

SECTION 36

# HERITAGE STATEMENT

FOR

**THE MEMORIALISATION OF THE  
HARDEKRAALTJIE CEMETERY AND BURIALS (ERF  
15349 & ERF 18228) AND UNDERTAKEN TEST  
EXCAVATIONS (ERF 24602), PAROW.**

By

PHS Consulting



**APRIL 2026**

[HWC REF NO. HWC24091815 & HWC25102803]

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### INTRODUCTION

This application is being made to Heritage Western Cape (“HWC”) on behalf of Stellenbosch University, the owner of Erf 15349, Erf 18228 & Erf 24602, Parow. Erf 15349 is known as the official ‘Hardekraaltjie Cemetery’. PHS Consulting (Paul Slabbert and Jenna Theron) has been engaged to assist in obtaining heritage approval for the memorialisation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, which is older than 60 years and is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority therefore subject to Section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) (“NHRA”). Erf 18228 is located to the west of the formal Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (Erf 15349) and Erf 24602 is the greater SU campus to the north of Erf 15349 both these erven partially fall inside the 50m buffer zone imposed around Erf 15349.

The NHRA clearly states that graves are considered to have high significance and any impacts to graves should be avoided. Section 36(3) of the NHRA stipulates the requirement for a permit when considering memorialisation in this case landscape alteration and it prohibits any person from disturbing or destroying burial grounds and graves older than 60 years which are situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority. No person may exhume or remove any grave from its original position without a permit issued by SAHRA or a permit or Workplan issued by the provincial heritage resources authority, in this case Heritage Western Cape (HWC).

The Heritage Statement (this document) provides the necessary history and motivation for two Section 36 permit applications:

1. The memorialisation of Erf 15349 and Erf 18228 **[THIS APPLICATION]**; and
2. The ground-truthing of 6 potential grave targets identified through Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) scanning within the ‘extended buffer zone’ on Erf 24602 (SU Campus) **[COMPLETE]**.

Erf 15349 is 1.7131 ha in extent and is located in Parow between Tygerberg Hospital (South, south-west), Stellenbosch Universities (SU) Tygerberg Medical Campus (North, north-west) and Transnet’s marshalling yard (East). Erf 15349 is the official erf known as the ‘*Hardekraaltjie Cemetery*’. Erf 18228 (0.306 ha in extent) is a narrow erf wedged along the western boundary of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (Erf 15349) and Tygerberg Hospital. Erf 24602 borders both Erf 15349 and Erf 18228 to the north and consists of the Stellenbosch University (SU) Tygerberg Medical Campus. The Elsieskraal River flows to the North with Voortrekker Road located further north, however access to the site would be obtained through the SU Medical Campus via the M16 (Francie van Zijl Drive). Erf 24602 is the greater SU campus to the north of Erf 15349 and Erf 18228.

History surrounding the ‘Hardekraaltjie Cemetery’ itself dates back to around the end of the 19th Century. According to the Surveyor General Diagram the cemetery was formally established in 1910 and was officially closed for burial in 1946. However, it is likely the burials took place prior to 1910 and, according to oral history, after 1946. In the 1950’s Apartheid ideologies resulted in the displaced nature of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and its surrounding communities. However, it was after 1972, when Stellenbosch University bought the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, that the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery area was eventually utilised as a Sportsfield and open space from the late 1970s onwards. In 2019, the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Dean’s Advisory Committee on Transformation proposes the formation of a Visual Redress Task Team, which is then tasked to take responsibility for managing a restorative process linked to Hardekraaltjie and the era of memorialisation began.

Numerous Heritage Studies have been undertaken surrounding the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery. In November 2017, *Perception Planning* submitted a NID to HWC for the “*Proposed redevelopment of the Stellenbosch University (Su) Tygerberg Campus, on Erf 24602, 18228 & 15394 (Parow), City Of Cape Town*”. The final decision from HWC is dated Dec 2017, which accepted the NIDs recommendations. These recommendations referred to:

- A 50m buffer area around Erf 15349;
- That future development of Erven 15349, 18228 and land directly contiguous, as illustrated in Figure B below, be dealt with as part of a Permit Application in terms of Section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999);
- This must be subjected to a public participation process and the establishment of a Conservation Management Plan for the future conservation and management of the cemetery.



**Figure A:** Close up locality and aerial view of the site. Red area is the 'official' Hardekraaltjie Cemetery.



**Figure B:** The area delineated in yellow polygon to be treated as a 50m Buffer Area as imposed through HWC's decision dated 7th August 2017. Development within the 50m Buffer Area would trigger a Permit application in terms of Section 36 of the NHRA. Red polygon represents portion of land owned by University of Stellenbosch (Perception Planning, 2017).

## **CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Although public engagement surrounding the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery has been ongoing since 2021, formal public consultation as required by law in terms of NHRA, commenced in 2024. The Heritage Statement constitutes part of the documentation to inform the memorialisation of the cemetery and is to be submitted to Heritage Western Cape (HWC) for S36 approval. The Heritage Statement (including Annexures) was:

- Circulated to the identified Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) for a 30-day comment period (16<sup>th</sup> October – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024).
- All documentation was uploaded onto our website and hard copies were placed in the Ravensmead, Belville, Parow Public Libraries as well as the SU Tygerberg Campus Library.
- A Site Notice was placed at the entrance to the Stellenbosch University Tygerberg Campus and at the site itself for the duration of the 30-day public comment period.
- An advertisement was placed in the *TygerBurger* (English and Afrikaans).
- Notification Letters (English and Afrikaans) were sent to the I&AP List **Annexure G1**.
- A public meeting was held in the Ravensmead Public Library on Saturday 26 October 2024 at 10:30 (**Appendix G3B**).
- A registered I&AP list was captured and maintained (**Annexure G2**) for future correspondence.
- All comments were captured and responded to in the Comments and Response Table (**Appendix G4**)
- Proof of the public participation process was captured in **Appendix G3**.

Since the formal public consultation above, several focus group meetings were held through ad-hoc meetings with the former Steering Committee (including Chefferino Fortuin and Johannes Bastain who represent the Ravensmead/ Tiervlei Erfinis Community). The Tiervlei Erfinis Community (TEC) have been the most active community group involved in the memorialisation process and as a result of additional written comment being received during 2025 various focus group meetings were held in response (4 April, 20 August & 23 September) with TEC representatives. These comments and responses thereto have also been captured in **Appendix G4** (Section B).

Open communication was ongoing throughout the process between the Tygerberg Hospital Heritage Team and PHS Consulting. Informal online meetings were also held to share information between both parties (23 April 2025 and 18 March 2025). Informal online meetings were also held with HWC officials to obtain guidance throughout the process (16 May 2024; 17th January 2025; and 16 October 2025).

Registered I&APs (**Appendix G2**) were notified of the way forward, our intention to submit to HWC and of the date for a Public Meeting in which this would be discussed. The second public meeting was therefore held on Monday the 10 November at 2pm (Venue: Conference room 1004, Biomedical Research Institute (BMRI), SU Tygerberg Campus).

Please refer to **Appendix G5** for the proof of above notification as well as the details of the Public Meeting (Notes, Attendance Register and Presentation).

Thereafter, the Heritage Statement was submitted to HWC for approval. It was concluded at the HWC IACOM Meeting that, *“the proposed memorialisation is to be considered by IACom once the extent of the cemetery has been established as per the ground truthing permitted under case number HWC25102803SB1113”* and that *“a 30-day consultation process with the identified I&APs prior to submission to HWC”* is to be undertaken (**Annexure J**).

This revised Heritage Statement, including the findings from the ground truthing, was circulated to the registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) for a 30-day comment period (Tuesday 10 March – Monday 13 April 2026). All documentation was uploaded onto our website. Notification Letters (English and Afrikaans) were sent to the registered I&AP List **Annexure G7**. A public meeting was held in the Ravensmead Public Library on Tuesday the 24 March 2026 at 14:00 (2pm). The presentation, notes and attendance register is included in **Appendix G7b-c**. All comments were captured and responded to in the Comments and Response Table (**Appendix G7e**)

Proof of the public participation process is included under **Appendix G7a**.

### **OPTIONS AND WAY FORWARD:**

Initially, Memorialisation was to take place on Erf 15349 which has been referred to historically as the 'Hardekraaltjie Cemetery' and is the formal cemetery in accordance with the 1910 SG Diagram. However, it was made evident that the potential for graves might not be defined by the formal cemetery boundaries of Erf 15349. This resulted in Erf 18228 to the west being incorporated into the core Memorialisation Area. The area to the east (Transnet) and south (Tygerberg Hospital) falls on fenced private property not controlled by the Applicant and therefore does not fall inside this application area. However, a portion of Erf 24602 (SU Tygerberg Medical Campus) is protected in terms of the 50m buffer imposed around the 'formal' Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (Erf 15349). No development would therefore take place within this buffer area without obtaining approval from HWC. A decision was made to conduct radar scans for potential graves within the extended buffer area determined on Erf 24602, that resulted in the identification of several potential grave targets. These findings were therefore considered in the memorialisation options put forward at the time.

The following 3 options were considered and discussed as part of the initial public consultation process.

#### Option 1:

Option 1A: Memorialisation was therefore to take place on Erf 15349 and Erf 18228 with minimal strategic landscaping and interpretation items on Erf 24602. This option allows for the full soccer/rugby field of the SU Tygerberg Campus to remain to be utilised by the students and community clubs and the future formalisation of the practice/warm-up area for sports related activities. Sporting activities would therefore continue as is the current status quo within the buffer area on Erf 24602.

Option 1B: According to the radar scanning undertaken by Sillito (July 2024) 15 grave targets were identified (high confidence). Furthermore, 6 of these potential grave targets, with high confidence, fall within Erf 24602 on which sports activities were being practiced. To follow the route of exhuming potential graves and placing them inside the boundaries of the 'formal' Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, while an option, is not considered a preferred scenario. Not only is this route costly and extremely time consuming (should approval from the community and HWC be obtained) but it was not considered the best solution as it was agreed by all parties that any potential graves should remain in-situ for all intents and purposes as this is where they were buried and laid to rest. Many South African culture's view disturbing the dead as deeply taboo. It may cause distress to communities and violate spiritual beliefs. From a heritage perspective exhumation was not the preferred alternative considering it is a sensitive, complex and controversial route to follow. Furthermore, no development is proposed within this area to 'force' exhumation as an alternative.

#### Option 2:

Consideration was also given to memorialising the portion of Erf 24602 falling inside the buffer area along with Erven 15349 and 18228. This would involve the approximate area indicated by the red broken line in Figure 27 below. However, this would result in the significant reduction in the size of the sport fields to the point of forcing the discontinuation of having a formal soccer/ rugby field as there would simply not be sufficient space. Although any potential graves within this buffer area would be included within a greater memorialisation area this would come at a significant cost to the students of SU and community clubs using the campus. It must be understood that radar scanning is not an exact science and comes with its fair share of doubt. Furthermore, the potential for graves/ burials beyond the buffer area (whether in a north, south, east or western direction) is also a possibility. Furthermore, the physical and mental health of students at the SU Tygerberg Campus is important considering the location of the campus within a largely built-up environment. The sports fields form part of the only recreational area on campus and plays a significant role amongst students on campus as well as sport clubs within the area utilising the facilities. Furthermore, having a bona fide soccer/ rugby field can also sustain positivity within the broader community. Sports is a medium that brings people together and could be used to educate the youth and future generations around Hardekraaltjie's memory.

SU also hosts a number of soccer matches against five local clubs within the community and more recently hosted a goalball (paralympic sport for the visually impaired) league match. United Stars, Belhar Dragons, Loxian Stars, 3C Church and Bellville FC are community clubs utilising the SU Sports fields. Option 2 was therefore not considered the most preferred option.

#### Option 3 – [preferred option put forward during the initial PPP]

The process of considering and evolving options resulted in the most amicable proposal at the time that addresses the objectives and needs of the applicant and the I&AP's. The proposal below involves the memorialisation of Erven 15349, 18228 and a portion of Erf 24602 by including the practice/warm-up area into the Memorialisation Area. This option allows for the main soccer/rugby field to remain, which can be utilised, as it is currently by students on campus and the broader community. Three potential grave targets (with high confidence according to the GPR scanning) would fall under the sports fields and the remainder of the high potential grave targets will be incorporated into the landscaped area with an interpretation board elaborating on the potential of graves within the extended buffer area of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery.

The proposal put forward to the public was therefore considered one of respect and acknowledgment of the history of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and its community through creating a space that is reminiscent of the past but allowing visitors to also reflect on the future. The space provides opportunities to educate the youth, through interpretation, reflection and sport, growing up within these historically connected communities, of the significance of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery. It was of utmost importance to the project that the Hardekraaltjie Memorialisation would not become a 'white elephant' per say as the older generation pass away. Continued engagement and accessibility between the community and the memorialised space is key to keeping the memories alive.

Option 1, 2 & 3 was subjected to a public participation process as per section 10.2 below. The outcome favoured Option 2 primarily based on the fact that playing sport over graves is considered disrespectful. However, the case of the applicant was that there is no other areas on the campus to fit a rugby/soccer field onto the campus and considering the limitations of the availability of open space inside the urban area the need for the sports fields to remain on campus was put forward. Therefore, considering that GPR scanning is not considered an exact science and it is possible that the identified grave targets are indeed not graves, there was a need to confirm whether these identified potential grave targets are indeed graves in order to determine the best way forward. This resulted in Option 4.

#### Option 4: Preferred way forward prior to ground-truthing

After careful consideration it was therefore decided during focused consultation with community representatives that a 'core' memorialisation area will be established, and this would be defined within the legal parameters of Erven 15349 and 18228. This area will be the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery which will be memorialised upon approval of the Landscaping Plan by HWC. This will provide an ageing community with something tangible where they can pay their respects. As the playing of sports within the extended buffer area and over the possible presence of graves was considered a 'no-go' from the community, SU agreed to stop sports temporarily and conduct further research in this regard. Therefore, prior to implementing memorialisation aspects within the extended buffer zone, there is a need to confirm whether the potential grave targets identified during the GPR scanning are indeed human burials or not. As a result, a permit was also required for ground-truthing the potential high confidence grave targets identified by the GPR scanning within the extended buffer zone on Erf 24602 (SU Campus). It is important to note that NO exhumation is to take place.

In summary, the Section 36 Permit Application would therefore involve a two-fold approach in terms of the way forward:

Part 1: Memorialisation of the core area (defined by the boundaries of Erven 15349 and 18228) through the HWC approval of the Landscaping Plan. This area would be the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and Burials which would be memorialised upon approval from HWC. The Memorialisation will take place in the form of:

- Section 8.3 "Do's and Don'ts";
- Section 8.4 "Look and Feel";
- Annexure F: Landscaping Plan;
- Establishing a Hardekraaltjie Memorial Management Committee (HMMC) to include members from SU, the community, neighbours and other stakeholders to oversee the details of the above.

Furthermore, as a recommendation of approval, the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) will be compiled in consultation with the HMMC and submitted to HWC for approval. The CMP will address several aspects as indicated in Section 9 below including further consultation with stakeholders and

neighbours around the management of the core memorialisation area as well as the spatial configuration of the extended buffer zone.

Physical implementation of the Landscaping Plan can therefore take place within the boundaries of Erven 15349 and 18228, without disturbing potential graves, so that the community can see something tangible resulting from the years of public consultation. Most importantly would be the engraving of the list of names obtained through burial records and oral research indicating those buried at the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery.

Part 2: Approval was also sought to undertake test excavations within the extended buffer zone. It is important to note that no exhumation was proposed, only the ground truthing of six potential burial targets (identified as the “most likely” grave targets by Sillito (2024)).

A Permit Application [HWC24091815SB1113] was lodged with HWC for ‘Part 1’ above (namely the “Memorialisation on Erven 18228, 15349, Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, Stellenbosch University, Parow”) and the IACOM Meeting resolved that the proposed memorialisation is to be considered by IACOM “*once the extent of the cemetery has been established as per the ground truthing permitted under case number HWC25102803SB1113*” and a “30-day consultation process with the identified I&APs” is undertaken prior to submission to HWC.

A Permit Application [HWC25102803SB1113] was also lodged with HWC for ‘Part 2’ above (namely the “Ground truthing on Erf 24602, Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, Stellenbosch University, Parow”) and the Committee resolved to approve the proposed ground truthing. The purpose of Dr. Jayson Orton’s test excavations (Annexure K) was to determine whether the adjacent Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (Erf 15349) may once have extended onto Erf 24602 as indicated in the 2024 GPR scan which revealed several potential grave targets at varying depths. The six that were earmarked in the study to have the greatest likelihood of being graves was selected for ground truthing. The locations of these six targets were surveyed and marked on site. Test trenches were then excavated diagonally immediately adjacent to each of these locations. No evidence for burials was located at any of them. The excavations showed fill to varying depths of between 0.4 m and in excess of 1.4 m. It is evident that this was brought into level a naturally undulating surface in order to create the playing fields. This variable fill, the lack of fill in the known cemetery, and the evidence from historical mapping indicated in this study regarding the alignment of the Elsie River, suggests that burial did not occur in the study area.

It was concluded that: “It is considered highly unlikely that burials occurred outside of the known historical Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, and it is recommended that this portion of Erf 24602 should not be considered as potentially being part of the historic cemetery.”

‘Part 2’ has therefore been concluded and will be used to formalise ‘Part 1’ of the application in the form of the revised Option 5 below.

#### Option 5: Revised Way Forward post ground-truthing (Figure C)

Option 5 therefore entails the proposed Memorialisation of Erven 15349 and 18228 as the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and Burials. Erf 24602 does not form part of the memorial area, however, it is recommended that a 10m buffer zone (falling within Erf 24602) is maintained to protect the interface around the Memorial area. The Memorialisation will take place in the form of the approval and implementation of:

- A Landscaping Plan represented in Figure 32 (**Annexure F**) and interpreted alongside;
  - Section 8.3 “Do’s and Don’ts”; and
  - Section 8.4 “Look and Feel”;
- Establishing a Hardekraaltjie Memorial Management Committee (HMMC) to include members from SU, the community, neighbours and other stakeholders to oversee the details of the above;
- The Draft Conservation Management Plan (CMP) be adopted by HWC and that the CMP be amended when required in consultation with the HMMC and submitted to HWC for the record purposes (refer to Section 9 below).
- All conditions listed in ‘Section 11.2 Recommendations’ below.



**Figure C:** Option 5 – Revised way forward showing the Memorialised area (inside Erven 18228 & 15349) and the 10m buffer. Refer to the detailed plans in **Appendix F**.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Memorialisation is considered a process that meets the desire to honour those who have suffered and to examine the past and address present issues in an effort of reparation. It is key that the Hardekraaltjie Memorialisation portrays a sense of history, belonging, social acknowledgement and justice for the community that are connected, through their forefathers, to the cemetery. History surrounding the 'Hardekraaltjie Cemetery' dates to around the end of the 19th Century. The earliest reference to the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery comes from the Surveyor General's survey diagram of the cemetery undertaken in 1909. However, the history and legacy of the cemetery is woven into the people buried there, the broader communities, the landscape and the political ideologies that have governed South Africa since then.

The historical events identified herein, and the undertaken heritage studies mentioned to date played a major role in the shaping of the events that have unfolded and lay the foundation for the events that followed. The aim of the memorialisation process is to keep memory alive and help 'victims' by demonstrating respect, acknowledging the past, help to establish a record of history, and to prevent the recurrence of the wrongs of the past. Improving and enhancing the accessibility and permeability is key with the aim of creating a community space for memorialisation, education and ongoing conversation. Shared sentiment of the site is that it should not be treated as an isolated site but rather

an inclusive site that is not overly idealized. Although, a cemetery is a space where tranquillity and quiet are the desired norm, considering the forgotten nature of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, through the process of memorialisation it ensures that its memory is remembered for generations and to achieve this, its needs to encourage a level of interaction.

The aim of the proposed Landscaping Plan is also to ensure that work proposed is respectful in terms of allowing minimal work within areas that have large clusters of potential grave targets and allowing pathways to meandering around these areas rather than over. The proposal put forward to the public is therefore one of respect and acknowledgment of the history of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and its community through creating a space that is reminiscent of the past but allows visitors to also reflect on the future. The space also provides opportunities to educate the youth growing up within these historically connected communities of the significance of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery.

A substantial amount of research and public/ community engagement to date has been undertaken by Stellenbosch University and therefore plays an important role in what is proposed. Stellenbosch University (SU) also acknowledges the role played by SU in South Africa's Apartheid legacy:

*“As a Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences we wish to acknowledge the historical privilege that we have in being located here on this campus. It was from this area of Cape Town that the Apartheid Government removed families and communities to make way for Tygerberg Hospital and our Faculty; alongside this process was the closure of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery partially located on this land. As a university we are currently engaged with our communities as they share their ‘lost memories’ linked to this historic Hardekraaltjie cemetery.”*

SU has been engaged with the communities as they share their ‘lost memories’ linked to this historic Hardekraaltjie Cemetery ever since establishing the Hardekraaltjie Steering Committee which includes representatives of various stakeholders (SU, Tygerberg Hospital etc.) and members of the community since 2020.

A Steering Committee has been actively involved with the main focus being the memorialisation of the ‘Hardekraaltjie Cemetery’. Memorialisation being considered a process that meets the desire to honour those who have suffered and to examine the past and address present issues in an effort of reparation. It has been 5 years within which some significant milestones have been reached (i.e. the publishing of the book “Landscapes of Dispossession: Stories of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery”) as well as a time of sadness for the community having lost a number of its elderly community including some of these story tellers namely; Sina Smit, Maria Charles, Henry Daniels, Yvonne Williams and Wilhelmina Andrews.

As a result of the ‘in-process consultation’ process held in accordance with Section 10.2 below and the comments received (Appendix G4) on the various options it became clear that memorialisation of erven 18228 & 15394 is supported but the continuation of sports activities on erf 24602 required a new approach to prevent the project coming to a stalemate. The general sentiment amongst members of the community is that graves are not to be walked or played over as a grave is a sacred resting place. Therefore, the continuation of sporting activities over the potential burials within the extended buffer area is a point of great contention.

A Permit Application [HWC24091815SB1113] was lodged with HWC for the “Memorialisation on Erven 18228, 15349, Haardekraaltjie Cemetery, Stellenbosch University, Parow” and a response was reached at the IACOM Meeting held on the 3rd December 2025 in which the Committee resolved to request the following further requirements in a letter dated 11 December 2025:

- “1. The proposed memorialisation is to be considered by IACom once the extent of the cemetery has been established as per the ground truthing permitted under case number HWC25102803SB1113. The results of the aforementioned are to be submitted to IACom in a supplementary report.
2. The supplementary report must undergo a 30-day consultation process with the identified I&APs prior to submission to HWC.”

In addition, a Permit Application [HWC25102803SB1113] was also lodged with HWC for the “Ground truthing on Erf 24602, Haardekraaltjie Cemetery, Stellenbosch University, Parow” and a response was reached at the IACOM Meeting held on the 3rd December 2025 in which the Committee resolved to approve the proposed ground truthing as proposed in the application by Dr Orton (11 December 2025). Test excavations were undertaken on Erf 24602 and in the report compiled by Dr Jayson Orton it was concluded that: “It is considered highly unlikely that burials occurred outside of the known historical

Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, and it is recommended that this portion of Erf 24602 should not be considered as potentially being part of the historic cemetery.”

As a result, it is proposed that Memorialisation will take place on Erven 15349 and 18228 as the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and Burials. The Memorialisation will take place in accordance with the recommendations in Section 11.2 below. Point 1 above has therefore been concluded and has been used to formalise the way forward, while Point 2 is address through the circulation of this application to all registered I&APs.

Section 38(3)(b) of the NHRA requires an assessment of the significance of all heritage resources. In terms of Section 2(vi), “cultural significance” means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance. “Graves are deemed to have high cultural significance at the local level for their social value. They are allocated a grade of IIIA which is, therefore, the minimum grading that should be applied to the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery” (Orton, 2026). The Hardekraaltjie Cemetery was found to be of High Significance and therefore bestowed a Grade IIIA grading. Such a grading was proposed in previous heritage studies undertaken for the site and endorsed by HWC. It is furthermore recommended that Erf 18228 also be considered for Grade IIIA grading considering that these two erven will be part of the Memorial Area.

A separate independent nomination has also been made that the site be graded as a Grade II Provincial Heritage Site and the outcome of this process will be ongoing. The matter was tabled and discussed at the Inventories, Grading and Interpretation Meeting (IGIC) held on 6 February 2026. The HWC decision in this regard was as follows (**Appendix L**):

“The Committee resolved to initiate the process to declare the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery as a Provincial Heritage Site in terms of S27 (8) (d). The boundaries of the proposed Provincial Heritage Site will be confirmed once the existing S36 process has been concluded.”

The site (Erf 15349 & Erf 18228) is therefore considered to be of High Local to Provincial Heritage Significance (Grade IIIA / potential Grade II).

However, no graves were found in the buffer zone on Erf 24602 and there is no archaeological evidence to suggest that graves might occur there. Erf 24602 thus does not have any particular heritage significance and, from an archaeological perspective, does not merit grading (Orton, 2026). While Erf 24602 does not form part of the memorial area, it is recommended that a 10m buffer zone (falling within Erf 24602) is maintained to protect the interface around the Memorial area.

As indicated, significant consultation with the community has been undertaken to date to obtain oral history surrounding Hardekraaltjie. The oral history collated to date has not only resulted in the publication of a book but strengthens the reasoning why the memorialisation of Hardekraaltjie is so important (and long overdue). It is paramount that the Memorialisation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery is not delayed further, not only to allow those who can still recollect stories connected to Hardekraaltjie see something tangible taking place, but to educate and inform the younger generations of their heritage. Most significantly would be the engraving of the list of names obtained through burial records and oral research indicating those buried at the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (Annexure I).

Therefore, it is recommended that Erven 15349 and 18228, as the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and Burials, be formally recognised as a Memorial through:

1. The approval and implementation of the Landscaping Plan included in **Annexure F**.

[While Erf 24602 does not form part of the memorial area, it is recommended that a 10m buffer zone (falling within Erf 24602) is maintained to protect the interface around the Memorial area. This has been indicated on the Landscaping Plan – **Annexure F**.]

2. The approval and implementation of the Draft Conservation Management Plan (CMP) be adopted by HWC and that the CMP be amended in consultation with the HMMC and submitted to HWC for record purposes (included in **Appendix M**). The Draft CMP addresses the following recommendations:

- Establish a Hardekraaltjie Memorial Management Committee (HMMC) to include members from SU, the community, neighbours and other applicable stakeholders to oversee the implementation of the Landscaping Plan and the management aspects associated with the Memorialisation.

- An annual Heritage Day Event/ Ceremony aimed at the broader community and to those directly connected to the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery. This should not only be considered a day of remembrance but also an opportunity to connect with and educate the youth, within these communities, around the history of Hardekraaltjie. Furthermore, it is recommended that a bi-annual educational experience is available to students, staff, community members and schools within the vicinity to learn more about the memorialised space. This could be known as the: “The Hardekraaltjie Heritage Walk” or a “A Storytelling Journey through Hardekraaltjies Past”. This would ensure that the Hardekraaltjie story is known and lives on in the memories of future students, staff and community members visiting the site.
- Creation of a digital archive or “museum” for future generations by Stellenbosch University summarising the extensive research undertaken to date. This must be accessible to all.
- It is recommended that the single Cranium be collected from its existing location at UCT and placed into the central memorial stone/ wall once the proposed Landscaping Plan for the Cemetery has been undertaken. Furthermore, the proposed conservation management plan for the site and greater area will allow clear ‘instructions’ for any bones found in the future outside of the study area.
- All landscaping, foundation and irrigation works must be conducted in the presence of an archaeologist. Should any heritage resources, including evidence of graves and human burials, archaeological material and paleontological material be discovered during the execution of the activities associated with the Landscaping Plan, all works must be stopped immediately, and Heritage Western Cape must be notified without delay.
- A fencing proposal that is part of a separate Section 38 application for the entire campus needs to be implemented around the boundary of the SU Tygerberg Campus that includes Erven 18228 and 15349. A black Clearvue fence of 2.4m with a 600mm electrical fence running on the top is being proposed. While the wider fencing proposal needs to be cohesive and in line with the SU security division, it also needs to be undertaken with extreme sensitivity considering the heritage significance of the properties and particularly around the memorialisation area. The fencing alignment within the Memorial area needs to be undertaken along the same footprint/alignment to reduce any impacts on potential graves and must be in alignment with the proposed Landscaping Plan. Archaeological monitoring is recommended when excavations take place during construction of the fence line in the vicinity of the memorialisation or buffer zone area.

3. The Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (Erf 15349) was found to be of High Significance and therefore bestowed a Grade IIIA grading. Considering the location of Erf 18228 and its inclusion in the Memorial area it is also recommended that Erf 18228 be considered for Grade IIIA grading. In addition, a separate Section 27 process is being undertaken that the site be graded as a Grade II Provincial Heritage Site (PHS). While this process will be ongoing, a PHS grading for Erf 15349 and Erf 18228 is hereby supported.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This application is being made to Heritage Western Cape (“HWC”) on behalf of Stellenbosch University, the owner of Erf 15349, Erf 18228 & Erf 24602, Parow. Erf 15349 is known as the official ‘Hardekraaltjie Cemetery’. PHS Consulting (Paul Slabbert and Jenna Theron) has been engaged to assist in obtaining heritage approval for the memorialisation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, which is older than 60 years and is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority therefore subject to Section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) (“NHRA”). Erf 18228 is located to the west of the formal Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (Erf 15349) and Erf 24602 is the greater SU campus to the north of Erf 15349 both these erven partially fall inside the 50m buffer zone imposed around Erf 15349.

The NHRA clearly states that graves are considered to have high significance and any impacts to graves should be avoided. Section 36(3) of the NHRA stipulates the requirement for a permit when considering memorialisation in this case landscape alteration and it prohibits any person from disturbing or destroying burial grounds and graves older than 60 years which are situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority. No person may exhume or remove any grave from its original position without a permit issued by SAHRA or a permit or Workplan issued by the provincial heritage resources authority, in this case Heritage Western Cape (HWC).

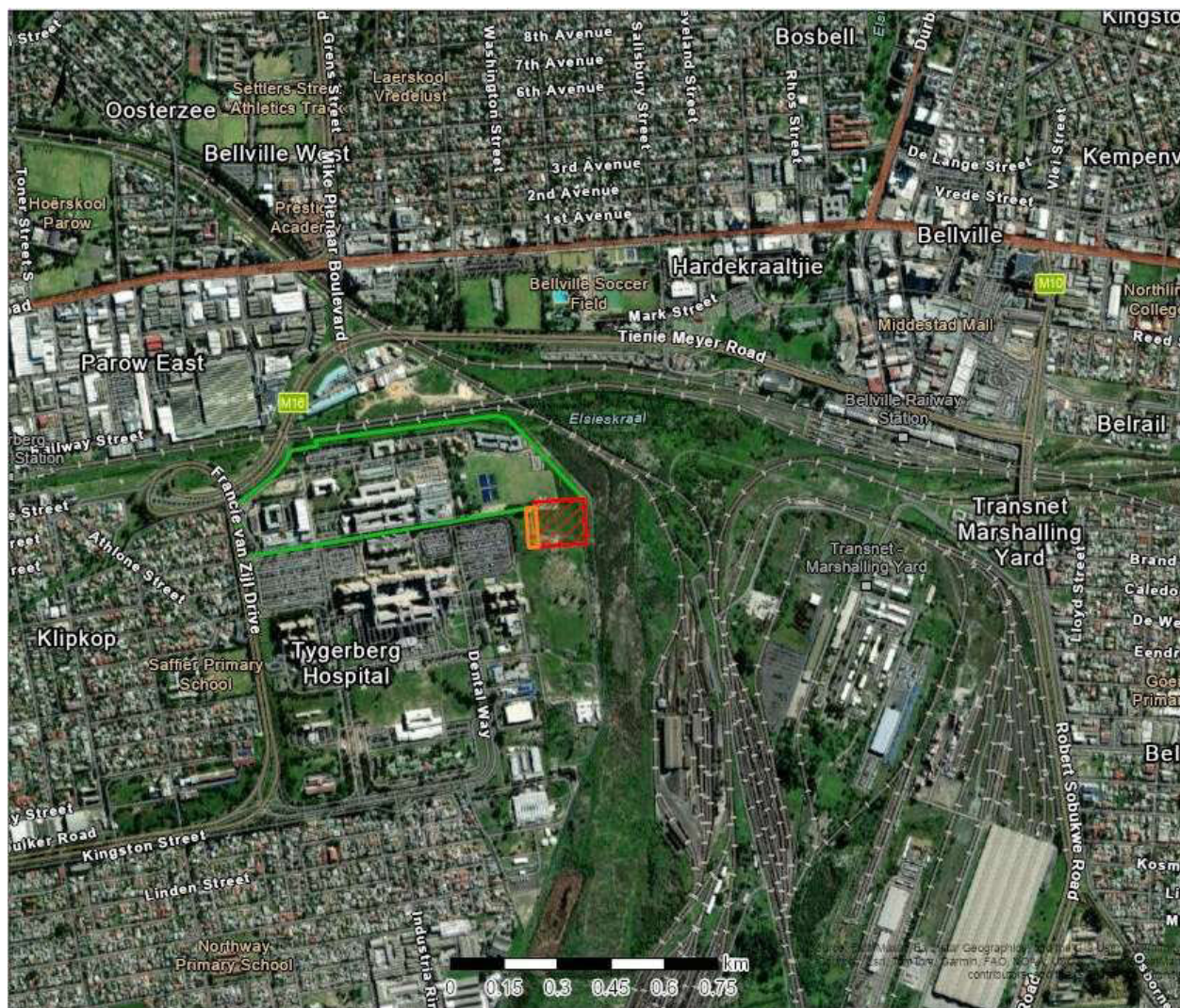
The Heritage Statement (this document) provides the necessary history and motivation for two Section 36 permit applications:

4. The memorialisation of an area (Erf 15349 and Erf 18228) [**THIS APPLICATION**]; and
5. The ground-truthing of 6 potential grave targets identified through Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) scanning within the ‘extended buffer zone’ on Erf 24602 (SU Campus) [PERMIT OBTAINED FROM HWC: 11 December 2025 – **Annexure J**].

## 2. LOCALITY

Erf 15349 is 1.7131 ha in extent and is located in Parow between Tygerberg Hospital (South, south-west), Stellenbosch Universities (SU) Tygerberg Medical Campus (North, north-west) and Transnet’s marshalling yard (East). Erf 15349 is the official erf known as the ‘*Hardekraaltjie Cemetery*’. Erf 18228 (0.306 ha in extent) is a narrow erf wedged along the western boundary of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (Erf 15349) and Tygerberg Hospital. Erf 24602 borders both Erf 15349 and Erf 18228 to the north and consists of the Stellenbosch University (SU) Tygerberg Medical Campus. The Elsieskraal River flows to the North with Voortrekker Road located further north, however access to the site would be obtained through the SU Medical Campus via the M16 (Francie van Zijl Drive). Erf 24602 is the greater SU campus to the north of Erf 15349 and Erf 18228.

Refer to the Locality Maps in **Figure 1** and **Figure 2** below.



**Figure 1:** Locality of Erf 15349 (red) also known as the official “Hardekraaltjie Cemetery”, Erf 18228 (orange) and Erf 24602 (green) (All part of the SU Medical Campus).



**Figure 2:** Close up locality and aerial view of the site depicted in Figure 1.

### 3. BACKGROUND: CONCEPT OF MEMORIALISATION & WHY HARDEKRAALTJIE?

Memorialisation put simply is a means to keep memory alive. Memorials can help ‘victims’ by demonstrating respect, acknowledging the past, help to establish a record of history, and to prevent the recurrence of the wrongs of the past. Memorialisation is considered a process that meets the desire to honour those who have suffered and as a means to examine the past and address present issues in an effort of reparation. It is key that the Hardekraaltjie Memorialisation portrays a sense of history, belonging, social acknowledgement and justice for the communities that are connected, through their forefathers, to the cemetery.

In an effort to understand the complexities of the site, it is necessary to understand the historical context of the site within the greater area. The area currently known as Bellville originated as a resting place known as Hardekraaltjie or ‘Twelfth Mile’. The Hardekraaltjie outspan was situated on a portion of hard ground forming part of a spur of the Tygerberg and on the edge of the sands of the Cape Flats. Its position on the main route connecting Cape Town and its outlying areas via Tygerberg and Kuils River, together with the availability of water from the Elsiekraal River provided ideal conditions for an outspan (Winter and Hart, 2014:3). In later years, what remains, is referred to as the Hardekraaltjie Forest Reserve.

However, history surrounding the ‘Hardekraaltjie Cemetery’ itself dates back to around the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. On the 1 January 1895 in accordance with the ‘Birth and Deaths Registration Act’ (Act 7 of 1894) the registration of births and deaths was made compulsory (Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette No. 7605 dated 11 May 1894). Shortly thereafter, in accordance with a land grant given to the ‘Trustees of the Harde Kraaltjie Public Cemetery’ the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery is officially ‘opened’ and recognised in accordance with a SG Diagram dated 4 January 1910 (Surveyed in February 1909). It could be assumed that burials were possibly taking place prior to the official ‘opening’ of the Cemetery. One of the many communities near the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery around this time (named *Tiervlei* in 1925) are closely linked to the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery as the elderly recall their ancestors being buried there.

Furthermore, burial records indicate that the cemetery “*became the final resting place for a rather diverse group of people in the area. While most of the death notices recovered for those buried at Hardekraaltjie Cemetery designated the deceased as ‘mixed’ or ‘coloured’, records also indicated designations such as ‘Xhosa’, ‘Fingo’ (Mfengu), ‘Basuto’, ‘Native’ or some related designation that indicated that black South Africans were also buried at the site (and this occurred throughout the cemetery’s operational years).* There are also cases in which the race of the deceased was “*specified as ‘Indian’, ‘Malay’ or ‘European’ – although such cases constitute a small minority in the records. The diversity captured by the records confirm that the cemetery was primarily established to serve low-income groups in the area rather than any religious or racial demographic. It should also be noted that the large majority of burials, about 70%, constitute those of infants and children under 10 years.*” [Walters, 2025: 3]

“*Despite the diversity of persons buried at Hardekraaltjie, as illustrated by early records, the site became largely known as a cemetery for ‘Coloured’ people in the area by the time of its closure (Duminy 1979:109). Assumption that the cemetery served only the population south of the Bellville railway line (Tiervlei, earlier Tyger Valley or simply Bellville South) also provided a limited picture of the cemetery’s use. Based on the recovered records, the cemetery served a rather large area and persons as far away as Kuilsriver, Stikland and Matroosfontein were*

*buried at this site (Webley 2025). Tiervlei's connection to the cemetery was established almost a full 20 years into its existence when enquiries were made towards the expansion of the area and population which this cemetery had to serve in 1928.* [Walters, 2025: 3]

The political situation within South Africa during this time also plays a major role in the understanding of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery. In 1934, 'The Slum Act' came into being and was accordingly applied for demolition of various inner but dilapidated suburbs. "The displaced Black populations were largely rehoused in segregated mono-racial municipal housing estates on the urban periphery" (Christopher 1994: 38). Therefore, by proclaiming certain non-White areas as 'slums', these areas could be condemned, and people moved with overtly 'non-racial' motives. In 1945 The Divisional Council requests the closure of Hardekraaltjie Cemetery however the Bellville magistrate stipulates provisions should be made for relatives to visit graves prior to authorising the closer thereof. In 1947 the Provincial Administration closed the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery for burials only and in 1950 the 'Population Registration Act' and the 'Group Areas Act' is gazetted. The 'Population Registration Act' allowed that all South Africans be racially classified in one of three categories: White, Black or Coloured. The criteria used to determine the qualification into each of these categories was based on appearance, social acceptance and descent. The Group Areas Act allowed urban areas to be divided into racially segregated zones "*where members of one specific race alone could live and work*" (Thompson 1990: 194). Group areas were created "*for the exclusive ownership and occupation of a designated group*" (Christopher 1994: 105). It further became "*a criminal offence for a member of one racial group to reside on or own land in an area set aside by proclamation for another race*" (Dyzenhaus 1991: 71). These milestones in South Africa's history played a significant role in the displacement and forced removals of communities surrounding the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery after 1950, including Tiervlei (renamed in 1972 to Ravensmead by the Parow Municipality), resulting in the isolated and displaced nature of the site as it stands today.

In 1958 the first plans for a new medical school and hospital were drafted with the first foundations of the hospital being laid in 1963 with the hospital officially opening in 1976, which further impacted the nature of the site. "*Key to understanding the overall layout of the Tygerberg Hospital Estate is the fact that racial-based apartheid ideologies in place during the design phase heavily influenced the overall design process so as to separate races through physical barriers and space and, as a consequence, duplication of services and infrastructure. The main entrance off Francie van Zijl Boulevard located along the southern site boundary therefore splits into two wide dual access roads (essentially boulevards), off which various facilities were virtually duplicated on either side of the main building complex*" (Perception Planning 2017: 6). The Hardekraaltjie Cemetery was therefore conveniently located on the border of a 'white' and 'non-white' group area.

It was in April 1971 that Stellenbosch University requested the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery property for the establishment of sporting facility and a draft notice was issued by Parow Municipality regarding the 'taking over' of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery. On the 4 October 1972, the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery was officially sold to Stellenbosch University although transfer of Erf 15349 (Hardekraaltjie Cemetery) from Municipality of Parow to Stellenbosch University (for 10cents) only took place on the 11 June 1974. It is unclear what events took place hereafter, however the construction of the Tygerberg Medical Hospital and Campus continued, with the hospital officially opening in 1976. Furthermore, in 1979 designs were drawn up around upgrades to the Tygerberg Medical Campus and the use of the

Hardekraaltjie Cemetery as sports fields (**Annexure A**). It is assumed that these plans were carried out in the 1980's and that this became the status quo of the land.

On the 27 April 1994 South Africa's first democratic general election was held and 20 years later, in 2014, Mr. Daniel Dietrich informs the Dean of Stellenbosch University of his forebearers buried at Hardekraaltjie Cemetery. This act, undertaken by Daniel Dietrich, marks the catalyst for Stellenbosch University in terms of its era of restitution around the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery. Mr DJ Dietrich, a Ravensmead resident and former employee at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, had done some research into his family history in the Cape Town Archive. He indicated that his grandfather and his grandfather's brother were both buried in the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery.

Several Heritage Studies have been undertaken since 2014. Winter, S. and Hart, T. undertook a *Heritage Statement for the Tygerberg Hospital Development Framework* in 2014. As part of this study, Sarah Winter, who compiled a Heritage Statement, commissioned David Wolmarans of *Imbila Location Service cc* to undertake a ground penetrating radar (GPR) scan of Erf 15349 on 16 July 2014. This was followed in 2015 by a second scan of Erf 15349 by Coen Nienaber of the Bio-Archaeological Analysis and Archaeological Geophysics Unit at the University of Pretoria. This second scan was commissioned by the University of Stellenbosch. The GPR scan by Mr Nienaber in 2015 confirmed the findings of *Imbila Location Services cc*. and concluded that "*sub-surface anomalies consistent with the possible presence of graves were observed in this area*" (Nienaber 2015).

Thereafter, a site inspection was undertaken to the cemetery (Erf 15349) on the 10 April 2017 by Lita Webley who was accompanied by S de Kock (*Perception Planning*), G. Narainne, A. Ferreira and P. Albertus. In November 2017, *Perception Planning* submitted a NID to HWC for the "*Proposed redevelopment of the Stellenbosch University (Su) Tygerberg Campus, on Erf 24602, 18228 & 15394 (Parow), City Of Cape Town*". The final decision from HWC is dated Dec 2017 (**Annexure B**). Although no reference is made to the cemetery in HWC decision the following recommendations were included in the NID (as endorsed by HWC):

- *The Urban Design Framework as presented through this report be supported and that no further heritage related studies be required for the study area, save for Erven 15349, 18228 and land directly contiguous as illustrated in Figure 11 [Figure 3 below] in this report; [Reference is made to the 50m Buffer Area].*
- *That future development of Erven 15349, 18228 and land directly contiguous as illustrated in Figure 11 in this report be dealt with as part of a Permit Application in terms of Section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999), which must include a public participation process and establishment of a Cultural Management Plan for the future conservation and management of the cemetery.*

Furthermore, the aforementioned NID (November 2017) stated that the 50m buffer was a condition imposed by HWC's decision dated 7th August 2017 pertaining to the proposed redevelopment of Tygerberg Hospital Estate (**Annexure B**). In June 2017, an HIA was compiled by Perception Planning for the "Proposed redevelopment of the Tygerberg Hospital Estate on Erf 15350 and Remainder Erf 14298 (Parow), City Of Cape Town" with an Addendum in June 2018. This report plays a significant role in that it provides a Grade IIIA grading for the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, Erf 15350 (**Annexure B**).



**Figure 3:** The area delineated in yellow polygon to be treated as a 50m Buffer Area as imposed through HWC's decision dated 7th August 2017. Development within the 50m Buffer Area would trigger a Permit application in terms of Section 36 of the NHRA. Red polygon represents portion of land owned by University of Stellenbosch (Perception Planning, 2017).

In 2019, the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FMHS) Dean's Advisory Committee on Transformation proposed the formation of a Visual Redress Task Team, which was tasked to take responsibility for managing a restorative process linked to Hardekraaltjie. The main aim of the Task Team was to ensure that the SU's strategic objectives of "setting things right" (redress), "making up for past wrongs" (compensation) and "removing potential causes of grievances or complaints and exacting repatriation" is met (SU Draft Visual Redress Policy, 2020). The purpose of the Task Team is furthermore to ensure that Hardekraaltjie is recognised as a formal historic burial site and in so doing, be guided by the principles of restorative justice.

In October 2019, the FMHS led the way in expressing its commitment to change through the launch of the first faculty charter at the SU. Through its charter, the FMHS expresses its commitment to building an institutional culture that welcomes, celebrates and supports the development of a diverse body of students and staff. The faculty's specific commitment in the charter to acknowledge the lived experiences of the communities they serve and to engage with them respectfully has particular relevance in the context of Hardekraaltjie and the faculty's commitment to engaging with past injustices respectfully. On the 15th of January 2020, SU commissioned Sillito to undertake a Ground Penetrating Radar Survey of portions of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery site producing the location of numerous possible grave targets scattered across most of the site.

On the 1 June 2020 a community researcher, Chefferino Fortuin, initiated engagement with SU on behalf of his family and the community and in the same year SU establishes a Project Team focused on the memorialisation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery site. A Hardekraaltjie Steering Committee was formed which includes representatives of various stakeholders, including community members and representatives from Tygerberg Hospital, who met on a monthly basis. This led to the commencement of discussions and engagements between Tiervlei/Ravensmead community members and SU in 2021 with the first community engagement event regarding the memorialisation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery being held on Heritage Day (24 September 2021). In March 2022 the second community engagement between Tiervlei/ Ravensmead community members and Stellenbosch University is undertaken and, on the 12 December 2022, a third community engagement event is held at the Ravensmead Public Library. One of the outcomes of these engagements is the compilation of a book called "*Landscapes of dispossession: Stories of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery: Told by people from Tiervlei-Ravensmead*". The book was launched on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024 (Editors: Marietjie Oelofsen and Chefferino Fortuin).

In 2023 *PHS Consulting* was appointed to undertake the formal heritage process, on behalf of Stellenbosch University, through a Section 36 permit application for Memorialisation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery to be made to Heritage Western Cape ("HWC"). The aim is to obtain heritage approval for the memorialisation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, which is older than 60 years and is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority therefore subject to Section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) ("NHRA"). PHS Consulting has been engaging with the Steering Committee, strategic SU Faculties and Tygerberg Hospital in workshopping the Memorialisation concept. Furthermore, PHS Consulting initiated further radar scanning to be undertaken within areas not previously scanned, but within an extended buffer zone area. PHS undertook the first round of formal public consultation during the 16<sup>th</sup> of October – 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2024. Comments received during the formal public consultation process and the responses have been included as **Appendix G4**. After this initial consultation process further focused consultation took place to date.

In addition, Perception Planning made available a study they undertook for the Department of Health & Wellness (Western Cape Government) in April 2025 which analysed various findings to date. Aerial images were analysed to determine burial patterns overtime and the likelihood of the presence of graves outside the boundaries of the formal cemetery. The study casts doubt around the Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) technology utilised and furthermore states that "*the presence of possible burials under the sports fields on Erf 24602 is difficult to explain*" (Perception Planning 2025). While the aerial images depict possible disturbance directly to the north of Erf 15349, it does not account for any disturbances to the northwest of Erf 15349 (under the sports field).

Another pertinent outcome of this study is the addition of numerous burial records adding to the original 247 'list of names' of those who were intended to be buried at Hardekraaltjie in accordance with burial records found. In addition to the collaborated research undertaken by Stellenbosch University and Lita Webley they identified approximately 1026 (and counting) known individuals which have now been identified as having been buried or intended to be buried at the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery.

The final study dated May 2025, to be mentioned is "*Hardekraaltjie Cemetery: An Overview*" undertaken by Dr. Handri Walters from the Department of Sociology & Social Anthropology,

Stellenbosch University. This study provided a detailed overview of the history of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and as a result also identifies the ‘unknown’ history of the site and the challenges this poses. It states that *“while much has been uncovered about the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery site through consulting various archives (Western Cape Archives and Records Service in Cape Town, Archive for Contemporary Affairs in Bloemfontein, Stellenbosch University Archive, Stellenbosch University Document Centre), through consulting autobiographies and literature on the history of Cape Town’s northern suburbs, and exploring oral histories as collected during the Hardekraaltjie Research Project (2021-2023), existing methodologies are proving limited in providing a full understanding of the history of the Hardekraaltjie site and those who were buried at this cemetery”* (Walters 2025: 13).

As pointed out in the study, *“one of the more challenging aspects of this research has been to correlate information that emerged in participant recollections (as reliant on memory) with information as captured by official documents or records”* (Walters 2025: 14). Challenges specifically around determining who was buried at the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery has been multiple and has posed several challenges. Similar challenges emerged in the collection of oral histories for example where names provided by participants of their deceased family members buried at Hardekraaltjie, were hard to correlate with official burial records. *“The records for most of the names provided could not be found as of yet, but investigations remain ongoing. Some older respondents also claimed memory of funerals at Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, however, these burials apparently occurred after the closure of the site. It is possible that such recollections entail faulty memory, but as noted in the draft report provided by Perception Planning (April 2025), the act of burials occurring “without permission” at the site after its closure in June 1947, cannot be completely discounted. Whether such burials occurred, or when such burials occurred, will unfortunately remain unknown, and the recognition of persons buried in this manner will similarly remain challenging in the absence of official records to substantiate such accounts”* (Walters 2025: 14).

Furthermore, at the IACOM Meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2025, a Permit was issued by HWC (**Annexure J**) for the proposed ground truthing on Erf 24602, Hardekraaltjie Cemetery resulting in the latest report undertaken by Archaeologist Dr. Jayson Orton (ASHA Consulting): *“Permit Report: Test Excavations on Erf 15349 Parow (University of Stellenbosch Tygerberg Campus), Western Cape”* (**Annexure K**). The purpose of the test excavations were to determine whether the adjacent Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (Erf 15349) may once have extended onto Erf 24602 as indicated in the 2024 GPR scan which revealed a number of potential grave targets at varying depths. The six that were earmarked in the study to have the greatest likelihood of being graves was selected for ground truthing. The locations of these six targets were surveyed and marked on site. Test trenches were then excavated diagonally immediately adjacent to each of these locations. No evidence for burials was located at any of them. The excavations showed fill to varying depths of between 0.4 m and in excess of 1.4 m. It is evident that this was brought into level a naturally undulating surface in order to create the playing fields. This variable fill, the lack of fill in the known cemetery, and the evidence from historical mapping indicated in this study regarding the alignment of the Elsie River, suggests that burial did not occur in the study area.

It was concluded that: *“It is considered highly unlikely that burials occurred outside of the known historical Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, and it is recommended that this portion of Erf 24602 should not be considered as potentially being part of the historic cemetery.”*

This historical summary and the heritage studies identified above play a major role in the shaping of the events that have unfolded to date and lay the foundation for the events to follow. A large portion of the historical events and information has been extracted from these heritage studies and publications undertaken, which contained detailed information of the area and site. The information to follow will allow us to understand the depth of the historical nature and significance of the site as well as what the heritage indicators and informants are for the site and how to best produce a memorialisation concept respecting and portraying the communities most impacted.

#### **4. STATEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE AND ACCREDITATION**

The authors of this report have no financial interest in the proposed development, or any other projects being undertaken by the developers. Paul Slabbert is an accredited principal member of the Association of Professional Heritage Practitioners: Western Cape (APHP). He has been involved in urban and rural conservation and heritage/visual assessments since 1999. Paul Slabbert is a Planner, Heritage and Environmental Consultant with rural and urban design experience in the private sector. Jenna Theron is an accredited associate member of the Association of Professional Heritage Practitioners: Western Cape (APHP). She has been involved in various aspects of Environmental and Heritage Planning since 2008.

## 5. STATUTORY CONTEXT

### 5.1 Title Deeds & SG Diagram

#### Erf 15349

Title Deed T 16840/1974 confirms the ownership of the ‘formal’ Hardekraaltjie Cemetery Erf 16840 as *Stellenbosch University (“Universiteit van Stellenbosch”)*. The SG Diagram is dated 04/01/1910. There are no restrictive title deed conditions preventing the memorialisation of the Cemetery. However, it is important to note that the municipality sold the property for ten cents (10c) on 4 October 1972, “*subject to such conditions as referred to in the deed dated 4 January 1910*”, to Stellenbosch University. The Deed in terms of Act 3 of 1883 authorizes the establishment of a public cemetery and the management of Hardekraaltjie cemetery. The land must be used as a public cemetery from 4 January 1910. The restrictive condition at the time could only be removed or amended by the Removal of Restrictions Act 84 of 1967. The restrictive conditions were not removed or amended when the property was transferred to Stellenbosch University. Although we know that the Divisional Council requested the closure of Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, the Bellville magistrate stipulated provisions should be made for relatives to visit graves thereby the closing of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery in 1947 by the Provincial Administration was for burials only. Hardekraaltjie was always to remain a Cemetery with public access, in accordance with its Title Deeds. The memorialisation process would therefore need to ensure that this is achieved.

#### Erf 18228

Title Deed T 34584/1982 for Erf 18228 confirms the ownership of Stellenbosch University (“Universiteit van Stellenbosch”). The SG Diagram is dated 14/08/1981. There are no restrictive title deed conditions preventing the memorialisation of Erf 18228 into the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery.

#### Erf 24602

Lastly, Title Deed T 30355/2015 also confirms the ownership of Stellenbosch University (“Universiteit van Stellenbosch”). The SG Diagram is dated 10/07/2012. This Erf will not be part of the memorialised area but partially falls within the original ‘50m buffer zone. Ground truthing of potential burial targets identified through GPR scanning within the buffer zone has been undertaken and no graves were identified within this area. While Erf 24602 does not form part of the memorial area, it is recommended that a 10m buffer zone (falling within Erf 24602) is maintained to protect the interface around the Memorial area.

Refer to the Title Deeds and SG diagrams attached under **Annexure C**.

### 5.2 Zoning

Erf 15349 also known as the official “Hardekraaltjie Cemetery”, has a ‘Community 2: Regional’ zoning that recognises that the site is a historical burial ground. Furthermore, Erf 18228 and Erf 24602 are both zoned ‘Community 2: Regional’.

### 5.3 National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Section 36 (a) of the NHRA (1999) states that: “*No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority – (b) destroy, damage, alter, exhume,*

*remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority.”* Memorialisation will include sensitive landscaping and selected minor building works within the burial ground, that constitute “alter” as per the Act, therefore the requirement for a permit. The ground-truthing of 6 potential grave targets was also undertaken to confirm the presence of human burials within the extended buffer zone. A Permit was obtained from HWC on the 11 December 2025 and works were undertaken on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2026 (Refer to **Annexure K**). No graves were found within the buffer zone.

This document constitutes the Heritage Statement to inform the memorialisation and is considered part of the documentation to be submitted to Heritage Western Cape (HWC). IACOM will be the committee to take a decision in this regard considering the Section 36 recommendation was made by the committee as part of a Section 38 process. According to the Section 38 Phase One Heritage Impact Assessment undertaken by *Perception Planning* for the “*Proposed redevelopment of the Tygerberg Hospital Estate on Erf 15350 and Remainder Erf 14298 (Parow), City of Cape Town*” (June 2017) the conservation status of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery is indicated as a Grade IIIA site with high local socio-historic and archaeological significance. here is no reason to change the grading or significance which was carefully considered and appears to be supported by HWC.

In terms of Regulation 43 (2003), A Grade III heritage resource worthy of conservation should be applied to any heritage resource which:

- a) *Fulfils one or more of the criteria set out in section 3 (3) of the Act; or*
- b) *In the case of a site contributes to the environmental quality or cultural significance of a larger area which fulfils one of the above criteria, but that does not fulfil the criteria for Grade 2 status.*

Grade III is furthermore separated into three sub-categories (HWC 2012):

#### **Grade IIIC: (Low Significance)**

*This grading is applied to buildings and/or sites whose significance is, in large part, a significance that contributes to the character or significance of the environs.*

*These buildings and sites should, as a consequence, only be protected and regulated if the significance of the environs is sufficient to warrant protective measures. In other words, these buildings and/or sites will only be protected if they are within declared conservation or heritage areas.*

#### **Grade IIIB: (Medium Significance)**

*This grading is applied to buildings and/or sites of a marginally lesser significance than grade IIIA; and such marginally lesser significance militates against the regulation of internal alterations. Such buildings and sites may have similar significances to those of a grade IIIA building or site, but to a lesser degree.*

*Like grade IIIA buildings and sites, such buildings and sites may be representative, being excellent examples of their kind, or may be rare, but less so than grade IIIA examples: as such they should receive less stringent protection than grade IIIA buildings and sites at local level and internal alterations should not be regulated (in this context).*

### **Grade IIIA: (High Significance)**

*This grading is applied to buildings and sites that have sufficient intrinsic significance to be regarded as local heritage resources; and are significant enough to warrant any alteration being regulated. The significances of these buildings and/or sites should include at least some of the following characteristics:*

- *Highly significant association with a:*
  - *historic person*
  - *social grouping*
  - *historic events*
  - *historical activities or roles*
  - *public memory*
- *Historical and/or visual-spatial landmark within a place*
- *High architectural quality, well-constructed and of fine materials*
- *Historical fabric is mostly intact (this fabric may be layered historically and/or past damage should be easily reversible)*
- *Fabric dates to the early origins of a place*
- *Fabric clearly illustrates an historical period in the evolution of a place*
- *Fabric clearly illustrates the key uses and roles of a place over time*
- *Contributes significantly to the environmental quality of a Grade I or Grade II heritage resource or a conservation/heritage area.*

*Such buildings and sites may be representative, being excellent examples of their kind, or may be rare: as such they should receive maximum protection at local level.*

### **Site Grading:**

The Hardekraaltjie Cemetery is largely a testament to the lives and deaths of marginalised residents affected by colonial and apartheid spatial policies. It is a focal point for heritage restitution, community memory and inclusive commemoration. The Hardekraaltjie Cemetery is of high cultural, social, and historical significance due to:

- Its association with displaced communities as a result of forceful removals and apartheid planning;
- Its role as a site of memory, dignity, and ancestral heritage with strong spiritual beliefs surrounding burials/ a final resting place; and
- Its embodiment of apartheid-era injustice and spatial violence which has a deep meaning for descendant and displaced communities.

Section 38(3)(b) of the NHRA requires an assessment of the significance of all heritage resources. In terms of Section 2(vi), “cultural significance” means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance. “Graves are deemed to have high cultural significance at the local level for their social value. They are allocated a grade of IIIA which is, therefore, the minimum grading that should be applied to

the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery” (Orton, 2026). The Hardekraaltjie Cemetery was found to be of High Significance and therefore bestowed a Grade IIIA grading. Such a grading was proposed in previous heritage studies undertaken for the site and endorsed by HWC. It is furthermore recommended that Erf 18228 also be considered for Grade IIIA grading considering that these two erven will be part of the Memorial Area.

A separate independent nomination has also been made that the site be graded as a Grade II Provincial Heritage Site and the outcome of this process will be ongoing. The matter was tabled and discussed at the Inventories, Grading and Interpretation Meeting (IGIC) held on 6 February 2026. The HWC decision in this regard was as follows (**Appendix L**):

“The Committee resolved to initiate the process to declare the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery as a Provincial Heritage Site in terms of S27 (8) (d). The boundaries of the proposed Provincial Heritage Site will be confirmed once the existing S36 process has been concluded.”

The site (Erf 15349 & Erf 18228) is therefore considered to be of High Local to Provincial Heritage Significance (Grade IIIA / potential Grade II). After consultation with SU a Grade II Grading would be supported for Erf 15349 & Erf 18228.

However, no graves were found in the buffer zone on Erf 24602 and there is no archaeological evidence to suggest that graves might occur there. Erf 24602 thus does not have any particular heritage significance and, from an archaeological perspective, does not merit grading (Orton, 2026).

## 6. HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF THE SITE AND CONTEXT: HARDEKRAALTJIE CEMETERY

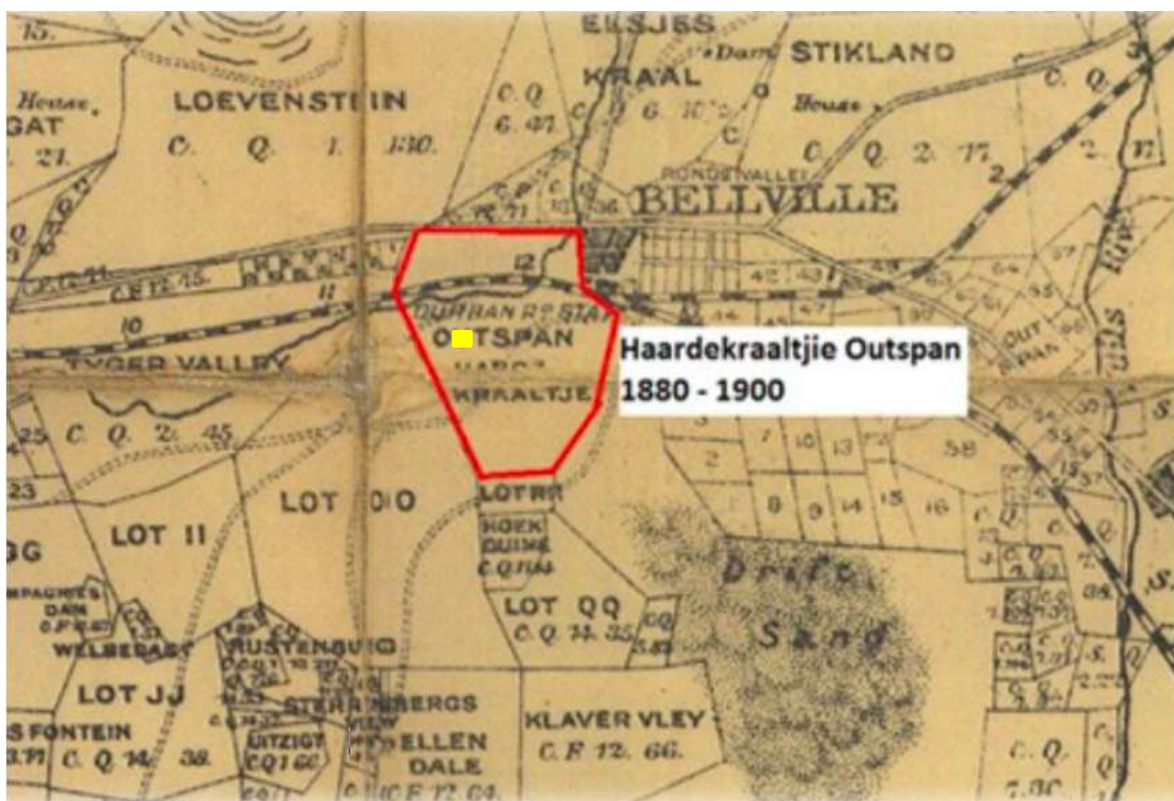
### 6.1 Broader Contextual History of the Area

*“The pattern of early and later colonial land grants at the Cape was largely informed by water availability and soil conditions. This is demonstrated by the pattern of early colonial land grants in the Tygerberg region, where they hugged the well-watered and fertile slopes and valleys of the Tygerberg and Bottelaryberg and avoided the barren shifting sands of the Cape Flats.”* (Winter and Hart, 2014:3).

*“The Hardekraaltjie outspan was situated on a portion of hard ground forming part of a spur of the Tygerberg and on the edge of the sands of the Cape Flats. Its position on the main route connecting Cape Town and its outlying areas via Tygerberg and Kuils River, together with the availability of water from the Elsieskraal River provided ideal conditions for an outspan”* (Winter and Hart, 2014).” The Hardekraaltjie Forest Reserve formed part of the Hardekraaltjie Outspan which served as a resting stop for those travelling to and from the interior in the 1700 and 1800s. In the latter half of this century, the Outspan became the site of limited urban development, which included the addition of a railway (constructed between 1859 and 1862). *The developing transport networks, which included the hard road to the interior (Main Road) and the railway, resulted in escalated commercial development around these transport networks to Cape Town (as destination for farm produce) and to the interior (as destination for military equipment and troops to the north of the country during the South African War) during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century”* (Walters, 2025: 2).

In 1861 the growing village around Twelfth Mile was named Bellville after C.D. Bell, Surveyor General of the Cape Colony from 1848 to 1872. Bellville was described as *“a quiet, leisurely hamlet serving a growing farming community between the rooikrans-covered expanse of the Cape Flats and the wheatfields of the Tygerberg, the Swartland, and the Koeberg farms to the north* (Duminy 1979:3)” (Walters, 2025: 2). By the late 1800s a significant portion of the old Hardekraaltjie Outspan had been converted into a Forest reserve managed by the British Crown. The Forest Reserve, then under the management of the Crown until the Union was established in 1910, as well as the cemetery, was named for the area in which it was historically located. *“Located between the farms of Tygerberg hills and the sandy Cape Flats to the south, its name inferred the hard surface which was suitable for road travel (via Main Road now known as Voortrekker Road) from Cape Town to the interior”* (Walters, 2025: 2).

The railway line reached Bellville in 1862, and in 1886 the name of the village was changed to Durban Road. The Hardekraaltjie Outspan was formally declared in 1874 and in 1877 the railway line between Bellville and Wellington was shortened by a route via Brakenfell, Kraaifontein and Paarl (Figure 4) (Chefferino, 2021). In 1904 the village reverted back to the name Bellville” (Winter and Hart, 2014:4). *“Increasing population numbers in the Parow area by 1909, created the need for a cemetery”* (Perception Planning 2025).



**Figure 4:** Showing the location of the study area within the context of early (1880-1890) SG Mapping for the area. Note the extent of the former “Hardekraaltjie Outspan” outlined in red and the approximate location of the cemetery in yellow (Source: Chefferino Fortuin, 2021).

The demographics of the city changed considerably during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. By 1945 the British influence had been diluted by a growing coloured and black population overtaking that of the white population. There was also an influx of poor white Afrikaners into the inner-city areas of Woodstock and Observatory, as well as into the outlying dormitory suburbs of Goodwood and Parow. The northern suburbs of Goodwood, Parow and Bellville grew rapidly during this period becoming municipalities by 1940. Their white populations were predominantly Afrikaans-speaking and they became a stronghold of Afrikaner nationalism. Voortrekker Road and the Karl Bremer Hospital in Bellville represented aspects of Afrikaner ‘commercial and technocratic success’ (Bickford-Smith et al 1999:186).

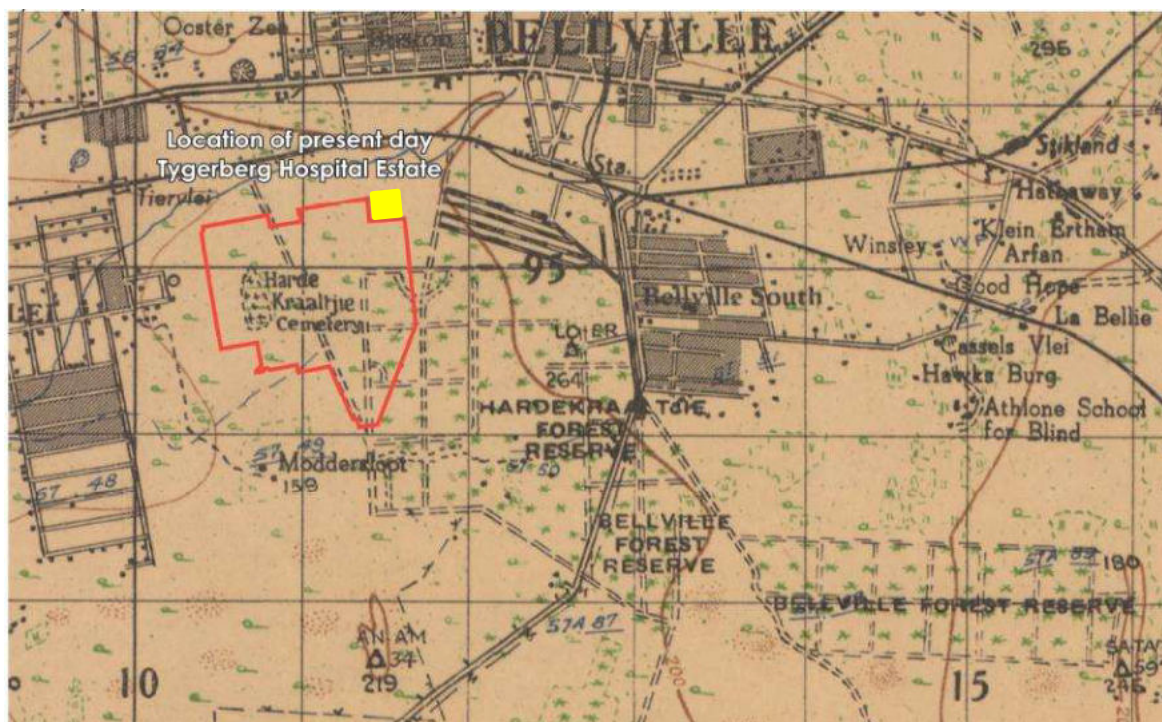
In a letter dated 4th May 1943, under the title “Control of the Native” the Department of Native Affairs discussed the problem of the influx of “natives” to the Cape Division attracted by “military contracts” – with result there was acute housing shortage in the northern suburbs. The three municipalities of Goodwood, Parow and Bellville felt the problem could best be solved by the establishment of a native township or native location in the vicinity of Bellville and “all are agreed that a suitable place for such a location would be on the Hardekraaltjie Forest Reserve (Bosreservaat), which is understood to be 210 morgen in extent” (Perception Planning, 2017).

Elsewhere in the correspondence, there is a letter (12 May 1955) which confirmed that Portion 19 of the Farm Belhar 508 is in fact also referred to as the Hardekraaltjie Forest Reserve—with a size of 67 morgen. However, the problem was that the Hardekraaltjie Forest Reserve (including Portion 19 the farm Belhar 508) was a demarcated forest reserve, with the consequence that the approval of both houses of Parliament was required in terms of section 9(2) of the Forest and Veld Conservation Act, 1941, to make it available for public purposes.

Thus in 1946, Parliament (on the 4th and 10th June respectively) approved the proposal that a portion of about 90 morgen of the farm Belhar should be withdrawn from the demarcated forest areas for the purposes of the Department of Native Affairs (Perception Planning, 2017).

In a letter dated 20 November 1951, the author explained that the Hardekraaltjie Forest Reserve, consisting of 65 morgen is of great value to the Department of Native Affairs as it could resolve the problems of the following four bodies (Perception Planning, 2017):

- 1) Department of Native Affairs
- 2) Cape Divisional Council
- 3) Citizens Housing League Utility Company
- 4) Cape Peninsula Cemeteries Board



**Figure 5:** Approximate location of the site (yellow block) transposed onto extract from 1942 topographical showing the Hardekraaltjie- and Bellville Forest Reserves. Note the incorrect notation of the “Hardekraaltjie Cemetery” with the correct location shown in yellow (Source: Perception Planning, 2017 (NGSI)).

“The ground has been set aside for my Department (Native Affairs) to serve as a Native Reception Depot and Hostel terrain for the three municipalities (Goodwood, Parow and Belville) in the northern suburbs. They are busy with large scale housing schemes at Nyanga, and they will need Hardekraaltjie as a reception depot, labour bureau and administrative offices” (Perception Planning, 2017). However, some months later, the Department of Native Affairs had changed its mind and commented that while it had intended that the remaining portion (65 morgen) of the Hardekraaltjie Forest Reserve, adjoining the Bellville station, should be used for native housing, “it is now replaced with Nyanga, which however, is inadequate in extent. The idea behind the proposal is to sell the 65 morgen of Hardekraal to obtain funds for the purchase of lands for extending Nyanga” (Perception Planning, 2017). In 1952, the Government granted the “Hardekraaltjie” land to the Citizens Housing League Utility Company, although the actual transfer was not completed. (The Citizens Housing League

Utility Company was founded in 1929 and still exists to this day under the name of Communicare).

The final Deed of Grant, transferring Portion 19 of the farm Belhar (Erf 15350) to the Board of Trustees of the Cape Peninsula Cemeteries Board was undertaken in 1956, and involved an exchange between 3 parties namely:

- 1) Department of Native Affairs
- 2) Citizens Housing League Utility Company
- 3) Cape Peninsula Cemeteries Board

The exchange took some time to complete but involved a straight swop between the “*Polisieterrein: gedeelte 2 van The Range*” owned by the Trustees of the CPCB owned land and they swopped this with the Citizens Housing League Utility Company for Portion 9 of the Farm Belhar 508. However, none of the correspondence specifically mentions the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (Perception Planning, 2017).

Today, the Hardekraaltjie caravan park and sports facilities situated north of the railway line and Tienie Meyer Bypass, and south of Voortrekker Road are all that remains of the original outspan (Fransen, 2004). The Twelfth Mile milestone is now located on the corner of Voortrekker and Durban Roads, close to its original location, and is a Provincial Heritage Site (Perception Planning, 2017).

*“The decades following the closure of Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (1947) proved to be one of general upheaval in the area due to the establishment of the apartheid state in 1948, and the introduction of the Group Areas Act in 1950.”* The latter had a tremendous impact in the Bellville area *“with newly demarcated areas for those classified as ‘white’, ‘coloured’ or ‘native.’ It brought forth not only a period of uncertainty (which included awaiting group areas proclamations and their potential implementation at any stage), but also subsequently a period of forced removals.”* The area south of the railway line, commonly referred to as Bellville South including Tiervlei (previously Tyger Valley, and currently Ravensmead), was declared a ‘Coloured area’ in the late 1950s. *“At the same time, Stellenbosch University in partnership with the apartheid state identified land large enough to host a new teaching hospital (Tygerberg) and a new faculty of medicine ideally located on the borders of the ‘white’ and ‘coloured’ areas.”* The eventual chosen area was located in what constituted the old Hardekraaltjie Forest Reserve. Land was acquired piecemeal between 1958 and 1974 to accommodate the growing campus. (Walters, 2025: 8)

Sanlam, the Afrikaans financial giant during this time, moved its headquarters to Bellville in 1962 resulting in the establishment of numerous commercial ventures in the area, e.g. Parow’s Sanlam Shopping Centre, opened in 1971. Tygerberg Hospital was linked to Stellenbosch University and was the first faculty within the Cape Province to teach medicine in Afrikaans. *“Construction of the new hospital commenced in 1962, and the full scope of the project was realized over the next decade (major construction was completed in 1973.) This colossal project formed the visual backdrop of major upheavals within the neighbouring Tiervlei – which became the site to which those designated as coloured by the apartheid state were moved to (from newly designated white areas in the Bellville area), where some white families were moved out of, and where the apartheid government actively intervened via the enactment of slum clearance (which caused internal forced removals) from 1966 onwards. This continued into the 1970s.”* However, the site identified for the development of the hospital and faculty

buildings, about 100 hectares in total, was an area previously known as 'die bos' (previously the Forest Reserve) and as far as can be determined, did not involve the forced removals of any residents in the area to accommodate construction. (Walters, 2025: 8)

*“During these decades of local geographical and demography shifts, specifically 1948 to 1970, the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery retained its position as a site closed for burial but known to residents – some of whom had family members buried there”. At the time of the cemetery’s closure, “its surrounds (the Forest Reserve to be converted into a marshalling yard) served as a site for the collection of wood, a thoroughfare to the nearby urban centres of Bellville and Parow for those travelling by foot, and also served as a social space for youngsters who spent their days playing in this large uninhabited area neighbouring Tiervlei, commonly known as ‘die bos’. Encounters with the cemetery by youngsters emerged in the recollections of older participants of the Hardekraaltjie Research Project (2021-2023) (Oelofsen and Fortuin 2024). For those who can recall, the discovery of the cemetery was mostly a happenstance occurrence during the exploration of ‘die bos.’ Some noted the blue gum trees in the surrounds and as marker of the site, while another noted its neglected state. The boundaries of the cemetery were also not clear according to these participants. The site was accessible on foot after its closure, as indicated by the recollection of participants but became less accessible when construction on the Tygerberg hospital (which commenced in 1962) and the new buildings for Stellenbosch University’s faculty of medicine reached stages of completion towards the early 1970s. The cemetery site would soon disappear in the midst of an expanding campus.” (Walters, 2025: 8)*

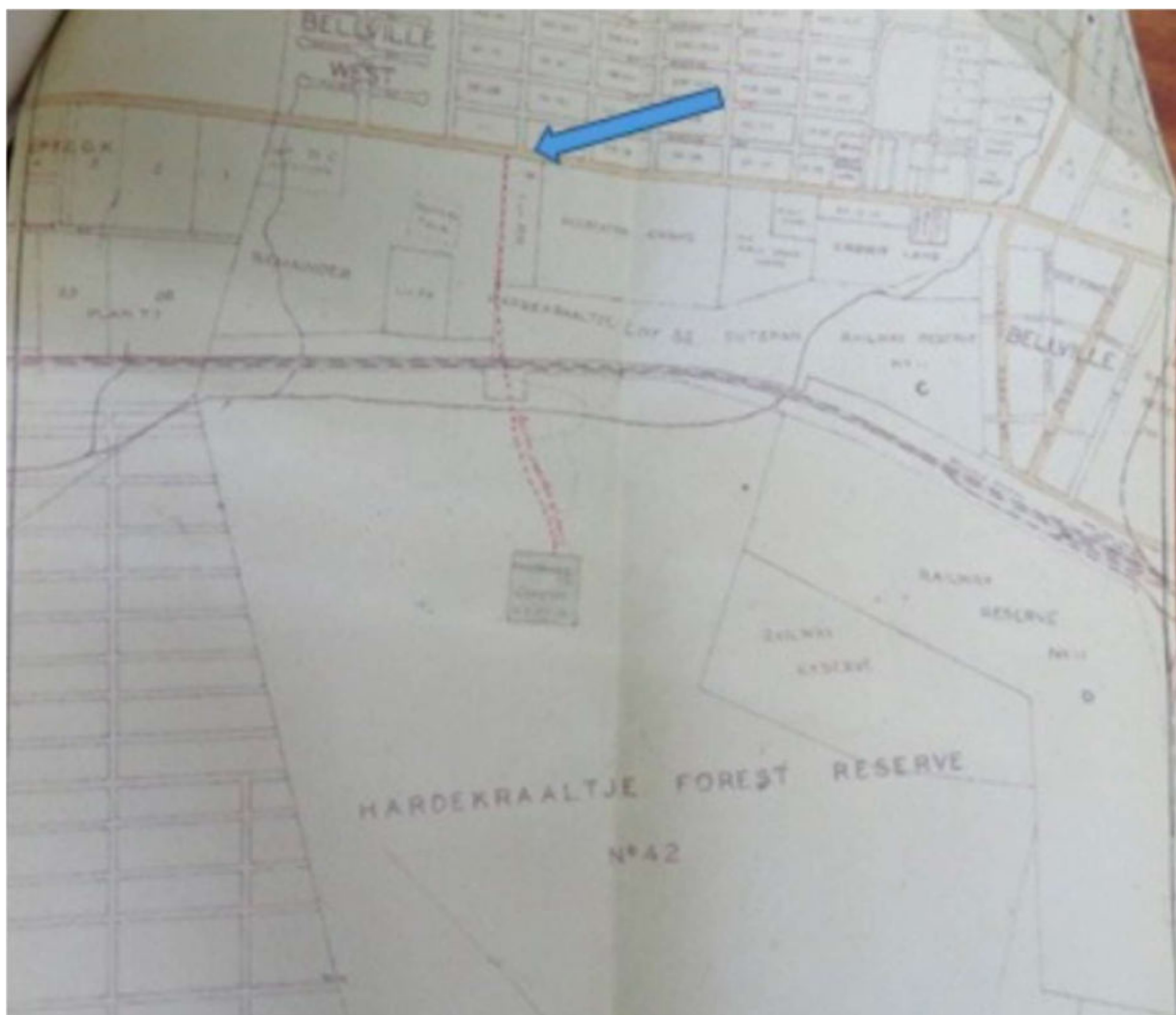
Furthermore, the Dutch Reformed Church in Bellville was constructed in 1975 and became the largest in the Cape (Bickford-Smith et al 1998). Tygerberg hospital officially opened in 1976, which further impacted the nature of the site. *“Key to understanding the overall layout of the Tygerberg Hospital Estate is the fact that racial-based apartheid ideologies in place during the design phase heavily influenced the overall design process so as to separate races through physical barriers and space and, as a consequence, duplication of services and infrastructure” (Perception Planning, 2017).* The Hardekraaltjie Cemetery was therefore conveniently located on the border of a 'white' and 'non-white' group area.

## **6.2 The Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (before 1980)**

*“In February 1909 the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery site was surveyed by Johannes Knockers van Oosterzee [‘Ottie’] Duminy”. “Ottie Duminy was the son of a prominent farmer in the Tygerberg area and was a trained Government Surveyor when he measured the two morgen (or 1.7 hectares) at 90-degree angles in the Hardekraaltjie Forest Reserve, located to the south of the railway line at the edges of the developing town of Bellville in the Cape Division” (Walters, 2025: 16).* The cemetery was initially part of the Hardekraaltjie Outspan/ Forrest Reserve. Access to the cemetery was from the north, crossing the Elsieskraal River. The access route is important, as it suggests that the cemetery may have been used, at least initially, by the inhabitants of the developing village of Bellville (Perception Planning, 2017). Figure 6 below shows the direction of the road to the Cemetery on the "Hardepad" main road. *“It was from the Cape Town-Bellville Highway across the Outspan, across the railway line through the old forestry overpass near the gatekeeper’s cottage at the railway across the Elsiesriver in a southerly direction to the cemetery (Figure 6) (Chefferino, 2021).”*

*“By the time Hardekraaltjie Cemetery was surveyed in 1909, the Hardekraaltjie Outspan had been subjected to land disposal for the purposes of a growing rural town. The north side of*

the railway line had become the site of limited urban development on Main Road, and the area between Main Road” and “the railway line had been converted into a recreational area which included sports fields (commonly referred to as ‘the outspan’ from there on). The area to the south of the railway line had been converted into a Forest Reserve used for the collection of wood (by people living as far away as Paarl, about 40km away) and for grazing cattle by farmers in the nearby area. The “Harde Kraaltje Cemetery,” located in the Forest Reserve, was registered on 4 January 1910, and was owned and managed by a board of Trustees” (including Ottie Duminy). “The title deed was registered “on condition that the land hereby granted shall be used as a site for a public cemetery with full power and authority henceforth to possess the same in perpetuity,” while the wording “with permission to dispose of or alienate the same in such manner as he may think proper” was crossed out. The establishment of the cemetery within the Forest Reserve marked the beginning of the disposal of Reserve land – as managed by the Department of Forestry”. The cemetery was considered “an isolated anomaly of land ownership and land use in the broader expanse of almost 100 hectares of surrounding Forest Reserve. Over the next few decades constant interest in the surrounding land was navigated and managed by the Department of Forestry until the Reserve land had been completely disposed of by the mid-1950s”. [Walters, 2025: 2]



**Figure 6:** Access route shown to the Cemetery from the north (source: Chefferino Fortuin, 2021).

At the time of its establishment, access to the cemetery, is again confirmed as being “gained across the Outspan [on the northern side of the railway line] and through two wide gates which guarded the level crossing over the line. Near the southern gate there was a cottage in which a railway ganger lived, and one of his duties was to open and shut the gates to allow funeral processions to pass through on their way to the cemetery (Duminy 1979:82).” [Walters: 2025]

Who the cemetery was meant to serve and who was buried there differ to some extent in available sources. “For instance, upon its closure in 1947 it was reported that the cemetery was established for paupers”. In the autobiography of J.P. Duminy (brother of Oattie Duminy), the cemetery was established “for Coloureds to the south of the railway line” (Duminy 1979:82). “In his account, this cemetery served as the final resting place for some of the farmworkers in the area (including those who worked on his father’s farm). Duminy described these funerals as “very modest affairs for which a sympathetic master would provide implements and assistance for the digging of a grave and a draped cart or wagon to serve as a hearse””. [Walters, 2025: 2]

“The graves of these farmworkers were apparently “tidied up [maintained] by their employers” (Scheepers Strydom 1982). While this rendition likely provides a romanticised version of paternalistic care between farm owner (‘master’) and farm worker, it alludes to challenges related to maintenance of individual graves and of the cemetery in general. For most who were buried at Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, burials were modest affairs, did not include clear grave markers, and maintenance was likely challenging due to limited resources or geographical distance of living family members (if they were identified). Its general management by a board of trustees also contributed to inconsistent forms of care and maintenance during its operational years and beyond”. [Walters, 2025: 3]

However, what we know today, is that the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery “did not serve solely as a burial ground for farmworkers, nor did it exclusively serve those classified as ‘Coloured.’ It became the final resting place for a rather diverse group of people in the area. While most of the death notices recovered for those buried at Hardekraaltjie Cemetery designated the deceased as ‘mixed’ or ‘coloured’, records also indicated designations such as ‘Xhosa’, ‘Fingo’ (Mfengu), ‘Basuto’, ‘Native’ or some related designation that indicated that black South Africans were also buried at the site (and this occurred throughout the cemetery’s operational years). There is another case in which race of the deceased was specified as ‘Indian’ or ‘Malay’ or ‘European’ – although such cases constitute a small minority in the records. The diversity captured by the records confirm that the cemetery was primarily established to serve low-income groups in the area rather than any particular religious or racial demographic. Furthermore, the initial records consulted revealed that the occupation of most adults who were buried there was listed as domestic servant (for women) or general labourer (for men). It should also be noted that the large majority of burials, about 70%, constitute those of infants and children under 10 years.” [Walters, 2025: 3]

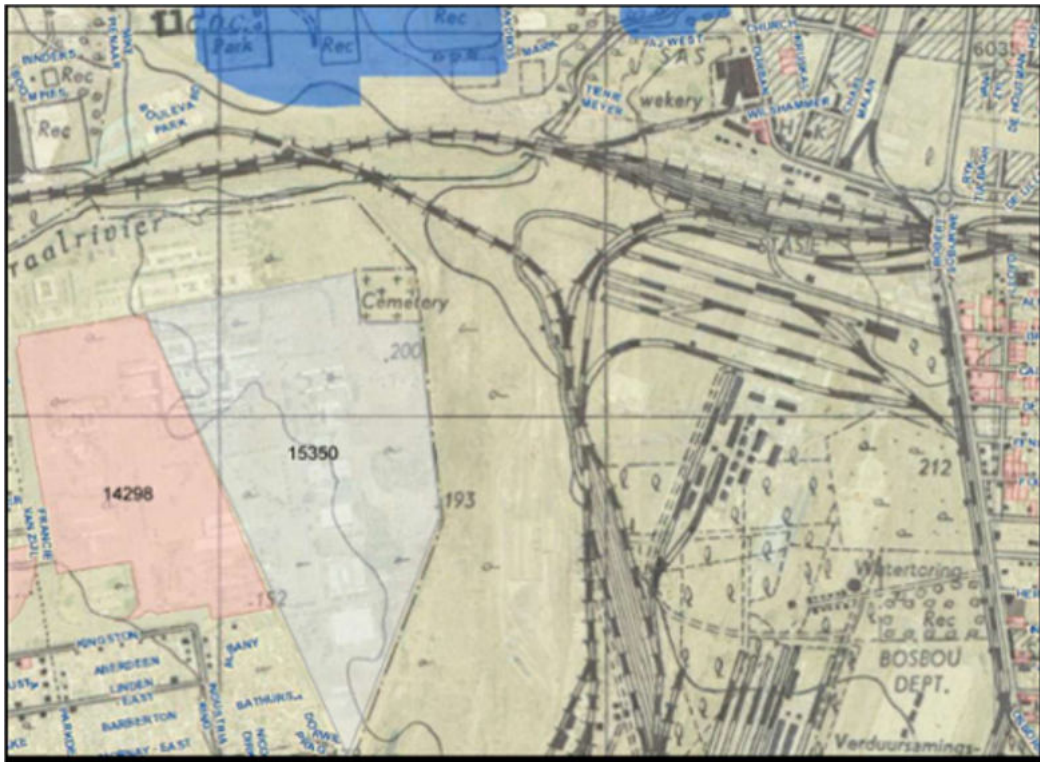
“Despite the diversity of persons buried at Hardekraaltjie, as illustrated by early records, the site became largely known as a cemetery for ‘Coloured’ people in the area by the time of its closure (Duminy 1979:109). Assumption that the cemetery served only the population south of the Bellville railway line (Tiervlei, earlier Tyger Valley or simply Bellville South) also provided a limited picture of the cemetery’s use. Based on the recovered records, the cemetery served a rather large area and persons as far away as Kuilsriver, Stikland and Matroosfontein were buried at this site. Tiervlei’s (Tyger Valley’s) connection to the cemetery was established

*almost a full 20 years into its existence when enquiries were made towards the expansion of the area and population which this cemetery had to serve in 1928*". [Walters, 2025: 3]

*"In correspondence between B. Duminy (trustee) and a government official, dated 12 January 1928, an amendment was requested to accommodate and include persons living in the nearby developing area of Tyger Valley (later Tiervlei, today Ravensmead). In this correspondence it was indicated by the government that burials of persons from Tyger Valley would be allowed at the stipulated burial ground only for a period of five years until the area had established its own cemetery. At the time, the Tyger Valley Estate as it was known, located a few kilometres to the west of the cemetery, was in the early phases of residential development with the first plots for housing sold only recently. The Surveyor General noted at the time: "The lots on this large estate which have been sold have been transferred for the greater part to coloured people judging by the names in my register erven."* [Walters, 2025: 4]

*"Around the same time, the District Secretary of the Old Apostolic Church at Stikland wrote to the Cape Divisional to request the establishment of a cemetery at Stikland that could serve "a coloured community" while stipulating that "other coloured people [not belonging to the church] could also be buried there." The letter concluded: "a cemetery is very much needed in [the] vicinity." In the correspondence that ensued it was revealed that "the place belonging to Mr Duminy between Bellville and Tyger Valley" had served as a burial ground for people of colour residing as far away as Stikland and Blackheath who "had to bring their dead to Bellville except if they belong[ed] to the Dutch Reformed Church." However, no further correspondence regarding this matter was located in the archive". [Walters, 2025: 4]*

A sketch map in pencil, dating to 1930, confirms the position of the cemetery as reflected in the 1909 survey diagram. The 1942 topographical map does contain the name "Harde Kraaltjie Cemetery" but the words are written much further south (in error) and appear to overlap with the Hardekraaltjie Forest Reserve. This error does not appear in the 1945 topographical map (Figure 7). The size and shape of the cemetery on this map conforms with the Surveyor General map of 1909. Further confirmation of the location of the cemetery is provided in the 1945 aerial photograph of the study area (Figure 8).



**Figure 7:** The 1945 topographic map of the study area, overlaid on Google Earth, showing the position of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery adjacent the Tygerberg Hospital and bounded on its eastern side by the South African Railways. The position of Erven 15350 & 14298 was added (Perception Planning, 2017).



**Figure 8:** Aerial photograph from 1945, with the cadastral overlay, showing the location of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery site on Erf 15349, position indicated with the red arrow. Note the position of the small rectangular Erf 18228 on the western side of the cemetery. (Source: Perception Planning, 2017).

*“Renewed discussions for the establishment of a cemetery at Stikland continued more than a decade later under very different circumstances. In 1941 the need for an additional cemetery for Bellville was introduced by “a [racially diverse] group of representatives of the various Church Organisations and local bodies” of the area who highlighted concerns about the availability of space for burials in existing cemeteries serving the area. At the time the Bellville Town Council explained that there was no available land for these purposes in town. However, in 1944, the Cape Divisional Council identified a site in Stikland (at the farm La Belle Alliance) for the development of a cemetery. At a meeting held on 17 June 1947 with the local municipality, the representatives of the various stakeholder organisations expressed uncertainty about the proximity of the proposed cemetery and its availability to residents of Bellville. One of three representatives of the Ratepayers Association, Mr. Olivier, enquired “whether the cemetery for Coloureds at Hardekraaltjie had been closed already [and] whether the new proposed site would provide space for the burial of coloureds.” A member of the Divisional Council, Mr. J.H. Duminy, explained that the proposed site was 70 morgen in size and that the Divisional Council had given the site to the Bellville Town Council (rather than the Cape Peninsula Cemeteries Board who had previously applied for the site), and thus a primary function of the site was to meet the growing needs of Bellville and the district. What should be noted here but was not brought up during the meeting of 17 July, is that the ‘new cemetery’ to be established at Stikland had formed part of discussions related to the closure of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery. These discussions unfolded between 1944, when the South African Railways had acquired a large portion of the Forest Reserve for the establishment of a marshalling yard, and 1946 when the cemetery was officially closed. In these discussions, the ‘new cemetery’ to be established at Stikland was presented as an alternative site for burial for those who would have otherwise made use of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery. In July 1947, all eventually agreed that the location was ideal for the establishment of a cemetery. The Stikland cemetery was officially opened on Monday, 1 September 1947.” [Walters, 2025: 4]*

*“The year 1944 signified a broader shift in the local development of the area as the South African Railways acquired a large portion of the Forest Reserve, bordering the eastern side of Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, for the purposes of establishing a marshalling yard (the largest in the Cape Province at the time). This acquisition and conversion of the site sparked concerns about the access route leading from Bellville (to the north), across the train tracks, to the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery. The small cemetery located within the Forest Reserve was connected to Bellville by a single sandy road, which was traversed by donkey and horse carts used for transporting the deceased’s coffin, while the funeral attendees followed on foot to the gravesite. Discussions related to the accessibility of the site within the developing Bellville area ultimately signalled the beginning of the end for Hardekraaltjie Cemetery.” [Walters, 2025: 5]*

*“In April 1943 a new board of trustees requested council’s assistance in removing brush and bushes on the site and requested an improved access road than the one crossing the Elsies river which was prone to flooding and posed a danger to travellers in the rainy season. The trustees proposed a bridge opposite the railway gate as a solution to this predicament.” However, these requests initiated an inspection of the site carried out by council on 10 May 1943. It was reported that the site was overgrown with bushes and shrubs and that the older graves were indistinguishable (hard to identify in general). The inspection included the access road. It was concluded that it was simply not plausible to build a causeway over the Elsies River.” “These concerns were reiterated at a follow-up meeting with the trustees on 25 May 1943. The resolution proposed by the end of the meeting was to request the assistance of the*

*Cape Peninsula Cemeteries Board and to enquire if this entity would be prepared to take over control of the Hardekraaltjie cemetery. On 17 June 1943 a map indicating the cemetery site and access road was shared with the Cemeteries Board. While the Cemeteries Board seemingly entertained the proposition, it was premised on the prerequisite that the access road from Main Road be restored (Perception Planning 2025). Discussions regarding the access road continued into the next year with consideration for a number of alternatives to retain an access route to the cemetery, given that the original access route “from the Cape Town-Bellville Main Rd [Voortrekker Rd] over the crossing near the gatekeeper’s cottage at the railway [...] thence across the Elsie’s River and bearing in a southerly direction to the cemetery”, could no longer be used due to the construction of the marshalling yard. The existing access road was also seemingly in need of repair in order to allow vehicular access. However, it was noted that repairs might not be necessary at all since the road had accommodated nothing “other than foot traffic” in recent years. The alternative proposed was to construct “a path from the Main Road, west of where the proposed avoiding line will cut it, crossing the main line and thence across the Elsie’s River to the cemetery.” However, this would incur costs of an estimated 720 pounds and would require the explicit permission of South African Railways as the road would cross the marshalling yards to the east of the cemetery. The other option proposed, at no additional cost, was to retain only a footpath to the cemetery for visitation purposes. Another proposed alternative was to simply move the cemetery.” [Walters, 2025: 6]*

*“The possibility of accessing the cemetery via the marshalling yard was short lived. On 3 July 1944 South African Railways denied the request. By this time the System Manager of South African Railways had already wrote to the Provincial Secretary, in a letter dated 29 June 1944, requesting the closure of Hardekraaltjie Cemetery. On 13 November 1944, Mr. G.O. Owen (Secretary of the Cape Divisional Council) wrote to the trustees of Hardekraaltjie Cemetery: “This Council has applied to the Administrator for authority to close the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and for approval to establish a Public Cemetery at Stikland [...] This action arose out of the acquisition by the Railway Administration of the Hardekraaltjie Forest Reserve for the establishment of marshalling yards and the fact that the Railway would not agree to an approach road traversing its railway tracks. They were only prepared to agree to a right-of-way to the cemetery on a route across the Elsie’s River. The estimated cost of this approach road was 700 pounds and the Council felt that such a large expenditure could not be justified for this small cemetery.”” [Walters, 2025: 6]*

*“As part of the correspondence, the Secretary enquired about the existence of family plots at this cemetery to determine whether further burials would have to be accommodated. In correspondence dated 22 November 1944 Mr. Swan indicated that there were no family plots. On 13 April 1945 the matter was nearly settled. The railways’ request to close the cemetery was met with no objection from the Magistrate of Bellville “provided provision is made for the relations of the people buried there to visit the graves.” In a final attempt to retain an access road to the cemetery site, the Provincial Secretary requested that South African Railways indicate on a map where right-of-way could be accommodated to permit visitations to the cemetery. The response from the railways, as deduced from further correspondence by the Provincial Secretary, came on 30 April 1945: the Railway Administration “[could] not permit access to the cemetery to be gained through Railway land.”” [Walters, 2025: 7]*

*“In his response of 15 August 1945, the Secretary specifically took issue with the Railway Administration’s rigid refusal to accommodate an access road and resisted their*

accompanying request to close the cemetery. The letter stated: *“The Provincial Administration is not prepared to issue the necessary order closing this Cemetery until it is satisfied that provision is made for relations of people buried there to visit the graves. This will mean that a road of access must be maintained [...] It is not competent for the Railway Department to debar access to a cemetery which has existed from time immemorial without making alternative provision if the closing of existing access becomes necessary in the Railway interests.”* [Walters, 2025: 7]

*“In addition, the Secretary proposed that the option to construct a new road, that would allow for visitations to the site, be reconsidered. The trail of correspondence goes cold at this juncture. The Hardekraaltjie Cemetery was officially closed for burial purposes by a proclamation of the Administration on 22 June 1946. However, according to available records, the last person to be buried at Hardekraaltjie Cemetery was Sam Silvani who passed away on 26 September 1947.”* [Walters, 2025: 7]

The Hardekraaltjie Cemetery was officially closed for burial by a proclamation of the Administration on 22 June 1946. Finally, in a memo dated 25 October 1947, the Health Inspector Mr JE Retief reported that he had surveyed the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and interviewed A.H. Swan, at the time Secretary of the board of trustees managing the site. Retief’s report was submitted to the Medical Officer of Health on the same day in which he made the following observations (all correspondence is included in **Annexure D**):

- *The Cemetery is 2 morgen in extent*
- *Mr Swan says 539 burials have been carried out since 1942. He has no record of burials prior to that date*
- *Mr Retief found the cemetery fenced by barbed wire*
- *Graves are scattered over the entire two morgen*
- *Graveyard in a very neglected state*
- *25% of the western side overgrown with bush*
- *Inspector counted 701 graves indicated by pieces of crockery, mounds of sand, brick, wooden crosses, etc*
- *It is not possible to accurately estimate the total number of burials because of flattening of mounds and activities of moles have removed all traces of many graves*
- *Only two graves with marble slabs, biggest being a round topped 6” x 18” (high) slab*
- *Eight graves can be identified with wooden crosses on which names are still legible*
- *Evident from neglected state of whole burial ground that no control is exercised in regard to its maintenance and upkeep, and that friends and relatives have no interest in the graves.*

The memo concluded with a handwritten comment at the bottom: *NB Cemetery closed on 22/6/46 by proclamation of Administrator.*

From the report and the lack of surviving correspondence, it is unclear whether exhumation of the site was ever discussed upon its closure. However, in response to the inspection of the site, Swan wrote a letter to the Secretary of the Divisional Council. Dated 29 October 1947,

the letter seemingly reiterated information that was shared with the cemeteries' board of trustees (Walters, 2025: 7). It stated, *"I have to advise that the Haardekraaltjie cemetery was only 'closed for burial purposes'. In terms of the Cemeteries Act (Act 8 of 1883) the ownership of this land remains vested in the Trustees of the cemetery. No duty devolves upon the Council in regard to the exhumation and re-internment of the remains buried in the cemetery. The law is not clear on the point but it would appear that until such time as the Administrator gives any further instructions in regard to the cemetery it remains as such and the graves remain as they are."*

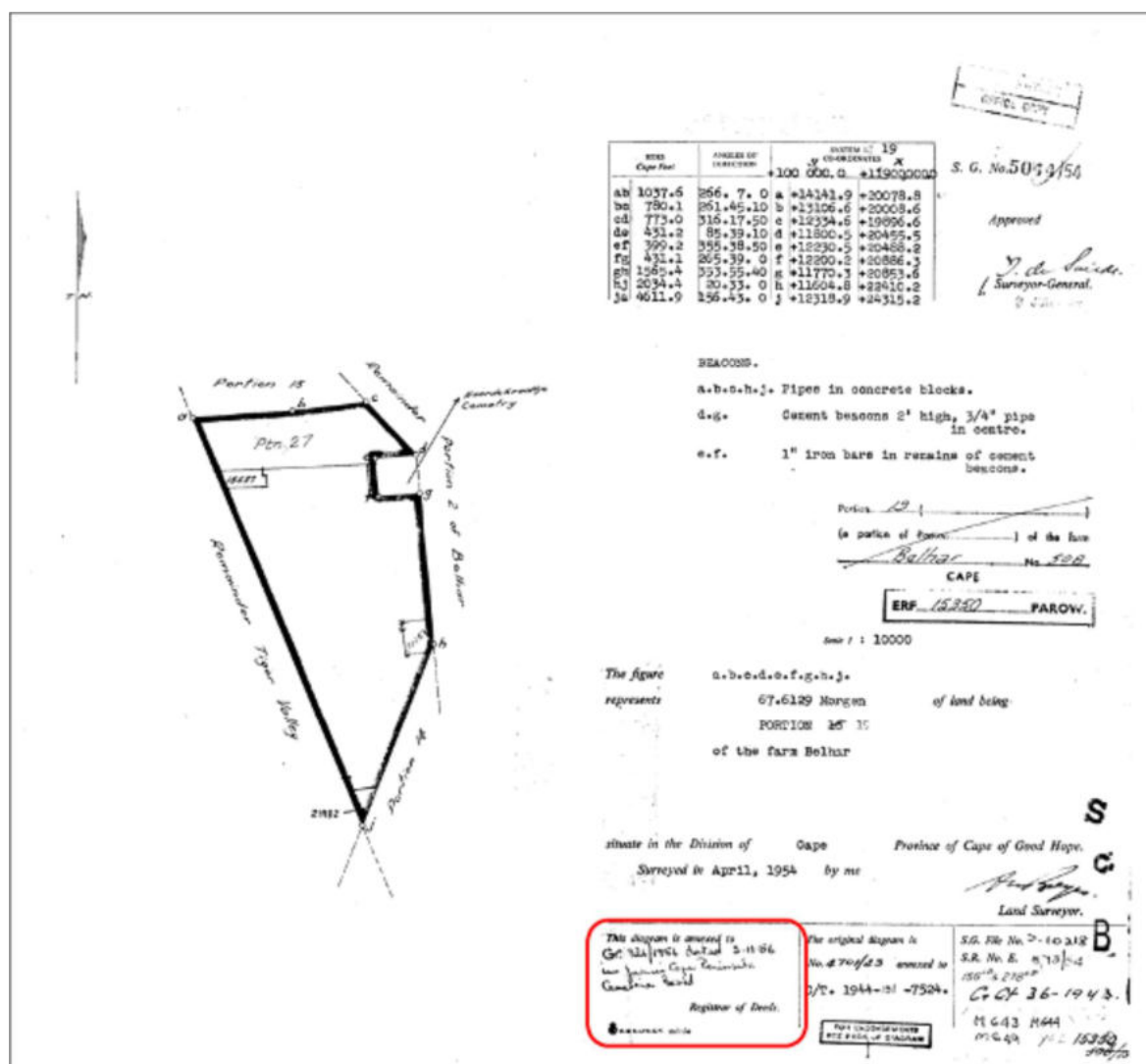
The archival information appears to be contradicted by the oral history, which shows that the cemetery was being used by the residents of Ravensmead and that their access was from the south. It is possible, that the developing Apartheid ideology of the 1940s may have resulted in the changing use of the cemetery over time. It is also likely that the cemetery may have been used by the residents of Ravensmead after its formal closure in 1946. According to Mr Harmse, he assisted with a burial in the cemetery as recently as 1969 (Perception Planning, 2017).

However, the state of neglect of the cemetery was clear and during September 1948, the Provincial Administration informed the Divisional Council of the trustees' request to terminate the administration of the cemetery in terms of the Cemeteries Act. They enquired if the Council would be able to take over the cemetery. In December 1948, the Council requested the engineer to submit an estimate for enclosing the cemetery. The Council notified the Provincial Administration in January 1949 of its decision to take over and enclose the cemetery. [Chefferino, 2021]

The archival records indicate that the cemetery was closed in 1946. However, in 1956, the Board of Trustees of the Cape Peninsula Cemeteries obtained Erf 15350 from the Government of the Union of South Africa (Figure 9) through a complicated exchange. In other words, they acquired the land to the west and south of the existing Hardekraaltjie Cemetery. Unfortunately, the archival records do not explain why the Board wanted to acquire more land adjoining the cemetery when it had been formally closed (Perception Planning, 2017).

*"By 1971 most of the Tygerberg medical complex was in its final phases of construction. The new Tygerberg hospital was completed, the main building for the new faculty of medicine had also been completed and some departments successfully moved to its new premises. Construction on the side of the university's new faculty were however continuing with a new building to host the departments of physiology and anatomy". "The construction of residences for students and efforts towards landscaping continued well into the 1970s. The ever-expanding campus and the intent to provide housing and other facilities to students on this campus, had previously resulted in periodic negotiations with the local government to acquire additional and adjacent land for the further development of campus grounds. However, infrastructural developments around the new campus had limited, and sometimes impeded, the expansion of the campus itself. Such was the case for land acquired by the university for the development of student residences and sports grounds on the northern side of campus. After the acquisition of the land in 1967, a part of it was 'recalled' by the local government for the development of a road network. These transactions and transfers formed the backdrop for the university's renewed search for additional land in 1971 meant to "compensate for the residence and sport terrain it lost due to the expansion of the road network at Tiervlei." The search for adjacent land included potential negotiations with the Railway Administration to acquire 3.24 hectares to the north of the existing campus. However, this option was deemed*

unviable by the Provincial Administration who “was not prepared to relinquish the land.” Other alternatives had to be explored.” [Walters, 2025: 9]



**Figure 9:** In 1956, Erf 15350 to the west and south of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (initially Portion 19 of the farm Belhar 208), was granted to the Cape Peninsula Cemeteries Board (SG 5044/54). (source: Perception Planning, 2017).

“It was in this context that the financial registrar of Stellenbosch University wrote to local government (Parow municipality) on 10 March 1971 to appeal for the acquisition of available land adjacent to the existing campus while raising the possibility of Hardekraaltjie Cemetery. At this time, the cemetery was bordered by the marshalling yard to its east, the hospital to the south, and the university campus to the north and west. In this regard, the registrar wrote: “Since Hardekraaltjie cemetery is adjacent to the university property, I hereby kindly request you to apply to the Provincial Administration for authorization for your Council to take over the aforementioned cemetery, close it and carry out the necessary reburials in order to enable the University to acquire this land via your Council.”” [Walters, 2025: 9]

“This request seemingly had the immediate support of Parow Municipality. On 16 March the Town Clerk, G.W. van Rooyen, wrote to the Director of the Divisional Council, A.N. Loubser, to communicate the University’s request while providing a justification for its successful pursuit as based on the fact that the municipality had required a large portion of land belonging to

Stellenbosch University for the construction of a road. The letter continued: “The Hardekraaltjie cemetery was, according to old records that have been traced, registered in the name of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery Trustees, but this body is presumably no longer in existence, and no other records can be traced. On behalf of my Council, application is therefore made in terms of the provisions of Section 211 of Ordinance 19 of 1951 for authorisation to take over the Hardekraaltjie cemetery. If this request can be complied with, the Council intends, if this cannot be done at the same time, to apply to your Administration in terms of the provisions of Section 213 of the Ordinance to close the cemetery, after which application will be made in terms of Section 217(2) of the Ordinance to transfer the site to the University of Stellenbosch. The matter is quite urgent and therefore it would be appreciated if the matter could receive your prompt attention.” [Walters, 2025: 9]

“From all appearances, the Director of the Divisional Council offered little resistance to the proposal. In a letter dated 8 April 1971, titled ‘Takeover of Hardekraaltjie Cemetery’, Loubser simply offered the necessary bureaucratic procedures required to facilitate this process. In terms of section 211(2) (b) of Ordinance 19 of 1951 notices had to be published to alert the public to the municipality’s intent to take over the cemetery as well as the intent to exhume and rebury human remains” (section 217 of the Ordinance). [Walters, 2025: 10]

“On 12 May 1971 the first notice appeared in local newspapers Die Burger and The Cape Times. Notice 28/1971 informed the reading public of Parow Municipality’s intent to take over Hardekraaltjie cemetery as located on the northeastern border of the Tygerberg hospital complex. It also informed the reader of the municipality’s intent to apply for the for “authorisation to respectfully remove the human remains, memorials and headstones in the said cemetery to another cemetery.” Objections had to be submitted in writing to the Town Clerk before Thursday 17 June 1971. The notice appeared again on 19 May, 26 May and 2 June.” [Walters, 2025: 10]

“The proposed takeover of Hardekraaltjie Cemetery did not go unnoticed. After the first appearance of the notice on 12 May the Afrikaans newspaper, Die Burger, published an article entitled ‘Begraafplaas word dalk sportveld vir Maties’ (Cemetery may become sports field for Maties). The article reiterated much of the information presented in notice but added that the intent of the takeover by Parow municipality was to “give the site to Stellenbosch University” for the development of a sports field. The article further reported that little was known about the cemetery site itself and those buried there. The article stated that the site was registered on 4 January 1910 by the trustees of the ‘Public Cemetery Hardekraaltjie’, that the managing entity no longer existed, and that “it could not be determined who was buried there” as the site was “neglected with no visible gravestones” (Die Burger 1971). The article thus implied that the site was largely abandoned. No demographic information of those buried at Hardekraaltjie cemetery were provided in the article, and it remains unclear whether any of this information was known to the authorities involved in this transfer. However, it should be noted that the closure of the cemetery in 1947 was documented, and one can only assume that the information would have been available to government authorities if the necessary enquiries involving relevant stakeholders had been made.” [Walters, 2025: 10]

“On 6 August 1971 the Town Clerk (van Rooyen) wrote to the Director of the Divisional Council, Mr. Loubser, to report that the notice for takeover of the site had been published on four separate occasions in two local newspapers and that “no objections to the Council’s intention [were] received.” As such, “formal authorisation for the takeover of the cemetery and the reburial of the human remains [was] hereby requested.” Four days later, on 10 August

1971, the Director of Divisional Council wrote to the Regional Director of State Health Services regarding the exhumation and reburial of human remains. In a handwritten letter Loubser informed the Director that Parow Municipality had applied for permission “to exhume the remains of unknown persons currently buried in the Hardekraaltjie cemetery [...] and to rebury them in the Stikland cemetery.” According to Loubser the last interment at this cemetery occurred more than 50 years ago (thus c.1920). It remains unclear where this information stemmed from, but the report produced by the health inspector upon the closure of the site in the latter half of the 1940s indicated that Loubser’s claim was incorrect. According to recovered records, the last interment occurred late September 1947 (Webley 2025) – the last of more than a thousand burials, and 44 for 1947 alone. Loubser continued: “The municipality concerned intends to carry out the exhumation and reburial itself under the supervision of the Health Department of the Cape Divisional Council. Please inform me whether you have any objections to the proposal from a health point of view.” [Walters, 2025: 11]

“The trail of correspondence between the two parties ends here. No further documents could be located in the archive in this regard. It is thus unclear whether the discussion continued and, if so, what the discussion entailed.” [Walters, 2025: 11]

“Some of the events following the official application for takeover and exhumation by Parow Municipality in August of 1971 can be discerned from correspondence between Stellenbosch University’s financial registrar and van Rooyen, the Town Clerk of Parow Municipality. On 7 January 1972 the registrar wrote to van Rooyen recounting his knowledge of events pertaining to developments with the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery site. In this regard he referred to a telephonic conversation between him and the office of the Town Clerk in October in which he was informed that the municipality had officially applied to Provincial Administration for the transfer of the site (to the municipality) and the exhumation of remains to be reburied elsewhere. At the time the municipality had not yet received a response from Provincial Administration. In his letter, the registrar continued: “Since the University is understandably very interested in the progress of the negotiations, I would like to hear from you at an appropriate time as to what stage the matter has progressed since.” At the bottom of this letter there is a handwritten note dated 26 January: “Mr van Rooyen has arranged with the Divisional Council to do the reburials. He will then contact us again.” Whatever the negotiations between Parow Municipality and Provincial Administration entailed remains unclear, but what can be deduced is that the process to reach consensus was slow and riddled with delays.” [Walters, 2025: 11]

“On 23 June 1972, almost a full six months after the university’s financial registrar contacted van Rooyen, he phoned the offices of the Town Clerk to once again enquire about progress related to the transfer of the Hardekraaltjie cemetery site. The content of the telephonic conversation was noted as follows: “Arrangements have been made with the Divisional Council for reburials. Will be able to report on Thursday 29/6/72 how far progress has been made.” One week later, on 30 June, the registrar eagerly followed up by phoning the offices of the Town Clerk. Failing to reach the Town Clerk, van Rooyen, the registrar spoke to the assistant (elsewhere stated as acting) Town Clerk, Mr. Barnard, who informed him that the Town Clerk will correspond with a formal letter to inform the university of the current status of the Hardekraaltjie cemetery site. After failing to receive such correspondence almost a month later, the registrar received a phone call from the assistant Town Clerk on 27 July. The university was informed by Barnard that there were “problems with the costs of exhumation” and that he will ask van Rooyen to contact the university with more information. When the

university had not heard from van Rooyen by 17 August, the financial registrar drafted a formal letter to the Town Clerk to request specific information about the progress made in terms of the transfer of the site. The content of the letter, as well as the events leading up to it, confers a sense of frustration both at the slow pace and opaqueness of the process. Under the heading, 'Oorname van Hardekraaltjie Begraafplaas' ['Takeover Of Hardekraaltjie Cemetery'], the registrar wrote: "Following a telephone conversation with Mr Barnard [assistant Town Clerk] on 27 July this year, during which it emerged that certain problems were apparently being experienced with the reburial of bodies, it would be appreciated if you could inform us about this, as well as to what stage the matter has otherwise progressed. Your attention to this matter is appreciated." [Walters, 2025: 12]

"It would appear that this letter sparked the necessity of a response from the offices of the Town Clerk. Between 17 and 22 August Barnard phoned the registrar with some concrete feedback. A summation of this conversation was added as handwritten notes by the registrar to the correspondence of 17 August. It read. "Mr van Rooyen has called. (i) Officials from his department and the Divisional Council are meeting tomorrow regarding the excavations. (ii) Cost: The Municipality had to arrange for a gravestone. The Divisional Council is making approximately 30 coffins. (iii) Advertisement is being placed in the newspaper regarding the intention to transfer the land to the University. He [Barnard] is not aware that the Province is also interested in the land." [Walters, 2025: 12]

"On Wednesday 23 August 1972 the registrar received another phone call from Mr. Barnard to inform him that the exhumations and reburials had been completed. However, objections to the transfer of the site from Parow Municipality to Stellenbosch University could be lodged until 25 September 1972. If no objections were received, the site could be transferred to the university." [Walters, 2025: 12]

"The final steps of the process were seemingly met with no contestations. On 4 October 1972 Stellenbosch University bought the old Hardekraaltjie Cemetery site (Erf 15349) for the sum of ten cents "SUBJECT to such conditions as referred to in the Deed of Land dated 4 January 1910." However, the transfer of the site from Parow Municipality to Stellenbosch University was similarly plagued by delays, of which the reasons remain unknown. The official transfer to the university was eventually completed on 11 June 1974." [Walters, 2025: 13]

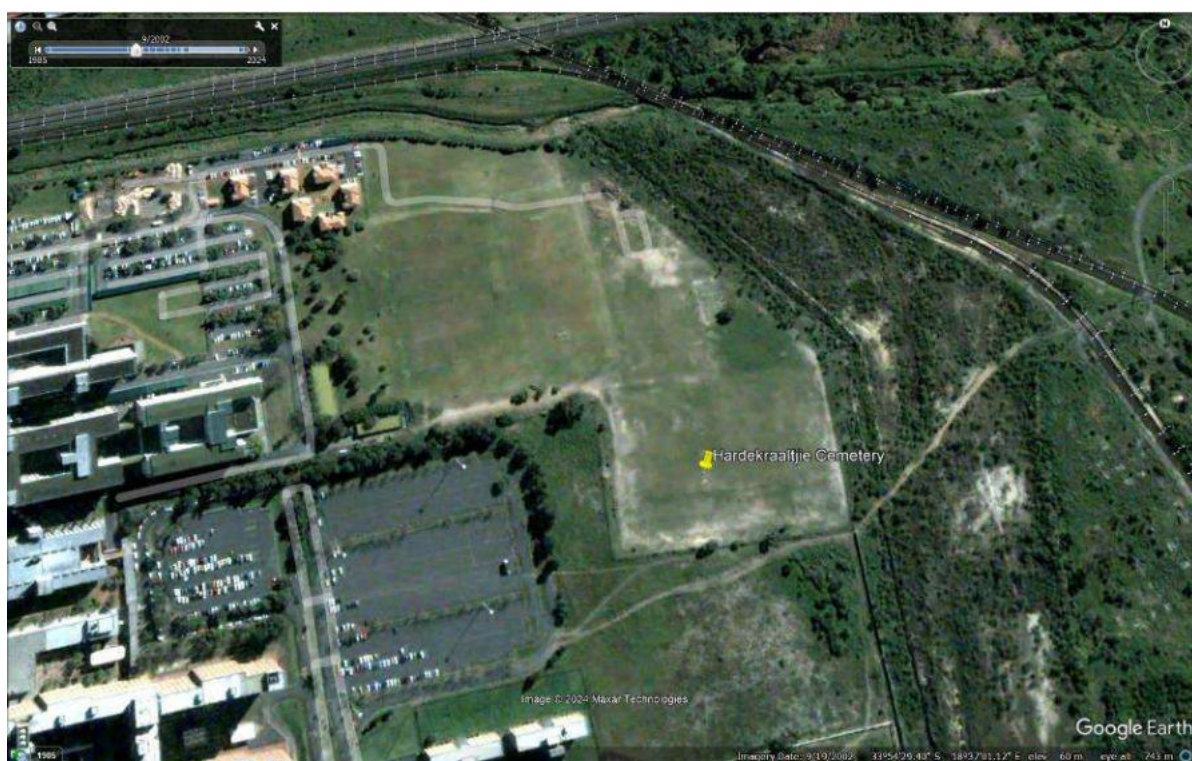
### **6.3 The Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (1980 - Present)**

The original intent for acquisition (converting the site into a sports field), continued to be pursued by Stellenbosch University after the transfer of the site. This is indicated by the proposed plans for the site and its surrounds as captured in 1979 (**Annexure A**). The outline of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, while still visible on the 1960 topographic map, is no longer shown after 1980, indicating the forgotten nature of the site. Google Earth aerial images plays a helpful role telling the story of Hardekraaltjie after 2002 along with Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) undertaken in 2020 and 2024. One of the most rewarding has been the findings resulting from the death notices or burial records linked to Hardekraaltjie.

#### Google Earth Images

Through the examination of more recent Google Earth images of Erf 15349 and the surrounding erven a number of deductions can be made in terms of the more recent use of the site over the last 23 years. Imagery from 2002 indicates that the entire portion of Erf 15349 and Erf 18228 was grassed and mowed, up to its southern boundary (Figure 10). It is highly

likely that the area was used as an extension of the sports fields prior to and after 2002. It is only in 2008 that the southernmost portion of Erf 15349 and Erf 18228 appear to be used as an area for garden rubble, the remainder still being utilised as part of the greater Sportsfields up until 2014 (Figure 11 & 12). Thereafter, it appears that Erf 15349 and Erf 18228 fall into a derelict state, with the area returning to natural veld, which coincides with the communication between Mr Daniel Diedrich and SU in 2014, alerting the University once again to the fact that the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery exists. However, throughout 2016 the construction of the eco-walk is noticeable along the eastern boundary in the form of removal of vegetation, topsoil disturbance and the planting of vegetation. In 2018 it appears that it is the intention to extend the eco-walk vegetated area to the west over the remainder of Erf 15349 and Erf 18228 as rows of topsoil are deposited on site and gradually levelled out through 2018 (Figure 13). However, no further planting etc. is undertaken thereafter, however rows of composting heaps are evident along the southern boundary in the 2019 imagery (and less evident in previous imagery) and throughout the imagery until the end of 2023 (Figure 13 & 14) when the composting heaps were removed.



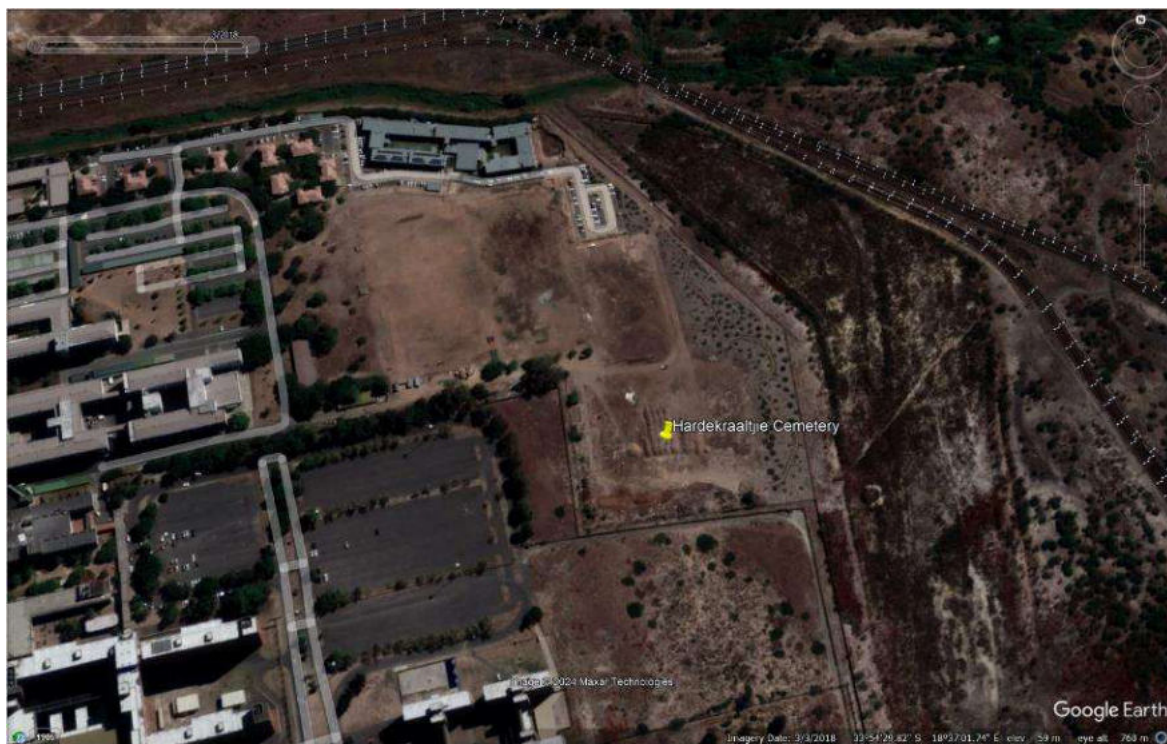
**Figure 10:** Google Earth imagery from 2002.



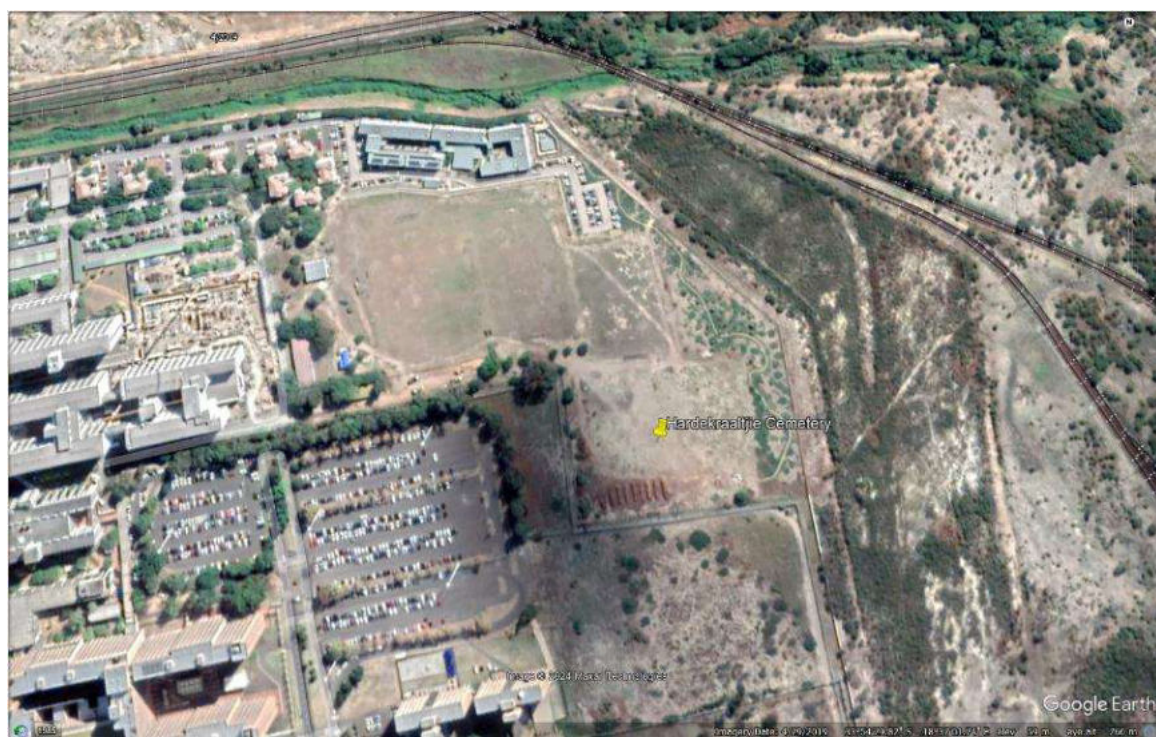
**Figure 11:** Google Earth imagery from 2008.



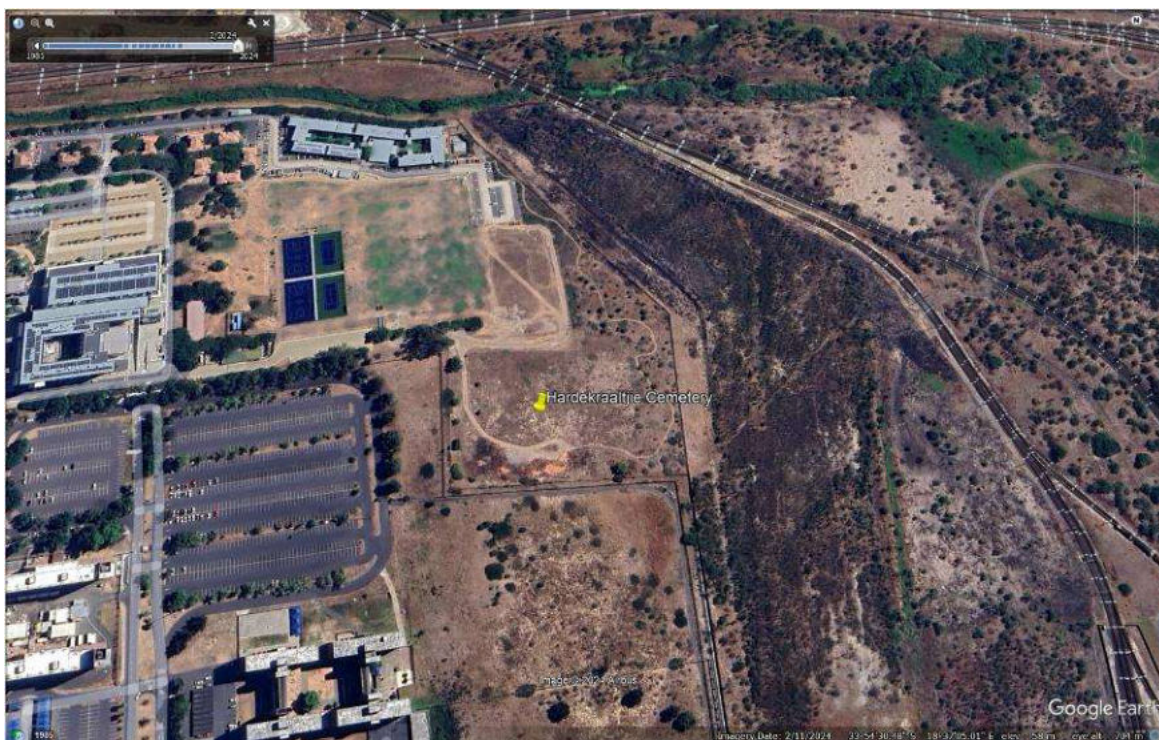
**Figure 12:** Google Earth imagery from 2014.



**Figure 13:** Google Earth imagery from 2018.



**Figure 14:** Google Earth imagery from 2019.



**Figure 15:** Google Earth imagery from 2024 (Present Day).

#### Radar Grave Detection (**Annexure H**) and Bones:

On the 15th of January 2020 Sillito undertook a Ground Penetrating Radar Survey of portions of the official Hardekraaltjie Cemetery site producing the location of numerous possible graves scattered across most of the site (Figure 16). The red hatched areas indicated areas that were, at the time, covered in dense vegetation and therefore could not be scanned. Therefore, in 2024, as part of the PHS Consulting assessment work, Sillito was commissioned to undertake a Ground Penetrating Radar Survey of the remaining site in April 2024 to ensure that all areas excluded in the 2020 survey are covered including the area to the north of the official cemetery (Figure 17). The study cautioned that *“the presence of anomalies on site that may look like grave targets could include the following features: fill comprising large rocks or boulders; dense, non-metal objects such as building rubble; and/ or dense, compacted clay layers”*. While great care is taken to minimise these anomalies, *“some may match a grave target and be considered as such.”* The outcome of both studies was depicted on a joint map (Figure 18) to identify the dispersion of potential graves across the entire area scanned in Figure 16. Certain grave targets have a high confidence rating and others a Low confidence rating. Only 6 of the identified targets found to the north (outside) of Erf 15349 have a high confidence rating. Furthermore, only 3 of these are located within the existing Sportsfield.

It must be noted in the recent study undertaken by Perception Planning for the Department of Health & Wellness (Western Cape Government) in April 2025 *“the presence of possible burials under the sports fields on Erf 24602 is difficult to explain”* according to Lita Webley (co-author). Several aerial images were analysed to determine burial patterns overtime and the likelihood of graves outside the site. The study furthermore casts doubt over the results of the Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) technology utilised and highlights that the effectiveness of GPR technology *“is influenced by various factors, including the object’s size, the material composition of the object and the proximity of the object to the surface and to other objects. Factors such as soil composition and soil moisture can also impact the penetration depth.”*

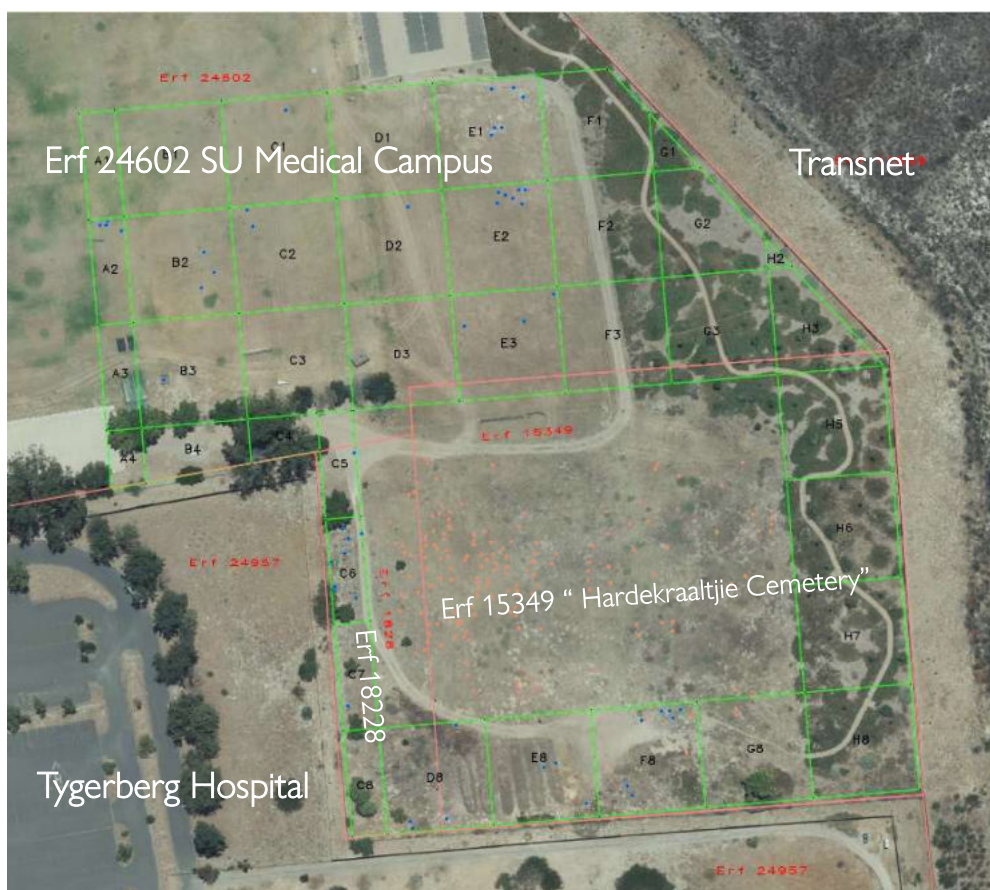
“They warn “whilst the method is rapid and does not involve the disturbance of the graves, the interpretation of GPR profiles is nevertheless difficult and often leads to incorrect results”. It is also highlighted, and as indicated above, that although a total number of 52 likely grave targets was identified, a caveat is included that they only have the greatest “confidence” with respect to 15 grave targets, with less confidence for the remaining 37 targets.



**Figure 16:** Results of the 2020 Sillito Radar Scan showing the potential graves scattered on the site (Source: Sillito, 2020).



**Figure 17:** The 2020 Sillito Radar Scan area versus the 2024 area (red area). The area to the east could not be scanned due to the established vegetation in this area however this area will remain landscaped, with portions being included inside the Memorialisation area. (Source: Sillito, 2024)



**Figure 18:** Combine results of the 2020 and 2024 Sillito Radar Scan showing the potential graves scattered on the site. This includes potential grave targets with low and high confidence (Source: Sillito, 2024).

There have been rumours of bones being found within the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery area post the 1970s. An investigation was launched into the claim of bones being found within the SU Tygerberg Campus up to present and no such bones have been discovered. A recent inventory at the Kirsten Skeletal Collection on the US campus did not identify any bones rumoured to be found in the study area. Although it cannot be said with certainty that there were any bones discovered it also cannot be confirmed. This is therefore speculation at this point as no evidence has presented itself at this point to indicate otherwise.

The only known 'bones' found, at this stage, is a cranium discovered in a flower bed in 2021. HWC was contacted immediately, and a subsequent study was undertaken of a wider area by Dr Jayson Orton in April 2021, however no further bones were found. It can be assumed that this human bone is most likely from the historical burials undertaken at Hardekraaltjie and was displaced at some point as a result of earthmoving activities decades ago. The discovery of bones, past and present, will be addressed in the proposed Conservation Management Plan.

#### Ground truthing the extended buffer zone

At the IACOM Meeting held on the 3rd of December 2025, a Permit was issued by HWC (**Annexure J**) to Dr. Jayson Orton from ASHA Consulting who undertook test excavations within the extended buffer zone on Erf 24602 (Figure 19). The purpose of the test excavations was to determine whether the adjacent Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (Erf 15349) may once have extended onto Erf 24602 as indicated in the 2024 GPR scan which revealed a number of

potential grave targets at varying depths. The six that were earmarked in the study to have the greatest likelihood of being graves was selected for ground truthing. The locations of these six targets were surveyed and marked on site. Test trenches were then excavated diagonally immediately adjacent to each of these locations. No evidence for burials was located at any of them. The excavations showed fill to varying depths of between 0.4 m and in excess of 1.4 m. It is evident that this was brought into level a naturally undulating surface in order to create the playing fields. This variable fill, the lack of fill in the known cemetery, and the evidence from historical mapping indicated in this study regarding the alignment of the Elsie's River, suggests that burial did not occur in the study area.

The test excavations on site were observed by community members who were also afforded the opportunity to ask questions. This was to ensure that the process was fully transparent and that the community were satisfied with the results of the work on site. Two members – Chefferino Fortuin and Johannes Bastian – oversaw the observation and facilitated visits by others from the community over the course of the two days.

During the excavations communication remained open between the archaeologist and observers with the latter being encouraged to ask questions as and when needed. On conclusion of the six excavations the observers consulted and requested that a second trench be excavated at Target 15 on the other side of the surveyed marker to add extra confidence to the findings. This location was specifically chosen as it was the closest to the known historic cemetery and thus had the highest likelihood of revealing a grave. No grave was found.

It was concluded that it is: “highly unlikely that burials occurred outside of the known historical Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, and it is recommended that this portion of Erf 24602 should not be considered as potentially being part of the historic cemetery.”



**Figure 19:** Aerial view of the broader study area showing Erf 24602 (red polygon). The yellow shading indicates the study area in which the excavations were situated, while the yellow arrow indicates the historical Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (Erf 15349).

### List of Burials/ Death Notices

The exact number of human remains in the cemetery is unknown. The first known figure stems from a documented report by a Health Inspector in 1947 which identified 701 graves being counted on site. The cemetery at the time was in a derelict state and therefore it is highly likely that many more graves existed (considering the cemetery was opened in 1909).

In a review of death notices for the period 1910-1947 from the districts of Parow and Bellville (and some from Wynberg), it was indicated that a total of at least 824 (at the time) individuals were buried in the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery. Furthermore, if we consider the comment of the Health Inspector who visited the graveyard in November 1947, that there had been 539 burials after 1942, and we add the known burials before 1942 (431 individuals recorded for 1911 to 1941) then the more accurate total amount of burials should be estimated at 970 (Perception Planning, 2025). However, this discrepancy is not a reflection of an absence of death notices but rather the fact that the death notices are spread amongst a number of different districts (Perception Planning, 2025). Therefore, the total number of burials in accordance with the identified list should be considered a conservative estimate.

According to the City of Cape Town's Map Viewer: Heritage Inventory an estimation of between 2000-3000 burials are indicated. It is not known how this figure was calculated however we do know that the existing list is not considered complete.

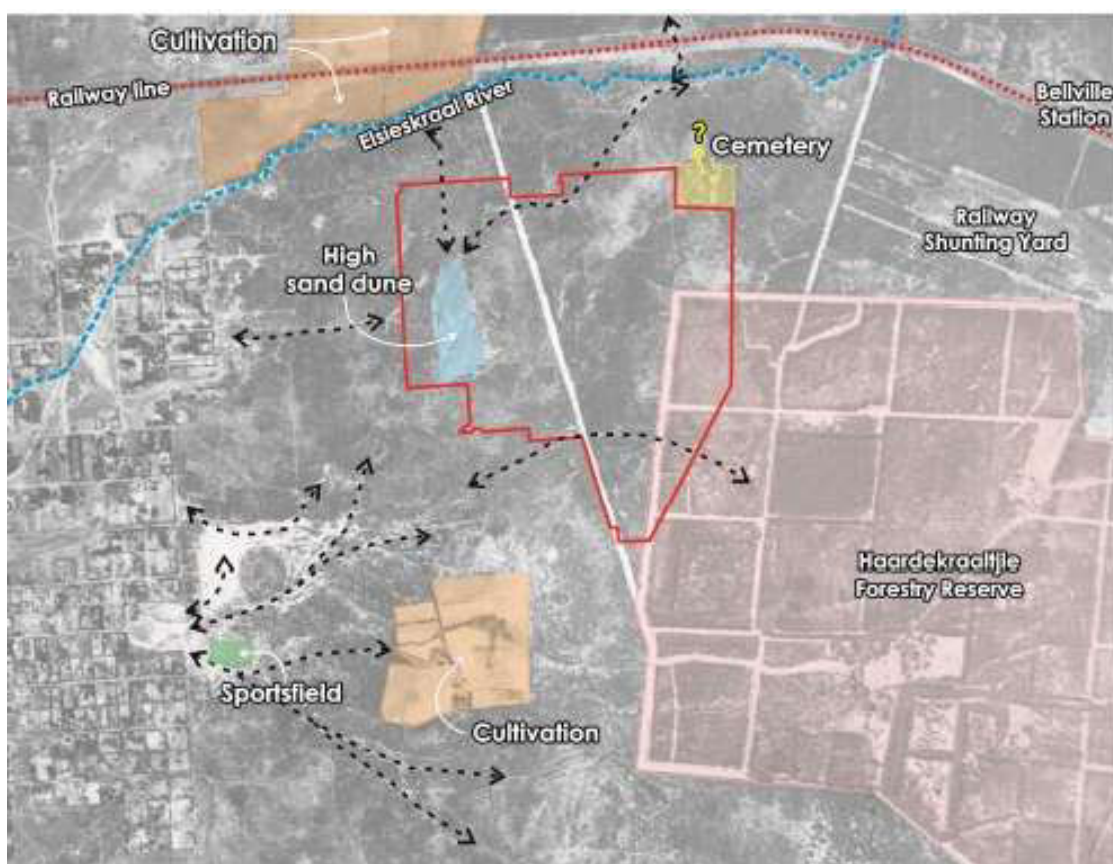
Through research undertaken by Stellenbosch University, with thanks to Curtley Solomons who consulted thousands of burial records, an initial list of 247 burials at Hardekraaltjie Cemetery was founded and, more recently, through research undertaken by Dr. Lita Webley (of the Perception Planning team) a updated list of 1026 burials for Hardekraaltjie Cemetery has been produced which has significantly expanded our knowledge of the site. Suffice it to say that the 'burial list' is one of the most valuable outcomes of this process, not only in the form of the knowledge it has provided us about the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, but also the surety it provides families of who was buried here and the respect it affords the dead through memorialising their names within the space.

It is accepted that we will never know all the details surrounding the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery - for several reasons. However, continued research, discussions and engagement with the surrounding communities, stakeholders, students and Stellenbosch University have provided a platform for the continued evolution of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery's story. This will continue through the compilation and implementation of the proposed Conservation Management Plan and the Hardekraaltjie Memorialisation Management Committee.

## 7. HERITAGE INFORMANTS AND INDICATORS

### 7.1 Cultural Landscape Context:

Analysis of early aerial photography can provide insight into traditional cultural landscape patterns of the study area and its environs. According to the Aerial survey from 1938 (Figure 20 & 21) several elements/ occurrences are legible and applicable to Hardekraaltjie Cemetery. The study area and surrounding area is largely overgrown by what appears to be indigenous dune vegetation. The Bellville station, railway line and shunting yard is visible along with the typical linear forestry grid blocks of the Haardekraaltjie Forestry Reserve. At least two pockets of cultivated lands remnant of former large-scale agriculture are visible along with numerous footpaths criss-crossing the landscape. The location of the area generally presumed to be the extent of the Haardekraaltjie cemetery is visible and bordered by a cleared area directly to the north.



**Figure 20:** Extract from the 1938 aerial photography showing the most prominent traditional landscape patterns on the study area and its direct environs (source: Perception Planning, 2017).



**Figure 21:** Closer view of Haardekraaltjie cemetery and its direct environs within context of 1938 aerial imagery (source: Perception Planning, 2025).

On closer inspection of the 1938 aerial image (Figure 21), an intricate network of tracks and footpaths traverses the landscape providing insight into the nature and extent of (pedestrian) movement patterns across the cemetery. Approximately two of the established footpaths cross the Elsieskraal River (one next to a small building) and leading towards the cemetery, roughly following the alignment denoted on the 1909 SG Diagram (**Annexure C2**). The outline of the cemetery is clear which may suggest that it had been fenced although the cemetery is overgrown with vegetation. It is possible that the small rectangle of open area along the middle of the cemetery, and running north-south, may represent recent graves at the time. What is of importance is the outline of a previously disturbed area directly north of the formal boundaries of the cemetery (red arrow/?). [Perception Planning, 2025]

In accordance with the Aerial survey of 1945 (Figure 22 & 23) it can be noted that the residential areas have expanded including the Ravensmead residential area which has expanded northward. The majority of the study area and its surrounds still remain overgrown by indigenous vegetation (excepting the Hardekraaltjie Forest Reserve to the southeast). The railway shunting area has been expanded slightly to the west - in the direction of the cemetery. The complex network of tracks and footpaths traverses the landscape, including the proximity of the cemetery noted in the 1938 remains evident.

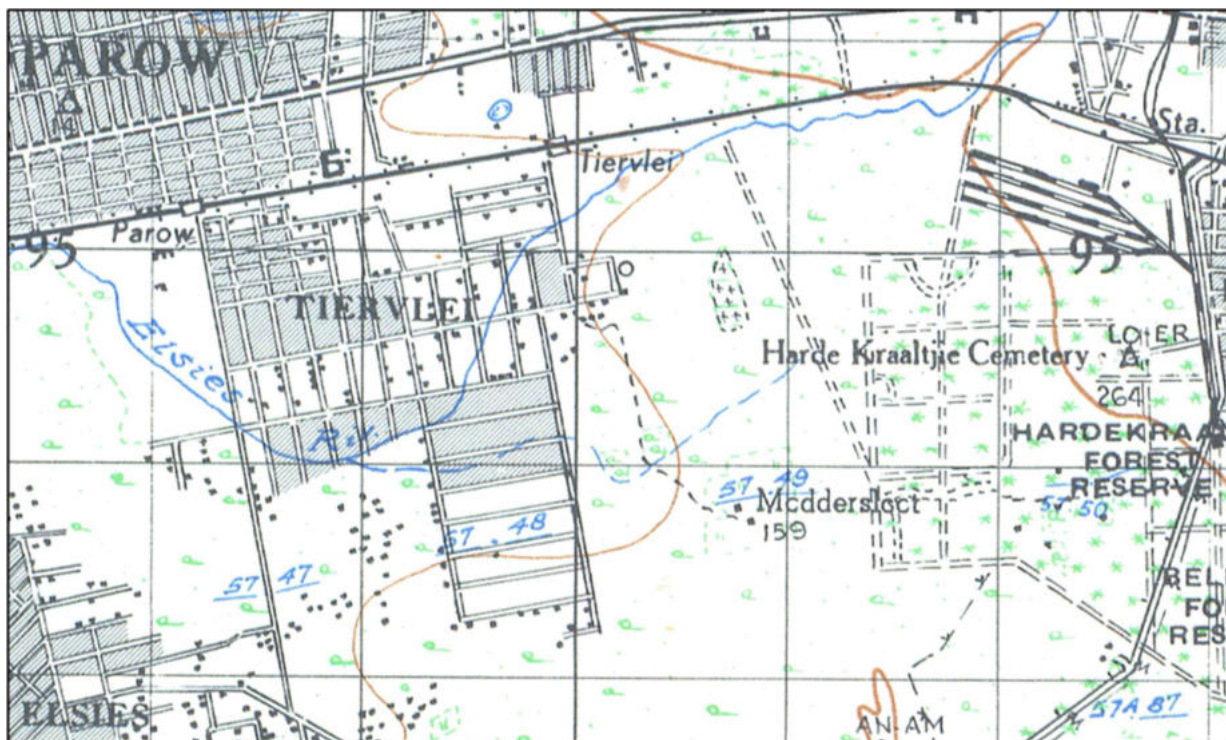
It needs to be noted here that the Elsieskraal River was historically known for its heavy flooding with the earliest recorded heavy flooding of the river indicated in the Cape Argus in 1862. The canalisation of the Elsieskraal River was therefore part of ongoing discussions from around the 1930s with the implementation of certain engineering methods being introduced from 1935 onwards. Heavy rains in 1944 resulted in extensive flooding along the banks of the Elsieskraal River with plans being drawn up shortly thereafter proposing to canalise the majority of the river (Watkins, 2026). Refer to Figures 24 and 25 below.



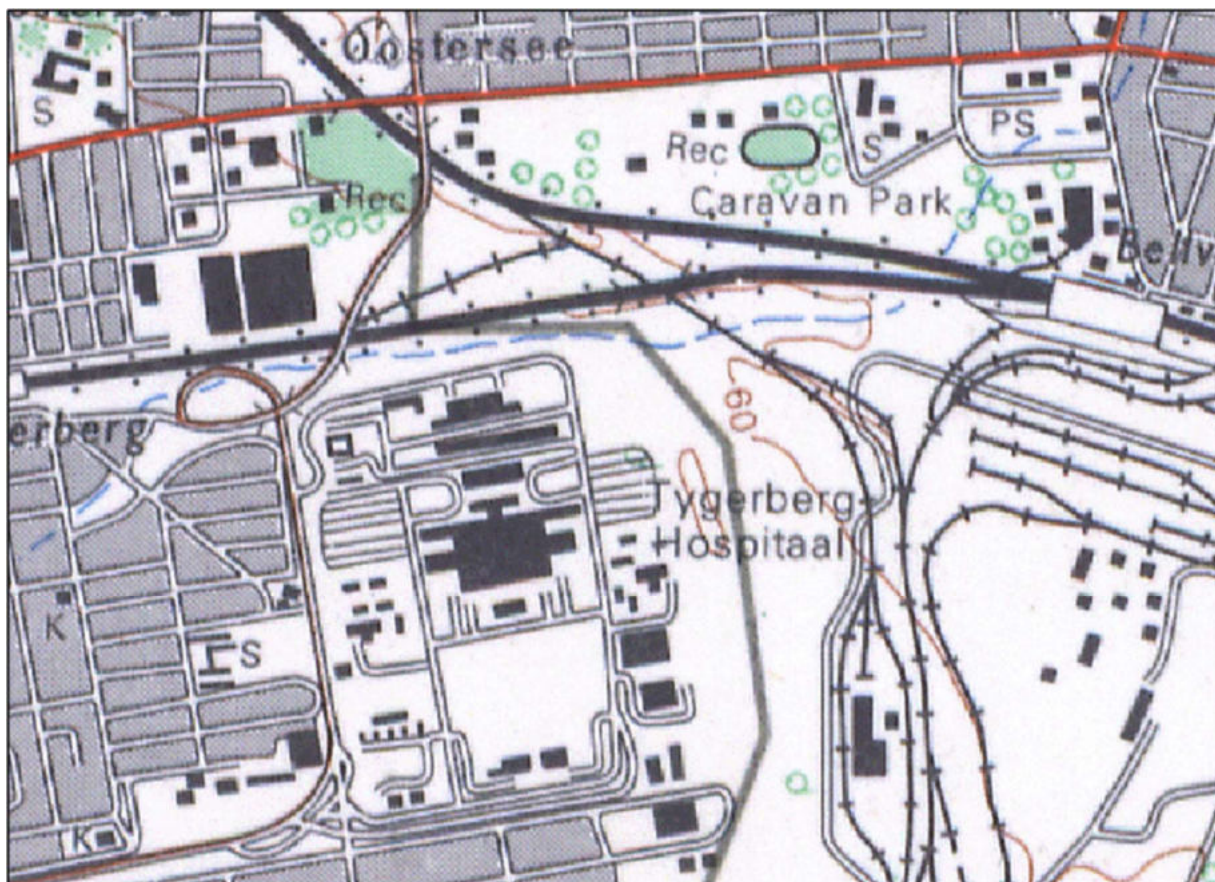
**Figure 22:** Extract from the 1945 aerial photography showing the most prominent traditional landscape patterns on the study area and its direct environs (source: Perception Planning, 2017).



**Figure 23:** Closer view of Haardekraaltjie cemetery and its direct environs within context of 1945 aerial imagery (source: Perception Planning, 2025).



**Figure 24:** Extract from 1:50 000 mapsheet 3318DC Edition 1 dated 1941 shows the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery located in between two streams. [Note the incorrect notation of the “Hardekraaltjie Cemetery” which is slightly more east.]



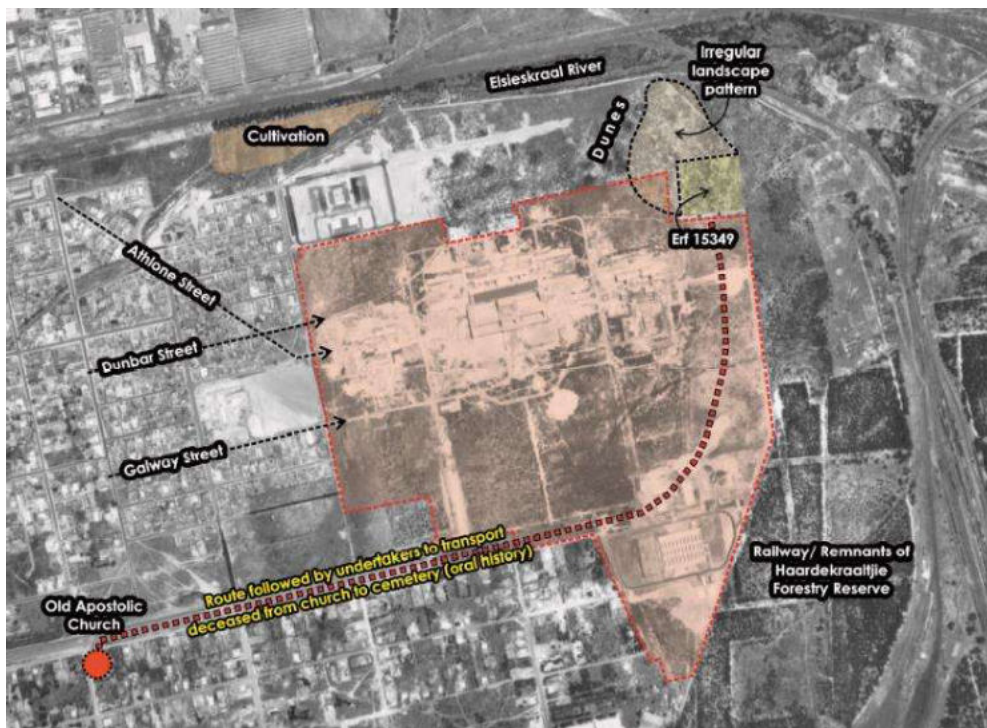
**Figure 25:** Extract from 1:50 000 mapsheet 3318DC Edition 5 dated 1979 shows a small area of high ground at the location of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and the now canalised Elsie River.

Figure 24 shows that the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery was located in the space between two streams. This naturally would have been high ground. Figure 25 shows a later map which captured a small section of high ground in the contour lines. This high area corresponds exactly to the known cemetery and a small amount of land immediately to its south within the Tygerberg Hospital precinct (Orton, 2026).

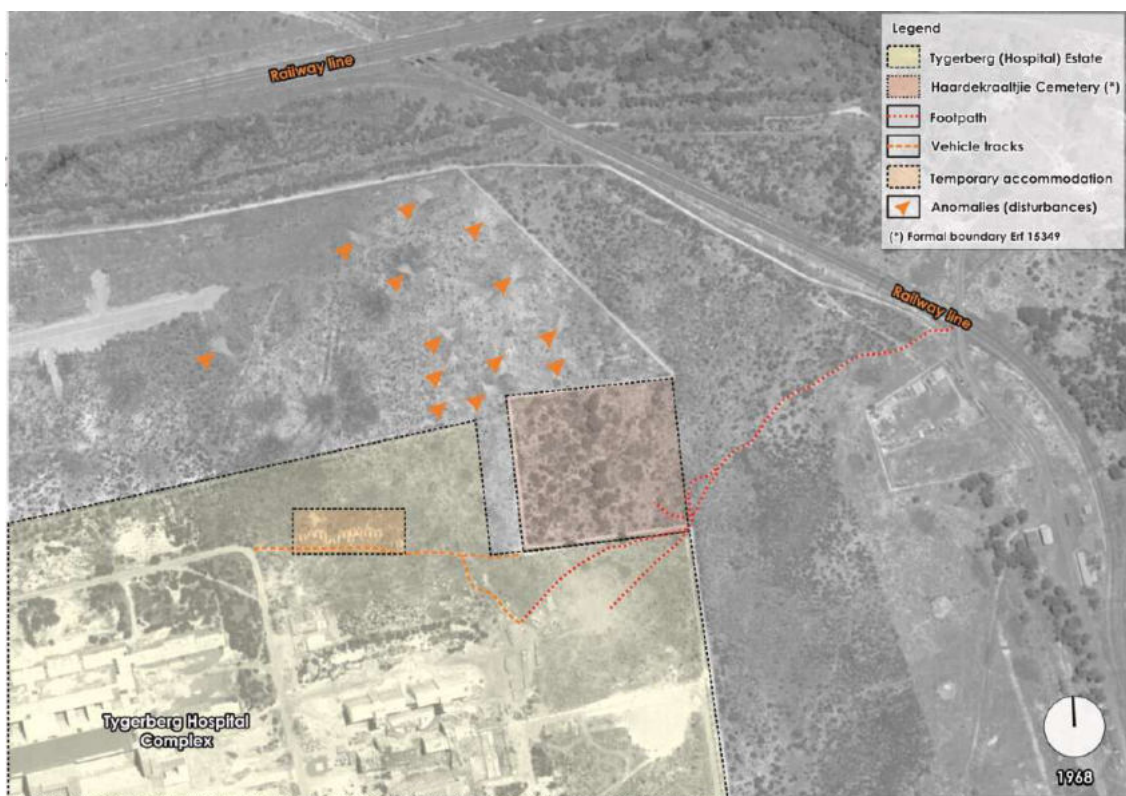
On closer inspection of the 1945 aerial image (Figure 23), the graves in the eastern section of the graveyard are clearly distinguishable with the western section being completely overgrown by vegetation, indicating that the burials must have started in the west and progressed eastwards. This is also substantiated by Jayson Orton (2021) and the health inspector's report in 1947. The footpaths to the graveyard, resemble those from 1938 but are more well defined, with two paths prominent (north and south). A clearly defined path now veers through the identified previously disturbed area directly north and west of the formal boundaries of the cemetery (red arrows/?) as was evident in the 1938 aerial image. [Perception Planning, 2025]

According to the Aerial survey of 1968 (Figure 26 and 27), construction related to the Tygerberg Hospital Estate is underway and residential areas to the west and south have expanded and become well established. In addition to Francie van Zijl Drive, three residential roads are used to access the now Tygerberg Hospital Estate illustrating access options available in comparison to the present isolated nature of the site from neighbouring urban fabric. The Haardekraaltjie Forest Reserve remains evident though significantly reduced through the construction of new railway lines. [Perception Planning, 2017]

A closer view of the cemetery in Figure 27 shows irregular but significant vegetation clearing within the area directly north and northwest of the cemetery. Several irregular (plume-shaped) anomalies/ clearings are legible. The cemetery itself is heavily overgrown with mature shrubs and large trees (possibly alien invasive vegetation) evident. There are no signs of the graves. A footpath from the east is still visible, but it is possible that this was being used by construction workers going to the hospital site. Vehicle (double) tracks lead from the Tygerberg Hospital construction site to the southern boundary of the cemetery. A row of approximately 15 structures (possibly accommodation for construction workers) are located just north of the vehicle track. [Perception Planning, 2025]



**Figure 26:** Extract from the 1968 aerial photography illustrating the most prominent traditional landscape patterns as well as the likely alignment of the route followed by undertakers ( $\pm$  1960's) to transport deceased from nearby Old Apostolic Church (source: Perception Planning, 2017).



**Figure 27:** Closer view of Haardekraaltjie cemetery and its direct environs within the context of 1968 aerial imagery (source: Perception Planning, 2025).

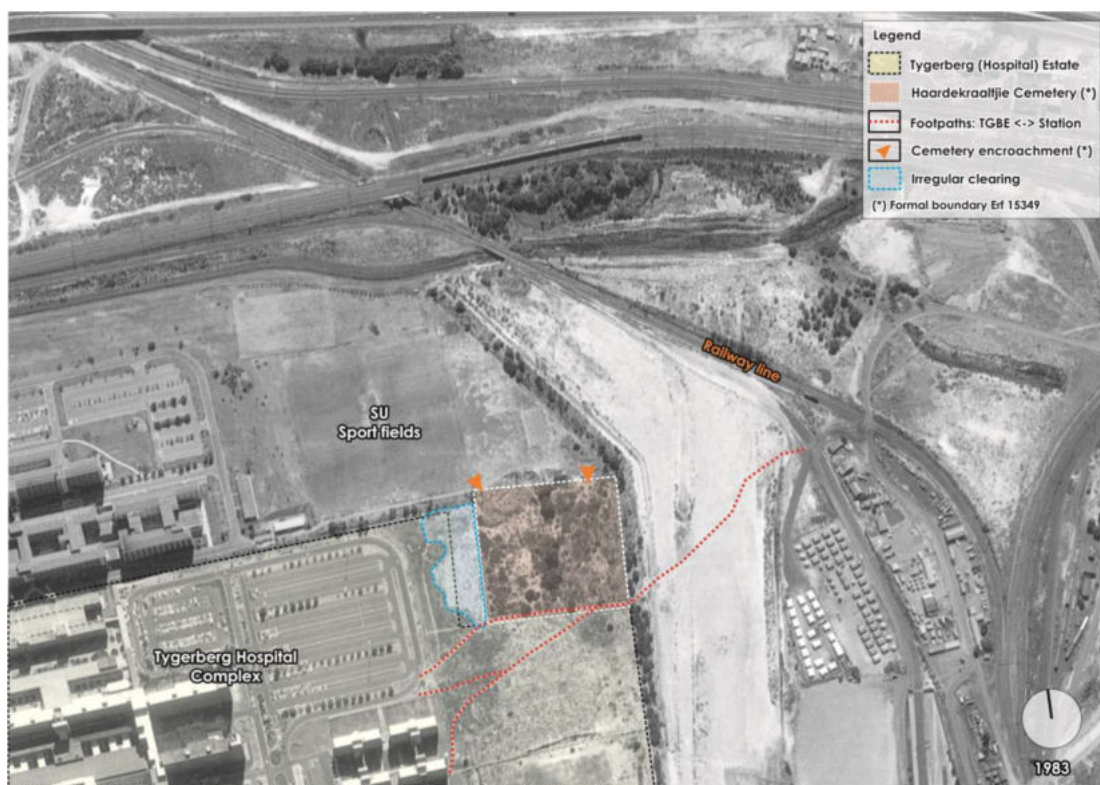
Figure 28 depicts the 1973 aerial image, focusing on the proximity to the cemetery, showing the Tygerberg Hospital fully developed and further construction on the adjoining Stellenbosch

University campus underway. The eastern portion of the SU property (excluding the Haardekraaltjie Cemetery and Erf 18228) had been completely cleared and levelled mechanically. Sporadic clearing of vegetation within the cemetery, essentially only avoiding mature shrubs and trees (compare with vegetation cover evident in the 1968 image, Figure 27) is also clearly evident. The haphazard occurrence of increased exposed areas within the graveyard is unlikely to have been due to, for example, windblown sand originating from SU campus to the north due to the extensive mechanical earthworks. In view of the information provided elsewhere, it is also possible that the cleared areas represent exhumations which are discussed in correspondence in 1971-1972, immediately before the date of the 1973 aerial photograph. [Perception Planning, 2025]



**Figure 28:** Closer view of Haardekraaltjie cemetery and its direct environs within context of 1973 aerial imagery (source: Perception Planning, 2025).

The 1983 aerial image (Figure 29) shows the Tygerberg Hospital fully developed, much as in present day. Further expansion of the SU Medical campus has taken place, and sport fields have been established directly north and northwest of the cemetery. Slight erosion of the (formal) northern boundary of the cemetery that had previously been clearly defined is visible. The image shows the extent of sport fields northwest of the cemetery and irregular clearing/earthworks directly west of the cemetery across Erf 18228 and the eastern Tygerberg Hospital boundary. Footpaths leading between the railway station and the Hospital is evident and follows the southern cemetery boundary. [Perception Planning, 2025]



**Figure 29:** Closer view of Haardekraaltjie cemetery and its direct environs within context of 1983 aerial imagery (source: Perception Planning, 2025).

With exception of cemetery much of the former cultural landscape features had been replaced through urban development, which has now become the predominant urban landscape context. Early aerial imagery highlights former connectivity of the site to neighbouring areas, although most likely only for construction purposes. Having been spatially isolated and physically separated from adjoining areas following the neighbouring construction activities it is considered crucial that issues of accessibility and permeability is addressed for the Haardekraaltjie Cemetery. Forestry landscape patterns no longer remain. It was found that natural landscaping features mostly do not contribute positively to the definition of sense of place or enhancement of most public spaces but rather that the general degraded state of natural landscaping features tends to contribute to the experience of “lost space” within the site. [Perception Planning, 2017]

The alignments of former access routes/ footpaths to the cemetery (from the north and south, respectively) as well as its possible use by different communities remain only as intangible resources yet contribute to the broader socio-historic theme, which is considered of high local socio-historic cultural significance (Grade 3A) in accordance with the HIA undertaken by Perception Planning.

## 7.2 Archaeological Observations

A site inspection was undertaken to the cemetery (Erf 15349) on the 10 April 2017 by Archaeologist, Lita Webley. Fragments of marine shell were widely distributed across the study area, but there did not appear to be any concentration of material. A wide variety of species was observed. Similar observations were made by Winter & Hart (2014). The custom of placing marine shell on graves has been widely observed in the Western Cape Province. In addition to marine shells, a few fragments of mauve glass were also recorded as well as

one small glass bottle, which could be associated with the cemetery. However, there was no evidence for any mounds, representing graves, as the surface of the cemetery was completely levelled to be used as a Sportsfield in previous decades (Perception Planning, 2017).

The Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (Erf 15349) is considered of high local socio-historic and archaeological significance (Grade 3A).

In the most recent Archaeologist report undertaken by Dr. Jayson Orton from ASHA Consulting (12 January 2026), who undertook test excavations within the buffer zone on Erf 24602, all six of the indicated high confidence grave targets identified by the GPR scanning were ground-truthed and no graves were located (**Appendix K**). Interestingly, in the report it was noted that, with one exception, the land all around the study area is lower than the sports fields. The exception is the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery. In order to create the sports fields much fill was brought in, levelled and compacted. This would no doubt assist with reducing mole rat activity and explains why the fields are higher than the surrounding land. The fill was found to be strongly variable in depth and this likely relates to the original land surface being uneven. It was likely vegetated sand dunes and parts of the sports fields would have been within the floodplain of the now-canalised Elsie's River which lies 140 m north of one of the identified grave targets (Target 4). According to the Archaeologist: *"The sum of this information leads one to conclude that the reason the cemetery was placed where it was is because it was the highest lying land in the immediate area which meant a good depth of sand available for digging graves and also, importantly, protection from occasional flooding from the Elsie's River."*

While the test excavations failed to provide positive results in terms of locating graves, they have been fruitful in helping to understand the original topography of the site and surrounds. Figure 24 shows that the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery was located in the space between two streams. This naturally would have been high ground. Figure 25 shows a later map which captured a small section of high ground in the contour lines. This high area corresponds exactly to the known cemetery and a small amount of land immediately to its south within the Tygerberg Hospital precinct (Orton, 2026).

Historical aerial photography indicates that the sports fields were created between the dates of the 1968 and 1973 images. This was done through the introduction of large amounts of fill which was applied in variable thickness across the area to cover the natural dune sand and create a compact, level surface. The minimum fill thickness encountered was closest to the known historical cemetery and was 0.4 m thick. The maximum fill was in the south-western part of the study area where a 1.4 m deep excavation failed to penetrate the fill. This shows variability in the natural surface of at least 1 m. The anomalies recorded by the GPR scan were generally too shallow to have been graves with this being exacerbated by the fill. It thus seems most likely that no graves are present outside of the known historical cemetery with all the anomalies detected being other features (Orton, 2026).

It is also relevant to consider that when historic cemeteries filled up, overflow burials would have been placed close to the existing cemetery rather than being more widely scattered. If the potential grave targets were graves, then there would need to be many hundreds of other graves in the intervening area, but the scan did not show this (Orton, 2026).

Section 38(3)(b) of the NHRA requires an assessment of the significance of all heritage resources. In terms of Section 2(vi), “cultural significance” means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance. “Graves are deemed to have high cultural significance at the local level for their social value. They are allocated a grade of IIIA which is, therefore, the minimum grading that should be applied to the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery” (Orton, 2026). The Hardekraaltjie Cemetery was found to be of High Significance and therefore bestowed a Grade IIIA grading. Such a grading has been proposed for the site previously and endorsed by HWC.

However, no graves were found in the buffer zone on Erf 24602 and there is no archaeological evidence to suggest that graves might occur there. Erf 24602 thus does not have any particular heritage significance and, from an archaeological perspective, does not merit grading (Orton, 2026).

Please refer to **Annexure E** for a photo report of the site.

### 7.3 Heritage Indicators:

The following aspects play an important role in the integrity of the historical significance of the site. It is recommended that the following features be conserved and considered in the landscape plan for the Memorialisation of the site:

- Anomalies identified within the memorialised area that could be potential graves need to be clustered with the intent not to disturb these clusters, minimum to no landscape intervention is required within these clusters.
- The boundary of the site was determined through the assessment of the SG Diagram (dated 1910), Aerial Imagery, Radar scanning undertaken within Erf 15349, Erf 18228 and within the extended buffer area on Erf 24602 as well as the ground-truthing through test excavations on Erf 24602. The boundaries of the formal Cemetery (as per the SG Diagram) are to be ‘highlighted’ considering it is the historical boundary of the Cemetery but not formalised as such to ensure that the cemetery is not isolated from the surrounding landscape. The boundaries of Erf 15349 will have symbolic reference to the ‘formal’ Hardekraaltjie Cemetery.
- Historical access points have been accessed using Aerial Imagery/ Photography and Oral Tradition. A combination of symbolic and functional entrances where applicable can be used to depict historical entrances.
- Local indigenous vegetation plays a key part in the authenticity of the site as using indigenous vegetation found locally within the area (at the time the cemetery was in use) (*Cape Flats Sand Fynbos*) would be a true representation of the character of the site. The rehabilitation of *Cape Flats Sand Fynbos*, where possible, should be encouraged in key areas
- Khoisan heritage within the area is prevalent and elements of Khoisan Heritage should be incorporated in the form of Language (i.e. the translation of portions of the information boards and/or a blessing) and through the planting of local medicinal plants within the memorialised area.

- A memo written by the Health Inspector (1947) that had surveyed the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery provides a depiction of the cemetery from over 78 years ago and provides various elements of heritage informants that can be alluded to in the Landscaping Plan:
  - The cemetery was fenced by barbed wire.
  - The Inspector counted 701 graves indicated by pieces of crockery, mounds of sand, brick, wooden crosses, etc.
  - There were only two graves with marble slabs and eight graves were identified with wooden crosses.
- Lastly with reference to symbolism, significant consultation with the community has been undertaken to date. The outcome of this is regarded as an indicator. SU has collated oral history surrounding Hardekraaltjie which has not only resulted in the publication of a book but strengthens the reasoning why the memorialisation of Hardekraaltjie is so important (and long overdue). It has been the aim of the Hardekraaltjie Steering Committee to capture the oral history and memories of a community that are nearly lost to our generations. It is paramount that the Memorialisation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery is not delayed further, not only to allow those who can still recollect stories connected to Hardekraaltjie to see something tangible taking place, but to educate and inform the younger generations of their heritage. Consultation, as per section 10 below, has led to the proposal that a dedicated cemetery area be provided with a central symbol that resembles an “open grave” or similar and that the names of all the identified people buried here should be engraved. The formation of a new management committee will as a priority deal with the detail design of the memorialisation symbol to ensure it reflects what the community desires.

## 8. THE PROPOSAL

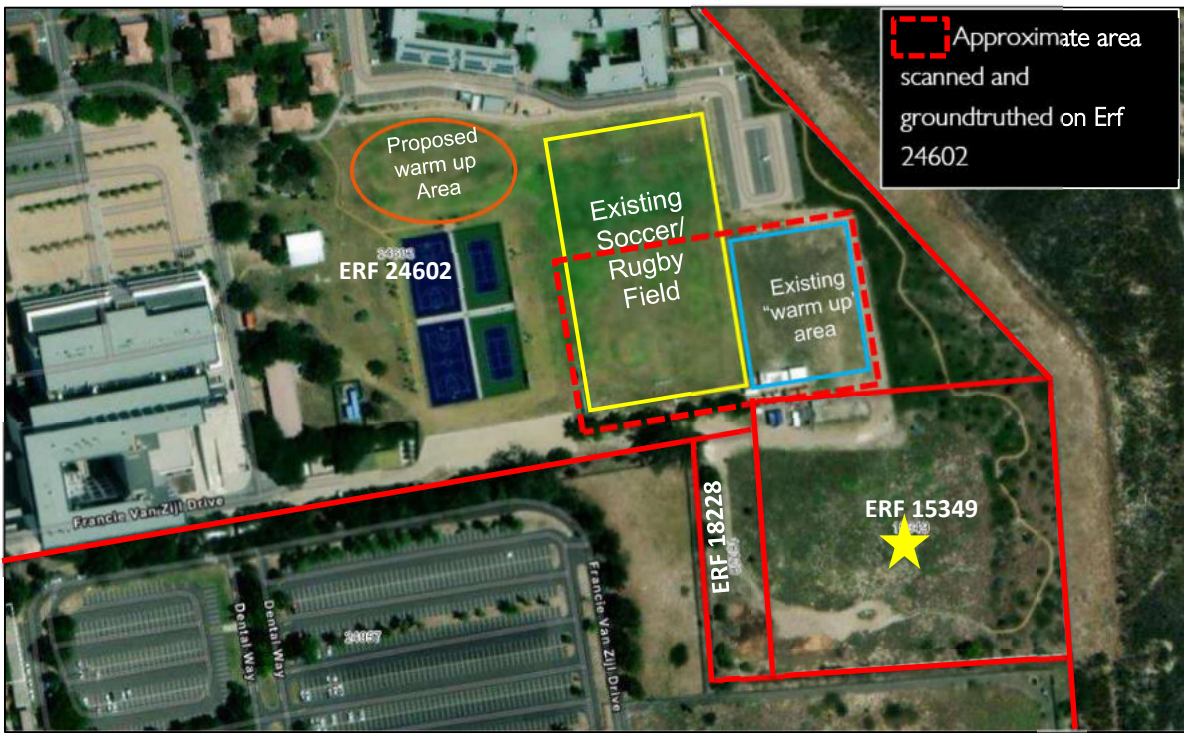
As indicated previously, the aim of Memorialisation is to keep memory alive and help 'victims' by demonstrating respect, acknowledging the past, help to establish a record of history, and to prevent the recurrence of the wrongs of the past. It is therefore key that the Hardekraaltjie Memorialisation portrays a sense of history, belonging, social acknowledgement and justice for the community that are connected, through their forefathers, to the cemetery. Improving and enhancing the accessibility and permeability is key with the aim of creating a community space for memorialisation, education and ongoing conversation.

Furthermore, shared sentiment of the site is that it should not be treated as an isolated site but rather an inclusive site that is not overly idealized. A cemetery is a unique place and while it is part of the everyday scene, it is not necessarily part of everyday life. It is a space where tranquillity and quiet are the desired norm. However, through memorialising the cemetery and ensuring its memory is remembered for generations it needs to encourage a level of interaction.

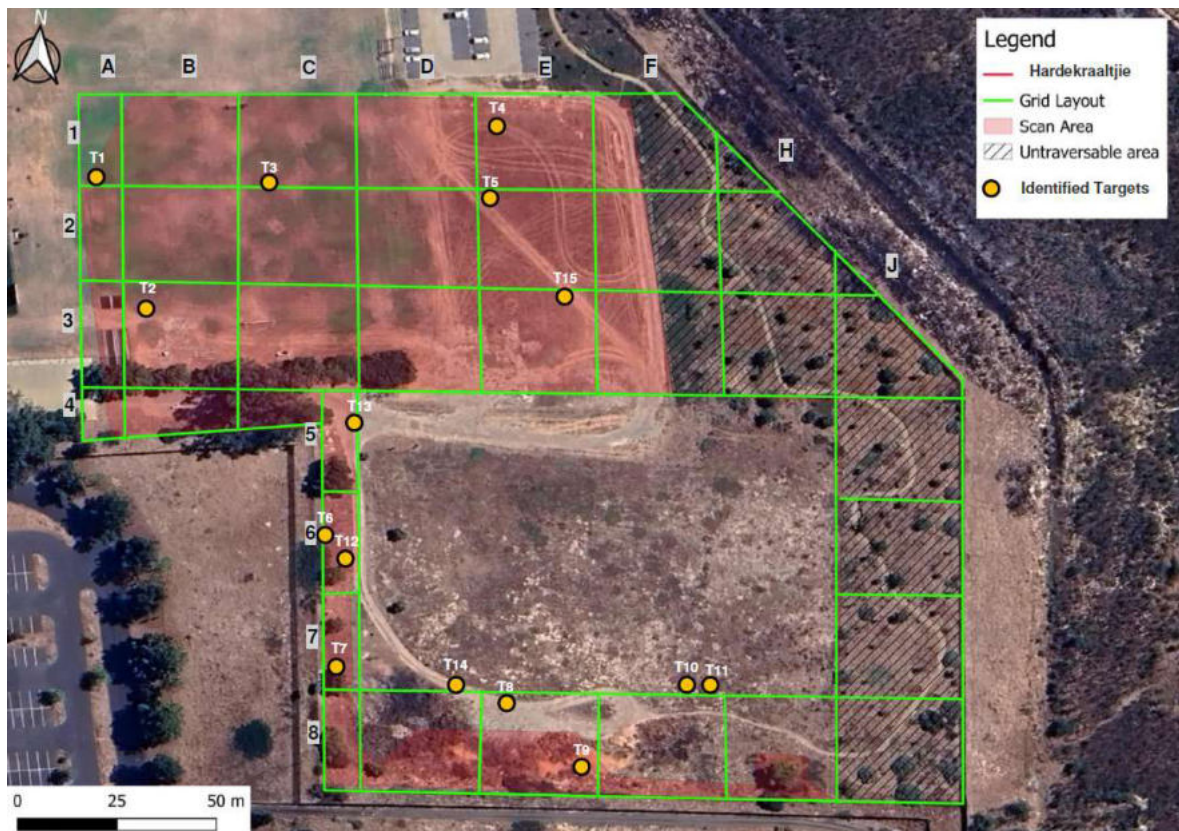
The proposal was formed based on the outcomes of the consultation process as recorded over an extended period of time. As per section '10.1 pre-application consultation', it was clear that memorialisation was supported as the community wanted a tangible area that reflects a cemetery and their culture with a symbolic area to record the names of those buried there.

### 8.1 Options considered:

Initially, Memorialisation was to take place on Erf 15349 which has been referred to historically as the 'Hardekraaltjie Cemetery' and is the formal cemetery in accordance with the 1910 SG Diagram. However, it was made evident that the potential for graves might not be defined by the formal cemetery boundaries of Erf 15349. This resulted in Erf 18228 to the west being incorporated into the Memorialisation Area. The area to the east (Transnet) and south (Tygerberg Hospital) falls on fenced private property not controlled by the Applicant and therefore does not fall inside this application area. A portion of Erf 24602 (SU Tygerberg Medical Campus) is protected in terms of the 50m buffer imposed around the 'formal' Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (Erf 15349). No development would therefore take place within this buffer area without obtaining approval from HWC. A decision was made to conduct radar scans for potential graves within the extended buffer area determined on Erf 24602, that resulted in the identification of several potential grave targets. These findings were therefore considered in the memorialisation options put forward at the time. Please refer to Figure 30 for erf references and Figure 31 for the identified most likely grave target locations within Erf 24602 (T1 – T5 & T15 [6 in total]).



**Figure 30:** Showing an aerial image of the greater area surrounding the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (yellow star).



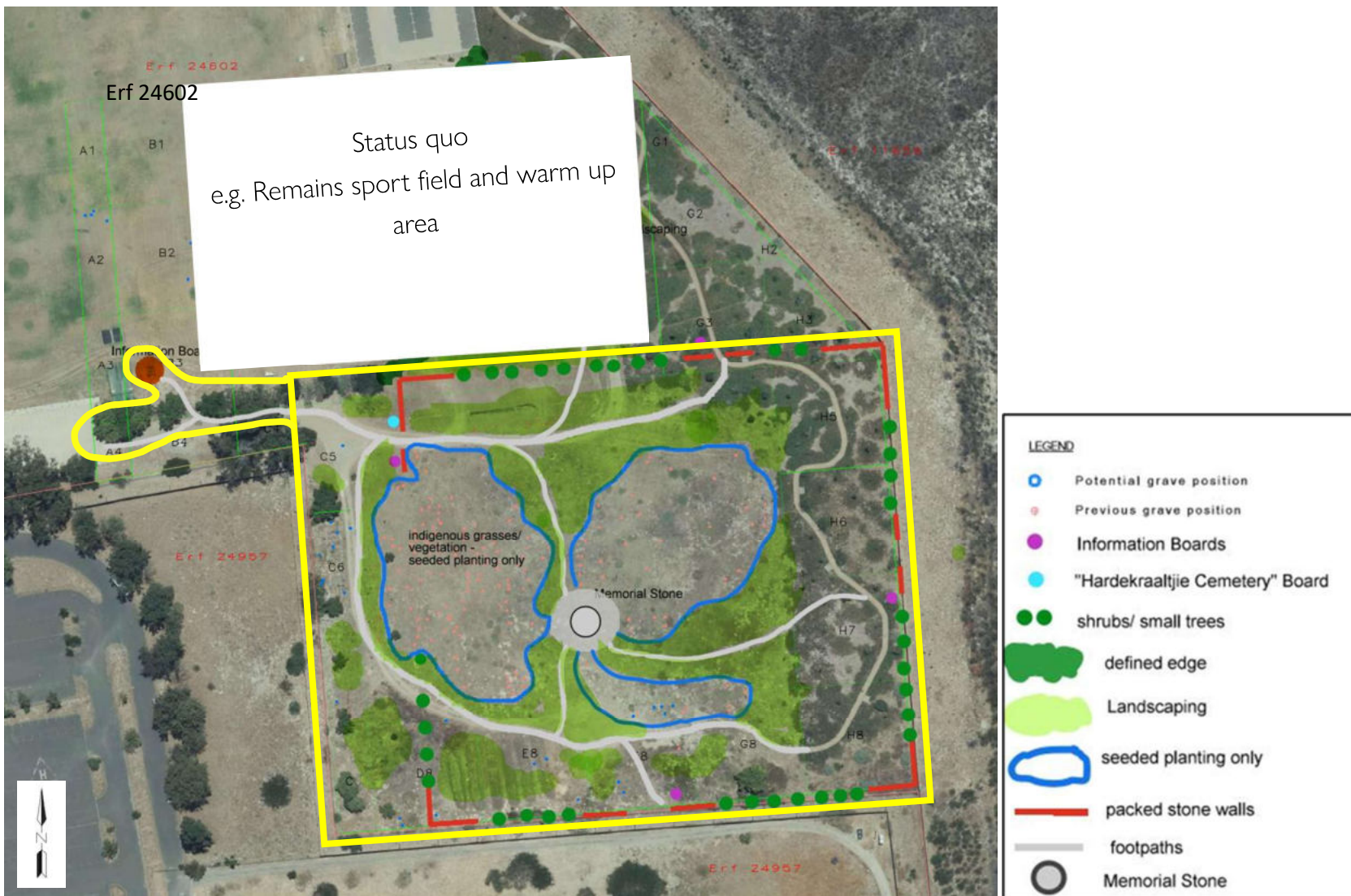
**Figure 31:** GPR Grid Layout Plan and approximate location of potential grave targets in accordance with the 2025 Sillito GPR Scanning. T1 – T5 & T15 have been ground-truthed and no graves were found.

The following options were considered and discussed as part of the initial public consultation process.

#### 8.1.1 Option 1 (Figure 32):

Option 1A: Memorialisation was therefore to take place on Erf 15349 and Erf 18228 with minimal strategic landscaping and interpretation items on Erf 24602. This option allows for the full soccer/rugby field of the SU Tygerberg Campus to remain to be utilised by the students and community clubs and the future formalisation of the practice/warm-up area for sports related activities. Sporting activities would therefore continue as is the current status quo within the buffer area on Erf 24602.

Option 1B: According to the radar scanning undertaken by Sillito (July 2024) (refer to Figure 31 above) 15 grave targets were identified (high confidence). Furthermore, 6 of these potential grave targets, with high confidence, fall within Erf 24602 on which sports activities were being practiced. To follow the route of exhuming potential graves and placing them inside the boundaries of the 'formal' Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, while an option, is not considered a preferred scenario. Not only is this route costly and extremely time consuming (should approval from the community and HWC be obtained) but it was not considered the best solution as any potential graves should remain in-situ for all intents and purposes as this is where they were buried and laid to rest. Many South African culture's view disturbing the dead as deeply taboo. It may cause distress to communities and violate spiritual beliefs. From a heritage perspective exhumation was not the preferred alternative considering it is a sensitive, complex and controversial route to follow. Furthermore, no development is proposed within this area to 'force' exhumation as an alternative.



**Figure 32:** Option 1 – The Status Quo remains on Erf 24602, only the section inside the yellow areas are Memorialised.

### 8.1.2 Option 2 (Figure 33):

Consideration was also given to memorialising the portion of Erf 24602 falling inside the buffer area along with Erven 15349 and 18228. This would involve the approximate area indicated by the red broken line in Figure 30 above. However, this would result in the significant reduction in the size of the sport fields to the point of forcing the discontinuation of having a formal soccer/ rugby field as there would simply not be sufficient space. Although any potential graves within this buffer area would be included within a greater memorialisation area this would come at a significant cost to the students of SU and community clubs using the campus. It must be understood that radar scanning is not an exact science and comes with its fair share of doubt. Furthermore, the potential for graves/ burials beyond the buffer area (whether in a north, south, east or western direction) is also a possibility. Furthermore, the physical and mental health of students at the SU Tygerberg Campus is important considering the location of the campus within a largely built-up environment. The sports fields form part of the only recreational area on campus and plays a significant role amongst students on campus as well as sport clubs within the area utilising the facilities. Furthermore, having a bona fide soccer/ rugby field can also sustain positivity within the broader community. Sports is a medium that brings people together and could be used to educate the youth and future generations around Hardekraaltjie's memory.

SU Tygerberg campus sports facilities are utilised by learners from the Bishop Lavis community in a series of events, run by the SLEAK social impact project, with each school term, having a dedicated theme. Dr Nana Adom-Aboagye, the Acting Head at the Centre for Sport Leadership at Maties Sport, at Stellenbosch University leads the program. The ongoing project aims to equip the learners from Bishop Lavis with life skills like resilience, determination, courage and self-belief. *"Most importantly, it can teach young children about intrinsic motivation,"* said Adom-Aboagye. She explained that *"what they learn through sport, can be translated into other aspects of their lives"* (<https://sport.sun.ac.za/news/su-welcomes-learners-from-bishop-lavis/>). During their first visit the programme focussed on "resilience", using disability sport as the vehicle through which to teach this life skill. Learners joined for a game of goalball, a team sport designed specifically for athletes with a vision impairment. Learners also got a chance to try wheelchair basketball. The initiative helps to expose children to various possibilities beyond the boundaries of their communities and what they know, said Adom-Aboagye.

SU also hosts a number of soccer matches against five local clubs within the community and more recently hosted a goalball (paralympic sport for the visually impaired) league match. United Stars, Belhar Dragons, Loxian Stars, 3C Church and Bellville FC are community clubs utilising the SU Sports fields.

Option 2 was therefore not considered the most preferred option.

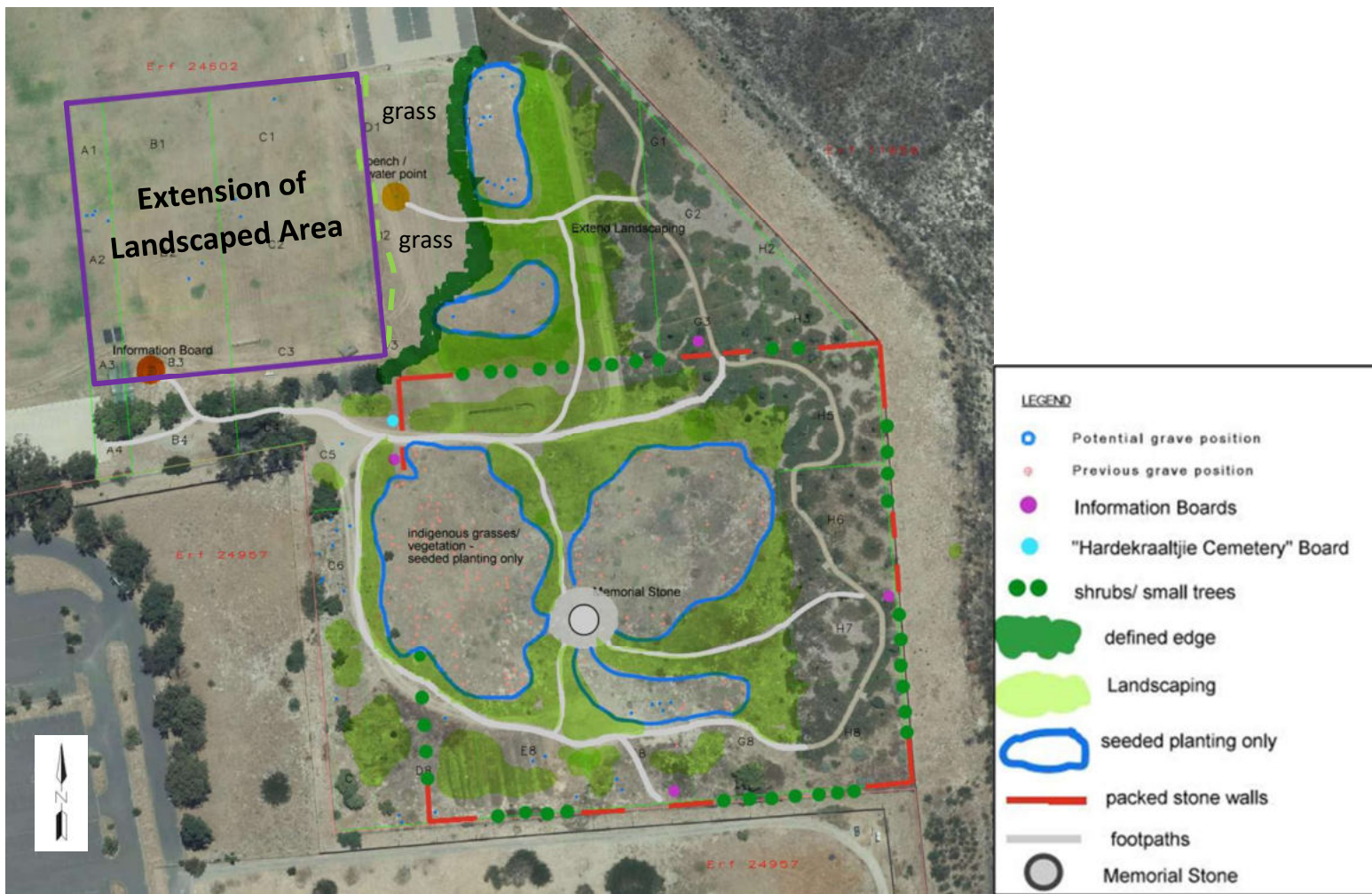


Figure 33: Option 2 – Showing the proposed Memorialisation Area, including an extension of this area into the purple block.

### 8.1.3 Option 3 – [preferred option put forward during the initial PPP]

The process of considering and evolving options resulted in the most amicable proposal at the time that addresses the objectives and needs of the applicant and the I&AP's. The proposal below involves the memorialisation of Erven 15349, 18228 and a portion of Erf 24602 by including the practice/warm-up area into the Memorialisation Area (blue block – Figure 31 above). This option allows for the main soccer/rugby field to remain, which can be utilised, as it is currently by students on campus and the broader community. Three potential grave targets (with high confidence according to the GPR scanning) would fall under the sports fields, the remainder of the high potential grave targets will be incorporated into the landscaped area with an interpretation board elaborating on the potential of graves found within the extended buffer area of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery.

The proposal put forward to the public was therefore considered one of respect and acknowledgment of the history of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and its community through creating a space that is reminiscent of the past but allowing visitors to also reflect on the future. The space provides opportunities to educate the youth, through interpretation, reflection and sport, growing up within these historically connected communities, of the significance of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery. It was of utmost importance to the project that the Hardekraaltjie Memorialisation would not become a 'white elephant' per say as the older generation pass away. Continued engagement and accessibility between the community and the memorialised space is key to keeping the memories alive. Refer to Figure 34 below.



**Figure 34:** Option 3 – Previously considered the preferred option that was put forward during the PPP for the Memorialisation Area.

Option 1, 2 & 3 was subjected to a public participation process as per section 10.2 below. The outcome favoured Option 2 primarily based on the fact that playing sport over graves is considered disrespectful. However, the case of the applicant was that there is no other areas on the campus to fit a rugby/soccer field onto the campus and considering the limitations of the availability of open space inside the urban area the need for the sports fields to remain on campus was put forward. Therefore, considering that GPR scanning is not considered an exact science and it is possible that the identified grave targets are indeed not graves, there was a need to confirm whether these identified potential grave targets are indeed graves in order to determine the best way forward. This resulted in Option 4.

#### 8.1.4 Option 4:

##### Contemplation:

Finding a balance between the needs of past generations and the needs of the present and future generations to come has been the most challenging aspect moving forward. The general sentiment amongst members of the community is that graves are not to be walked over as a grave is a sacred resting place. Therefore, the continuation of sporting activities over the potential burials within the extended buffer area is a point of great contention. While we agree and sympathise, with this spiritual belief, this is not always considered the most sustainable option. Considering the location of the site within a built-up urban area where development pressure and densification is being encouraged, open spaces for recreational purposes are limited. Sterilizing land within a built-up area must be carefully considered and all factors need to be well-thought-out. Several examples can be found where exhumation was undertaken as development pressures were given precent over burials. However, we reiterate that exhumation is not considered as part of the preferred option in this instance for a grave is an individual's final resting place. Furthermore, other than spiritual beliefs, albeit significant, there is no other need to exhume the graves as the area within which the potential grave targets are located fall within the recreational space of the SU Campus and is not being considered for development of any other nature/use.

As indicated, the Tygerberg Campus constitutes a community of approximately 2000 staff members and most importantly approximately 4500 students. Considering that the Tygerberg Campus constitutes the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences the academic year of the students are the most demanding across the SU Campuses considering students endure up to 42-hour weeks in comparison to the 26-28 hour weeks of other programmes. Therefore, a medical student has a lot less available free time.

The mental and physical health of medical students is therefore of great importance to the university and needs to be carefully considered alongside the public's wishes. As we well know, there is an overwhelming amount of research and information available regarding the connection between mental health and sport. Being active, especially through sports, can significantly boost mental wellbeing. Physical activity releases endorphins, which improves mood and reduces stress and anxiety. Playing sport also promotes social interaction, builds self-esteem, and provides a sense of purpose and routine. Being outdoors also has the added benefit of being exposed to sunlight which helps regulate sleep and improve moods.

The demanding academic year and lack of free time also plays a role should students be required to undertake recreational activities elsewhere. In certain instances, they would simply not have the additional time to commute. Most importantly however, the safety of the students is the responsibility of Stellenbosch University and encouraging students to find recreational activities off campus, particularly in the early hours of the morning or late evening [majority of

activities taking place between 4-7pm], is a major security liability which would be putting student's safety at risk [not even considering the lack of appropriate facilities and the logistics that this would entail].

Considering the previously isolated nature of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and the historical precedent of graves found across South Africa, particularly during urban development, the risk of informal graves being found elsewhere (within the surrounding area but also across South African) is probable. There are several examples of unmarked graves/ burials scattered across South Africa over which we go about our day to day lives.

However, at the same time the options put forward are by no means discrediting the wishes and beliefs of the community. Stellenbosch University acknowledges the role played by the University in South Africa's Apartheid legacy: *"As a Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences we wish to acknowledge the historical privilege that we have in being located here on this campus. It was from this area of Cape Town that the Apartheid Government removed families and communities to make way for Tygerberg Hospital and our Faculty; alongside this process was the closure of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery partially located on this land."* SU has been engaged with the communities as they share their 'lost memories' linked to this historic Hardekraaltjie Cemetery ever since establishing the Hardekraaltjie Steering Committee which includes representatives of various stakeholders (SU, Tygerberg Hospital etc.) and members of the community since 2020.

The Steering Committee has been actively involved with the main focus being the memorialisation of the 'Hardekraaltjie Cemetery'. Memorialisation being considered a process that meets the desire to honour those who have suffered and to examine the past and address present issues in an effort of reparation. It has been 5 years within which some significant milestones have been reached (i.e. the publishing of the book "Landscapes of Dispossession: Stories of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery") as well as a time of sadness for the community having lost a number of its elderly community including some of these story tellers namely; Sina Smit, Maria Charles, Henry Daniels, Yvonne Williams and Wilhelmina Andrews.

#### Preferred way forward prior to ground-truthing (Option 4):

As a result of the 'in-application consultation' process held in accordance with Section 10.2 below and the comments received (Appendix G4) it became clear that a new approach is required to prevent the project coming to a stalemate. The I&APs comments received, focus group consultation meetings, discussions held with the Tygerberg Hospital project heritage team, new research documented by 1) Dr. Handri Walters (2025) and 2) Perception Planning (2025) as well as significant additions to the list of burials identified at the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery by Lita Webley has played a significant role since the first round of formal consultation to establish the way forward.

After careful consideration it was therefore decided during focused consultation with community representatives that a 'core' memorialisation area will be established, and this would be defined within the legal parameters of Erven 15349 and 18228. This area will be the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery which will be memorialised upon approval of the Landscaping Plan by HWC. This will provide an ageing community with something tangible where they can pay their respects. As the playing of sports within the extended buffer area and over the possible presence of graves was considered a 'no-go' from the community, SU agreed to stop sports temporarily and conduct further research in this regard. Therefore, prior to implementing memorialisation aspects within the extended buffer zone, there is a need to confirm whether the potential grave targets identified during the GPR

scanning are indeed human burials or not. As a result, a permit was also required for ground-truthing the potential high confidence grave targets identified by the GPR scanning within the extended buffer zone on Erf 24602 (SU Campus). It is important to note that NO exhumation is to take place. Lastly, a Management Committee would be established (representative of all stakeholders), and a Conservation Management Plan will also be compiled.

In summary, the Section 36 Permit Application involved a two-fold approach in terms of the way forward (December 2025):

**Part 1:** Memorialisation of the core area (defined by the boundaries of Erven 15349 and 18228) through the HWC approval of the Landscaping Plan. This area would be the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and Burials which would be memorialised upon approval from HWC. The Memorialisation will take place in the form of:

- Section 8.3 “Do’s and Don’ts”;
- Section 8.4 “Look and Feel”;
- **Annexure F:** Landscaping Plan;
- Establishing a Hardekraaltjie Memorial Management Committee (HMMC) to include members from SU, the community, neighbours and other stakeholders to oversee the details of the above.

Furthermore, as a recommendation of approval, the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) will be compiled in consultation with the HMMC and submitted to HWC for approval. The CMP will address several aspects as indicated in Section 9 below.

Physical implementation of the Landscaping Plan can therefore take place within the boundaries of Erven 15349 and 18228, without disturbing potential graves, so that the community can see something tangible resulting from the years of public consultation. Most importantly would be the engraving of the list of names obtained through burial records and oral research indicating those buried at the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (**Annexure I**).

**Part 2:** Approval was also sought to undertake test excavations within the extended buffer zone. It is important to note that no exhumation was proposed, only the ground truthing of six potential burial targets (identified as the “most likely” grave targets by Sillito, (2024)).

As indicated, significant consultation with the community has been undertaken to date to obtain oral history surrounding Hardekraaltjie. The oral history collated to date has not only resulted in the publication of a book but strengthens the reasoning why the memorialisation of Hardekraaltjie is so important (and long overdue). It was considered paramount that the Memorialisation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery is not delayed further, not only to allow those who can still recollect stories connected to Hardekraaltjie see something tangible taking place, but to educate and inform the younger generations of their heritage. Refer to Figure 35.



**Figure 35:** Showing the ‘core memorial area’ and the ‘buffer zones’ as referred to above. The “50m buffer” was imposed by HWC in a decision dated 2017. The ‘extended buffer area’ is the entire area subjected to GPR Scanning (2024) (and later test excavations (2026)). Please note: All buffer and property boundaries indicated above are approximate (these will be formally surveyed where required).

A Permit Application [HWC24091815SB1113] was lodged with HWC for ‘Part 1’ above (namely the “Memorialisation on Erven 18228, 15349, Haardekraaltjie Cemetery, Stellenbosch University, Parow”) and a response was reached at the IACOM Meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 in which the Committee resolved to request the following further requirements in a letter dated 11 December 2025 (**Appendix J**):

*1. The proposed memorialisation is to be considered by IACom once the extent of the cemetery has been established as per the ground truthing permitted under case number HWC25102803SB1113. The results of the aforementioned are to be submitted to IACom in a supplementary report. [Refer to ‘Permit 2’ below]*

*2. The supplementary report must undergo a 30-day consultation process with the identified I&APs prior to submission to HWC.” [THIS APPLICATION]*

A Permit Application [HWC25102803SB1113] was lodged with HWC for ‘Part 2’ above (namely the “Ground truthing on Erf 24602, Haardekraaltjie Cemetery, Stellenbosch University, Parow”) and a response was reached at the IACOM Meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 in which the Committee resolved to approve the proposed ground truthing as proposed in the application by Dr Orton, subject a number of conditions (11 December 2025 – **Appendix J**). Condition 2 requested that a final report be “submitted to HWC within 30 days

*of practical completion*” [emailed to HWC on the 12 January 2026] and Condition 8 stated *“that the results of the survey be shared with interested and affected parties”* [THIS APPLICATION].

The purpose of Archaeologist Dr. Jayson Orton’s test excavations, as indicated in his report (*“Permit Report: Test Excavations on Erf 24602 Parow (University of Stellenbosch Tygerberg Campus), Western Cape”*) (**Annexure K**) was to determine whether the adjacent Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (Erf 15349) may once have extended onto Erf 24602 as indicated in the 2024 GPR scan which revealed a number of potential grave targets at varying depths. The six that were earmarked in the study to have the greatest likelihood of being graves was selected for ground truthing. The locations of these six targets were surveyed and marked on site. Test trenches were then excavated diagonally immediately adjacent to each of these locations. No evidence for burials was located at any of them. The excavations showed fill to varying depths of between 0.4 m and in excess of 1.4 m. It is evident that this was brought into level a naturally undulating surface in order to create the playing fields. This variable fill, the lack of fill in the known cemetery, and the evidence from historical mapping indicated in this study regarding the alignment of the Elsie River, suggests that burial did not occur in the study area.

It was concluded that: “It is considered highly unlikely that burials occurred outside of the known historical Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, and it is recommended that this portion of Erf 24602 should not be considered as potentially being part of the historic cemetery.”

‘Part 2’ has therefore been concluded and will be used to formalise ‘Part 1’ of the application in the form of Option 5 below.

## **8.2 Option 5 – Revised Way Forward post ground-truthing (Figure 36):**

Option 5 therefore entails the proposed Memorialisation of Erven 15349 and 18228 as the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and Burials. Erf 24602 does not form part of the memorial area, however, it is recommended that a 10m buffer zone (falling within Erf 24602) is maintained to protect the interface around the Memorial area. The 10m buffer will also facilitate access and pedestrian flow into the cemetery. The Memorialisation will take place in the form of the approval and implementation of:

- A Landscaping Plan represented in Figure 32 (**Annexure F**) and interpreted alongside;
  - Section 8.3 “Do’s and Don’ts”; and
  - Section 8.4 “Look and Feel”;
- Establishing a Hardekraaltjie Memorial Management Committee (HMMC) to include members from SU, the community, neighbours and other stakeholders to oversee the details of the above;
- The Draft Conservation Management Plan (CMP) be adopted by HWC and that the CMP be amended when required in consultation with the HMMC and submitted to HWC for the record purposes (refer to Section 9 below).
- All conditions listed in ‘Section 11.2 Recommendations’ below.



**Figure 36:** Option 5 – Showing the revised Memorial area (Erven 18228 & 15349) and the 10m buffer. Refer to the detailed plans in **Annexure F**.

### 8.3 Interpretation “Do’s and Don’ts” of the Landscaping Plan

The following main points of interpretation in terms of the “Do’s and Don’ts” have been compiled to better understand the Landscaping Plan (**Annexure F**):

#### INFORMATION BOARDS:

1. The cemetery name board “Hardekraaltjie Cemetery” is to be positioned at the entrance to the site.
2. A minimum of Five (5) information/ interpretation boards are proposed at strategic locations telling the story of Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (The information boards are not to be branded i.e Stellenbosch University Logo).

#### SOFT LANDSCAPING:

3. The vegetation within the area was originally Cape Flats Sandstone Fynbos. Local, indigenous vegetation is therefore to be used throughout all new landscaped areas.
4. Include local medicinal plants and herbs used by the Khoisan and broader communities within the Landscaping Area.
5. Spread out shrubs or small ‘organic’ shaped trees (e.g. Wild Olive) can be used between the packed stone walls to further visually highlight the original Erf boundary (Erf 15349).
6. Areas with large potential grave clusters to remain as is. These areas can be seeded using indigenous grass or vegetation mixes. Weeding can take place in these areas, but no planting is to take place.
7. No Trees or plants requiring big holes to be dug are allowed anywhere else.

#### HARD LANDSCAPING:

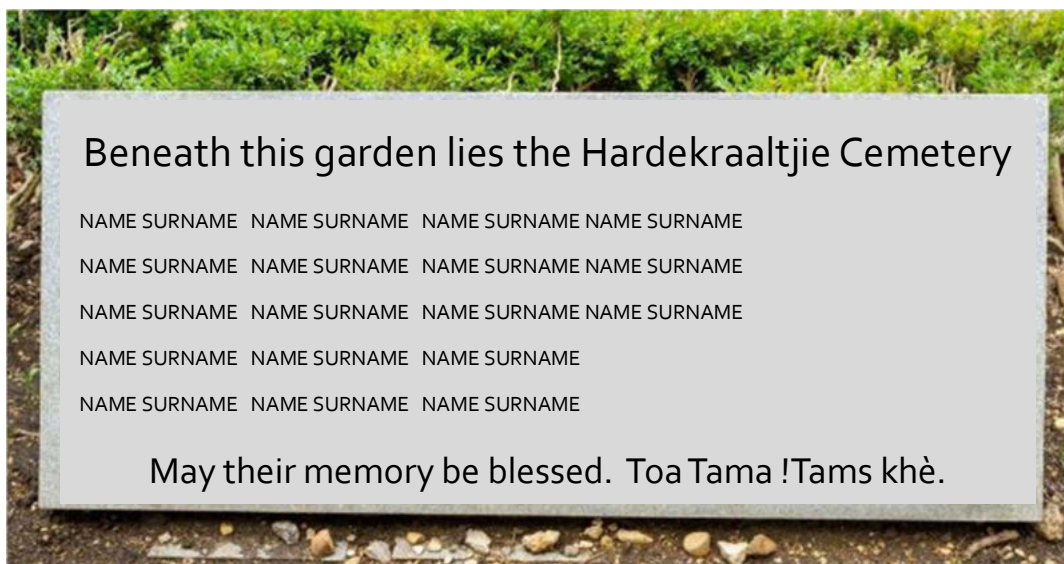
8. Certain sections of the original 1910 Cemetery boundary (depicted by the red lines) can be formalised to symbolise the erf boundary. Packed stone can be used to define these edges as well as ‘entrances’ and ‘exits’. Some of these will be symbolic (south & west) and others functional. Wrought iron or wooden gates could be used symbolically and left open where applicable.
9. Pathways can be bordered by gum poles with crushed stone aggregate (13mm) ‘klippies’ used to fill the pathway, as currently found elsewhere on campus.
10. Concrete benches, as already found in various areas, can be strategically placed within the landscaped areas (some shaded) and possibly around the central memorial area.
11. Scattered wooden crosses will be incorporated into the design.

#### CENTRAL MEMORIAL:

12. The final design of the central memorial will be concluded by the proposed HMMC to ensure it captures the “wishes” of the entire community.
13. The central memorial circle will include a crushed stone aggregate path around the circle.
14. The central circle can be constructed using pieces of shells, old crockery and/or stones/bricks (items used to depict graves in old cemeteries) to create a mosaic type floor or base.

15. A memorial remembrance stone will be placed in the centre of the base drawing the eye to the ground, i.e a stone slab or wall (Figure 37) is recommended. This will include a list of names of those buried at Hardekraaltjie as well as the space for any future additional names to be identified (**Annexure I**).
16. A symbolic representation of the possibility of bones being displaced or removed, which cannot be accounted for, will be included as being part of the central memorial space. The suggestion of an open grave has been made. The placement thereof would need to be carefully thought out as part of the HMMC final design input.
17. Concrete benches can be placed strategically around the Memorial Circle (on the crushed stone aggregate) OR a low, stabilised packed stone wall can encircle the memorial 'base' which can duplicate as seating. Keeping entrances and exits within the stone wall for ease of access.
18. The following wording is recommended on the memorial stone: "Beneath this garden lies the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery" and the final words: "May their memory be blessed" with a Khoisan blessing e.g. Toa Tama !Tams khè.

Refer to Figure 37 below.



**Figure 37:** Proposed Memorial Stone/ Wall proposed at the Central point within the Memorialised area showing the text illustrated.

#### 8.4 The “Look & Feel” of the Memorialisation Concept

Please refer to the proposed “Look & Feel” of the Memorialised Area, as shown in Figure 38 below.



**Figure 38:** Proposed “Look & Feel” of the Memorialised Area.

## 9. MANAGEMENT ASPECTS

Should HWC endorse the Landscaping Plan a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) in association with the HMMC will be compiled to address the following aspects from an operational perspective:

- Accessibility.
- Fencing, Parking & Ablution Facilities.
- Responsible parties and level of involvement.
- Financial responsibility and Management.
- Protocol for all future accidental discovery of bones.
- Events e.g An Annual Youth Day, A “Heritage Walk” or “A Storytelling Journey through Hardekraaltjies Past”.
- Communication.
- Engagement and role of the HMMC.
- Collaboration with Tygerberg Hospital in an effort to safeguard the buffer zone.
- Maintenance aspects regarding the Landscaping Plan (Irrigation, Lights, Alien Clearing etc.).
- Content of Information Boards and Languages.
- List of Names on the Memorial Stone/Wall.
- Cemetery Etiquette.

The following guidelines are proposed regarding the formation of the Hardekraaltjie Memorial Management Committee (HMMC):

1. Identify Groupings
  - that participated in the process to date; and
  - new groups that want to register.
2. Selecting representatives
  - in many cases leaders, heads, managers are known and can be co-opted
  - new nominations welcome
  - election and nomination should be done within groups own structures, and formally presented to consultant
  - to allow for a functional committee it's preferred that one/ two representative per group is co-opted
3. Constitution
  - Once a committee is formed a constitution will be drafted
  - a chairman and secretary will be elected

## 10. CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION

Community consultation and public participation around the Memorialisation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery has been ongoing since 2020. On the 1 June 2020 a community researcher, Chefferino Fortuin, initiated engagement with SU on behalf of his family and the community and in the same year SU established a Project Team focused on the memorialisation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery site. Through communications provided by Stellenbosch University (2024) the process to date was summaries below.

### 10.1 Pre-Application Consultation:

A participatory consultation process involving residents of the area's local community, in an area previously known as Tiervlei, informs SU's approach to the violations committed at the Hardekraaltjie cemetery. In this light, the proposed memorialisation of the cemetery site was coordinated by a steering committee, which included stakeholders from Stellenbosch University, the Western Cape Government, Tygerberg Hospital, and, importantly, community members. The Steering Committee met regularly to discuss all matters pertaining to the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery.

Secondly, the Steering Committee facilitated three community engagements in September 2021, March 2022 and December 2022. These events offered an opportunity for lively engagements for participants from the University and the local community to reflect on the history of the area as well as explore the future. The aim has been to discern the appropriate approach to the old cemetery site on Stellenbosch University's Tygerberg campus. The voices of the local community have thus been central to the proposed plans for the restoration and memorialisation of the site.

The third component of the participatory process comprised individual interviews with community members who could speak to the significance of the Hardekraaltjie cemetery. This was particularly poignant for those who had relatives buried at the site. It became clear from these engagements that the current state of the historical earth on which the cemetery is located is perceived by the participants as an erasure of history and memory. As one respondent stated about the site: "[...] *this is a cemetery, this is where our ancestors lie [...] at present we have nowhere to go [...] because there's nothing to go to*" (Gerald Andrews, 2022).

The words reflected one particular narrative encountered in many of the interviews with participants. For these participants, the site should be an accessible place to visit to pay respects to ancestors or loved ones. As one community member stated: "*If I know that my people are buried there, then I would like to be able to visit*" (Abraham Harmse, 2022). Participants wanted the site to be cordoned off and restored as a historical cemetery. Many participants suggested a wall of remembrance with the names of those buried at Hardekraaltjie cemetery. This idea was framed around honouring the memory of the deceased and keeping that memory alive for future generations who would be able to recognise their family names on such a wall. The suggestion was quite common in the overall responses. For some, it would also restore a sense of certainty or act as a solidification for vague memories. One respondent noted the proposed idea for a wall containing all the names of those buried at Hardekraaltjie cemetery: "*it would allow a person to clearly state that their brother or their sister was buried there*" (Rubin Botha, 2022). In this regard, the site needs to be transformed into a place where visitors can reflect and pay their respects, not only in the present moment but to future generations.

This generational access featured quite strongly. The site's restoration was closely linked with recognising Hardekraaltjie as a significant historical site. Many respondents simply wanted an indication that there once was a cemetery on this site and requested that a commemorative sign or monument should signal this. Participants called for a clear indication that *“this [was] Hardekraaltjie cemetery”* (David Bruintjies, 2022). As one respondent noted, *“Our posterity must be able to know that this was a place where people were laid to rest”* (Martha Oliphant, 2022). The site seemed to have become symbolic of a stolen past, and stolen memories as many of the older participants reflected on their movement in and around the site as children. Here the continuance of generational memory was closely intertwined with childhood experiences that spoke of a sense of place. One respondent captured this sentiment in the following manner: *“We were born here. My mother was born here, my father was born here. It would only be right if our children and grandchildren carry knowledge about this place”* (Jean Manuel, 2022). In this sense, the potential memorialisation of the site was linked to a history of the broader Tiervlei area and those who live in nearby communities. One respondent noted: *“the university needs to erect a memorial that is not only visible to the people of Tiervlei but for people living in nearby communities as well”* (Rubin Botha, 2022).

Thus far, the participatory process has strongly supported the memorialisation of the Hardekraaltjie cemetery. While the ideas of achieving this differed slightly, it is clear that the site carries historical significance to nearby communities and specifically those who grew up in the area. What is being requested is the restoration of a site that can be accessed to pay respects to the deceased buried there, to honour their lives, and to restore their dignity. In this regard, participants have suggested the installation of objects on the site (such as benches, signs, and even a built structure, such as a wall of remembrance).

Given the ageing population of those directly linked to the historical site, the intention was to erect a context board to memorialise the first community participatory process that occurred next to the site on 24 September 2021. The context board was the starting point for recognition of the site and the university's commitment to honour those buried there and restore the community's dignity. This was, however, an ongoing process to work closely with the community and to reflect the sense-making of lost memory and place.

One of the outcomes of these engagements is the compilation of a book around the discussions and oral interviews of those whose ancestors were buried in the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery. The book, *“Landscapes of dispossession: Stories of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery: Told by people from Tiervlei-Ravensmead”* was launched on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024 (Figure 39). The book's Abstract reads as follows: *“This book invites readers to share in the memories of members of the former Tiervlei community in the Western Cape of South Africa. Their narratives bridge the realms of history, culture and memory while memorializing the lives of the community and their memories of their ancestors buried at the Hardekraaltjie cemetery. The void of information regarding the cemetery and its relation to the people of Tiervlei, currently known as Ravensmead, is filled by the oral accounts of the narratives shared in this book. The Hardekraaltjie cemetery was opened in 1910 and closed in 1946. This book should also serve as a community resource for use in classrooms, discussions of family histories and the development of a greater understanding of the lived experiences of people facing a set of circumstances as expressed in the narratives contained in this book. This book could be the pioneer of a series of literary museums that encapsulates overlooked and forgotten community histories in South Africa.”*

Copies of the book were distributed to the following community Libraries/ School:

- Ravensmead Public Library
- Bellville Public Library
- Parow Public Library
- Elsies River Public Library
- Belhar Public library
- Florida Secondary School
- Ravensmead Secondary School
- Nebo Primary School
- Northway Primary School
- Pinedene Primary School
- Vorentoe Primary School



**Figure 39:** Book Cover - *Landscapes of dispossession: Stories of the Hardekraaltjie cemetery'*: Told by the people from Tiervlei-Ravensmead.

Another outcome is a timeline banner that was compiled and erected in the Ravensmead Public Library and on the SU Campus as shown in Figure 40 below.

Furthermore, it must be noted that numerous internal consultation processes were held between the students and staff members of the Tygerberg Campus. The SU community internal stakeholder engagement processes to date have been designed to a) ensure that campus community are informed about the proposed project and kept up to date on the restitution of the Hardekraaltjie cemetery processes; b) to provide opportunities for staff and students to discuss the context of the site – past and future; and c) to provide input into the possibilities for memorialisation of the site.



## 10.2 In-Application Consultation:

The next phase involved the formal public consultation process as required by law in terms of the NHRA. However, leading up to the in-application public consultation process (bulleted below), the Steering Committee continued to meet regularly to discuss all matters pertaining to Hardekraaltjie. The Steering Committee was utilised as a platform to provide feedback and input into the process and proposal eventually put forward on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024. The initial concept was presented to the Steering Committee prior to formally undertaking the PPP summarised below and the concept was well received with feedback provided and incorporated into the proposal put forward at the time (Appendix G6). The Heritage Statement (this document) constitutes part of the documentation to inform the memorialisation of the cemetery and is to be submitted to Heritage Western Cape (HWC) for S36 approval. The Heritage Statement includes the proposal put forward for Memorialisation. The Heritage Statement (including Annexures) was:

- Circulated to the identified Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) for a 30-day comment period (16<sup>th</sup> October – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024).
- All documentation was uploaded onto our website and hard copies were placed in the Ravensmead, Belville, Parow Public Libraries as well as the SU Tygerberg Campus Library.
- A Site Notice was placed at the entrance to the Stellenbosch University Tygerberg Campus and at the site itself for the duration of the 30-day public comment period.
- An advertisement was placed in the *TygerBurger* (English and Afrikaans).
- Notification Letters (English and Afrikaans) were sent to the I&AP List - **Annexure G1**.
- A public meeting was held in the Ravensmead Public Library on Saturday 26 October 2024 at 10:30 (**Appendix G3B**).
- A registered I&AP list was captured and maintained (**Annexure G2**) for future correspondence.
- All comments were captured and responded to in the Comments and Response Table (**Appendix G4**)
- Proof of the public participation process was captured in **Appendix G3**.

Since the formal public consultation above, several focus group meetings were held through ad-hoc meetings with the former Steering Committee (including Chefferino Fortuin and Johannes Bastain who represent the Ravensmead/ Tiervlei Erfinis Community). The Tiervlei Erfinis Community (TEC) have been the most active community group involved in the memorialisation process and as a result of additional written comment being received during 2025 various focus group meetings were held in response (4 April, 20 August & 23 September) with TEC representatives. These comments and responses thereto have also been captured in **Appendix G4** (Section B).

On the 4 April 2025 a meeting was held in which a phased approach was already being considered and put forward for discussion which involved: 1) memorialisation of the core cemetery site and 2) further research and consultation regarding how to treat the sport field and the areas outside of the sport fields. At the time, by default, sport would continue as per the status quo at the time. On the 20 August 2025 a meeting and overview of the process and suggested way forward, at the time, was discussed. The list of names regarding those intended to be buried at the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery was discussed highlighting the ethnic diversity and geographical representation of these individuals. SU also discussed some

information around the existing recruitment and bursary process of SU. As the focus group meeting held on the 23 September 2025 was in response to comments received on the 8 September which were addressed to the SU Rectorate/ Staff/ Students (Appendix G4A) formal minutes were taken which have been included in Appendix G4B along with the Agenda of the previous two meetings.

Open communication was ongoing throughout the process between the Tygerberg Hospital Heritage Team and PHS Consulting. Informal online meetings were also held to share information between both parties (23 April 2025 and 18 March 2025). Informal online meetings were also held with HWC officials to obtain guidance throughout the process (16 May 2024; 17th January 2025; and 16 October 2025).

Registered I&APs (**Appendix G2**) were notified of the way forward, our intention to submit to HWC and of the date for a Public Meeting in which this would be discussed. The second public meeting was therefore held on Monday the 10 November at 2pm (Venue: Conference room 1004, Biomedical Research Institute (BMRI), SU Tygerberg Campus). The intention of the venue selection was to provide attendees with the opportunity to visit the Hardekraaltjie Memorial area. Please refer to Appendix G5 for the proof of above notification as well as the details of the Public Meeting (Notes, Attendance Register and Presentation).

Thereafter, the two permit applications were submitted to HWC for approval in alignment with Option 4. The outcome of the IACOM meeting and the two permit applications submitted is included in **Annexure J**. The final report produced as a result of the permit obtained for the test excavations is included in **Annexure K**. It was concluded at the HWC IACOM Meeting that, *“the proposed memorialisation is to be considered by IACom once the extent of the cemetery has been established as per the ground truthing permitted under case number HWC25102803SB1113”* and that *“a 30-day consultation process with the identified I&APs prior to submission to HWC”* is to be undertaken.

This revised Heritage Statement, including the findings from the ground truthing, was circulated to the registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) for a 30-day comment period (Tuesday 10 March – Monday 13 April 2026). All documentation was uploaded onto our website. Notification Letters (English and Afrikaans) were sent to the registered I&AP List **Annexure G7**. A public meeting was held in the Ravensmead Public Library on Tuesday the 24 March 2026 at 14:00 (2pm). The presentation, notes and attendance register is included in **Appendix G7b-c**. All comments were captured and responded to in the Comments and Response Table (**Appendix G7e**)

Proof of the public participation process is included under **Appendix G7a**.

## 11. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

### 11.1 Conclusion:

Memorialisation is considered a process that meets the desire to honour those who have suffered and to examine the past and address present issues in an effort of reparation. It is key that the Hardekraaltjie Memorialisation portrays a sense of history, belonging, social acknowledgement and justice for the community that are connected, through their forefathers, to the cemetery. History surrounding the 'Hardekraaltjie Cemetery' dates to around the end of the 19th Century. The earliest reference to the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery comes from the Surveyor General's survey diagram of the cemetery undertaken in 1909 (SG 207/1909). However, the history and legacy of the cemetery is woven into the people buried there, the broader communities, the landscape and the political ideologies that have governed South Africa since then.

The historical events identified herein, and the undertaken heritage studies mentioned to date played a major role in the shaping of the events that have unfolded and lay the foundation for the events that followed. The aim of the memorialisation process is to keep memory alive and help 'victims' by demonstrating respect, acknowledging the past, help to establish a record of history, and to prevent the recurrence of the wrongs of the past. Improving and enhancing the accessibility and permeability is key with the aim of creating a community space for memorialisation, education and ongoing conversation. Shared sentiment of the site is that it should not be treated as an isolated site but rather an inclusive site that is not overly idealized. Although, a cemetery is a space where tranquillity and quiet are the desired norm, considering the forgotten nature of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, through the process of memorialisation it ensures that its memory is remembered for generations and to achieve this, its needs to encourage a level of interaction.

The aim of the proposed Landscaping Plan is also to ensure that work proposed is respectful in terms of allowing minimal work within areas that have large clusters of potential grave targets and allowing pathways to meandering around these areas rather than over. The proposal put forward to the public is therefore one of respect and acknowledgment of the history of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and its community through creating a space that is reminiscent of the past but allows visitors to also reflect on the future. The space also provides opportunities to educate the youth growing up within these historically connected communities of the significance of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery.

A substantial amount of research and public/ community engagement to date has been undertaken by Stellenbosch University (SU) and therefore plays an important role in what is proposed. SU also acknowledges the role they played in South Africa's Apartheid legacy:

*"As a Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences we wish to acknowledge the historical privilege that we have in being located here on this campus. It was from this area of Cape Town that the Apartheid Government removed families and communities to make way for Tygerberg Hospital and our Faculty; alongside this process was the closure of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery partially located on this land. As a university we are currently engaged with our communities as they share their 'lost memories' linked to this historic Hardekraaltjie cemetery."*

SU has been engaged with the communities as they share their 'lost memories' linked to this historic Hardekraaltjie Cemetery ever since establishing the Hardekraaltjie Steering

Committee which includes representatives of various stakeholders (SU, Tygerberg Hospital etc.) and members of the community since 2020.

The Steering Committee has been actively involved with the main focus being the memorialisation of the 'Hardekraaltjie Cemetery'. Memorialisation being considered a process that meets the desire to honour those who have suffered and to examine the past and address present issues in an effort of reparation. It has been 5 years within which some significant milestones have been reached (i.e. the publishing of the book "Landscapes of Dispossession: Stories of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery") as well as a time of sadness for the community having lost a number of its elderly community including some of these story tellers namely; Sina Smit, Maria Charles, Henry Daniels, Yvonne Williams and Wilhelmina Andrews.

As a result of the 'in-process consultation' process held in accordance with Section 10.2 above and the comments received (**Appendix G4**) it became clear that a new approach is required to prevent the project coming to a stalemate. The general sentiment amongst members of the community is that graves are not to be walked over as a grave is a sacred resting place. Therefore, the continuation of sporting activities over the potential burials within the extended buffer area is a point of great contention.

An outcome of the test excavations undertaken in terms of the HWC Permit [HWC25102803SB1113] was to determine whether the adjacent Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (Erf 15349) may once have extended onto Erf 24602 as indicated in the 2024 GPR scan which revealed a number of potential grave targets at varying depths. The six that were earmarked in the study to have the greatest likelihood of being graves was selected for ground truthing, however, no evidence for burials was located at any of them. The excavations showed fill to varying depths of between 0.4 m and in excess of 1.4 m. It is evident that this was brought into level a naturally undulating surface in order to create the playing fields. This variable fill, the lack of fill in the known cemetery, and the evidence from historical mapping indicated in this study regarding the alignment of the Elsie's River, suggests that burial did not occur in the study area. It was concluded that: "It is considered highly unlikely that burials occurred outside of the known historical Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, and it is recommended that this portion of Erf 24602 should not be considered as potentially being part of the historic cemetery."

As a result, it is proposed that that Memorialisation will take place on Erven 15349 and 18228 as the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and Burials. The Memorialisation will take place in accordance with the recommendations in Section 11.2 below.

Section 38(3)(b) of the NHRA requires an assessment of the significance of all heritage resources. In terms of Section 2(vi), "cultural significance" means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance. "Graves are deemed to have high cultural significance at the local level for their social value. They are allocated a grade of IIIA which is, therefore, the minimum grading that should be applied to the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery" (Orton, 2026). The Hardekraaltjie Cemetery was found to be of High Significance and therefore bestowed a Grade IIIA grading. Such a grading was proposed in previous heritage studies undertaken for the site and endorsed by HWC. It is furthermore recommended that Erf 18228 also be considered for Grade IIIA grading considering that these two erven will be part of the Memorial Area.

A separate independent nomination has also been made that the site be graded as a Grade II Provincial Heritage Site in terms of Section 27 of the NHRA and the outcome of this process will be ongoing. The site (Erf 15349 & Erf 18228) is therefore considered to be of High Local to Provincial Heritage Significance (Grade IIIA / potential Grade II).

However, as no graves were found in the buffer zone on Erf 24602 and there is no archaeological evidence to suggest that graves might occur there. Erf 24602 thus does not have any particular heritage significance and, from an archaeological perspective, does not merit grading (Orton, 2026).

As indicated, significant consultation with the community has been undertaken to date to obtain oral history surrounding Hardekraaltjie. The oral history collated to date has not only resulted in the publication of a book but strengthens the reasoning why the memorialisation of Hardekraaltjie is so important (and long overdue). It is paramount that the Memorialisation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery is not delayed further, not only to allow those who can still recollect stories connected to Hardekraaltjie see something tangible taking place, but to educate and inform the younger generations of their heritage. Most significantly would be the engraving of the list of names obtained through burial records and oral research indicating those buried at the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (**Annexure I**).

## 11.2 Recommendation:

Therefore, it is recommended that Erven 15349 and 18228, as the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and Burials, be formally recognised as a Memorial through:

1. The approval and implementation of the Landscaping Plan included in **Annexure F**.

[While Erf 24602 does not form part of the memorial area, it is recommended that a 10m buffer zone (falling within Erf 24602) is maintained to protect the interface around the Memorial area. This has been indicated on the Landscaping Plan – **Annexure F**.]

2. The Draft Conservation Management Plan (CMP) be adopted by HWC and that the CMP be amended when required in consultation with the HMMC and submitted to HWC for the record purposes (included in **Appendix M**). The Draft CMP addresses the following recommendations:
  - Establish a Hardekraaltjie Memorial Management Committee (HMMC) to include members from SU, the community, neighbours and other applicable stakeholders to oversee the implementation and finalise some detail of the Landscaping Plan and the management aspects associated with the Memorialisation.
  - An annual Heritage Day Event/ Ceremony aimed at the broader community and to those directly connected to the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery. This should not only be considered a day of remembrance but also an opportunity to connect with and educate the youth, within these communities, around the history of Hardekraaltjie. Furthermore, it is recommended that a bi-annual educational experience is available to students, staff, community members and schools within the vicinity to learn more about the memorialised space. This could be known as the: “The Hardekraaltjie Heritage Walk” or a “A Storytelling Journey through Hardekraaltjies Past”. This would ensure that the Hardekraaltjie story is known and lives on in the memories of future students, staff and community members visiting the site.

- Creation of a digital archive or “museum” for future generations by Stellenbosch University summarising the extensive research undertaken to date. This must be accessible to all.
  - It is recommended that the single Cranium be collected from its existing location at UCT and placed into the central memorial stone/ wall once the proposed Landscaping Plan for the Cemetery has been undertaken. Furthermore, the proposed conservation management plan for the site and greater area will allow clear ‘instructions’ for any bones found in the future outside of the study area.
  - All landscaping, foundation and irrigation works must be conducted in the presence of an archaeologist. Should any heritage resources, including evidence of graves and human burials, archaeological material and paleontological material be discovered during the execution of the activities associated with the Landscaping Plan, all works must be stopped immediately, and Heritage Western Cape must be notified without delay.
  - A fencing proposal that is part of a separate Section 38 application for the entire campus needs to be implemented around the boundary of the SU Tygerberg Campus that includes Erf 18228 and 15349. A black Clearvue fence of 2.4m with a 600mm electrical fence running on the top is being proposed. While the wider fencing proposal needs to be cohesive and in line with the SU security division, it also needs to be undertaken with extreme sensitivity considering the heritage significance of the properties and particularly around the memorialisation area. The fencing alignment within the Memorial area needs to be undertaken along the same footprint/alignment to reduce any impacts on potential graves and must be in alignment with the proposed Landscaping Plan. Archaeological monitoring is recommended when excavations take place during construction of the fence line in the vicinity of the memorialisation or buffer zone area.
3. The Hardekraaltjie Cemetery (Erf 15349) was found to be of High Significance and therefore bestowed a Grade IIIA grading. Considering the location of Erf 18228 and its inclusion in the Memorial area it is also recommended that Erf 18228 be considered for Grade IIIA grading. In addition, a separate Section 27 process is being undertaken that the site be graded as a Grade II Provincial Heritage Site (PHS). While this process will be ongoing, a PHS grading for Erf 15349 and Erf 18228 is hereby supported.
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