

In contrast many of the glass artefacts tell us a story about the Governor's table, such as, the consumption of champagne and wine on State and/or private occasions, the use of oil and vinegar and sauces for the making of the daily meals and dressing of salads. Part of the reasons for this differentiation between ceramic and glass artefacts is that the glass ones were mostly disposable and only purchased for their content and they therefore tell different things about the consumption habits of the occupants of the site. In contrast the good quality ceramics are so valued, as illustrated in the inventories, they are not thrown away but repaired and kept and inventoried as part of the 'assets' of the house. In contrast the cheaper ceramics were thrown away as they were little valued and did not warrant repair.

A more detailed analysis of the meaning of the artefacts from the site will be undertaken in Chapter 16.

8.4 Cistern Backfill

8.4.1 Background

For a detailed discussion of the cistern see Chapter 5.3. The excavation of the archaeological deposit within the cistern took approximately 10 days. There was about 500 mm of twentieth-century fill (#603) above the archaeological deposit. Some of this later fill was introduced when the cistern was found in 1917 during roadworks and service trenches were cut across the top of the cistern (*Figure 6.1*). The archaeological deposit beneath the modern fill was about 2 m deep (Chapter 22.3).

For detailed discussion of excavation methodology and individual contexts for the cistern see Coroneos report, Chapter 22.3. All of the cistern deposit was wet sieved through two nested sieves with a minimum mesh of 3 mm. Substantial quantities of artefacts were recovered from this deposit. Much of the matrix of the deposit was either humic sandy silt with clay (#604, #607, #608, #610) or sandy loams with a high charcoal content (#606) (*Figure 8.7*). The lowest context (#611), which was at the base of the cistern, was light-coloured sand with a high proportion of sandstock brick frags. The matrix of two of the contexts contained fragments of animal bone (#604) and oyster shell (#606). The general interpretation of the source of this deposit is that it came from sweepings from fireplaces, kitchens and gravel paths and general domestic refuse. In addition many artefacts showed evidence of burning.

The backfill of the cistern was very wet and was excavated accompanied by a pump placed inside a bucket-sized sump. The archaeologist stood on a timber board on top of the deposit to excavate out the material. The cistern collected water from seepage out of the rock and from ground water flowing along a disconnected agricultural pipe. The cistern filled up with water every night during its excavation and had to be pumped out every morning. The excavation of the cistern happened during a rather rainy period in May 1998. It is difficult to determine if this degree of wetness was common circumstance for the cistern. When Tracy Ireland initially exposed the top of the cistern in March 1998 there was no sign of it being wet. Nor was the agricultural pipe broken at that time.

The purpose behind discussing the likely wet nature (from time to time and for weeks at a time) of this deposit is to illustrate that certain conditions existed within this deposit. These wet conditions may have aided the movement of some types of artefacts down through the matrix. The type of artefacts that may have easily moved downwards include pins, nails, and small fragments of glass. The majority of bricks were found at the bottom of the deposit in contexts #610 and #611. These were the heaviest items and may have sunk through to the bottom.

8.4.2 Dating of Cistern Artefacts

The nature of the deposit and the spread of sherds from the same items throughout the deposit would suggest that the backfill was placed in the cistern within a relatively short timeframe (Table 604.1). Conjoining sherds from 24 vessels were found in as many as two, three and four contexts throughout the deposit (Table 604.1).

The dating of the cistern deposit is not a straightforward exercise. Arriving at an approximate date for when this deposit was placed in the cistern is based on the date of the artefacts, as we have no stratigraphic evidence to relate it to the overall operation of the Forecourt, other than the 1917 works. There are some problems related to arriving at a date based on the domestic refuse, the ceramics, glass and other artefacts. It is presumed that the rubbish thrown into the cistern was most probably the by-product of then current activities in the grounds of the Stables and Government House and therefore the latest dated artefacts will provide a date before which

(terminus ante quem) the backfill of the cistern could not have happened. A series of tables have been constructed to assist in the analysis of the dating evidence.

If all contexts from #604 to #611 were deposited close together in time then the disposal of this material is dated presumably to the dates of the latest artefacts. In this case the artefacts with the latest manufactured dates are 12 pins from 1880s, five fragments of wire nails and one fragment of dry pressed brick from c. 1870s and a coin dated 1866 (Tables 604.3, 604.4). Yet it is possible to interpret all these artefacts as not being diagnostic of the date of deposition.

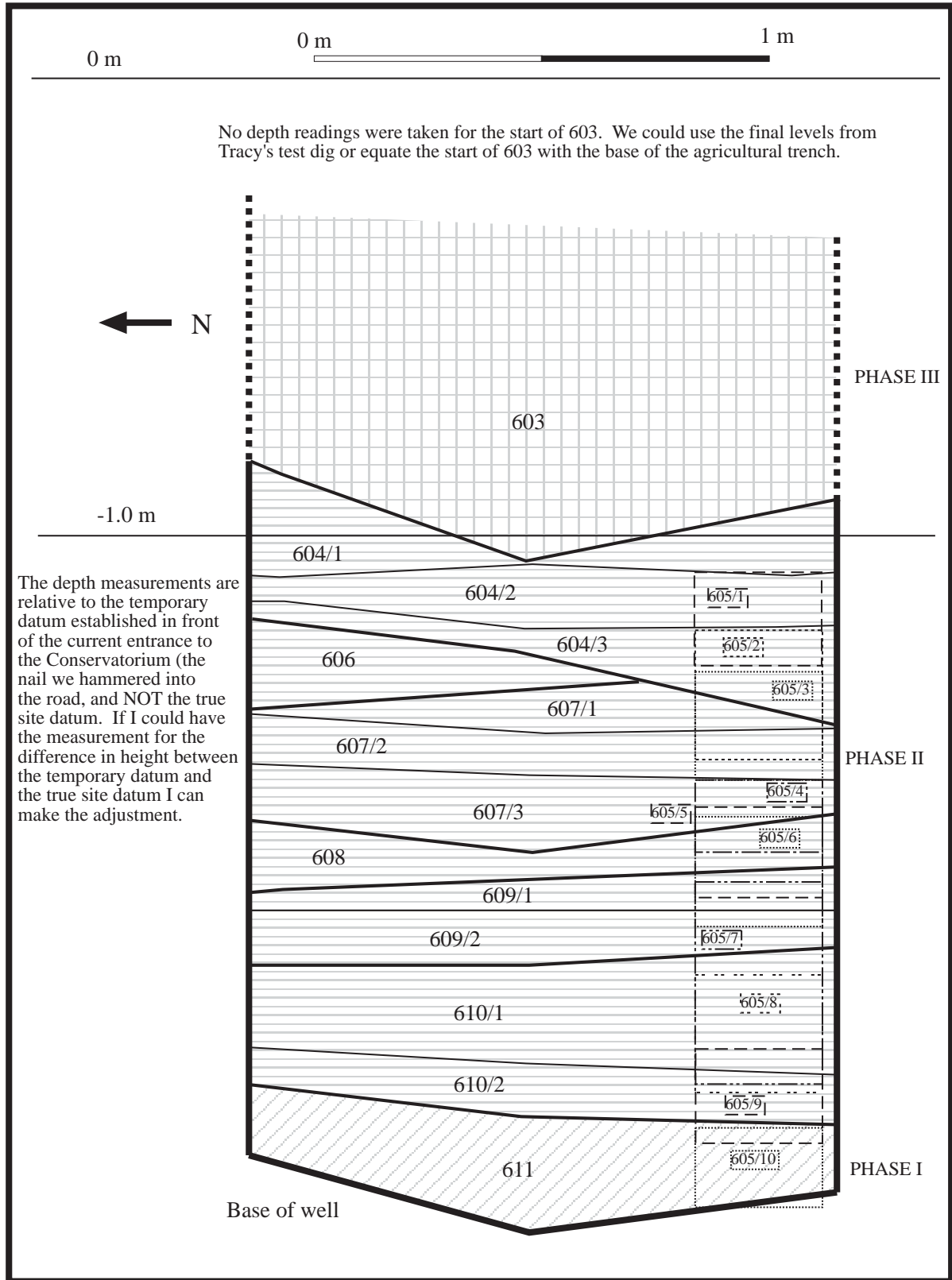
While wire nails are dated in the artefact catalogue as 'from 1870' the report on the artefacts makes it clear that:

Wire nails had been imported for the first time in 1853, however it was not until the mid 1860s that they were widely accepted, and not until c.1870 that they superseded cut nails for most purposes. Although the pre-1870 wire nails tend to be thicker than the post-1870 examples, the degree of encrustation and erosion prohibits certainty in this area. The generally sparse nature of the finds also precludes certainty of function.¹

Therefore it is quite possible that the nails found in the cistern may actually date earlier than 1870, sometime in the 1850s or 1860s. In addition, of the 104 fragments of nails found in the cistern only five were from wire nails and the remainder, that were datable (81 fragments), were all earlier types of nails. Nineteen nail fragments were undateable due to fabric decay.

The 12 pins are not seen as being highly diagnostic for the dating of the cistern backfill as they may have fallen into the deposit at anytime after the backfill was placed within the cistern, even as late as 1917 when this deposit was exposed. They are the type of artefacts that could easily move through a wet deposit. The coin dated to 1866 was found in context #603, which was disturbed by the road works in 1917. The fragment of dry-pressed brick is also presumed to have entered the deposit at this stage and to have moved slowly down through this wet muddy deposit. It is possible that the pins were introduced at this stage.

¹ See Lindbergh report Chapter 21.5.



CONSERVATORIUM, MAY 1998; AREA B - THE WELL; SCHEMATIC PROFILE
 (depth measurements used to create profile are the north, middle and south readings taken for every context and spit)

Figure 8.7: Schematic section through cistern based on known levels. For details see Chapter 22.3. Cos Coroneos.

The objects dating from 1860 are less likely to have been introduced through disturbance. In all there are 22 sherds from seven items. All are fine glasswares and include sherds from two tumblers, a stemware glass, a fine custard cup and a chimney from a lamp. These provide more convincing evidence for the latest date of the cistern backfill. Table 604.3 shows that 62.9 per cent of the dated artefacts in the cistern could not have been made after c. 1860. Most of the artefacts made as late as 1860 were 172 sherds of window glass, measuring between 0.7 and 1.8 mm in thickness. The remainder were sherds belonging to edgeware plates and a peasant ware cup. The former is usually seen as diagnostic of deposits dating to the first 50 years of the nineteenth century but this clearly depends upon the context. The end dates for the manufacturing of artefacts from the cistern, that were earlier than 1860, formed 23 per cent of all datable artefacts from the cistern backfill (Table 604.3). Therefore, considering the balance of evidence outlined above, it is most likely that the cistern was backfilled during the early 1860s.

8.4.3 Functional Analysis of Artefacts from Cistern Backfill

The artefacts recovered from the cistern included 1333 fragments making a minimum item count (MIC) of 615 items (Table 604.6). The largest proportion of the cistern's artefacts was related to architectural functions (43.7%), with the next largest group being food (17.7%), followed by personal (8.0%), yard (6.7%), household (6.3%) and alcohol (6.3%) related artefacts. This is not the usual pattern associated with the range of general functions found in purely domestic deposits.

Table 2 illustrates that the **architectural** component of the deposit is 60 percent to 100 per cent larger than the normal ratio of artefacts found in the main deposits at the Conservatorium site except for #655 and #657, which consisted mostly of architectural debris. The **food** related artefacts are much fewer (17.7%) compared to most contexts except #719, and the two atypical architectural debris contexts, #655 and #657. It has the largest occurrence of personal, household and yard-related items compared with all other extensive contexts from the Conservatorium site.

8.4.3.1 Architectural Artefacts

The majority of architectural artefacts were related to structural uses such as 82 nails, and 56 sandstock bricks (Table 604.8). The structural items constitute 34 per cent of the overall artefacts found within the cistern (Table 604.7). Also included were 172 fragments of window glass. The high proportion of architectural artefacts may suggest that the backfilling of the cistern was undertaken when architectural changes were happening at the Stables or it may relate to a general clear out of debris littering the Stables and grounds of Government House.

8.4.3.2 Food Artefacts

While the cistern has a fairly low percentage of food-related artefacts those that it contained exhibited some unusual traits in relation to other contexts at the Conservatorium site (Table 4).

Among the specific food functions the **tableware**, at 69.7 per cent, is overwhelming dominant while teawares (15.6%) and all other specific functions such as condiments (1.8%), serving (4.6%) and storage (4.6%) are negligible. Of the tableware **shapes** there is a high proportion of plates (53%), which is not disproportionate compared to some of the other contexts but contrasts markedly with the Verbrugghen Hall contexts (#1004, #1005, #1034) and dump #684 (Table 5). The next most common shapes were 19 tumblers (25%) and nine stemmed glasses (12%) (**Photo 8.34**). Both shapes formed a disproportionately high number of the food-related artefacts. Their occurrence in this context outnumbers any of the other significant contexts at the site. While the large rubbish dump #850 contained remains of 10 tumblers and four stemmed glasses, they were deposited over a 50 to 60 year lifespan rather than within a short time frame. At least eight of the

drinking glasses were discoloured by heat. These drinking glasses are considered to help define some of the reasons behind the food-related artefacts being placed into this context.

Other items of interest in this group are more specific artefacts, such as, a green-transfer printed platter in a 'Maltese Cross' pattern (MC-1) (an example is known from First Government House) and plate (#609/241) in the same pattern, a fine bone china cup in green transfer-print with gilding (55-1), a green transfer-printed 'Cycle' patterned saucer (CY-1) and egg cup and a bone china green transfer-printed egg cup (49-1) (**Photo 8.35**; Table 604.1) and a fine glass 'custard cup' (**Photo 8.34**). A Chinese 'famille Rose' plate was also present (Photo 75/22). All these artefacts and many of the other glass tumblers and stemmed glasses were all 'fine wares', being of a much finer quality than other artefacts found on the site. There were also artefacts from this context that were 'ordinary' or normal items. The overwhelming 'feel' of the finer artefacts suggests they were probably used on the 'Governor's table' rather than for the servants and staff. Although it should be noted that all drinking glasses from the site were considered to be 'of high quality', not just those from the cistern (see Smith report, Chapter 21.4).



Photo 8.35: Range of fine glassware from both the cistern backfill and the large rubbish dump, context #850. The darkened burnt tumbler on the right and the custard cup in the centre were both found in the cistern. Scale 20 cm. CP 76/9.



Photo 8.36: Group of green transfer-printed ceramics from the cistern, including the ‘Maltese cross’ platter, ‘cycle’ pattern saucer and egg cup, another egg cup and a gilded green-transfer printed cup. Scale 20 cm. CP 74/7.

8.4.2.3 Personal Artefacts

Other unusual artefacts in this context, meaning they were not commonly found in other contexts from the Conservatorium site, included shoes and fabrics. There were remains of 12 shoes, 20 buttons, some pieces of fabric, as well as a bead, buckle and part of a hairbrush (Table 604.8), again suggesting that some unusual events controlled what was placed in the cistern. These artefacts, related to ‘personal’ activities, formed eight per cent of all artefacts from this deposit which was the highest frequency of any ‘personal’ related artefacts found at the site.

8.4.2.4 Conclusions

One scenario for the source of the better quality artefacts is premised upon how the housekeeping was managed at Government House. The curators at Government House have commented that when pieces of the Governor’s good china and glass were broken they were kept until they could be inventoried, which occurred from time to time.² These comments are supported by the 1902 and 1908 household inventories. Both are very similar in the nature of the items listed but do vary in the number of items recorded. In 1908 the Coalport china dinner service, listed as ‘best’, contained items repaired with rivets (9), while 106 other vessels had various degrees of damage ranging from chipped, cracked and unfit for use. It also noted that ‘damaged pieces of this service are in cupboard in housekeeper’s storeroom’. In the 1902 inventory some of these same damaged vessels were already listed, such as the 11 ‘damaged’ meat dishes in 1902 (30) which in 1908 were described as ‘unfit for use’.³ This practice was presumably already following a pre-existing

² Robert Griffin pers. comm.

³ 1902 Inventory of Government House, p. 30; 1908 Inventory of Government House p. 52-53.

practice. These items were catalogued as they belonged to the State rather than the Governor and were a record of what the State owned.

The need to backfill the cistern in the early 1860s may mean that there was an easy opportunity to dispose of lots of household rubbish, including broken pottery and fine glassware. Members of the household threw away their old shoes and servants threw out all the rubbish lying around the place. While the backfill of the cistern represents rubbish disposal happening within a short period of time it also may represent the removal of broken china and glassware used at the Governor's table and stored until a suitable time was found for its disposal.

Aspects of this deposit can be interpreted as being the broken remnants of the Governor's table service. The broken drinking glasses thrown into the fireplace. A fine china teacup smashed by a clumsy footman. Eggcups knocked by the maid washing in the scullery or children rushing around the nursery. Ladies shoes that were damaged by stepping out of a carriage onto wet muddy ground prior to the construction of the *porte cochere* at the entrance to Government House. Some of the above may explain the arrival of these items within the cistern.

Many of the artefacts from the cistern are noticeably different to those in the large eastern rubbish dump that dates to the second-half of the nineteenth century, context #850. The cistern's artefacts provide us with some idea of the wealth and variety of what the governors' families could afford, which was markedly different to the utilitarian ceramics prevalent in the servants' hall and in the Staff quarters. The green transfer-printed ceramics would have been highly fashionable when purchased in the 1830s. The 'cycle' pattern was made from 1837. A fragment of a cup (#607/227) decorated with 'Park Scenery' pattern was made between 1834 and 1848. Their dominance of the fine pottery is surprising. After whitewares (27%), green transfer print and green transfer-print with gilding (total of 11.2%) tied as the second most common decoration with edged whiteware (11.2%), followed by gilded white ware (9%). The cistern had the largest occurrence of green transfer-printed ceramics of all deposits within the site (Table 604.14). Blue transfer-printed ceramics are more commonly associated with 'finer' wares but once the techniques were perfected for manufacturing coloured transfer prints c. 1829, such as green, brown and purple, it has been suggested that the coloured patterns would initially have become more popular, especially green transfer prints.⁴ The list of personal items to be auctioned by Governor Gipps' in 1846, prior to his departing the colony, show that he had a green-transfer printed dinner service as well as a green transfer-printed and gilded tea service.⁵

⁴ Observation by Andrew Wilson regarding the frequency of colour transfer-printed ceramics other than blue from the excavation of Regentville, John Jamieson's house. Jamieson was recognised as the richest man in the colony of New South Wales.

⁵ 'Two days sale by auction at Governemnt House, a catalogue of plate, books, household furniture, pianoforte, horses, carriages, cows, &c.,...', ML.

8.5 Western Area

Most of the western area was heavily impacted by Phase 7 activities, such as road making, and therefore limited evidence survived of its use during Phase 5. There was no evidence for the roadway realigned in Phase 4 to go to the north to Government House. Phase 5 evidence consisted of the use of garden beds as receptacles for household waste, specifically ashes from fireplaces and household rubbish of broken artefacts. The extensive nature of the garden beds and their relationship with the western wall was discussed above in Phase 4, Chapter 7.2.2 (**Photos 7.12, 7.13**). The garden deposits and the artefacts are discussed in this section as part of Phase 5 deposition.

8.5.1 Western Garden Beds

All the fill deposits (Table 8A, below) in the western garden beds were black friable crumbly silty sand with a high percentage of charcoal. The chemical analysis of the remnant natural topsoil (#957) in the western area had elevated calcium content which is considered to be produced by the dumping of household ash (Lawrie Chapter 22.1, Samples 10, 11). Pollen analysis of samples taken from the garden bed deposits in this area (Table 8: Samples 31, 32, 33) suggested that they were all loam, with either clay, sand or silt with low to high charcoal contents. The pollen analysis indicates that the samples reflect a predominance of exotic pine trees and some lemon trees nearby and one Norfolk Island pine pollen which was known to be to the north. Early twentieth-century photographs show this area dominated by large pine trees.

The pollen analysis observed a difference between samples 31 (#901), 32 (#922) and 41 (#959) and those of 33 (#928), 34 (#963) and 35 (#969). This analysis suggested that the first samples represented an earlier landscape than the latter three because of the type of the variation of percentages of species. The later group had more weed taxa and a decline in eucalypt and sedge representation.

8.5.1.1 Western Garden Bed Deposits

These deposits contained a variety of artefacts. Some had more than 50 artefacts and others had only three or four. As Table 8A below shows a number of items were found that had sherds in more than one fill context. Of the 32 fill deposits associated with the garden beds, 21 fill deposits contained artefact sherds that conjoined with sherds in other contexts. Some of these contexts were in the next adjacent garden bed while others were up to seven garden beds away. In the case of context #969 there were 13 sherds that were part of 12 items found in six other contexts. Seven sherds were in the three fills (#963, #950, #971) of adjacent garden beds and five sherds were two and three beds away. In context #926 five sherds joined with six other sherds in four other contexts. It was not only the contexts with the large number of artefacts that had conjoining sherds. Contexts #950 and #965, both of which included only 11 artefacts, had five and four conjoins respectively.

Not all the conjoins from the garden bed fills were with other garden beds. Some were with the cleaning above the garden bed #874, while two sherds from #950 joined with sherds from the drain fills in #875 (#954 and #955) which are approximately 17 metres to the east. Clearly those that joined with #874 relate to the disturbance of the garden bed deposits by later activities, specifically the cutting down of this area for Conservatorium roads. The two conjoining sherds in #950 are more likely to relate to depositional issues. A sherd of glass from #969 joined one in #979, which was probably the ground level to the west of the wall.

Table 8A: List of garden bed contexts with fill deposits and comments on artefacts and number of conjoining sherds.

Context Number	Feature/Cut	Fill	Artefacts	Joins
874	-	Deposit - unstratified cleaning.	170 artefacts (185 frags). Latest FROM date was 1877 (2). TO date range is 1820-1967.	915/ 1820; 922/1836; 922/1838; 926/1857; 928/1861.
902	Cut- linear trench	901 - Fill of 902	70 items (116 frags). Latest FROM date was 1870 (1), 1860s (4), 1850s (3). TO date range 1860 to 1939.	876/1751; 905/1804
904	Cut- linear trench	903 - Fill of 904	55 items (71 frags). Latest FROM date was 1880 (1), 1860 (5). TO date range 1860-1939.	876/1753; 905/1811
906	Cut- linear trench	905 - Fill of 906	28 items (34 frags). Latest FROM date was 1860 (2), 1850 (2). TO date range 1850-1939.	901/1780; 903/1797
908	Cut- linear trench	907 - Fill of 908	none	
910	Cut- linear trench	909 - Fill of 910	4 artefacts (5 frags). Latest FROM date was 1860. TO date is 1860.	913/3335
912	Cut- linear trench	911 - Fill of 912	none	
914	Cut- linear trench	913 - Fill of 914	6 artefacts (20 frags). Latest FROM date was 1860 (2). TO date range is 1860-1920.	909/3332; 915/3337; 920/3349
916	Cut- linear trench	915 - Fill of 916	20 artefacts (56 frags). Latest FROM date was 1860. TO date range is 1840-1939.	874/1686; 913/3335;
917	Cut- linear trench	876 - fill of 917	19 artefacts (21 frags). Latest FROM date was 1860. TO date range is 1867-1939.	874/1686; 913/3335; 920/3347; 920/3348
919	Cut- linear trench	918 - Fill of 919	4 artefacts (5 frags). Latest FROM date was 1850. TO date is 1880.	
921	Cut- linear trench	920 - Fill of 921	7 artefacts (11 frags). Latest FROM date was 1860. TO date range is 1869-1900.	913/3334; 915/3340; 915/3341.
923	Cut- linear trench	922 - Fill of 923	37 artefacts (69 frags). Latest FROM date was 1870. TO date range is 1870-1939.	874/1719; 874/1725; 924/1844; 924/1846
925	Cut- linear trench	924 - Fill of 925	39 artefacts (79 frags). Latest FROM date was 1880. TO date range is 1860-1920.	922/1835; 922/1837; 926/4404; 926/4406.
927	Cut- linear trench	926 - Fill of 927	18 artefacts (27 frags). Latest FROM date was 1860. TO date range is 1869-1939.	874/1710; 928/1861; 924/4392; 924/4399; 928/1876; 930/4426
929	Cut- linear trench	928 - Fill of 929	36 items (58 frags). Latest FROM date was 1875 (1), 1866 (2). TO dates 1860-1939.	874/1710; 926/1857; 926/1855; 930/1880; 930/1881; 974/2063.
931	Cut- linear trench	930 - Fill of 931	25 items (35 frags). Latest FROM date was 1860 (2), 1850 (2), 1840 (3). TO dates 1860-1939.	926/4410; 928/1870; 928/1877; 974/2063.
933	Cut- linear trench	932 - Fill of 933	12 items (13 frags). Latest FROM date was 1880 (1), 1850 (1). TO dates 1860-1870s.	
935	Cut- linear trench	934 - Fill of 935	17 artefacts (41 frags). Latest FROM date was 1860. TO date range is 1860-1920.	
937	Cut- linear trench	936 - Fill of 937	4 artefacts (4 frags). Latest FROM date was 1860. TO date range is 1860-1920.	
939	Cut- linear trench	938 - Fill of 939	6 artefacts (14 frags). Latest FROM date was 1870. TO date range is 1860-1930.	
941	Cut- linear trench	940 - Fill of 941	3 items (3 frags). Latest FROM date was 1850 (2). TO dates 1870-1920.	
943	Cut- linear trench	942 - Fill of 943	8 items (14 frags). Latest FROM date was 1861 (1). TO dates 1870-1939.	
945	Cut- linear trench	944 - Fill of 945	4 items (4 frags). Latest FROM date was 1830, 1810.	
947	Cut- linear trench	946 - Fill of 947	19 artefacts (35 frags). Latest FROM date was 1860 (1). TO date range is 1860-1920.	
949	Cut- linear trench	948 - Fill of 949	12 artefacts (12 frags). Latest FROM date was 1860 (1), 1840 (3). TO date range is 1870-1939.	
951	Cut- linear trench	950 - Fill of 951	11 items (25 frags). Latest FROM date was 1875 (1), 1860s (3). TO dates 1891-1939.	955/4486; 954/4472; 963/1969; 969/2002; 967/1993.
953	Cut- linear trench	952 - Fill of 953	8 artefacts (15 frags). Latest FROM date was 1850. TO date range is 1870-1880.	

964	Cut- linear trench	963 - Fill of 964	59 items (207 frags). Latest FROM date was 1890 (1), 1880 (1), 1860s (4). TO dates 1860-1939.	950/1920; 969/2002; 965/4514; 965/4517; 967/1992; 969/4534; 971/4548; 971/2027; 971/4549
966	Cut- linear trench	965 - Fill of 966	11 artefacts (17 frags). Latest FROM date was 1890 (1). TO date range is 1860-1939.	963/4503; 963/4507; 969/4535; 969/4536
968	Cut - linear trench	967 - Fill of 968	32 artefacts (70 frags). Latest FROM date was 1890. TO date range is 1840-1939.	950/1919; 963/1981; 969/4533; 969/4537; 969/4541; 971/2028; 971/4553.
970	Cut- linear trench	969 - Fill of 970	54 items (107 frags). latest FROM date was 1890 (1), 1880 (2), 1860 (4). TO date range 1860-1939.	950/1920; 963/1969; 963/4508; 965/4512; 965/4513; 967/4526; 967/4527; 967/4529; 971/2025; 971/4550; 971/4551; 971/4554; 979/4584
972	Cut- linear trench	971 - Fill of 972	85 items (150 frags). Latest FROM date was 1900 (1), 1870 (1), 1860 (5). TO date range 1850-1939.	963/1968; 963/4503; 963/4508; 963/4509; 967/1995; 967/4528; 967/4530; 969/2009; 969/4546; 969/4547.
973	Cut- linear trench	974 - Fill of 973	17 items (26 frags). Latest FROM date was 1860 (2), 1858 (2), 1850s (4). TO date range 1869 to 1939.	928/1877; 930/1881

There are a number of reasons for discussing conjoined sherds in this detail. Firstly there are a limited range of contexts from the site that have sherds that conjoin with those from other contexts. For instance, those in the cistern, which had more than 79 conjoining shreds that made 24 different items, represented a contemporaneous deposition of the material. In other cases it represented the same deposit excavated in another area but the archaeologists gave it a different context number. This type of evidence helps to identify that they were the same or perhaps a similar deposit. In the case of the garden beds in the eastern area, and those under discussion, it clarifies if there was a contemporaneous use of these deposits, how the soil in the beds was turned, and that the sources of the household ash were probably the same in many cases.

The evidence of conjoining sherds does suggest that some of the garden deposits were turned at the same time and the garden soil (and their artefacts) was mixed together. It also suggests that the ash deposit probably came from the same source. It is most likely that most of the artefacts came from the Stable's fireplace and kitchen ash deposits and perhaps from Government House although this seems a bit too far away. The conjoining artefacts in #979 also suggests that some may relate to deliberate breaking of bottles outside the wall and then either throwing some of it into the garden. The entrance to this garden was from a doorway in the northeast corner of the northern wall. There was no western doorway during the use of this building as a Stables and staff accommodation.

8.5.1.2 Functional Analysis

- **General Functions⁶**

Only some of the larger garden bed deposits have been analysed. Garden bed contexts analysed are:

- cleaning above garden beds: #874.
- garden bed deposits: 901, 903, 905, 922, 924, 928, 963, 967, 971.

The table and graph illustrating this section are in **Volume 6, Appendix B, Table 900s**. The artefacts discussed in detail do not include animal bone which is referred to separately (Chapter 21.2).

⁶ For a discussion of the meaning and use of General Functions see Section 1.9 Terminology.

An overview of these artefacts showed that in the majority of contexts, the majority of items were associated with the consumption of food. The other two most frequent functional categories were artefacts associated with architectural uses such as building elements which occurred in some contexts and alcohol which occurred either as second or third most frequently in all contexts. An examination of the general function trends graph (Table 900.2/2) highlights how food and alcohol were usually dominant with architectural evidence being more variable and reflecting specific depositional activities or events. The next most frequently occurring categories were items associated with personal, recreational or household activities. In some contexts no items were found to be associated with household activities.

The size of the contexts associated with the garden beds were generally very small and therefore no detailed functional analysis of individual contexts is warranted, rather an overview of all these contexts, which are thought to have been formed and used in a similar way, has been undertaken.

- **Overview of Contexts**

The general pattern of functional activities is similar to that found above which reinforces the general representativeness of the pattern with the averaging of the overall figures (Table 900.3). The overall percentages are reduced for the extreme highs but they still peak in the main functional categories. As observed above the majority of artefacts are associated with the consumption of food and alcohol and related to architecture. The next group which hovers around 4 to 5 per cent are items associated with recreation, personal and household activities.

The garden beds contained 1528 sherds which belonged to 858 items, of which 357 items were made of ceramic and 285 were made of glass.

- **Specific Function**

Food

Analysis of the Food category or specific function provides insight into the nature of food activities. Food-related activities are associated with the various stages of food from procurement, storage, preparation, serving, and consumption. The most frequently occurring artefacts that related to specific food functions were tea and tablewares with condiment and serving items the next most common followed by the generic container (Table 900.4). The main two tea forms were tea cups (66) and saucers (57) followed by four teapots (Table 900.1). Tableware forms were plates (50), plates-small (22), glass stemware (9), tumblers (8), eggcups (5), and bowls (6). Condiments identified included fish paste (1), oil/vinegar (9), pickles/chutney (6) and sauce (2). Serving items included platters (6), tureens (5), pie dishes (2), as well as general bowls (3) and dishes (2). There were only a few items associated with the preparation and storage of food. Items used for food preparation were pie dish (1), basin (1) and bowl (1) and storage jars (8).

Alcohol

Most of the artefacts associated with the drinking of alcohol, bottle sherds, were either beer or wine at 67 per cent (Table 900.5). There is no certain way to distinguish between early beer and wine bottles. The next two most common types of alcohol were gin/spirits and champagne. There were no stout bottles.

Personal

The majority of personal items relate to clothing and hygiene followed by grooming and accessories. The clothing items included nine buttons, part of two boots, a buckle and a safety pin. The hygiene items included remains of seven poots, three ewers, a wash basin and toothpaste container. The grooming items consisted of four perfume bottles and stopper, and three combs.

Recreational

Among the recreational associated artefacts smoking related items dominate this group, these consisted of pipe stems and bowls. The children's toys, marble, doll and part of doll's tea set, suggest that children were living in the Stables or at least playing in the grounds. The music related item, a piano rest (**Photo 8.36**), may indicate that there was a piano in the Stables accommodation quarters or it may indicate that some rubbish was coming from Government House (Table 900.1).

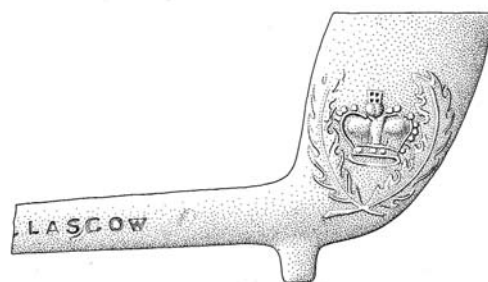
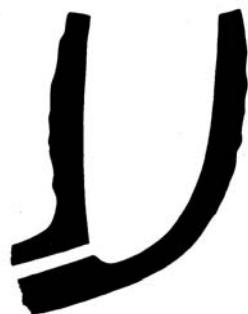
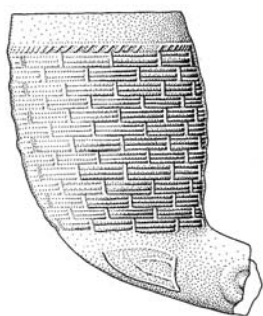
Some of the pipes are interesting as they exhibit the symbols of the United Kingdom - the rose, thistle and four-leaf clover as well as two with the royal crown symbol as well as other types of pipes (**Drwg. 8.9-8.11**). Pipe bowl #924/6252 has a maker's mark and was made between 1806 and 1891. It is interesting that three of these pipes with royal symbols or the symbol of Great Britain with the rose, thistle and four-leaf clover, came from the same deposit #924. In addition a pipe stem with a horse also came from #924. These pipes may all have been thrown out at the same time, possibly coming from the Mess Room of the Governor's orderlies who were located within the southwestern rooms of the Stables from the 1850s.



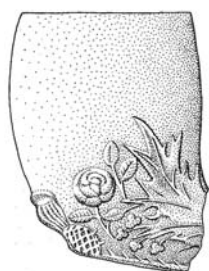
Photo 8.37: Piano rest found in western rubbish dump. CP 75/5.

Household

The household items are associated with fittings, fuel, light, maintenance, ornaments, and sewing. Aside from fragments of coal, presumably used as fuel in the fireplaces, household artefacts included blacking bottles (6) for maintenance, a candle stick, locks (2), hooks (1) and a thimble (Table 900.1).

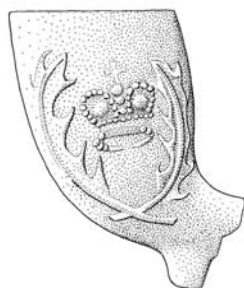


Drawing 8.8: Pipe bowl with basket weave relief decoration. H. 37 mm, dia. 17 mm. #874/cat. no. 9226.



Drawing 8.9: Pipe bowl with rose, thistle and four-leaf clover. Remains of pale pink colouring. H. 32 mm, dia. 17 mm #924/cat. no. 6250.

Drawing 8.10: Pipe bowl with crown and oak leaves by White, Glasgow (1806-1891). H. 38 mm, dia. 16 mm. #924/cat. no. 6252.



Drawing 8.11: Pipe bowl with crown and oak leaves. H. 38 mm, dia. 16 mm. #924/cat. no. 6251.



Drawing 8.12: Pipe stem with a moulded relief of a horse. L. 45 mm. #924/cat. no. 6249.

8.5.1.3 Ceramics

Of the 858 items recovered from the western garden beds, 357 or 42 per cent were made of ceramic. Many of these were in the food category as well as some of the smaller specific function groups. As mentioned above the teawares and tablewares were the main shapes found and these came in a range of ceramic patterns and fabrics.

The most frequent **cup** patterns and fabrics were (Table 900.9, Graph 900.9/1):

- white glazed (34%), on bone china and ironstone fabrics.
- sponge ware (15%), on fine earthenware and ironstone.
- purple transfer print (11%), mostly ironstone with some fine earthenware.
- gilded white wares, which are white with simple line gilding (10%) mostly in bone china.
- blue transfer print (8%), fine earthenware.
- sprigged ware (7%), bone china.

The most frequent **saucer** wares were (Table 900.4/2):

- white glazed (21%), mostly bone china with some ironstone fabric.
- sponge ware (16%), generally ironstone with some fine earthenware.
- gilded white wares, which are white with simple gilding (14%) mostly in bone china fabric.
- sprigged ware (10%), bone china.
- blue transfer print (10%), fine earthenware, and one ironstone.

Of the tablewares, **dinner plates** were the most common shape and were found in a variety of patterns (Table 900.4/2):

- blue transfer print (45%), fine earthenware,
- purple transfer print (12%), ironstone and fine earthenware,
- green transfer print (10%), fine earthenware,
- white wares (8%), fine earthenware,
- white glazed (6%), ironstone china,
- blue flow (6%), fine earthenware.

The pattern and wares of the cups and saucers are generally different to the plates although there are some cross overs. Three of the most frequent wares in the cups and saucers were the same - white glazed, sponge and gilded ware - 11 per cent of cups were in purple transfer print and sprigged pattern was found in both cups and saucers.

The dominant decorative patterns on plates were blue transfer print, as well as purple- and green-transfer prints. The wares in which all three forms were found were purple-transfer print and white glazed. No plates were found in two of the other tea wares: sponge and gilded ware. Although one plate was found with a sprigged pattern this was probably part of tea set, as a cake plate. Two egg cups were found in two different sprigged patterns, perhaps suggesting that this may be a breakfast set rather than a tea set or perhaps as both a breakfast and tea set.

The graph of the frequency of patterns on these three forms highlights the much greater frequency of plates in blue transfer print to cups and saucers (Graph 900.10/1). This graph generally highlights the different distribution of the patterns as they relate to ceramic forms suggesting a very different pattern for the main tea and tablewares. While there is a very high peak for plates in blue transfer print the only comparable peak in cups and saucers is in white glazed. The trend line graph (Table 900.9/2) offers a slightly different method of interpreting this as it shows the variability in the occurrence of the patterns in relation to forms. In most cases the patterns present in the plates drop down proportionally to the cups while where there are no or few plates in some

patterns there is usually a higher occurrence in cups and saucers. The only real exception to this trend was with purple transfer-printed ceramics.

What does it mean when tea and tableware patterns do not coincide? This will only be discussed in a general way in this section. The first thing it suggests is that when buying ceramics, teawares were not necessarily bought in the same pattern as tablewares. It could also mean that not all teawares were made in the same patterns as tablewares and the obverse can also be true. The distribution of patterns observed in the garden beds is probably a combination of both events.

In contrast to this both tea and tablewares were found in some quantity in purple-transfer print suggesting that there was an opportunity to purchase all shapes in this decorative style. With regard to the different types of patterns in purple-transfer print most of the plates were decorated with the double helix cable pattern and the cups were found in seven different identified patterns. All forms included small pieces of ceramics where the specific purple-transfer printed pattern could not be identified. When the individual patterns are examined, some of them, while not identical, are similar to each other. The cups are in purple-transfer patterns 6, 64, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91 and cable-helix. As the following list illustrates eight of the patterns fall into two decorative groups. This suggests that there may have been a deliberate decision to buy similar patterns in the cups, perhaps because matching patterns were not available or because some of them were bought over a period of time when earlier patterns were no longer available.

List of purple-transfer print pattern categories:

Ribbon: 6, 84, 86, 87,

Cable: 64, 90, 91, cable-helix,

Meander: 88,

Floral: 89.

Dating

From the western garden beds nine of the artefacts had base marks and seven were dated (Table 900.11). The manufacturing dates range between 1840 and 1891 (see Ward Ceramics Report for details, Chapter 21.3). Generally the artefacts were considered to have been deposited during the whole occupation of the site, following the construction of the wall by 1841 and until its removal in the early 1890s.

Discussion

In general the artefacts from the western garden beds probably illustrate activities mostly associated with the Stables' occupants rather than with those who lived at Government House, although the presence of artefacts from Government House cannot be discounted.

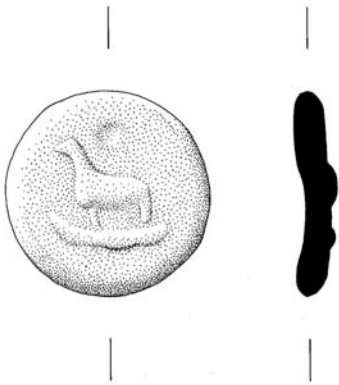
These artefacts present a different picture to those found in the large rubbish dump, context #850, or in the cistern. They are fragmentary, have a wider variety of patterned ceramics yet still exhibit elements of #850 such as the white and gilded white wares and purple transfer-printed wares. These appear to be consistent elements. While aspects of the alcohol are similar with champagne and beer/wine bottles there is an absence of stout bottles. There is a larger range of toys than found in other contexts suggesting the presence of children. The clay pipes with symbols of Great Britain may illustrate an allegiance to the Crown by the governors' orderlies or their servants who were frequently members of the Governor's personal staff and had come out from Britain.

8.6 Southwestern Area

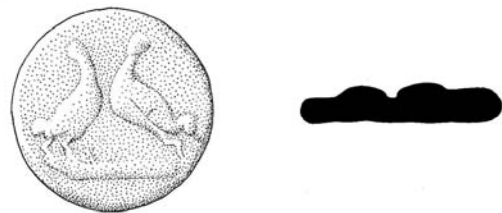
8.6.1 Deposits associated with Forecourt/Road 2

8.6.1.1 Red Gravel Metalling – Context #662

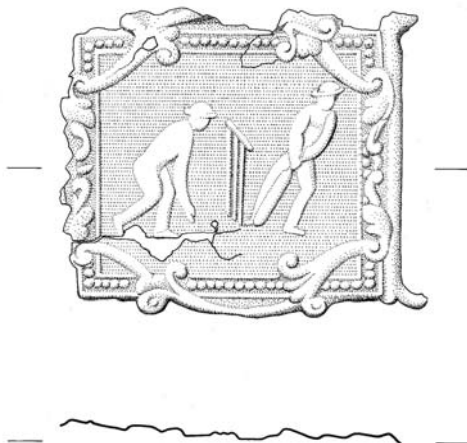
The red gravel surface in the southwest corner contained a surprising number of artefacts, 194 items (672 sherds). Only part of this surface was excavated and sections of it have been retained *in situ* in the Conservatorium of music foyer. Some of the interesting artefacts that came from the road surface included, military buttons, lead tokens and other items of clothing as well as numerous fragments of ceramics.



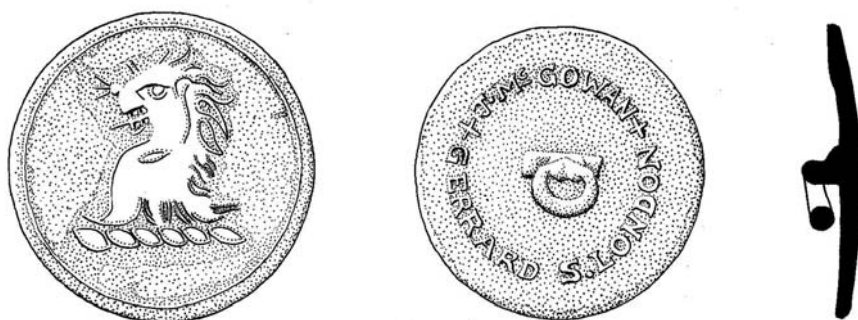
Drawing 8.13: Lead token. Showing a standing 'hound'. Dia. 24 mm. #662/cat. no. 6123.



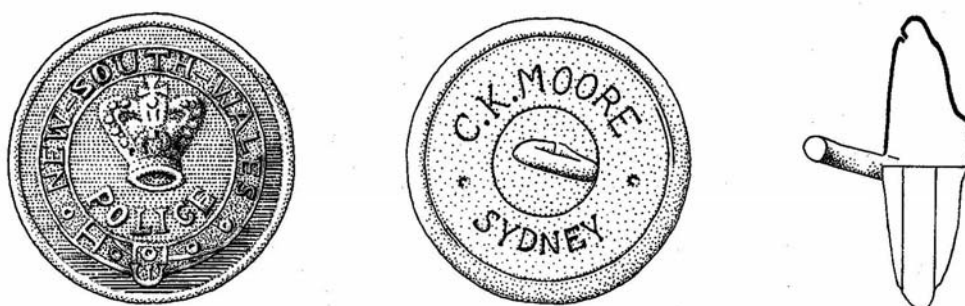
Drawing 8.14: Lead token. Showing two geese. Dia. 23 mm. #662/cat. no. 6124.



Drawing 8.15: Buckle with batsman and wicket keeper. Width at section 49 mm. #662/cat. no. 6125.



Drawing 8.16: Livery button with lion. Dia. 24 mm.
#662/cat. no. 6130.



Drawing 8.17: NSW Police button. Dia. 19 mm. Made by
C.K. Moore, Sydney. #662/cat. no. 6128.

8.6.1.1 Gravel Fill in the Dish-drain Gutter #674 – Context #720

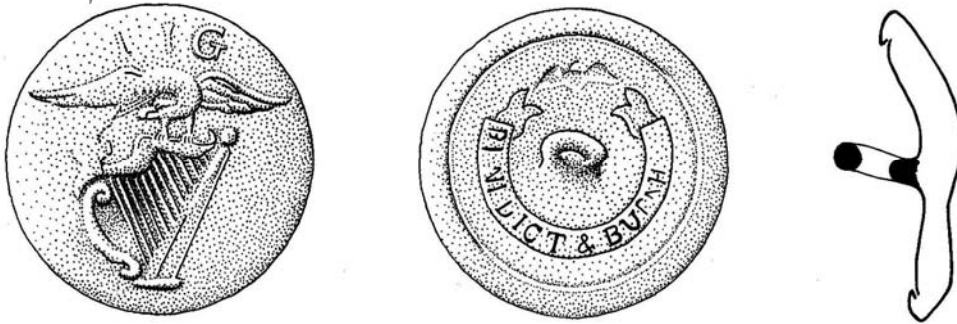
The fill of the dish drain is mostly road gravels washed into the dish drain. The most interesting artefact from this group was a military button from the 77th Regiment. This regiment was located in Sydney in the 1850s for 8 months prior to moving onto India to fight in the Indian Mutiny.



Drawing 8.18: Officer's button from the 77th Regiment. Dia. 24 mm.
#720/cat. no. 6158.

8.6.1.3 Interface between fill and road metalling - #721

This deposit formed as the interface between the top of the road metalling and deposits covering over the road. These artefacts were most probably associated with the top of the road gravels. Among the few artefacts recorded as coming from this interface deposit was a button with an crouching eagle and an Irish harp.



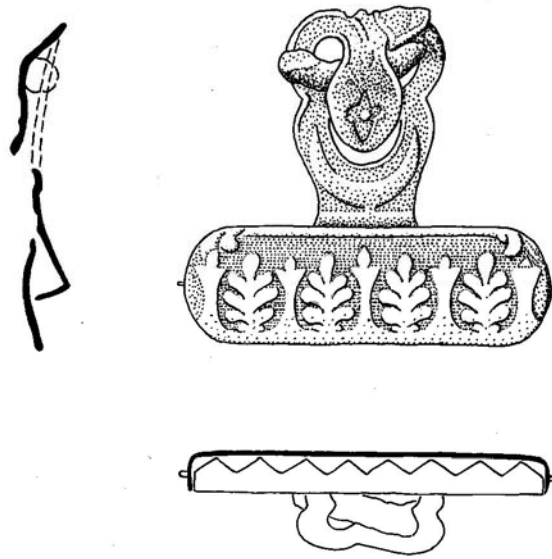
Drawing 8.19: Jacket button with an eagle above an Irish harp.
Dia. 22 mm. #721/cat. no. 6163.

8.6.1.4 Discussion

These artefacts illustrate some of the items that were lost along the way: jacket buttons, uniform buttons, and coins. Some of these artefacts may be associated with people who worked at the site while others may have belonged to those passing through. Aside from these interesting items other artefacts found in the road metalling of the Forecourt included fragments of ceramic and glass vessels (Table 2). These remains were generally quite fragmentary and were probably further shattered by carriage traffic.

8.6.2 Rubbish dump - #684

In the southwestern area of the site, to the west of the Forecourt and up on higher rocky ground a linear trench #665 was found which was backfilled with a highly compact deposit, #684. The fragmentary artefacts were all tightly compacted into a linear trench. The fill of this trench contained 1803 sherds making a total of 435 items (Table 684.1). The two largest categories were food (37%) and alcohol (33%). There were 163 food related items (Table 684.2). Tablewares (47%) and teawares (32%) were the two largest food groups with condiment (8%) and serve (7%) the next two largest groups. Among the tablewares were plates (71%), small-plates (9%) and drinking glasses (7%). There were ten different tableware vessel forms among this group, including a tray, covers and jugs. There was evidence for 143 alcohol bottles. The alcohol group conforms to the general pattern of context #850 with beer/wine (40%), stout (22%) and champagne (20%) dominated as well as high proportions of spirits – gin/schnapps (11%). Although context #684 had more beer/wine and less stout overall.



Drawing 8.20: Braces or suspender buckle. H. 48 mm, w. 44 mm. #684/cat. no. 6147.

