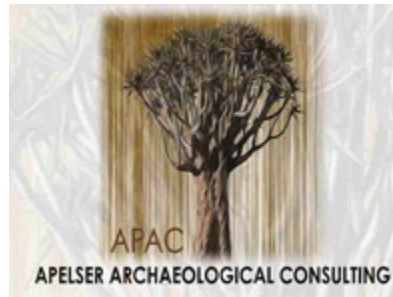


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To Whom It May Concern

SAHRA – Burial Grounds & Graves Unit

RE: INTERIM REPORT – Sammy's Wholesalers Extension (Sammy's Wholesalers Extension Test Excavation). Test excavations within the western portion of Erf 44500.

This interim report pertains to the above mentioned work permitted under SAHRA BGG Unit Permit ID#2016 Case ID#6899.

The conditions of the issued permit to Mr. A.Pelser (as Principal Investigator) were as follows:

“Conditions: Test excavations within the western portion of the Erf 44500 as this area is mostly likely to retain in situ graves. If graves are uncovered the exhumation and relocation of such graves will be carried under this permit. If such a discovery is made the exhumation should continue because the extension of Sammy's Wholesalers will impact upon such graves.”

The fieldwork on the site was undertaken between the 4th and 6th of May 2015, with the aim of testing the western portion of the Erf, where human remains were discovered in late 2011 and excavated in 2012 by Dr. David Morris of the McGregor Museum in Kimberley, as part of the Neotel (fibre-optic line) Phase 2 Mitigation project. The discovery of these remains (and earlier during 2004 in the parking lot development of Sammy's Wholesalers) prompted the requirement that all future development and infrastructure tasks in the area north of the old Pioneer Cemetery in the vicinity of Quinn and Lawrence Streets and possibly over a larger area should be monitored and no development should be entertained without prior assessment.

Subsequently, with the expansion of Sammy's Wholesalers warehouse being proposed, it was required (as per the above permit) that prior to the development being allowed to continue, that Test Excavations be carried out on the western portion of the Erf 44500 to see if more in situ burials exist here and to recover (if any were to found) all remains for reburial purposes. The test excavations consisted of the following:

1. A 1m (wide) x approx.20m (long) trench on the western portion of the erf running in a N/S direction (bordering Lawrence Street and next to the Neotel Line). GPS: S28°43'52.4" E24°45'56.2".

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Beatrix Bed & Breakfast Trading as A Pelser Archaeological Consulting

2. Three test trenches (TT2 – TT4) running in an E/W direction, towards the eastern side of the erf and adjoining TT1. GPS: S28°43'52.6" E24°45'56.2" (TT4); S28°43'52.4" E24°45'56.4" (TT3) and S28°43'52.2" E24°45'56.5" (TT2).

3. Six Test Pits (TP1 – TP6), scattered across the central and eastern portion of the site, where limited known structural remains, primarily dating to the 1940's but not necessarily excluding earlier activity, were found during GPR scanning of the development area, with the aims of determining whether or not there were any evidence of a burial site/cemetery existing here prior to later developments.
GPS: S28°43'52.2" E24°45'57.3" (TP1); S28°43'53.0" E24°45'57.4" (TP2); S28°43'52.9" E24°45'57.9" (TP3); S28°43'53.3" E24°45'58.3" (TP4); S28°43'53.6" E24°45'59.0" (TP5) & S28°43'53.9" E24°45'59.3".

In addition to these test excavations and test pits, the foundation trenches (for the construction of the warehouse), running in an N/S and E/W direction across the site was also monitored and checked for the existence of any possible burials and other cultural remains. Cultural remains (in the form of building rubble and refuse such as glass, porcelain and others) were also recovered as part of the process.



Figure 1: Location of the development on Erf 44500.

Results of Test Excavations

The monitoring of the foundation trenches (between 0.50m and 0.80m deep) revealed to some extent what was recorded on the GPR scans of the area previously, and that is that there are various structural remains and other disturbances in the area dating to the 1940's, with material cultural remains dating roughly to the 1870's-early 1900's. No evidence of burials pits were identified in any of these foundation trenches.



Figure 2: The development area taken from Lawrence street towards the east showing the foundations test trenches being dug.



Figure 3: A closer view of the foundation trenches taken down Quinn street towards Lawrence street.



Figure 4: Some late 19th to mid 20th century bottle glass from the foundations.



Figure 5: Teaspoons from Phillip Ashbury & Sons in Sheffield (UK) dating to the late 19th century. Small spoon uncovered during May 2015 test excavation, larger spoon uncovered January 2015 (Van Ryneveld 2015).



Figure 6: Building rubble from the 1940's.

Test Trench 1 – Western section of Site (next to Neotel Line in Lawrence street)

Although the trench ran next to Neotel's line, a section of the trench cut into the line exposing the Neotel line insertion. No evidence of any burial pits or unnatural disturbances was identified in the trench, with sterile gravel/shale found at a depth of between 0.80m and 1.20m (from the Present Surface Level or PSL) where the trenching was stopped. Some cultural material including glass, metal objects and building rubble was however recovered from depths of between 0.60m and 0.80m below PSL.

Test Trenches 2 – 4 – Western section of site running in an EW direction

These trenches also revealed no clear evidence of any burials in this part of the development site, with no disturbances in the form of burial pits identified. Sterile gravel/shale was found at a depth of around 1.20m and more below PSL, with building rubble (1940's?), and other material such as glass and porcelain from the late 19th to early 20th centuries recovered as well. The amount of material is however very small. Each test trench was around 1.00m to 1.50m in size, excavated by TLB.

In Test Trench 3 some faunal and a possible human ulna fragment were recovered. Last mentioned long bone was broken in two (not during the 2015 excavations) and was clean, with no soil/dirt adhering to it. No other remains were recovered and it seems as if this bone could have been left behind during earlier work on the Neotel line mitigation. The bone was found in the western portion of TT3 on the edge of TT1 trench (Neotel line). This is however speculation and cannot be determined without a doubt.

Remnants of a fairly extensive rocky ridge were found in the eastern section of TT3, extending some distance towards the east and west thereof and extending across the majority of the western perimeter of the study site. Any excavation of burial pits in this part would have been very difficult, and if burials (even if shallow) were to have been dug here it would have been more towards the western portion of the now buried outcrops, as evidenced by the 2011 discoveries and removal of human remains on the Neotel Line running parallel to Lawrence street.



**Figure 7: Test Trench 1 prior to excavation.
The man-holes show the approximate Neotel Line connection.**



**Figure 8: TT1 being excavated.
A section of the Neotel Line connection was exposed.**



Figure 9: TT1 – Sterile gravel/shale found at around 1.20m below PSL.



Figure 10: Cultural material from TT1.



Figure 11: Bone and wood from TT2/3.
The one bone at the top could be human, but this is inconclusive.



Figure 12: Part of the remnants of a rocky ridge/seam in TT3.



Figure 13: TT2.



Figure 14: TT4.

Test Pits 1 – 6

All six test pits were around 1.5m (length and width) in size. The depth at which sterile gravel/shale was found in all of these pits range between 1.20m and 1.60m below PSL, except for TP6 where a concrete floor/slab was found at a depth of around 0.30m below PSL, interpreted as a type of station platform considering its location in relation to the railway siding and CSG surveyed demarcation (See map 10, Van Ryneveld 2015).

No indication of any burial pits was found in any of the Test Pits. What was however recovered, fairly consistently throughout all of these pits (TP1, TP2, TP3) were sections of structures and building rubble, as well as ash and refuse pits between approximately 0.50m and 1.20 – 1.50m depth. If any earlier burial pits or a large cemetery existed here prior to this then it would have been expected to be below the 1940's structural remains: No evidence however exists. The cultural material from these test pits ranges in age between the late 19th and early/mid 20th centuries.



Figure 15: Test Pit 1 – Part of concrete structure visible in eastern section of pit.



Figure 16: Cultural material from TP2. The bone is from a juvenile goat/sheep.



Figure 17: TP2 - Building rubble visible on eastern side of pit.



Figure 18: TP3.



Figure 19: Cultural material from TP3.



Figure 20: Building rubble in TP4's north-western corner.



Figure 21: Ash and refuse layer in TP4's south-western section.



**Figure 22: Cultural material from TP4.
The ages range between the late 19th and early/mid 20th centuries.**



Figure 23: TP5.



Figure 24: Cultural material from TP5.



Figure 25: TP6.



Figure 26: TP6 – Note the concrete floor/slab that runs through the whole trench.



Figure 27: Cultural material from TP6.



Figure 28: Aerial view of site showing location/distribution of Test Trenches and Pits.

Conclusions and recommendations

In conclusion it is possible to say that the work on Erf 44500 in Kimberley, for the Samy's Wholesalers Warehouse Expansion development, was conducted successfully and within the requirements of the SAHRA BGG Unit permit issued for the Test Excavations within the western portion of Erf 44500 **"as this area is mostly likely to retain in situ graves"**. A number of Test Trenches (TT1 – TT4) was excavated in the western-most portion of the site, next to the Neotel Line and adjacent to it where human

remains were uncovered in 2011/12. No indication of burial pits in this area and further to the eastern section of this site was identified, with a single unidentified bone, possibly human, recovered from a section of TT3 most likely to be related to the earlier 2012 exhumations and not part of an in situ previously unrecorded burial.

The six Test Pits (TP1-6) dug across the central and eastern portion of the study site similarly revealed no indication of any burial pits or the existence of a cemetery. Structural remains, some picked up on the GPR scan and some indicated on early maps, dating to the 1940's, and cultural material from both this time period and the earlier late 19th to mid 20th centuries were found in the test pits, If these structures, residential or otherwise were in fact constructed on top of an earlier cemetery, then clear evidence of burial pits would have been uncovered in test pit section stratigraphies: No such evidence could be found.

Test pit data indicate that it is unlikely that the proposed Samy's Wholesalers Warehouse Expansion development will impact on a cemetery or any unknown burials. Results of the Test Pit Excavations contribute to interpretation of the possible location of the 1870's Black migrant worker cemetery, but limited to evidence that Erf 44500 is not the said locality.

Based on the results of the Test Pit Excavations it can be concluded that the proposed development of the Samy's Wholesalers Warehouse Expansion will not impact on any heritage resource, including the inferred cemetery site, or any significant cultural member: It is recommended that development proceed without further delay and without the developer having to comply with additional archaeological and cultural heritage compliance requirements.

Anton Pelser
Principal Investigator

