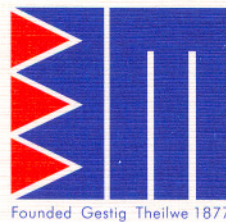


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Freshford House Museum | Freshford-huismuseum  
First Raadsaal | Eerste Raadsaal  
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01 March 2008

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Dear Carol

### **Mercury Substation EMP**

Thank you for the drawings and details of the Mercury substation. I have examined them in the context of our recommendation that shovel tests be undertaken in that part of the substation expansion area as a result of our discovery of artefacts in the inspection pit infills. I would like to make the following comments on our recommendations.

It would appear from the drawings that the area in which the artefacts were noted is to be filled up to create a terrace. As I understand the drawing, subsurface pipes are to be laid which connect to outlets, spreader boxes and in the case of the oil pipes, to an oil dam. I cannot make out the depth of the aforementioned from the drawings, or the depth of the terrace fill. There does seem to be a substantial drop in ground surface between the eastern and western sides of the terrace. It appears that the terrace fill will be more or less at its maximum depth in the area where the artefacts were observed. The artefacts do not appear to be on or just below the surface, as we saw no artefacts eroding out in the surveyed area (grass cover was thick in places though), which one would expect if they were close to the surface. It is therefore unlikely that they would be disturbed during the construction of the substation. I do not think that it will be necessary to undertake shovel testing in the area of the terrace in the light of the information on the construction of the terrace now available.

My only point of concern would be the oil dam. It is situated quite close to where some of the artefacts were noted. I understand that the dam will be 2.5 m deep which may very well disturb the artefact level if this occurs at that point. I would like to suggest that the dam is either moved further away or that an archaeologist is present initially

when the excavations take place. Should the artefact level be present the archaeologist can document it and take a sample if necessary.

Obviously it is impossible to predict what will be uncovered during excavations, but it would appear to be unlikely that any major occurrences will be uncovered in the proposed substation expansion area. In the unlikely event that any bones are uncovered, it will be necessary to stop work at that particular point until an inspection by the police and an archaeologist has been undertaken.

I trust that this is in order. Please contact me if there are any further queries.

Best wishes



Zoë Henderson