

HERITAGE SCOPING REPORT: FIBER OPTIC CABLE CENTRAL CAPE TOWN.
Prepared for ArcusGibb by Harriet Clift 31 December 2009

Introduction and brief

The City of Cape Town is in the process of laying a network of fibre optic cables as part of the upgrading of Cape Town's telecommunications infrastructure. The proposed network in total comprises 115 km, of which 62 km has already been constructed. About 45 km of cable line is to be laid by Neotel and Dark Fibre Africa as indicated in the NID submitted to Heritage Western Cape in June 2009, and is excluded in this brief, as it forms part of an independent project.

The brief as described to date includes the archaeological monitoring of the 7.5 km of new trenching, within the city centre, to be excavated by Darson Construction. A number of manholes are to be built, linking into existing and proposed lines constructed by the other service providers mentioned above.

The new trenching to be undertaken by Darson Construction and ArcusGibb consists of two main portions:

1) Central city trench, comprising the following sections (Figure 1)

1.1) Section along Orange Street, along the top end of the Company Gardens to Hatfield Road. This section was already completed by 14 December 2009 and was virtually finished by the time the archaeologist was appointed.

1.2) Section Hatfield to Hope Str

This section is a continuation from the previous. At Hope Street, it joins an existing Neotel line.

1.3) Cnr Glynn and Buitenkants Str to the Parade, along Darling Street, Adderley Street, Hans Strydom and joining an existing Neotel line at the corner of Hans Strydom and Bree Streets.

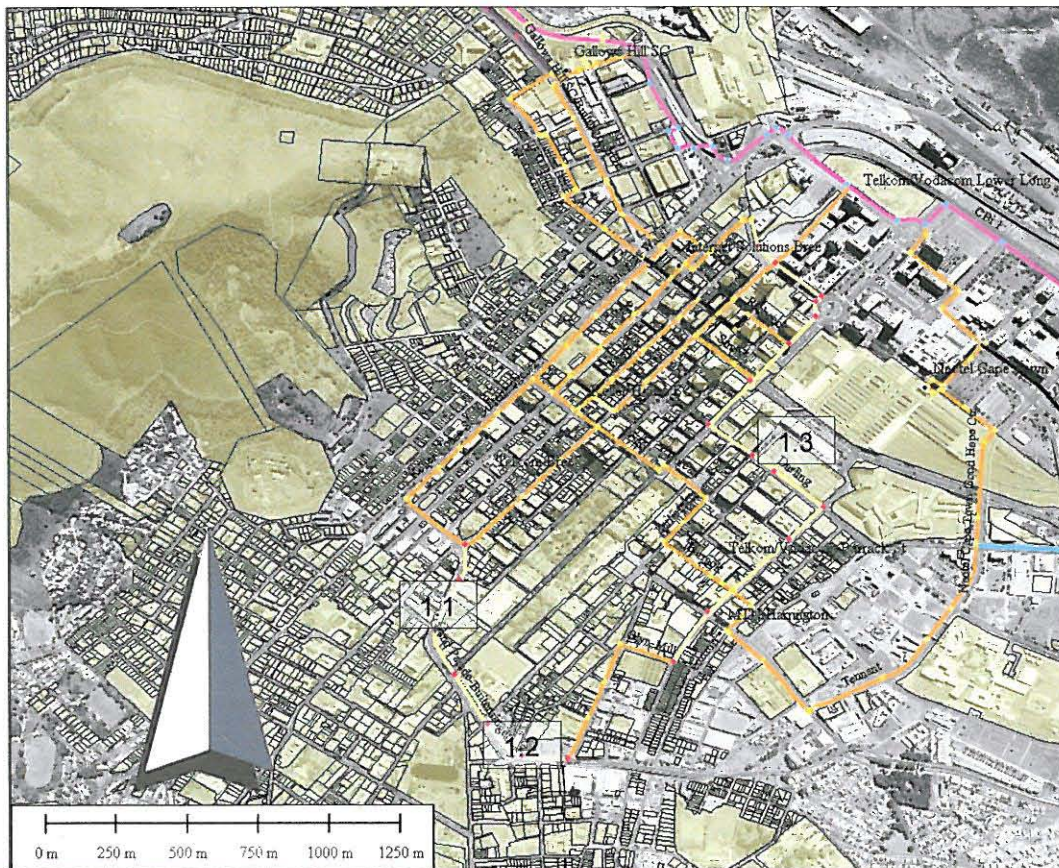


Figure 1: Map of the central city showing the new trenching (yellow) and the network of existing cable lines and cable lines to be excavated by other service providers. See Appendix 1 for detail. The shaded areas represent those even on the City of Cape Town's heritage inventory database (c 2007, courtesy of David Hart).

2) Gallows Hill Traffic Station trench (Figure 2)

This is a U-shaped section of trenching, with both entry and exit points onto Ebenezer Street, where it joins an existing Neotel line. This area is highly sensitive, being located within the Green Point Burial Area (bounded by Somerset Road, Buitenkant Str, towards the old shoreline and Portwood Rd).

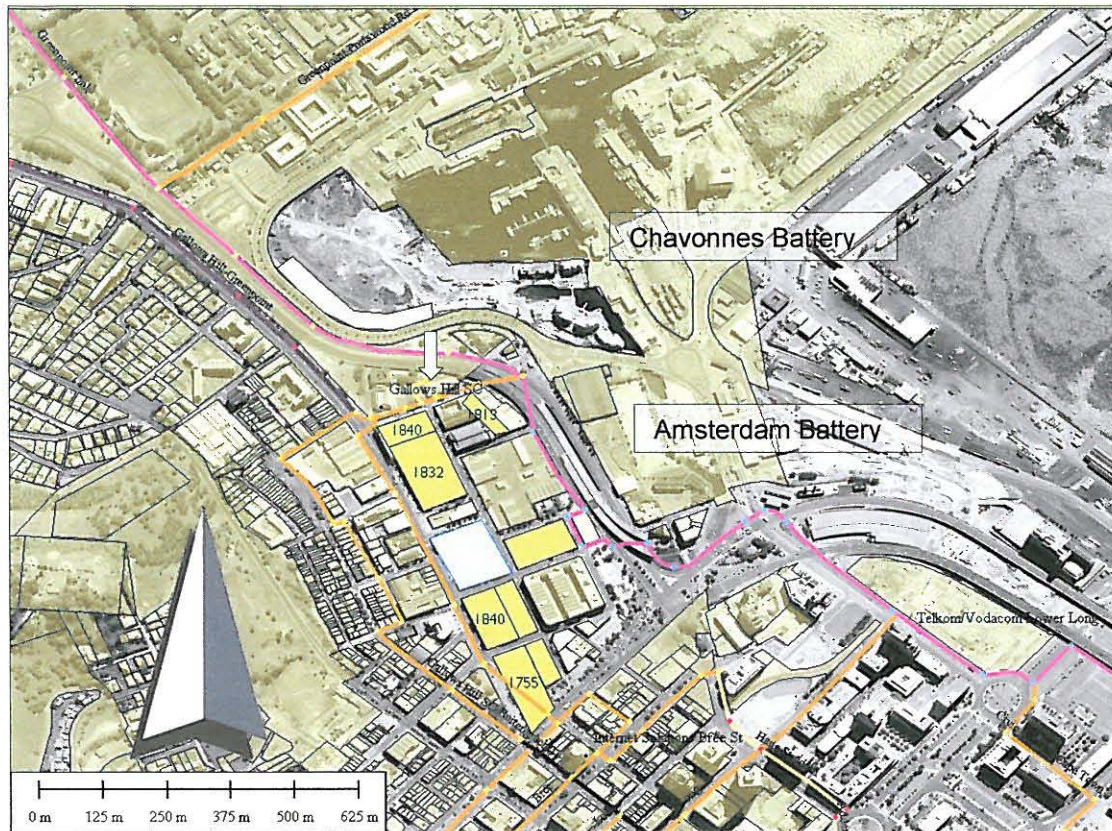


Figure 2: Map of the proposed new cable line at Gallows Hill Traffic Station (indicated by white arrow). The locations of the known historic burial grounds are indicated in yellow. The blue hatched areas indicate where human remains were accidentally found during the course of developments. (See Appendix 1 for details on the proposed cable lines not covered in this brief).

Heritage constraints

Within the historical core of the City of Cape Town, with a few exceptions, the road network has remained fairly constant. As the cable trenches are for the most part confined to the road reserve/pavements, impacts on historical fabric is minimal, with the exception of the old water courses had been canalized and the remains of these channels may still be intact.

1) Water courses

Snow's survey of Cape Town, c1860, shows a water course following the edge of the Company Gardens along Orange Street into Annandale Str, coming down from the mountain between Breda Street and Upper Orange Street. By the 1870s this stream had been covered.

Snow c1860 also shows an open channel (possibly the remains of the Dutch period gracht) along the Darling Str edge of the Parade feeding into the Castle moat. It would appear as if this links to the water course coming through the centre of the Company Gardens.

2) Somerset Road burial area

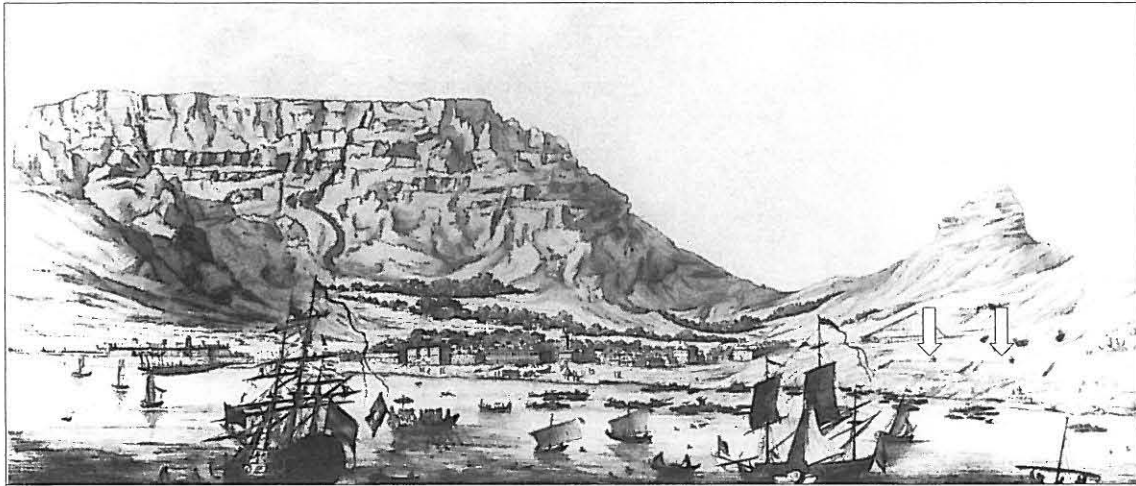


Figure 3: Rach panorama of Cape Town c1762 (Worden et al 1998). The DRC cemetery granted in 1755 is shown by the arrow on the left. The cemetery indicated by the arrow on the right may be the old military cemetery, but has also been referred to as the slave burial ground.

The proposed cable line at Gallows Hill Traffic Station (as well as other proposed cable lines in this area, which are not covered by this brief) falls within the Green Point Burials Area i.e. between Somerset Road and the erstwhile coast line, and from Buitenkant Street to Gallows Hill.

The area to the west of Buitenkant Street had been regularly used as a burial ground since the 18th century. (Excavations at Cobern Street in the 1990s uncovered two indigenous cairn burials which have been associated with Khoekhoe who frequented the Table Valley.) Evidence of an unrecorded burial ground, possibly the 18th century slave burial ground shown in Figure 3, were uncovered at Prestwich Place, Cobern Street, Cnr of Prestwich and Chiappini Streets. By the early 19th century a number of denominational cemeteries were granted in this area Appendix 2).

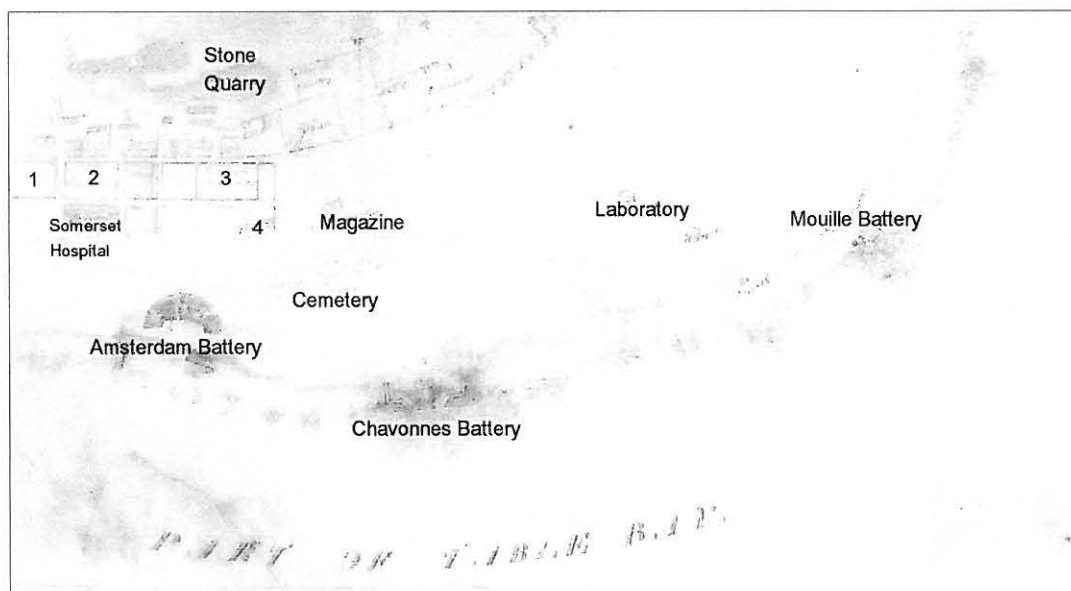


Figure 4: Grey's map of Cape Town c1836, showing the location of the paupers burial ground situated behind the Chavonnes and Amsterdam batteries. The cemeteries marked 1-4 are the DRC, Roman Catholic, English/Scottish and SA Missionary Society cemeteries respectively. The 18th century 'slave burial ground' as evidenced by the findings at eg Cobern Street and Prestwich Place is not marked on the historical maps. The cemetery shown above is likely to be the so-called White Sands.

Conclusions and recommendations

A monitoring brief for the new trenching in the central city area should be sufficient. As work on the Orange Street section of the new trench had already started before the appointment of the historical archaeologist, this section was not monitored. From the material removed from the site during the clean-up, it is clear that a cobble and slate canal had been disturbed, but it is not certain whether this happened during previous storm water drain construction, or during this construction phase. According to the site foreman the material was already disturbed and used as rubble fill.

The new trenches in the Green Point area must be tested and mitigated if necessary by an archaeologist accredited to deal with historical burials prior to the excavation of the cable line. Also, although not covered in this brief, the trenches in this area being excavated by the other service providers, need to be mitigated. The occurrence of human remains in the trenching along Hospital and Albert Streets, have already been reported to Heritage Western Cape, confirming the need for archaeological mitigation.

Sources

Clift, H 2004. Background history: Erf 741, Cape Town: Corner of Mechau, Chiappini and Prestwich Streets. Unpublished report prepared for Cape Archaeological Survey cc.

Clift, H. 2005. Background history – Erven 731, 737 and 739, 9563 (Erf 738), Cape Town. Unpublished report prepared to Archaeology Contracts Office, UCT

Worden, N; van Heyningen, E and Bickford-Smith, V 1998. Cape Town the making of a city. Cape Town: David Philip Publishers

Appendix 1:

The Somerset Road Cemeteries (Extract from research notes for Clift 2004 and notes on the Table Bay Harbour Paupers Burial Ground for the ACO (2004))

During the 17th and 18th century, the boundaries of Cape Town were formed by Buitenkant Street in the east and the Buitengracht in the west. The Green Point Common was a flat coastal plain, dominated by a few prominent dunes. Early maps of the Cape show that the Khoekhoe occasionally camped on the western outskirts of the town. It is also in this area, referred to as 'the Dunes' where the bodies of the diseased, executed and enslaved were buried¹. The official Dutch Reformed Church burial ground, where the Dutch East India Company men were buried, was situated behind the Church in Adderly Street.

Three major smallpox epidemics broke out in Cape Town in 1713, 1755 and 1767. Several thousands of people living in Cape Town died in each of these smallpox epidemics. Bodies had to be buried within 24 hours. In 1713 more than a third of the slaves in the Slave Lodge and a quarter of the European population died of small pox. Unknown numbers of Khoekhoe died, but Francois Valentyn, who visited Cape Town in 1726 remarked on the fact that no 'Hottentots' could be found to be employed for menial household tasks (Raven-Hart 1971). Carl Thunberg, who visited the Cape in 1772-1775 (after the 1767 outbreak) mentions that the Khoekhoe succumbed in such numbers that "their bodies lay in the fields and along the highways unburied" (Forbes 1986:38).

In 1755 (coinciding with the second small pox epidemic to hit Cape Town), the Dutch Reform Church was granted a new burial ground between the Buitengracht (Canal) and the Military burial ground (Soldaten begrafplaats). These two burial grounds are clearly indicated on a map dating to 1767 (Fig x) (Bickford-Smith and van Heyningen date:41). The Schumacher panorama of Cape Town, dating to 1776 also clearly shows the DRC burial ground as well as the Military burial ground, both of which are enclosed by low walls.

On the Schumacher panorama, to the west of the Military burial ground is shown what seems to be a scatter of coffins lying on the ground (Fig x). A later map, 1790, indicates this as the Slave burial ground (Fig x). This burial ground was not enclosed and does not appear on any maps post dating 1800 (at least none that have as yet come to light).

Burials were uncovered at a building site at Cobern Street 1994, which were archaeologically excavated in 1995. Research (Apollonio 1998, Cox 1999) has shown that these burials were very likely to have been associated with the 18th century Slave burial ground. Not only did the location of the site correspond with that indicated on the 1776 map, but some of the individuals had modified teeth. The ritual filing of teeth amongst African tribes as close as Angola has been recorded in historical times (Cox 1999). Underneath the historical burials, two prehistoric cairn burials were uncovered. These cairns both contained two individuals, one buried on top of the other, and at a later date (Apollonio 1998).

Although no results have as yet been forthcoming regarding the skeletal material from Prestwich Place (excavated 2003), the location of this site suggests that it is similar to the Cobern Street burials and as such possibly forms another part of the Slave burial ground.

The 'new' DRC burial ground of 1755, was enlarged in 1801 and again in 1802, stretching from Buitengracht Street to Chiappini Street and bounded by Somerset and present-day Pretwich Streets.

In 1813, the South African Missionary Society was granted land for the purpose of burying converted 'slaves and heathens' and other people who were not allowed to be buried in the DRC burial ground (Apollonio 1998). This burial ground lay close to the Amsterdam Battery.

Throughout the course of the history of Cape Town and as late as 1819, complaints were lodged with the Burgher Senate about bodies being buried outside the walls of the official burial grounds (Cox 1999). The reasons for this practice ranging from the urge to dodge the burial fee, which if I remember correctly was 50 gulden for a local and double that for a foreigner. Also the fee prohibited the burial of paupers/slaves within the walls of the official burial grounds. Slaves would also have been excluded on the basis of religion.

In 1827 and 1832 land was granted to the Episcopal Church and the English Church for use as burial grounds.

¹ Malan, A 2004. Draft historical chronology: Green Point: District 1. Archaeology Dept, UCT

In 1833 the Scottish Church was granted land for burial to the north of the old Military burial ground. At the same time the Lutheran Church was granted land for the same purpose to the west of the (old) Somerset Hospital.

In 1840 land for burial was granted to the Roman Catholic Church (the old Military burial ground) and the Ebenezer Church (Cox 1999). The Ebenezer Street burial ground was previously used to bury paupers from the (old) Somerset Hospital as well as convicts (CCP 1/2/2/1/22 A2)

In addition to the Christian burial grounds, there were also at least four Malay burial grounds in this vicinity. These burial grounds were (with the exception of the one near the Chavonnes Battery on the Green Point common which was rarely if ever used) situated above Somerset Road. The two main burial grounds situated at the top end of Longmarket Street on the slopes of Signal Hill, formed part of the original Tana Baru grant dating to 1805 (van Heyningen 1989). Another Malay burial ground was situated above Somerset Road towards Sea Point. This burial ground was also described historically as the Javaansche Kerkhof. Van Heyningen (1989) also mentions the existence of 5 private burial grounds, the location of which is not known.

From about the 1850s negotiations were afoot to close the cemeteries along Somerset Road which are all overcrowded and full beyond capacity. Another motivating force for moving these cemeteries was no doubt the fact that these burial grounds were no longer on the outskirts of the town, but were being engulfed by the fast expanding city. As early as 1833 it was recognised that these burial grounds were in fact taking up land which was becoming increasingly valuable in terms of urban and harbour developments (Langham-Carter 1973). The Somerset Road cemeteries were largely closed in 1894. In 1906 an Act was passed to provide for the appropriation of land once used for burial purposes their reuse. The Act stated that such land should be reused either for the erection of religious, charitable or educational institutions or used as gardens or open spaces². The remains in these graveyards would be removed at the expense of the municipality to the new burial ground at Maitland (Act 28 of 1906).

Informal burial grounds along Somerset Road

In addition to the 18th century Slave burial ground discussed above and evidenced by the discoveries at Cobern Street and possibly also those at Prestwich Place, the Somerset Road area also provided for the burial of slaves, paupers and convicts.

During the end of the 19th century, when discussions to close the Somerset Road cemeteries were underway, the so-called White Sands burial ground was included. This stretch of land was situated close to Gallows Hill towards the Table Bay. It was unenclosed and unmanaged. There were no restrictions as to what was buried, how deep or by whom. It is described as a retched and dismal place where the dogs came to scavenge for meat. There were reports of human remains eroding out of the surface. This burial ground had apparently been in use "for time immemorial" to bury people who did not belong to any of the official religious communities or who were too poor to afford the fee of burial within the church graveyards (ie paupers). It is known that a group of freed slaves, referred to as being from the tribe of Angola, buried their dead in an enclosed portion in this burial ground. The ACO exhumed bodies along the eastern edge of the Marina Development and along the southern edge of the harbour development underneath the existing roads. The White Sands/Paupers burial ground was 'exhumed' by the Table Bay Harbour Board in the 1890s. They advertised its closure and the relatives of the recent dead came to move the bodies. A strip of land was put aside for this. In 2003 the ACO also uncovered what seemed to be a trench in which articulated bodies and loose bone were dumped. It seems as if this may have been the reality of the so-called reburial.

'Pauper's Burial Ground/ White Sands/ Old burial ground:

1710 Prior to 1710 corpses from company hospital were buried in dunes outside town, near TB shore. Dead slaves buried in 'graveyard outside town' (Cox 1999)

c1740. '...with the expansion of the town, another cemetery was formed on the west side facing the Bay and near to the big battery. Near this cemetery are also found the vaults for the graves of the Chinese who had been banished to the Cape. In the same locality is situated a burial-ground for slaves, as well as the wheel and the gibbet, upon which the condemned are carried after sunset from the usual place of execution.' [Mentzel 1921:128] (Malan 2004).

² With the exception of the Episcopal burial ground, which had the stores of the Government Post Office built on in, the remaining official burial grounds did comply, at least until the 1950s.

When a soldier/sailor dies in the company hospital 'the death is immediately reported to the 'opper-siekenvader', who then locks the deceased's chest and hands the key to the bookkeeper, who records the event in his books. The 'opper-siekenvader' next reports the death to the chief guard, who sends six soldiers to carry the corpse to the 'Dunnen' [duinen] – a place alongside the Bay outside the Town where these dead are buried in a grave dug by slaves ...' [Mentzel IN Burrows 1958:47] (Malan 2004).

- 1819 Haphazard burials in Cape Town: 'In consequence of complaints lodged before the ..Burgher Senate that dead bodies are buried outside the walls of the general burial places ... the burial of such dead bodies is hereby seriously forbidden ... now a fixed place between Mouille Point and Chavonnes Battery is for the interment of slaves and those ... not of a Christian persuasion...' (Cox 1999)
- 1833 Recognition that old graveyards took up land valuable for urban and harbour development (Langham-Carter, B 1973)
- 1836 M1/571 shows the location of Amsterdam Battery, Chavonnes Battery and the sprawling unenclosed 'cemetery' located adjacent to Gallows Hill
- 1873 References made to a burial ground known as '**White Sands**' which was a piece of wasteland behind Gallows Hill on which paupers' burials took place. The burial ground was in a terrible state (van Heyningen 1989).
- c1870 This burial ground is clearly indicated on **AG4122**. The photograph shows the unenclosed burial ground just behind Gallows Hill, the SA Missionary society burial ground and the ?English burial ground along Somerset Road. Amsterdam Battery stands, but Chavonnes Battery had already been demolished to make place for the Alfred Basin.
- 1875 Special Commission on the Cape Town Cemeteries Bill – included inspections and reports on the old cemeteries within the city limits:
 * Johannes Roos (Secretary of the City Council): The poor who don't belong to any congregation are buried in the **White Sands burial ground behind Gallows Hill**. The place is not enclosed and thus its extent is unlimited. Dead horses etc are also buried there, but separately to the humans. Dogs have been known to dig up the dead horses (only?). Cows and horses graze on this area and some corpses have been disinterred.
 * Charles Rees (City Engineer): White Sands extends for 6 ¾ acres or 900 ft by 330 ft. It is free for everyone. 'fearful disgusting smell ... ruined miserable and wretched appearance'. There was no superintendence of the burials. Mostly coloured people were buried there, but not exclusively. The graveyard is **bounded on the one side by the dock wall, with graves situated 20 yards from the wall**, and has been in use for many years.
 * Francis Goodliff (merchant): refers to a section of the burial ground that was the burial place of 'the Angola tribe of negroes³' and this section was at one time kept in good repair. Thought that the burial ground was under supervision of the city council.
 * Rev Lightfoot: Mentioned that the Ebenezer Burial Ground was formerly the burial ground of paupers from Somerset Hospital as well as convicts. It was an open burial ground. White Sands burial ground was chiefly used by coloured people. It extended immediately up to the boundary wall of the Dock. People were allowed to bury anything, anywhere and at any depth. It was situated in the area between the English burial ground and Fort Amsterdam and had been in use for time immemorial. Notes that the free burial ground at Gallows Hill was NOT under municipal supervision (and suggests that it should be done immediately) (CCP 1/2/21/22 A2)
- 1878 Report of the Table Bay Dock and Breakwater Management Commission: '15 605 cubic yards(of material) removed from the bank between the site of the Graving Dock engine house and workshops, and from the bank opposite the west quay, at the near end of the Graving Dock; thus acquiring additional useful space. Almost the whole of the material ... being earth, has been supplied to the shipping as ballast'(CCP 1/2/1/36 G54).

³ CHB 70 Letters Received 1881: 'Angola men' had been brought to the colony as released slaves and were apprenticed to different masters. In the 1850s they applied for a portion of land on which to bury their dead and were given a piece of land being part of the open burial ground near Gallows Hill. This portion was enclosed by a stone wall.

In the same report mention is made of 10 new cottages that have been built (?location?). 'The boundary wall has been extended towards the back of the new cottages so as to cut them off from the adjacent **native burial ground** (CCP 1/2/1/36 G54). The harbour boundary wall ran north of the gateway from the Breakwater cottages, around the convict station. The **old burial ground** was situated to the west of the cottages Bauman 1991).

Great storm of July 1878, four sailors washed up drowned on the beach. Their bodies were taken to the Old Somerset Hospital from where they would be buried. No mention made as to where the burials would take place (Cape Argus 23/07/1878).

- 1878 Request by the Harbour Board that 'as a sanitary measure, the free burial ground close to the Dock Cottages may be closed, app 668 of 1877 (3CT 1/1/1/29 p109).
- 1879 Harbour Board apply to the City Council to purchase two pieces of land situate between their property and Gallows Hill, and offering to the Council for sale the land at Roggebaai (3CT 1/1/1/29 p328).
- 1881 Reference made to the marking of the new road to the Docks at the Ebenezer Burial Ground (3CT 1/1/1/31 p53).

Request by the Harbour Board to purchase the land near the convict station ... initially problematic as 'that land was granted in 1840 to Imam Achmat for a burial ground, its alienation could not be sanctioned without the grantee's successors' consent'⁴. However further research indicated that this was **incorrect** and that the land 'is a piece of ?Crown land which has been used as a **Pauper's Burial Ground** from time immemorial and is still the property of the Council (3CT 1/1/1/32 p3).

*** **Report of Wastelands Committee** on lands applied for by the Harbour Board situate at the rear of Gallows Hill. Can't find – think it was a verbal report, rather than a published one.

29/06/1881 The land near the convict station was offered to the Harbour Board for the sum of £5000 on condition that 'the said Board bear all expenses of survey diagrams and transfer; and that shall also at their expense, when, in excavating the ground, **human bones** are found, remove and bury the same at a place in the neighbourhood, to be pointed out by the Town Council.

'The Committee further recommend that (all burials at the back of Gallows Hill) be strictly prohibited and ...notice thereof be given by advertisement in the Mercantile Advertiser, and a notice board be placed on the ground' (3CT 1/1/1/32 p64).

7/1881 Notice in the *Mercantile Advertiser* reads: 'The Town Council of Cape Town intending to sell to the Table Bay Harbour Commission the Town land between the Gallow's Hill and the dock lands ... hereby give notice that from and after this date all Burials there of Human Remains are strictly prohibited'. Signed JA Roos (Secr CTCC on 1 July 1881)

App 564 – 1881: Harbour Board wishes to be informed where the human remains found in the land at Gallows Hill ... are to be re-interred and also requests instructions as to **where paupers dying in Cape Town are to be interred.** ⁵ (3CT 1/1/1/32 p 83)

£4000 offered by the Harbour Board for Gallows Hill. The offer was accepted, on condition that they defray all costs of survey, diagram and transfer, 'and at their own expense re-inter all human remains that may be exhumed ...etc ... **and enclose by a proper fence**'

⁴ The issue of the Malay Burial Ground pops up again in 1897 (CHB 264 (67)) with a letter addressed to the TBHB enquiring as to how they obtained the right to 'the piece of ground on the Green Point Common east of the old execution ground, and which is now being converted into a dry dock, given to Imam Achmat ... for a burial ground for the Malay people. (The matter is further complicated though a seeming confusion with both the Pauper's burial ground and the Malay burial ground with burial ground at Ebenezer Street.)

CHB 16 1883/1884: It seems as if the land granted at the Docks to Imam Achmat was never taken possession of and another tract of land 'in line with Longmarket Street' was granted to the Malay community for a burial ground.

⁵ Suggests that people were using the land to bury their dead

Cox, G 1999. Cobern Str burial ground. Investigating the identity and life histories of the underclass of 18th century Cape Town MA (Archaeology) UCT
 Langham-Carter, B 1973. Cape Town's first graveyards CABO 2(1):16-22
 Malan, A. 2004. Draft historical Chronology. Green Point: District One
 Petersen, ST 1978. The development of the TBH 1860-1870 being a study of the construction of the breakwater... Hons (History) UCT
 Van Heyningen, EB 1989 Public health and society in Cape Town 1850-1910. PhD (History) UCT.

Cape Archives:

3CT 1/1/1/27	Minutes of the CTCC Aug 1875-Sept 1876
3CT 1/1/1/29 -	Minutes of the CTCC June 1877 – June 1878
3CT 1/1/1/32 -	Minutes of the CTCC April 1881 – May 1882
AG4122	
AG1440 (ii) 4746	Disused Cemeteries Appropriation Report ... Somerset Road
A1959	TBH Report by Messrs Coode Son & Matthews on the existing and proposed works dated 30 April 1895.
CO 4001 – 4008 etc	See Colonial Office – applications for admission to P.Est
CO 7632 1126	Paupers Burials 1897- 1904
CCP 1/2/1/36 G54	
CCP 1/2/2/1/22 A2	
CCP 1/22/1/7 A4 1860	Report Harbour works in Table Bay
CCP 1/2/2/1/27 A7 1880	Report ... Table Bay Harbour Board
CCP 1/2/1/1/128 G39 1904	Functioning of the TBHB
CCP 1/2/1/40 G48 1879	Coode's proposed plan
CCP 1/2/1/44 A5 1895	Report ... TBH works
CCP 1/2/1/50 G92 1879	Report of TB Dock and Breakwater Management Commission 1881
CCP 1/2/1/36 G54 1878	
CCP 1/2/1/25 G33 1873	TBH works - No mention of quarry
CCP 1/2/1/22 G7 1870.	Report ... progress and cost ... Breakwater and hrbr works
CCP 1/2/1/24 G31 1871	
CHB 256 225 1895-1911	Harbour development – no mention of burials
CHB 13, 14, 15, 70, 219, 220	
PWD 2/7/14 1890	Coode's proposal
SMC 1/1/9 L42/H/316 1923	Tank farm
SMC 1/1/7 L42/H/224, 1919	Proposed acquisition of old cemetery in the vicinity of Cape Town Harbour
NLSA Cape Argus 23/07/1878	
LND 1/798 L13827 – Old cemeteries, Somerset Road, Cape Town	