ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION
710-722 George Street
Haymarket

VOLUME 2: Subsidiary Reports

Report to
Inmark

June 2011
VOLUME 2: Subsidiary Reports

8.0 Detailed Description of the Archaeological Recording Program

8.1 Trench Report, Area A – Jill Miskella

8.2 Trench Report, Area B – Abi Cryerhall and Beau Spry

8.3 Trench Report, Area C – Jill Miskella

9.0 Specialists’ Reports

9.1 Ceramics Report – Rowan Ward

9.2 Scientific Analysis of Thomas Ball Pottery – Nicholas Pitt

9.3 Glass Report – Jeanne Harris

9.4 Faunal Material Report – Melanie Fillios

9.5 Comments on Shells – Melissa Carter

9.6 Pollen Report – Mike Macphail

9.7 Soil Report – Roy Lawrie
Section 8.0
Detailed Description of the Archaeological Recording Program
Section 8.1

TRENCH REPORT
Area A

710 – 722 George Street
Haymarket

Jill Miskella
March 2009
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Area A is the southern part of the archaeological site at 710-722 George Street. The site was divided into three areas (A, B and C). Area A deals specifically with numbers 720 and 722 George Street. Four main phases of historical occupation were found in this area during excavation. The main archaeological remains found in Area A were:

- The earliest phase dating back to the brickfield period (1788 – c.1823). A large cut (7436) was found in the southwest corner of Area A which extended beyond the limit of excavation. This deep cut was probably a clay extraction pit for the making of pottery and bricks. It was backfilled with various fills prior to the 1830s. A number of large pits were found further east in Area A, each containing large concentrations of broken ceramics (pottery wasters) and brick fragments. These pits are further evidence of brickfield activity on site.
- The rubble stone footings (7309) of the Woolpack Inn survived along with evidence of five rooms each containing underfloor deposits. This is the earliest evidence of a structure in Area A. It was built c.1823 and remained extant until 1880. A number of postholes (outbuildings) were also found along with a cesspit (7658) and three drains (7447, 7636 and 7658).
- By 1882 a new structure was built on 722 George Street. The remains included well dressed rectangular stone footings (7308) of a large rectangular building were evident. This building was originally the Mercantile Bank, then later the Commercial Bank of Australia. Remains of another large building of similar construction (7307) were found at the southern periphery of the site along with a stone cesspit/toilet (7637) and drain (7657).
- Around the turn of the century (c.1903) both these buildings became the property of Mick Simmons Ltd. Evidence found shows that by the middle of the twentieth century Mick Simmons made alterations to the buildings by joining these two buildings together (7669) to make one large retail store. These buildings remained extant until 2000.

There was no evidence of any Aboriginal occupation found in Area A. Most of the original topsoil and subsoil appears to have been removed during the brickfield era and the site was later backfilled and levelled with reintroduced subsoils prior to the construction of any structures.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong> ............................................................................</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td><strong>Background</strong> .............................................................................</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td><strong>Study Area</strong> ............................................................................</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td><strong>Plans</strong> ..................................................................................</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td><strong>Phases</strong> ................................................................................</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td><strong>Limitations</strong> ..........................................................................</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6</td>
<td><strong>Authorship</strong> ..........................................................................</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0</td>
<td><strong>Brief Historical Background</strong> .............................................</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td><strong>General Background</strong> ................................................................</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td><strong>History of 720 – 722 George Street</strong> ....................................</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0</td>
<td><strong>Results of Fieldwork 720–722 George Street (Area A)</strong> ............</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td><strong>Methodology</strong> ..........................................................................</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.1</td>
<td><strong>State of Site when Opened</strong> ..................................................</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.2</td>
<td><strong>Excavation and Recording Methodology</strong> ....................................</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td><strong>Phase 1: Natural landscape</strong> ................................................</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td><strong>Phase 3: Brickfield Occupation</strong> ............................................</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3.1</td>
<td><strong>Brickfield Activity, Pottery Manufacture and Early Village</strong> ......</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3.2</td>
<td><strong>Post-Brickfield Backfilling and Levelling</strong> .............................</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td><strong>Woolpack Inn (Phase 4)</strong> ......................................................</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.1</td>
<td><strong>Construction</strong> .........................................................................</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.2</td>
<td><strong>Occupation</strong> ..........................................................................</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.3</td>
<td><strong>Demolition</strong> ..........................................................................</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td><strong>Occupation of Banks and Warehouses (Phase 5)</strong> .......................</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5.1</td>
<td><strong>722 George Street</strong> ...............................................................</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5.2</td>
<td><strong>No. 720 George Street</strong> ......................................................</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6</td>
<td><strong>Mick Simmons: Twentieth-Century Occupation (Phase 6)</strong> ............</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.0</td>
<td><strong>Overview of Results</strong> ...........................................................</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background
Archaeological excavation took place at the site of 710-722 George Street, Haymarket over a nine week period between August and November 2008. Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd were commissioned by Parkview on behalf of Inmark to undertake an archaeological assessment of the study area prior to the excavation. Casey & Lowe have already undertaken the assessments and excavations of similar related sites in this area, i.e., 16-20 Albion Street, 242 Elizabeth Street, and the adjacent Silknit House, 19-41 Reservoir Street and a site immediately to the east on the corner of Pitt and Campbell Streets.

The study area was triangular in shape and was on the eastern side of George Street, north of the northeast corner of George and Campbell Streets (Fig. 1.1). The proposed development of the property was for a multi-storey residential and commercial development with two levels of underground parking. The site was situated above two railway tunnels which limited the amount of bulk excavation to two levels of carparking. This development removed all surviving archaeological remains within the footprint of the study area.

This report will deal specifically with Area A, 720 and 722 George Street. Area A was initially identified as having no or little archaeological potential based on the Archaeological Zoning Plan for Central Sydney (1992). During research for this site it was identified that this area was probably the property associated with Thomas Ball’s pottery. This area was identified in the research designs and it was decided that Casey & Lowe would test this area to confirm the model of potential. Testing found remains belonging to four main phases of occupation.

1.2 Study Area
The study area, 710-722 George Street, was bound on the western side by George Street, on the eastern side by Cunningham Lane and on the northern and southern sides by the extant buildings numbers 708 and 724 George Street respectively (Fig. 1.1). For excavation purposes the study area was divided into three areas, Area A to the south, Area B in the centre and Area C to the north. These divisions into areas also correspond with the early allotment numbers assigned along George Street. This report will only deal specifically with Area A (Lot 2).

Area A (also recorded as Lot 2), consisted of the southern end of the site which included buildings 720 and 722 George Street. Below these large footings were the remains of an earlier structure, the c.1823 Woolpack Inn and evidence of early backfilling of a large cut associated with the brickfield period. Area A will be discussed in detail in this report.

Area B comprised the central portion of the study area (Lot 3) which included numbers 712–718 George Street. This area contained extensive remains from the brickfield period along with early residential occupation and many phases of commercial occupation. Area B will be discussed in detail in a separate trench report.

1 Casey & Lowe 1995 Archaeological Assessment 16-20 Albion Street, Surry Hills, for Meriton Apartments Pty Ltd, December 1995
2 Casey & Lowe 1997 Archaeological Assessment, 242 Elizabeth Street and 19-33 Reservoir Streets, Surry Hills for Ercole Palazzetti Pty Ltd and Addenbrooke Pty Ltd.
3 Casey & Lowe 2003 Archaeological Investigation, Silknit House 23-33 Mary Street, Surry Hills, for the NSW Teachers Federation.
4 Casey & Lowe 2008 Archaeological Investigation, 19-41 Reservoir Street, Surry Hills, for the NSW Teachers Federation and NSW Teacher’s Health Society, in preparation.
Area C is the area of no. 710 George Street which was formally Lot 4 and shows many phases of occupation, mostly occupation from the 1840s to 2008 (see Area C Trench Report by Jill Miskella).

Context numbers 7301 – 7700 were assigned to the Area A.

1.3 Plans
All the plans for this excavation were drawn to a scale of 1:50. A total of ten plans were drawn of the study area, most of which contained overlays from the different stages of excavation. Plan nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 specifically cover Area A (see Volume 3, Section 10 of Report).

1.4 Phases
Area A has been divided into seven main phases. The analysis of the historical occupation of the study area in Section 2 and the archaeology found during excavation have helped identify these phases. Not all of the phases in Area A correspond exactly with phases in Areas B and C.

- Phase 1: Natural Landscape
- Phase 2: Aboriginal Occupation
- Phase 5: c.1882–1900: Bank building – initially the Mercantile and later the Commercial Bank and warehouses.

Some of these phases have been subdivided under more specific headings, which will be dealt with throughout this report and are clearly identified in the matrix. The natural landscape (Phase 1) followed quite a steep gradient from east to west, dropping nearly 1.5m in depth. In the southwest corner of Area A most of the natural deposits had been removed right down to the lower red and grey clay (7446) during the brickfield period and then backfilled prior to the construction of the Woolpack Inn. No evidence of Aboriginal occupation (Phase 2) survived due to the brickfield period of activity. Four pits of pottery wasters were found in the eastern end of Area A showing evidence of local pottery manufacture (Phase 3).

The stone footings, fireplaces and underfloor deposits of the Woolpack Inn all remained in situ along with drains, a cesspit and numerous postholes at the rear of the building (Phase 4). This structure remained extant for almost 50 years. In the 1880s the site of the Woolpack Inn was renumbered into 720 and 722 George Street with two new large buildings on each site. The Mercantile bank was built on 722 George Street and later the Commercial bank was built on 720 George Street (Phase 5). Within twenty years the banks were gone and the buildings were used as a warehouse probably as a result of the economic depression in Australia between 1890 and 1920 which caused many banks to crash. Finally, in the early twentieth century Mick Simmons Ltd opened a large store and remodelled 720 and 722 into a 3 story building (Phase 6). The store included tobacco merchants, fancy goods, sporting materials and hairdressing requisites. This building remained extant until c.2000 when the site was demolished and used as a temporary carpark (Phase 7).

1.5 Limitations
This report was written without access to the artefact catalogue and any dates these may have provided to assist with phasing. The information came from the recording done on site and the historical material available from the Archaeological Assessment compiled by Casey & Lowe in June 2008, as well as some additional research undertaken by Caroline Plim.
1.6 Authorship
This report has been written by Jill Miskella. I supervised in Area A and Area C for the period of excavation from 29/8/08 to 11/10/08. During this time I was involved in the supervision of work, excavation of features and deposits, recording of information and the annotation of plans. The history included in this report all comes from the Archaeological Assessments completed by Casey & Lowe in June 2008. This report was reviewed in detail by Mike Hincks and Dr Mary Casey.

Figure 1.1: Location of site on eastern side of George Street.
2.0 **Brief Historical Background**

2.1 **General Background**

Extracts have been taken from the Archaeological Assessment for 710-722 George Street, which was compiled by Casey & Lowe in June 2008 in order to put together this brief historical background of the study area.

The site, prior to British settlement, was on the lower side of what became known as Brickfield Hill. The early plans show that the site was somewhat outside the town of Sydney. From an early stage it was subject to clearance and subsequent use of the area as ‘Brickfield Village’. Bricks were being manufactured here by 1788. Many of the Aboriginal occupants of the eastern shore of Darling Harbour would have disappeared from this area soon after settlement because of its proximity to the brickfields and George Street.

The original part of the brickfields centred on the blocks between Campbell, Elizabeth, Goulburn and George Streets. This includes the current study area. Once the clay resources were used up in the original brickfield area, brickmaking activities spread out towards Darling Harbour and Surry Hills. Lesueur’s 1802 Plan of the Town of Sydney (Fig. 2.1), depicts allotments and houses on both sides of George (High) Street, labelled “Brickfield Village, where there are manufacturers of tiles, pottery, crockery, etc”. Meehan’s 1807 plan has a notation that “These Houses are irregularly Built very few of them good”. By the 1820s brickmaking moved from the area as the available clay was used up or as the encroaching town made the process objectionable or uncommercial. Remnants of a later brickfield were found between Albion and Reservoir Streets to the east of Elizabeth Street.

The street layout in the area was settled in the 1820s, and from 1831 the plans of Sydney show how the study area had become part of the town proper. The frontages of the new streets were already dotted with buildings.

When William Jevons visited the colony in 1858 and carried out his *Social Survey of Australian Cities* his attention was often drawn to the more depressed parts of the places he visited.

He stated:

That part of Sydney where the lowest & vicious classes most predominate & where the abodes are of the worst possible description is the square block of land between George, Goulburn, Pitt, & Campbell Streets. Towards the first & last of these streets it is occupied by shops or business premises, and among which are no less than seven public houses or inns & two or three livery stables, a stable yard of large size. It is however within this block of land that the bad features appear. Several lanes of irregular angular shape proceed into it burdened by very closely packed & chiefly brick cottages, the dirty low appearance of which defies description. Such is Durands Alley, some female inmate inhabitant of which is punished almost every day at the Police Court for offences chiefly connected with prostitution. I walked through these miserable alleys which are quite shut out from common view & form almost blind alleys. No more secure & private retreat for vice is afforded in Sydney.6

Jevons description of the block of land bounded by George, Goulburn, Pitt and Campbell Streets includes the study area, and it does indeed feature hotels and inns on its northern and southern perimeters. The description of the housing within the block, specifically within Durands Alley, does by association imply that the study area was associated with an area renowned for its more dubious qualities by the middle of the nineteenth century. This also suggests that the commercial enterprises located within this area were of a type, and in a location, that were directed towards a customer base comprising of the lower working class, Jevon’s so-called third class.

6 Jevons 1858:18
Figure 2.1: Detail from Lesueur’s 1802 plan of Sydney showing structures within Brickfield Village lining both sides of George Street. British Library Map Room, C5864-02. The red circle is roughly the location of the study area.

None of the properties within the study area were resumed by Council but there was redevelopment of the structures at 712–718 when the c.1840s buildings were replaced by four two-storey shops in the 1860s. It appeared that the building at 710 George Street was also demolished by 1867. The study area was reconfigured again in the 1890s, suggesting a pattern of redevelopment every 30 years, though the pattern for rebuilding is not all that easy to be certain of as the rates books are not clear. The first known building at 720-722 George Street survived for a long period of time from c.1823 to c.1880 and was the site of the Woolpack Inn. Two new buildings were built on these sites in the 1880s and were altered again in the twentieth century as part of the expanding business of Mick Simmons Ltd.
2.2 History of 720 – 722 George Street

This information relating specifically to Area A (720-722 George Street) comes from the Archaeological Assessment compiled by Casey & Lowe in June 2008 but has been updated slightly where necessary from later historical research. A number of sources were initially used to help construct a history of the site’s occupation and land use and included: Sands Directory, the Council Rate Assessment books, pictorial material (plans and photographs) and land title material.

The Council Rate Assessment books were recorded for the study area at a range of intervals between 1845 and 1948. The rates and assessments show who individual owners of properties are in a particular year, the occupant of the address, type of address (house, shop, etc), the fabric of the building and its roofing material, the number of floors and number of rooms, as well as its estimated value. Changes in the buildings fabric, or discrepancies in the number of floors and rooms between years surveyed, can indicate rebuilding. Sands Directory is an early form of street directory but with a focus on residents’ addresses and earlier on occupations of people living or working at many residences.

The Sands Directory lists residents from 1858/59 to 1933. The study area is very confusing given that the street numbers on George Street alter considerably over the years, with the assigning of particular numbers changing on individual lots. This has meant that the current 720 George Street is listed in the Sands as being number 732 for the years 1858/1859 to 1880 and 722 was 734. By 1883 the street numbering became similar to today, with 710 at the northern end of the study area and 720 at the southern end. Although in the 1890s numbers 718 and 720 which were one in the same up to this time became separate. After this, number 718 was the southern triangular section in Area B and numbers 720 and 722 were the two properties in Area A (Plan 6). The Sands lists indicate that the tenants within the study area were all operating commercial businesses, enterprises wholly suited to the general mercantile nature of the Haymarket area.

The Sands Directory lists numerous tenants or licensees of the Woolpack Inn at 720-722 George Street including: John Hall, 1863, William Blunt, 1865, and John Henry Pries, 1873, 1879 and 1880.

The Woolpack Inn was up for public auction in August 1879 (Fig. 2.2) and by 1883 the Inn no longer existed but had been replaced by a new building, the Mercantile Bank of Sydney (Figs. 2.3 and 2.5). The Mercantile bank remained at 722 George Street until it was replaced by the Commercial Bank of Australia in 1893. The Commercial bank is listed as 720 George Street although we do know that some time in the early 1890s the street numbers of 718 and 720 George Street changed. What was formally 720 became 722 George Street and what was 718-720 became 718 George Street.

A number of the tenants listed in the Sands appeared to have been quite long term, either staying at the one address or, perhaps after a rebuilding phase, moving to another address still within the study area. A good example of this is Arthur Leston, hairdresser. He was listed within the study area for at least 25 years, in 1873, 1879, 1880, 1883, 1888, 1893, 1895 and 1898. He appeared at two different addresses within the study area, at 718 and 720 George Street. In 1873 he was named with Thomas Johnson, saddler, at number 718 then by 1879 he had moved to his own premises at number 720. By 1893 he was back at 718 George Street as the Commercial Bank had taken over number 720, however here his address was actually listed as being 718½, suggesting that the numbering had changed slightly after a rebuilding phase.

From the beginning of the twentieth century Mick Simmons Ltd occupied 720 and 722 George Street. This business quickly expanded and was involved in the manufacture and importing of sporting goods, fishing tackle, toilet and hairdresser requisites, radio equipment, talking machines and records, men’s mercery, wholesale and retail sole agents for Pain’s Imperial Fireworks. It was also the location of their Head Office. By 1930s the Mick Simmons sports store covered most of the

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7 Appendix 1, Archaeological Assessment, 710-722 George Street Haymarket, Casey & Lowe, June 2008
8 Appendix 2, Archaeological Assessment, 710-722 George Street Haymarket, Casey & Lowe, June 2008
of the study area including 716 to 724 George Street (Fig. 2.4). They continued to occupy a number of buildings at this locality into the late twentieth century.

Figure 2.2: The 1879 auction advertisement for the sale of the Woolpack Inn at 722 George Street. Not long afterwards the Inn was demolished and replaced by the larger Mercantile Bank.
Figure 2.3: Dove’s 1880 Plan shows the Woolpack Inn and outbuildings still extant.

Figure 2.4: ‘Huge crowd in George Street at Mick Simmons Sports Store to see Don Bradman 1930’. This photo shows the buildings in the study area. No 710 George Street (Area A) is a low two-storey building as are the buildings 712-718 George Street (Area B). The large three-storey building is 720-722 George Street (Area C) and was demolished in the twentieth century.
Figure 2.5: This 1895 plan shows that the street numbering has changed slightly and the Woolpack Inn has been replaced by the Commercial Bank of Australia, now 720 George Street. Metropolitan Retail Series, ML, SLNSW.
3.0 Results of Fieldwork 720-722 George Street (Area A)

3.1 Methodology

3.1.1 State of Site when Opened

When we arrived on site all the buildings had been demolished. Initial excavation work began on 29th August 2008 in Area A which involved the bulk excavation of unstratified fills. Area A was considered to be of low archaeological potential but testing was undertaken to confirm this. During the monitored machine excavation of all the modern fill layers (7301 and 7302) and the footing remains of the twentieth century buildings 7307 (722 George St) and 7308 (720 George St) were exposed along with the rubble footing remains of an earlier structure (7309). It was at this level that hand cleaning began to expose these earlier structures. Artefacts found during cleanup were allocated the context number 7303. As archaeological remains became exposed in Area A machining moved northwards into Areas B and C. The northeastern end of Area A was excavated towards the end of the fieldwork in early October 2008 and exposed drains, cesspits and large pits containing pottery wasters from the brickfield period. The building to the south of Area A (724 George Street) has an underground carpark that has impacted upon the archaeology to the south of Area A. It remains in use and is not part of the excavation.

3.1.2 Excavation and Recording Methodology

The Archaeological Assessment compiled for this site by Casey & Lowe in June 2008 anticipated that 720-722 George Street would contain no or little archaeological remains as identified by the Central Sydney Archaeological Zoning Plan (1992). During preliminary testing it became evident that Area A (720-722 George Street) did contain evidence of both nineteenth and twentieth-century occupation along with evidence from the brickfield period (late eighteenth century to early nineteenth century).

The focus of the excavation program was the exposure and recording of intact remains within the study area. The approach to the site involved monitoring the removal of the concrete ground slabs from the study area and then using a machine to open up areas to determine where potential remains were likely to be found. When intact remains were found, detailed archaeological open area stratigraphic excavation with detailed recording was undertaken. This included: planning, photography, video recording and written contextual recording of the remains in line with current best practice and Casey & Lowe practices.

Initial site works involved clearing down to archaeological deposits using a mechanical excavator. When remains were found, detailed recording of the various archaeological remains was undertaken. The methods included:

- Underfloor deposits recorded and excavated within a 50cm x 50cm grid, in 5cm spits with stratigraphic priority. All material was wet sieved (100 per cent of deposits).
- Cesspits were excavated stratigraphically according to tip lines (where identifiable), or in 10 to 20 cm spits with changes of context numbers where relevant. These deposits were either sieved or carefully sorted according to their archaeological potential.
- All structural remains, post holes and features were planned.
- Waster deposits were covered with thick, sticky clays and were wet sieved on site to remove the clay.
- All archaeological remains were photographically recorded to archival standards. A video was taken of the site.
- All artefacts were labelled with the appropriate context number and excavation details. Artefacts were cleaned, labelled, sorted, bagged and boxed on site.
3.2 Phase 1: Natural landscape

The site was situated on the cusp of a change in the underlying geology. North of the site, the clayey soils of the open woodland associated with the Wianamatta group shales once gave way to the loose, sandy soils and dense vegetation of the Hawkesbury sandstone. No doubt this change in vegetation to relatively open woodland aided the early detection of appropriate clays for brickmaking, which were exposed at the surface and easily discovered by a walking party from the first settlement. Remnants of A and B horizons characteristic of shale country were present across the site.

The remains of the natural landscape in Area A described a continuous slope from the eastern end to the southwest corner of the site. Although these remains were truncated, the general gradient and direction of the slope appeared consistent with the overall trends in the geomorphology of the area. The site was located near the top of a slope that climbed gently northwards from the creeks that emptied into the saltmarsh mudflats at the head of Cockle Bay.

At the eastern end of the site, the uppermost natural deposit was an unnumbered A2 horizon (Plan 2) at RL 5.46m. The deposit was grey brown, tightly compacted and showed signs of contamination and disturbance. In the southwest corner, the uppermost natural deposit was of B horizon clays at RL 4.39m (7355, Plan 2). No evidence of intact topsoil was found in Area A. This may have been due to erosion after land clearance, and was almost certainly exacerbated by the brickfield pottery manufacturing activity in this area. Most of Area A had been stripped down to B1 horizon natural yellow clay (7355 and 7667) by the time the first buildings were constructed. This compact yellow clay with grey mottling had few inclusions, only some decayed stone fragments and was mostly evident in the base of excavated features and wall trenches. Soil and pollen samples were taken of this B1 horizon (samples 19, 20 and 88).

C horizon clays were exposed in two cuts at the eastern and western ends of Area A. (cut numbers 7660 and 7436, phase 4). The C horizon was clearly visible in Test Trench 11 at the eastern end of Area A (Fig 3.3). The C1 horizon consisted of compact red (orange) and grey mottled clay with no inclusions (7446 in the west and 7668 in the east). Soil samples were taken of the natural C1 horizon clay (samples 31, 32 and 87). The natural deposits were given separate context numbers due to their location at opposite ends of Area A and the fact that they were excavated at different times. Context numbers 7355 and 7446 refer to the B and C natural clay deposits at the western end of the site, close to George Street while 7667 and 7668 refer to the same deposits identified at the eastern end of the site which was excavated at a later stage.
3.3 Phase 3: Brickfield Occupation

3.3.1 Brickfield Activity, Pottery Manufacture and Early Village

There was no evidence of the early brickfield village found in Area A although there was evidence to suggest that other brickfield activity took place. A large cut (7436) was found in the southwest corner of the site below the remains of the Woolpack Inn. The full extent of this cut is not known as it extended beyond the limit of excavation. It appears to continue below George Street frontage and below the extant building No. 724 George Street to the south. Only the northern edge of this cut was clearly identified (Figs. 3.1 and 3.3, Plan 2) within two test trenches (TT9 and TT11). The cut had near vertical sides to a minimum depth of 510-750 mm cutting right down to the red and grey clay (7446). It seems that this large pit was dug to extract clay for making bricks and pottery.

The cut was backfilled with numerous fills. Because of the locations of this large cut below the footings of the Woolpack Inn (7309) and no. 722 George Street (7307) the fills found either side of the footings were given separate context numbers as they were removed at separate times but these numbers have all been aligned in the matrix. The earliest fill within this cut directly above the natural red and grey clay was mid-dark grey, moist, silty clay with a high humic content and occasional sandstone and sandstock brick fragments, also some charcoal flecks (Fig. 3.2). It contained few artefacts, other than lead glaze pottery and bone fragments. The fill had a malodorous, organic component that appeared to have been trapped in an anaerobic environment at an arrested state of decomposition prior to excavation. Where this fill was found within the southern wall of the Woolpack Inn it was numbered as 7449 and outside (south) of the wall is was numbered 7385/7399. Contained within 7399/7385 was a 1799 Britannia Coin, George 2nd. Soils samples were taken from

![Figure 3.1: Southwest corner of Area A showing test trenches through the various backfills from the brickfield era. The eastern edge of this large cut was clearly identified in the eastern end of test trenches 9 and 11. The cut ran in a northwest-southeast direction. View west, scale 1m, (Wk5.IMG_0358).](image-url)
this early fill (samples 29 and 30) which varied in depth from 300-400 mm.

The next fill deposited in this large cut consisted of yellow clay mottled with mid-grey silty clay. Within the walls of the Woolpack Inn this fill was numbered 7437 while in the area outside (south) of the Inn it was given two numbers 7430 and 7391. All three numbers describe the same fill. This compact yellow and grey redeposited clay contained occasional sandstock brick and sandstone fragments, some charcoal and burnt wood. Within Test Trench 11 were two timber posts lying in the backfill (Fig. 3.3, Plan 2) which was 460mm deep. There were also some fragments of lead glaze pottery throughout the fill. Directly below 7391 was a localised fill (7400), which appears to have been a small dump or rubble fill. It varied in depth from 60-220mm and contained a high concentration of ‘green’ brick fragments and brick wasters also some lead glaze fragments. The backfills of this large cut were not completely excavated. Depth and composition of the fills were instead sampled with test trenches to detect changes throughout the feature (Test Trenches 6 – 11) and were also recorded in section (Sections 1 – 4).

The uppermost fills (7326 and 7390) of this large cut are more of a capping layer over the brickfield era material and may have been deposited to build up and level the site prior to the construction of the Woolpack Inn (see Section 3.3.2 of this report).

Figure 3.2: Test Trench 10 running north-south through large pit 7436. In section can be seen the lower two fills of this large cut sitting on the red and grey natural clay. The moist grey silty clay (7449, 7385, 7339) and the mottled yellow and light grey silty clay (7437, 7430, 7391). View northwest, scale 1m, (Wk5IMG_0330).
Figure 3.3: Detail within Test Trench 11. On the left side of the photo the near vertical cut (7436) through the red and grey natural clay is clearly seen. The section shows two of the backfills of this large cut, grey silty clay (7449, 7385, 7339) near the base and the mottled yellow and light grey silty clay (7437, 7430, 7391). View south, scale 1m, (Wk5.IMG_0340).

In the eastern section of Area A were a number of large pits and water-worn features (7647, 7649, 7651 and 7660). Each of these was backfilled with large concentrations of ceramic wasters (mostly lead glaze) and sandstock brick or baked clay fragments (Fig. 3.7, Plan 2). These large dumps of ceramic wasters suggest that pottery manufacture took place very close to this area. The pits varied in size and shape.

Feature 7647
Feature 7647 had a round edge with gently sloping sides. It may have been created by the movement of water as it eroded the cleared land. The north end was truncated by modern construction (Plan 2, Figs. 3.4 and 3.5). The visible extent of this feature was 2m x 1m to a maximum depth of 1.2m. It contained three fills, 7661, 7645 and 7648. The basal fill (7661) was grey/yellow mottled clay with occasional ceramic fragments while the upper fills were abundant with broken ceramics. Fill 7645 was 80 per cent broken ceramic with occasional bone and brick fragments, along with shells and lots of charcoal to a depth of 500mm. Fill 7648 was similar but was dominated by redeposited yellow clay. It too was littered heavily with ceramic and brick fragments, oyster shell and charcoal.
Figure 3.4: View north of large ceramic wasters dump, 7647, mid excavation, showing ceramic sherds tightly compacted into the fill. Scale 1m, (Wk8.IMG_0564).

Figure 3.5: Post-excavation view of large ceramic wasters pit, 7647, which had a natural clay base and had been greatly impacted by modern cement footings and piers. Scale 1m, view north-east, (Wk8.IMG_0588).
Feature 7649
Feature 7649 appears to have been created by the same erosional forces as feature 7647 (Plan 2). They were almost certainly related and were connected by a shallow depression. Feature 7649 was elongated and loosely rectilinear in shape with gently sloping sides, 1300mm x 700mm x 230mm. The fill (7650) was a mix of yellow clays combined with a large concentration of broken ceramics (lead glaze) and sandstock brick or baked clay fragments. This pit was also truncated at the southern end by modern construction.

Feature 7651
East of 7647 a third pit (7651) was excavated. This feature shared the same characteristics as 7647 and 7649. It was irregular in shape with gradual sloping sides and an irregular base (Plan 2). It was very truncated by concrete footings but contained two fills (7652, 7646). The base fill of this pit (7652) contained about 20 percent lead glaze pottery wasters while the upper fill (7646) contained at least 50 percent ceramics along with small inclusions of charcoal and sandstone, and little brick. In both fills, the combinations of broken objects were within a matrix of mid grey-brown silty clay.

Pit 7660
East of the pits 7649 and 7651 was yet another large pit full of ceramic wasters, pit 7660, the extent of which was revealed after surface cleaning (context 7659) in this area (Plan 2, Fig. 3.6). This large rectangular pit had straight sides and a flat base and cut through the B1 horizon (7667). It is likely that it was a shallow clay extraction pit that was abandoned and then later backfilled with pottery wasters. It contained five identifiable fills (7662, 7663, 7664, 7665 and 7666) in addition to the surface level (7659) that partially covered the pit edges. Lead-glaze ceramics (69) were found in the surface layer of the pit but the upper fills (7662 and 7663) contained the majority of the lead glaze ceramics and brick or burnt clay fragments. These backfills represent a series of dumps but due to time constraints not all phases were individually numbered. The lower fills (7664, 7665 and 7666) contained few ceramic and brick inclusions and were mostly composed of redeposited silt and clays which may have slumped in from the sides of the pit or were a deposit of unwanted clay from the extraction pit. Soil samples 89 and 90 were taken from these lower fills.

Other Features
Two postholes (Plan 2) were found below a layer of crushed shell mortar (7384) which was associated with the construction of the Woolpack Inn. This suggests that these postholes (7405 and 7409) pre-dated the Inn and were associated with the brickfield era. Posthole 7405 was a near square cut, 300 x 250mm and contained a rectangular shaped post-pipe (7407). The post-pipe had vertical sides and a flat base. Generally postholes of this shape (milled timber) would be dated later than early nineteenth century but giving its location it is best to assume it dates prior to the construction of the Inn. The post-pipe fill (7408) was clean silver coloured sand with two or three sandstock brick inclusions, while the packing fill (7406) was compact yellow clay mottled with grey silty clay (subsoil) and was only partially excavated.

The second posthole, 7409, was located just south of 7405 below the crushed shell layer. This posthole was also square in shape 270mm x 230mm with vertical sides. The post-pipe only became visible towards the base of this feature and measured 160mm x 160mm with vertical sides and a flat base. The fill (7410) was a sticky mix of redeposited clay, grey subsoil and brown loamy topsoil to a depth of 300mm. Some sandstock brick, shell and lead-glaze fragments were found in the fill.

The packing fills of the postholes suggested that they may not have been related. A strong relationship was unable to be established from such limited evidence and the postholes could only be tenuously associated by proximity and phase.
Figure 3.6: Post-excavation view of large ceramic wasters pit, 7660, which also had a natural clay base. This pit may originally have been an extraction pit that was later backfilled with wasters. Cut by brick drain 7636 to the north and by twentieth century footings to the south. Scale 1m, view west, (Wk8.IMG_0625).

Figure 3.7: Detail photo showing the densely compacted fill of these large pits and the high concentrations of ceramics (lead glaze) and broken sandstock brick and burnt clay found in the pits. Scale 50cm, (Wk7.IMG_0540).
Other Features

Two postholes (Plan 2) were found below a layer of crushed shell mortar (7384) which was associated with the construction of the Woolpack Inn. This suggests that these postholes (7405 and 7409) pre-dated the Inn and were associated with the brickfield era. Posthole 7405 was a near square cut, 300 x 250mm and contained a rectangular shaped post-pipe (7407). The post-pipe had vertical sides and a flat base. Generally postholes of this shape (milled timber) would be dated later than early nineteenth century but giving its location it is best to assume it dates prior to the construction of the Inn. The post-pipe fill (7408) was clean silver coloured sand with two or three sandstock brick inclusions, while the packing fill (7406) was compact yellow clay mottled with grey silty clay (subsoil) and was only partially excavated.

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3.3.2 Post-Brickfield Backfilling and Levelling

After the brickfield activity in this area ceased, there was evidence to suggest that fill was introduced to level up the site in preparation for the next phase of development. Above the large cut (7436) were two identical fill layers (7326 and 7390) that buried the upper part of the large brickfield cut and appeared to also act as a capping over the brickfield era backfills. Although these fills pre-dated the Inn, context 7390 was found on the southern side of the Woolpack Inn while 7326 was found within the area of the Inn. The separate numbers are the result of being excavated at different times. Both consisted of compact mid-grey silty clay with stone and sandstock brick inclusions and infrequent fragments of lead glaze pottery and charcoal (Section 1). This fill varied in depth from 100mm-400mm. Fill 7326 beneath Room 1 of the Inn was sitting directly below the construction debris (7320). Fill 7326 was quite a wet spongy deposit hence the footings (7309) for the Inn were five courses deep in the southwest corner as the ground was quite unstable. Directly above Fill 7326 beneath the area of Room 1 was another layer of levelling fill (7351) which pre-dated the structure. This fill was separated from 7326 as the matrix had a greater sand content and was probably a combination of levelling fill and construction debris.

Below the northern half of the Woolpack Inn particularly in the yard area north of Room 5 was mid-light grey-brown fine sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks (Plan 2, Fig. 3.8). On the surface of this deposit were small smears of brown sandier material with brick and stone inclusions. All this was initially thought to be remnant disturbed topsoil but further excavation and discussion with soil scientist Roy Lawrie confirmed that this topsoil was not part of the original soil profile but was introduced after the brickfield era. Excavation revealed that this event occurred before the construction of the Woolpack Inn as the footings of the Inn (7309) cut through it. Soil samples (13 and 14) were taken. Below 7333 was another introduced deposit 7354 which was found below all of The Woolpack Inn (Fig. 3.8). Fill 7354 was mid-grey fine, compact clayey silt with charcoal flecks and decayed stone flecking and again looked like a naturally occurring subsoil deposit but was confirmed to be an introduced deposit. Fill 7354 was sitting above compact yellow clay (7355) which was the surviving natural deposit. Soil samples were taken of 7354 (samples 15, 16, 17 and 18).

Finally, a large rectangular feature (7352) found below Room 5 of the Woolpack Inn (Fig. 3.9, Plan 2) pre-dated the Inn’s construction and may be further evidence from the brickfield era. The cut measured 2m x 2m and was quite shallow (20mm-170mm deep) cutting into the natural yellow clay 7355. The fill (7353) of this feature was pale grey silty deposit flecked with charcoal and mottled
with yellow clays and pockets of sandy material. Some artefacts including glass, ceramic and bone were found in the fill.

Figure 3.8: Northern half of Woolpack Inn, the footings of Rooms 3, 4 and 5 all cutting into the grey compact clayey silt (7354) which was reintroduced post-brickfields and pre-Inn construction. View west. Scale 1m, (Wk4.IMG_0198).
3.4 Woolpack Inn (Phase 4)

The archaeological remains of Woolpack Inn were the earliest evidence of building in Area A (formally Lot 2 and today known as 720-722 George Street). The Inn was built c.1823 and was extant for over 50 years during which time it went through numerous licensees. The building was aligned with George Street, with out-buildings and stables adjoining the rear of the property. The Inn was sold at auction on Tuesday 26th August 1879 (Fig. 2.2). By 1882 the building had been demolished and the new Mercantile Bank occupied the site of 722 George Street. The stone footing remains (7309) of the Inn survived below the later footings 7307 and 7308. Five rooms were clearly identified each containing underfloor deposits and the remains of heavily rotted timber joists and bearers. A number of postholes from out-buildings and possibly the stables were found in the back yard area. A cesspit and a number of drains all associated with the Inn’s occupation were also excavated and recorded.

3.4.1 Construction

The rubble stone footings (7309) of the Inn were identified below the later structures 720 and 722 George Street (Fig. 3.10, Plan 1). Five rooms were identified within the structure with each room numbered 1 to 5. One context number (7309) was given to the whole building but the rooms were recorded separately.
Room 1
Room 1 in the southwest corner (Fig. 3.10) was built above the large brickfield pit (7326). Three of the walls of this room which fronted onto George Street survived. The later footings 7307 and 7308 (Plans 1 and 3) had caused extensive disturbance between Rooms 1 and 3, destroying any evidence of a wall between them. In the absence of a dividing wall, it is possible that Rooms 1 and 3 represented the same large space. For the purposes of recording however, the spaces were kept separate. In this way, differences in stratigraphic processes or contextual information were highlighted and not conflated by the limitations of what is probable in a single room. Information from the underfloor deposits of the two spaces (unavailable at the time of writing) may assist in determining whether the two spaces were once part of the same room. The walls were all 550-600 mm in wide and were constructed of rubble stone and poorly cut stone laid in two rows with smaller packing stones in the centre (Fig. 3.11). Between the stones was grey-brown sandy loam and grey clay (mud mortar). There was no evidence of any wall trench within this room for the footings although it is more likely to have been on the outside of the footings which has since been disturbed. Two test trenches within Room 1 were excavated to determine the depth of these footings. In the southwest corner of Room 1 (Test Trench 6) the footings were at least 5 courses (800mm) deep and continuing but excavation had to be abandoned because the area was so waterlogged, making the clay very sticky (Fig. 3.12). All of the backfill from the brickfields and the water-logging in this area probably explains why the footings had to go deeper than other areas of the site.

Test Trench 1 was dug along the eastern wall which also had deep footings cutting through the brickfield fills (Fig. 3.13). The east wall was a partition wall between Rooms 1 and 2 although judging by the depth of this wall it may have initially been an external wall and Room 2 a later
addition to the building. This partition wall had impressions of joists running over it into Room 2. Abutting this partition wall was a narrow row of sandstock bricks (7329) which may have been the area of a doorway or threshold. The bricks were resting on a large sandstone block for support (Fig. 3.13). The bricks were all flat sandstock bricks measuring 240 x 105 x 65 mm with grey shell sand mortar on the surface of the bricks. There was no evidence of a fireplace in this room.

Some remnant construction debris (7320 and 7336) was found beneath the underfloor deposit in Room 1. The construction material consisted of fragments of sandstock brick, crushed sandstone, yellow mortar, some white plaster and was sitting directly on the levelling fills (7351) that pre-dated the structure. Also found in the construction debris was an 1826 Britannia coin.

Room 2
Room 2 was located directly east of Room 1 (Plans 3 and 4, Fig. 3.14). The footing remains of Room 2 were different to Room 1 suggesting it was a later addition or perhaps just a single-storey room. The footings were only 300mm-350mm wide and constructed of a single row of irregularly shaped rough cut blocks around 280mm x 390mm x 100mm in size. There was some mud mortar between the stones (mortar samples 1 and 2). A large stone fireplace (7325) was built into the eastern wall of this room (Fig. 3.14). The hearth consisted of two large flat well-cut blocks of stone (1230 x 700 x 80 mm). Below the hearth was a bedding layer of buff-coloured sand (40 mm deep). Samples of the sandy bedding were taken (samples 18 and 19). Black charcoal and ash (7334) was liberally deposited around the structure and above the stones. With evidence of extensive activity around the fireplace, it is likely that this room was the kitchen. In the southeast corner of Room 2 Test Trench 4 was excavated to determine the depth of these footings which were only two courses deep (Fig. 3.14). The footings were sitting directly on the natural subsoil as the large cut from the brickfields did not extend as far back as Room 2. After the underfloor deposit was removed from Room 2 a layer of construction debris (7379) was evident along with a spread of crushed shell mortar (7384). The construction debris 7379 was very mixed, sandy fill with frequent inclusions of brick, sandstone, crushed stone and mortar fragments. The construction layer was slightly higher in the northern half of the room sloping towards the south and was also evident just outside the south wall of Room 2. This fill may have been mixed with earlier levelling fill. It contained artefacts including glass, ceramics (lead glaze), kaolin pipe stems and a Britannia coin. In the southern half of Room 2 and also just outside the south wall of Room 2 was a layer of crushed shell mortar (7384). The shells appeared burnt and the fragments were quite large (up to 20mm in length). This shell layer (Fig. 3.14) appeared to be construction debris associated with the building of the Woolpack Inn. Samples of the mortar were taken (samples 22 and 23). Notably, mortar used in the construction of the footings consisted largely of a grey-brown sandy clay loam, and contained only rare fragments of shell. The large shell to sand ratio in context 7384 was incommensurate with the mortar used in the footings, and is more likely to be associated with the superstructure.
Figure 3.11: Detail of Room 1 of the Woolpack Inn. The rubble stone footings were 500-660mm wide and quite deep. View east, scale 1m (Wk 4.IMG_0215).

Figure 3.12: Test Trench 6 within the southwest corner of Room 1, shows the footings were quite deep. This test trench was abandoned as it became waterlogged. View southwest, scale 1m, (Wk4.IMG_0234).

Figure 3.13: Test Trench 1 abutting the partition wall between Rooms 1 and 2. The footings were 4 courses deep. Also visible is the row of bricks (7329) which may have been part of a doorway or threshold. View northeast, scale 1m, (WK4.IMG_0239).
Casey & Lowe

Area A, 710-722 George Street, Haymarket

Figure 3.14: Detail of Room 2 of the Woolpack Inn after the underfloor deposit was removed. The stone fireplace (7325) can be seen along the eastern wall along with Test Trench 4 in the southeast corner where the footings are only two courses deep. The footings were only 300-360mm wide. Also visible is a thin layer of burnt crushed shell (7384) associated with the Inn’s construction. Scale 1m, view east, (Wk4.IMG_0214).

Room 3
Room 3 was located north of Room 1 and also fronted George Street (Plans 3 and 4, Fig. 3.15). It shared common walls with Rooms 4 and 5. Only a very small area of this room survived. Most had been removed during construction of the later footings and wall trenches (7307 and 7318) and modern services. The footings were the same as those in Room 1, and consisted of rubble sandstone footings 500mm-560mm wide laid in two rows with smaller packing stones and mud mortar in between. These walls were only one course deep (110mm) but cut into a compact grey subsoil deposit (7354) which is believed to have been a clean layer of introduced subsoil (post-brickfields). The internal dimensions of what remained of Room 3 were 4330mm x 1550mm. The later footings 7307 and 7308 (Plan 1) had caused extensive disturbance between Rooms 1 and 3, destroying any evidence of a wall between them. In the absence of a dividing wall, it is possible that Rooms 1 and 3 represented the same large space. However for the purposes of recording, the spaces were kept separate. In this way, differences in stratigraphic processes or contextual information were highlighted and not conflated by the limitations of what is probable in a single room. Information from the underfloor deposits of the two spaces (unavailable at the time of writing) may assist in determining whether the two spaces were once part of the same room.

Above the introduced grey subsoil (7354) which was found throughout the northern half of Area A was a mixed layer of construction debris (7350) with inclusions of brick, stone and buff mortar fragments. This debris also contained broken glass bottles, stoneware jars and shell fragments (Wk4.IMG_0188).
Room 4
Room 4 also fronted George Street and was located directly north of Room 3 (Plans 3 and 4, Fig. 3.15). The footings were the same as the rest of the structure, rubble stone footings laid in two rows bonded with smaller stones and mud mortar (samples 20 and 21). These footings were only one and two courses deep to a maximum depth of 450mm and were sitting on the introduced grey subsoil 7354. A fireplace (7328) was built into the east wall of this room. The fireplace support measured 1440mm x 520mm x 200mm and was built of flat sandstock brick and sandstone (Figs. 3.17 and 3.18). Perpendicular projections from the eastern footing created two short, parallel supports that were spanned by a large sandstone slab that acted as a hearthstone. The supports were two courses deep. The lower course was of roughly-cut sandstone blocks keyed into the eastern footing. The upper course on each support was of a single row of sandstock bricks laid stretcher-to-stretcher. Some grey sandy mortar with shell specks was evident on the bricks (brick sample 25, mortar sample 3) and was very similar to the mortar found on the bricks in Room 1. There was also some white plaster on the outside of the bricks. The large dressed hearthstone measured 970mm x 300mm x 100mm. It had been moved from its original situation and was in a sunken position between the two supports, broken into three pieces. When the hearthstone was removed a layer of beige/yellow shell mortar was found (7372) which was likely the bedding for the hearthstone. There was also some crushed brick and stone rubble which are remains of the construction material. The northern part of Room 4 was destroyed during construction of the footings 7308. The dimensions of the surviving area of this room were 4080 x 2900 mm.

A 500mm x 500mm test trench (Test Trench 5) was excavated in the southwest corner of room 4 to show the depth of the footings (Fig. 3.16). It was also able to show us part of the wall trench for the footings (7309) of the Woolpack Inn as the foundation trenches were not always clear in the other rooms. The narrow wall trench (7348) along the interior of the western wall of Room 4 was only 160mm wide and was filled with grey brown sand and grey clay mixed with rubble sandstone fragments (7349). A small shallow cut (7370) possibly a posthole was found in the southeast corner of room 4 below the underfloor deposit abutting the footings (Plan 4). This posthole measured 260mm x 400mm x 50 mm and may also have related to the construction of the Inn. The grey clayey fill had small sandstone and brick inclusions and a few artefacts.

Room 5
Room 5 was a back room in the Inn on the same alignment as Room 2 and shared a common wall with rooms 3 and 4 (Plans 3 and 4, Fig. 3.21). Little remained of the footings for this room apart from small segments of the east wall, which was only 300mm wide and which consisted of a single row of rubble stone. The footings were only one course deep and cut into the reintroduced soils (7333 and 7354). This room may have been a continuation of room 2 (the kitchen) but due to the modern disturbance between the two areas they have been recorded as two separate rooms. A cut for a footing trench marking the northern edge of the room is visible but the footings have been robbed out. The remaining area of this room measured 3470mm x 2300mm.
Figure 3.15: Remains of Rooms 3 and 4 after the underfloor deposit was removed. The footings cut the grey introduced subsoil 7354. The rubble stone footings were similar to that of Room 1 but were only two courses deep. View east, scale 1m (Wk4.IMG_0203).

Figure 3.16: Test Trench 5 in the southwest corner of Room 4 showing depth of footings. View west, scale 50cm (Wk4.IMG_0227).
3.4.2 Occupation

Each of the five rooms contained some remains of underfloor deposits. The deposit was given a separate number in each room. All underfloor deposits were excavated within a grid system. Each room was divided into grid squares measuring 500mm x 500mm beginning in the northeast corner with square A1, the alpha value increasing to the west and the numeric to the south. The squares were excavated in 50mm spits and 100 per cent wet sieved through 5mm and 2mm sieves. Soil samples were taken from each room along with a series of levels. Plan 23 (Fig. 3.22) shows the layout of the grid squares within the rooms of the Woolpack Inn.

Room 1

The underfloor deposit within Room 1 (7323) was mid-brown fine clayey sand with occasional brick, stone and charcoal fragments. The deposit was most evident in the northern half of the room and became increasingly rubble-strewn and disturbed further south. The underfloor deposit was only 30mm-100mm deep and most squares only contained one spit. Soil samples 1 and 2 were taken from 7323. The decayed remains of wooden joists were evident running east-west through Room 1. The rotten wood had a width of around 100mm and appeared in inconsistent lengths at locations where the underfloor deposit had risen to the level of the joists. The remains were roughly 460mm (1.5 feet) apart. There were no bearers present.

Room 2 (Kitchen)

The underfloor deposit (7324) in Room 2 was more extensive than in Room 1. This room may have been the back kitchen. The deposit was mid grey-brown fine sandy fill containing lots of charcoal particularly around the fireplace and some small fragments of brick, stone and mortar. Soil samples were taken (samples 11 and 12). Most of the grid squares only contained one spit and the accumulation was only over 50mm in the vicinity of the fireplace. Visible within the underfloor deposit were the decayed wood remains of joists and bearers (Fig. 3.19). The joists were running east-west and were c.460mm (1.5 feet) apart while the bearers were wider and were under the joists (around 1.54m or 5ft apart) and running north-south. The rotten wood remains were in inconsistent lengths with widths of no more than 100mm. The remains of sandstock bricks on their sides along the same orientation as the joists indicate that these bricks might have been used as support for the floor boards. The underfloor deposit was sitting above a layer of construction debris (7379) which included some crushed shell mortar, 7385 (see section 3.4.1 above).
Figure 3.19: View east of Room 2 prior to the removal of the underfloor deposit (7324). The decayed remains of the joists can be seen running east-west. The bearers became clearer as the underfloor deposit was being removed. Scale 1m (Wk4.IMG_0183).

Room 3
The underfloor deposit (7335) within Room 3 also had ephemeral decayed wood remains of joists running through it (Fig. 3.20). The remains were generally no more than 100mm wide at inconsistent lengths. They were heavily decayed. This deposit was removed in two spits from most of the grid squares. It was between 70mm and 115mm deep. The deposit was mid grey-brown fine clayey sand with some lighter grey sandy pockets and contained small stone, brick and charcoal inclusions and many artefacts. Soil samples (5, 6 and 7) were taken.

Room 4
Room 4 was also gridded for the removal of the mid-brown silty underfloor deposit (7331). This deposit was mostly only one spit deep (maximum 75mm deep, generally 30mm) and almost non-existent at the western end of the room. Soil samples (samples 3 and 4) were taken along with start and end levels. Within the underfloor deposit were the decayed wood remains and impressions of three floor bearers running in a north-south direction (Fig. 3.20). The bearers were 100 mm wide and roughly 5 feet apart. No joists were evident.

Room 5
The underfloor deposit (7337) within Room 5 was mid-dark brown sandy loam containing shell, organic material, small brick fragments and artefacts. It was generally no more than 30mm deep. Also considered in this context was an underlying wash of silty yellow-brown material and pockets of clean sand that did not contain artefacts and appears to have washed in prior to the underfloor deposit (excavated exclusively as 7337: spit 2). Soil samples (samples 9 and 10) were taken from 7337. Room 5 was sitting above a large cut (7353) which pre-dated the building (see Section 3.3.2).
Figure 3.20: This photo shows the underfloor deposits within Rooms 3 and 4 in the foreground and Room 5 in the upper right of the image. All three rooms showed the remains of joists and bearers. A small area of demolition debris is still evident in the centre of Room 4. The underfloor deposits were all removed in 500 x 500mm grid squares and 100 per cent sieved. View east, scale 1m (Wk3.IMG_0173).

Room division (postholes)
A number of postholes were identified and excavated in the north of room 5 cutting through the introduced soils 7333 and 7354 (Plan 5, Fig. 3.21). These postholes probably belong to a room division in the Woolpack Inn, and a small extension at the rear. Table 3.1 below summarises the context numbers and dimensions of each of these postholes.

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<th>Context No.</th>
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<th>Pipe Shape</th>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>530 x 500 x unex.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>160 diameter x 40</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
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<td>140 x 90 x 180</td>
<td>ovoid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>90 x 65 x 80</td>
<td>ovoid</td>
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<tr>
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<td>-</td>
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</tbody>
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Table 3.1: Summarises the dimensions of all the postholes found in the yard area of the Woolpack Inn.

The post holes were mostly rectilinear and near square in shape. Only the top 30mm-50mm of the packing fill was removed. If a post-pipe was identified it was fully excavated. The packing fill
within each of these features was all compact mottled grey-brown sandy clay mixed with yellow-orange clay patches (a mix of redeposited subsoils). Most of the packing fills contained small fragments of sandstock brick, stone and charcoal flecks. Packing fill 7368 also contained some lime/shell fragments. Few artefacts were found apart from one or two pipe stems and a nail (7357, 7383 and 7362). The post-pipes (7361, 7367, 7374) identified were either round or ovoid in shape with a mix of straight and sloping sides and pointed and flat bases. No artefacts were found in the post-pipe fills. A rectangular wooden structure was suggested by the post holes. Post holes 7366, 7373 and 7382 formed a northern row and post holes 7358, 7360 and 7380 formed a parallel southern row (Fig. 3.21).

![Figure 3.21: View east of the remains of room 5 and also a series of postholes running east-west parallel to Room 5. There are also 3 postholes running north-south further east of Room 5. These postholes probably formed some sort of structure possibly an outbuilding associated with the Woolpack Inn. Scale 1m, (Wk4.IMG_0220).](image)
Figure 3.22: Plan No. 23 shows the underfloor grid within each room of the Woolpack Inn. The shaded grey areas are all the grid squares that were excavated and wet sieved.
Drains and Cesspits

Three drains and a brick cesspit were identified as being associated with the occupation of the Woolpack Inn. The north-south aligned drain (7447) abutted the east wall of Room 2 (Plan 5, Fig. 3.23). The drain had a flat base cut into the natural yellow clays (7355). The sides were of roughly cut sandstone, two courses high and bonded with grey, fine, sandy silty clay (mud mortar). The stones were only faced on the interior of the drain, creating a smooth-sided channel 400mm wide. The couring had been constructed so as to create a level upper surface that is likely to have once supported capping stones. The level couring was created by utilising stones of varying size to accommodate the uneven nature of the lower course. No capping stones survived. The overall width of the drain was narrower at the northern end (650mm) and widened to 960 mm further south. A large hole at the south end may be the remains of a sump for the drain. The fill of the drain (7448) consisted of three different layers with the heavier items settling at the base. The total depth of the drain fill was 390mm. Soil samples 37 and 38 were taken. The basal fill was light brown coarse sand with small (<2 mm) gravels, animal bone sandstock brick fragments and charcoal. The middle fill was fine grey silty clay while the uppermost fill was brownish grey silty clay with occasional tiny brick fragments and charcoal. No artefacts were noted. The fills were excavated as a single context.

Two small deposits (7422 and 7423) were found abutting the eastern side of the stone drain (7447). Deposit 7422 was within a shallow depression (10mm-80mm). It consisted of loose grey-black burnt loamy sand with frequent sandstock brick fragments (up to half brick size), crushed stone and some artefacts (Fig. 3.23). This deposit was sitting above an earlier fill (7423) towards the north end and above the natural subsoil (7355) to the south. The lower deposit 7423 was filling a shallow depression and abutting the stone drain (7447). There was no evidence of a cut for the drain through either of these deposits. Deposit 7423 may have just been a levelling fill. It was a compact mix of brown sandy loam, grey clay and yellow clay. It contained some window glass, lead glaze pottery and white ceramics along with sandstock brick fragments. The deposit 7423 was sitting above the B-horizon natural yellow clay (7355). A square posthole (7420) cut through 7423. It measured 210 x 200 x 80 mm and contained loose black sandy burnt material and brick rubble (similar to 7422) and some ceramics. No post-pipe or related postholes were evident.

A second drain was found further east of 7447 in the back yard area of the Woolpack Inn. This was the base of a barrel drain (7636) with an east-west orientation parallel to the boundary between 722 and 724 George Street which used to be a laneway (Plans 3 and 5). The drain was found during monitored machine excavation, the top of the drain had been truncated during the twentieth century. The trench for the drain extended right back to the east but only a small segment survived with the bricks in situ. Most of the drain had been truncated by later footings. The bricks were sandstock bricks laid on their sides header to header with loose sandy mortar or bonding (Fig. 3.24). Many of the bricks had deep rectangular frogs. The average brick size was 235mm x 110mm x 69mm. The drain was 780mm wide and 370mm deep. The fill (7643) was yellow brown silty clay, loosely compacted with frequent sandstock brick and sandstone rubble but with few artefacts. The barrel drain was cut by another possible drain (7656) running northwest-southeast and by a cesspit (7637) associated with the later nineteenth century buildings.

The third structure (7656) which may have been part of a drainage system consisted of a single row of sandstock bricks with a header bond and was only 700mm in length. The surviving segments were four courses deep and poorly built (Plan 3, Fig. 3.25). The bricks measured 220mm x 110mm x 62mm with a long rectangular frog 180mm x 50mm and were very similar to the bricks used in the barrel drain. The mortar was brown silty clay with small (<1mm) gravels. Very little survives as this structure was greatly impacted by the late nineteenth and twentieth-century footings. It was associated with a large cut into the subsoil (7667) and was most likely associated with a box drain.

Finally a brick cesspit (7658) found close to the property boundary between 722 and 724 George Street appeared to be the last main feature associated with the occupation of the Woolpack Inn. The cesspit was rectangular in plan, measuring 1600mm x 1400mm. It was 460mm deep. The walls of the cesspit were five courses deep, built of sandstock bricks laid in two rows with one course headers.
and the next stretchers (Plans 3 and 5, Fig. 3.26). The mortar was fine yellow buff clay with charcoal and shell flecks. The structure measured 1600mm x 1400mm x 460mm with a natural clay base and had been impacted by a modern pier and the twentieth century footings of 722 George Street. The upper course consisted of a row of headers laid on edge. The bricks were pale orange in colour with shallow rectangular frogs measuring 240mm x 106mm x 62mm. Samples of the building material were kept (samples 68 and 69).

The cesspit contained three distinct fills. The base fill (7655) was grey yellow sandy mortar with brown humic sand. This was the deepest fill at 210mm. It contained some fragments of sandstock brick and ceramic (uncatalogued at the time of writing). The middle fill (7654) was dark brown to black humic sand with some yellow and grey mortar mix. This fill was up to 160mm deep and contained some artefacts (bone, shell, ceramic and bottle glass fragments). Finally the uppermost fill (7653) was quite late and was again brown sand with some coal inclusions. It was 120mm deep and included bone, bottle glass, rusted metal and ceramic fragments. There was no cess deposits in this structure, it appears to have been cleaned out and backfilled with sand.

![Figure 3.23: Below the scale in the foreground is the black burnt deposit (7422) which abutted the stone drain (7447). The drain in running north-south and abutted right up to the east wall of Room 2 of the Woolpack Inn. The drain only became evident after the area was lowered by machine to expose to the large brickfield cut further west. View west, scale 1m, (Wk7.IMG_0299).](image-url)
Figure 3.24: Segment of brick barrel drain (7636) east of 7447. This drain was greatly impacted by later footings. View west, scale 1m. (Wk7.IMG_0526).

Figure 3.25: Single row of sandstock bricks (7656) which may have been associated with a box drain but have been greatly impacted by later footings. Scale 1m (Wk8.IMG_0585).
3.4.3 Demolition
The Woolpack Inn was demolished around 1880, prior to the construction of the Merchant Bank and the subdivision of this allotment into two properties, now known as 720 and 722 George Street. Most of the demolition material was removed by machine excavation. The finer material removed by hand was divided into two general areas. The demolition material covering the northern half of the Woolpack Inn in the area of 720 George Street (Rooms 3, 4 and 5) was recorded as 7321 while the demolition material further south (above Rooms 1 and 2) was given the context number 7327. The demolition debris was mostly yellow-beige sandy material with fragments of white plaster, sandstock bricks, grey sand shell mortar and buff sandy mortar. Some of this lower demolition material also had some of the occupation deposit mixed through it with occasional finds of pins, slate pencils and kaolin pipe stems.

Some of the rooms within this structure were given separate context numbers for the demolition material that was removed by hand, particularly the rooms with fireplaces. For example, the demolition debris in Room 2 was recorded as 7312. Context 7312 was comprised of whole and broken sandstock bricks, charcoal inclusions, buff sand mortar/render, lumps of painted render and set mixed with grey-brown sand and clay. This deposit was deepest around the fireplace and covering parts of the fireplace within Room 2. Samples of mortar and bricks were taken from the demolition debris (samples 8, 9 and 12). The whole bricks measured 200mm x 110mm x 60mm. Room 4 also contained a fireplace (7328) which was covered with demolition material (7338) around the hearth stone and back wall of the fireplace. A thin layer of demolition debris (7330) only 90mm deep was carefully removed by hand from the rest of the room as it was pressed tightly into the underfloor deposit and was sitting directly above the joists and bearers which survived in Room 4. Mortar and brick samples (4 and 5) were taken from Room 4. The average brick dimensions were 220mm x 110mm x 65mm.
3.5 Occupation of Banks and Warehouses (Phase 5)
3.5.1 722 George Street
By 1883 the Mercantile Bank occupied the site of 722 George Street. The footings (7307) of this large building remained extant at the time of excavation, cutting the earlier footings of the Woolpack Inn. According to Sands Directory the Mercantile Bank remained in use until c. 1888 after which time this large building on the site of 722 George Street was used for a number of other smaller commercial functions including a Life Assurance Society, cigar divan, clothing manufacture, turf agent and a costumiere. By 1903 the site of 720 and 722 were part of the successful operations of Mick Simmons Ltd.

Figure 3.27: View of western end of 722 George Street with the later large stone footings (7307) truncating the earlier inn footings (7309). The footings are all large rectangular blocks 600mm-700mm wide. View to southeast, scale 1m (Wk1.IMG_0127).

The footings (7307) of the Mercantile Bank were all large well-dressed sandstone blocks laid header to header in up to five courses (Plan 6, Fig. 3.27). The external walls (north, south and west) consisted of a single row of large well cut blocks measuring approximately 850mm x 650mm x 280mm. Some of the blocks were as long as 1150mm and although mostly 650mm wide some were as wide as 760mm. Pick/cut marks were visible running diagonally on the surface and face of the stone. The external walls were four to five courses deep (Fig. 3.28), probably again due to the unstable nature of the soil in the southwest corner of the site which resulted from the large brickfield cut. The stones were tightly packed together with compact buff sandy lime mortar as a bond (mortar samples 13, 14 and 15). The western wall along George Street has similar large blocks to the other walls but has cement mortar between the stones. The width of this wall is not visible as it extends outside the area of excavation towards George Street. This façade wall may have been rebuilt, most likely during the ownership of Mick Simmons in the early twentieth century when 720 and 722 were joined together to become one big commercial store (7669).

The southern wall abuts the extant building of 724 George Street. Above the stone footings were the remains of a concrete slab and further east some machine-made bricks and cement mortar remain.
The internal wall running east-west was slightly different to the external walls in that the upper course of stones consisted of two rows of small blocks laid alongside each other header to header with packing stones and buff lime mortar between the blocks (Fig. 3.27). The average block size was 740mm x 300mm x 260mm.
The trenches for each of the footings of 722 George Street have been given one number and were clearly visible during excavation. The cut (7310) varied in size from 240mm-440mm and could be seen on both sides of the walls. The fill (7311) was mostly loose mid-brown, clayey sand with rubble stone inclusions and clay lumps. The fill of the foundation trenches was not excavated.

At the eastern end of Area A was a stone cesspit (7637) and a stone drain (7657), both of which were associated with the later buildings at 720 and 722 George Street. Context 7637 was a heavily disturbed sandstone structure which was only one course deep and may have been a cesspit or more likely a base for a later toilet. It was located along the southern wall of 722 George Street but had been greatly impacted by modern footings to the south and west (Plan 6). This structure cut the earlier brick drain (7636) which was associated with the Woolpack Inn phase. What survived of the structure measured 1000mm x 1050mm x 400mm. It consisted of three roughly hewn sandstone blocks and no mortar. It was sitting on yellow/brown clay. The fill (7639) was thick, brown-grey silty clay, quite compact and contained some artefacts.

Further east again in the back yard of 722 George Street was a stone lined trench (7657) that travelled from the boundary of 722 in a northwest direction then turned north towards 720 George Street (Plan 6, Fig. 3.29). The sandstone was in the form of small irregular-shaped rubble pieces that acted as a packing fill around a brown salt glazed stoneware pipe. The trench cut the B horizon and the pottery waster pit 7660.

Figure 3.29: Segment of trench (7657) which contained a pipe and rubble stone packing. Scale 1m.

3.5.2 No. 720 George Street
The footings for 720 George Street were similar to the footings of 722 George Street. By 1893 the Commercial Bank was at 720 George Street, and remained there until 1898. During this time there was some changing of street numbers. The 1895 plan (Metropolitan Detail Series, City of Sydney) shows the street numbering had changed slightly from that shown on Dove’s plan (Figs. 2.3 and 2.5), with number 722 later shown as 720. The properties of Leston and Adams, previously numbers 720 and 718, were represented as 718 only. It is possible that the Mercantile Bank and the Commercial
Bank are the same building. The Commercial Bank remained until at least 1898. After this time the site of 720-722 George Street was used as warehouses and for an electrical light factory until it became part of Mick Simmons Ltd in 1903.

The building at 720 George Street had large sandstone footings (7308). Single rows of large rectangular well cut blocks were laid header to header in at least three courses (Plan 6, Fig. 3.30). The blocks were bonded with a buff, sandy lime mortar (the same as 722 George Street). The walls were all 650-690mm wide, (average block size: 2100 x 640 x 280 mm). The northern wall of 720 abutted tightly against another wall directly north (718 George Street) with a thick sandy mortar (almost cement like) between the two walls suggesting that the building at 718 George Street was still standing when this later building at 720 was erected. The uppermost course of stones along the northern wall of 720 George Street was a single row of narrower rectangular blocks, nearly half the width of the lower course and probably part of the superstructure (Fig. 3.31). Concrete and dry pressed brick were found along this wall and were part of the twentieth century modifications to the building (7669).

The western wall of 720 (facing George Street) contained a very large ‘L’ shaped corner stone cut to shape in the northwest corner. The footings of the northern wall are up to 880mm wide with grey cement mortar between the blocks suggesting this front façade was rebuilt, most likely in the early twentieth century when occupied by Mick Simmons Ltd. The wall trenches for each of these footings were clearly visible and given one cut number (7318) and one fill number (7319). The trench cuts varied from 280mm-600mm in width. The eastern wall of this building was constructed of large near square blocks of stone 770mm wide and 700mm-900mm long. This was different to the other walls, perhaps suggesting a later phase of building. The building extended further eastwards but was not fully excavated.

Figure 3.30: View of 720 George Street while cleaning in progress. The footings (7308) were similar to that of 7307, all large rectangular blocks of stone. Note in the foreground large steel girders joining the two buildings together sometime in the twentieth century. View north, (Wk1.IMG_0125).
Figure 3.31: North wall of 7308 (720 George Street). This wall abutted right up to 718 George Street. A single narrower row of stones was found along the top of this wall which was probably part of the superstructure. There are also remains of concrete and machine-made bricks (twentieth century construction) along the footings. View east, scale 1m, (Wk1 IMG_0139).
3.6  Mick Simmons: Twentieth-Century Occupation (Phase 6)
In 1903 both 720 and 722 George Street were occupied by the large and expanding business of Mick Simmons. According to the *Sands Directory* in 1903 Mick Simmons Ltd operated as tobacco merchants, importers of hairdressers’ requisites and all sporting materials. By 1928 the business went on to have the Head Office located on this site at George Street along with the manufacture and importing of sporting goods, fishing tackle, toilet and hairdresser requisites, radio equipment, talking machines and records, men’s mercery, wholesale and retail sole agents for Pain’s Imperial Fireworks. By 1932 Mick Simmons Ltd had also acquired 718 George Street. A 1930s photo (Fig. 2.4) shows the shop front of Mick Simmons Ltd., a large 3-story building at 720-722 George Street and a 2-storey building at 718 George Street. The archaeological evidence found during excavation shows that the buildings at 720 and 722 were joined together. Some large steel girders and concrete were found running between the two buildings (*Plan 6*) along with the changes to the footings along the George Street frontage (see Section 3.5, context 7669). These changes took place during the Simmons occupation. There are also the later additions of concrete and dry-pressed brick walls to the rear of the buildings. Mick Simmons Ltd remained at this address until 2000 when the buildings were demolished and the site was temporarily used as a carpark until construction commenced in 2008.
4.0 Overview of Results

4.1 Overview

The archaeological remains found within Area A, formally Lot 2 and today known as 720 and 722 George Street showed clear evidence of occupation from the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century to the present day. Although there was no evidence found to suggest any structural remains from the brickfield era within Area A there was plenty of evidence to suggest that brickfield associated activities took place here. These included a large pit in the southwest corner of the site (7436) which may have been an extraction pit to remove the clay for brickmaking and numerous pits containing pottery wasters (7649, 7651 and 7660) which suggest pottery manufacture also took place within this area. The first evidence of a structure in Area A was the Woolpack Inn which was built around c.1823 or slightly later after the brickfield activity had ceased and moved further out. Throughout the nineteenth century both the Council Rates Assessments and Sands Directories list many different occupants and licensees of the Inn.

Four main phases of historical occupation were identified during the excavation of Area A. Firstly, the brickfield activity as mentioned above. Secondly, the Woolpack Inn, which remained on the site for over 50 years from c.1823 to 1880. The stone footings (7309) along with underfloor deposits, three drains (7447, 7636 and 7656) and a cesspit (7658) associated with this structure were all excavated and recorded. The third phase involved the demolition of the Inn and the construction of a large bank around the 1880s (720 George Street) and some warehouses (722 George Street). The large well cut sandstone footings (7307 and 7308) of these two buildings survived along with a cesspit or toilet block (7637) and a drain (7647). These same footings appear to have remained in use right through the twentieth century but with some alterations.

During the twentieth century these two buildings became the property of Mick Simmons Ltd which was an expanding retail store (fourth phase). By the middle of the twentieth century evidence was found to suggest large alterations to these buildings to amalgamate them into one structure. These included large steel girders (7669) to join the buildings, alterations to the façade of the building along George Street and the presence of concrete and machine-made brick footings. Mick Simmons Ltd remained at this address and even incorporated more of the buildings along this section of George Street (718 and 724) until 2000 when the buildings were demolished and the site was used as a temporary carpark.