

Assessment of Impact

In terms of Section 27(18) of the NHRA for the

DEVELOPMENT OF A PROPOSED NEW VISITOR EXPERIENCE AT ROBBEN ISLAND NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE

Prepared by CTS Heritage



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For

Robben Island Museum

January 2019



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Robben Island Museum is undertaking a process to enhance and diversify the experience of visitors to Robben Island National and World Heritage Site. This process involves the installation of additional displays including audio-visual equipment and new signage, as well as the replacement of older displays, inappropriate interventions and signage. In addition, this process will require additional maintenance such as painting, damp-proofing etc.

Robben Island is both a National and a World Heritage site. The site was first declared as a National Monument under the National Monuments Act (No 28 of 1969) on the 10th of May 1996. The declaration as a World Heritage Site came into effect on the 4th of December 1999. The Island was declared a National Heritage Site on the 26th of May 2006 under the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999). The extent of the World Heritage Site and the National Heritage Site is the same.

Robben Island was declared a World Heritage Site on the basis of **criteria (iii)** (the buildings of Robben Island bear eloquent witness to its sombre history) and **criteria (vi)** (Robben Island and its prison buildings symbolize the triumph of the human spirit, of freedom, and of democracy over oppression). These are the Outstanding Universal Values (OUVs) which must be taken into account throughout the assessment and against which any impact must be weighed. This is regulated by the Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties issued by Icomos in 2011.

The activities outlined in Table 1 including the installation of new displays, consistency in signage, landscaping and maintenance activities, propose to contribute to, and enhance, these symbolic aspects of this significant place.

The nature of the proposed interventions are lightweight and reversible by removing insensitive infrastructure and making use of technology to minimise impact (such as AV installations etc). In addition, efforts to coherently articulate the many stories of Robben Island are encouraged. In this way, the proposed interventions contribute to and enhance the significance of this symbolic space.

There is no heritage objection to the proposed interventions as outlined in Table 1 on condition that the following approach is implemented:

- **New interventions** will be “lightweight”, reversible and minimalistic with the least amount of physical impact to the structures possible, using audio-visual media to enhance the visitor experience rather than any major structural interventions.



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- Previous **inappropriate interventions** that have negatively impacted on the OUV of the site and its structures will be investigated and application will be made to reverse these interventions eg. inappropriate universal access ramps.
- Authenticity and spatial integrity are prioritised regarding proposed interventions. All layers of heritage must be conserved and treated with respect.
- Consistent approach is required in terms of communicating the message in terms of signage, displays and information boards etc.

It is recommended that:

- SAHRA endorse this overarching concept and precinct plan for the proposed Memorialisation Project interventions for SAHRA's information, input and guidance.
- As final plans are made regarding the precise location and nature of the proposed interventions associated with the Memorialisation Project, site specific section 27(18) applications will be made to SAHRA for permitting purposes including detailed plans and imagery.
- A 5 year maintenance plan for all of the infrastructure on the island be developed for SAHRA's approval in order to mitigate the need for numerous section 27(18) applications.



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Information on Project

Robben Island Museum is undertaking a process to enhance and diversify the experience of visitors to Robben Island National and World Heritage Site. This process involves the installation of additional displays including audio-visual equipment and new signage, as well as the replacement of older displays, inappropriate interventions and signage. In addition, this process will require additional maintenance such as painting, damp-proofing etc.

As argued by Chirikure (2018), “Robben Island is now a top tourism destination in the world. The Robben Island Integrated Management Plan makes it explicit that enhancement of the visitor experience is one of the major goals of the plan. Specifically, the Robben Island ICMP states that “the promotion of awareness and knowledge about the site to visitors, relevant stakeholders and other interested parties; ensuring that the Island becomes a source for economic development and contributes to the empowerment of communities” is a major goal of enhancing the visitor experience at the site.

According to the Robben Island Integrated Management Plan, the standard tour of the Island includes the Maximum Security Prison with an ex-political prisoner (EPP) and a bus drive around the Island. It includes stops at a Prison Warden’s House, Robert Sobukwe’s House and the Murray Bay harbor precinct attractions, including the Kramat, the seabird colony and the museum shop. The Robben Island experience also includes the opportunity to visit Jetty 1, a Political Prisoner holding area, which hosts an interpretation center. Also included in the tour is an experience of Nelson Mandela Gateway, itself a museum hosting exhibitions and other interpretation activities.

In order to enhance the visitor experience at the site and to promote access to information, Robben Island Museum and World Heritage site proposes to install interpretation aids in the form of audiovisuals to connect the visitors to some of the activities, events and experiences that took place in various spaces.”

According to Robben Island Integrated ICMP,

“the standard tour to Robben Island lasts 3.5 hours, including an hour spent on the returning ferry. Visitors travel from the NMG at the V & A Waterfront in Cape Town to the Island by ferry. Upon arrival on Robben Island, visitors are driven to the maximum-security prison (MSP) by bus in groups of 54 on average. Visitors are given a guided tour of MSP, accompanied by ex-political prisoners (EPPs). After moving about freely for some time visitors regroup in collective prison cells to share the experience of the former political prisoners. The visit continues with a visit to the main functional buildings and prison quarters, and culminates in a visit to former President Nelson



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Mandela's cell. EPPs next direct visitors to the bus for a 45-minute ride to places of interest on the Island. A new auditory guide provides information via a microphone at each location. Visitors remain on the bus at the first stop, Robert Sobukwe's House, which is followed by a halt at the Limestone quarry. The bus drives through the village with the guide providing information about the Garrison Church, the leprosarium and the cemetery with the leprosarium graves. The tour bus goes as far as the Bluestone quarry, the Kramat and the museum shop. Visitors then return to the jetty at Murray's Bay harbour for embarkation on the ferry back to Cape Town".

1.2 Description of Property and Affected Environment

Robben Island is both a National and a World Heritage site. The site was first declared as a National Monument under the National Monuments Act (No 28 of 1969) on the 10th of May 1996. The declaration as a World Heritage Site came into effect on the 4th of December 1999. The Island was declared a National Heritage Site on the 26th of May 2006 under the NHRA. The extent of the World Heritage Site and the National Heritage Site is the same.

Robben Island was declared a World Heritage Site on the basis of **criteria (iii)** (the buildings of Robben Island bear eloquent witness to its sombre history) and **criteria (vi)** (Robben Island and its prison buildings symbolize the triumph of the human spirit, of freedom, and of democracy over oppression). These are the Outstanding Universal Values (OUVs) which must be taken into account throughout the assessment and against which any impact must be weighed. This is regulated by the Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties issued by Icomos in 2011.

With its history of banishment, imprisonment and suffering it has come to symbolise, not only for South Africans or the African continent, but also for the entire world, the miracle of the triumph of the human spirit over enormous hardship and adversity (Robben Island Nomination File: World Heritage Status 1999, p.164).

Very few places in the world have such an exceptional history of human suffering, the fight for freedom of mind and body, and of subsequent triumph (Robben Island Integrated Management Plan 2013 – 2018).

1.3 Overarching approach to interventions

This report constitutes an overarching concept and precinct plan for the proposed Memorialisation Project interventions for SAHRA's information, input and guidance. As final plans are made regarding the precise location and nature of the proposed interventions associated with the Memorialisation Project, site specific section 27(18) applications will be made to SAHRA for permitting purposes.



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Of primary concern is the maintenance and enhancement of the authenticity of the Robben Island visitor experience. The island has been utilised and occupied for a variety of purposes in the past. Each of these uses have left some kind of mark on the island in the form of the built environment or in other hidden forms in the archaeology of the island. As such, the island itself must be viewed as a heritage entity, with each layer of visible and hidden history being important in telling the full and authentic story of the island. Due to the political nature of the heritage conserved at Robben Island, its heritage and its space are often contested. In response to contending approaches to interpretation of the story of Robben Island, it is noted that each layer representing different stories must be conserved and treated respectfully even if these layers do not directly speak to the struggle heritage of Robben Island currently dominating its narrative.

Due to the extremely high levels of heritage significance at Robben Island, and due to the very significant role of the structures in telling the story of Robben Island, any interventions proposed must firstly ensure the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Values indicated above. To this end, the following overarching concepts and approaches have been adopted by the design and development team:

- **New interventions** will be “lightweight”, reversible and minimalistic with the least amount of physical impact to the structures possible, using audio-visual media to enhance the visitor experience rather than any major structural interventions.
- Previous **inappropriate interventions** that have negatively impacted on the OUV of the site and its structures will be investigated and application will be made to reverse these interventions eg. inappropriate universal access ramps.
- Authenticity and spatial integrity are prioritised regarding proposed interventions. All layers of heritage must be conserved and treated with respect.
- A consistent approach is required in terms of communicating the message in terms of signage, displays and information boards etc.

The current visitor has a very superficial encounter with the environment built environment of the Island. All knowledge is transferred through the tour guide. The development team was guided by the principle that, with minimal intervention, the land and the buildings could be made to speak in different ways. The Island could tell its own story.

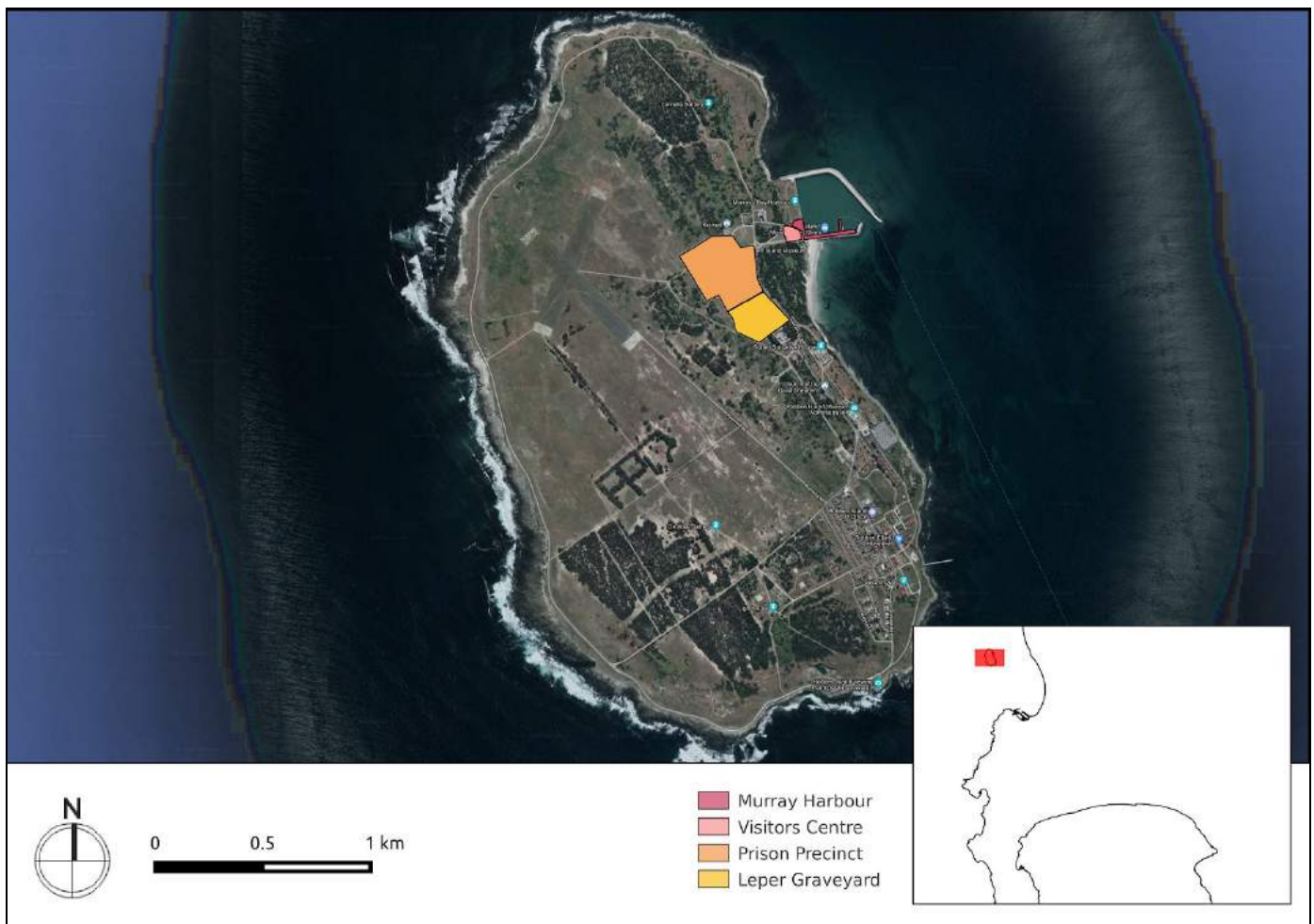
Although guided principally by the desire to preserve the spaces and buildings in their ‘original state’, there is an understanding that the Island is not static. We need to deal with the following questions:



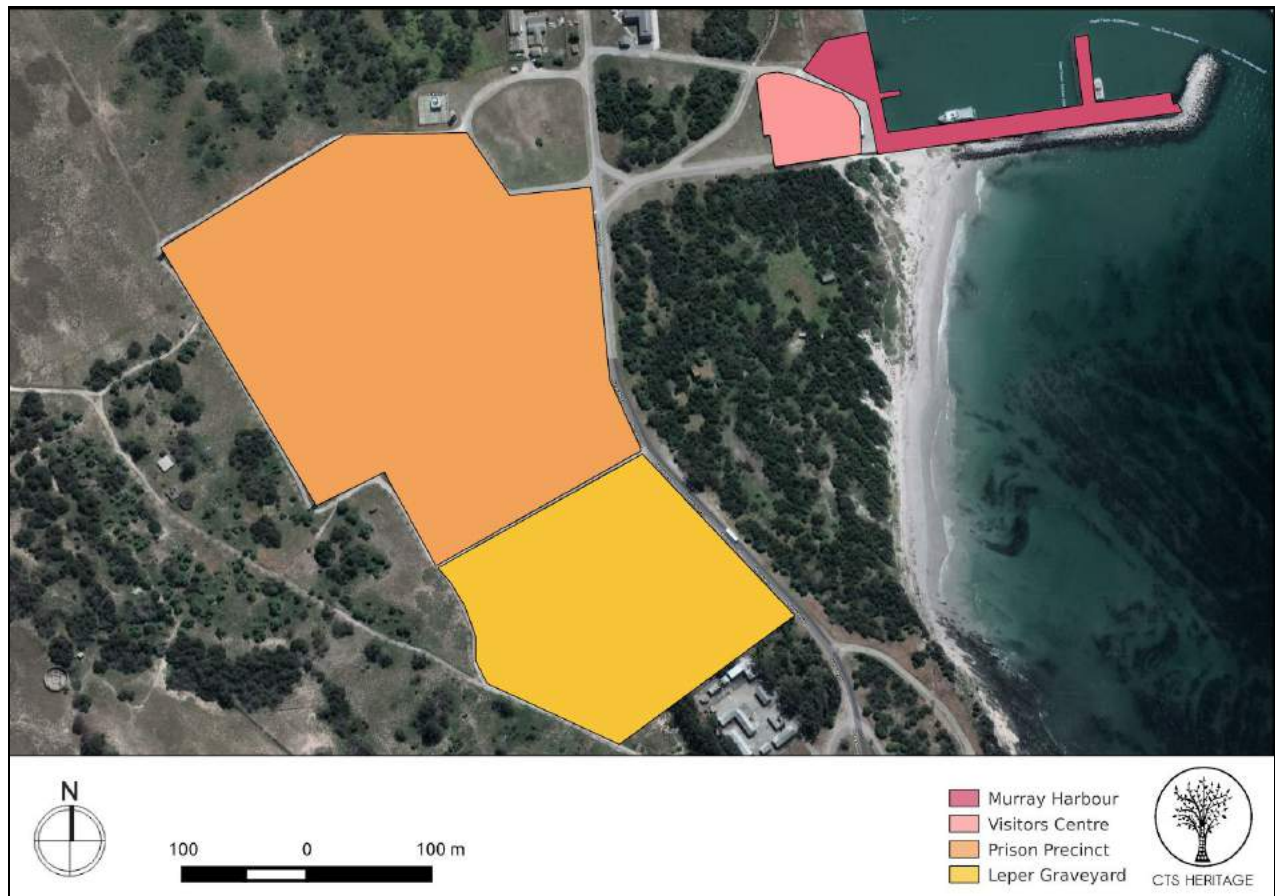
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- To what extent do the spaces resemble the condition at the point of decommissioning?
- How far or how close are spaces to the 'shared' memories of the ex-political prisoners, warders, heritage experts and others.
- How can the space be 'treated' in such a way that they can tell the story of the Island.

Please see Appendix 1: Spatial Analysis for more insight



Map 1: Robben Island National and World Heritage Site



Map 2: Robben Island National and World Heritage Site proposed areas of intervention

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Purpose of this assessment

The purpose of this assessment is to provide advice regarding the proposed interventions associated with the Robben Island Memorialisation Project and possible impacts to the heritage significance of this National and World Heritage Site.

2.2 Summary of steps followed

- A Desktop Study was conducted of relevant reports previously written.
- A field assessment of the areas proposed for intervention was conducted with the Project Team over three days.
- Overarching approaches and mitigation strategies were discussed.



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3. HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF THE SITE AND CONTEXT

After the Island was declared a National Monument in 1996 and a World Heritage Site in 1999, the archaeological sub-committee of the Island requested that an archaeological survey of the entire Island be conducted. The Archaeological Contracts Office (ACO) conducted most of the archaeological research for the Island between the late 1990s and the early 2000s. The collected data has been a crucial component in understanding the archaeology of the Island and is considered to be the most complete dataset to date.

There is little evidence of pre-colonial use of the Island. The highest point of the Island is only 24 meters and it was likely linked to the mainland only during the Last Glacial Maximum (~20 000 years ago) and previous glacial periods. The ACO identified a few possible pre-colonial sites close to the Maximum Security Prison (Hart, 1998) but did not identify any further pre-colonial material on the Island. Monitoring of excavations during new developments has also failed to yield evidence of pre-colonial sites (Patrick et al., 2012; Seeman, 2014).

Most of the archaeological resources on Robben Island relate to its more recent history as a place where the marginalised and excluded were relegated, either because of their sickness and mental infirmity, or as punishment or banishment. The earliest sporadic occupation on the Island occurred between 1490 to 1652 before it became an outpost of the Dutch East India Company. A group of Goringhaikona Khoekhoe, lead by Autshumao, voluntarily stayed on the Island between 1632 - 1640 but had to leave after food reserves were decimated by overexploitation (Riley, 1993). Autshumao returned to the Island as its first political prisoner in 1658.

Unofficial acts of banishment took place as far back as 1615 when it hosted ten prisoners sent from England (Le Grange, 1998). Incarceration was formalised in 1671 when the Island became known as a Convict Station. Its function as a prison wasn't abandoned completely until 1991. The Island played a significant role in hosting a leper colony and an asylum for mentally impaired patients from 1846 to 1931 (Riley, 1993). The Island was self-sufficient during this time as the patients were made to work in the gardens and at various farming areas. By 1931, all patients were moved away from the Island and relocated to hospitals on the mainland (Hart, 2001). All buildings related to the leper colony were demolished except for the Good Shepherd Church (Riley, 1993). Remnants of this phase are still identifiable underground and partly on the surface. They include extensive terracing from the gardens and reservoirs and sewerage which were part of the water reticulation system (Patrick, 2012; Hart, 2001). Some remains of the buildings that were burnt down during the end of the leper phase in 1931 may be identified during future surveys of the Island.



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The Island played a significant role as a military outpost from 1895 up until the end of World War II. There are naval guns at the Cornelia and Robben Island Batteries, watch towers, observation and command posts and at the airstrip which is currently in a state of disuse (Riley, 1993; Hart, 2001).

Numerous shipwrecks have occurred around the Island. In 1991-1992, Operation Sea Eagle was conducted in collaboration with the South African Navy to survey all shipwrecks within one nautical mile of the Island which is the extent of the buffer zone designated by Unesco (Werz & Deacon, 1992, Werz 1993 and 1994). According to the most recent Conservation Management Plan (CMP), a total of 68 shipwrecks have been located around the Island. These intertwined layers of history led the ACO to describe Robben Island as a cultural artefact (Hart, 2001).

After unsuccessful attempts to sell the Island when the lepers left in 1931, the Department of Defence continued to manage it until the Department of Prisons took over in 1960. "Having been devoid of prisoners for nearly half a century, Robben Island accepted the first half of its next batch of unwilling residents in 1961." It was used as a maximum security prison for political prisoners and as a medium security prison for ordinary criminals under the apartheid government.

"Only Black men were chosen for incarceration on the Island. The first wave of political prisoners was sent to the Island in 1962 and the last ones were transferred from the Island in 1991. The last ordinary prisoners left the Island after the prison's closure in 1996. The Island's isolation and the cruelty of its prison staff, particularly in the 1960s and early 1970s, made it the most dreaded prison in the country. While conditions improved during the course of the 1970s and 1980s, it remained the most inhospitable outpost of apartheid." In March 1960 Robert Sobukwe was arrested and charged with incitement and sentenced to three years. When he had served his sentence, Parliament enacted a General Law Amendment Act. The Act included what was termed as the 'Sobukwe Clause' which empowered the Minister of Justice to prolong the detention of any political prisoner indefinitely. Sobukwe was moved to Robben Island, where he remained for an additional six years. He was kept apart from other prisoners and was allowed to read books and wear civilian clothing. He was released in 1969, banned and kept under house arrest in Kimberley until his fatal illness in 1978. He is the only prisoner to have been kept in this way by the apartheid authorities.

In 1991 political prisoners were released and by 1994 the prison was being closed. A reunion of political prisoners on the Island in 1997 proposed that the site be converted into a museum. The Island was declared a National Monument in 1996 and a World Heritage Site in 1999.



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Given the immense amount of detailed information available about Robben Island, we did not conduct further archival research at the National Archives of South Africa as there was more than sufficient material available to assess the impact of the proposed interventions on the Island and its significance.

ROBBEN ISLAND AS A WORLD HERITAGE SITE

In 1999 Robben Island was listed as a World Heritage site with the following inscription:

Robben Island was declared a World Heritage Site on the basis of criterion (iii) the buildings of Robben Island bear eloquent witness to its sombre history, and criterion (vi) Robben Island and its prison buildings symbolize the triumph of the human spirit, of freedom, and of democracy over oppression. The Outstanding Universal Values (OUVs) above must be taken into account throughout the assessment and any potential impact must be weighed against them. This is regulated by the Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties issued by ICOMOS in 2011.

OUV, despite the apparent determination of the World Heritage inscription linking this significance to buildings, may be found in any aspect of the tangible and intangible landscape and cultural landscape of the Island. Where such intangible link is found, it should be explicitly linked to the material and to the core criterion to which it belongs. As a World Heritage site, the Island has three core significances

- the landscape of the prisoners where this can be seen to reflect either the 'sombre history' or 'symbolising the triumph of the human spirit, of freedom, and of democracy over oppression',
- the landscape of those who did the imprisoning where it reflects on the sombre history or the oppression which was overcome by the human spirit, by freedom, and by democracy over oppression, and
- the containing landscape which encompasses the juxtapositions above or provides a mediating space between those or away from them to allow some uncontrolled space.

Any assessment conducted must therefore assess the activity proposed and the spaces that it proposes to occupy in terms of how they may effect these three overriding significances.

ROBBEN ISLAND AS A NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE

The Statement of Significance for Robben Island is:

"Robben Island - from incarceration to liberation. From the punishment of the body to the freedom of the spirit. From the punishment of the body to the freedom of the spirit Robben Island is a place of great symbolic value and is directly associated with ideas, beliefs as well as events that are of eminent universal significance. With its



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history of banishment, imprisonment and suffering it has come to symbolise, not only for South Africans or the African continent, but also for the entire world, the miracle of the triumph of the human spirit over enormous hardship and adversity. Of the many roles that Robben Island has assumed over the past four hundred years, it primarily served as a place of banishment and isolation. Throughout documented South African history, the Island has been associated with incarceration, pain and the subjugation of the human spirit. During the periods of Dutch and English occupation of the region, the Island was used as a place of imprisonment for those who opposed colonial rule. With the early banishment of Khoisan leaders, Malaysian Muslim religious figures and Xhosa chiefs to the Island, its role as a symbol of resistance against oppression was established. The Island's more recent ability to function as a crucible for the consolidation of the anti-apartheid movement bears further testimony to the symbolic value of the place.

However, out of these conditions of extreme hardship, pain and suffering has arisen a spirit of hope and tolerance that has, in the words of President Nelson Mandela, turned this Island into a world-wide icon of the universality of human rights, of hope, peace and reconciliation. Another famous prisoner, Walter Sisulu, has written "The name Robben Island is inextricably linked to the struggle against colonialism, for freedom, democracy and peace in South Africa. Robben Island's notorious history as the place to which so-called undesirables of our society were banished... should be turned around into a source of enlightenment and education on the dangers of myopic philosophies, social and economic practices whose primary and sole objective is the oppression of one group by another."

It is this condition of duality - of suffering and hope, of resistance and tolerance - embodied within the spirit, history and cultural landscape of Robben Island, that underscores the site's significance and imbues it with special symbolic value. Robben Island offers to a world struggling under social injustices and intolerance, the example of the indomitable nature of the human spirit. This criterion of symbolic value is today embodied in the various cultural 'landscapes' that exist on the Island. These 'landscapes' include the 'landscape of prisoners', the 'landscape of the infirm', the 'military landscape' and the 'cultivated landscape'. of which material evidence still exists in all cases. They are directly associated with historical events and human suffering as well as with ideas and beliefs that have informed the symbolic value of Robben Island. They remain elements of material culture that makes possible for both direct and intangible associations to be made with values and sentiments that are of universal significance. Robben Island offers to a world struggling under social injustice and intolerance the example of the indomitable nature of the human spirit."



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4. PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS

4.1 Proposed Installations

Table 1: Proposed Installations

No.	Building Name	Installation	Details	Issues Raised
1.1	Murray Harbour	Harbour Wall	A bare and bleak wall with laser cut, rusted lettering and a series of panels with the names of the prisoners from different periods. Photographs of the early prisoners will also be exhibited. Clad in blue stone Wall as heritage object built by prisoners	Maintenance of the wall itself
1.2	Murray Harbour	Harbour Office	Maintenance and restoration required. Benches to be removed and replaced with prison-period benches. Replacement of signage	
1.3	Murray Harbour	Curio office	Unsympathetic interventions for electricity infrastructure to be fixed Wall restoration required (pointing etc) Post Box on display - museum artefact, experience to be created around artefact Replacement of signage	
1.4	Murray Harbour	Toilet	Unsympathetic intervention has erased significance. Previously separate entrances for black and white people (walls broken to increase toilet size) Unsympathetic intervention for universal access requirements	Universal access - insensitive intervention
1.5	Murray Harbour	Dankie Hek	The exhibition is largely about the guard at the gate. This will be done through an installation and a video of an ex-warder explaining	
2.1	Visitors Centre	Visitors Centre	A text panel about the history of the visitor center. An audiovisual mix tape of video clips of testimonies. The waiting room will be treated to resemble the space in time through appropriate placement of relevant artefacts (removal of unsympathetic additions eg baby changing table) The installation will also include an audio installation linked to the phones and intercom devices.	



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			Signage required. Maintenance/replacement of asbestos roof and gutters required	
2.2	Visitors Centre	Garden Space	Removal of benches and flags Replacement of signage Replant existing narrow planters with aloes and other water-wise succulents. Repair existing slate edging; remove blue gravel, install geo-fabric and light grey limestone chip Install shade awning (e.g. canvas sail) using existing white posts	
3.1	Prison Precinct	Prison Path	Walked by all prisoners, maintained by prisoners using lime mined by prisoners. To be rebuilt with lime cement mix to retain colour and texture (more durable and easier to maintain) Editing: remove overgrown pebble detail around slate signs Consistency: install slate paving over concrete base of flagpole; use this detail on all large footings beneath verticals	
3.2	Prison Precinct	Robben Island Pebble Sign	Created by non-political prisoners on the island, however part of layering and history of the island. To be maintained	
3.3	Prison Precinct	Admin Block	Used to tell administrative story and timeline of prison ie. New Block vs Ou Tronk Requires maintenance and renovation	
3.4	Prison Precinct	Armoury	A text panel explaining the space and its original use. An installation of guns, warder uniforms, handcuffs, manacles, batons etc. A audiovisual mix tape of prison life.	
3.5	Prison Precinct	Reception	A text panel explaining the process of Reception. An audio-scape of pre-recorded testimonies describing arrival. An installation of the reception office as it might have been, with prison book, finger-printing paraphernalia, clothes, blankets, manacles and handcuffs.	
3.6	Prison Precinct	The Censor	Text panel explaining the functions of the censor office. An installation of the old telecom system [encased], and an audiovisual clip about the pain of censorship.	

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3.7	Prison Precinct	Die Plek se naam is Tronk	A video projection and audio scape in the passage to show how prison is deliberately created to break ones spirit.	
3.8	Prison Precinct	The Courtyard	A text panel and audio pods placed Strategically, with content depicting what happened in the courtyard. An installation of rock piles and 5 pound hammers to evoke the famous narrative, with pictures to support.	
3.9	Prison Precinct	Section B	Text panel explaining, section B, who was in it and how it was regarded by the prison authorities. Audiovisual station, placed strategically to avoid aural and visual clutter. An installation of warder presence.	Section labels from period after EPPs
3.10	Prison Precinct	Section C	A text panel explaining Section C and an audiovisual mix-tape of witness testimony in the bathroom. Audio installation in selected cells will give a sense of the variety of victims. An installation of food-spare diet.	Section labels from period after EPPs
3.11	Prison Precinct	Communal Cell	A text panel explaining cell life and basic Cell conditions. Video installations inside the cabinets. An installation of cell life. A soundscape of sound of the prisoner [what the prisoner hears]	
3.12	Prison Precinct	The Namibian Story	A text panel explaining cell life and basic Cell conditions. Video installations inside the cabinets. An installation of cell life. A soundscape of sound of the prisoner [what the prisoner hears].	
3.13	Prison Precinct	Hospital	Sensitive placement of appropriate artefacts. Regular maintenance required.	Overarching approach to maintenance regarding patina etc
3.14	Prison Precinct	Hospital Courtyard	Remove insensitive additions and replace with sensitive universal access ramps and plant more rescued plants to enhance the oasis-type space of the hospital courtyard.	
4.1	Leper Graveyard	Leper Graveyard	Install a simple fence around the whole graveyard. Re-establish existing paths using local materials (slate edging, crushed shell), Create seating in the shade of the trees. These	Unmarked burials

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			<p>seating nodes under trees are quiet places where visitors can rest and be in nature, a space to pause and reflect on what they have experienced on the tour.</p> <p>An existing 3.5m x 3.5m concrete slab (footprint of a former structure) could be used for signage about the Leper Colony. In addition an audio experience will help visitors to discover, understand and empathize.</p> <p>Remove green mesh fence – possibly keep old fence posts to preserve recent history (i.e. wardens fencing only the white / affluent part of graveyard).</p> <p>Fence entire graveyard with simple round/ square posts and wire fence. Could electrify one strand to prevent large animals from entering.</p> <p>Install a double gate at the entrance, and a single gate on the prison side. The main entrance is an important threshold to the cemetery, and some detail and decoration is appropriate here.</p> <p>Suggest: Commission an artist to create a decorative gate using found metal objects from the island.</p> <p>Create a circular route going past the 3 large shade trees</p> <p>a. Entrance path from road: restore existing slate path, currently overgrown</p> <p>b. Central path along main axis (seen in photo): reestablish existing slate edging, add flat slates to match entrance path</p> <p>c. Re-establish existing cross path to prison precinct, with slate edging and crushed shell surface to walk on</p> <p>d. Create new parallel path going past third tree, and back to the entrance gate. Also with slate edging and crushed shell surface to walk on.</p> <p>Create seating areas under the 3 large Monterey cypresses. Seats under the trees are simple timber ‘cubes’ and rectangular logs made of locally sourced wood.</p>	
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4.3 Mapping and spatialisation of heritage resources



Figure 3.1 and 3.2: Murray Harbour wall



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Figure 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5: Murray Harbour Office - note variable signage and artefacts eg life buoy



Figure 3.6 and 3.7: Murray Harbour Office - Coca-Cola benches to be removed and replaced



Figure 3.8 and 3.9: Murray Harbour Office - Inappropriate electrical infrastructure and pointing requires maintenance

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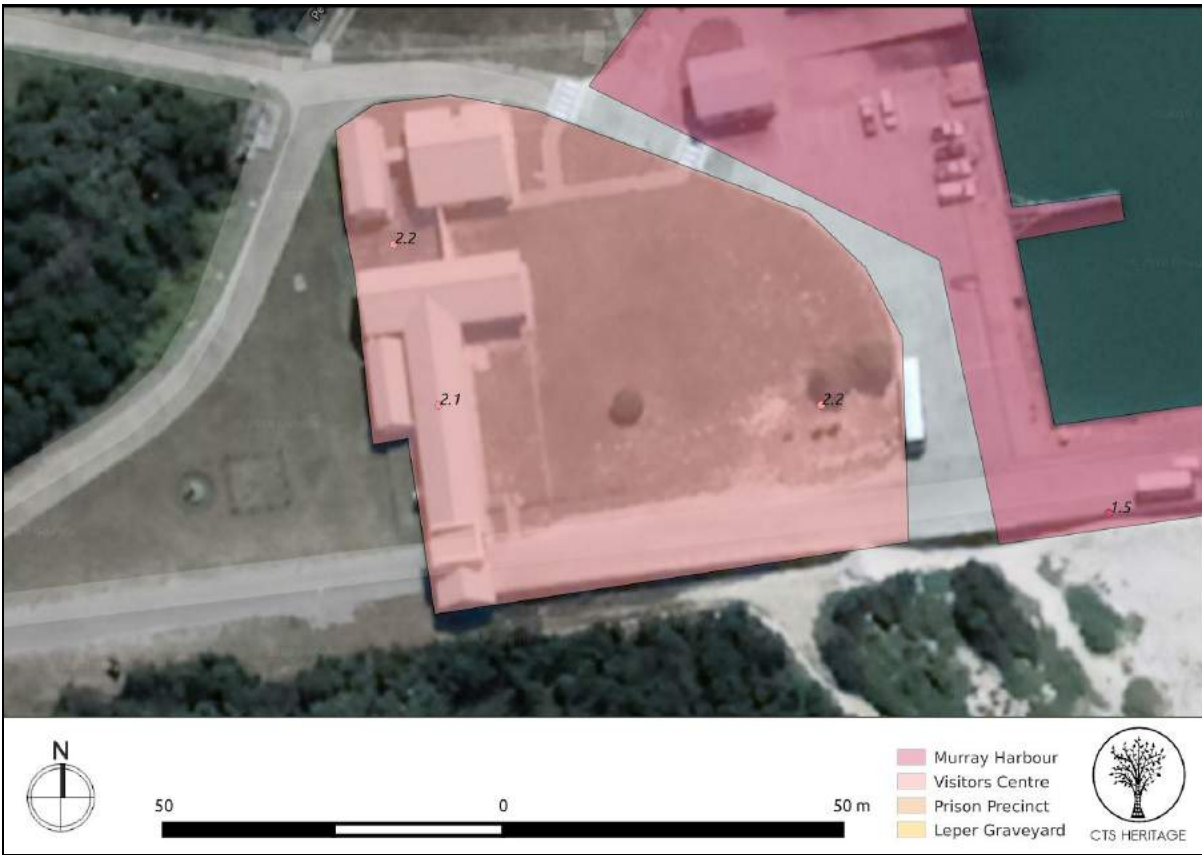
Figure 3.10 and 3.11: Murray Harbour Office - Toilets: Previously separate entrances for white people and black people, walls broken down to increase toilet size



Figure 3.12 and 3.13: Murray Harbour Office - Intrusive and inappropriate universal access ramps for toilet access placed over existing ramp



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Map 4: Visitors Centre



Figure 4.1 and 4.2: Visitors Centre - sensitively placed artefacts to tell story of prison visitors and surveillance

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Figure 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5: Visitors Centre - Although recently restored, maintenance is required as well as the removal of insensitive modern additions such as changing table



Figure 4.6 and 4.7: Visitors Centre - maintenance and landscaping required



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Figure 4.8 and 4.9: Visitors Centre - editing and landscaping required for the garden space in front of the Visitors Centre



Figure 4.10 and 4.11: Visitors Centre - editing and landscaping required for the garden space in front of the Visitors Centre, flag poles to be removed



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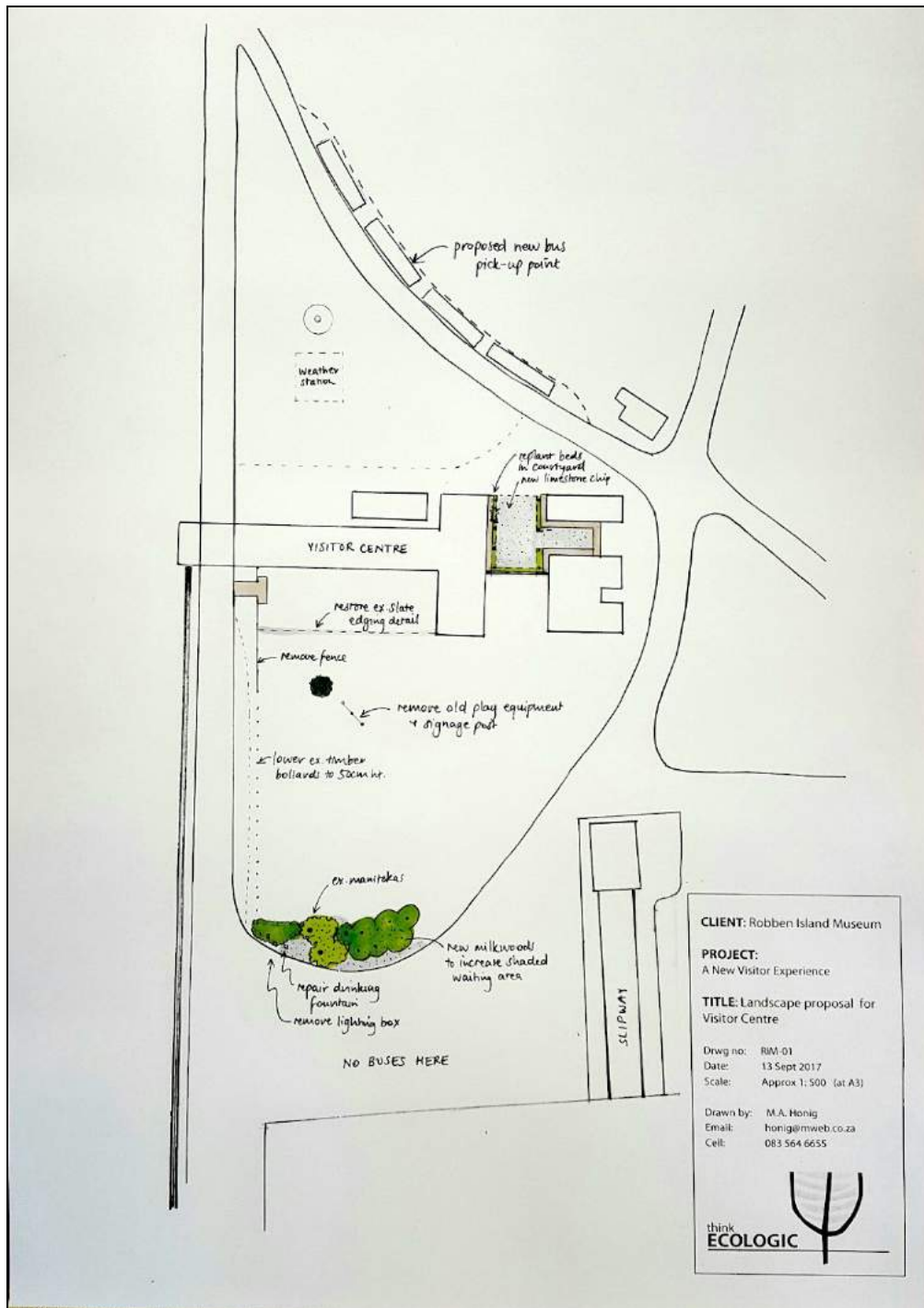


Figure 4.12: Visitors Centre - Landscape Plan



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Map 5: Prison Precinct



Figure 5.1 and 5.2: Prison Precinct - old signage to be replaced and made consistent

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Figure 5.3 and 5.4: Prison Precinct - Limestone pathway and Robben Island Pebble sign to be maintained



Figure 5.5 and 5.6: Prison Precinct - Armoury and Reception Office to be opened to the public with new installation



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Figure 5.7 and 5.8: Prison Precinct - Censor's Office with switchboard



Figure 5.9 and 5.10: Prison Precinct - Section labels painted by prisoners after the period of the EPPs, recently painted over

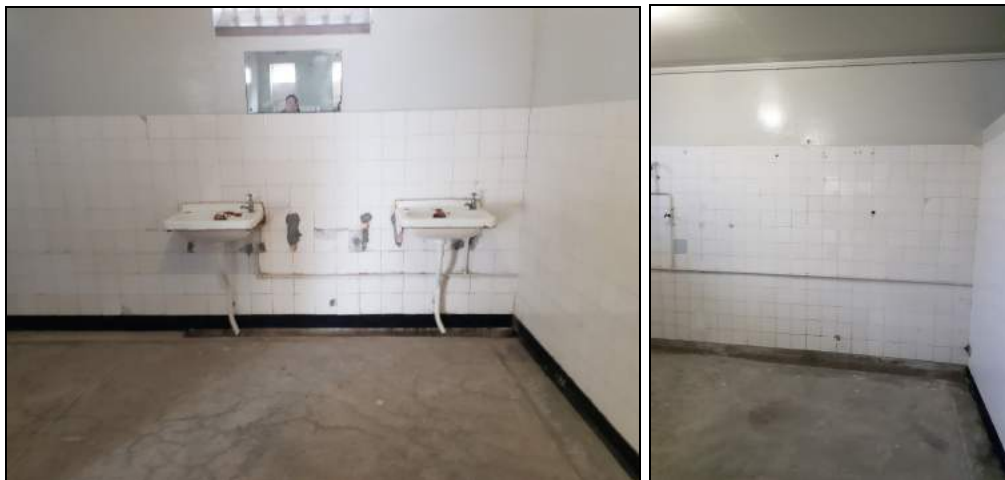


Figure 5.11 and 5.12: Prison Precinct - Bathroom for new AV installation in Section C

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Figure 5.13 and 5.14: Prison Precinct - Hospital Section with sensitive placement of relevant artefacts



Figure 5.15 and 5.16: Prison Precinct - Hospital wing requires maintenance



Figure 5.17 and 5.18: Prison Precinct - Inappropriate Universal Access ramps in hospital courtyard

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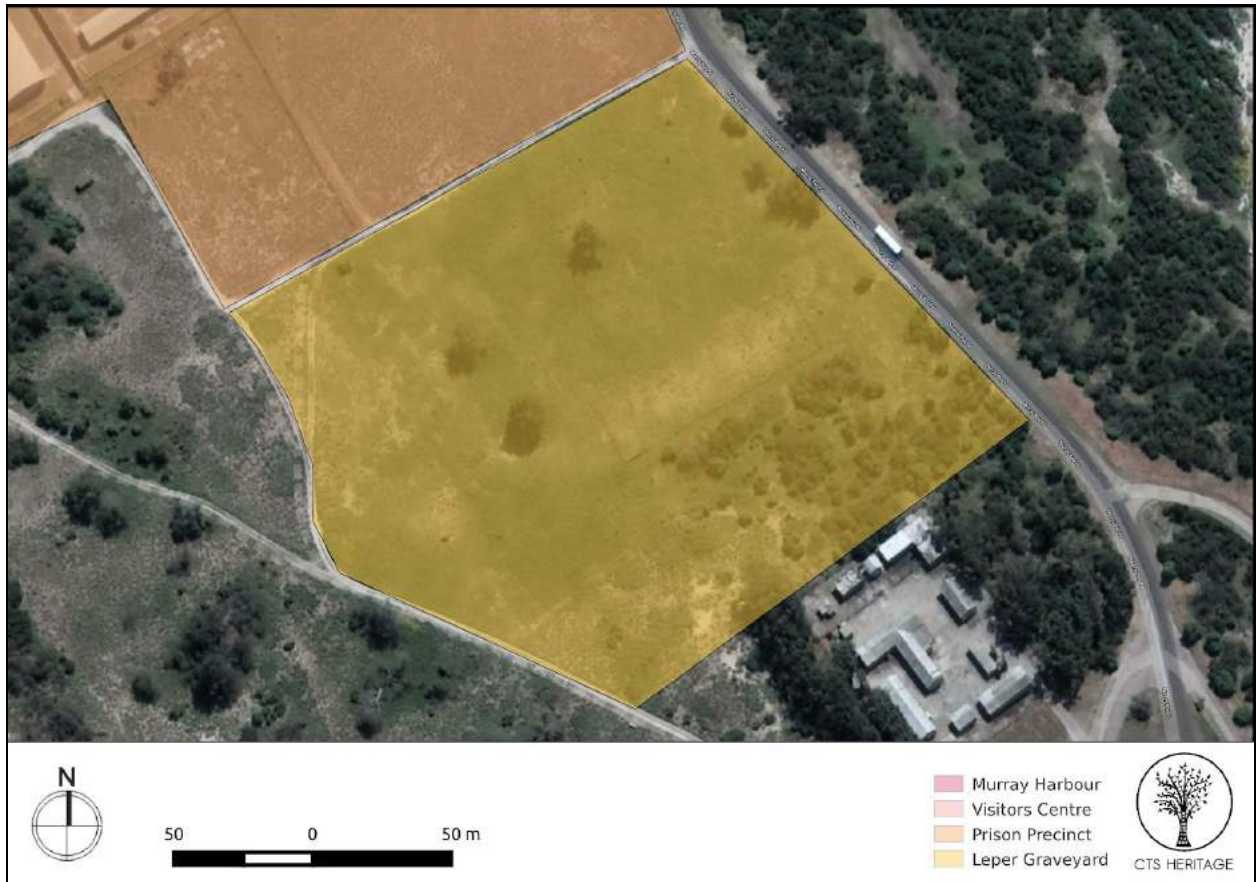
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Figure 5.19: Prison Precinct - Landscaping Plan



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Map 6: Leper Cemetery



Figure 6.1 and 6.2: Leper Cemetery - Covers a large area with many unmarked burials and dilapidated fence



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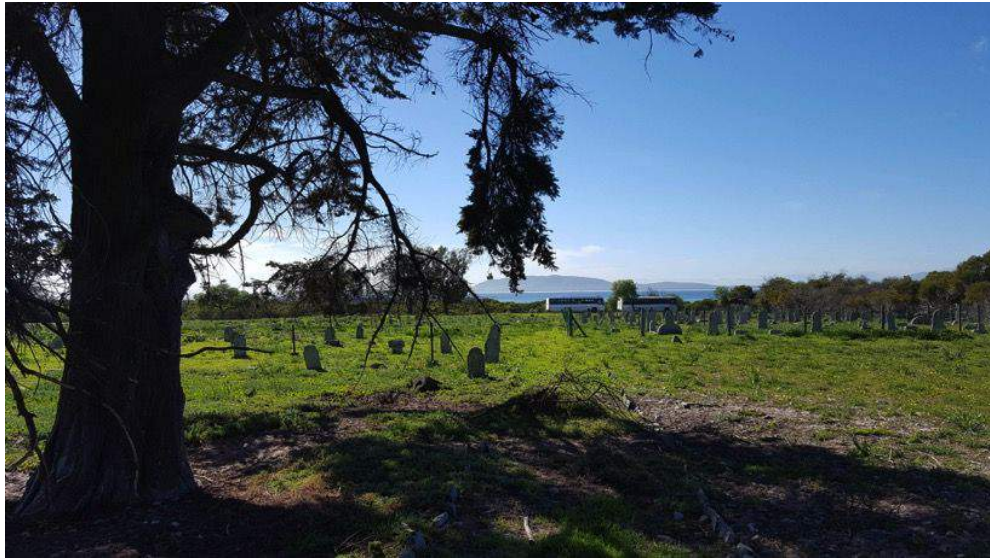


Figure 6.3: Leper Cemetery

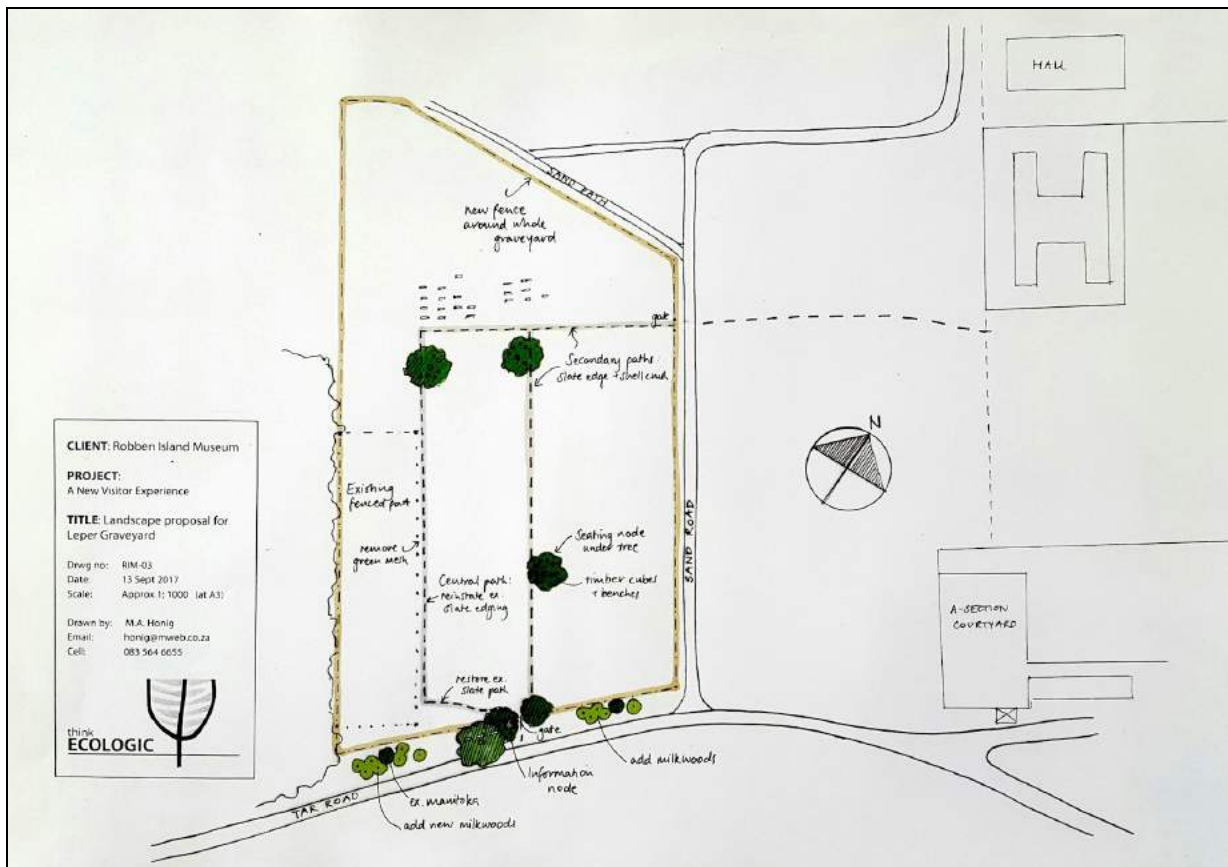


Figure 6.4: Leper Cemetery - Landscape Plan

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5. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL

Robben Island's heritage significance lies in its symbolic value in representing the triumph of the human spirit over enormous hardship and adversity. Its Outstanding Universal Value may be found in any aspect of the tangible and intangible landscape and cultural landscape of the Island. As a World Heritage site, the Island has three core significances:

- the landscape of the prisoners where this can be seen to reflect either the 'sombre history' or 'symbolising the triumph of the human spirit, of freedom, and of democracy over oppression',
- the landscape of those who did the imprisoning where it reflects on the sombre history or the oppression which was overcome by the human spirit, by freedom, and by democracy over oppression, and
- the containing landscape which encompasses the juxtapositions above or provides a mediating space between those or away from them to allow some uncontrolled space.

The activities outlined in Table 1 including the installation of new displays, consistency in signage, landscaping and maintenance activities, propose to contribute to, and enhance, these symbolic aspects of this significant place.

The nature of the proposed interventions are lightweight and reversible by removing insensitive infrastructure and making use of technology to minimise impact (such as AV installations etc). In addition, efforts to coherently articulate the many stories of Robben Island are encouraged. In this way, the proposed interventions contribute to and enhance the significance of this symbolic space.

In addition, the proposed interventions are in accordance with the Robben Island ICMP. As such, the proposed interventions will not have a negative impact on the heritage significance of the National and World Heritage Site, nor will the proposed interventions negatively impact on the infrastructure on the island on condition that the following approaches are implemented:

- **New interventions** will be "lightweight", reversible and minimalistic with the least amount of physical impact to the structures possible, using audio-visual media to enhance the visitor experience rather than any major structural interventions
- Previous **inappropriate interventions** that have negatively impacted on the OUV of the site and its structures will be investigated and application will be made to reverse these interventions eg. universal access ramps
- Authenticity and spatial integrity are prioritised regarding proposed interventions. All layers of heritage must be conserved and treated with respect.



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- Consistent approach is required in terms of communicating the message in terms of signage, displays and information boards etc.

Currently, many aspects of the infrastructure on Robben Island require regular maintenance to improve ensure their conservation and sustainability. This maintenance appears to be irregular or non-existent. This irregular maintenance is negatively impacting on structures that contribute meaningfully to the symbolic value of Robben Island.

6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There is no heritage objection to the proposed interventions as outlined in Table 1 on condition that the following approach is implemented:

- **New interventions** will be “lightweight”, reversible and minimalistic with the least amount of physical impact to the structures possible, using audio-visual media to enhance the visitor experience rather than any major structural interventions.
- Previous **inappropriate interventions** that have negatively impacted on the OUV of the site and its structures will be investigated and application will be made to reverse these interventions eg. inappropriate universal access ramps.
- Authenticity and spatial integrity are prioritised regarding proposed interventions. All layers of heritage must be conserved and treated with respect.
- A consistent approach is required in terms of communicating the message in terms of signage, displays and information boards etc.

It is recommended that:

- SAHRA endorse this overarching concept and precinct plan for the proposed Memorialisation Project interventions for SAHRA’s information, input and guidance.
- As final plans are made regarding the precise location and nature of the proposed interventions associated with the Memorialisation Project, site specific section 27(18) applications will be made to SAHRA for permitting purposes including detailed plans and imagery.
- A 5 year maintenance plan for all of the infrastructure on the island be developed for SAHRA’s approval in order to mitigate the need for numerous section 27(18) applications.



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APPENDICES



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Appendix 1: Spatial Analysis Presentation



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Appendix 2: A New Visitor Experience Presentation (Zaneza)