

## **5.0 Phase 2 - Initial European occupation of the site c. 1800 – c. 1815**

### **5.1 Background**

The earliest known European occupation of the site was associated with a timber windmill and stone bakehouse and residence built by c. 1800. The windmill and bakehouse are thought to have been built by John Palmer who leased it to a number of individuals. It was later stated that the mills, bakehouse and dwelling house cost ‘upwards of 5,000 pounds’.<sup>1</sup> The mill, bakehouse and residence were leased to Andrew Frazer from March 1808 to March 1809 for 600 pounds.<sup>2</sup> There is another undated lease referring to the lease of the small mill to Andrew Frazer and Robert Reid at 175 pounds for two years.<sup>3</sup>

The focus of the early stages of the archaeological work was on locating the windmill, to determine if any of its remains survived within the Conservatorium site. An 1830s plan was found which overlaid the Stables building onto the bakehouse and mill (*Figures 2.18, 2.19*). During this work no remains of the windmill were found. The most likely site, if it was within the Conservatorium site rather than immediately south in the Royal Botanic Gardens, was the location of Quarry 1. Therefore if the mill was within the study area all evidence of it was probably removed by quarrying.

### **5.2 Bakehouse**

For specific historical details about the bakehouse see Chapter 2, Historical Context. The archaeological evidence for the bakehouse is very interesting and it is some of the earliest surviving archaeological remains associated with European occupation in Australia. These remains include stone footings for the northern walls, trenches from which stone footings were removed, and the 1815 demolition and further disturbance by the 1913 Conservatorium construction, works for Verbrugghen Hall, a small circular brick well inside the Bakehouse footings, and artefacts which are thought to be associated with the occupation of the bakehouse.

#### **5.2.1 Footings**

The recent work within the Verbrugghen Hall found remains of stone footings (Map 5.1, Plan 10, **Photo 5.1**)<sup>4</sup> which approximately conforms to the location of the bakehouse as shown on an 1832 overlay. These remains consist of the two lines of shallow stone footings with two other lines of less intact wall footings within the original footing trenches. These footings form part of two rooms, the northern corner of the L-shaped bakehouse.

#### **Eastern Room**

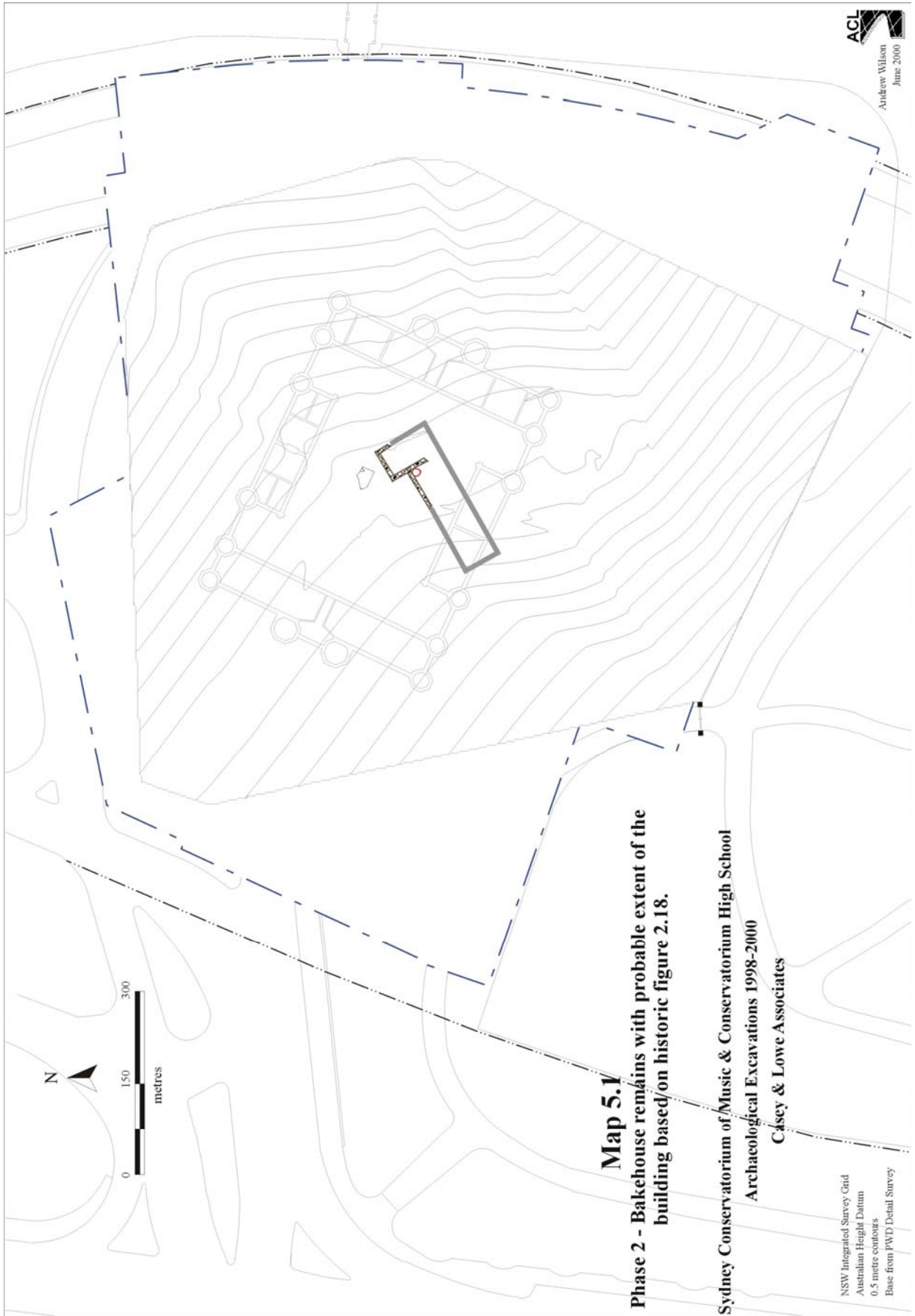
The northern wall of the eastern room (#1015) had an interior length of 4.35 m and was 600 to 660 mm wide. Where the footings were intact they included larger pieces of sandstone (**Photo 5.2**). The evidence for the eastern wall mostly consisted of the line of footing trench (#1021) with rubble fill (#1059) from the wall footing which was removed when this area was cut down for the construction of Verbrugghen Hall (**Photo 5.3**). The evidence for the western wall consists of remnant stone footing (#991), the continuation of the trench to the south (#992) and the rubble fill of the trench (#993). The footing trench was 6.5 m long with the extant interior room dimension of 4.74 m.

<sup>1</sup> Fairlie, Clark, Jones & Co to Viscount Goderich 15 March 1833 enclosure with Despatch from Hay to Bourke 22 April 1833 (ML Governors' Despatches A1270).

<sup>2</sup> Material with letter from Fairlie, Clark, Jones & Co to Viscount Goderich 15 March 1833, Enclosure with Despatch from Hay to Bourke 22 April 1833 (ML Governors' Despatches A1270).

<sup>3</sup> Land Titles Office Register 4 No. 258 p 6.

<sup>4</sup> Plans are found in Volume 2, as well as A3 versions of the maps.

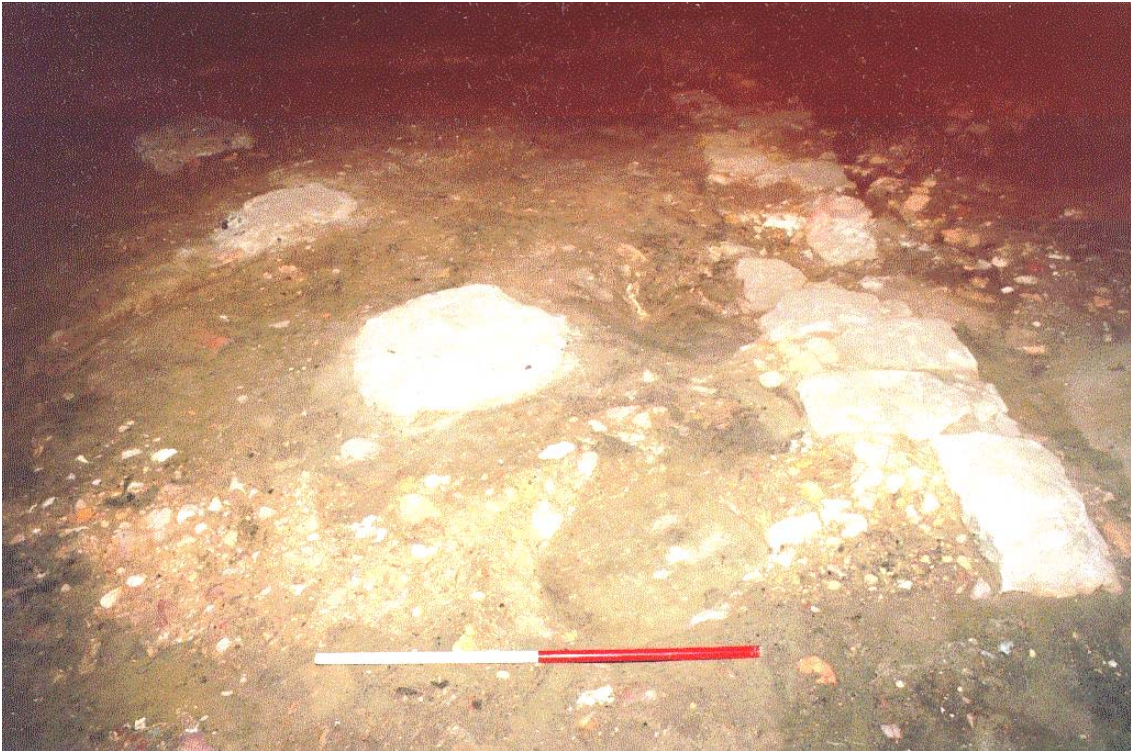




**Photo 5.1:** View to the northeast over eastern room showing the most intact section of bakehouse remains. Scale 1 m. CP 82/28.



**Photo 5.2:** Looking to the east over the corner of western wall of eastern room of bakehouse showing large rubble stone footings. Scale 1 m. CP 82/34.



**Photo 5.3:** Northwest corner of Bakehouse showing corner of footings of eastern room, #1021, #1015. Scale 1 m. CP 84/32.



**Photo 5.4:** View to south of small well (#1019) inside the bakehouse footings partially excavated down to top of bedrock. Cement pier base from Verbrugghen Hall footings on right. Scale 1 m. CP 90/13.

### Western Room

The northern wall footing (#1020) of the western room was 7.14 m long and 620 to 680 mm wide. The surviving internal room dimension was 6.5 m. The extant internal length of the eastern wall in this room was 2.8 m. The western room was the long part of this L-shaped building (Map 5.1). It may have been approximately twice the extant room dimension making the room approximately 14 metres by 5.6 metres. This is possibly a minimum dimension. It is possible that there was an internal partition to this room but no evidence for it survives.

### 5.2.2 Small Well

Inside the western room of the bakehouse, in the northeast corner, was a small well (#1019) (**Photo 5.4**). This well was 1 m by 1.15 m and therefore was not a true circle. Twelve to 13 courses of the brick superstructure survived. It was built in sandstock brick with a brown clay/mud mortar. Bedrock was encountered at 880 mm on the southeastern side while there was a shelf cut into the rock at a depth of 900 mm on the northwestern side (Section 21). A wooden plank was placed on this shelf in the rock to provide a level for the first course of bricks. There was some evidence to suggest that there was brown clay on the face of some of the bricks, especially on the southern side of the well.

The well appears to have been backfilled when the courtyard was constructed as the top of the well was backfilled with courtyard packing (Photo 89/3) and was as difficult to excavate as the courtyard packing material. Underneath the packing layer (#1003) was a deposit of sterile light brown yellow sand. This deposit was excavated down to 1.4 m from the top of the well. No further excavation of the fill was undertaken as the structure was considered, once it became obvious that it was cut into rock, to be a well. A rod was hammered into the well fill and went in a further 1.08 m, therefore giving this well a minimum depth of 2.48 m. As discussed elsewhere in this report the water table is more than 15 m down through rock. Therefore the well is probably more than 15 m deep.

It is unusual to find a well inside a building. This is the only known example of an interior well in Sydney. The function of an interior well inside a commercial premises presumably reflects the need for potable quantities of water to be close at hand for the bread-making process. The southern room is presumably the room where bread was made.

The buildings associated with the small mill are generally referred to as the bakehouse and residence. This would suggest that the miller/baker was residing in the residence. These structures may have been two separate buildings but it is as likely that they were a single structure with the rooms divided into separate uses.

Other structures thought to be associated with the bakehouse include bread ovens which during this early period were probably exterior to the bakehouse. This separation was to cope with the heat of the baking and the potential fire hazard. The bread ovens would have produced quantities of wood ash that would have to have been disposed of nearby. It is quite possible that the ash from #1034 may have been sourced from the bread oven ash deposits.

It is also possible that this well was not built as part of the bakehouse phase but as part of the Stables construction. While we considered this possibility we do not consider that it is likely. What is likely is that the well was used during the construction phase of the Stables<sup>5</sup> and that it was probably backfilled when it was no longer required, when the courtyard was nearing completion. It is also possible that this was one of the two wells referred to by Governor Macquarie in 1820.

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<sup>5</sup> Observation made by Andrew Wilson.

### 5.2.3 Post Holes

The remains of two post holes, which are thought to belong to the Bakehouse phase, were found in the western and northern areas (Plan 13). The western post hole (#1035) appears to have been associated with a shallow trench (Photo 88/19). This feature only became visible with the removal of Phase 3.2 deposits (#1025) and it appears to have been disturbed by #1026. On Plan 11 there is a line of rubble that may have been associated with this post hole and the shallow trench visible on Plan 13.

Along the northern wall, in grid square L2, was a post hole (#1050) that became visible with the removal of the yellow sand deposit, #1005. The post packing from this post hole contained a sherd from a lead-glazed vessel. As with the above post hole there is no specific structure to which it could be related.

Another post hole (#1088) was uncovered during works in Room 317 in the western range of the Stables. This was a rectangular post hole (440 mm by 350 mm) near the western wall of the building (Plan 11). It was not excavated, as there was to be no impact. As with the above two post holes it possibly belonged to a Bakehouse-phase structure. Other early footings (#1095, #1118) were found beneath the western side of the Stables (Plan 10, 11). Their orientation is the same as the Stables and they have broad arrow marks on some of the bricks. This suggests they were more likely associated with the Stables than with the Bakehouse but this is uncertain. These remains will be discussed in Phase 3.1, Chapter 6.

### 5.2.4 Artefactual Evidence

#### 5.2.4.1 Verbrugghen Hall Artefacts Overview

A large quantity of artefacts were recovered within the northwest corner of the Verbrugghen Hall excavation. In total there were 3103 sherds belonging to a minimum item count (MIC) of **628** items. The unadjusted total of items is **656**. The unadjusted total refers to where items have been counted twice because their shreds occurred in more than one context.

Of the 23 contexts in this area that contained sherds the two contexts with the largest number of items were #1005, and #1004 with contexts #1034, #1029, #1027, and #1028 having the next highest frequency of artefacts (Table 1000.1). Context #1004 contained the largest number of shell fragments (556) and context #1005 (340) had the next largest amount of shell fragments while three other contexts also contained some quantity of shells #1034 (56), #1027 (33), and #1029 (29) (See Colley report Chapter 21.2). Other contexts contained seven or fewer fragments of shells. Contexts #1004 and #1005 also contained the greatest quantity of animal bone fragments, #1004 (147) and #1005 (137). Some other contexts also contained bone fragments #1034 (44), #1011 (8) with a few containing two or less fragments of bone. Aside from the cistern backfill, in the southern forecourt, contexts #1004 and #1005 contained the highest frequency of animal bone on the Conservatorium site (See Colley report Chapter 21.2). The frequency of bone and shell in addition to numerous artefacts does suggest a domestic source for the majority of Verbrugghen Hall artefacts.

What is clear from the brief overview above is that contexts #1004 and #1005 contained a relatively high proportion of artefacts from the Verbrugghen Hall area - 63 per cent. In comparison with other archaeological deposits elsewhere on site they formed only about 6 per cent of the artefacts recovered from the site although in sherd counts they formed 16.5 per cent of all sherds from the site. Generally these were small sherds.

A diagram of conjoining sherds from 16 ceramic items has been constructed to show the spread of sherds from each object over a 91 sq. m area (Figs 5.1, 5.2). The dispersal pattern is illustrated in

Figure 5.2. The grid in Figure 5.2 represents the actual 1 m square grid used during the excavation of this area. All soil from contexts #1004, #1005 and #1029 was sieved to aid recovery of artefactual evidence. All sherds were labelled with the grid reference number and during cataloguing were identified as belonging to a specific vessel, in many cases this was confirmed by gluing sherds together. Many of the vessels have been drawn (see Chapter 14).

There are a number of reasons for illustrating this dispersal pattern. Firstly it demonstrates that in some instances a single object was broken into numerous sherds, ranging from as few as four to as many as 96, and that these sherds could be dispersed across as many as nine different grid squares. In addition the sherds from the same object were found in two or more archaeological contexts (Table 1000.3). Figures 5.1 and 5.2 reveal there is not one but probably six different dispersal patterns (Fig. 5.1). The majority of nodes, or concentrations of sherds from a single item, were located along the eastern side of the grid. These ones generally interlinked with nodes for other conjoining sherds. On the western side were a few isolated nodes with no overlap. This dispersal pattern emphasises that most, if not all of the sherds, were unlikely to be in their last place of disposal. It suggests that certain activities have disturbed the location of these sherds and that there was some mixing of artefacts down through the stratigraphy.

The further analysis of this dispersal pattern is informed by some basic archaeological theories:

1. That artefacts occur more frequently closer to their source. Therefore the further the artefacts are away from the source the fewer artefacts are likely to be found. Therefore areas with the greatest density of artefacts are closest to the source of the artefacts.
2. The source of the artefacts will generally be where the artefacts were made, the place they were last used or where they were disposed of either deliberately, accidentally or incidentally.
3. That artefacts can and are disturbed from earlier contexts into later contexts and *vice versa*.
4. That artefacts can move both down and up through the stratigraphic layers, if the circumstances are right. These appropriate circumstances include, water moving through the deposit, a sandy matrix, the propensity for smaller artefacts, such as pins and smaller sherds, to move through strata, and the disturbance of a primary deposit into a secondary deposit through post-depositional activities.
5. That patterns of rubbish disposal vary through time.
6. In addition to all of the above, topography may play a role in the pattern of how the artefacts settled.

In light of these archaeological theories of taphonomy how do they exhibit themselves in the evidence from the northwest corner of Verbrugghen Hall? As noted above the concentration of conjoining artefacts is on the eastern side. But the distribution of sherds from the main node of a vessel varies. The node or individual source of the main dispersed sherds for specific vessels was informed by point 1 above and reflect a disturbance that was common to a number of vessels, although the specific distribution of each pattern was not common. The focus on conjoining vessels allowed for the definite identification of sherds that were once part of the same object that were recovered across a wide area. The analysis of 16 different artefacts illustrates that this was not an isolated event but a common pattern found within the deposits in this area. It also supports any analysis of these artefacts being near to their source and that while the sherds are mixed through the deposit many conjoining ones were recovered which emphasises the homogenous nature of the deposits. In general there was little to support any contamination of these deposits by later archaeological events once the courtyard packing was laid down, 1818-1820.

The dispersal pattern has a relationship to the zones of distribution of sherds (Fig. 5.3). Figure 5.3 indicates that the general concentration of artefacts, not just conjoining ones, is also on the eastern

side. The 'hot' zone, with the greatest number of sherds, contains 27.3 per cent of all sherds found within the grid. The two adjacent 'warm' zones contain another 25 per cent of all sherds found within the grid (Table 1000.2).

Vessel number	Type	# sherds	Found in no. of squares	Contexts	Comments	Distribution flow
B14	Lead-glazed earthenware	40	5	1005	In NE cnr mostly moving W along 2 grid line.	←
Y10	Lead-glazed earthenware	48	8	1005, 1027, 1034	Node in SE corner mostly moving N.	↖ ↗
B1	Lead-glazed earthenware	55	13	1004, 1005	large node in E moving to SW.	↙
Y12	Lead-glazed earthenware	19	6	1005	Node in NE cnr moving S and SW.	↘
Y2	Lead-glazed earthenware	18	5	1003, 1005, 1034	Node in SE to N and S.	↗ ↘
Y11	Lead-glazed earthenware	29	9	1005	Large node in S with distribution to N.	↗
Y3	Lead-glazed earthenware	42	8	1004, 1005	Large node in centre E with dispersal to N and SW.	↖ ↗
B3	Lead-glazed earthenware	6	3	1004	Single node with dispersal to SE.	↘
Y6	Lead-glazed earthenware	35	9	1005	Large node in SE with dispersal to NW and NE.	↖ ↗
Y7	Lead-glazed earthenware	8	3	1005, 1045	Single node with dispersal to SW.	↙ ↘
B6	Lead-glazed earthenware	27	4	1005, 1029	Single node with dispersal to SE and NE.	↘ ↗
B2	Lead-glazed earthenware	10	4	1004, 1005	Single node in SW with dispersal to S.	↓
Y4	Lead-glazed earthenware	96	9	1004, 1005, 1006, 1028, 1029	Large node in W with dispersal to E and NE.	→ ↗
B5	Lead-glazed earthenware	12	2	1004, 1024	Node in E, in 2 squares with no dispersal.	
B8	Lead-glazed earthenware	30	5	1005	Node in S with dispersal to NE.	↗
Canton	Chinese blhp	4	3	1004	Small node in NW cnr with single dispersal to SE.	↘

**Figure 5.1: List of vessels analysed for dispersal in northwestern area of Verbrugghen Hall.** Please note that this list includes only those sherds from vessels that were excavated within the grid or from 1027/1046 that were only partly covered by the grid. Some conjoining sherds were found in deposits not excavated within the grid.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	L	M	N
1		Can(1)	Y4(14)										
2		Can(2)								B14 (5) Y10 (5) Y2(1) Y3(4)	B14 (4) Y12 (1) Y6(2)	B14 (28) Y12 (10)	
3						B14 (2)							
4	Y4(6) Y4(26) y4(2)	Y4(1) y4(4) Y4(15) y4(9)			y4(4) Y6(6)	B3(4)	Y10 (1)	Y6(1) B1(3)	Y10 (2) Y12 (1) Y7(5) B1(4)	Y11 (2)	B8(3) Y10 (2) Y6(2)		B6(3)
5					B6(13) b6 (8)	Y4(2) Y7(2)	Y6(1)		B1(5) B1(10) B8(1) Y3(16) Can(1)	B1(7) Y10(5) Y12 (1) Y3(9)	B1(4) Y11(1) Y3(6)		Y2(1)
6						B3(1) Y6(1)	B1(2)	B1(2) Y11(2)	B1(5) Y11(2) Y2(9) Y3(1)	Y3(8)		B5(8), B5(2)	B5(2)
7					B2(3) B2(1)				Y10(7) Y2(2)				
8	1024, 1028 (y4), 1029 (y4), 1034,	1004, 1005, 1006(y4)		B2(5)		B1	B3(1) Y11(7) Y7(1)	B1(3) Y11(3) Y12(1)	B1(1) B6(2) Y10(13) Y6(7) Y11(7)	Y10(1) Y10(1)			#1027 Y10(12)
9					B2(1) Y4(2)		B8(11) Y11(1) B8 (10)	B8(5) B1(6) Y11(5) Y6(2)	B6(1) Y12(5)	Y2(1)			

**Figure 5.2:** Dispersal of sherds from 16 ceramic artefacts found in the northwest area of Verbrugghen Hall. These artefacts consisted of 479 sherds that were spread over an area of 91 sq. m. This illustrates the extent of disturbance by alluvial activities.

**Figure 5.3:** Zones of distribution with warmer colours identifying the hot zones containing more sherds and the pale green the cold zones with fewer sherds. A concrete pier was located in the black area.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
1		0.1	0.5	0	0.1	0.1								not excavated	
2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.1		1.6	2.2 WARM	1.1	2	0.2		
3	0.2	0.9	TT3	0	1.7	0.8	0.9	0.3	2.5	1.3	1.3	0.2	1.9		
4	1.3	1	0.2	0.9	1.2	1.6	1.2		3.9	3.8 HOT	5.1	1.2	2.9		1
5			0.4	0.7	0.9	1.6	1.6	1.1	5.9	4.8	3.8	2.3			2
6			0.5	1.2	0.8	1.4	1.8	2.3	2.9	1.8	1.6	0.6			other contexts
7			0.7	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.5	0.7	1.2	3	1.4	1.2			feature #1056
8								not excavated							
9															

The correlation between the patterns of concentration of nodes of conjoining sherds and concentration of general sherds does suggest some underlying meaning behind the location of these artefacts. It suggests that the eastern concentration was near the source of the artefacts, that some of the artefacts may have been disposed of into this area. In my opinion most of the artefacts found in all the contexts sealed by the courtyard packing probably belong to the abandonment of the Bakehouse. Either they were left behind and disturbed by Stables clearing and early building activity or they may have been thrown away prior to leaving the site but were not buried. In addition some small proportion of artefacts were possibly introduced onto the site during the clearing and early Stables construction phases.

The disposal of these artefacts was probably similar to another site in the city (Old DMR Site, Area A) where, hoping to excavate a cesspit, a large concrete pier instead. In the adjacent area an extensive concentration of artefacts disturbed were found, these were conjectured to be the artefacts we expected to recover from the cesspit. It is highly likely that many of the artefacts recovered from #1005 and #1004 may have been dug out from a nearby rubbish pit, feature #1056, which was then backfilled with rubble (#1027, #1046, #1049) and compacted down to form a solid layer. Most of the artefact-bearing fill from this pit was probably shovelled or thrown immediately nearby. In this case the tossing or shovelling area would be the 'hot' and 'warm' zones shown in Figure 5.3. The western nodes may reflect the throwing of the occasional object further to the west beyond the warm zones. Once these artefacts were deposited on the surface they were then trodden on, kicked around, driven over and redeposited by alluvial action. The occasional sherd was relocated and then they were all buried by the last alluvial deposit, context #1004. This caused further disturbance of lower deposits into this higher layer.

This pattern of disposal then suggests that the backfill material or matrix from the feature should also be present; this would then provide a reason for the deposition of context #1034 which was an atypical deposit consisting mainly of ash and charcoal as well as artefacts. This deposit was neither waterborne nor specifically related to anything obviously nearby other than as a secondary deposit removed from its original location. As ash it was very unlikely to have been transported onto the site and its origin was probably associated with activities undertaken on the site, such as the burning of fires for the bread ovens with its eventual disposal in a rubbish pit. It is most likely that #1034 was the original material buried in feature #1056. When the site became wet, presumably after #1005 was deposited during heavy rain, this area was too boggy and needed to be excavated and backfilled with a compact rubble deposit to make it traversable. This process would also help to explain the absence of context #1005 as a separate deposit above the rubble deposit when it was found around the edges of the rubble deposit (#1046), to the north, west and east (Plan 11). This suggests that #1005 may have covered this area but was excavated away when the rubble deposit (#1027, #1046 #1049) was laid. In addition it is likely that cart traffic continued to cross over context #1005 and probably #1004 and therefore assisting in the redistribution of sherds both horizontally and vertically through the stratigraphy. For a detailed analysis of sherd distribution of some vessels see text attached to **Table 1000.3**.

This analysis suggests that most of the artefacts in the northwest area of Verbrugghen Hall were associated with a Bakehouse-period rubbish dump and will be treated as such during further analysis. The alluvial deposits were laid during Phase 3.1 and were the result of erosion and heavy rains. These are discussed further in Chapter 6.1.3.

#### **5.2.4.2 Functional Analysis**

The functional analysis of the three main contexts from Verbrugghen Hall identifies a high representation of artefacts associated with food, architecture and alcohol (Table 1000.4). These are

the categories which frequently dominate the artefact classes found on many urban sites.<sup>6</sup> Architectural evidence is mostly found in contexts relating to demolition or construction phases. Otherwise it will be proportionally low in relation to food and alcohol-related evidence (Table 2). Therefore the combined group of the three main contexts in Verbrugghen Hall contained a high proportion of architectural-related artefacts. This evidence is slightly skewed as it contained 91 nails but it is somewhat balanced by the presence of 321 sherds of window glass in these three contexts. The window glass was not countered as 'items' because mostly they cannot be related to specific or individual panes of glass and are only accurately recorded as sherds or fragments of window glass.

There was a generally low occurrence of alcohol-related items among the bakehouse-related artefacts. This was noticeable during excavation as all we found of bottle glass was the occasional sherd and only a few bases and necks. There is a much lower proportion than alcohol-related artefacts than is usually found (Table 2).

- **Food**

The most common food-related activities that the artefacts (not including bone or shell) from #1004, #1005 and #1034 were associated with were: preparation (13%), serving (3.1%), tableware (53.6%) and tea wares (20.3%) (Table 1000.7). This pattern conforms with some early sites where there is a higher proportion of tablewares over teawares, while at sites from the second half of the nineteenth century there is commonly a higher proportion of teawares than tablewares.<sup>7</sup>



**Photo 5.5:** Annular creamware cup (right) and saucer (left) found in alluvial deposit #1005. Scale 10 cm. Photo 93/24.

<sup>6</sup> Casey 1999.

<sup>7</sup> Casey 1999, Table 9.

The **tablewares** from the three main contexts mostly consisted of dinner **plates** (85) but also included bowls (11), stem glasses (3) and soup plates (1) and a small plate (1) (Table 1000.8). Where the plate sherds included rims their diameters were recorded on 27 plates, 220 mm (5), 240 mm (20) and 260 mm (2). These plates were overwhelmingly creamware, and were found in a distinct cream colour. The next most common decorative ware was blue handpainted Chinese porcelain (6).

The **teawares** consist mostly of cups and saucers, and a single jug (Table 1000.15/16). The various **cup** wares in contexts #1004, #1005 and #1034 were creamware (9), blue handpainted Chinese (5), and various single examples of other wares including an annular creamware cup and saucer (**Photo 5.5**). The saucers were found in the same wares although fewer remains of creamware (4) saucers were found than those in blue handpainted Chinese (8). There was also remains of a small milk jug in green edgeware that was probably used for tea. It is also likely that an annular creamware bowl (ACBowl 2) was a slop bowl used for tea.

**Creamware** was the dominant pottery type manufactured in Britain and exported to Europe and America at the end of eighteenth century. Creamware was eventually eclipsed by ‘pearlware’ which was a ‘whiter’ pottery. Creamware were generally undecorated. It continued to be manufactured throughout the nineteenth century. It is generally only found on early sites in Sydney rather than later sites.<sup>8</sup> The use of annular decoration was not uncommon on a creamware fabric or the use of a thin green band of glaze over the ‘rilling’, incised banded decoration.

### **Preparation**

In the Bakehouse phase the majority of vessels used for preparation of food stuffs were lead-glazed earthenwares, and included one slipped vessel lid. There are a total of 28 lead-glazed vessels in this group (Table 1000.8).

### **Lead-glazed Pottery**

One of the noticeable aspects of deposits during excavation was the frequency with which lead-glazed pottery sherds occurred (Table 1000.11). There were 660 sherds of lead-glazed pottery which totalled an minimum item count of 84 items or vessels. Due to the very fragmentary nature of this pottery **only 38** vessel forms could be identified with only some of them being specifically identified beyond a general group, 46 vessels shapes remain unidentified.

The lead-glazed pottery has been placed in a type series established by Mary Casey for the pottery from the DMR site (14.6).<sup>9</sup> This is the main publication on lead-glazed pottery from archaeological sites in Sydney.

#### **• Chinese Export Ware**

Forty-two artefacts imported from China were found in the Verbrugghen Hall archaeology (Table 1000.20). All but two items were porcelain. The two non-porcelain items were stoneware, a provincial ware bowl and a salt-glazed plate. Sherds from two of these vessels were household ornaments, one was a sherd from a bowl (#1005/2282) and a lid (#1004/2172). These two ornamental items support the case that these artefacts came from a rubbish dump associated with the Bakehouse rather than any activities associated with the early construction of the Stables.

Forty-four per cent of the Chinese pottery were items associated with teawares, including remains of 18 cups and saucers. Two cups and four saucers were in the Nanking pattern, as well as one plate identified as tableware. There were three plates in Canton pattern and a number of plates with handpainted decoration with insufficient evidence of the design. Three bowls are decorated

<sup>8</sup> Majewski and O'Brien 1987:117-118.

<sup>9</sup> Casey 1999.

with the Sanskrit characters (Pattern 21) which may be an 'om' pattern but could also be from a few other patterns, such as 'praying', or 'long life'.<sup>10</sup>

A comparison of the rim diameters of these vessels with pottery from the *Sydney Cove* shipwreck helps provide some idea of what complete forms may have looked like (Table 1000.21).<sup>11</sup> The rim diameters of the two tea saucers at 140 mm was generally smaller than those found on the *Sydney Cove* where the rim diameter were 156-158 mm. The plate with a diameter of 140 mm, is much smaller than *Sydney Cove* dinner plates which had a diameter of 236 mm. The plate with a diameter of 220 mm was similar in size to *Sydney Cove* plates. The bowl diameters of 180, 200 and 240 mm are in line with the diameters on *Sydney Cove* nested bowls types 1, 2 and 3.<sup>12</sup> They are larger than individual rice bowls and were possibly used in the home of an European person as a serving bowl on a table or as an ornament. None of the identifiable decorations from the Verbrugghen Hall vessels were the same as those from the *Sydney Cove*. The Pattern 21 bowls are similar to ones found in the Rocks, such as at Samson's Cottage.<sup>13</sup> None of the identifiable vessels were rice bowls which would have been used by Chinese people as a normal part of a meal. In 1809, sales of Chinese vessels included China cups and saucers at 2 shillings 6 pence each, which was one-tenth the price paid for salvaged ceramics from the *Sydney Cove* in 1798.<sup>14</sup>



Chinese ceramic 'Patten 21'

These Chinese vessels would have been imported into Sydney, probably through a local connection with an Indian firm of British merchants or on an American trading ship.<sup>15</sup> It is known that Campbell and Clark were importing Chinese goods into Sydney with the sale of Chinese export ware from the *Sydney Cove*, which was wrecked in 1796 on a journey from Calcutta to Port Jackson. For at least the next decade ships carrying Chinese export ware were known to have arrived in Sydney. Chinese ceramics are commonly part of the corpus of artefacts recovered from early sites in Sydney. They are less common after about 1825 and again only reoccur as the occasional item in later sites,

unless the site was occupied by Chinese inhabitants, as were sites in the Rocks and Surry Hills during the latter part of the nineteenth century.

It has been suggested that on early Sydney sites Chinese ceramics formed as much as 25 per cent of the ceramic corpus.<sup>16</sup> Karskens has also stated that at the Cumberland/Gloucester Street excavations Chinese export ware formed the majority of early ceramics. No detailed evidence or analysis is presented to support this statement.<sup>17</sup> The Chinese ceramics from the bakehouse (1800-1815), at the Conservatorium site, with a minimum item count (MIC) of 41 vessels, formed about

<sup>10</sup> For drawing of 'om' plate see Lydon 1999:224. For other patterns see Willetts and Lim 1981:54-56.

<sup>11</sup> Stanniforth & Nash 1998.

<sup>12</sup> Stanniforth & Nash 1998:39-40.

<sup>13</sup> Lydon 1999:224.

<sup>14</sup> Stanniforth & Nash 1998:9.

<sup>15</sup> Stanniforth & Nash 1998:7-9.

<sup>16</sup> Stanniforth & Nash 1998:10, quoting Corcoran and Varman. Please note this and the following paragraph are based on work undertaken for Mary Casey's PhD Thesis 2002.

<sup>17</sup> Karskens 1999:71.

12 per cent of the corpus (Table 1000.11). Therefore those perspectives which see Chinese ceramics as a more substantial part of the evidence from early archaeological sites are not supported by the evidence from the bakehouse where the ceramic material, which was fairly typical of early sites (pre-1825), was dominated by imported British creamwares and mostly locally-made lead-glazed pottery. Comments about Chinese ceramics dominating the ceramics corpus have usually been made where artefacts were not catalogued using minimum item or vessel counts and where there has been no detailed quantification of artefacts and categories, no tabular presentation of quantification data and no real attempt at analysis.

Karskens drew on the specialist ceramic report by Graham Wilson who catalogued the ceramics for the Cumberland Street excavation.<sup>18</sup> This cataloguing focused on type series data, catalogue data, base marks, potters names and dates, printouts of the type series and an attempt to answer the research design questions posed by Karskens (Godden Mackay 1999, vol 4(1):311-326). Wilson comments ‘in the period before c1835 the typical tablewares recovered from most of the residences on the site consisted of Chinese porcelain supplemented with English earthenwares’.<sup>19</sup> The report which addresses the research design also comments on the higher proportion of Chinese bowls to plates, but provides no supporting evidence because there is no quantification of the data in the report. When my experience and knowledge of early sites does not accord with these comments and no evidence is presented to support these generalisations the validity of these comments becomes doubtful.<sup>20</sup>

- **Architectural Evidence**

As noted above a high proportion of the artefacts from Verbrugghen Hall were associated with architecture. The most common artefacts were nails, window glass and sandstock bricks. The nails were generally encrusted but on 80 of the 136 nails there was evidence to confirm that they had square sections, which is typical of early nails (Table 1000.18). The window glass was frequently found in the sieving and therefore is highly represented in the 371 fragments. There is no known way to determine accurately how many panes of window glass are represented by this many fragments. The window glass is mostly light blue, light green and clear. Its thickness, which is typical of early dates, is between 1 to 1.7 mm with the occasional fragment up to 1.9 mm. Most of the fragments have evidence of fabric decay. Twelve of the 33 sandstock bricks had shallow rectangular frogs which were not expected from such early contexts, mostly from context #1005. It is likely that this material was combination of demolition of the bakehouse and because of the disturbance by later contexts may have been associated with the construction of the Stables. As glass for the stables windows would have been one of the last items brought onto the site, as part of finishing the building, it is unlikely this window glass was associated with the Stables construction. In addition all the bricks found associated with the construction of the Stables were either flat or marked with the broad arrow it is likely that the bricks with the shallow rectangular frog were those from the bakehouse and were possibly made on John Palmer’s Woolloomooloo estate.

- **Other Items of Interest**

A fragment of a gunflint (#1005/4825) was found. This was presumably used by soldiers guarding the convict workers (?). There were a few fragments of glass that may show evidence of alteration, possibly by Aboriginal people.

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<sup>18</sup> Godden Mackay 1999, vol 4(1):207-365.

<sup>19</sup> Godden Mackay 1999, vol 4(1):313.

<sup>20</sup> Godden Mackay 1999, vol 4(1):313.

## 5.3 Cistern

### 5.3.1 Phasing of Cistern

The cistern is a feature that, due to insufficient archaeological evidence, is unable to be definitely phased to any specific occupation of the site. The top of the cistern was cut away and damaged during the 1917 roadworks (Phase 6) which destroyed any surviving archaeological evidence associated with the top of the cistern. The position I have taken on the dating of the cistern, which is located in the southern side of the forecourt, is that it is unlikely that the builders of the Stables would have dug a large, deep hole in their newly constructed forecourt. Rather one may build a road over a hole but one is not likely to dig a hole in the road as it would be dangerous to pedestrians, horses and carriage traffic. Therefore the cistern is presumed to date earlier than the road and may possibly belong to Phase 2 and be associated with the windmill and bakehouse. It may also be associated with the clearing phase of the site before the design of the forecourt area was fully laid out.

The dating of the cutting of the cistern cannot be proved archaeologically other than that it dates prior to the date of the backfill. There was an extensive backfill containing many artefacts. In general the dating of the backfill of the cistern relies on the date of the artefacts. This backfill date is probably in the 1860s. This dating is mostly based on the dates for the glass evidence as well as an 1866 penny (#603/6001) found at the top of the cistern. For detailed analysis of the cistern deposits see Phase 5, Chapter 8.4.

### 5.3.2 Cistern

The cistern (#654) was a sub-circular hole cut into sandstone bedrock on the southern side of the Stables Forecourt (Plan 2; **Photo 5.6**). The east-west width was 2.3 m and at its deepest point it was 2.5 m (Chapter 8.4). The cut for the cistern was quarried with a small pick with most of the marks cutting downwards from right to left (**Photo 5.7**). The fall of the pick marks suggests that the cutting was done by a right-handed person moving from right to left around the circle of the cistern.<sup>21</sup>

This feature is described as a 'cistern' rather than a well because the water table is more than 15 m below current ground levels on the site and it could therefore never have operated as a well, which usually collects water from the water table. It may possibly be a failed well, a well that they stopped digging because the rock was too hard or the water too far away. A further reason for describing it as a cistern is that during its excavation it had to be pumped out every morning. The cistern was an efficient collector of water runoff from the adjacent bedrock. Because of the groundwater, a pump placed in a bucket-sized sump accompanied excavation of the archaeological deposit.

There is no clear relationship between this cistern and the section of adjacent rectangular brick drain (Plan 2). If evidence of a connection existed it was destroyed by the cutting of the service trenches (#626, #628) across the top of the cistern which partially destroyed the drain (#640). It is doubtful if there was any such link.

There are a number of possible scenarios for the function of the cistern within the site that relate to the phasing.

### Phase 2 Scenario

If the cistern was quarried for the operation of the windmill it may have operated as a water source for the mill and the bakehouse or it may have operated as a sump to drain what was generally a wet area.

<sup>21</sup> Discussion with Lew McDonald, stone masons assisted with the analysis.



**Photo 5.6:** View to west showing cistern and adjacent section of underground drain. CP 3/30.



**Photo 5.7:** Eastern face of inside of cistern with pick marks. The marks were mostly made from right to left. CP4/22.

**Phase 3.1 Scenario**

If the cistern was cut during the life of the Stables it was done during an early part of the operation of the site. It may have operated as a water collection sump during the early clearing and construction of the Stables.

**Phase 3.2 Scenario**

The cistern was not backfilled until about the 1860s. By this stage the use of the cistern had been superseded. This may suggest that the cistern had had a function during the previous 30 years of the Stables operation. Or it may mean that it was discovered during the drainage works for the construction of the elliptical drain (#744/#737), which was nearby and linked into the underground drain (#640) next to the cistern. Once the cistern was discovered it had to be backfilled, presuming it had previously only been covered with a timber or metal lid buried under red road gravel. This may account for the presence of a Maltese Cross patterned sherd (#738/920) in the backfill of the eastern arm of the elliptical drain.