**

<b>Layer</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Artifact frequency</b>	<b>Thickness</b>
1	Concrete.	None	0.18m
2	Rubble: 100% bright red modern bricks.	None	0.42m
3	Remains of a collapsed modern wall. Mortared bricks and slate blocks.	?	0.43m
4	Dark brown coarse sand with moderate modern brick inclusions.	?	0.38m
5	Line of unglazed cream brick tiles, On top of layer 6 but no associated surface.	None	0.03m
6	Light grey fine beach sand. Contained human remains.	Moderate	0.20m
7	Banded sand layer. Upper band: Mixed mid yellowish brown sand with moderate slate and fine gravel inclusions. Middle band: Brownish yellow coarse sand and fine gravel. Lower band: Lighter grey fine beach sand with some iron staining and charcoal flecks but otherwise little inclusions compared to upper bands. Natural gravels and clay below layer 7.	Moderate Sheep in upper 2 bands. Cow phalanges in bottom.	0.56m

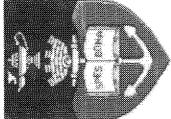
**Hole 6**

<b>Layer</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Artifact frequency</b>	<b>Thickness</b>
1	Concrete.	None	0.20m
2	Mixed mid greyish brown fine sand with building lime, crushed brick and mortar lenses in the upper 0.20m.	Moderate	0.60m
3	Mid greyish brown clayey sand with frequent angular slate and sandstone fragments and occasional brick and mortar fragments. Some oil staining in bottom 0.10m. Bedrock under layer 3.	Moderate	0.80m

**Hole 7**

<b>Layer</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Artifact frequency</b>	<b>Thickness</b>
1	Concrete.	None	0.26m
2	Disturbed Rubble.	Moderate	0.75m
2a	Concrete.	None	0.14m
3	Dark yellowish brown fine sand with occasional pea-sized grit inclusions.	Moderate	0.48m
4	Mid brownish yellow sand with frequent slate and grit inclusions.	Moderate	0.46m
5	Black, oil stained, coarse sand and gravel. Water table at top of Layer 5.	Low	>0.06m

## *Appendix 2*



## Department of Human Biology

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Ms. Mary Patrick  
Contract Archaeologist  
19 Dawlish St  
Plumstead  
Fax: 021-425-3375

11 Buitengracht Street

Dear Mary,

I visited the above site on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May. I spent approximately one hour in total time at the site and I had a brief look at all of the excavated osteological material available from Hole #3. I also looked at the exposed bone in the base of Hole #5. The following is my report.

Hole #3: There was quite a lot of bone material from this sample pit, but nearly all of it was non-human. Seven bone elements of human origin were noted: one left metatarsal II, one pair (left and right) tibial shafts, one fragment of the right distal shaft of a femur, one fibular shaft fragment with no ends, one proximal right humerus, and one parietal cranial vault fragment. Although there is no duplication of bony elements signifying more than one individual, there is no reason to assume that only one person is represented.

Hole #5: Several human and non-human bones were present 'in situ' on the excavated floor of this test pit. Of these bones, three were human. There were two nearly complete right tibiae, and the proximal half of a right humerus. The tibiae are from two different individuals and were oriented in opposite directions. These, and the humeral fragment, are clearly isolated bones and do not represent burials (formal or informal).

The few bones that were recovered seem to be isolated remains deposited on the site. This does not exclude the possibility that some informal burials may have been placed in this area during historic times and that these loose bones originated from them. This is indeed possible in the light of the discovery of several skeletons buried on part of the Erf at 29 Prestwich Street.

The limited evidence of human remains recovered does not support the presence of formal human burials in the positions sampled. Despite this, I would strongly recommend that the site be monitored by an archaeologist during the site clearance and foundation excavation.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to work on this site.

Best wishes,

Alan G. Morris  
Associate Professor

### *Appendix 3*

UCT 313

215



TUESDAY JULY 7 1981

CAPE TOWN

19c

Plus 1c tax

## Centuries-old bones unearthed

**T**HREE skeletal remains of nine people believed to have been buried during the 17th or 18th centuries have been excavated in the city centre by municipal workers.

The fragmented bones of five of them, found on the corner of Waterkant and Leopold Street during excavations, were apparently interred in a beach sand, but the soil above contained many archaeological artefacts.

Waterkant Street, where burnt skeletal remains were found, at a construction site on the corner of Buitengracht and Prestwich Streets.

The bones were given to Mr Alan Morris, physical anthropologist in the anatomy department of the University of Cape Town, after police had investigated.

Because of the severe fragmentation of the bones it was difficult to establish the exact date of death. Mr Morris said soon the remains in Waterkant Street would be able to establish that two

of the five were female and one a male. The archives in Cape Town have no record of a cemetery at the junction of these two streets and it is unlikely the graves represented a formal burial ground.

It was also unlikely that the people were buried after 1819 as it was in that year that a proclamation forbade the burial of dead bodies outside the walls of general burial places.

It was shown that Waterkant Street was the

effective shoreline of the town until about 1790, and it is logical to assume that a large number of graves must have preceded the buildings at the road junction, he said. He added: "The discovery of rusted coffin nails with the remains are signs of coffin buried with a standard Christian body posture. Also no positive identification of the individuals buried at the site is evident. There is a lack of regular passage of Europeans around the Cape."

He also found that two of the individuals were habitual pipe smokers.

There were no obvious signs of foul play and the bodies appear to have been formally buried in coffins, he said.

At the construction site on the corner of Buitengracht and Prestwich Street, Mr Morris found that a parking area opposite the site had been an old cemetery, the grave markers of which had been removed.

"The interior of the wall along the west side of Buitengracht Street still has impressions of the grave stones, and I found on one grave stone the following poorly preserved inscription:

Jan Prin de Ede  
Achibaare Oos ... he  
... Comi ...  
die den 24 Juny 1815

Ahier Overleeden is  
Iden Outom ... van 16  
Jaaren.  
Although there is no

UCT 315

Dear Dr. Sloane,  
S/Office Manager  
U.S. Natl. Museum  
Smithsonian Inst.,  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Dr. Sloane,

17 June, 1961.

Dear Dr. Sloane,

Please find the enclosed report on the skeletal remains  
SK 152/61. I hope this is to your satisfaction. The bones are  
still in my possession and will be accessioned to the Department  
of Anatomy's Anthropology Collection as UCT 315.

I enclose in this report that I suspect more skeletal remains  
will surface from the construction work on Prestwich Street. And if  
you would like to do so, I would be very happy to add those  
to our collection as well.

Sincerely yours,

Alan G. Morris

1

REPORT AND SECERN AFFIDAVIT

I, the undersigned, Alan Gregory Morris, declare that I have examined the skeletal material DR 1363/81 described below, as submitted to me by Dr. S. G. Sloane of the South African Police.

General:

This is a very fragmentary series of well-preserved bone pieces of at least four individuals. All crania and the majority of the long bones are broken, but many of the smaller bones are complete. Because of this fragmentary nature, it is impossible to associate cranial with post-cranial remains and these are analysed separately.

Cranial remains:

Skull A - The left half of a cranium represented by the left parietal, adjacent frontal and some of the temporal containing theotic region. The left maxillary and zygomatic fragments articulate with the zygomatic process of the frontal bone. The few teeth that are present are in excellent condition with no caries and only slight wear. All sutures are patent (this includes an anomalous metopic suture) and the 3rd molar is erupting. Muscle markings are distinct, glabella and the superciliary eminences prominent and the lateral orbital margin rounded.

In summary, this individual appears to be a male in his late teen's or early 20's at death. The facial morphology is "non-white" (broad nasal aperture and flattened nasal bridge) but the fragmentary state of the remains preclude any more detailed diagnosis.

Skull B - This is a fronto-parietal fragment including the supra-orbital region and browridge. Glabella and the superciliary eminences and strong and the sagittal suture is fusing. It is most likely that these remains are of an older adult male.

Skull C - A back part of a vault consisting of 2 parietals, the squamous occipital and the left temporal. The muscle markings are slight to moderate and the temporo-mandibular joint is shallow. All cranial sutures are open.

A nearly complete mandible is best associated with this individual both by morphology and preservation. The worn incisor

**Skull C (continued)**

The morphology of this individual suggests a female in her early 20's at the time of death.

Skull D - Posterior of the right parietal, adjoining frontal and part of the left parietal. Pregma and the right supra-orbital margin are intact, showing fusing sagittal and coronal sutures and a gracile supra-orbital morphology.

This is probably the remains of an older adult female.

**Post-cranial Remains:**

These are highly fragmentary and cannot be sorted satisfactorily into individuals.

Thirty-five vertebrae of cervical, thoracic and lumbar origin, represent at least 3 individuals. Most have no fusion of the superior and inferior epiphyseal plates on the body, although the other secondary centres of ossification have united. A sacral fragment is morphological similar.

Other remains include:

Three clavicles (an adult pair and one sub-adult)  
Three sternal manubria.  
One right and two left scapula (all adult)  
Five humeri (3 sub-adult pair, a single adult & a massive adult pair)  
Two pair of radius and ulna (one adult and one sub-adult)  
Many hand bones

Six fragments

One left ilium fragment of a sub-adult

Two left femora (one massive adult and one sub-adult)

These are consistent with a minimum of three individuals, at least one of whom was adult and one sub-adult.

Most of the remains are from the upper trunk, shoulder and arm. Pelvic and femoral fragments are rare and there are no remains from below the knee.

**Date of Interment:**

There is no absolute method of ascertaining the duration of time that these skeletons have been interred, but the general preservation suggests an archaeological rather than forensic jurisdiction.

I was able to visit the location of the recovery of the remains on 13/5/81 and was interested to discover that the parking area directly south of the construction site is actually an old cemetery whose grave markers have been removed. The interview -

has been retained and the poorly preserved inscription reads as follows:

...Jan Prin...  
geb't van de7dele Achibaare Cos... he Comj...  
die den 24 Juny 1815  
Hier overleden is Iden Cudom... van 16 Jaaren

Though no connection between this grave and the skeletons recovered a city block away can be directly assumed, it is likely that the bones were part of the same burial sequence. The fact that no lower limbs were recovered in the sample suggests that they remain in the ground and that the burials were living "straight out" in a Christian style. The construction work has probably disturbed a row of graves. It will not be surprising if further human remains are unearthed during the continuing construction in the area.

Conclusion:

The human skeletal remains DR 1383/81 represent at least 4 individuals, of whom two were older adult (one male and one female) and two were osteologically sub-adult (one male and one female) possibly in their late teens or early 20's. No racial estimation can be attempted, but at least one individual seems to be of non-caucasoid origin.

There are no obvious signs of foul play and the remains are consistent with a cemetery mode of origin.

I have no objection to taking the prescribed oath and consider the oath to be binding to my conscience.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alan G. Morris  
Lecturer/Certistrial  
Department of Anatomy  
University of Cape Town

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The deponent has confirmed that he is conversant with the contents of the above statements and has sworn before me that they are right.

14

## CAPE PENINSULA

Keiukle!

Whelk found in back in shallow water. 3/3/81.

Whelk shells in back in shallow water DR 940/81. The upper shell contains shells of murex and meat of whelk.

## CAPE PENINSULA

5

Engarck - Festivals Sts., Cape Town.  
 Remains of old boat & industrial debris found during  
 excavations of new road. An expert in old cuttings  
 believes furnace numbers DR 1383/81.  
 Old and poor-quality fragments.

## 16 CAPE PENINSULA

16

Assar Beach  
 Found in shallow water in rock near beach.  
 Collected by police 31/7/80. DR 1999/80  
 The expert in old cuttings  
 by samples colour, mouldable + delicate

(A small bay).  
 These small, soft "circular + some very fine flint".  
 Dated to about 11 April 1980.

## UCT 317 SOUTH CAPE COAST

48

Whelk found in back of edge of lake.  
 Whelk shells in back in shallow water DR 940/81.  
 Whelk appearance in a sandy bay near Cape Town.  
 Whelk found in back of edge of lake.

## UCT 317 SOUTH CAPE COAST

Uilenkraal, near Hermanus.  
 Whelk found in back of edge of lake.  
 Whelk appearance in a sandy bay near Cape Town.  
 Whelk shells in back in shallow water DR 940/81.  
 Whelk found in back of edge of lake.

## UCT 318 EASTERN CAPE

St Georges Strand, P. + Elizabethtown  
 Found under rocks sand about 150 meters from the  
 high water mark. Whelk & oysters found.  
 Dated 17/7/81. Poorly defined number DR 288/81.

## UCT 319 CAPE PENINSULA

Parow - East  
 Whelk shells found a meter deep  
 in excavation for new Tide + Johnson buildings.  
 Dated to about 11 April 1980.

