



MONITORING REPORT

For Permit 2337, Case 9968

In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

At Site:

Green Point Burial Ground 001 (GPBG 001)

Compiled by:



CEDAR TOWER
SERVICES

August 2016

For

Kevyn Weber Consulting Engineers (KWCE)
South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 2 August 2016, CTS was contacted by Kevyn Weber Consulting Engineers (KWCE). KWCE is responsible for the installation of Dark Fibre Fibre-optic cables in Green Point along Napier and Prestwich Streets. On 28 July 2016, human remains were uncovered during the course of trenching activities. Mr Guy Thomas of HWC conducted a site inspection and collected some of the disturbed remains. HWC recommended that the remainder of excavations be monitored by an archaeologist and that the existing spoil heaps resulting from the trenching be sieved.

CTS then applied for an emergency, pre-emptive permit in terms of section 36 of the NHRA with SAHRA for any additional human remains material that may be uncovered through this process. The site applied for in the permit application was created as site GPBG 001 (see figures 1, 2 and 3). This emergency permit was granted by SAHRA on 4 August 2016 (SAHRA Case No. 9968 Permit No. 2337). Cedar Tower Services was responsible for monitoring the remainder of trenching excavations along Napier Street and Prestwich Street and for sieving the existing spoil heaps resulting from trenching.

CTS provided fieldworkers to sieve the existing spoil heaps and monitor the ongoing trench excavations. A minimum of one and a maximum of four specialist archaeologists were on site at any given time. CTS started field work by dividing the already excavated trenches into sections for sieving, labelled Section -2 to 12. Each sieved section of spoil heap ranged in size from approximately 2 to 3m, based on the location of features such as entrances and landscaping (trees). The entrances to each building on Napier Street were all trenched on one day, 13 August 2016, and as such, these entrance-way sections are labelled Section A to D.

The sections for which the trenches had already been excavated were sieved on 5, 8, 9 and 10 August 2016 and all archaeological and human remains material, including shells with diagnostic features or shells >20mm were collected and recorded per section (see Figure 11).

The developer and CTS agreed that avoidance of impact to human remains would be the top priority for the monitoring work. CTS was responsible for monitoring the excavation of trenches for 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 17 August 2016. During the monitoring of the excavation of new trenches, it was noted that human remains were evident between 650mm and 800mm below the surface. It was agreed that any additional excavations would not exceed a depth of 600mm to avoid any unnecessary impact to human remains. Any human remains that were identified as being in situ and/or articulated were left in place, covered in already sieved and sterile sand and sand bags for protection. The sleeves for the fibre optic cables were then laid on top of these in situ human remains before the trenches were back-filled on 18 August 2016.

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1. BIOSKETCH OF SPECIALISTS

CTS was founded by Nicholas Wiltshire. He has worked in the heritage sector (in the academic, governmental and commercial fields) for over 12 years. He also has extensive experience in software development, and specifically Drupal and PHP development. He is overseeing our team that is made up of heritage experts and software developers.

Jenna Lavin is an archaeologist who has worked in the heritage sector for over 9 years, in research, government as well as in commercial practice. Jenna has a Master's degree from the University of Cape Town in Archaeology, and is currently completing a second Master's degree in conservation of the built environment. She has over 6 years experience in the government sector working at the South African Heritage Resources Agency and Heritage Western Cape. She joined CTS in July 2016 and heads up the heritage department. She is vice-chairperson of ICOMOS South Africa, and is an active member of a number of heritage-related associations in South Africa including APHP, ASAPA and ICAHM.

Kyla Bluff is an associate at CTS and an archaeologist currently in the final year of her Master's degree at the University of Cape Town. Kyla is our mapping and GIS analyst and is an active member of eCRAG (affiliated with the South African Archaeological Society) which is a volunteer group recording rock art sites in the eastern Cederberg in South Africa.

The CTS Team managed and supervised a number of additional specialists during the on-site monitoring process including:

Ms Vuyiswa Lupuwana: Completing MSc in Archaeology at UCT

Mr Nicholas Zachariou: Completing a PhD in Archaeology at UCT

Ms Rae Regensberg: Completed MSc in Archaeology at UCT in 2015

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 INTRODUCTION

On 2 August 2016, CTS was contacted by Kevyn Weber Consulting Engineers (KWCE). KWCE is responsible for the installation of Dark Fibre Fibre-optic cables in Green Point along Napier and Prestwich Streets. On 28 July 2016, human remains were uncovered during the course of trenching activities. Mr Guy Thomas of HWC conducted a site inspection and collected some of the disturbed remains. HWC recommended that the remainder of excavations be monitored by an archaeologist and that the existing spoil heaps resulting from the trenching be sieved.

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2.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

Monitoring of trenches for the installation of fibre-optic cables took place in Greenpoint, Cape Town, along Prestwich and Napier Streets. These trenches were positioned 73.35m up Prestwich Street until the corner of Napier Street at the bus depot, and 72.86m up Napier Street from Prestwich, ending at Crew Bar (30 Napier Street, Greenpoint).

The below GPS coordinates indicate key positions for the installation of the fibre-optic cables along the route identified (See Figure 3, provided by KWCE):

- X - 53740.736
Y - 375427.743
- X - 53711.279
Y - 3754334.907
- X - 53742.053
Y - 3754347.896
- X - 53809.185
Y - 3754376.190
- X - 53825.389
Y - 3754382.002

The site is located in the centre of Green Point, and has been extensively developed. In order for the trenches to be completed, pavement was lifted and tar surfaces were removed. The trenches dug were less than 1m wide, and the original depth was 900mm below surface however this was later amended to between 600-700mm.



Figure 1. Locality satellite image showing the area being developed on the corner of Napier and Prestwich Streets in Greenpoint, Cape Town.



Figure 2. Locality map showing the area being developed on the corner of Napier and Prestwich Streets in Greenpoint, Cape Town (image supplied by KWCE).



Figure 3. Close up of the fibreoptic cable trenches on the corner of Napier and Prestwich Streets in Greenpoint, Cape Town (image supplied by KWCE).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT OF SITE

The site was originally open ground on the outskirts of Cape Town. It consisted of a gently sloping coastal plain, which extended from the lower slopes of Signal Hill to the rocky shoreline of western Table Bay. Unlike much of the city area, the ground consisted of windblown sands about 1.5m thick that lie on an ancient hard gravel and clay layer (ACO, 2003).

In 1994, a portion of what is now known as the Green Point Burial Ground was identified during the redevelopment of a property in Cobern Street, Green Point (ACO, 2016). A permit for the exhumation of this site was issued by the then National Monuments Council and the exhumed remains were the subject of much academic analysis. It was determined that the remains uncovered formed part of an 18th Century burial ground located on the then outskirts of the city (ACO, 2016). Archival records indicate that by 1725, the area underlying much of Green Point was used by slaves for the informal burial of the dead. This informal use of the space was subsequently formalised with the Military Cemetery (Salesian Institute), the Dutch Reformed

Church burial ground (Pavement Testing Laboratory), followed by the Lutheran Cemetery in the 19th century (now the site of the Prestwich School). By 1860, most of these cemeteries had closed with Maitland Cemetery favoured for burials (ACO, 2016). The land was subsequently sold to private developers who dug their building foundations through the graves (ACO, 2003). Since that time the site has been redeveloped a number of times.

In 2003, additional human remains were uncovered as part of the development of “The Rockwell” between Napier and Alfred Streets, and along Prestwich Street. This discovery revealed more than 2500 human remains of multi-cultural multi-racial and multi-religious origin. These human remains were excavated under a permit issued by SAHRA. These excavations were very controversial and resulted in the establishment of the “Hands off Prestwich Street” Ad-Hoc Committee, a community based organization formed in 2003 in protest of the state exhumation, who later became the Prestwich Place Project Committee (Rasool, 2014).

Due to the controversy, the then Minister of Arts and Culture, Pallo Jordan, issued a directive that no scientific analysis is permitted on the human remains from the Green Point Burial Ground. In addition, an Ossuary was established at the Prestwich Memorial on the corner of Somerset Road and Buitengracht Streets to house the human remains from the Green Point Burial Ground.



Figure 4. Map indicating the coverage of previous reports in the vicinity of the development area.



Table 1: Extract of Reports on SAHRIS in the vicinity of the monitoring area

NID	Report Type	Author	Date	Title
3954	AIA	Timothy Hart, Dave Halkett	01/03/1996	Phase 1 Archaeological Assessment of the Site of the Old South African Missionary Society Graveyard, Green Point
3960	AIA	Timothy Hart	10/09/2003	BP Somerset Rd - Erf 9795
3961	HIA	Timothy Hart	01/11/2003	Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment of West Street and Erf 4721 Green Point, Cape Town
3966	AIA	Genevieve Dewar, Timothy Hart	01/10/2006	Phase 1 Archaeological Assessment of Alfred Street and Prestwich Street, Green Point, Cape Town
4612	AIA	Dave Halkett	01/03/1995	Phase One Archaeological Investigation of the Victoria Junction Site, Somerset Road
4613	AIA	Dave Halkett	01/10/1996	Second Report on the Archaeological Monitoring of Earthmoving on Parts of the Victoria Junction Site, Somerset Road
6459	AIA	Erin Finnegan, Dave Halkett	01/10/2007	Heritage Statement: Proposed Redevelopment of Erf 172912, the Da Gama Tavern Site, Green Point
6777	AIA	Harriet Clift, Lita Webley	08/03/2011	Heritage Scoping report with preliminary impact assessments Fibre optic data cable: Graaff-Reinet to Yzerfontein
109911	HIA	Timothy Hart	01/02/2011	PRESTWICH PRECINCT REVITALISATION
161307	HIA	Timothy Hart	28/02/2014	AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF ERVEN IN THE PRESTWICH PRECINCT, GREEN POINT, CAPE TOWN

4. METHODOLOGY

CTS met the contractors on site on Thursday 4 August 2016. By this time, the contractors had completed most of their excavations along Prestwich Street in between Napier and Cobern Streets. The contractors had already begun excavations in Napier Street towards Somerset Road as far as the entrance to Anatoli's Restaurant (erf 146842). Excavations had been completed to 900mm below the surface. It is during excavations of the trenches in Napier Street that human remains had been identified. These remains had been collected by Mr G. Thomas of Heritage Western Cape and taken to the UCT Anatomy Department for preliminary analysis.

CTS provided fieldworkers to sieve the existing spoil heaps and monitor the ongoing trench excavations. A minimum of one and a maximum of four specialist archaeologists were on site at any given time. CTS started field work by dividing the already excavated trenches into sections for sieving, labelled Section -2 to 12. Each sieved section of spoil heap ranged in size from approximately 2 to 3m, based on the location of features such as entrances and landscaping (trees). The entrances to each building on Napier Street were all trenched on one day, 13 August 2016, and as such, these entrance-way sections are labelled Section A to D.

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5. DESCRIPTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES

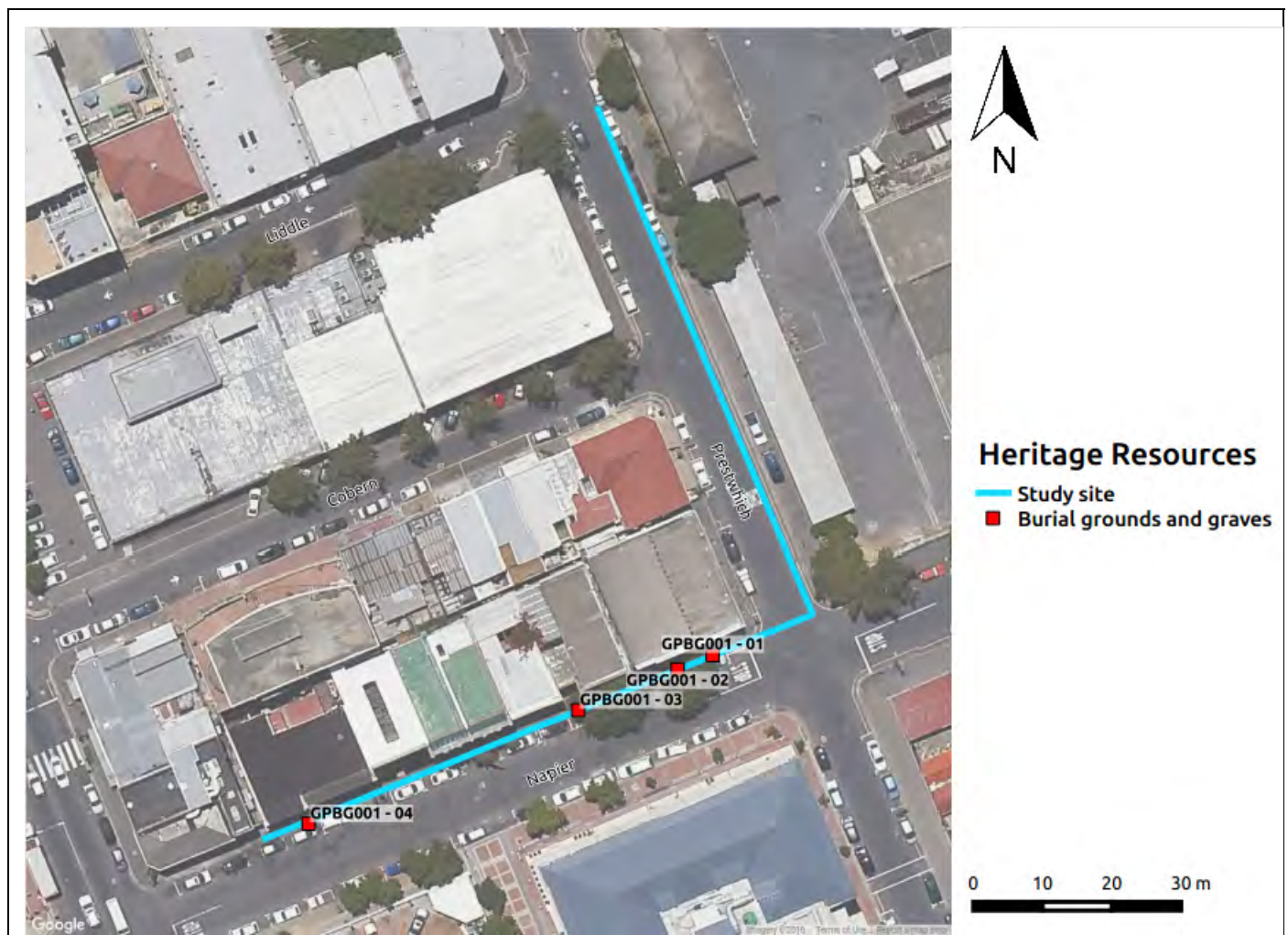


Figure 5. Map showing location of human remains left in situ in Napier Street, indicating SAHRIS site reference.

5.1 DETAILS OF SPECIALIST FINDINGS

Findings from spoil heaps (Figure 6a to 6d)

The existing spoil heaps on site were subdivided into smaller sections for sieving purposes. Sections along Napier Street were labelled section 0 to section 11. The section of the excavation that traversed Prestwich Street was labelled section -1 and the section of excavation along Prestwich Street was labelled section -2 (see Figure 11). These sections were sieved using a 5mm and a 3mm sieve. Sieving was challenging due to its high water and rubble content.

From preliminary field analysis, it was determined that both human and non-human animal remains had been impacted by the trenching as both human remains and bovid bones were noted from the sieved spoil heaps. In addition, some of the sieved artefactual material included shells, coffin nails and handles, ceramic tableware, glass, pipe stems and coins. It was noted that the fragmented nature of the bones found, it is likely that these sediments have been disturbed prior to this trenching exercise.



Figure 6a. Existing spoil heaps on site



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Figure 6b and 6c. Existing spoil heaps on site



Figure 6d. Existing spoil heaps on site

Table 1: Bags of material, both bone and artefactual, sieved from the spoil heaps.

Section	#Bags of sieved bone	#Bags of sieved artefacts	Notes
-2	0	0	No archaeological or artefactual material evident from these spoil heaps
-1	1	2	Trench through Prestwich Street, very little material evident.
0	3	4	Cranial fragments, lower mandible, long bone fragments, vertebrae
1	2	7	High concentration of teeth, bone including a phalanx, rib frags and teeth, ceramic including willow ware, slipware and possible milk jug as well as charcoal and shell.
2	1	4	Rib fragments, ceramic including willow ware, stone ware jar (glazed), glass bottle lip with date, iron work including a hinge.
3	2	9	Bone fragments, ceramic
4	1	5	Teeth, long bone fragments, ceramic, shell
5	3	9	Teeth, long bone fragments, ceramic including willow ware and yellow ware as well as a square bottle cap
6	4	14	Teeth, long bone fragments, iron work including a coffin handle and nails, a coin, pipe stems and ceramic
7	2	8	Bone fragments including part of a tibia, iron work, ceramic, phalanges
8	2	9	Bone fragments, ceramic
9	2	8	Bone fragments, ceramic
10	1	4	Bone fragments, ceramic
11	2	8	Bone fragments, ceramic
12	1	4	Bone fragments, ceramic, iron work, glassware
A	1	4	Entrance to iSoft: Ceramic including willow pattern, shell and bone fragments
B	1	4	Back entrance to iSoft: proximal end of radius, vertebrae
C	2	7	Entrance to Anatolis: Bovid bones, ceramic, pipe stems and glassware
D	1	4	Entrance to Atlantis Marina: Bone fragments, ceramic

Findings from monitoring of trench excavations

During the monitoring of trench excavations, approximately 4 occurrences of articulated human remains were identified (GPBG001-1 to GPBG001-4). Each of these was cleaned, recorded, covered with sterile sieved sand, covered with sand-bags and left in situ (see Figure 5). These instances have been recorded on SAHRIS. These in situ finds ranged in depth from 600mm below the surface to 900mm below the surface.

5.2 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

GPBG001-1 (Figure 7a to 7c)

S 33.91460° E 18.41904°

This find consisted of articulated long bones including a femur, tibia, humerus and radio-ulna as well as cranial fragments, a mandible and vertebrae that were removed from Section 0 during trenching. The cranium was located immediately below a concrete slab and had been impacted by trenching, alerting the construction crew to its existence. Work was stopped and it was noted that the concrete slab had cranial fragments embedded into its lower surface. The remainder of the cranium extending approximately 70mm into the southern wall of the trench and was removed as it was assumed that this was a remnant of a previously disturbed burial (see Figure 7c). Once removed, the area in the vicinity of the cranium was carefully excavated. Careful excavation revealed the remainder of the burial including articulated radio-ulna, ribs, pelvis and an articulated tibia-fibula. The burial is embedded in the west end wall towards the iSoft building and Sea Point at approximately 800mm below the surface.



Figure 7a. GPBG001-1 Articulated long bones



Figure 7b. GPBG001-1 Articulated long bones.



Figure 7c. Indication of proximity of GPBG001-1 (covered in sand bag) to sediments previously disturbed by infrastructure development - vertical pipe and historical pipe crossing trench excavated by KWCE

GPBG001-2 (Figure 8a to 8f)

S 33.91465° E 18.41901°

This find consisted of a human cranium and pelvis likely from the same individual identified in Section 1 between 800mm and 900mm below the surface. The find was originally identified as a human skull with articulated vertebrae embedded into the North East wall of the trench. The skull is facing a North Westerly direction with the vertebrae extending into the trench wall towards Prestwich Primary School.



Figure 7a. GPBG001-2 Human cranium.



Figure 7b. GPBG001-2 Human cranium.



Figure 7c. GPBG001-2 Human cranium.



Figure 7d. GPBG001-2 Human cranium.



Figure 7e. GPBG001-2 Human pelvis.



Figure 7f. GPBG001-2 Human pelvis.

GPBG001-3 (Figure 9)

S 33.91470° E 18.41876°

This find consisted of a distal end of humerus in section B embedded into the south western wall of the trench at approximately 600mm below the surface. Work was stopped and the remaining sediment was carefully excavated to the same level as the in situ humerus to a depth of 550mm. No further obvious associated bones were identified other than the proximal end of a radius which was removed. Additional associated human remains may be located beneath Napier Street. As such, the remains were left in situ, covered in sterile sand and secured with a sand-bag before the fibre-optic sleeve was installed over the find and the trench filled with sterile sand and closed.



Figure 9. GPBG001-3 Humerus

GPBG001-4

S 33.914842° E 18.418386°

This find was difficult to photograph in situ as only a very small portion of bone protruded from the southern wall of Section 12. The material associated with this find that was removed during excavation consisted of a tooth, a phalange and some additional fragments of unidentifiable bone. The fragments that were removed are located in the bag for Section 12 labelled “Bone”.

5.3 MAPS AND SITE DRAWINGS

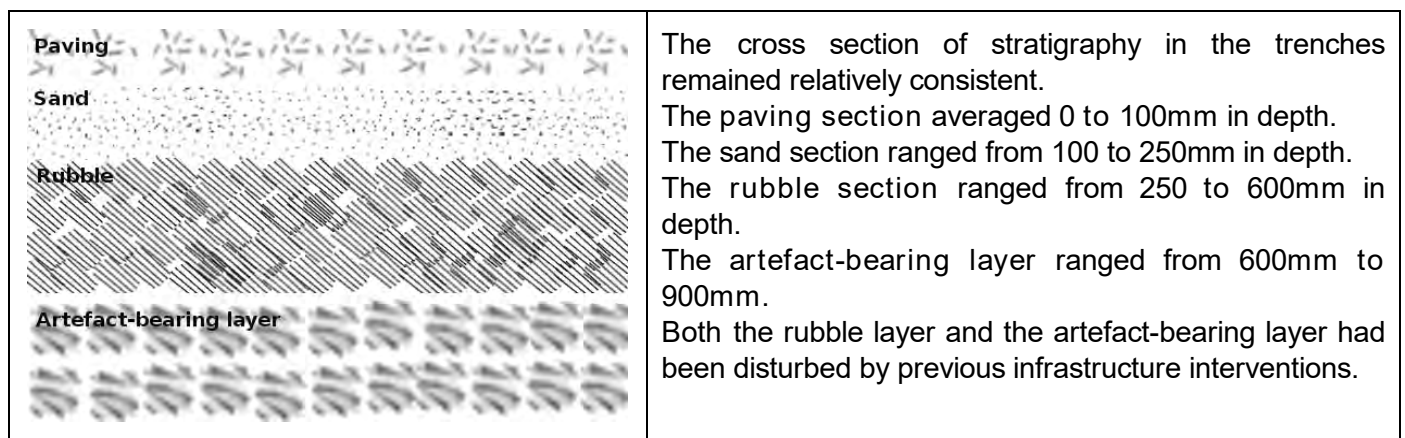


Figure 10. Diagram of cross-section of trench wall

It is noted that the Green Point Burial Ground area remains highly sensitive in terms of impacts to archaeological and human remains material.

7. CONSERVATION AND REHABILITATION OF SITES

The trenches have been completely back-filled with sterile sieved sand and re-paved. The identified in situ resources will not be impacted by daily activities on the site. However, it is likely that any excavations in the vicinity of this area will impact on human remains and archaeological material.

All of the material removed from site, along with a digital record of all photographs and field notes, will be stored at the Prestwich Memorial Ossuary in Green Point.

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion, all of the spoil heaps resulting from the excavation of trenches for the Dark Fibre Africa fibre-optic cables were thoroughly sieved. Much of Napier Street has been previously impacted by a number of infrastructure projects evident in the trenches excavated including water pipes and other electrical infrastructure. Some articulated human remains were identified and left in situ by this project. GPBG001-1 and GPBG001-2 are likely in their primary context. GPBG001-3 and GPBG001-4 are likely previously disturbed due to previous infrastructure interventions.

It is noted that the Green Point Burial Ground area remains highly sensitive in terms of impacts to archaeological and human remains material. It is therefore recommended that any excavation work that is required as part of any infrastructure development within the Green Point Burial Ground area be monitored by an archaeologist and any archaeological or human remains material collected as part of this monitoring be stored at the Prestwich Memorial Ossuary in Green Point.

9. REFERENCES

“The Prestwich Memorial Project; Green Point Historical Burial Ground”

http://www.culturalheritageconnections.org/wiki/The_Prestwich_Memorial_Project:_Green_Point_Historical_Burial_Ground (Last modified December 2013)

Archaeology Contracts Office. 2003. Technical Report on Archaeological Excavations at Prestwich Place, Green Point, Cape Town. Unpublished Permit Report.

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