

74 WORDSWORTH STREET, CHRISTCHURCH: REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

NZHPT AUTHORITY 2012/117EQ

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UNPUBLISHED REPORT FOR CERA

INTRODUCTION

Subsequent to the earthquake on 22 February 2011 the building situated at 74 Wordsworth Street, Christchurch, was demolished. On 22 July 2011 the New Zealand Historic Places Trust issued an emergency authority (2012-117eq) under section 11 of the Canterbury Earthquake (*Historic Places Act*) Order 2010 to CERA. This authority was issued to allow CERA to complete the demolition of the building and remove the floor slabs and foundations. An authority was required as the removal of the foundations had the potential to affect subsurface archaeological remains associated with the pre-1900 occupation of the site. As per condition 2 of the authority, the removal of the foundations was monitored by an archaeologist.

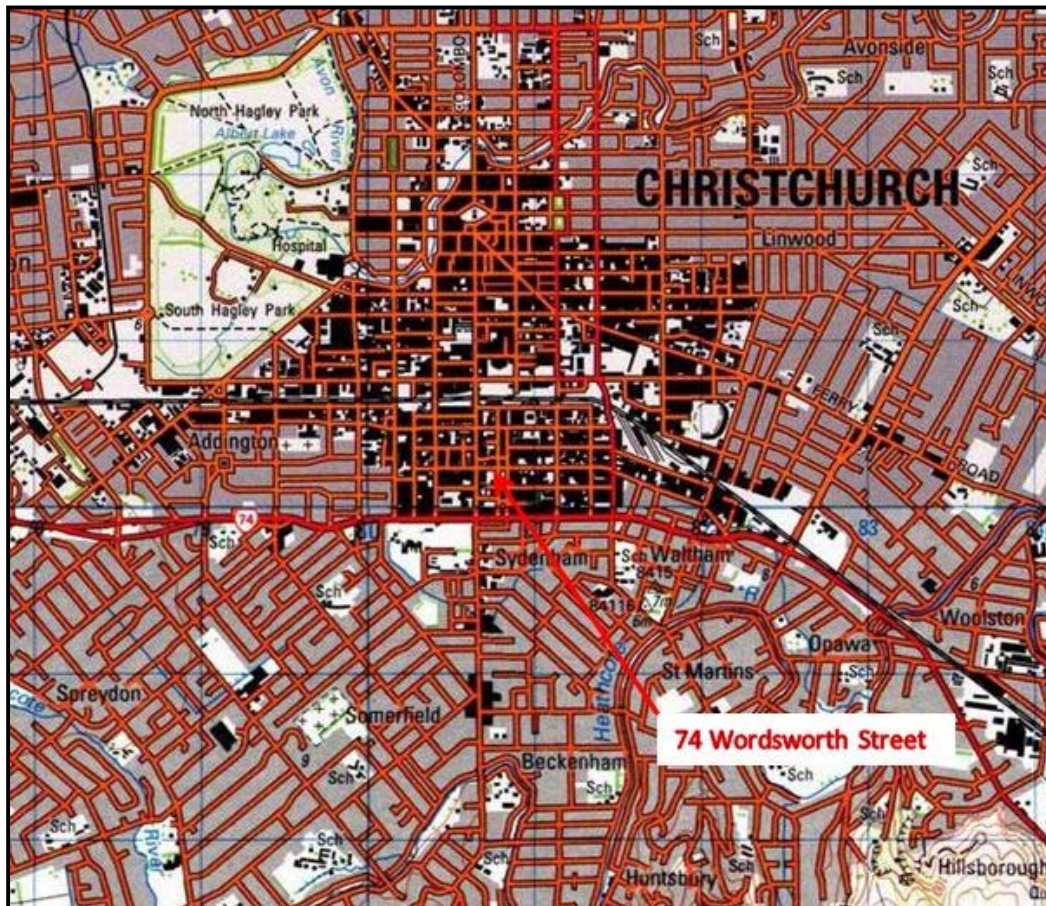


Figure 1. Central Christchurch, showing the site of 74 Wordsworth Street.

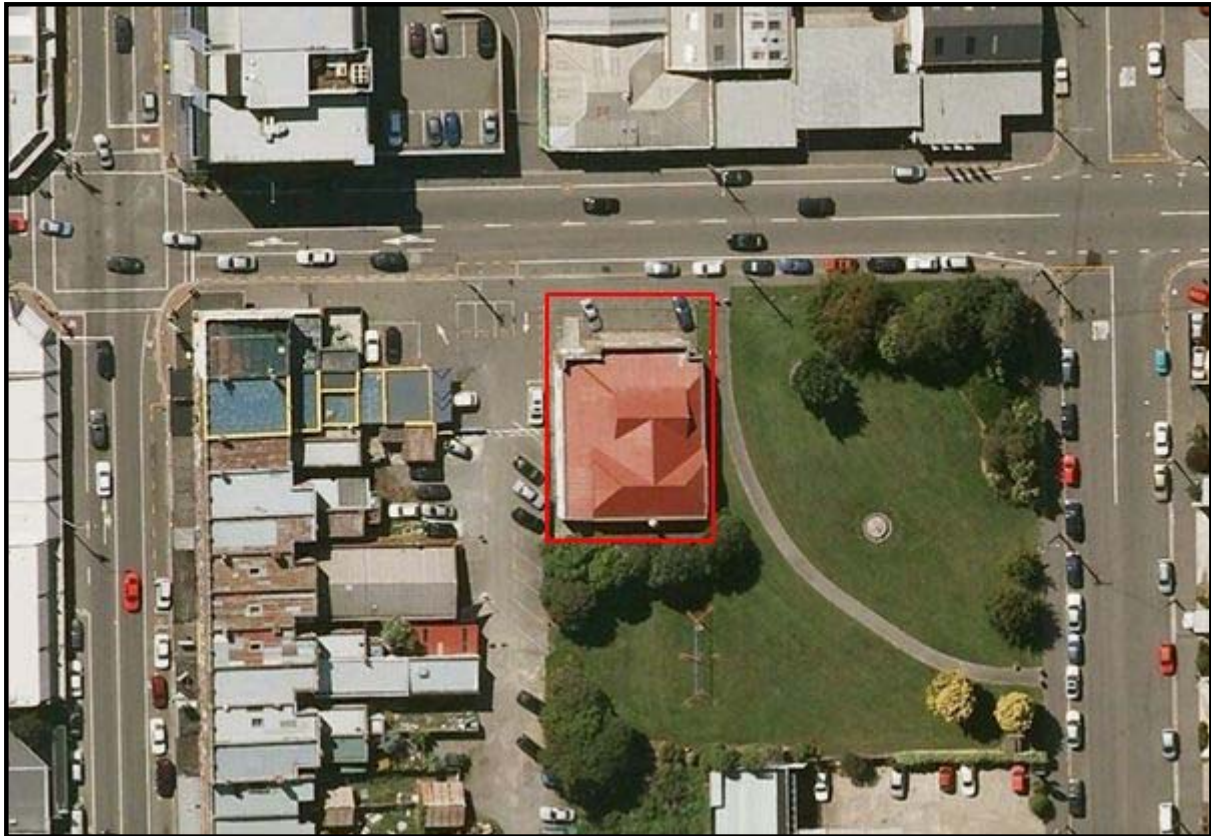


Figure 2. 74 Wordsworth Street prior to the earthquake. Image from Google Earth.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

This part of Sydenham appears to have been first subdivided in 1875, which is when the section at 74 Wordsworth Street was created. As such, the section could have been built on at any time after this. The building demolished as a result of the earthquake was the Crown Masonic Lodge, which was built in the 1920s.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF EARTHWORKS

On 28 July 2011 the foundations of the building at 74 Wordsworth Street were removed by Texco Excavating Ltd using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.2 m wide ripping bucket, with Andy Dodd monitoring the work. The concrete perimeter footings were 500 mm wide and there were two shallower internal footings along the northern and western sides (Figure 3). The underlying layers were a mixture of rubble and grey-brown topsoil, with a brown sandy clay basal layer beneath.

The removal of the foundations required excavation of the site to a depth of between 300-1000 mm. A time capsule was found during this work and one archaeological feature was noted during the removal of the foundations from 74 Wordsworth Street (the contents of the time capsule are listed in Appendix 2).

Feature 1

Feature 1 was located under the southeast corner of the building and comprised a scatter of 19th century artefactual material covering an area approximately 1.5 x 1.5 metres. It included glass and ceramic fragments as well as fragments of sheep bone and some oyster shell.

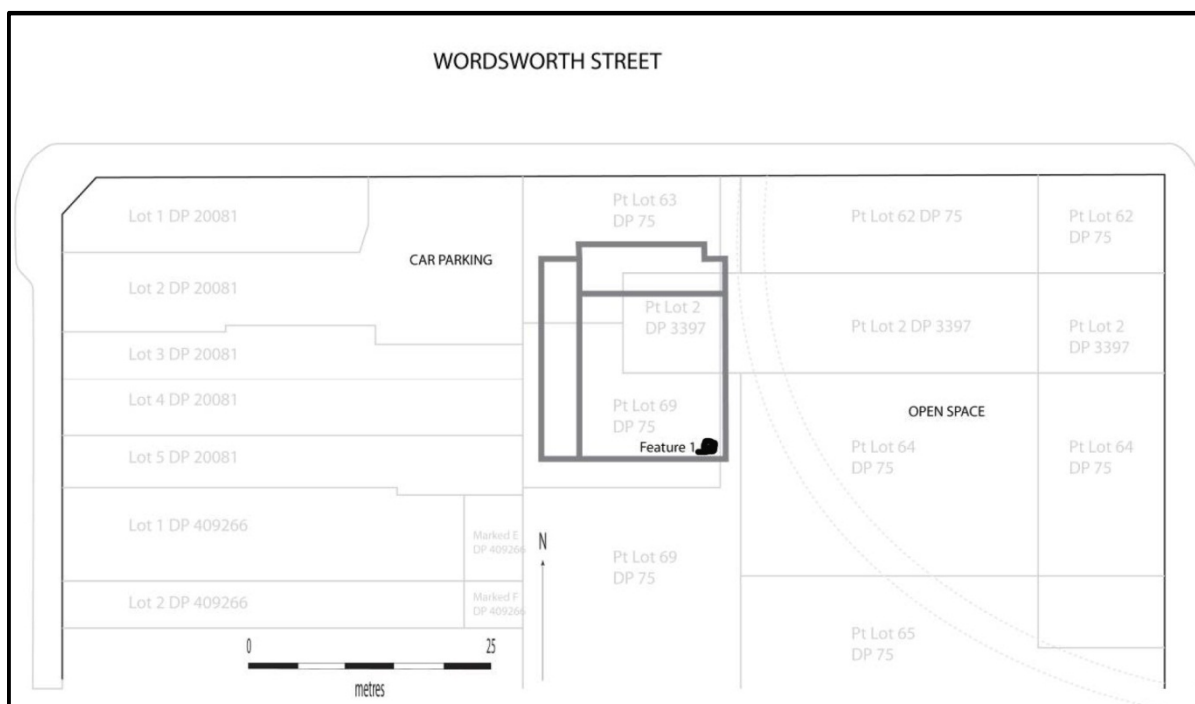


Figure 3. Plan of the area subject to monitoring, showing archaeological features and (concrete footings in grey).

ARTEFACT ANALYSIS

In total, 96 artefacts were recovered during the archaeological monitoring at 74 Wordsworth Street. All artefacts removed from the site were sorted into material categories (glass, ceramics, metal, faunal and miscellaneous). Artefacts in each category were then analysed and identified according to various attributes. Specific analytical methods used for each material category are described below (Appendix 1). In each category, the number of individual specimens present (NISP) was recorded, from which a minimum number of vessels (MNV) or individuals (MNI) was calculated. The artefacts uncovered during the excavation of 74 Wordsworth Street included glass, ceramics and bones, as well as a few other items (there is a full list of the artefacts in Appendix). These artefacts are typical mid-19th century artefacts, and include standard items such as decorated ceramic plates, alcohol and pharmaceutical bottles, and animal bones.

Ceramics

A total of 59 ceramic fragments representing a minimum of 26 vessels were recovered from the site. The majority of ceramic fragments recovered were domestic tableware including plates, saucers, bowls and teacups (Figures 4, 5 and 6). There was also a stoneware bottle fragment.



Figure 4. Amaranth pattern saucer.



Figure 5. Rhine pattern plate.



Figure 6. Cable pattern saucer.

Glass

A total of 31 glass fragments representing a minimum of eight vessels were recovered from the site. The glassware forms present included a ring seal wine bottle, black beer, case gin/schnapps, aerated water, a stopper from a condiment bottle, a fragment of a glass tumbler and window glass.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The removal of the concrete floor slabs and foundations from the site of 74 Wordsworth Street, Christchurch, was monitored due to the potential for such work to affect subsurface archaeological remains associated with earlier pre-1900 occupation of the site. The majority of the site was excavated to a depth of at least 500 mm and up to 1 m around the perimeter footings. A modest quantity of artefactual material was encountered, typical of a late 19th century site. While the majority of the site was excavated to remove the foundations it is likely that the undisturbed areas may have intact archaeological deposits remaining. As a result of this work the site has been recorded as archaeological site M35/541 (see attached).

REFERENCES

- Brooks, A., 2005. *An Archaeological Guide to British Ceramics in Australia 1788-1901*. The Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology, Sydney.
- Donaldson, B., Hume, G. and Costello, S., 1990. *Antique Bottle and Containers of Christchurch and District*. Christchurch Antique Bottles and Collectibles Club, Christchurch.
- Hinson, D., 1996. 'A Primer on Fruit Jars.' *Bottles and Extras*. Dec 1996. Federation of Historic Bottle collectors <http://www.qnet.com/~glassman/info/b&e/primer.htm>
- Sanford, Patricia M., 1997. Response to a Market: Dating English Underglaze Transfer-Printed Wares. *Historical Archaeology* 31: 2: 1-30.
- Smith, Ian, 2002. 'Archaeological Bottle Glass: A Manual for the Analysis of Bottle Glass Assemblages from New Zealand Archaeological Sites'. Draft 31 May 2002.

APPENDIX 1: METHODS OF ARTEFACT ANALYSIS

Ceramic artefacts

Ceramic artefacts were analysed according to material type, ware type and form. Decorative features were also recorded. These included the decorative technique used on the artefact, the name of the pattern if identified, pattern motifs and pattern colour. Brooks (2005) was the principle reference used for the analysis of material ware, form and decorative technique. Sanford (1997) was consulted in reference to decorative patterns and colours.

Faunal material

The faunal material was cleaned and identified to taxonomic category. Mammals were identified by species. An MNI (minimum number of individuals) was generated from the MNE (minimum number of elements), which was in turn based on the NISP (number of individual specimen present). Skeletal element, side and portion present were also identified, as was age at death when possible. Any butchery marks on the material were recorded.

Glass artefacts

Glass vessels were sorted by provenance and analysed according to the process outlined in Smith (2004). This included recording glass colour, finish and base type, measurements and any marks present. Further information concerning the bottle and product manufacturers identified by marks was supplied when possible. Internet research provided the majority of this information but Donaldson *et al.* (1990) also proved useful. Some glass vessels could be identified to type by their form or their embossing. This information identifies the original contents of the bottle. However, identification of the original contents of a bottle does not necessarily connect the occupants of a site with the consumption of that product. Reuse of glass bottles for different products was a common occurrence in New Zealand in the 19th century, as there was no glass bottle production in New Zealand until the 20th century. All bottles had to be imported, which resulted in a scarcity of glass containers. However, the identification of reuse in an archaeological context is difficult. As such, glass vessels are discussed in relation to their original contents.

Metal artefacts

Metal artefacts were analysed and recorded by their material type, form and measurements. If the artefact could not be identified by form a description of its appearance was included.

Miscellaneous artefacts

Miscellaneous artefacts from the site included building materials and all other recovered artefacts not relevant to the already established material categories. Artefacts were cleaned and then analysed according to material type. Those that could be identified to form were recorded as such.

APPENDIX 2¹

A time capsule was recovered from under the foundation stone of the building. The stone itself bore the following inscription:

Fiat Lux. This stone was laid with the full Honours of Masonry by MW Bro S. Clifton Bingham PGM, MW Bro JJ Dougall PGM, RW Bro C Louisson PProv GM, RW Bro Geo Barclay PGW, Grand Secretary, on Saturday 9th December, AD 1922, AL 5922.

'Fiat Lux' is Latin for 'let there be light'. In the Masonic calendar AL stands for *Anno Lucis* or year of light, which was 4000 BCE (the creation of the world).

The capsule itself comprised a glass jar with a metal screw top lid (86 mm diameter and 225 mm tall). The jar was embossed "-ATLAS- / MASONS / PATENT / NOV 30TH / 1858" (Figure 7). The mason jar was patented by New York City tinsmith, John L. Mason in 1858. Mason invented a glass cutting tool which could cut a thread onto the lid of a jar, making the manufacture of re-usable screw top jars possible. The lid was manufactured of zinc with a rubber ring for creating an airtight seal. These jars made preserving and domestic canning affordable for people in the mid to late 19th century. Atlas was the brand of a preserving jar manufactured by the Hazel-Atlas Glass Company. This company formed in 1902 as an amalgamation of several different companies including the Hazel Glass and Metals Company (est. 1887) and the Atlas Glass Company (est. 1896). Mason patent jars continued to be produced by numerous different companies, long after Mason's patent expired (Hinson 1996).



Figure 7. The jar the time capsule was in.

The jar contained a number of items including several pages of the *New Zealand Craftsman* dated September 1922, and published in Wellington. The *New Zealand Craftsman* was a publication for New Zealand Free Masons which was first published in Dunedin in 1884. The time capsule also included four pages of advertisements from the *Lyttelton Times*, dated 9 December 1922.

The jar contained fragments of the cover of a booklet from an installation ceremony (Figure 8). Not enough of this survives to identify the booklet but it includes the words "LODGE / Installation Ceremony /...Mount Jellicoe / Christchurch".

¹ With thanks to Lynn Campbell (Christchurch Art Gallery) for her conservation work.



Figure 8. The booklet remains.

Also in the jar was a farthing from 1903 (Figure 9). This coin depicts a seated Britannia and the text “FARTHING/1903” on one side, and on the other, a bust of Edward VII with the text “EDWARDVS VII DEI GRA: BRITT: OMN: REX FID: DEF: IND: IMP” (Edward VII by the Grace of God, King of all the Britains, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India). The significance of the date is not clear, but given the jar contained pages of the *Lyttelton Times* it is probably a reference to the consecration of the Kilwinning Masonic Lodge in Lyttelton on 19 November 1903 (*Press* 20.11.1903:3). Masonic chapters often pressed their own unique pennies and marks which were issued to new candidates,² it is possible that farthings bearing the image of Britannia served this function in the Christchurch lodge.

² <http://www.ram-il.org/ChapterPennies.htm>



Figure 9. The 1903 farthing.

The last item in the time capsule was a brass item twisted into the shape of a knot (Figure 10). The item had links for connecting a chain, and appears to have broken soldered joints, possibly for connecting a broach. It is possible the shape is representative of the cabletow, the symbolic cord that unites members of the brotherhood.³



Figure 10. Brass brooch, in the shape of a cabletow.

³ <http://www.masonicdictionary.com/cabletow.html>

APPENDIX 3

Artefact class	NISP	MNI	Description	Photo reference
Feature 1				
Ceramics	2	1	Grey and white transfer print ceramic, 'Rhine' pattern – plate	100-0002
	3	1	Black and white transfer print ceramic, 'Amaranth' pattern – saucer	100-0003
	1	1	Blue and white transfer print ceramic, 'Willow' pattern – plate	100-0004
	2	1	Purple and white transfer print ceramic, 'Cable' pattern – saucer	100-0005
	1	1	Purple and white transfer print ceramic – teacup	100-0005
	1	1	Purple and white transfer print ceramic – plate	100-0006
	4	1	Brown and white transfer print ceramic – teacup	100-0007
	3	2	White ceramic with purple sprig – saucer	100-0008
	2	1	White ceramic with red over print – saucer	100-0009
	1	1	Green and white transfer print ceramic – plate	100-0010
	3	1	White ceramic with red band – plate	100-0012
	1	1	White ceramic with red band – bowl	100-0012
	1	1	White ceramic with blue band – plate	100-0013
	1	1	Blue and white transfer print ceramic – unidentified fragment	
	5	1	Blue and white transfer print ceramic, 'Asiatic Pheasants' pattern – plate	100-0014
	11	5	White ceramic fragments, 5 base, 5 rim, 1 body – saucer	
	4	2	White ceramic fragments, 2 rim, 2 body – teacup	
	5		White ceramic fragments – non-diagnostic	
	2	1	White ceramic fragments, 1 shoulder, 1 base – plate	
	1	1	Blue glaze ceramic – basin	
	4	1	Beige ceramic – basin	
	1		Stoneware fragment metallic brown glaze	
Glass	10	1	Green glass, 1 lip/neck/shoulder (ring seal), 9 body – wine	
	2	1	Pale green glass, 2 lip, 1 body – wide mouth jar	100-0016
	3	1	Pale green glass, 1 base (embossed "BS"), 2 body – bottle/jar	100-0019
	1		Stopper	100-0015
	3	1	Clear glass, fluted – tumbler	
	2		Clear glass – window glass	
	2	1	Clear glass, 1 lip, 1 body fragment – aerated water	
	4	1	Black glass, 1 base, 3 body – beer	
	1	1	Black glass, body fragment – case gin?	
	3	1	Aqua glass, 3 square sided body fragments	
Bone	4	1	Sheep – pelvis	
			Sheep – metapodial PS+DS	
Shell	2		Oyster shell	

