

Artefacts from the Oashore Shore Whaling Station

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Abstract

This report presents an analysis of the artefactual assemblage from the Oashore whaling station and is largely a revision of a work originally submitted as a Masters Thesis (Harris 2005). Shore whaling was a brutally efficient industry for a short period in the 1830s and 1840s and represents some of the earliest European settlement in New Zealand. The excavation of the Oashore whaling station, located on Banks Peninsula, South Island of New Zealand, in January/February 2004 represents the first part of a major research orientated project on shore whaling in New Zealand. The present paper aims to document the range of material culture available to the Oashore whalers to help shed some light on what life was like for a shore whaler and to investigate how these communities compare or contrast with other contemporaneous European sites. To this end the Oashore artefactual material, exclusive of faunal remains and charcoal or wood, has been described, quantified, and dated where possible.

Acknowledgements

The Oashore excavation was directed by Ian Smith (Anthropology Department, University of Otago) and Nigel Prickett (Auckland Museum) and forms part of a larger project investigating the emergence of Pakeha culture. The analysis of the artefact assemblage and the writing of the original thesis were conducted under the supervision of Ian Smith. Rod Jansen helped out with the cataloguing and cleaning of the artefact assemblage, as well as sorting and quantifying all the ferrous metal material. A special thanks is also extended to all the volunteers who took part in the Oashore excavation and to others who helped make the excavation a success.

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. MATERIALS AND METHODS.....	3
2.1 THE OASHORE WHALING STATION SITE.....	17
2.2 METHODOLOGY	17
3. THE ARTEFACTS.....	21
3.1 INTRODUCTION	21
3.2 CERAMICS	22
3.3 CLAY TOBACCO PIPES	40
3.4 GLASS	44
3.5 CLOTHING HARDWARE.....	49
3.6 FOOTWEAR.....	52
3.7 HOUSEHOLD ITEMS.....	52
3.8 MUNITIONS	55
3.9 COINS & TOKENS.....	59
3.10 WHALECRAFT	60
3.11 FISHING GEAR.....	61
3.12 HARDWARE.....	61
3.13 OTHER ARTEFACTS.....	62
3.14 COPPER ALLOY FASTENINGS	62
3.15 COPPER AND BRASS MISCELLANY.....	68
3.16 IRON FASTENINGS.....	70
3.17 IRON OBJECTS AND MISCELLANY	71
3.18 MODERN ARTEFACTS	74
4. INTERPRETATION.....	75
4.1 DATING THE ASSEMBLAGE.....	75
4.2 SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF ARTEFACTS	78
4.3 FUNCTION OF SITE AREAS.....	92
4.4 LIFE AT OASHORE	94
4.5 COMPARISON WITH OTHER SHORE WHALING STATIONS.....	96
4.6 COMPARISON WITH CONTEMPORARY NEW ZEALAND HISTORIC SITES.....	102
5. CONCLUSION.....	104
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	106

1. Introduction

This report presents an analysis of the material culture of the Oashore whalers, following an archaeological excavation of the Oashore shore whaling station site in January and February 2004. The site was excavated as part of a larger project concerning the emergence of Pakeha culture in New Zealand, discussed further below. The primary aim of this thesis is to document the material culture of the Oashore whalers, by describing and analysing the excavated artefact assemblage, and then to investigate to what extent the Oashore material culture reflects that of other shore whaling communities. Also of interest is whether shore whaling communities differ in their material culture from that of other historic sites dating to the 1840s. To this end the Oashore material culture will be compared with that from other New Zealand and Australian shore whaling stations, as well as early historic sites in New Zealand. The assemblage will also be analysed to determine whether there is any evidence for later use of the site, and if so to identify who was using the site and for what reason.

The shore whaling activity of the early and mid-19th-century played a major role in the colonial settlement of New Zealand and Australia (Lawrence & Staniforth 1998b) and so it is hoped that an analysis of the material culture of the Oashore whalers will shed some light on the nature of European communities during this period. In many locations in New Zealand shore whaling stations represent the first European settlements. After the collapse of the whaling industry in the late 1840s many whaling sites were abandoned but others that were less isolated than Oashore continued, with economic activity switching to other industries such as farming. Whaling stations were also often the first point of contact for the influx of pioneering settlers who began to arrive in New Zealand from the 1840s onwards. For example it was at Oashore in April 1840 that the first parties of settlers were landed in an attempt, albeit unsuccessful, to establish farming communities on the plains of Canterbury (Ogilvie 1994:214). An analysis therefore of how these early whaling parties lived in and adapted to New Zealand conditions, is pivotal not only for understanding the material culture of the whalers themselves, but also that of early European colonists in general. General historical works can give us glimpses of what these communities must have been like, but generally details about day to day life are lacking. It is hoped that the present archaeological analysis can fill in some of these gaps.

The shore whaling industry began in New Zealand as early as 1827 and "was based upon the right (or black) whale (*Eubalaena australis*) which yielded so-called 'black-oil', with the whaling season extending from May to October (Prickett 1983). For a few short years the industry was brutally efficient in extracting 'black-oil' and effectively sealed its own fate, as it was mainly cows and calves which were taken, with the males generally staying further out to sea (Prickett 1983). In 1839-40, when the Oashore whaling station was established, the whale catch was already in significant decline in many parts of New Zealand and by the mid-1840s, the heyday of the whaling industry was over.

Previously very little archaeological work has been done in New Zealand on shore whaling station sites, or indeed on other European sites dating to the 1840s. The study of shore whaling in New Zealand has largely been confined to general history treatises and in archaeological terms to site surveys, with very few excavations and detailed analysis of individual sites. The only previous investigation of domestic structures at a

shore whaling station site, was conducted by Peter Coutts in 1972 at Taieri Island, Otago. Coutts excavated one whaler's hut site, recovering only a small sample of material artefacts (Coutts 1976). Other excavations have focused on the industrial evidence left by shore whaling, such as that conducted by Campbell at the Otakou whaling station try-works, located inside the Otago Harbour (Campbell 1994). Campbell obtained firm evidence of the former existence of a try-works but, as would be expected, little in the way of artefactual material was recovered.

More work has been carried out in the area of site survey, both on a regional basis and on a site specific basis. These surveys collate known historical and archaeological data and provide a fairly complete record of the spatial distribution of whaling station sites around New Zealand. Most sites have also been assessed as to their state of preservation and potential for future archaeological research. Campbell (1992; 1993) gives a thorough account of the whaling stations along the coast of Otago. Other regional studies of whaling station sites include Jacomb's survey of Banks Peninsula (Jacomb 1998) and Prickett's survey of Kapiti Island (Prickett 1983). Prickett (2002) has also recently published an archaeological and historical survey of shore whaling stations from throughout New Zealand. Other site specific reports are also occasionally published, such as an article on the Cutter's Bay whaling station site in the Marlborough Sounds (Jones 1982). In the area of site survey shore whaling stations are well documented, while there is a distinct lack of actual physical archaeological data in the form of excavated and published artefactual assemblages.

More information is available for Australian shore whaling sites, with several sites being the subject of major excavations. Many New Zealand operations were initially set up by people based in Australia and shore whaling practices were essentially the same in both countries. Many of the men who made up the whaling gangs, also came from Australia, as did the supplies of food, tools, clothing and other paraphernalia. The vast majority of these supplies were originally imported from Britain and so the restricted range of material items available means that the material culture of Australian and New Zealand sites from this period is likely to be very similar.

The most thorough investigation to date in Australia was conducted by Gibbs at the Cheyne Beach site in Western Australia, and the results are included in his Ph.D. thesis (Gibbs 1996). Susan Lawrence has conducted excavations at two whaling station sites in Tasmania, which is the subject of a forthcoming publication. As in New Zealand the majority of the work on shore whaling stations however, has been restricted to regional and site specific surveys.

The excavation of the Oashore shore whaling station site is discussed in chapter two, along with the methodology for analysing the artefact assemblage. Chapter three contains a full description of all the artefacts which represent the material culture of the Oashore whalers. The dates of various artefacts and the implications for the dating of the assemblage as a whole is discussed in chapter four, as is the spatial distribution of selected artefact classes and the function of the different site areas excavated. Chapter four includes comparative material from other shore whaling station sites and historic sites and a discussion of the relationship of the material culture from Oashore with these sites. Finally a summary of results and some general concluding remarks follow in chapter five.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 The Oashore Whaling Station Site

2.1.1 Location and Environment

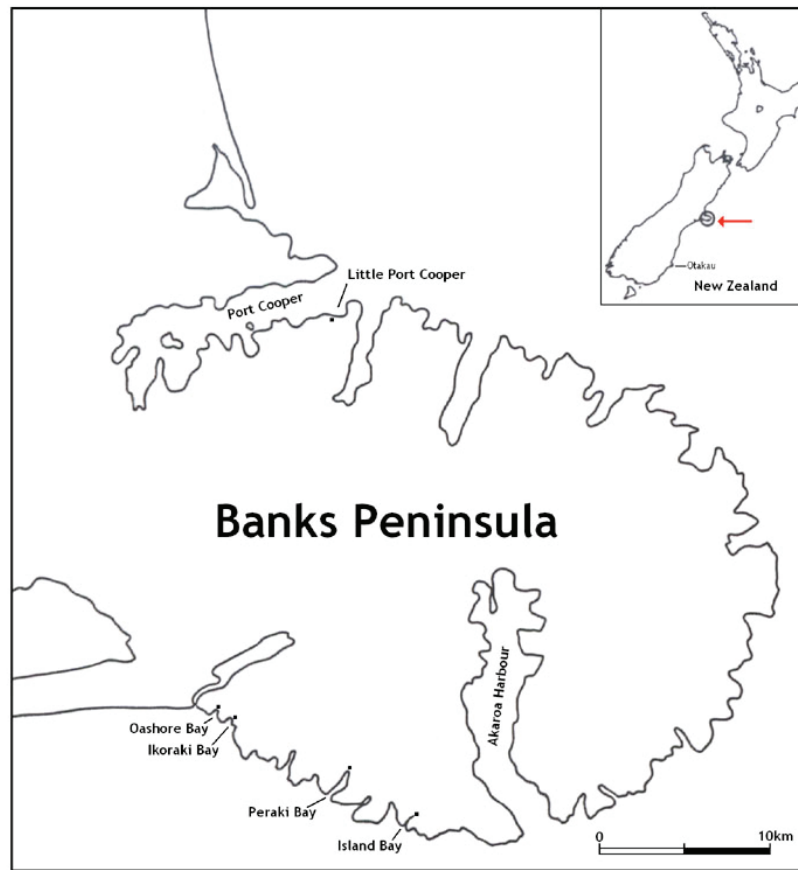
The Oashore shore whaling station site is on Banks Peninsula, located roughly half way up the east coast of the South Island of New Zealand (see Figure 2.1). Oashore Bay is located in the south-west corner of the Peninsula, where it juts out from the Canterbury Plains, and is the first safe landing place encountered when arriving by sea from the south. Whaling stations on Banks Peninsula were ideally suited to take advantage of the winter migration of southern right whales up the east coast of the South Island, to their calving grounds immediately south and north-west of Cook Strait (Jacomb 1998). The first shore operation was established at Little Port Cooper in 1836 (see Figure 2.1 for location) and by 1842 there were a total of five stations on the Peninsula (Prickett 2002:40).

Geographically Banks Peninsula is dominated by its high, steep sided hills which rise up from the vast expanse of the Canterbury Plains. The coastline is naturally characterised by a multitude of bays and small harbours, usually backed by small, steep walled, valleys. Oashore is no exception, with a small narrow bay, flanked on both sides by the rocky cliffs of projecting headlands. The valley floor has limited flat land and this is further reduced by a small stream, which runs, slightly off-centre, down the valley. The hills, while providing a barrier to overland access, provide little shelter from the prevailing cold southerly weather systems which dominate the winter months when whaling was carried out. Today Oashore is devoid of trees or any significant vegetation other than grass or tussocks, as can be seen in Figures 2.2 and 2.3, and it is likely that the whalers were greeted with a not too dissimilar landscape. By 1843 any wood in the valley had probably already been cleared, as Peter and Elizabeth Brown, who were employed as cooks at the station for a period of three months during this year, had to resort to using whale blubber to do the cooking (Ogilvie 1994:216).

Despite its proximity to the plains Oashore has always been one of the more isolated whaling stations on the Peninsula, with the main access being by sea. Akaroa was the nearest source of supplies and while it was readily accessible by sea, a journey by land would have been best accomplished on foot. A pack trail can be seen running up the hill on the west side of the valley (visible as a zigzag line in Figure 2.3), but whether this relates to whaling or later farming activity is not known.

2.1.2 Site History

Historic records, while not as substantial as for other stations, provide important details about the running of the station and some of the whalers who worked there which would otherwise not be able to be elucidated from the material record alone. Contemporary sources include records kept by the Weller Brothers storekeeper Octavius Harwood (Ogilvie 1994) as well as written accounts from people who visited the site, including *The Peraki Log*, the journal of George Hempleman who ran the Peraki Station (Hempleman [1910]). Other sources include dated maps and charts, which may include useful information such as who the headsman was at the time and details of the layout of the station. These primary sources are currently under investigation by others involved in the 'Emergence of Pakeha Culture' project. A good general history of the region by Gordon Ogilvie *Banks Peninsula: Cradle of Canterbury*, draws from these



(Adapted from Jacomb 1998; Fig.1)

Figure 2.1 Banks Peninsula: Location of shore whaling station sites



Figure 2.2 Oashore Bay from the south-east

various sources and the following account relies largely on this work (Ogilvie 1994).

The shore whaling station at Oashore was set up at the instigation of the Weller Brothers in 1839-1840 (Ogilvie 1994). The catch around Otakou, where the Wellers had based their whaling operations since 1831 (Prickett 2002) was in decline and they were looking for new prospects to boost their sagging profits. Notes made by their storekeeper Octavius Harwood, record some of the original Oashore whalers as being Thomas Brown, Samuel Brown, and William Woods (Ogilvie 1994). Thomas Brown was headman at the recently established Timaru Station and it was probably from this base that Oashore was established. Initially Samuel Brown appears to have been in charge but by September 1841 William Woods had taken over management of the station (Ogilvie 1994:214). By this time the crew numbered twenty-four men but as yet no buildings had been constructed, suggesting that the establishment of the new venture had not been smooth sailing (Jacomb 1998:71).

Despite any teething problems and the close proximity of Ikoraki Station, established at around the same time, Oashore was successful as a commercial enterprise and yielded 28, 70, 85, 28, 45, and 53 tuns of whale oil in the years 1842 to 1847 respectively (Prickett 2002:51). When peak production was reached in 1844 the station commanded four boats and thirty-five men, which fell to just two boats and eighteen men by 1847 (Ogilvie 1994). The population was not exclusively male, with the headman William Woods at least, marrying and raising a family of four children at Oashore (Ogilvie 1994). Other whalers also had wives and children with them at Oashore. By 1847 the unabated slaughter had so reduced the numbers of whales, even to the brink of extinction with regard to the southern right whale, that the heyday of shore whaling was already over in the Banks Peninsula region and whaling quickly became secondary to other activities such as farming.

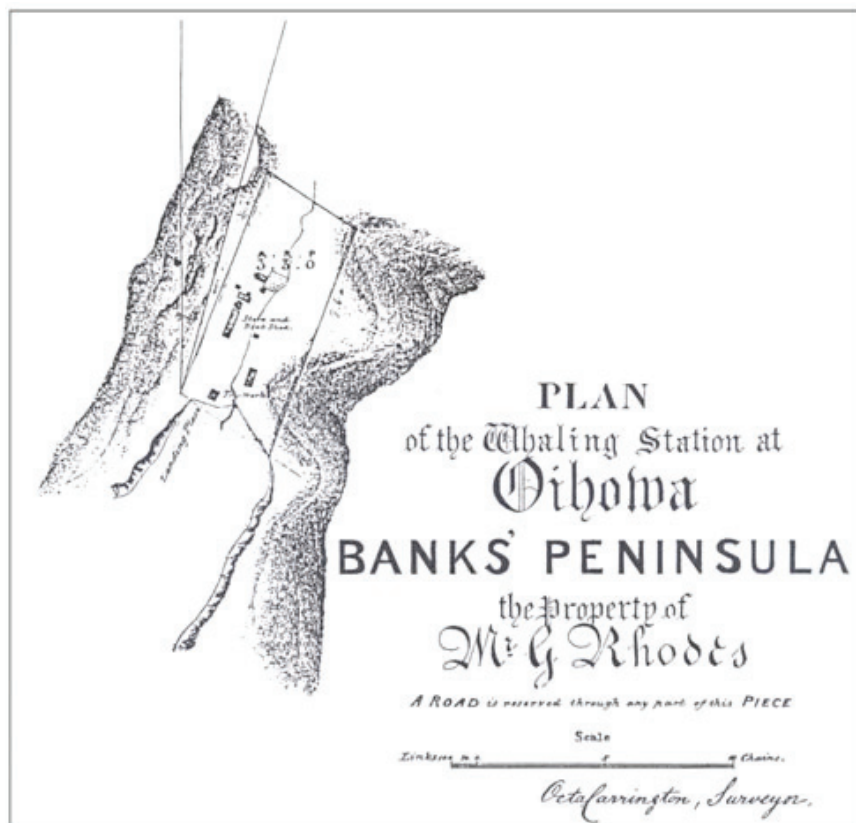
In 1848 Woods sold the whaling station to George Rhodes, who incorporated it into the Rhodes brothers' 10 125 hectare Kaituna Run, a large sheep and cattle operation. Despite decreasing returns from whaling ventures the Rhodes brothers seem to have valued the operation at Oashore and whaling continued to be carried out in the winter by Kaituna station hands for an unknown number of years (Ogilvie 1994). A survey map from 1849 by Octavius Carrington (Figure 2.4) shows several buildings and lists a store, boat shed and try-works area along with a landing place at the extreme western side of the bay (Ogilvie 1994:215). In 1875 the Rhodes brothers dissolved partnership and Kaituna was sold off in blocks, with the block containing Oashore being sold again in 1879 to the Buchanans, who added it to their existing property Kinloch (Ogilvie 1994). Under the new land policies of the Liberal government, Kinloch was cut up for closer settlement in 1906 and the new blocks ran from valley floor to floor, rather than from spur to spur, and so since this date Oashore has always had a fence cutting through the site and two owners (Ogilvie 1994). Apart from farming, Oashore has seen little impact from other activity, with two fishing huts located immediately above the beach between the two world wars being the only documented usage. The site itself had remained relatively intact until considerable damage was caused to the lower half of the site, when access was bulldozed to the beach in 1989 (Jacomb 1998).

2.1.3 The Excavation

The excavation of the Oashore shore whaling station site was carried out between the 19th of January and the 14th of February 2004. The investigation formed part of a larger project entitled *The Emergence of Pakeha Culture: Historical Archaeology of the Shore*



Figure 2.3 Oashore Bay showing the general location of all excavation areas



(From Ogilvie 1994:216)

Figure 2.4 1849 plan of the Oashore Whaling Station by the surveyor Octavius Carrington

Whalers, headed by Ian Smith from the Anthropology Department, University of Otago and Nigel Prickett from the Auckland Museum. Another excavation at the Te Hoe whaling station, Mahia Peninsula, in the North Island will be carried out in January and February 2005. The principle aim of this project is to construct a detailed picture of at least two of these early whaling communities so that we can get a better understanding of how they operated, how they adapted to life in New Zealand, and the ways in which this influenced the subsequent development of Pakeha culture. The methodology for achieving this aim combines the archaeological and historical investigation of two whaling stations, as well as examining the oral history of the whaling communities as passed down by their Maori and Pakeha descendents. As the project focuses on reconstructing the material culture of the whaling communities, archaeological investigations were focused on mapping the layout of the whaling station and excavating house or hut sites and rubbish pits, to try and build up a picture of life and activities at the station.

The site plan (Figure 2.5) shows the observable remains of the whaling station buildings, other topographical and man-made features and the areas chosen for excavation. The general location of the excavation areas is also shown in Figure 2.3. The outstanding above ground structural remains were located at the back of the site in the form of a rectangular stone walled building. This is where excavations were primarily focused, with this area being designated as Area 1. As other structural remains and areas of interest were investigated, Areas were numbered sequentially. In total 127 one metre square units were excavated, either wholly or partially at Oashore. Area 1 accounts for 44 percent of the total area excavated; Area 2 - 16 percent; Area 3 - 5 percent; Area 4 - 17 percent; Area 5 - 10 percent; Area 6 - 2 percent; and Area 7 - 6 percent.

Area 1

The building in Area 1 is a single roomed house or cottage, with outside dimensions of approximately 6.5 by 5 metres (see Figures 2.6 & 2.7). The surviving lower course of the house walls are constructed of volcanic basalt, locally available in the valley, and are approximately half a metre in width. Most of the walls still stand to a height of roughly half a metre or slightly less, with a higher section in the north-west corner of the building. The base of the walls incorporates large stones, which would have required more than one man to lift, and although most seem to be in their natural state, some facets have clearly been dressed. Smaller stones were employed in the construction of the interior of the wall to provide a more uniform surface. The interior of the building contained significant amounts of fallen wall rubble, which included yellow clay likely employed as a mortar in the construction of the original walls. In total fifty-six units were excavated in Area 1, both inside and outside of the building.

No chimney was found in Area 1, but a small hearth was located in the north-west corner of the building. Several large fragments of flat plate iron and heavier riveted sections were found in and around this small hearth, suggesting that the original fireplace may have been in the form of an iron oven or firebox, which would explain the lack of a stone-formed fireplace. The hearth and a section of riveted iron plate can clearly be seen in Figure 2.8. While the hearth is clearly part of the original occupation of the building, it appears that it was reconfigured or modified during reuse at a later period. The doorway of the building was located on the west side of the building, which runs hard along the present fence-line. The bases of two wooden posts were located on either side of a gap in the stonework in the wall on this side, confirming the presence of

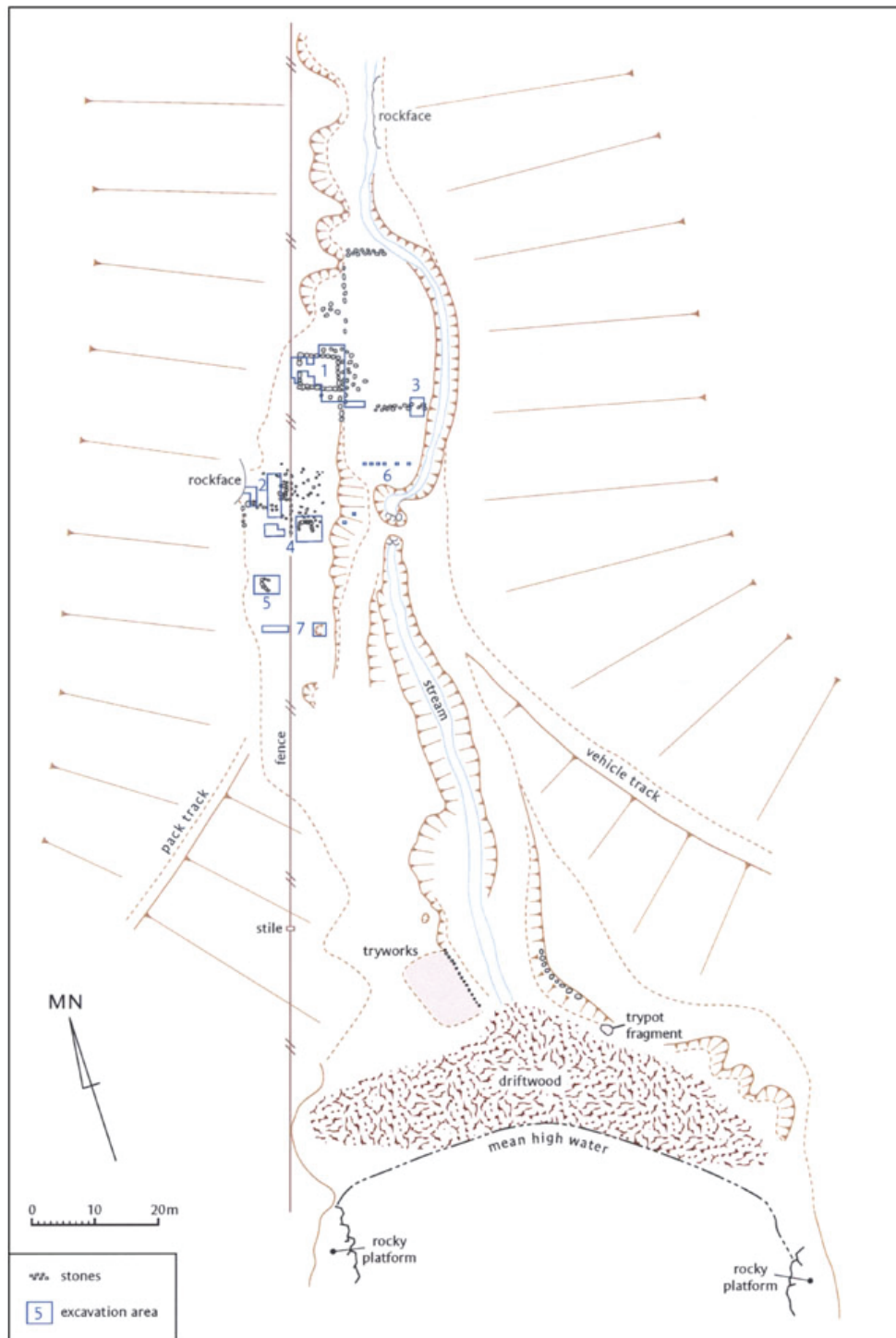


Figure 2.5 Plan of the Oashore Whaling Station Site, showing surface features and excavation areas



Figure 2.6 Area 1 from the west prior to excavation

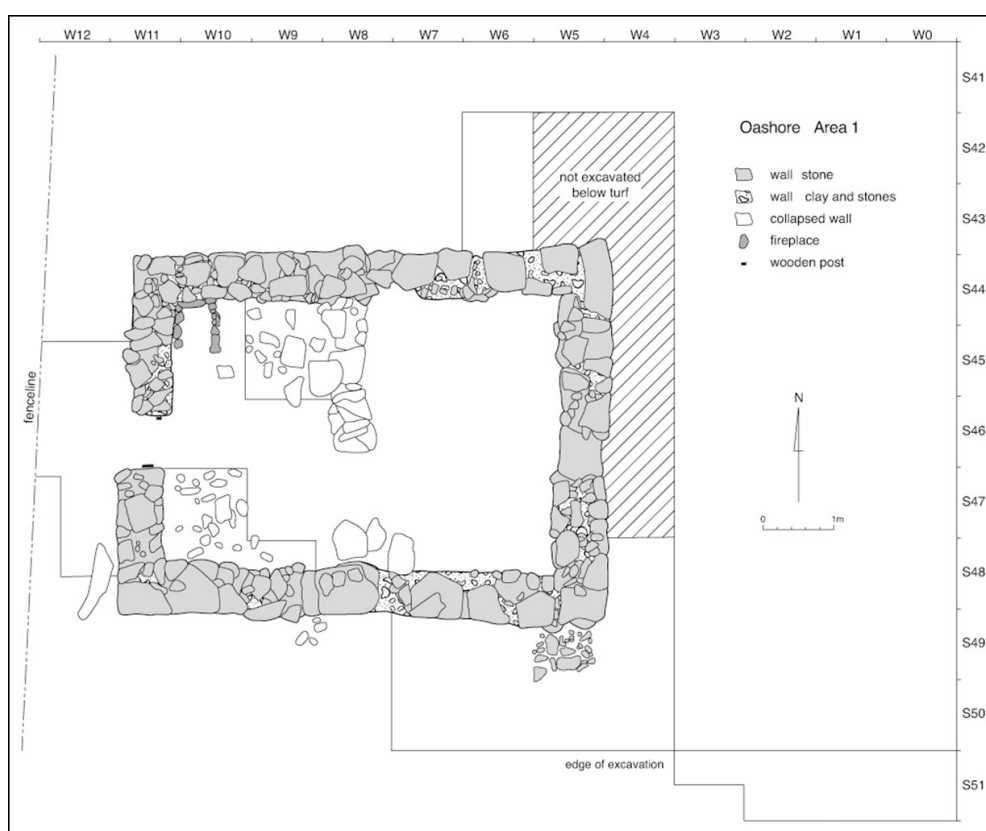


Figure 2.7 Area 1 plan

an entranceway. Other structural features included a sump located outside the south-east corner of the building.

Excavations were conducted both inside and outside the building, with artefactual material being recovered from all units. In general no major concentrations of rubbish were encountered, with most units only containing a thin scatter of artefacts. The densest concentration of material was found inside the house in and around units S45/W7 and W8 and S44/W7. Here a significantly greater number of ceramics especially were recovered, leading to the conclusion that these items had been left in the house at the time it was abandoned and subsequently preserved when the wall collapsed. Excavation in the interior of the house also proved slow going, largely due to wall rubble which contained some rather large rocks. No major stratigraphic changes were encountered either, with artefacts being encountered from just under the turf down to the natural subsoil. The matrix was also a very uniform dull brownish/yellow in colour and composed of fine loess soil, blown in from the Canterbury Plains. The only noticeable change in matrix colour was found in units S51/W1 to W3, where a buried darker soil was encountered in what was interpreted as being a garden area (Figure 2.12).

The Area 1 house occupies the prime position in the site at the back of the valley, as far away as possible from the foul smelling try-works and whale processing area just above the beach. The construction and site of the house therefore suggest that it may have been the residence of the headsman. The presence of an enclosed garden area immediately below the house also lends support to this proposition. At one time, as it has already been noted above from historic records, William Woods was living at Oashore with his wife and family. It would only make sense to have a garden if someone was living at the station all year round and they would most likely be living in the best constructed house, such as that in Area 1.

Area 2

Area 2 was the second area to be opened up for investigation and includes the tallest remnant stone fireplace at Oashore. The fireplace as it survives still stands over a metre tall and is well constructed of dressed stone (Figures 2.9 to 2.11). Twenty units were excavated including the interior of the fireplace. No remains of stone walls were found and so the main structure of the hut or house must have been made of wood or other materials. Due to the lack of structural remains and the limited scope of the excavations the exact dimensions of this building are not known. Once again little in the way of stratigraphy was encountered, with no indications of anything other than a single occupation. Like Area 1 some later material was recovered, but there was no pattern as to what depth later materials were likely to occur, with early and later items often being found together. A smaller quantity of artefactual material was also found, relative to Area 1. Fragments of firegrate were found amongst the fireplace fill, showing that it once had a grate of some sort. A large rectangular iron plate was also found in front of the fireplace (see Figure 2.10) and may possibly also have been used in the fireplace at some stage.

Area 3

Area 3 encompasses a garden area which is enclosed at either end by a low stone wall, now visible as alignments of stones rather than recognisable walls (see Figure 2.5 and Figure 2.13). The enclosed area is also shown on Carrington's 1849 map (Figure 2.4) and is interpreted as a garden area. The stone walls may have originally been designed to keep animals out or conversely to keep them in and so either way the area is



Figure 2.8 Small hearth in the north-west corner of the Area 1 building



Figure 2.9 Area 2 fireplace and chimney from the west



Figure 2.10 Area 2, showing large iron plate in front of the fireplace

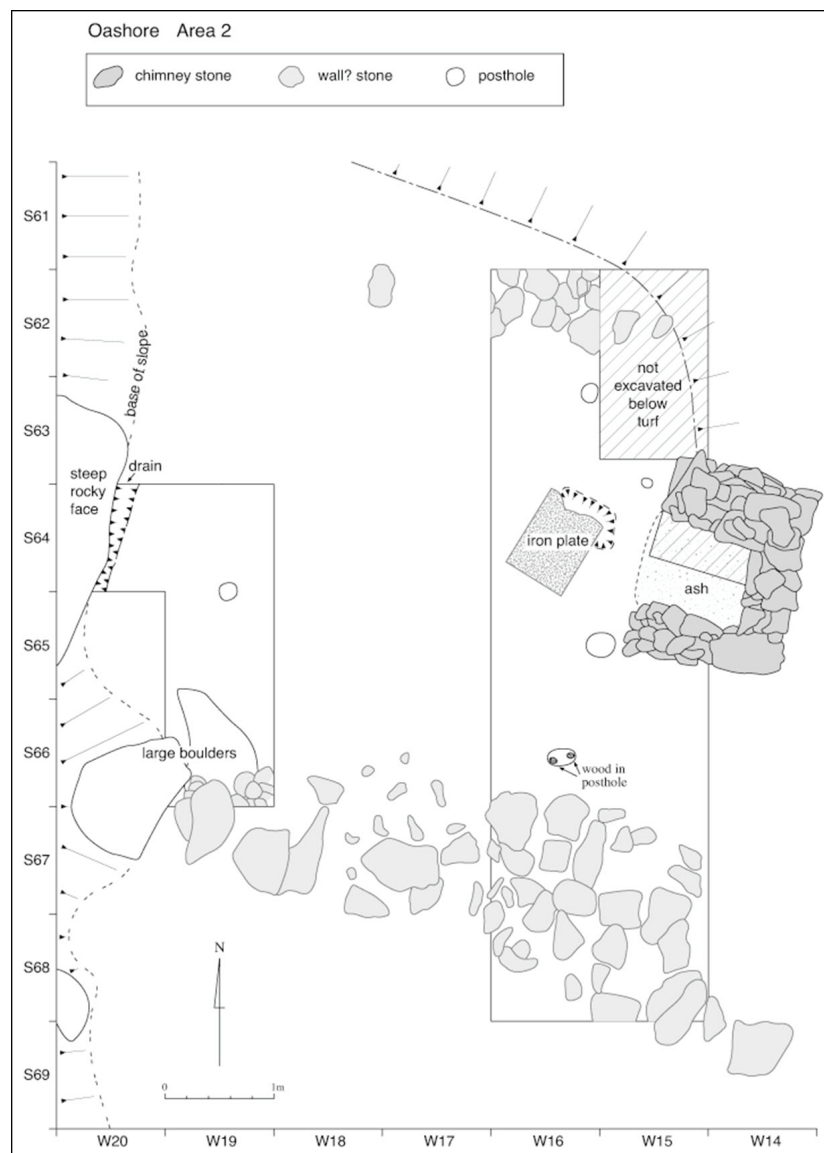


Figure 2.11 Area 2 plan



Figure 2.12 Profile showing darker buried garden soil; Area 1

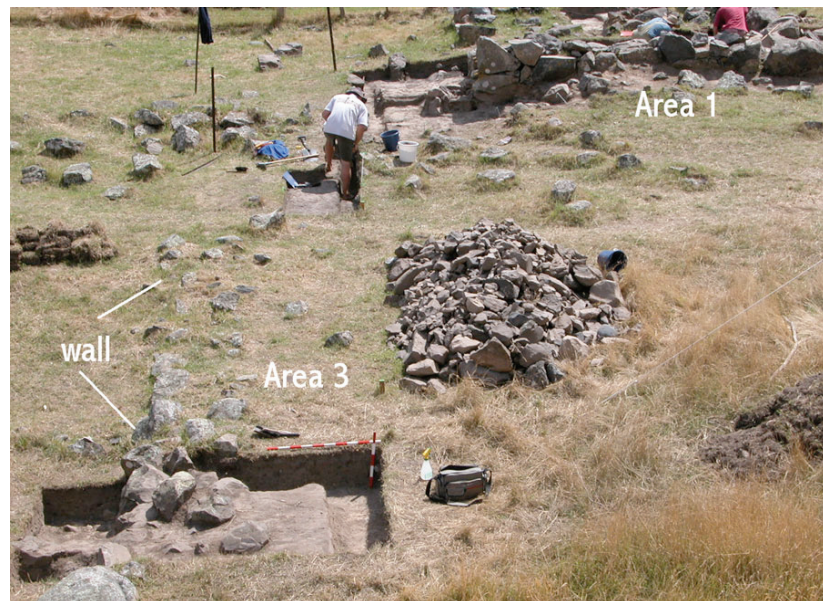


Figure 2.13 Area 3 & 1 from the east; note the low stone wall bordering the garden area

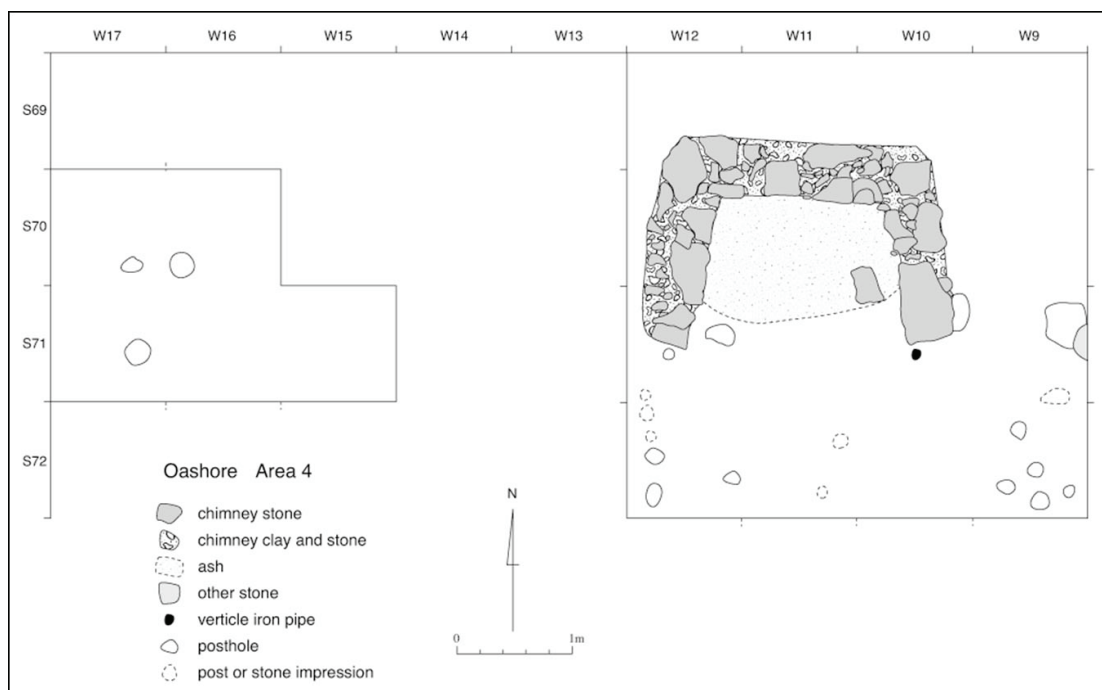


Figure 2.14 Area 4 plan

associated with food production. The area is clearly related to the stone cottage in Area 1 and was investigated to better examine this relationship and its function.

A small area of just six units, including a section of the wall, was excavated in the south-eastern corner of the garden alongside the stream. A small number of artefacts, mainly represented by smaller fragments were recovered. The soil was mixed with pebbles and stones, with the artefacts spread throughout the matrix. This is what would be expected of a garden area, with small fragments of artefacts and soil all mixed up together. The profile of the garden soil can be seen more clearly in a test trench dug at the eastern extremity of Area 1 (Figure 2.12). Below the turf and topsoil there is a darker layer of soil which contained small quantities of charcoal and other artefactual material.

Area 4

Area 4 contained the remains of the widest fireplace of any surviving at Oashore (Figure 2.14). Although not as complete above ground as that in Area 2, the inside of the fireplace in Area 4 is approximately 1.65 metres wide by 1.15 metres deep (Figure 2.15). The fireplace is constructed of dressed stone in the same fashion as that in Area 2. Carrington's map shows an asymmetrical building, with the fireplace set slightly to the east, in roughly the same place as Area 4. The size of the fireplace led to this building being interpreted as a possible cookhouse, or at least holding some communal function. The uniform matrix of the Oashore site meant that postholes were very difficult to identify, as the fill appeared exactly the same as the surrounding matrix. When the soil was damp however, postholes showed up as a slightly darker colour in both plan and profile view and the soil was significantly softer. Postholes were discovered on either side of the fireplace as well as to the extreme east and west of the excavated area. While no clear pattern can be defined, the postholes seem to support the existence of a wooden asymmetrical structure as shown in Carrington's map.

Area 4 also contained a relative abundance of artefactual material. Most artefactual categories, such as ceramics and clay tobacco pipes, are represented by very small sherds. The most complete item of whaling gear, a harpoon head with a section of intact shaft, was also recovered from Area 4.

Area 5

Area 5 was one of the last areas to be investigated and many of the twelve units opened up were only partially excavated (Figure 2.16). Above ground the presence of a building was only marked by a jumble of stones roughly forming the shape of a fireplace. The construction of the fireplace differed from that in Areas 2 and 4 in that water rolled and natural rocks were used, with little sign of stones having been dressed in any fashion. It is possible that this hut was constructed earlier than the other buildings or at least more hastily possibly during the peak years in the mid 1840s to accommodate extra workers. The excavations were focused around the fireplace and so the edges of the building and its dimensions were not discovered.

Despite its inauspicious appearance before excavation the Area 5 fireplace was found to be better preserved in its original state. This included decorative elements such as the juvenile whale rib used at the front of the fireplace to form the hearth (Figure 2.17). An epiphyseal plate of whale vertebra was also used to face the left side of the fireplace (Figure 2.18) but unfortunately it had already been removed before the rest of the fireplace was exposed. Artefactual material from Area 5 was also characterised by having no obviously later or modern material included. The hut is very close to the side of the valley and it is possible that Area 5 was buried very quickly by soil eroding down



Figure 2.15 Area 4 fireplace after excavation



Figure 2.16 Area 5 plan



Figure 2.17 Area 5 fireplace after excavation



Figure 2.18 Whale vertebrae epiphyseal plate



Figure 2.19 Area 7 unit S86/W18; looking down on the base of the wooden slab wall of the boatshed

the steep hillside after it was abandoned, effectively preserving this earlier material undisturbed.

Area 6

Area 6 refers to a series of shovel test pits in the slope above the stream shown in the site plan (Figure 2.5). Along the bank below the main areas of investigation there were several areas where artefactual material was exposed, mainly in the form of larger pieces of iron. A series of small test pits were dug to determine whether any rubbish pits or other concentrations of material could be located. Very little was found and no further excavations were conducted in this area.

Area 7

Area 7 was located in the area marked on Carrington's map as the 'boat shed'. The aim was to try and locate an edge of the building to better understand its construction and size. One four by four metre excavation was conducted on the east side of the fence with little result. Another four by one metre trench on the other side of the fence was successful in locating the edge of the building. Part of the base of a wooden slab wall can be seen in Figure 2.19, as can an artefact of copper sheathing sticking out of the side of the unit. This conforms to photographs of boatsheds, such as that from Island Bay, which shows a roughly constructed wooden building (Jacomb 1998: Fig.14). Fewer domestic artefacts, such as glass and ceramics, were found in Area 7, where objects were mainly of either copper or iron.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Introduction

All the materials recovered from the Oashore Bay excavation were transported to the Anthropology Department, University of Otago. Before any sorting or cleaning occurred all bags of artefactual material and other artefacts were catalogued. This involved giving each bag or item a unique code (for example OAS 1 – for Oashore bag 1) and then entering the provenance and excavation details into a computer database for each item. All artefacts, except for ferrous metal and delicate items, were then washed and dried. Ferrous metal artefacts were dry brushed to remove loose dirt and where an item was more heavily encrusted with dirt more vigorous means were employed to chip or pick away the accretion, without unduly damaging the artefact.

Gross sorting of artefacts into basic material classes also occurred at this stage. Material was cleaned and sorted by excavation area and was placed in boxes labelled with the area and material, for example, 'Area 1 Glass'. Bags which contained mixed material were also sorted into their component classes, with any new bags being labelled with the code from the parent bag. No attempt was made to separate any modern material out from the assemblage at this stage.

For the purposes of initial analysis all material was treated as belonging to a single assemblage, as was initially suggested by the stratigraphy of the excavation. Artefacts were generally analysed according to material class, with further divisions being made where appropriate. Artefacts of which there were only a few or single examples, or which were of special interest, were placed in a class of 'specials'. Miscellaneous items which were of little interest were categorised as 'other'.

All measurements and recordings of artefacts were taken using standard laboratory equipment. Dial callipers were used for recording lengths and diameters *etcetera*, while electronic scales were used for weights. All variables and measurements were initially

recorded on data sheets, with the information then being entered into a computer database. Where it was deemed useful all artefacts in a class, for example ceramics, were examined but with materials such as ferrous metal, only artefacts which could be readily identified or would contribute to an understanding of the material culture of the Oashore whalers were analysed.

2.2.2 Treatment of Material Classes

Ceramics

Ceramics represent one of the more numerous and potentially useful categories of artefact in the Oashore assemblage and were subjected to detailed analysis. Attributes for each sherd recorded were: the type of body; glaze; decoration; pattern and vessel form; along with size, portion present, and backmarks. To try and identify any patterns or manufacturers represented in the assemblage a wide range of reference works were consulted. For blue-on-white decorated ceramics specialist reference works such as Coysh and Henrywood's *The Dictionary of Blue and White Printed Pottery* are available, although they are far from inclusive (Coysh & Henrywood 1982; 1989). For transfer-printed designs that were more commonly produced in other colours however, very little information has been published. An online database, the 'New Zealand Historical Ceramic Database', compiled by Simon Bickler contains a great deal of information regarding ceramic patterns found in a range of historical sites in New Zealand, which includes photos where available (bickler.co.nz/china/index.php). Also highly useful are excavation reports from sites that have large ceramic assemblages, such as the Mechanics Institute (Macready & Goodwyn 1990). Despite the variety of material available very few transfer-printed designs were identified, which would be an invaluable aid to dating the ceramics and the assemblage as a whole.

All sherds were also weighed and counted to establish distribution patterns for ceramics between excavation areas. For counts 'NISP' (Number of Individual Specimens) was employed as a means to gather the raw data, which when combined with other recorded attributes could be used to calculate the MNV (Minimum Number of Vessels) for the number of ceramic vessels represented in the assemblage. To ensure numbers were not artificially inflated, all the ceramics were treated as a single assemblage. Only sherds, or groups of sherds, which could not possibly belong to another vessel were assigned an 'MNV' value. To aid in this process and to more accurately reconstruct vessel forms, vessels represented by groups of matching sherds were partially reassembled.

Clay Tobacco Pipes

Clay tobacco pipes were treated separately from ceramic vessels. Pipe fragments were measured, the portion present recorded, and any other attributes such as the presence of maker's marks or decoration recorded. All fragments were counted and weighed.

Glass

Glass was separated into the categories of bottle glass and 'other' glass. The 'other' glass category included miscellaneous fragments which were clearly not bottle glass, including some melted fragments. All glass artefacts were weighed, counted and the colour and portion present recorded. Other attributes, such as whether the glass had been melted, were also recorded. For bottle glass attributes of style and manufacturing process were also recorded. This relates especially to top and base fragments, as these

portions generally exhibit the most diagnostic features. Although middle glass, such as moulded patterned glass, from salad-oil bottles, for example, can also be diagnostic. For flat glass thickness was also recorded, as was the presence of any original edge on 'other' glass fragments.

The MNV for the bottle glass assemblage was calculated by comparing all top and base fragments and in some cases non-diagnostic portions. Generally the inclusion of non-diagnostic portions in the calculation of minimum numbers is not seen as being as reliable as just using diagnostic portions (Grogan 1997:61). Usually, once glass has been sorted into groups based on colour, all diagnostic top and base portions greater than half are counted and the MNV for each colour group is the higher of the two numbers. In this case however, the total number of diagnostic portions was so small that each top and base fragment could be examined to determine whether it could possibly have come from another vessel in the assemblage. Moulded middle glass fragments from a salad-oil type bottle were also given an MNV value of one, as none of the aqua coloured top and base fragments matched this type of bottle. For example the MNV of twelve aqua coloured vessels is represented by both top, base, and middle fragments, rather than just the number of either tops or bases.

Clothing and Footwear

Buttons were dealt with as a group, rather than separately by material of manufacture. The thickness and diameter of each button was measured and attributes regarding manufacturing technique were recorded. Marks stamped on metal buttons were also recorded. Bone buttons were compared with the forms of bone buttons from other assemblages to ensure that the material was indeed bone, as some had been subjected to burning and were grey in colour, rather than a shade of yellow or brown as would be expected.

Items relating to footwear made of leather were examined for details of manufacturing technique and style. Iron items relating to footwear, such as heel plates, were measured and weighed, when they were identified. Due to the poor preservation of many iron artefacts some fragmentary examples may not have been identified.

Metal Artefacts

Items of copper alloy and brass were separated into categories of fastenings and identifiable objects or miscellaneous. Fastenings were subdivided into categories representing the range present in the assemblage, for example sheathing tacks, rosehead nails, and screws *etcetera*. For all fastenings the portion present (either head, shank, point, or whole), length (where appropriate) and weight were recorded. Nails and spikes were differentiated on the basis of shank girth or diameter as well as length, with spikes having a minimum shank diameter of about 10mm and minimum length of about 120mm. Minimum numbers for each type of fastening were calculated by counting the number of head and point portions, taking the highest number, and adding it to the number of whole examples in each category. Other copper alloy artefacts included fragments of copper sheathing, along with miscellaneous artefacts of either copper alloy or brass. These artefacts were weighed, counted and identified where possible.

Ferrous metal constituted the largest group of artefacts in the Oashore assemblage both by number and volume. All ferrous metal items are subject to corrosion, resulting in concretions of dirt and rust which proved difficult and time consuming to remove and hindered identification of objects. Initial analysis of the iron assemblage was carried out by Rod Jansen, who sorted all ferrous metal artefacts into five general groups. These were: fastenings; iron objects; wire; flat plate metal; and amorphous or miscellaneous artefacts. All artefacts were weighed and counted, and then the data was entered into a computer database. Minimum numbers for iron fastenings were not calculated, due to

the poor state of preservation and difficulties in assigning artefacts to specific categories.

Specials

Artefacts placed in the 'specials' category included one-of-a-kind objects and other artefacts which did not fit neatly into other general groups. All were counted and weighed where appropriate, with other attributes being recorded on a case by case basis. Artefacts in this category include two iron harpoon heads, ammunition and gun parts. Also included here were artefacts which were obviously of later origin, such as a plastic comb and 1903 silver three pence piece. Many specials were subjected to further cleaning where this helped to aid identification. For example an iron padlock was not identified as such until further dirt and corrosion had been removed. Once items had been initially catalogued and accounted for, many artefacts in the specials group were assigned to separate specialist categories, such as 'whalecraft', 'household items' and 'munitions'. A full description of all the artefacts analysed follows in Chapter 3.

3. The Artefacts

3.1 Introduction

The Oashore artefact assemblage (exclusive of faunal remains, wood, and charcoal) is relatively small, weighing just over 92kg. As shown in Tables 3.1 and 3.2 the assemblage is dominated, in both weight and NISP, by ferrous metal artefacts. Many artefacts in this category are highly corroded and difficult to identify and even when this is achieved, items such as nails and spikes are not particularly useful as temporal indicators or for describing how the Oashore Whalers lived. For analytical and descriptive purposes, the smaller and more diverse assemblages of ceramics, clay tobacco pipes and to a lesser extent glass are more useful.

Tables 1 and 2 show that the majority of the assemblage comes from Area 1, which accounts for 44 percent of the total area excavated. Area 1 is where the most substantial above ground archaeological remains were located, in the form of low stone walls of a rectangular building, and so it is where excavations were primarily focused. Area 1 had a higher concentration of artefactual deposits and the greatest range of artefacts, which is due in part to the presence of a significant amount of later material. Consequently the artefact analysis relies largely on material from Area 1, although the other Areas are equally important for the overall picture of the material culture represented by the assemblage.

Table 3.1 Distribution of general artefact categories by weight

Category	Area							Totals (g)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Glass	3869	106	227	1469	1459	-	224	7354
Ceramics	3566	65	59	136	7	1	13	3847
Clay Tobacco Pipes	135	12	11	87	13		1	259
Household Items	280	-	-	27	11	-	-	318
Munitions	127	10	-	2	57	-	-	196
Other Artefacts	729	271	73	750	104	-	187	2114
Fastenings	8404	1934	67	2001	534	-	400	13340
Other Metal	36807	8143	326	4234	9446	-	6189	65145
Totals (g)	53917	10541	763	8706	11631	1	7014	92 213g

Table 3.2 Distribution of general artefact categories by NISP

Category	Area							Totals (NISP)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Glass	784	36	99	285	313	-	37	1554
Ceramics	406	34	32	85	3	1	2	563
Clay Tobacco Pipes	107	14	9	72	9	-	1	213
Household Items	18	-	-	1	1	-	-	20
Munitions	51	7	-	2	3	-	-	63
Clothing Hardware	18	-	-	2	-	-	-	20
Other Artefacts	57	28	14	6	23	-	2	130
Fastenings	872	181	14	202	126	-	7	1402
Other Metal	1235	270	24	447	270	-	94	2340
Total (NISP)	3548	570	192	1102	748	1	143	6305

3.2 Ceramics

3.2.1 Introduction

Ceramics form an important part of any historic archaeological assemblage. Ceramics have a number of attributes which can be used for categorisation and quantification of assemblages: such as body-type; ware; glaze; decoration and form. After identification, these attributes can then be used to determine periods of manufacture for specific pieces or all or part of the assemblage. Ceramics can also be used as indicators of economic status by employing schemes such as that devised by Miller, for the economic scaling of English creamware produced between 1787 and 1880 (Miller:2000). Divisions in material status may well have existed at Oashore but nothing meaningful can be argued for along these lines, due to the small size of the assemblage. With the Oashore assemblage, ceramics have been analysed primarily to identify the range and forms of decoration and vessel types, and to identify the periods of manufacture represented. To this end patterns and decorative techniques were described, along with any manufacturers' marks and vessel forms reconstructed where possible.

Table 3.3 Oashore ceramics assemblage

	NISP	MNV
Earthenware	559	41
Stoneware	3	2
Porcelain	1	1
Totals	563	45

The ceramics assemblage from Oashore is dominated by earthenware, with only three stoneware sherds and a single piece of porcelain being recovered. Area 1 yielded 72%, Areas 2 and 3 about 6% respectively and Area 4 - 15%. The earthenware assemblage is in turn composed almost entirely of tableware. Other wares may be present, but the fragmentary nature of many of the ceramics makes identification difficult.

3.2.2 Vessel Forms

Most ceramic sherds in the Oashore assemblage could only be assigned to general vessel categories, (see Table 3.4), with very few pieces being complete enough to reconstruct the exact form. In many cases, it was possible to identify a sherd as having come from a plate, but whether this was a soup plate, dinner plate or side plate, is almost impossible to determine with many vessels being represented by only one or two fragmentary sherds.

Plates and Saucers

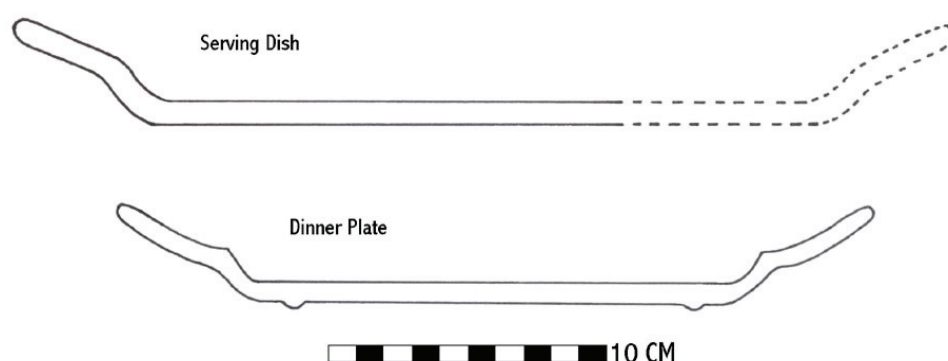
Several vessels which were partially reassembled were complete enough for the exact vessel forms to be reconstructed and are illustrated in Figures 3.1 to 3.4 below. All come from Area 1 and a range of manufacture periods are represented. Three examples of the dinner plate and one example of the serving dish illustrated below were found.

Table 3.4 Ceramic vessel types - MNV

Vessel Type	Earthenware	Stoneware	Porcelain	Total
Plate	14			14
Serving Dish	1			1
Bowl	2			2
Saucer	2			2
Cup	6		1	7
Jug	3			3
Bottle		1		1
Container		1		1
Unidentified	14			14
Total	<u>42</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>45</u>

The serving dish was oval with a flat base, while the dinner plates were circular with foot-rings on their base. Both vessel forms have scalloped edges. The dinner plates are approximately 275 mm in diameter. The serving dish, of which only two-thirds is preserved, is approximately 340 mm long by 275 mm wide. All were decorated with the 'Asiatic Pheasant' transfer-print.

Two examples of edgebanded saucers were found, both being outwardly similar in appearance but with slight differences in form (Figure 3.2). Both have foot-rings and are 165 mm in diameter, but 3.2 B is slightly deeper. Both also vary in the thickness of the walls and are decorated slightly differently. The central circular depression in the vessels, visible in Figures 3.14 and 3.15, clearly identify them as deep sided saucers, rather than shallow bowls.

**Figure 3.1 Vessel forms, 'Asiatic Pheasant' tableware**

Cups and Jugs

Fragments of at least six cups were recovered, with only one being complete enough to reconstruct the style and form. The cup in Figure 3.3 has rather thick walls and is very plain and utilitarian in form. Likewise fragments of at least three jugs were recovered, with only one vessel form being able to be reconstructed. Figure 3.4 is a milk jug which

is about three-quarters complete. The jug has rather thin straight walls, which taper in towards the top and a pedestal style base.

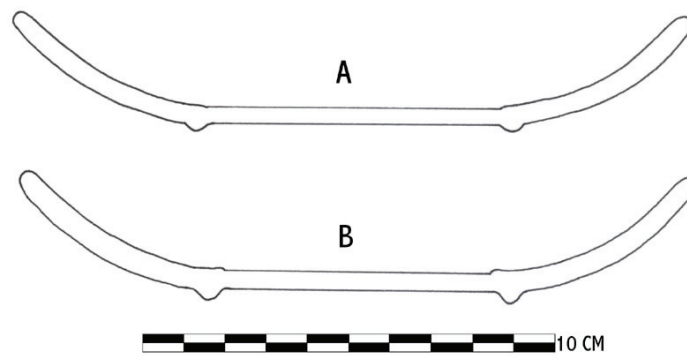


Figure 3.2 Vessel forms of two edgebanded saucers

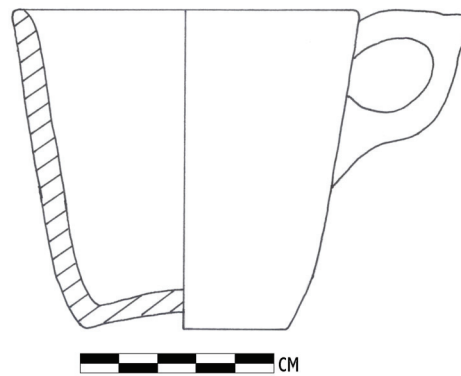


Figure 3.3 Vessel form of plain cup

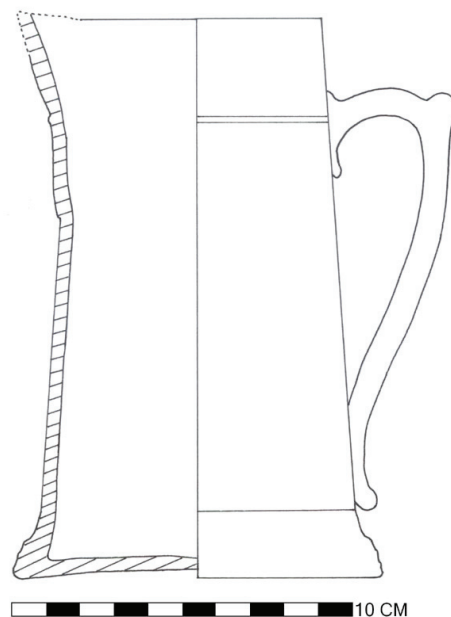


Figure 3.4 Vessel form of milk jug

3.2.3 Decoration Types

Under-glaze Transfer-printed

Just over half of all the vessels were decorated with under-glaze transfer prints. The predominant colour scheme is blue-on-white, with red, purple, green and brown being less common (see Table 3.6). The development of the transfer printing process occurred in the latter half of the eighteenth century, allowing for the mass production of cheap earthenware vessels decorated with a multitude of complex patterns and designs (Lucas 2003:129). Only two specific patterns however were able to be identified, although many other patterns and designs are present but represented by only single or very fragmentary sherds, making identification difficult.

Table 3.5 Minimum number of earthenware vessels by decoration type

Earthenware	UGTP	UGTP & Handpainted	Edgebanding & Hairlining	Shell-Edged	Polychrome	Plain	Total
Plates	9			3		2	14
Serving Dish	1						1
Bowls	1				1		2
Saucers			2				2
Cups	4				1	1	6
Jugs		1			2		3
Unidentified	7				2	5	14
Total	22	1	2	3	6	8	42

Table 3.6 Minimum number of under-glaze transfer printed vessels by colour

UGTP Colour	Blue	Red	Purple	Green	Brown	Total
MNI	15	3	2	1	1	22

Identified Patterns

Willow Pattern

Willow pattern was one of only two transfer-printed patterns able to be identified. Only one sherd shows the characteristic elements of Willow, with all the rest being either rim fragments or very small (Figure 3.5). Figure 3.5 A, has the two birds flying towards each other in the centre, with the orange tree and part of the roof of the tea-house visible to the right, part of the willow tree at the bottom and part of the fir tree and temple to the right. The only main element missing is the bridge, with three figures on it, which would have been depicted below the willow tree.

Willow pattern was first developed by Josiah Spode in the late 18-century and incorporated various motifs based on Chinese designs (Copeland 1980). Willow pattern was popular throughout the nineteenth-century and there are many variations, which

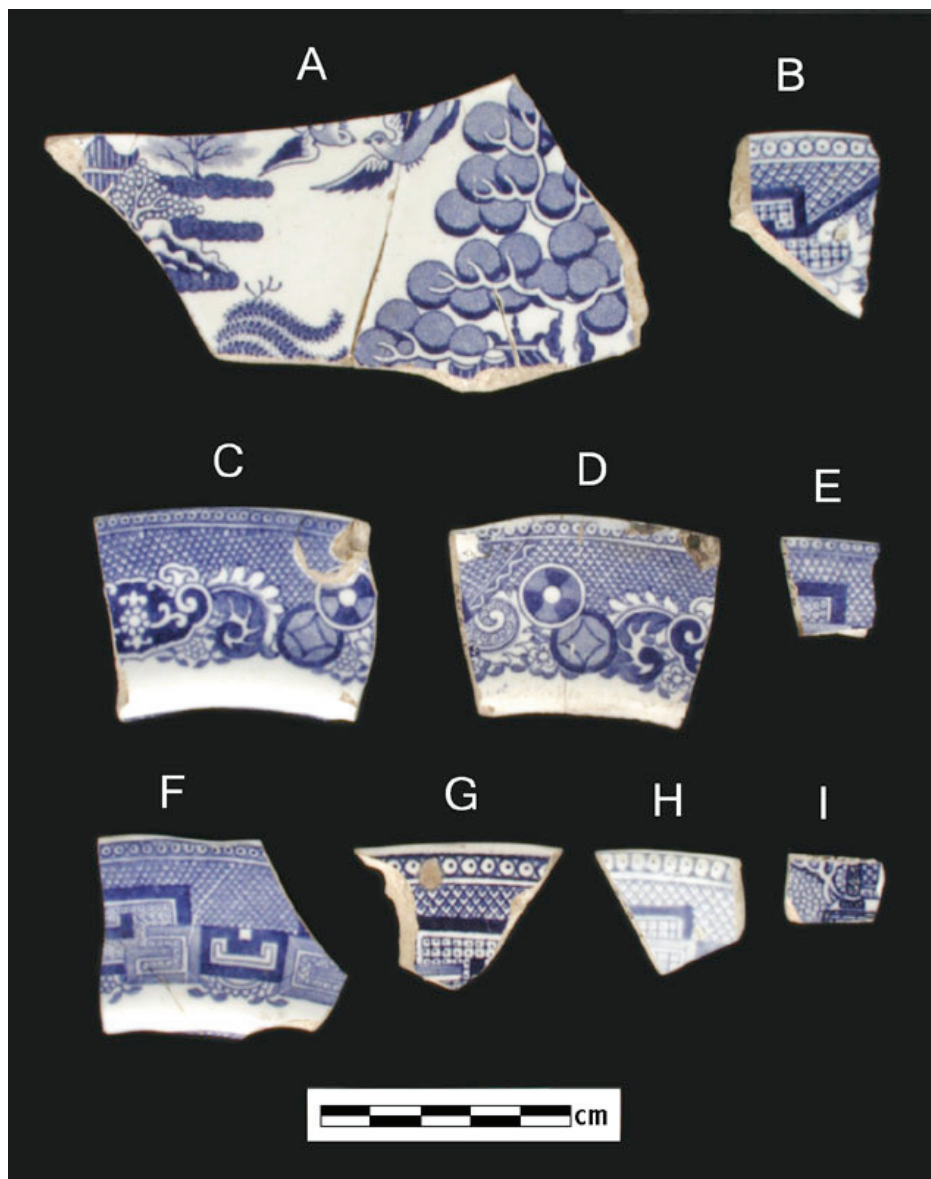


Figure 3.5 'Willow Pattern' transfer-printed ceramics

incorporate the central motifs of Willow. A minimum number of four plates decorated in the Willow pattern are represented in the Oashore assemblage. All are in a similar shade of blue, with the exception of 3.5 H, which is considerably lighter. Fragments of Willow were found in Areas 1 and 4, as well as in the bank of the stream, which runs below the main buildings. The transfer-printing has a crisp clear quality which is indicative of an early to mid nineteenth-century date. Later in the nineteenth century a greater range of tones of blue were used, including dark flow-blues where the pattern is often difficult to discern, and in general the quality of the prints declined as mass production reached new heights (Copeland 1980).

Asiatic Pheasant

The only other identified pattern was 'Asiatic Pheasants', represented by three dinner plates and one serving dish, all in blue-on-white. These are discussed further below.

Other Blue Transfer-Printed Patterns

A significant number of small blue and white transfer-printed sherds were recovered, notably from Area 4, making both the identification of the vessel forms and patterns difficult. A minimum number of eight vessels are represented in this group. Figure 3.6 shows a range of these earthenware sherds, with A - F probably all being plate fragments, K and N from teacups and G - J, L and M being unidentified. A range of patterns are present from floral based designs, such as D and K, to more geometric designs, like B and G. H and I are two rim sherds decorated with vegetative patterns and M has a scenic pattern with part of a building. Many patterns are represented by single or very small sherds; however patterns such as that illustrated in Figure 3.7 are still unable to be identified. The vessel is probably a cup, although the surviving portion has no handle and could just as easily be a sugar bowl, such as that illustrated in Prickett (1994:Figure 2.44 - B). The rim of the vessel is decorated with a geometric border design, which is repeated on both the exterior and interior. The exterior depicts a building of some sort, set amid trees and other shrubbery, while the interior clearly shows a man on horseback, with another man standing beside him and an 'oriental' style building in the background. These 'oriental' elements suggest that the pattern is inspired by a place or event in India or somewhere else in Asia Minor, although a search of the available literature on blue-on-white transfer-printed patterns failed to provide a likely match for these specific elements. Without identification of the patterns, these sherds cannot be dated precisely.

Transfer-Prints in Other Colours

Until the 1820s transfer-prints were almost exclusively in various shades of blue and it was not until the late 1820s that red, brown, green, and purple designs began to be produced in any number (Majewski & O'Brien 1987:145). These new colours were most popular during the 1830s and early 1840s, and enjoyed a small resurgence later in the nineteenth-century (Samford 2000).

Red Transfer-Prints

A small number of transfer-printed sherds in red were recovered from Areas 1, 2, and 4 representing a minimum of three vessels. Figure 3.8 A - C shows fragments of a cup decorated in an unidentified stylised floral pattern. Figure 3.8 D shows part of what is probably a cup, with a rowboat in a choppy lake or sea depicted on it, a motif that might have appealed to a whaler. Figures 3.8 E - G are decorated in patterns which appear to be mainly floral in inspiration.

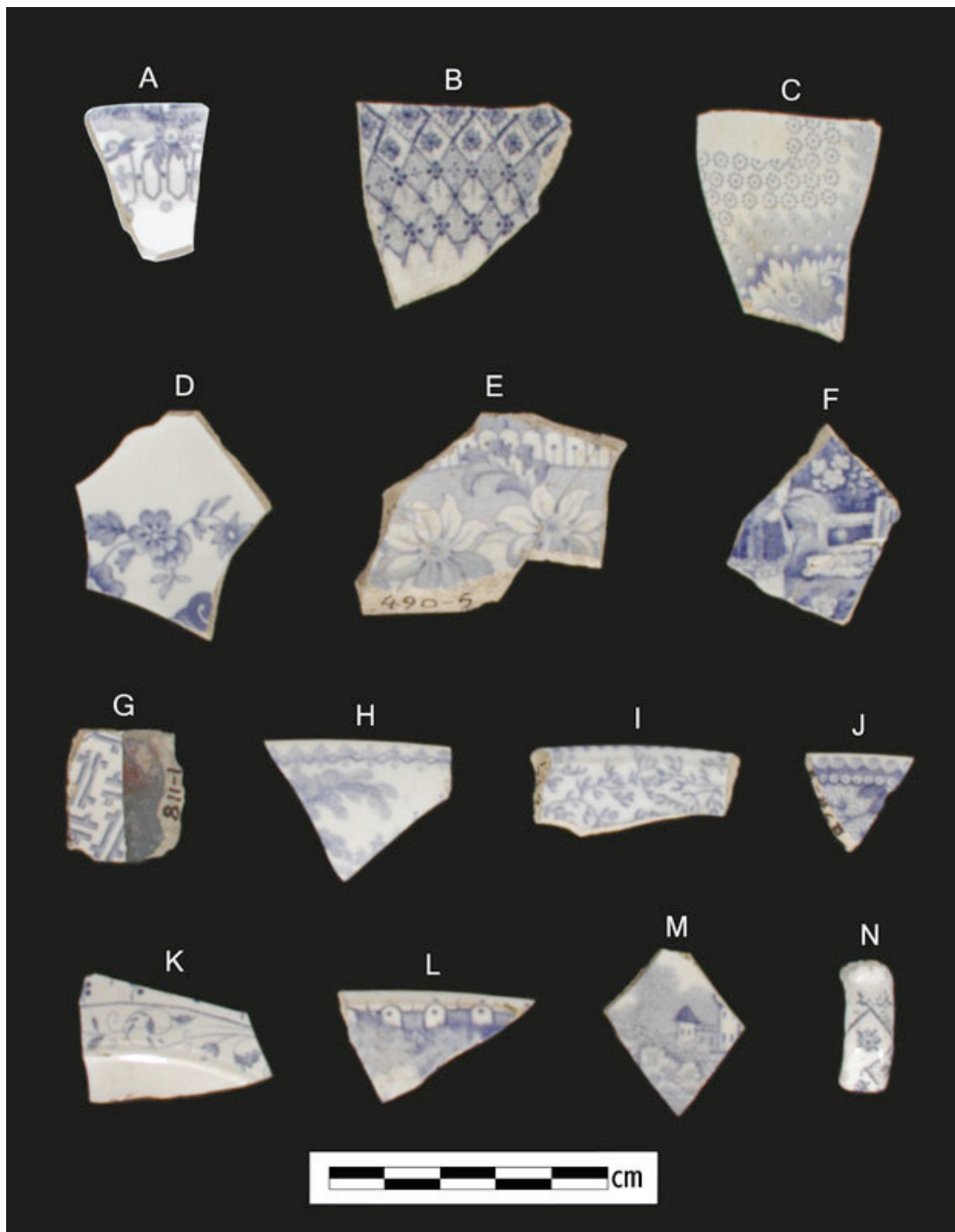


Figure 3.6 Unidentified blue transfer-printed patterns

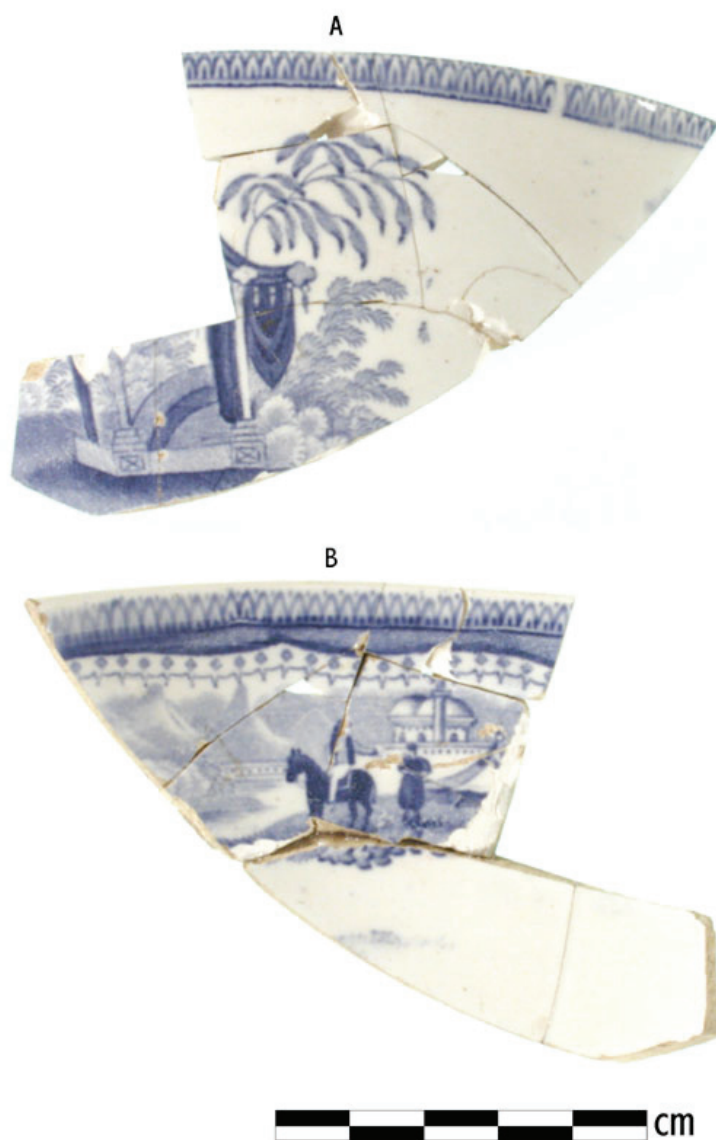


Figure 3.7 Blue transfer-printed cup or bowl (A exterior; B interior)

Purple Transfer-Prints

Two purple transfer-printed sherds were found in Area 4, representing two vessels. Figure 3.8 H is part of a plate and shows the torso and legs of a man, wearing a coat and breeches, carrying a bucket in his right hand. Figure 3.8 I is in a different shade of purple and comes from an unidentified vessel type.

Brown Transfer-Printed

Only two brown transfer-printed sherds were recovered, both from Area 4, and most likely from the same vessel. The larger piece is illustrated in Figure 3.8 J and shows a man, who is oriental in appearance, holding a parasol or something similar. This sherd is probably from a cup.

Green Transfer-Prints

A minimum number of two green transfer-printed vessels are present, represented by the three sherds illustrated in Figure 3.8 K - M.

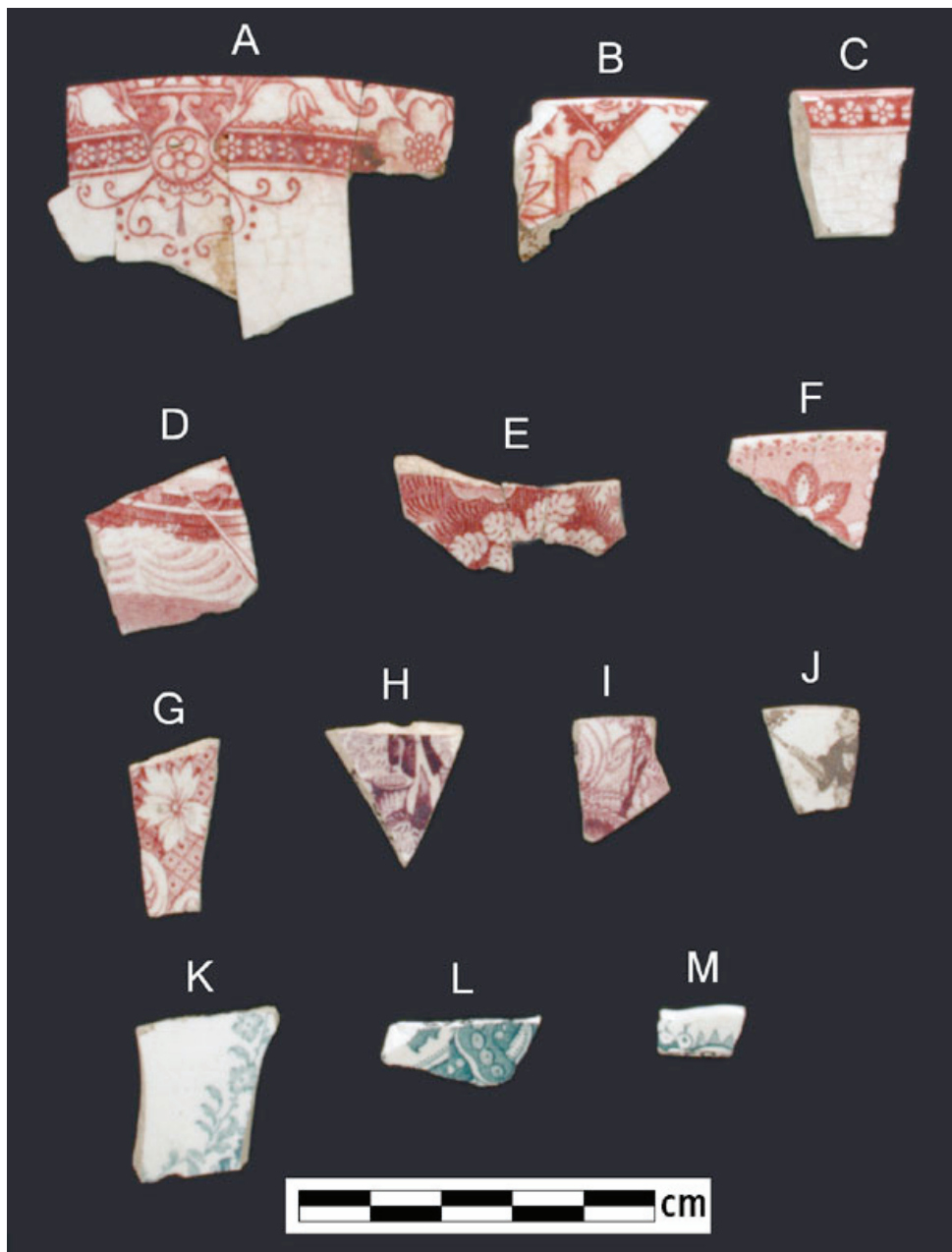


Figure 3.8 Red, purple, brown, & green transfer prints

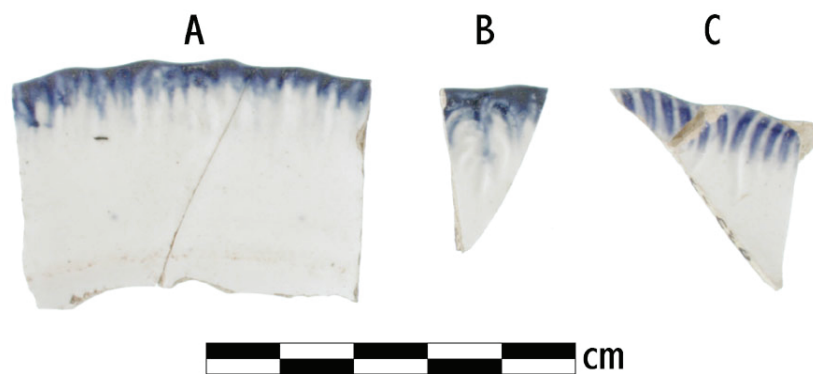


Figure 3.9 Shell edge decorated ware

Shell Edged Ware

Three shell edge decorated sherds, from Area 1 and Area 4 were recovered, representing a minimum number of three plates (Figure 3.9). The plates have scalloped edges and are decorated around the rim with a design of impressed curved lines, which has been coloured in underglaze blue. The moulding on all three plates differs slightly and the colour of 3.9 C is considerably lighter than 3.9 A and B. The shell edge pattern was one of the most common decorative techniques found on late eighteenth-century ceramics and continued to be produced in large quantities in the early part of the nineteenth-century (Sussman 2000:38). In New Zealand shell-edge ware is more common in early nineteenth-century historic contexts and is generally accepted as an early marker (Best 2002:44). Miller has studied the variations in shell edge decoration and has found that impressed curved lines on a scalloped rim, was a style used between 1795 and 1845 and was most popular between 1802 and 1832 (Stelle 2001). These sherds, therefore, are most likely to have been manufactured before 1845.

Handpainted and Underglaze Transfer Printed

A set of fragments from Area 1, were reassembled into a milk jug which is more than three-quarters complete (Figures 3.4 and 3.10 - 3.12). It is made of fine-bodied, white coloured earthenware, which may be an early form of stone china. In the first quarter of the 19th-century "stone chinas were vitrified or semi-vitrified heavy dense wares" and "were heavily decorated, commonly combining painting or enamelling with printing" (Miller 2000:95). The decoration is in a *chinoiserie* style in what is referred to by dealers as "Tea House pattern" (Williams 1978:572). The method of decoration is typical of such wares combining underglaze printing and painting in a dark blue, with an enamelled background of bright blue clearly seen in Figures 3.11 and 3.12. Enamelling was carried out after the pottery had been produced and so the artist was not necessarily associated with the pottery (*ibid*: 92). The advantage of painting over the glaze was that a greater range of colours could be used and the image produced was sharper, as the colour did not melt into the glaze. The disadvantage was that the colour was fired at a much lower temperature and was prone to being worn away (*ibid*) as can be clearly seen in Figure 3.12. The extra labour and firing required for this piece would undoubtedly have placed it in a higher price range than one that was simply transfer printed.

The central scene depicts two Oriental maidens in a garden; one holding a vase and the other a lute. Both look over their shoulders outwards from the garden to the left. Another woman is seated in a garden house to the right. A large tree is depicted immediately behind the building and an ornate fence runs behind this and the two standing figures to the edge of the scene. The other side of the jug is decorated with a typical Chinese landscape scene, dominated by a large tree and other stylised vegetation and rocks (Figure 3.12 right). The jug is also decorated with floral and vegetative motifs around the rim and down the handle.

Several plates, from the latter half of the 19th-century, decorated in the "Tea House" pattern are illustrated in Williams and are described as being decorated in polychrome; with colours like rose, lime green, dark red and dark green being commonly employed (1978:571-589). By 1799 the import duty on Chinese porcelain had reached 100 percent and "there is strong evidence that the stone chinas were produced by potters such as Spode, Davenport, and Turner, to take the place of Chinese porcelain which the British East India Company stopped importing in 1791" (*ibid*: 95). The limited range of colour and the style of the jug suggests that it probably dates from the first quarter of the 19th-century.



Figure 3.10 Milk jug



Figure 3.11 Milk jug detail: two standing women



Figure 3.12 Milk jug details: left - seated figure; right - reverse scene

Edgebanding and Hairlining

Only two vessels decorated with edgebanding and hairlining are present in the Oashore assemblage. Thirty-seven sherds decorated with red bands were recovered from Areas 1 and 2, and were reassembled into two saucers. Both are almost identical in form (Figure 3.2) but differ slightly in their decoration. The saucer in Figure 3.13 has a red edgeband on the inside of the rim, with a hairline immediately below it and another one further down the wall of the vessel. The saucer in Figure 3.14 does not have the second hairline.

Edgebanding such as this was popular on plain ceramics during the late eighteenth-century and early nineteenth-century (Sussman 2000:44) and so these could date to before 1850. However edgebanded wares made a comeback later in the nineteenth-century and numerous examples are illustrated in *The Victorian Catalogue of Household Goods*, which dates from the 1880's, and so they could just as easily date to the late nineteenth-century.

Polychrome Decorated

A minimum of six vessels decorated with various techniques employing two or more colours are represented by a small number of sherds. Figure 3.15 A and B are from the same vessel, which is most likely a mug, and are decorated with horizontal bands; 3.15 F is from a similarly decorated vessel. Figure 3.15 C is part of the handle of a jug and is decorated with a simple black slip. Figure 3.15 D and E show a rim and wall fragment of a small bowl decorated with a slip and a handpainted pattern. Figure 3.15 H is part of the base and wall of a cup, which is decorated with green slips in varying shades. Figure 3.15 G is a very small fragment decorated in the 'mocha' pattern. Part of the distinctive fern design, in blue in this case, can just be seen on the edge of the sherd. This fern-like design "is formed by the chemical reaction of a dark acid colorant on a pale tinted alkaline slip" and was used mainly on utilitarian vessels such as mugs and jugs (Prickett 1994:58). Mocha ware was a cheap utilitarian ware generally associated with mugs and bowls, and was produced throughout the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century (Erskine 2003). Mocha-ware, which is usually unmarked, is not temporally sensitive.



Figure 3.13 Edgebanded saucer A



Figure 3.14 Edgebanded saucer B

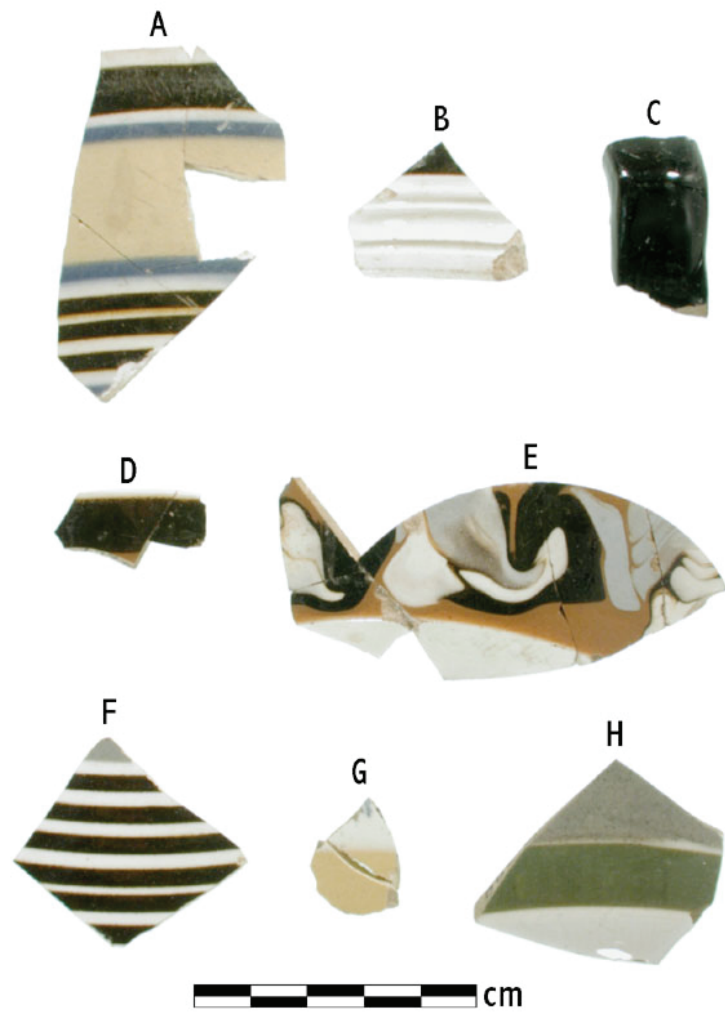


Figure 3.15 Polychrome decorated ceramics



Figure 3.16 Plain plate

Undecorated

A minimum number of seven undecorated earthenware vessels are present in the assemblage, the most complete of which is illustrated in Figure 3.16. The plate has a plain rim, a footring, and is cream in colour with a clear glaze. A partial design or mark is printed in black on the base of the plate (see detail Figure 3.16). Included in this category is one plain fragment of porcelain from the base of a teacup.

3.2.4 Manufacturers Marks

William Davenport, 1836, Longport, Staffordshire

Reassembled sherds from a small plate or saucer in Area 1 are backmarked with [DAVE]NPORT printed in underglaze blue and also have an impressed anchor, with DAV[ENPORT] in curving script above and the numerals '3' and '6' on the left and right side of the anchor respectively (Figure 3.17 detail and 3.18). The impressed anchor mark, with or without the date marks, and with Davenport curving around the top of the anchor is a common mark of the Davenport firm through the years 1830 to 1860 (Cushion 1994). Therefore the numbers in this case refer to the year 1836. At the time of manufacture of this piece the Davenport firm was being run by William Davenport, a son of John Davenport who founded the company. In the 1830s Davenport pottery was decorated in a wide range of patterns, with rural and scenic patterns being most popular at this time (Coysh & Henrywood 1982). This particular vessel is transfer-printed, in underglaze blue, in one of these types of patterns. The surviving fragment (Figure 3.17) shows a man standing on the bank of a river or lake, holding a pole over his shoulder, while another man is depicted in a boat on the water. No descriptions or photographs of Davenport blue and white transfer-printed pottery matched these surviving elements and so the pattern is as yet unidentified.

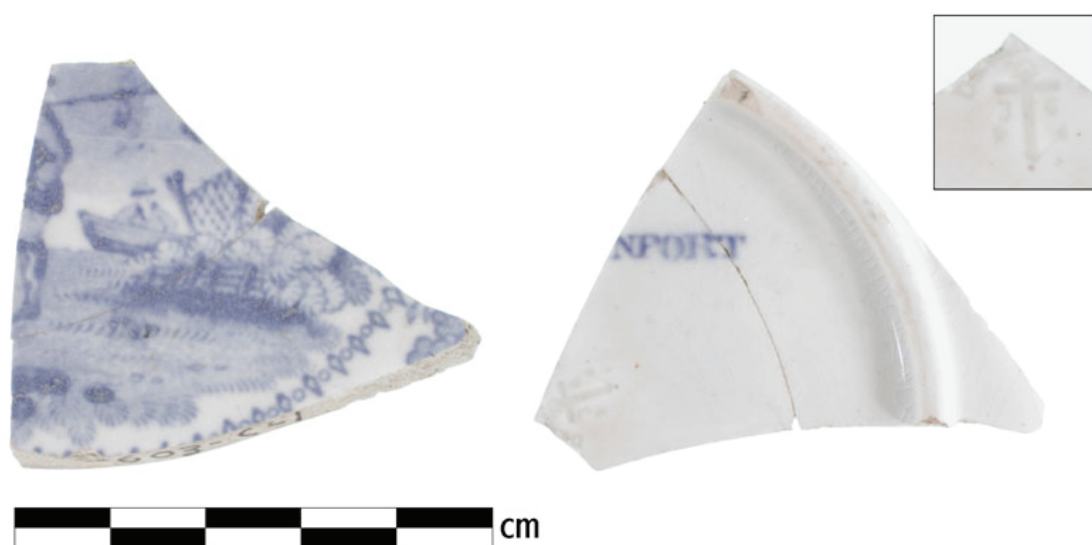


Figure 3.17 Davenport plate and mark



Figure 3.18 Ceramic manufacturer marks



Figure 3.19 Asiatic Pheasant dinner plate A

Old Hall Earthenware Co. Ltd. 1861-1886, Hanley, Staffordshire

This manufacturer is represented by four partially reassembled vessels from Area 1. Two dinner plates have complete backmarks, while a third has a partial mark, all marks being identical (Figure 3.18 - 3.20). A larger serving dish is unmarked. All are decorated in the blue and white transfer-printed pattern 'Asiatic Pheasant'. Of the two whole backmarks that in Figure 3.19 is the best preserved, with Figure 3.20 being somewhat blurry. The marks are printed in underglaze blue and follow a generic form

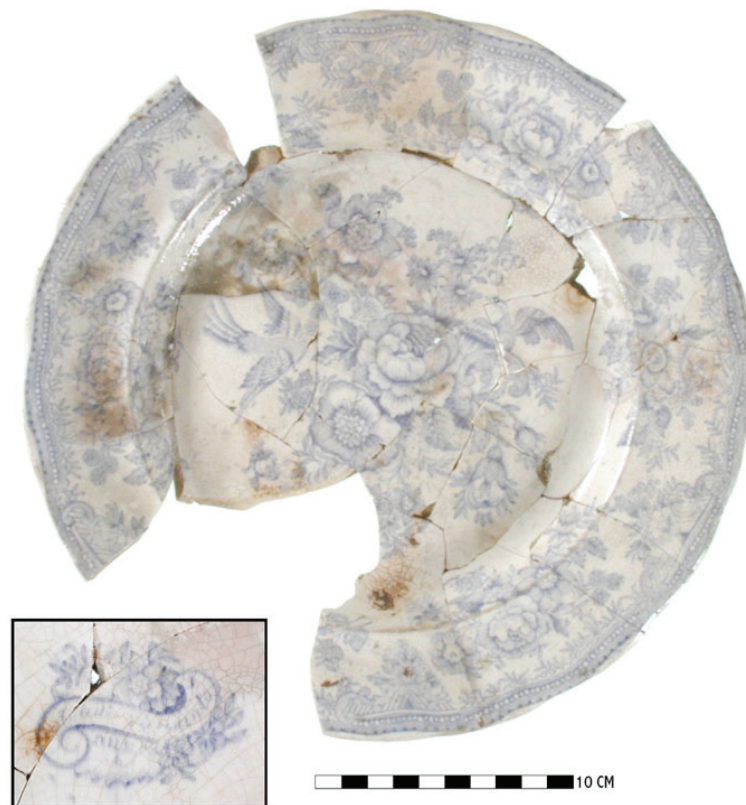


Figure 3.20 Asiatic Pheasant dinner plate B



Figure 3.21 Asiatic Pheasant serving dish

common to many producers of 'Asiatic Pheasant'. The pattern name 'Asiatic Pheasants' is enclosed in a scroll outline which is bordered with floral motifs. The initials of the manufacturer 'O.H.E.C^o.L' are enclosed in a border below the pattern name. The serving dish is unmarked but it is more than likely that it is made by the same manufacturer and probably belongs to the same set. Full dinner services could comprise over one hundred pieces and it was common for many manufacturers to mark only a limited number of vessels (Coysh 1974:26).

Asiatic Pheasant was a very popular pattern for cheap transfer-printed earthenware tableware and was manufactured in large quantities by a number of potteries. The name derives from the characteristic pheasants depicted among floral motifs, as can be seen in Figures 3.19 to 3.21. Other 'Asiatic Pheasant' decorated pottery made by the Old Hall Earthenware Company has been previously recovered from New Zealand sites. Several pieces are illustrated by Bickler and Asiatic Pheasant is recorded as having been found in at least seventeen sites in New Zealand (www.bickler.co.nz/china/index.php). An identical dinner plate to those found at Oashore is also illustrated by Erskine from Norfolk Island (Erskine 2003:25).

The backmarks confirm that these plates were made after 1861, and the standard of the transfer prints also points to a late nineteenth-century date for these pieces. The quality of the print is not as sharp as the earlier willow pattern sherds, illustrated in Figure 3.5. After about 1840 greater competition led to a decline in quality, with transfers often being slightly blurred and patterns poorly aligned (Erskine 2003:9).

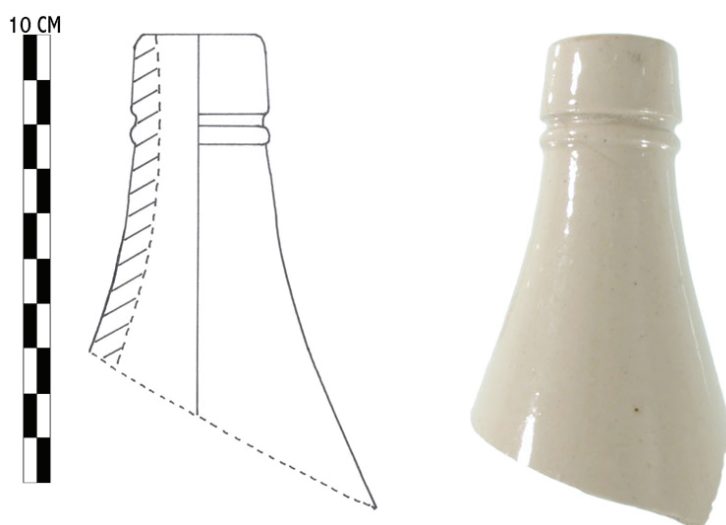


Figure 3.22 Stoneware bottle

3.2.5 Stoneware

Stoneware is defined as pottery which has been fired at a high enough temperature so as to completely vitrify the body, rendering it waterproof, although stoneware vessels are usually glazed as well (Smith and Goodwyn 1990:23). Stoneware is generally associated with utilitarian bottles and containers for storing foodstuffs, beverages and other products such as ink. Only three stoneware sherds were recovered at Oashore, representing a minimum of two vessels.

Figure 3.22 shows the top and neck of a stoneware bottle commonly known as a porter or stout type bottle (Tasker 1989:39). The bottle has a tapered head with a single bead and is decorated with a cream slip and a clear glaze. Such bottles are typical of the 19th-

century and as stoneware is often unmarked and vessel forms change very little over time, they are not particularly useful for dating. Two fragments from the shoulder region of a smaller vessel were also recovered (not illustrated). The vessel is tan in colour and has a salt glaze. Salt-glazing was achieved by throwing salt into the hot kiln, which through a chemical reaction with the clay, coated the vessels in a thin shiny glaze, the colour of which depended on the type of clay, the temperature, and whether a slip had been applied prior to firing (Oswald 1982). Both of these vessels could quite easily have been manufactured in the middle of the nineteenth-century or just as easily the start of the twentieth-century.

3.3 Clay Tobacco Pipes

3.3.1 Introduction

A total of 213 clay tobacco pipe fragments were recovered at Oashore, representing a minimum number of just twelve pipes. The MNI was calculated by counting the number of stem/bowl junctures and manufactured bites, after the method described by Bradley (2000). This low number almost certainly under represents pipe smoking as an activity of the Oashore whalers and suggests that large quantities of pipes may have been discarded elsewhere in the site. Most pipe fragments consist of small sections of stem, with no whole pipes being excavated and only one whole bowl being found. All pipe fragments are of white ball clay, with the exception of two bites of vulcanite or some similar material, from later composite pipes discussed elsewhere. Clay tobacco pipes are very useful for the archaeologist as they were cheap and fragile, resulting in large numbers being discarded and marked pipes can also convey very precise chronological information (Walker 1983:2).

3.3.2 Pipe Forms

No whole clay tobacco pipes were encountered but some general observations can be made regarding pipe forms. Of all the stem and bowl juncture fragments only one (Figure 3.23 A) does not have a spur of any kind. Spurs were originally designed to allow the bowl to sit upright but gradually became smaller over time. By 1850 spurs had begun to disappear completely, which is a useful aid for dating the assemblage (Rusden 1982:12). Most pipe fragments are plain but a number are decorated in some fashion or another.

3.3.3 Decorated Pipes and Miscellany

The most complete pipe in the Oashore assemblage (Figure 3.23 A) is a whole bowl and stem fragment. In very faint relief on the stem a border can be made out, which can be compared to that in Figure 3.24 B, which usually houses the makers name or a brand name. Probably due to a worn mould at the time of manufacture, however, no lettering of any kind can be made out. Otherwise this pipe has no decoration or moulding of any kind.

Several fragments from 'TD' type pipes were found, which were identifiable by the fact that they were marked with traces of either a relief moulded 'T' or 'D' on bowl fragments. 'TD' pipes refer to a style of pipe common in the nineteenth-century which could be either marked or unmarked and was decorated with just 'TD' either stamped or relief moulded on the bowl. 'TD' pipes were made by a range of manufacturers with many slight variations in design and so unmarked fragments are not particularly useful for dating (Prickett 1994:67). Figure 3.23 C and D show relief moulded 'T's from 'TD'

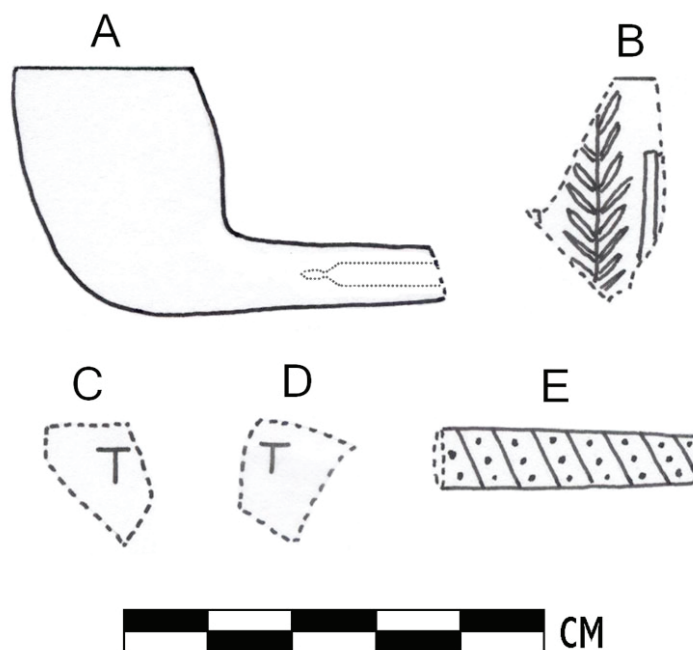


Figure 3.23 Clay pipe miscellany

pipes. One other fragment (not illustrated) has a relief moulded 'D' inside one half of a shield border. It is reasonable to assume that all of these fragments come from 'TD' style pipes.

Several pipe bites have been coated with a tan coloured glaze. Coating the tips of pipes with glaze was employed to prevent the smoker's lips from sticking to the porous clay (Bradley 2000:109). This option has been recorded as being offered by several manufacturers (Brassey and Macready 1994:79). Figure 3.23 E shows one example of decorated stems. The relief moulded pattern consists of a line and row of dots running in a spiral fashion along the surviving length of the stem. Figure 3.23 B shows a bowl fragment decorated in relief with a 'head of wheat' motif, as illustrated in Prickett (1994:Figure 2.47B). Other moulded bowl fragments show part of a design described by Rusden (1982:21) which has a four-masted sailing ship on one side of the bowl and a rope and anchor on the other side. Interestingly enough one of the recorded manufacturers of this type of design was Thomas White and Company (Brassey and Macready 1994:78).

3.3.4 Identified Manufacturers

Clay tobacco pipe manufacturers' marks are an invaluable source of information. Especially useful is the start date for any given manufacturer which provides a *terminus post quem* for the deposition of pipe fragments from that particular maker. For some makers the styles and decoration of pipes can also sometimes be used to further define the period of manufacture. Unfortunately many pipe makers had careers spanning several decades and so pipes can often only be assigned to broad periods of time. Also only about sixty percent of clay tobacco pipes were marked in the nineteenth century (Oswald 1975). Only four fragments from Oashore carrying makers' marks were preserved, representing three manufacturers.

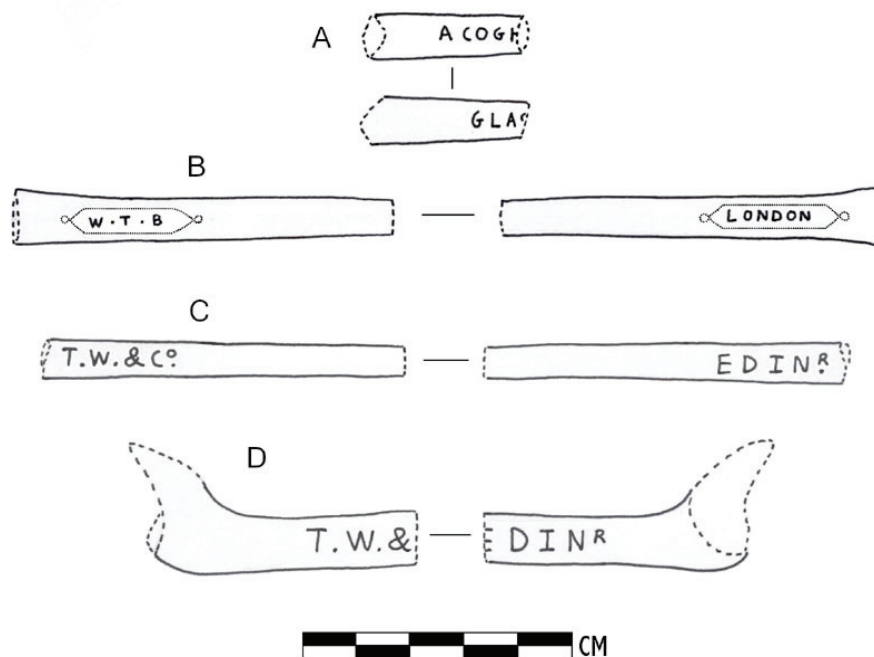


Figure 3.24 Identified clay tobacco pipe manufacturers

Alexander Coghill, Glasgow 1826-1904 (Figure 3.24 A)

One stem fragment from this maker was recovered from Area 1. The stem is impressed 'A.COUGH[ILL]' on the left side and 'GLA[SGOW]' on the right; in serif lettering. Alexander Coghill was one of a small number of Scottish pipe manufacturers who dominated export markets from the middle of the nineteenth-century (Bradley 2000:117). Numerous examples from this maker have been found in other sites in New Zealand. At least four A.Coghill pipes with impressed marks on the stem were recovered from the Victoria Hotel site (Brassey and Macready 1994:69) and another example from Chancery Street is illustrated by Macready and Goodwyn (1990:Figure 13). The broad date range for this manufacturer means that it is not very useful for dating, although when taking the site context into account, the date for this particular pipe can be narrowed down to somewhere between the 1840's and 1900.

William Thomas Blake, London 1873-98 (Figure 3.24 B)

One stem fragment with the initials 'W.T.B' impressed on the left side and 'LONDON' on the right, in rather plain sans serif lettering, enclosed in borders made up of a series of dots, was recovered from Area 1. This particular example could have been manufactured anywhere between 1873 and 1898.

Thomas White and Company, Edinburgh 1823-1876 (Figure 3.24 C and D)

Two examples from this maker were recovered, one from Area 1 and one from Area 4. The stem fragment from Area 4 (Figure 3.24 C) is relief moulded with 'T.W.&C^o' on the left side of the stem and 'EDIN^R' on the right. A stem and bowl fragment from Area 1 (Figure 3.30 D) is marked identically with 'T.W.&[C^o]' on the left and '[E]DIN^R' on the right. These two pipes differ slightly from other examples from this maker found elsewhere in New Zealand. For example at the Omata Stockade site in Taranaki, Prickett found pipes marked 'THO.WHITE & C^o/EDINBURGH', rather than the abbreviated version as at Oashore (Prickett 1994:66). All of the Thomas White & Co pipes from the Victoria Hotel site were also impressed rather than relief moulded

(Brassey and Macready 1994:73). The date range for these pipes is slightly more useful than the Blake pipe and can be narrowed down to between the 1840's and 1876.

3.3.5 Unidentified marks

A further three bowl-stem fragments were marked, in relief moulding, with letters or initials just above the spur. During the nineteenth-century it was customary for makers who marked their pipes with their initials on either side of the spur, to place the Christian initial on the left side and that of the surname on the right, although there are examples of the opposite arrangement (Oswald 1975:71). Figures 3.25 A and B are marked with a 'M' on the left and a 'G' on the right, immediately above the spur. If this indeed denotes the initials of the manufacturer, several possibilities are listed in Oswald (1975) with one likely candidate being Malcolm Galbraith, Glasgow 1848-54 (Oswald 1975). No illustrated examples of Galbraith pipes could be found to investigate this possibility further. Another bowl/stem fragment (Figure 3.25 C) has an 'I' on the left and a 'J' on the right. The bowl is also decorated with a pattern of overlapping leaves. Multiple possibilities for this combination of initials are listed in Oswald (1975) and it would be purely speculative to pick one out of the pack. The fact that these pipes cannot be identified and appear to be relatively rare in New Zealand sites suggests that they may have been imported as the possessions of individuals.

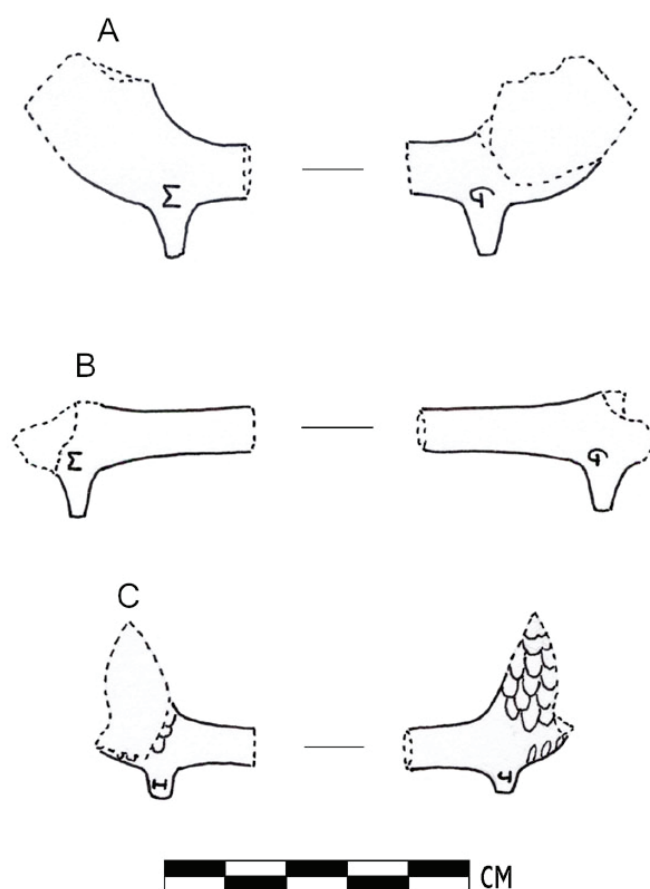


Figure 3.25 Pipes with unidentified marks

3.4 Glass

3.4.1 Bottle Glass

Glass is normally one of the more numerous artefact categories encountered in historic sites, as although vessels were often reused, large quantities were still likely to be broken and discarded. At Oashore much less glass was recovered than was expected, although it still accounts for about eight percent of the total assemblage by weight. No whole glass vessels were recovered and only one was substantially complete (Figure 3.28). Very few quantifiable diagnostic portions of bottles were recovered and so the minimum number of vessels was calculated by comparing all base and top fragments to give the figures listed in the table below.

Table 3.7 Distribution of bottle types by MNV

Vessel	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A7	A99	Total
<u>Alcohol</u>								(18)
Black Beer	2		1	1	2	2	1	9
Ring-Seal	1							1
Green	1				1			2
Light Olive		1		1				2
Case Gin	1							1
Cognac					1			1
Brown	1			1				2
<u>Condiments</u>								(2)
Salad Oil	1			1				2
<u>Miscellaneous</u>								(14)
Aqua	5		2		1	2	1	11
Clear				1				1
Milk Glass		1				1		2
Total	12	2	3	4	5	4	2	32

Table 3.8 The Oashore glass assemblage

Glass Colour	Weight (g)	Percentage
Olive	2839	37.78
Green	1574	20.95
Aqua Green	1760	23.42
Aqua Blue	172	2.29
Clear	828	11.02
Brown	125	1.66
Milk Glass	99	1.32
Melted Glass	117	1.56
Total	7514	100

Alcohol

'Black Beer' Bottles

Fragments of dark olive coloured glass from bottles commonly referred to as 'black-beer' bottles, were recovered from throughout the site, including unprovenanced finds from the stream bank. Fig 3.26 shows one of the more complete 'black-glass' bottles found at Oashore. The bottle has a diameter at the base of about 80mm and the base profile has a conical kickup, with a rounded heel. Fig 3.27 illustrates the only two complete top and neck fragments found. Both have one-piece applied tops and bulge necks. The top of Fig 3.27 A is flat with a bead, while B has a tapered top with a skirt. Such 'black-beer' bottles are typical of the mid-19-century.

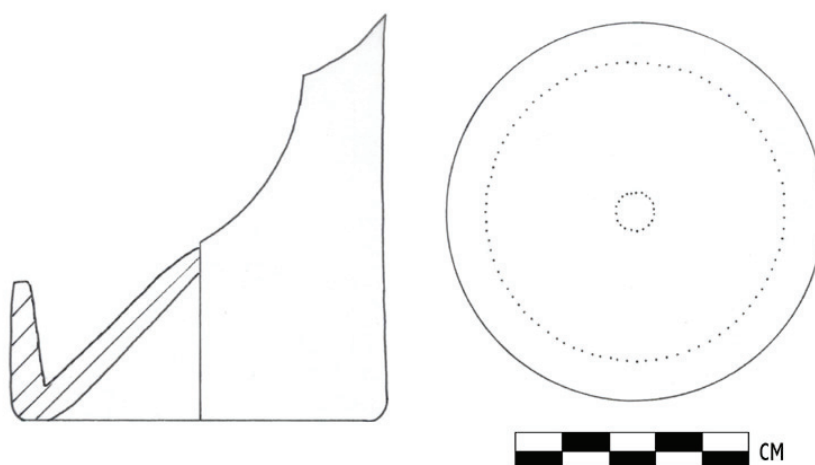


Figure 3.26 Base of a 'black-beer' type bottle

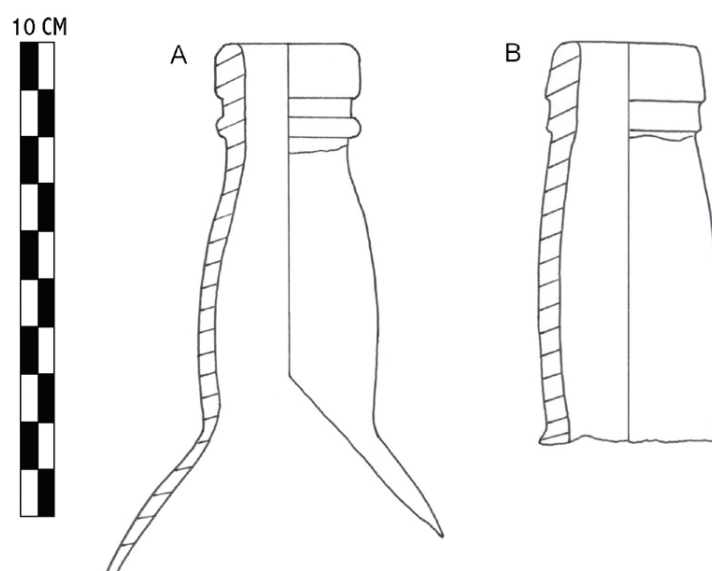


Figure 3.27 Top & neck of two 'black-beer' type bottles

'Ring-Seal' Bottles

Only one example from Area 1, which is the most complete vessel found at Oashore (Figure 3.28). The top of the bottle and with it the diagnostic 'ring-seal' closure, is missing, but the overall shape and manufacture all suggest that it is a 'ring-seal' beer bottle. This type of bottle was originally developed in France for bottling champagne but was also ideally suited for other carbonated beverages, and began to be used for beer in New Zealand from the 1870s (Tasker 1989). The bottle has the high basal kickup with a mamelon characteristic of this type of bottle and was produced in a turn and paste mould, dating it to between about 1880 and 1905.

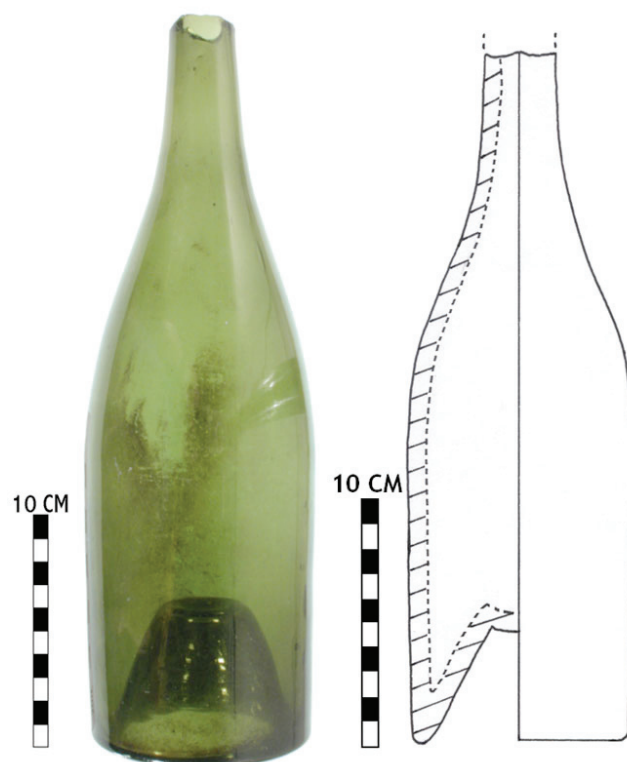


Figure 3.28 'Ring-seal beer' type bottle

Green Alcohol Bottles

Fragments of two other green coloured bottles most likely to have originally contained alcohol were recovered. Part of a mamelon and base fragments with a high kickup are represented. On this basis it seems quite likely that one of the vessels was similar to the 'ring-seal' beer described above. Another base fragment, approximately 85 mm in diameter, with a shallow dish-curved profile carries embossed lettering, as shown in Figure 3.29. Unfortunately it has not been possible to identify the lettering, as no similar or more complete examples could be found in the available literature. The fact that the base is fully moulded means that the bottle was produced with the aid of the sabot or snap-case, which first came into use in 1857 (Meigh 1972:29) and probably dates to no earlier than the 1860s.

Light Olive Bottles

Fragments of two vessels in light olive glass, which were not from 'black beer' or case gin bottles. No vessel forms could be reconstructed or the probable contents identified.

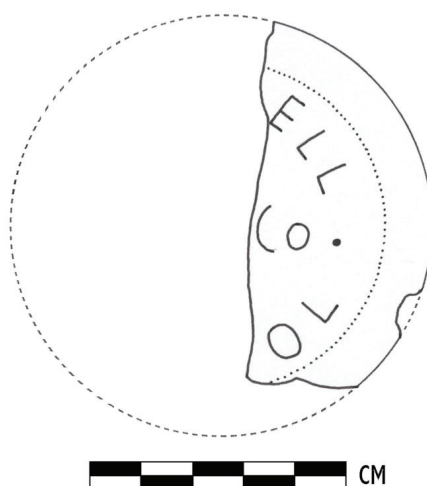


Figure 3.29 Embossed base

Case Gin Bottles

No diagnostic tops or bases of case gin bottles were found but several fragments of flat dark-olive coloured glass from Area 1 undoubtedly represent this type. Case gin bottles are square sided bottles which taper inwards from the shoulder to the base. They can be easily distinguished from other case bottles, like schnapps, which have straight sides and chamfered corners.

Cognac Bottles

Only one cognac bottle could be identified from an embossed prunt from Area 5 (Figures 3.30) and numerous fragments of light-green body glass. Prunts consist of glass which has been applied to the body of the bottle, usually the shoulder, and then moulded to produce either a seal or a decorative pattern (White 2000:146).

Unfortunately the prunt, which is of green glass, is broken but the remaining half reads (reading from outside to inside) "...W . BORDEAUX / ...NE . COGNAC / 17...". The second line probably originally read 'CHAMPAGNE . COGNAC' but unfortunately the first line, which undoubtedly included the name of the maker, cannot be reconstructed without reference to a more complete example. The "17.." in the middle possibly refers to a date in the eighteenth-century, although whether this is the date of manufacture for this particular artefact, or simply the founding date of the company or maker is entirely speculative. Either way an early date for this particular piece is suggested, possibly the first quarter of the nineteenth-century.



Figure 3.30 Embossed prunt

Brown

Several fragments of brown coloured glass almost certainly represent deposition by later visitors to the site. The one diagnostic top fragment from Area 4 is from a machine moulded crown-seal beer bottle and is therefore of twentieth-century manufacture. Crown seals were first used on a commercial basis in New Zealand as early as 1912, although they did not become common until the 1920's and so the vessel probably post-dates this period (Tasker 1989:35; Ritchie and Bedford 1983).

Condiments

Salad Oil

Salad oil bottles are usually identifiable even from very small fragments, due to their moulded decoration. One of the reasons for their decorated form is that in the 19th-century they were designed to sit on the table (Prickett 1994:47). Only a few moulded body fragments were found from this type of bottle. No vessel forms were able to be reconstructed.

Miscellaneous

Aqua & Clear

A minimum number of 12 vessels in either aqua green, clear or less commonly aqua blue glass, were recovered. Two whole aqua green glass stoppers from Worcestershire sauce type bottles represent some of the more complete artefacts in this category. Both are similar in size being about 31.5mm long and having a maximum diameter of 25mm. The top of Figure 3.31 A has a ground edge while B does not. In general most aqua or clear glass artefacts were too fragmentary to be any use in identifying vessel forms or for dating the assemblage.

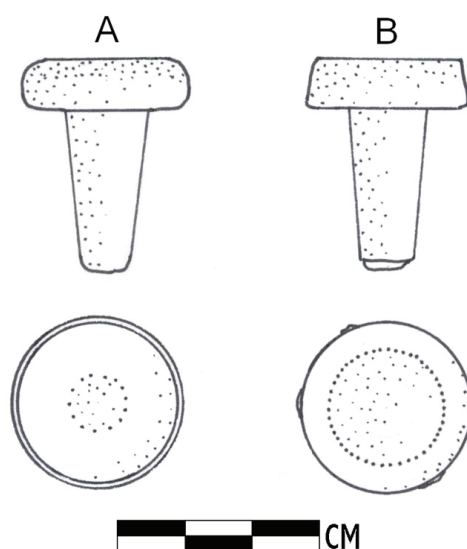


Figure 3.31 Glass stoppers

Milk Glass

Two white milk glass vessels are represented in the assemblage. One small jar from Area 2 is approximately 54mm high, with a diameter of 40mm. Another from Area 7 was not able to be reconstructed. Milk glass was commonly used for cosmetic and

toiletary purposes in the form of either bottles or ointment and cream jars. Milk glass is rarely found in contexts dating to before the 1870s ([www.blm.gov/historic_bottles/index .htm](http://www.blm.gov/historic_bottles/index.htm)).

3.4.2 Other Glass

In addition to bottle glass a further 812 grams of 'other' glass was recovered. This category includes both glass artefacts which are clearly from objects other than bottles and unidentified fragments. A very small quantity of flat glass was identified, with a mean thickness of approximately 1.5mm. Some of this is undoubtedly misidentified middle bottle glass, although some of it is clearly from other objects. Less than 20grams were recovered so it is unlikely that window glass is represented.

Several pieces of thicker glass with ground bevelled edges, totalling about 100grams, were also recovered. Fig 3.32 illustrates two examples, with A clearly showing a rounded corner. It is possible that these pieces represent some form of lantern glass.

Another 271grams of what can only be described as chunky glass was found in Area 4 and likely originates from a single object. The largest piece weighs 180 grams and has traces of both flat and convex original surfaces. Some of the original surfaces appear to have been acid etched. Unfortunately the artefact has been well and truly smashed and it is not clear what the original object may have been. The glass is lead-clear and may represent some sort of decorative glass tableware.

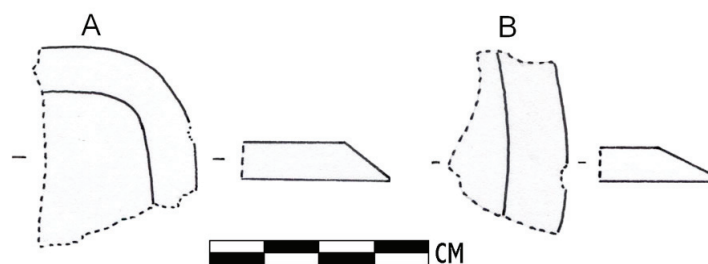


Figure 3.32 Other glass

3.5 Clothing Hardware

3.5.1 Buttons

A minimum number of 18 buttons in a range of materials were recovered at Oashore, with all but two coming from Area 1 (Table 3.9). Buttons are potentially useful for dating as certain types of materials and manufacturing techniques are temporally sensitive. The diameter or size of the buttons is given in both millimetres and lines. The line was the standard unit of measurement for buttons in the 19th-century and equates to 0.635 of a millimetre (Sprague 2002:122-3). In Britain the size range for small buttons intended for underwear and shirts was 14-24 lines, medium buttons were 26-34 lines for trousers, and large buttons were more than 34 lines for coats (George 1999:16). Luscomb goes further assigning the size in lines for various types of clothing: shirts 18, trousers 23 on the fly and 27 on the brace, and men's jackets 30, with 22 on the sleeves and waistcoat (Sprague 2002:123). It must be remembered that the fashion for specific items of clothing changed over time and most probably the buttons with it, so such information is useful as a guide only. The line ranges also varied between countries and so a 20 line British button would differ in size and possibly function from a 20 'ligne' French button (George 1999:16).

Table 3.9 Distribution of clothing hardware

Area	1	4	Total
Buttons			18
<i>Bone</i>	7	1	8
<i>Metal</i>	5	1	6
<i>Ceramic</i>	3		3
<i>Plastic</i>	1		1
Footwear			4
<i>Boot Heels</i>	2		2
<i>Leather Parts</i>	2		2
Buckles			1
<i>Brass</i>	1		1
Total	44	2	46

Bone Buttons

Seven bone buttons are represented. Bone buttons were usually used for utilitarian garments, such as underwear and shirts, and so they are generally plain in both form and decoration. Originally they were made by hand but by the middle of the nineteenth-century most were machine-made, which along with their plain form detracts from their usefulness as temporal indicators (Cameron 1985:95-6). All bone buttons are dish shaped in section and have four holes. All are illustrated below apart from two fragmentary examples.

3.33 A: Round; diameter 20mm, 31 lines.

3.33 B: Ovoid; maximum diameter 19.5mm, 31 lines - minimum diameter 18mm, 28 lines.

3.33 C: Round; diameter 17.2mm, 27 lines.

3.33 D: Ovoid; maximum diameter 15.1mm, 24 lines - minimum diameter 13.1mm, 21 lines. Slightly asymmetrical and possibly handmade.

3.33 E: Round; diameter 13mm, 20 lines.

Metal Buttons

Seven metal buttons of brass or copper alloy, were recovered. Five are of one-piece construction, with two of two-piece construction. Most metal buttons were commonly used on men's trousers and work clothes (Cameron 1985:20). Metal buttons were mass-produced machine made items and were common by the middle of the nineteenth-century (Ritchie 1986:515). Dates for the metal buttons described below could easily range from the 1840's to 1900.

3.33 F: Two-piece construction; diameter 20mm, 31 lines. Constructed of a disc of brass with a single eye type shank soldered to it. The button is also impressed with the word 'GILT', which was one of a number of generic terms used to impart quality, regardless of the actual quality of the manufacture. This button is similar in form to early plain metal buttons described by Olsen and possibly dates to the early part of the 19th-century (Olsen 1963).

3.33 G and H: One-piece construction; diameter 16mm, 25 lines. A single disc of metal has been stamped to form a central depression which houses the holes for sewing the button onto a garment. These two buttons are impressed with the term

'EXCELSIOR', or 'excellence', which was another term used to denote quality.

3.33 I: One-piece stamped construction; diameter 16.2mm, 26 lines.

3.33 J: One-piece stamped or cast dish shaped brass button; diameter 13.4mm, 21 lines.

3.33 K: Two-piece construction, one inner disc of metal and one outer disc stamped together; diameter 14mm, 22 lines.

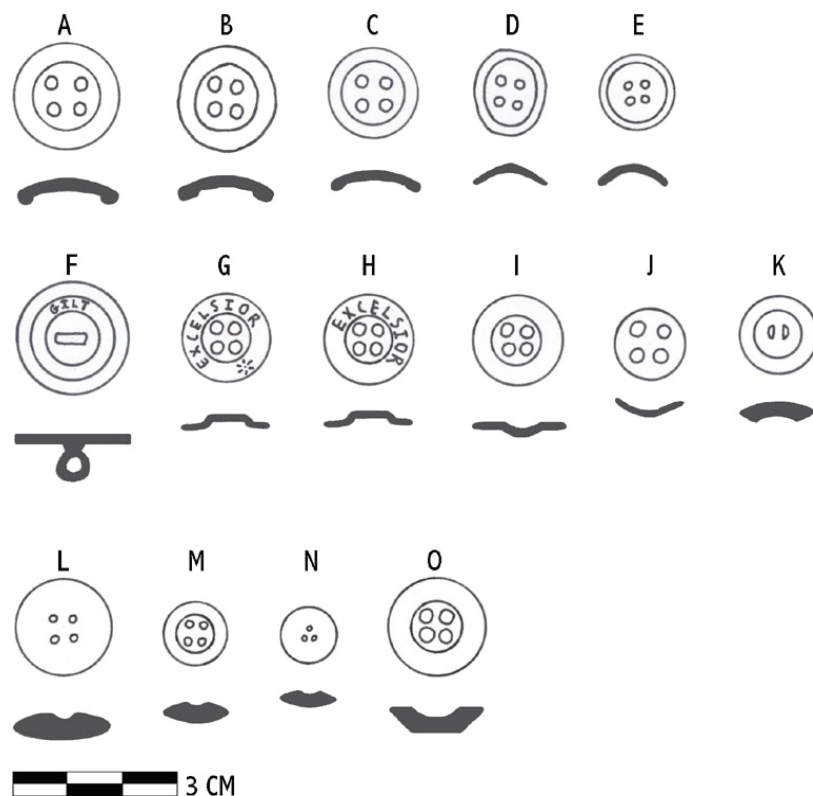


Figure 3.33 Buttons: A - E bone; F - k metal; L - N ceramic; O plastic

Ceramic

Three small white ceramic buttons produced by the Prosser process. This process involved pressing the buttons out of dry clay "almost in the manner of biscuits" and was invented in 1840 by Richard Prosser of Birmingham (Peacock 1972:98). The buttons are made of ceramic and are easily distinguished from later glass ones by the rough orange-peel like surface on the back of the buttons. It is assumed that this rough patch is caused by the button resting on this surface when it was being fired. Plain undecorated buttons, like the ones described below, were made from white or cream coloured clay and fired at a high enough temperature so as to induce self-glazing. Ceramic buttons produced by this method should be described as 'Prosser' buttons, so as not to confuse them with other low-fired and hand-made clay buttons (Sprague 2002). Prosser buttons were initially manufactured mainly in Britain, but by the mid-1840s France had taken over the market, with buttons also being produced in quantity in the United States (Cameron 1985:119; Sprague 2002:115).

3.33 L: Diameter 16.8mm, 26 lines.

3.33 M: Diameter 11.5mm, 18 lines.

3.33 N: Diameter 10mm, 16 lines. It is not unimportant to note that collectors usually associate small three-hole buttons with doll or baby clothing (Sprague 2002:120).

Synthetic

One button of plastic, with a diameter of 16.8mm (Fig 3.33 O) was recovered from Area 1. Early forms of plastics and rubber were first used in button manufacture after the 1870's (Cameron 1985:14). However this button appears to be of later manufacture and was probably produced sometime after the 1930s.

3.5.2 Buckle

Only one other item of clothing hardware, other than buttons was found. Figure 3.41 shows a copper alloy buckle from Area 1. It is similar to that illustrated in Bedford and is of a type used in braces which allows clothing like trousers, to be adjusted to suit the individual (Bedford 1986:151).



Figure 3.34 Buckle

3.6 Footwear

Several artefacts relating to footwear were recovered from Area 1. A leather upper of a boot was the most informative find in this class (Fig 3.35). The upper is manufactured from four main pieces of leather and has brass or copper alloy eyelets. A leather boot heel found in the same area is constructed of several layers of thick leather fastened together with iron nails (Fig 3.36). Two heel or toe plates, both of iron, were also found. Figure 3.37 A, is a heel plate and is approximately 70mm wide and 60mm long, with a thickness of around 8mm. The heel plate would have been attached to the boot, by six square section iron nails, remnants of which can still be made out, despite the corrosion. Figure 3.37 B, is different in form and may possibly be a toe plate from a shoe or boot. It measures around 55mm long, by 50mm wide and was probably attached by just four iron nails.

3.7 Household Items

3.7.1 Spoons

Two copper alloy teaspoons represent the only positively identified remains of household utensils found at Oashore. Fig 3.38 A, from Area 5, measures 142mm long and has a bowl 50mm long by 28mm wide. The spoon is very thin, with a minimum thickness of just 0.9mm and it is possible that it was originally plated with silver or some other metal. The reverse of the handle is impressed with the initials "WH & SB",



Figure 3.35 Leather boot upper

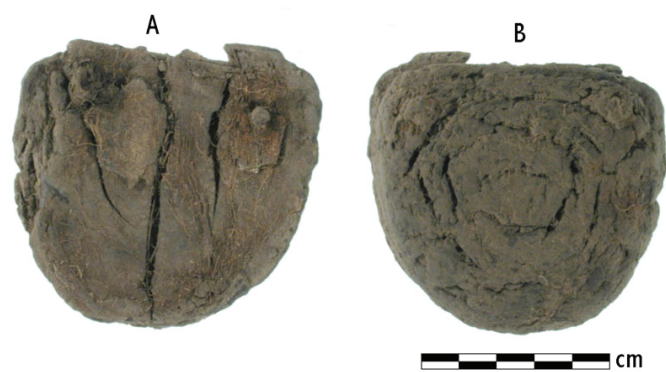


Figure 3.36 Leather boot heel: A top; B bottom



Figure 3.37 Iron heel plates

with one further unidentifiable letter or symbol following (see detail Figure 3.38). This mark no doubt refers to the maker but it has not been possible to identify it from the current literature, which makes dating of the object difficult. However, its context in Area 5, where no obviously later 19th-century artefacts were recovered, means that a mid to early nineteenth-century date is likely.

The other teaspoon, from Area 1, is much heavier in construction and the bowl is snapped off at the neck (Fig 3.38 B). Despite its incomplete nature the spoon still measures 126mm long and has a maximum width of 22mm. The back of the handle is impressed with a series of three or four dots or symbols, which are difficult to make out. Many such plain copper alloy spoons are impressed with such marks, but there is currently little information available as to their meaning or the possible identification of the manufacturers (Macready and Goodwyn 1990:111). Any such future reference works in this area would be a valuable aid in dating such objects.



Figure 3.38 Teaspoons

3.7.2 Other Items

One of the few other household items recovered was part of a composite bone and iron handle from Area 1 (Figure 3.39). The handle is probably from an iron knife or possibly from some other object. The handle is of three-piece construction, consisting of a flat iron core with strips of bone attached to either side to form the handle. The bone parts have been riveted to the iron section with iron rivets. The surviving fragment is 88mm long, with a maximum width of 22mm at the butt end, and has a maximum thickness of 17mm.



Figure 3.39 Bone handle

Figure 3.40 illustrates another item, probably of a household nature, which was recovered from amongst a concentration of ceramic tableware inside the main house in Area 1. The object is made of copper alloy and appears to be a lid of some sort. It is round, with a diameter of 120mm and has a crimped edge. The back of the object (illustrated) has a flat piece of iron attached to it, but it is not clear whether this is part of the original object or has simply welded itself to the item through corrosion. The item may possibly be the end of a tin can or similar container, although it is different to any of those described by Rock (2000).



Figure 3.40 Metal lid (Left top, Right bottom)

3.8 Munitions

3.8.1 Gun Parts

Four brass gun parts were recovered from Areas 5 and 1. Two are ramrod pipes and the other two are both 'nose-caps' which fit over the forward part of the stock, near the end of the barrel (see Figure 3.41). Ramrod 3.42 A is 78mm long, weighs 23 grams, and the entrance of the pipe has an outside diameter of 12.3mm and an inside diameter of 7.8mm. Ramrod 3.42 B is 76mm long, weighs 22 grams, and the entrance of the pipe has an outside diameter of 10.2mm and an inside diameter of 6.6mm. Likewise the two caps differ slightly from each other. Cap 3.43 A, from Area 5, is 26.4mm long and 25.6mm wide, and has two holes by which it was attached to the stock. Cap 3.43 B, from Area 1, is 23.8mm long and 27.6mm wide, and has only a single hole for fastening.

At least two guns are represented by these four parts and possibly three if the cap from Area 1 is not associated with those from Area 5. The parts could come from either flintlock pistols or percussion lock pistols, as both types have ramrod pipes. If they were flintlock pistols it would be expected that at least one gunflint may have been recovered. Gunflints could be used on average twenty to thirty times 'before the striking face became too worn and the flint had to be replaced (Lawrence 2004). No percussion caps were found in Area 5 either, which may be the result of it only being partially excavated. The gun parts could therefore, come from either flintlock or percussion lock guns. Dating is speculative, depending on which type of gun they originated from, however general date ranges can be given. Flintlock pistols were superseded by percussion lock pistols by the middle of the 19th-century, so it is likely that these artefacts date to the first half of the 19th-century.

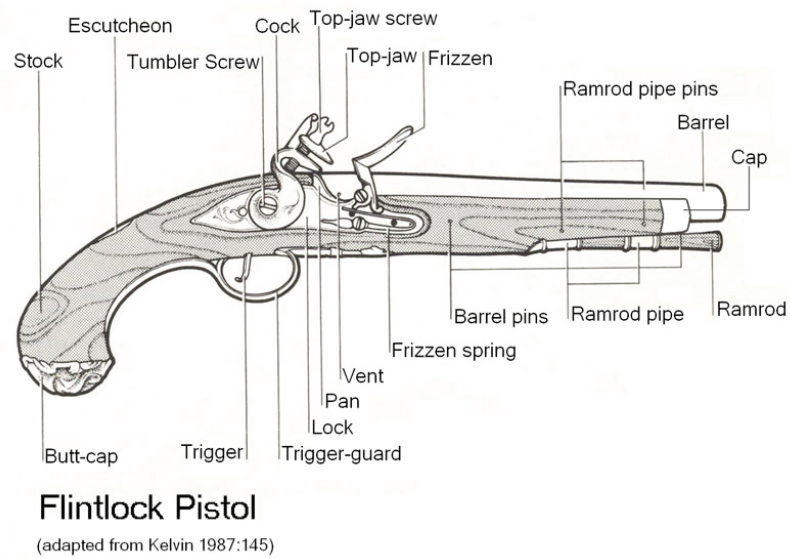


Figure 3.41 Diagram of a flintlock pistol



Figure 3.42 Ramrod pipes



Figure 3.43 Gun parts

3.8.2 Ammunition

A range of cartridge cases, shotgun shell caps and percussion caps were recovered from Areas 1, 2, and 4. In total a minimum number of 48 cartridge cases and caps are represented (see Table 3.10).

Table 3.10 MNI of munitions by type and area

Munitions Type	Area 1	Area 2	Area 4	Totals
Shotgun Shell Caps	21			21
.22 Calibre Cases	2		1	3
13mm Cases	1			1
10mm Cases		1		1
7mm Cases	1			1
7.4mm Cases	3	6		9
Percussion Caps	11			11
Other			1	1
Totals	39	7	2	48

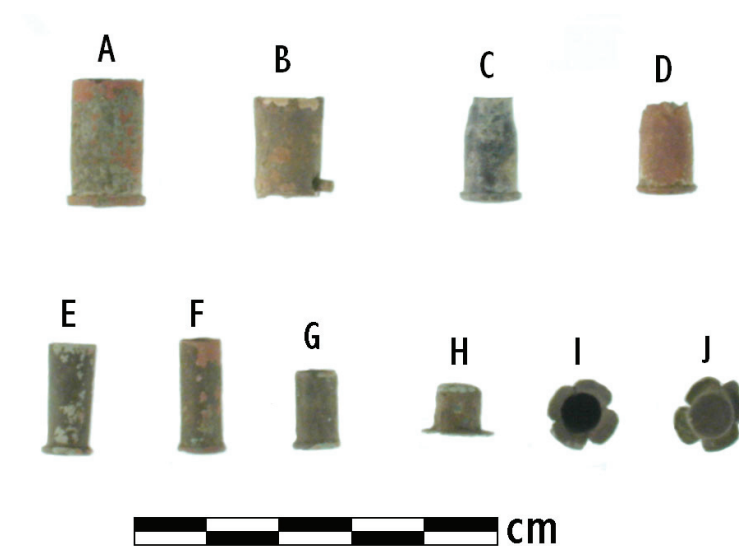


Figure 3.44 Munitions

Percussion Caps (Figure 3.44 H-J)

Weapons using percussion caps replaced the often erratic flintlock mechanisms, and came into popular usage in Australia shortly after the 1820s (Gibbs 1995:238). These were then superseded by cartridge firing weapons around the middle of the century, but this did not necessarily mean that earlier weapons became obsolete. The British army, arguably the most powerful in the world in the 19th-century, relied on percussion-lock weapons as their stock standard until the late 1860s (Roads 1964). Indeed percussion

caps for old style guns could still be purchased right up to and past the end of the 19th-century. All of the percussion caps were found in Area 1 and could quite possibly be related to the gun represented by the 'nose-cap' described above. As to a date, these artefacts are unquestionably of 19th-century manufacture, but a more precise date cannot be given.

Cartridge Cases (Figure 3.44 A-G)

Figure 3.44 A is a rimmed centerfire cartridge case with a diameter of 10mm, of which only one example was recovered. Figure 3.44 B is the single pinfire type cartridge found at Oashore, while C and D illustrate rimmed bottle-neck shaped cartridges, with a case diameter of 7.4mm, of which 9 examples were found. Figure 3.44 E to G show the three .22 calibre rimfire cartridge cases found at Oashore. 3.44 G, which is 10.7mm long, closely matches the description of the .22 Short, given by Barnes (2000:417). The .22 Short was first produced in 1857 and is still current today. All of the above range of cartridge cases could date to anywhere between the 1850's and even the early part of the 20th-century.



Figure 3.45 Shotgun cartridge headstamps

Shotgun Cartridge Caps (Figure 3.45)

Twenty-one brass heads of shotgun cartridges were recovered; all from Area 1. Prior to 1958, when plastic cartridge tubes were first introduced, all shotgun cartridge tubes were made of specially treated paper (Barnes 2000:434). All of the shotgun shell caps are from 12-gauge cartridges, with rim diameters of 22mm and case diameters of 20.5mm. All but four fragmentary and badly corroded examples have readable headstamps, representing three brands of cartridges from two manufacturers.

A single cartridge cap is stamped with 'U.M.C.Co / Nº 12 / NEW CLUB' (Figure 3.45 C). The Union Metallic Company was an American cartridge manufacturer who operated between 1867 and 1911 (Steinhauer 2004). Identical 'New Club' brand cartridges illustrated in Bedford (1986:Figure29, E & F) are dated to c.1900. The rest of the headstamped cartridge caps are made by Eley Brothers of England. The Eley Company began producing cartridges in 1824 and still continues in one form or another today (Steinhauer 2004). Two examples are stamped 'ELEY / Nº 12 / LONDON' (Figure 3.45 B). Bedford dates this particular type of cartridge as to having been produced somewhere between 1895 and 1911 (1986:136, Figure 29-G). A further 14 examples are stamped 'ELEY LONDON / Nº 12 / GASTIGHT' (Figure 3.45 A). Gas-tight cases had an iron inner lining fitted to the inside of the brass head to reinforce the paper tube around the powder chamber and increase the strength of the case as a whole (Burrard 1931:86-7). This design helped to prevent failure of the cartridge case upon firing and first came into manufacture around about 1898 (Baker 2000:96). All of the shotgun cartridges from Oashore were probably manufactured around the turn of the 20th-century and cannot have been deposited before this date.

3.9 Coins & Tokens

3.9.1 Token (Figure 3.46)

A bronze token like object was found in Area 1 and at first was thought to be a currency token. Currency tokens were issued by numerous traders in New Zealand between the years of 1857 and 1881, in response to a shortage of imperial coinage in the colonies and continued in usage until 1897 when they were decried by legislation (Sutherland 1939). The object is 25mm in diameter, is 0.8mm thick and has a small manufactured hole near the top. The object is stamped with lettering and decoration on both sides, only one of which is still legible. It reads "J.BALLANTYNE . CHRISTCHURCH" around the outside, with "DUNSTABLE HOUSE" in the middle along with a design which cannot be made out. Dunstable House was the name of a small cottage in Cashel Street where David and Elizabeth Clarkson established a drapery business in 1854, which they ran until 1863 when they sold it to William Pratt (*They Made Their Own Money* 1950:46-7). Pratt expanded the business, including constructing a much larger building on the same site which retained the name 'Dunstable House'. In 1872 William Pratt sold the business to John Ballantyne (Sutherland 1941:137). John Ballantyne ran the business for seven years before retiring and passing it over to his sons. There is no record of John Ballantyne ever having issued currency tokens, although his predecessor William Pratt did (Lampard 1981). The object is quite worn and so it is possible that it was something which was used over and over again, much like a currency token. If both sides of the object had been in fair condition, identification of its exact purpose would probably have been easier. The object must have been manufactured after 1872 and probably before John Ballantyne retired in 1879, although a later date is entirely possible as the business was continued in his name, as it does to this day (www.ballantynes.co.nz).

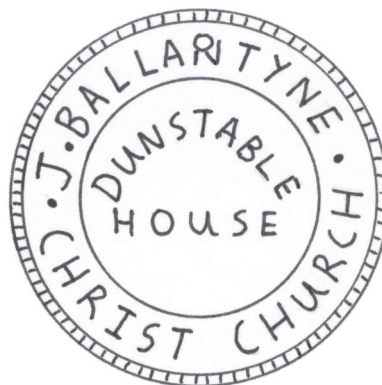


Figure 3.46 Ballantyne token (not to scale)

3.9.2 Threepence

One 1903 silver threepence piece was found in Area 4 and cannot therefore have been deposited before this date. Silver imperial coinage was imported to New Zealand until 1932 (Sutherland 1941:292). The obverse has a bust of Edward VII (1901-1910) and reads "EDWARDVS VII D:G:BRITT:OMN:REX F:D:IND:IMP" (Seaby 1960:75). The reverse has a large '3' with the date to either side and a crown above it.

3.10 Whalecraft

3.10.1 Harpoon Heads

Artefacts which unquestionably identify Oashore as a former whaling station are two harpoon heads found during excavation. Figure 3.48 was excavated from the southeast corner of the main house and Figure 3.47 from immediately in front of the fireplace in Area 4. Both are double-barbed harpoon heads and are made of iron. Figure 3.48 weighs 282grams and measures 122mm long by 97mm wide and has a maximum thickness of 22mm. Figure 3.47 weighs 665grams and measures 283mm long by 120mm wide and has a maximum thickness of 24mm. It also has part of the iron shaft intact, by which the harpoon head would have originally been attached to a wooden shaft. The shaft is undoubtedly broken, as a complete example in the Otago Early Settlers Museum has an iron shaft which is considerably longer. These artefacts are clearly associated with whaling activity, which was at its peak at Oashore during the 1840's, and so it is likely that they date from this period or possibly slightly later.



Figure 3.47 Harpoon head with shaft



Figure 3.48 Harpoon head

3.11 Fishing Gear

3.11.1 Fishing net weights

Two lead fishing net weights were recovered from Area 1. Figure 3.49 A is 55mm long and weighs 19grams, while 3.49 B is approximately 59mm long and weighs 45grams. Figure 3.49 B also appears to be two net weights, one squashed inside the other. Both weights are a dull yellow in colour and are possibly painted. The weights are made from roughly flat pieces of lead which have had the edges crimped over. The identification of these artefacts as net weights is based on several examples of similar lead net weights illustrated in Challis (1994:Figure 17 C-K). These items are handmade and so have no attributes which can be used for dating purposes. Apart from these items a further 290 grams of miscellaneous lead was recovered from Oashore.

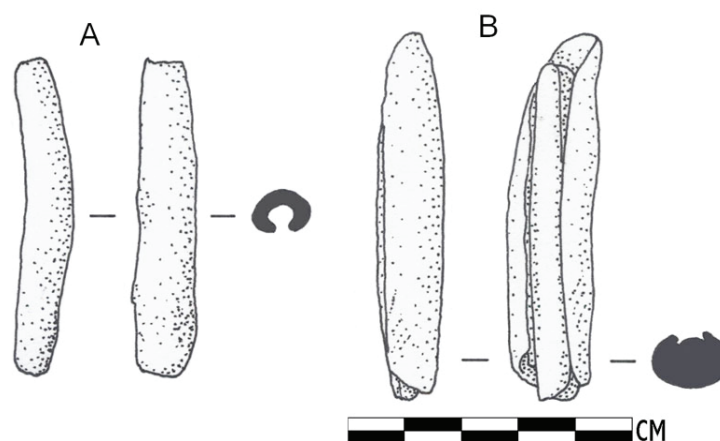


Figure 3.49 Lead fishing net weights

3.12 Hardware

3.12.1 Padlock (Figure 3.50)

One item from Area 1, which was initially unidentified, eventually turned out to be a padlock after it had been subjected to further cleaning. The padlock is of iron and the outer surface is much corroded and encrusted with concrete like dirt. The presence of a copper alloy keyhole cover and the keyhole that was revealed when it was removed led to its identification as a padlock. The padlock is approximately 70mm long, 45mm wide and 18mm in thickness. The keyhole cover, which is on a swivel, is 30mm long and has a maximum width of 12.5mm at the bottom and 8.5mm at the top. Impressed on the bottom of the keyhole cover are the words "TRADE" and "MARK", between which there is a pictorial design of some description. The term 'trade mark' was widely used on products, registered and otherwise, and so it is not possible to date this artefact any more precisely than to the nineteenth-century.

3.12.2 Horseshoe

A single, much corroded and encrusted, horseshoe was recovered from the entranceway of the main house in Area 1. Unfortunately the condition of the horseshoe is such that it could not be measured accurately. Although it is roughly about 130 to 140mm long and about the same in width, at its widest point. The position of the horseshoe leads to the suggestion that it may once have hung above the doorway to the building.



Figure 3.50 Iron padlock

3.12.3 Firegrate

A number of miscellaneous iron fragments, of what was later identified as firegrate, were recovered from the fireplace in Area 2. The fragments are made of cast iron and have little in the way of any regular shape or form. Firegrates are usually made of cast iron and while they can withstand intense heat, they gradually degrade over time.

3.13 Other Artefacts

3.13.1 Gemstones

Several polished stones were found in and around the fireplace in Area 5. The stones do not occur naturally in Oashore Bay, but are common just around the headland to the south on the beach at Birdlings Flat and along Kaitorete Spit. The stones were found amongst whaling period material and so it is likely that these items were collected by one of the whalers or possibly by women or children present at the site.

3.14 Copper Alloy Fastenings

3.14.1 Nails, Tacks, Clenched Nails, Clenched Bolts, and Screws

A significant quantity and variety of copper alloy nails, spikes and screws were found at Oashore (Table 3.11). In total a minimum number of 308 items are represented in this category. The majority of the copper nails are rectangular or square sectioned cut nails, with only a few round section nails. Minimum numbers were calculated by counting the number of diagnostic heads and points for each type, with the higher number representing the minimum number for that type. Most of the copper fastenings are generally associated with the construction of boats, although some may have also been used in general construction.

Table 3.11 Copper alloy fastenings, all areas

Type	NISP	MNI	Weight (g)	Length Range (mm)
<i>Clenched Nails</i>	10	10	23.1	18 - 31
<i>Flat Head Nails</i>	55	53	125.98	23 - 95
<i>Tacks</i>	7	7	3.66	15 - 22
<i>Wood Screws</i>	5	5	19.97	
<i>Small Pins</i>	2	2	.23	14
<i>Rose Head Nails</i>	15	15	23.49	27 - 46
<i>Sheathing Tacks</i>	158	150	368.29	23 - 33
<i>Boat Spikes</i>	15	11	529	120+
<i>Non-Diagnostic Copper Nails</i>	62	55	95.06	
Totals:	329	308	1189	

Sheathing Tacks (Figure 3.51 A - C)

Sheathing tacks were by far the most numerous type of copper fastening recovered (see Table 3.11). Almost all of them have square sectioned shanks, but a few do have more rounded shanks. Sheathing tacks were generally used to fasten copper sheathing to the hulls of ships and boats. British made sheathing tacks are cut nails with a square section, and have a flat head which is slightly countersunk underneath. Square sectioned nails were used in boatbuilding because they do not turn or twist in the hole once they have been driven into the wood (Leather 1973:22-3). Nails 3.51 A and B have four sided points, while the section of 3.51 C tapers down from square to rectangular to form a chisel point.

Clenched Nails (Figure 3.51 D - F)

Figure 3.51 D to F are square sectioned, flat head, copper nails which have been clenched on a roove. Such fastenings were employed in the construction of small clinker built boats to fasten two pieces of planking together. The copper nail would be driven into a pre-bored hole through the two pieces to be joined and then a copper roove or washer would be slid over the point end of the nail. Through the use of a roove punch and a dolly, the roove would then be driven firmly into the wood, whereafter the excess length of the nail would be cut off and the end riveted over the roove with a hammer (Leather 1973:22-29; see Figure 3.52). Copper nails and rooves were usually used for this purpose, as the malleability of copper makes them easy to work and rivet over. Many of the copper fastenings associated with boats, such as clenched nails, may have possibly been deposited when parts of old boats were burnt in fireplaces. Figures 4.15 to 4.18 clearly show a greater concentration of copper fastenings in and around the fireplaces in all areas, where hearths were identified.

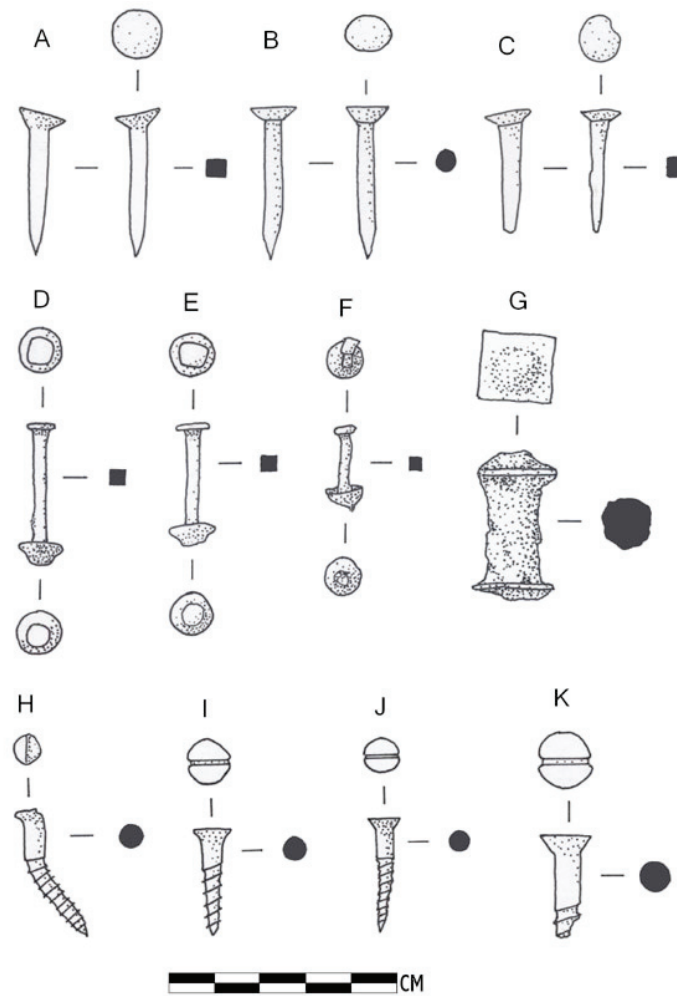
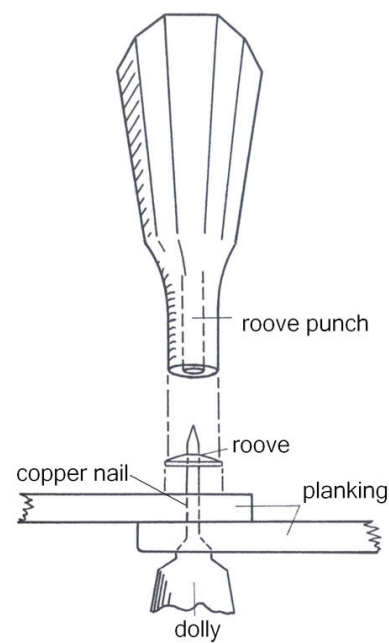


Figure 3.51 Copper alloy fastenings: A-C sheathing tacks; D-F clenched nails; G clenched bolt; H-K wood screws



(adapted from Leather 1973:26, Fig 14)

Figure 3.52 Clenching a nail on a roove

Clenched Bolts (Figure 3.51 G)

Two clenched bolts, also of a type used in boatbuilding, were also found. Both are of iron, with flat square copper washers on either end. Such fastenings were traditionally made simply and cheaply, from a piece of "copper or iron rod driven through the parts to be joined, cut off with a margin at each end and riveted over copper or iron washers" (Leather 1973:20). Iron is much stronger than copper but degrades quickly in a saltwater environment, however, it has the advantage of being cheap, and a certain degree of oxidation actually helps the bolt grip in the joint.

Wood Screws (Figure 3.51 H - K)

Copper alloy wood screws were also commonly employed in some facets of boatbuilding. All are round sectioned and have flat heads, which are slightly countersunk and have a single slot running across the centre.

Flat Head Copper Nails (Figure 3.53 A - C; Figure 3.54 C)

A variety of flat head nails, all with square sectioned shanks, were recovered. 3.53 A, at 95mm long, represents the upper limit for copper nails and except for the fact that it has a shank which is only 4.5mm wide, it could almost be classified as a spike. Figures 3.53B and 3.53 C clearly illustrate the difference between an ordinary four sided point and a chisel point.

Rose Head Nails (Figure 3.53 D - F; Figure 3.54 A - B)

Rose head nails have a distinctively shaped head, which has been formed by the blank nail head having been struck on all four sides. All rose head copper nails have square sectioned shanks. Rose head nails are far less numerous in the assemblage than other types, such as sheathing tacks.

Tacks and Pins (Figure 3.54 D - F)

A small number of copper tacks and very small nails or pins were found. The tacks all have flat heads and square sectioned shanks. Two small pins, both about 14mm long, were also recovered but are not illustrated. They also have square sectioned shanks and were probably used in the manufacture of footwear.

3.14.2 Spikes

Boat Spikes (Figures 3.55 and 3.56)

Two distinct types of copper alloy spikes are represented, those with round heads and shanks, and those with square heads and shanks. Such items are generally associated with ship construction, especially the square sectioned spikes, and were used "for securing large timbers and decking" (Gibbs 1996:234). The only complete example is Figure 3.55 B, which although bent is approximately 120mm long, with a diameter of around 12mm. Figure 3.55 A is broken but is considerably heavier, with a diameter of about 18mm, and would probably have originally been much larger.

The square sectioned spikes all taper down to chisel or wedge shaped points, or at least those examples where the point is extant. None are complete but it seems likely that they would have been of a similar size to 3.55 B. The spikes could not have originated from the small, lightly built whaleboats and must have either come from a larger vessel or have been stored on site for the repair of such vessels.

Another possibility is that copper alloy fastenings may have been employed in the general construction or at least the repair of, the station buildings. Copper fastenings would likely have been kept on site for the repair of whaleboats, which would likely have required regular maintenance at either the beginning or end of each season. Likewise any wooden structures on the site would also have required seasonal repairs.

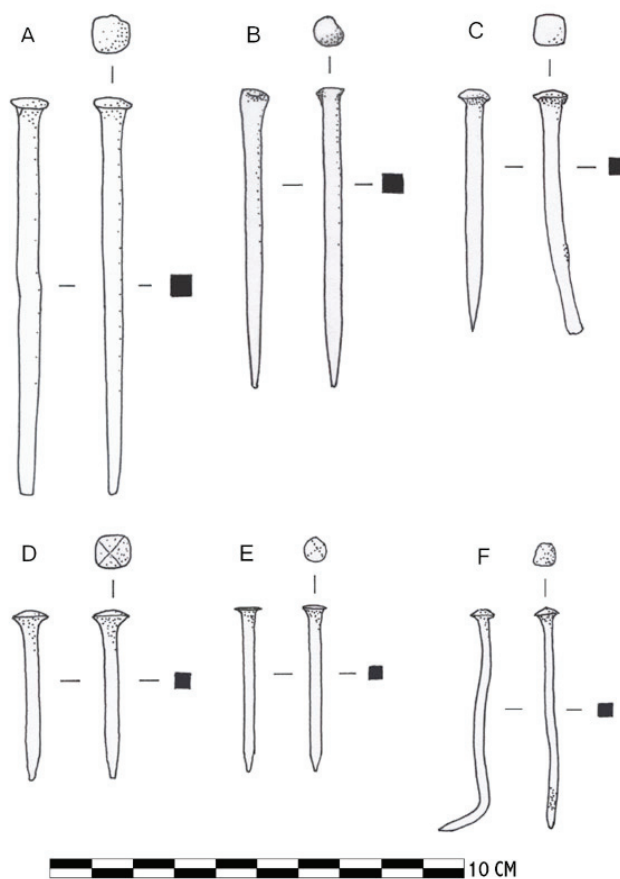


Figure 3.53 Flathead & rosehead copper nails

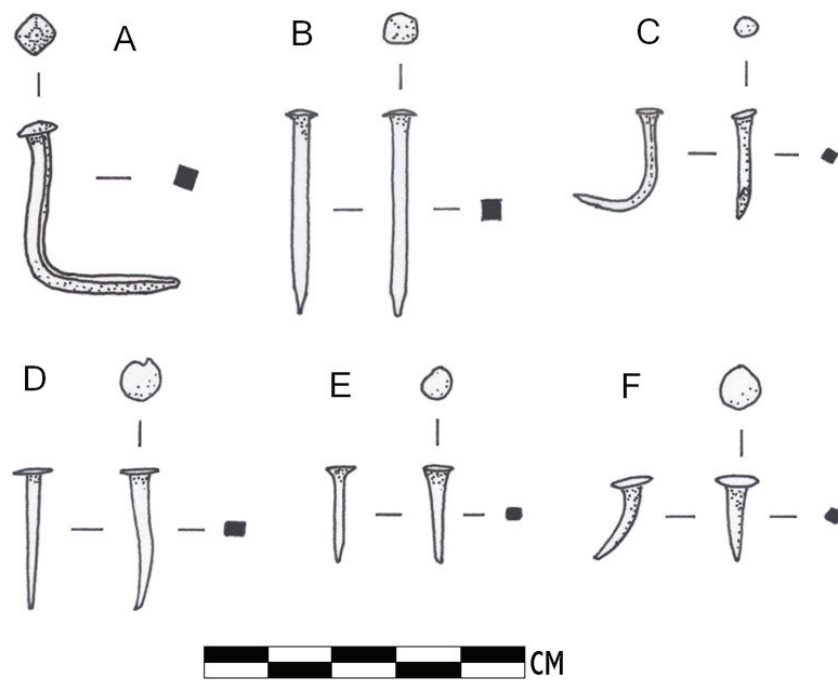


Figure 3.54 Small copper nails & tacks

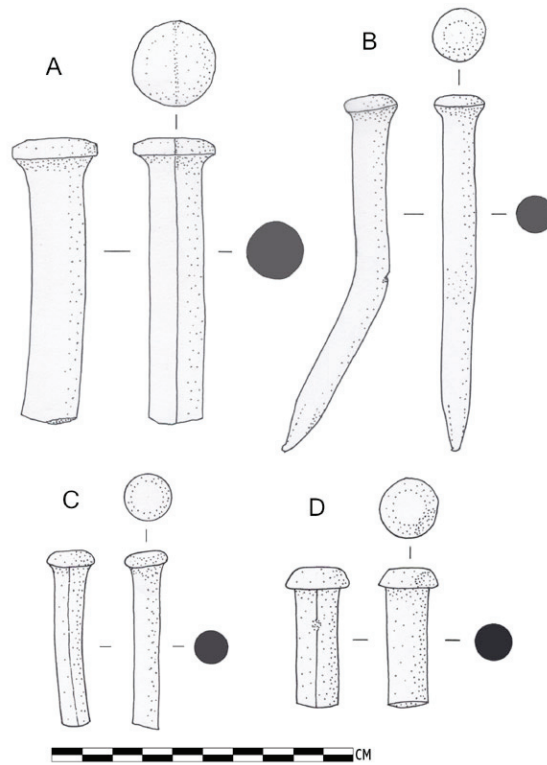


Figure 3.55 Round sectioned copper alloy spikes

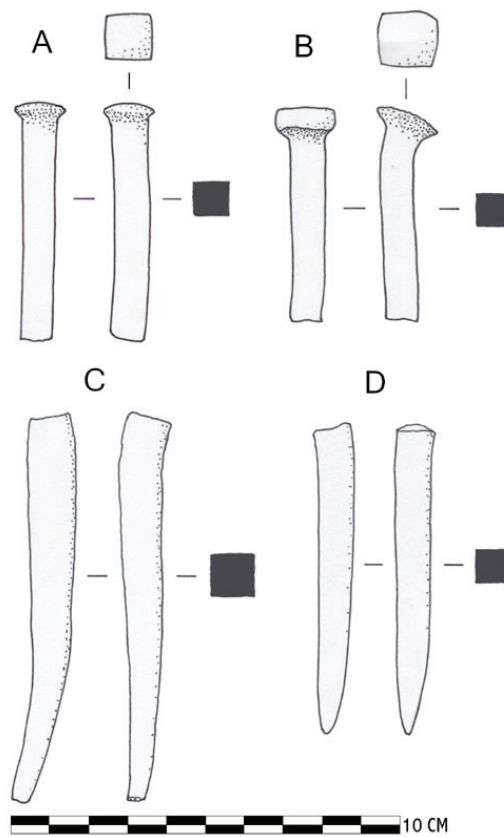


Figure 3.56 Square sectioned copper alloy spikes

3.15 Copper and Brass Miscellany

3.15.1 Copper Sheathing

A total of 650grams of copper sheathing was recovered from throughout the site. Many fragments have clearly been used, as demonstrated by the presence of nail holes and in some cases nails are still attached. Copper sheathing was generally used to protect the hulls of ships and was fastened to them with sheathing tacks. Smaller craft such as whaleboats did not require sheathing, although it could have been kept on hand to repair such boats (Gibbs 1996:234). The presence of small fragments of copper sheathing in and around the buildings, however, suggests that small pieces may have been used to patch walls or more likely roofs against the elements.

3.15.2 Unidentified Items

A number of unidentified and miscellaneous items of either copper alloy or brass were found at Oashore. One of the more interesting pieces is illustrated in Figures 3.57 and 3.58 A. The object is probably of cast brass and appears to be an implement or tool of some kind. The wider end of the object, to the left of the picture, appears to possibly be a cutting edge and so it may well be a tool that was used to work wood. Fragments of at least one other similar object are illustrated in Figure 3.58 B - D.

Figure 3.58 E, is a hardware fitting of some description. The item clearly has two recessed holes, one on either side, for nailing or screwing the fitting to a wooden surface. Figure 3.58 F, is an unidentified brass object recovered from Area 3.

Two objects made from copper sheathing were recovered from the boathouse area. Figure 3.59 A is rectangular in shape, with rounded corners and is approximately 116mm long, by 91mm wide. In the middle of the object a strip of copper, has been riveted on with a copper nail at each end. The copper strip may have acted as a handle, although the exact purpose of the object is not clear. A fragment of wood is also caught under the squashed strip of copper. Figure 3.59 B shows another unidentified object, which is incomplete. The item is made from two pieces of copper sheathing, with the ends to be joined, having been turned over and fastened together with three copper nails, simply by turning the points of the nails over at the back. Tabs have been purposely cut down both sides of the object, although to what purpose is not clear. Both of these objects were probably manufactured on site for a specific purpose, in other words they are one off items, and so it is unlikely that their original purpose will be discovered.

Figure 3.60 illustrates several pieces of copper, which appear to have served as the rim or collar of some object, which has not survived. The smaller pieces at the bottom left of the picture appear to be fasteners of some kind which would have joined the rim or collar to the original object.



Figure 3.57 Brass object



Figure 3.58 Miscellaneous copper & brass objects



Figure 3.59 Objects manufactured from copper sheathing



Figure 3.60 Copper rim

3.16 Iron Fastenings

3.16.1 Nails and Tacks

Iron fastenings were by far the most numerous item of hardware found at Oashore (see Table 3.12). Ferrous nails and spikes are generally found in most historic sites, where any form of building activity has occurred in the past. Nails are potentially useful for dating, as the technology and processes of making nails changed over time, especially during the course of the 19th-century. Unfortunately ferrous metal artefacts degrade over time, making exact identification of objects and types difficult, and the iron assemblage from Oashore is no exception. However several general observations can be made.

Table 3.12 Quantity of iron fastenings by Area

Area	NISP	Weight (g)
1	427	2603
2	87	457
3	9	56
4	77	916
5	62	115
7	1	8
Totals	663	4155

All of the nails and spikes from Oashore appear to be made of iron. Iron is easily identifiable by its wood-like grain, while steel is much more uniform in appearance (Wells 1998). Most nails are rectangular or square sectioned cut nails, although some may possibly be hand forged. The state of preservation makes exact identification of features difficult, without recourse to time consuming detailed analysis of each artefact. Only a few examples of wire nails are present and these are mostly highly degraded.

Square sectioned nails were made from nail rods, which from the seventeenth-century were supplied by rolling and slitting mills (Bealer 1976:205). When made by hand the point is forged first, and then the rod cut nearly through, just above where the head would be. Then the rod is placed point first in the nail-header, the rod twisted off at the cut, and the head formed with one or more blows of a hammer, depending on the type of head desired (Bealer 1976:207). The first viable combined cutting and heading machines were developed in America early in the nineteenth-century (Wells 1998:83). Cut nails were largely replaced by wire nails by the turn of the century. Once steel could be produced cheaply, it became favoured for the manufacture of nails from the 1880's and by 1900 all nails were made of steel (Wells 1998:87). The prevalence of square sectioned cut nails in the Oashore assemblage suggests that most were manufactured before the 1880's.

Figure 3.61 illustrates the full range of iron nails found at Oashore. Figure 3.61 A, E, and I are examples of round sectioned nails; the diameter of A and I being exaggerated by corrosion, while 3.61 B, C and G are chisel point iron nails. Figure 3.61 D and F are two rose head nails. Figure 3.61 H is a possible example of an iron clenched nail and can be compared with the copper clenched nails discussed earlier.

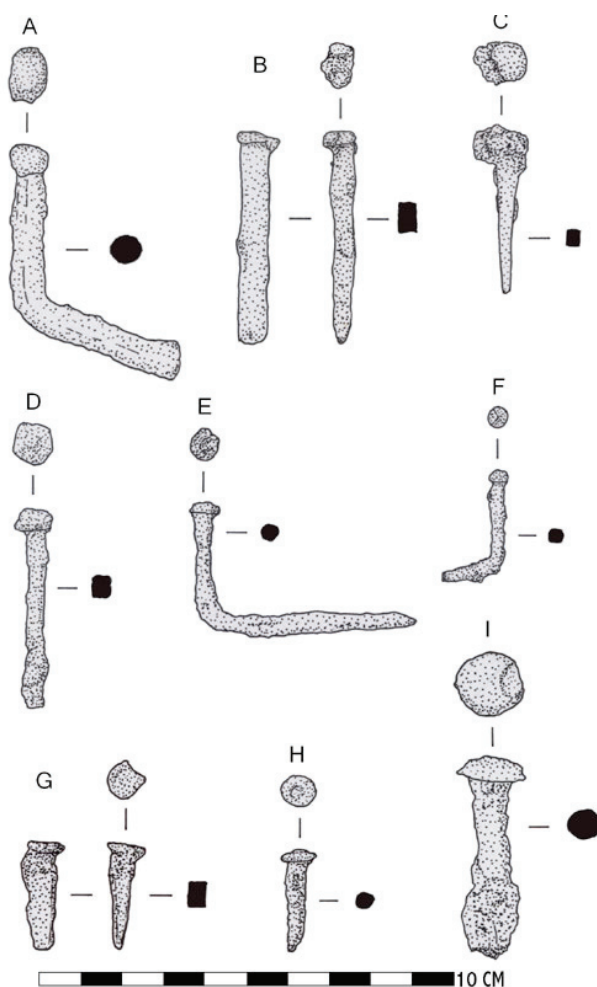


Figure 3.61 Iron nails & fastenings

3.16.2 Spikes

A variety of spikes and other larger fastenings were also present in the assemblage. All are made of iron and due to their size are better preserved in general than the nails. Most of the spikes are square sectioned, although round sectioned ones are also present (for example Figure 3.62 C). Figures 3.62 B, E and Figure 3.63 B, illustrate the more rectangular sectioned shanks typical of chisel pointed fastenings. Figure 3.64 A and B illustrate two large, albeit incomplete, round sectioned spikes or fastenings found in the fireplace of Area 5. Figure 3.64 C is a very long and thin round sectioned spike, with a four sided point. Fastenings such as these were undoubtedly used in heavy construction, in either ships or buildings.

3.17 Iron Objects and Miscellany

Ferrous metal was by far the most common artefactual material encountered at Oashore; both by weight and number (see Tables 3.1 and 3.2). Most of the metal assemblage, however, is comprised of unidentified objects and amorphous fragments of objects. Iron artefacts, unless they can be securely identified, are of little use for dating or other analytical purposes and so only a selection of artefacts are illustrated.

Figure 3.65 A appears to be an iron bolt, although the item is much degraded. Figure 3.65 B is a small iron wedge and is further illustrated below (Figure 3.66 A). Figures

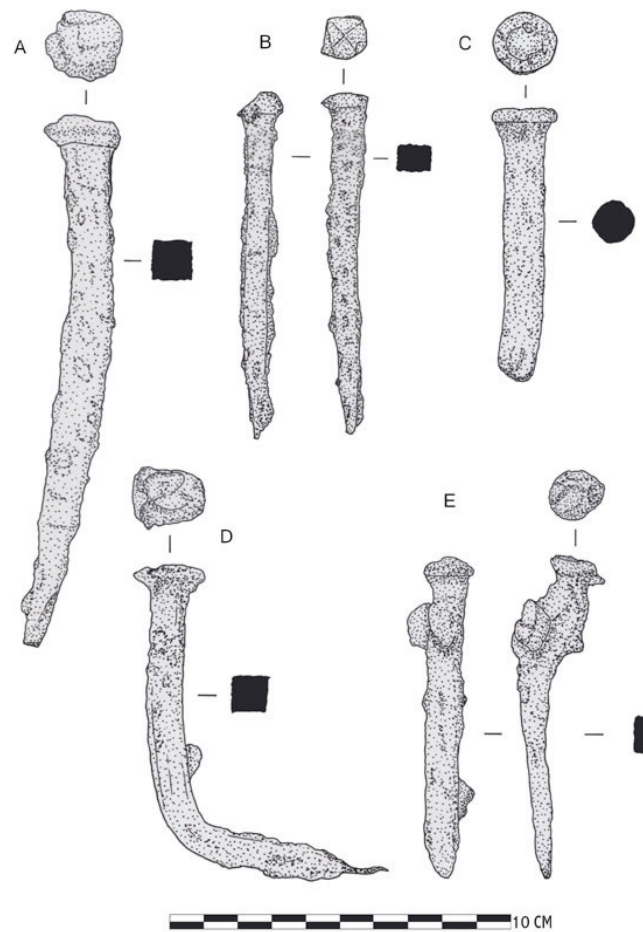


Figure 3.62 Iron spikes A

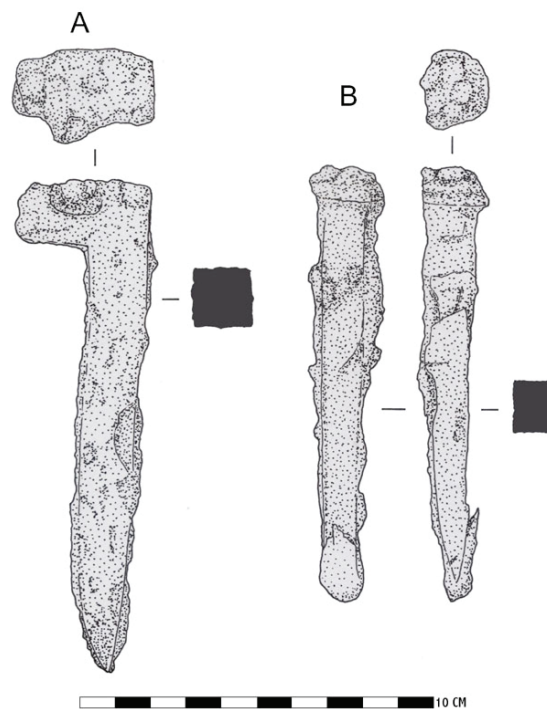


Figure 3.63 Iron spikes B

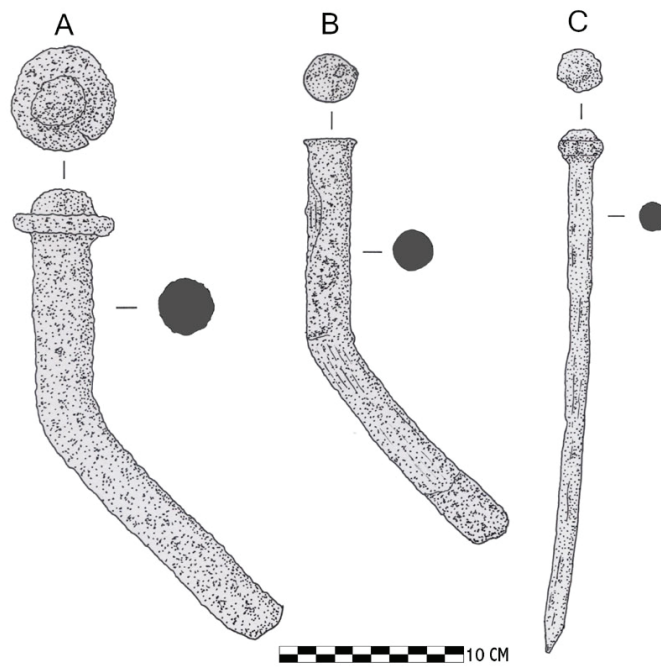


Figure 3.64 Iron spikes C

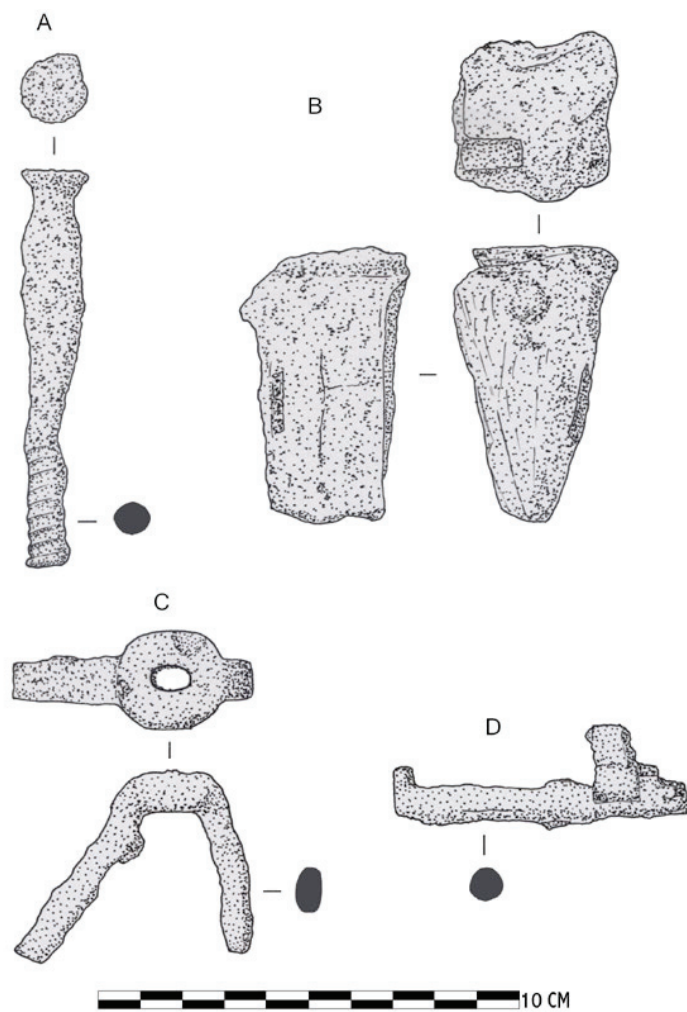


Figure 3.65 Miscellaneous iron artefacts

3.66 C and D are two unidentified objects, although 3.66 C appears to be a fitting of some kind. Figure 3.66 B illustrates some examples of flat pieces of iron which are approximately 32mm wide and 3.8mm thick. No hoop iron as such was found at Oashore, but these fragments may be just that. Figure 3.66 C appears to have a socket, possibly for a handle, and may therefore be a tool of some description. Figure 3.66 D, from Area 1, is possibly a solid leg of an iron stove or similar object. Area 1 did not have a large fireplace, like Areas 2, 4, and 5, but a small hearth was identified in the north-west corner of the building, along with several large fragments of iron which may possibly have come from a small stove or oven.

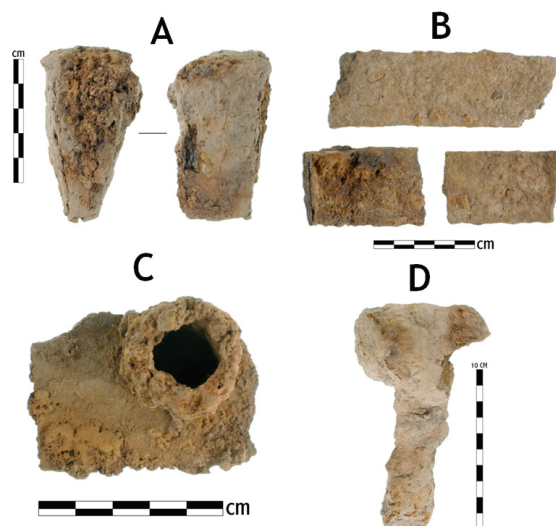


Figure 3.66 Iron objects

3.18 Modern Artefacts (Figure 3.80)

A small number of artefacts, which were of twentieth century origin, were recovered at Oashore. Two plastic bites from composite tobacco smoking pipes, a section of plastic comb and a plastic button, clearly fall into this category. All were found in Area 1 and must have been deposited by later visitors to the site and are unrelated to the whaling period.



Figure 3.67 Modern artefacts: A & B pipe bites; C plastic comb; D plastic button

4. Interpretation

4.1 Dating the Assemblage

The historic records indicate that shore whaling operations began at Oashore in 1840 and continued until 1849, after that time, whaling was carried out intermittently by Kaituna station hands for an unknown number of years, although Ogilvie states that little whaling was carried out after the 1850's (Ogilvie 1994:215). For this reason it would be expected that any artefacts associated with whaling activity at Oashore are most likely to have been deposited prior to 1860. Artefacts dating to a later period are likely to be associated with other activities.

Taking this proposition as a starting point, datable artefacts have been assigned to one of three distinct categories (see Table 4.1). Period 1 is defined as being from 1840 to 1860. This date range covers all of the artefactual material deposited from when the whaling station was first set up in 1839-40, to when whaling activity ceased at Oashore, probably sometime in the 1850s. Period 2, from 1860 to 1920, covers any materials resulting from activities immediately after the whaling period and into the twentieth-century. From the large amount of later nineteenth-century material recovered from Area 1, it seems likely that at least part of the site was reoccupied between the 1860s and 1880s. This later occupation is discussed further below in section 4.3. Period 3, from 1920 onwards, has been included to account for the small amount of material in the assemblage which is clearly of modern manufacture. These modern artefacts are in no way associated with whaling activity and merely represent items discarded by casual visitors to the site throughout the 20th-century. Many artefacts are also not able to be assigned to a specific period, such as a large proportion of the iron assemblage, and so a further category of artefacts of unknown date is included. Furthermore those artefacts which can be unequivocally associated with any given period, are given a 'definite' status, while those that are only most likely to date to a certain period are given a 'probable' status.

Period 1

From the table above it is clear that very few artefacts can be formally assigned to the whaling period. Only the two harpoon heads and the Davenport sherd, which is date-stamped, unquestionably belong to this period. Ceramics are the most useful of the general artefact categories and while backmarks give the most precise dates, attributes of decoration and form can also be used as fairly accurate temporal indicators. Two shell-edged decorated plates almost certainly belong to Period 1, as this style of decoration, with impressed curved lines on a scalloped rim and coloured in underglaze blue, or other colours, was mainly produced between 1795 and 1845 (Stelle 2001). Shell-edged plates continued to be produced throughout the 19th-century but the style of the decoration changed and so earlier pieces remain distinct. Willow pattern decorated ceramics were likewise produced throughout the nineteenth-century and beyond, but the colour of the blue and the clarity of the printing are suggestive of an early to middle nineteenth-century date. Similarly the milk jug from Area 1 also shows traits of decoration and style that suggest an early date. Edgebanding and hairlining are also styles more typical of the early part of the

Table 4.1 Date ranges for identified artefacts by Area

<u>Area</u>	<u>Period 1</u> (1840-1860)		<u>Period 2</u> (1860-1920)		<u>Period 3</u> (1920+)	<u>Undated</u>
1	Definite	Probable	Definite	Probable	Definite	Undated
	Harpoon Head	Milk Jug	W.T.Blake Pipe	A.Coghill Pipe	Plastic Button	Iron Artefacts
	Davenport Sherd	WP C Shell-edge C	Ballantyne Token	Composite Pipe Parts	Plastic Comb	Fishing Net Weights
		T.W.& Co CP	AP C	.22 Cases		Padlock
		Gun Part		Shotgun Shell Heads		Footwear
		Percussion Caps		Green Bottle		Buttons
		Edgebanded C				C Fragments
		Cu Fastenings				CP Fragments
		'black-beer' G				G Fragments
2		Cu Fastenings		Cartridge Cases		Iron Artefacts
						C Fragments
						G Fragments
						CP Fragments
3		'black-beer' G				C Fragments
						CP Fragments
						Iron & Metal
4	Harpoon Head	WP C Shell-edge C	1903 Threepence	.22 Case	Crown Seal G	Iron Artefacts
		Buttons		Pinfire Cartridge		C Fragments
		T.W.&Co. Pipe				G Fragments
		Cu Fastenings				CP Fragments
		'black-beer' G				
5		G Prunt				Iron Artefacts
		'black-beer' G				
		Teaspoon				
		Cu Fastenings				
		Gun Parts				
		Brass Button				
7		'black-beer' G				
		Cu Objects				

Abbreviations: WP C = Willow Pattern Ceramics; AP C = Asiatic Pheasant Ceramics C = Ceramics;
Cu = Copper; CP = Clay Pipes; G = Glass

nineteenth-century. Other transfer-printed sherds in red, purple, green and brown, were also more popular between the 1820's, when these colours were first came into production, and about 1850 (Majewski & O'Brien 1987:145).

Other characteristically early to middle nineteenth-century artefacts include 'black-beer' type bottles and clay tobacco pipes. Most of the 'black-beer' type bottles are represented by very small fragments, which suggest that they were deposited earlier rather than later. A later style green bottle from Area 1, which is considerably lighter in construction, survived relatively intact, suggesting that it was deposited not long before the site was abandoned. Two pipes marked with the name of the Edinburgh manufacturer, Thomas White and Company (1823-1876), could have been deposited after whaling had ceased; the presence of spurs though suggests that they are more likely to belong to Period 1. The gun parts, regardless of whether they are from flintlock or percussion lock weapons, almost certainly date to before 1860. Likewise the percussion caps were most likely deposited during this period, although they were still produced up to the turn of the century. Copper alloy fastenings have also been placed in Period 1, as they clearly relate to maritime activity and more specifically that involving smaller craft, such as whaleboats.

Period 2

Contrary to expectations before the excavation a large amount of material dating to the later nineteenth and early twentieth-centuries was recovered. Much of this derives from Area 1, although small amounts were also found in Areas 2 and 4. The presence of this later material was first confirmed by the discovery of three backmarked Asiatic Pheasant decorated plates, manufactured by the Old Hall Earthenware Company and dating to between 1861 and 1886.

Other artefacts securely dated to the later nineteenth-century include a bronze token, stamped with the business name of John Ballantyne, which likely dates to between 1872 and 1879. One clay pipe made by the London manufacturer William Thomas Blake, dates to between 1873 and 1898. Another by Glasgow manufacturer Alexander Coghill, dating to between 1826 and 1904, could relate either Period 1 or 2.

Artefacts dating to around the turn of the century include several headstamped shotgun shell heads, dating to between 1895 and 1911. Also a 1903 threepence and parts of two composite tobacco pipes are likely to have been deposited before 1920.

Period 3

Also present in the assemblage is a small amount of modern material which clearly dates from at least the 1920's or later. Included in this category is the top of a machine moulded crown-seal beer bottle, which was probably produced after the 1920's. A plastic button and part of a plastic comb are also definitely modern in origin. In the manufacture of buttons, for example, plastic did not become popular until the late 1930's (Cameron 1985).

Undated

As with any assemblage, a large proportion of artefacts cannot be securely dated to a specific period due to a number of factors including preservation and manufacturing techniques. Significant in this category is the large number of iron artefacts and while most, if not all, are of nineteenth-century manufacture, it is not possible to say whether a given item dates to 1840 or 1880, for instance. Despite this fact it is probably safe to assume that a large proportion of the iron assemblage does indeed relate to the whaling station.

Other fragmentary items, such as small sherds of ceramic, glass or clay tobacco pipe, are also very difficult to date. Dating such items relies on identification of vessel forms, decorative styles, makers' marks and manufacturing techniques. Utilitarian items, such as plain bone buttons, also fall into this category. The date of other items, like the handmade lead fishing net weights, is even less certain, as the end product has no temporally sensitive features. The lack of any clear stratigraphic layers across the site also means that items cannot be securely dated by context alone, resulting in a large number of artefacts with uncertain date ranges.

4.2 Spatial Distribution of Artefacts

No major concentrations of rubbish or any one kind of artefact were encountered at Oashore. Generally ceramics, clay tobacco pipes, glass and other artefacts were found randomly scattered throughout each area. Relative concentrations of certain types of artefacts do exist however, both within and between site areas.

Most ceramics in the Oashore assemblage are characterised by being very small, with most vessels represented by only a few sherds. One exception to this is a concentration of broken ceramic vessels inside the house in Area 1, around units S45/W7-8 and S46/W7-8, which is clearly evident from Figures 4.1 and 4.2. Most of these sherds belong to the four Asiatic Pheasant decorated vessels described earlier. The fact that they were found this way suggests that they were left behind when the site was abandoned and broken *in situ* when the north wall collapsed. Another smaller concentration can be seen just outside the south-eastern corner of the building in the vicinity of unit S47/W4.

Significantly smaller quantities of ceramics were found outside of Area 1, as can be seen in Figures 4.3 and 4.4. (see also Tables 3.1 and 3.2). Very few sherds were found in Areas 2 and 5. Area 4 was second only to Area 1 in the quantity of ceramics found, but the size of the sherds was much smaller, averaging just 1.6 grams, compared to 8.78 grams in Area 1. More ceramics were also found in units S70/W16-17 and S71/W15-17, than in the excavation around the Area 4 fireplace. This clearly suggests differential preservation of artefactual material between Areas. While the collapsed stone walls of the cottage effectively sealed the deposits there, other lightly built structures would have afforded little protection to any artefacts lying on the surface after the site was abandoned.

From Area 1 at least, there is also evidence that sherds from earlier Period 1 vessels are more widely scattered than those from Period 2. Figure 4.5 shows the distribution of the sherds belonging to the milk jug, which was interpreted as being of early 19th-century manufacture. While most are concentrated around units S45/W7-8 and S46/W7 inside the house, the rest are quite widely dispersed, including three sherds found outside the building. The Asiatic Pheasant tableware on the other hand, is much more tightly grouped (Figure 4.6) suggesting that they have been largely undisturbed since deposition. Vessels from other areas were too fragmentary for any similar comparisons to be made.

The clay tobacco pipe assemblage from Oashore is quite small, but once again some minor concentrations can be discerned. In Area 1 relatively few pipe fragments were found inside the house and basically none in the excavated units outside the north, west and east walls. Outside the south-eastern corner, however, where several units were excavated, a significantly greater number of pipe fragments were recovered (Figure 4.7).

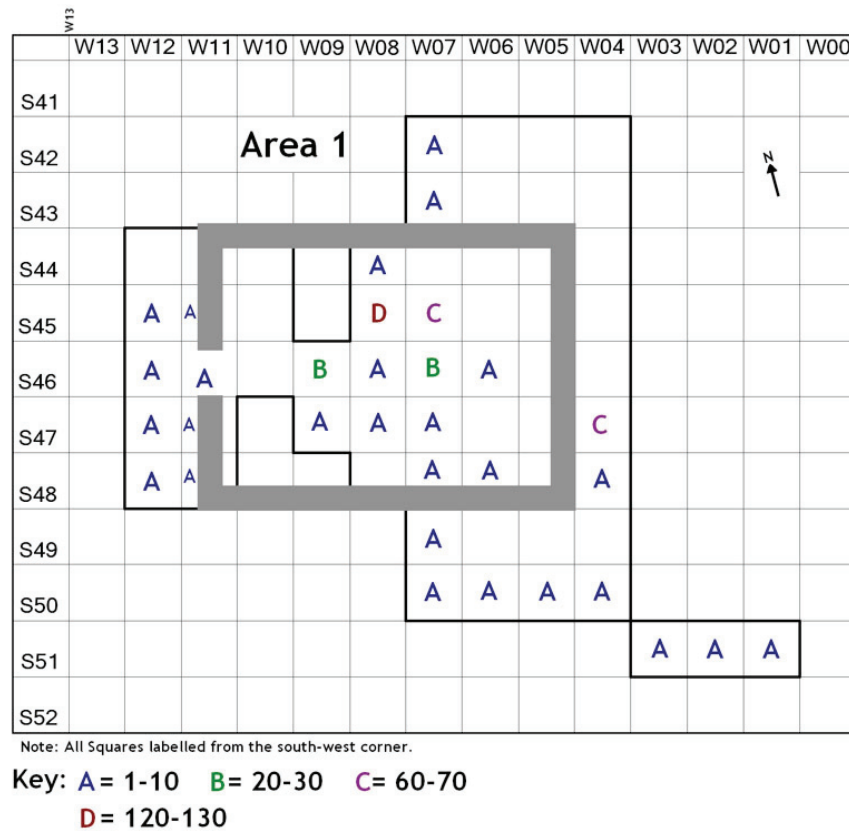


Figure 4.1 Area 1: Distribution of ceramics by NISP

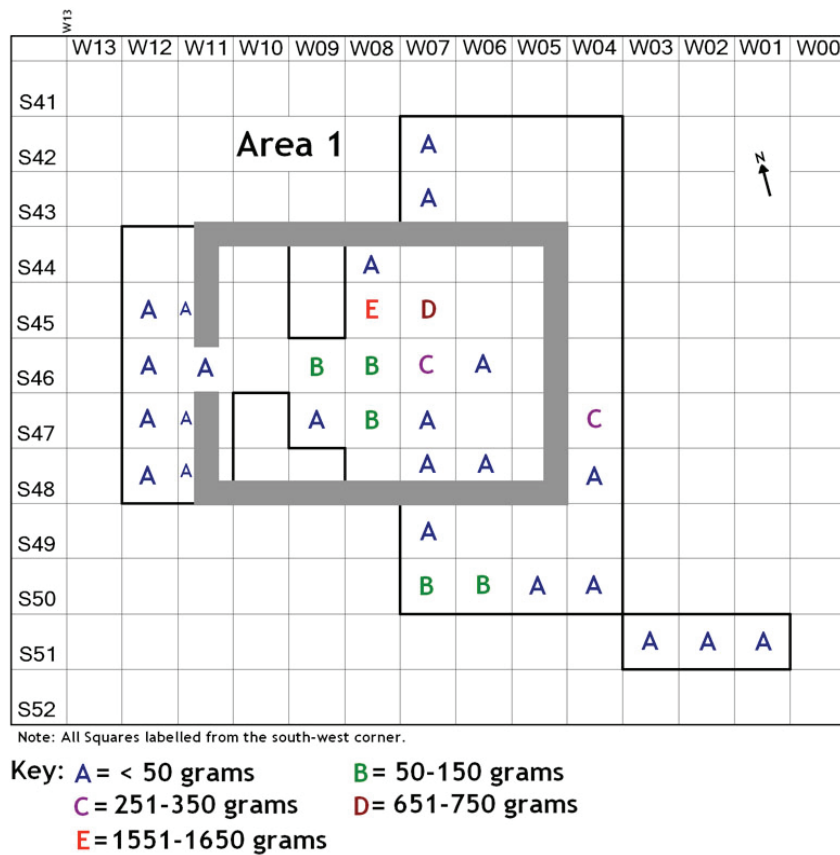


Figure 4.2 Area 1: Distribution of ceramics by weight

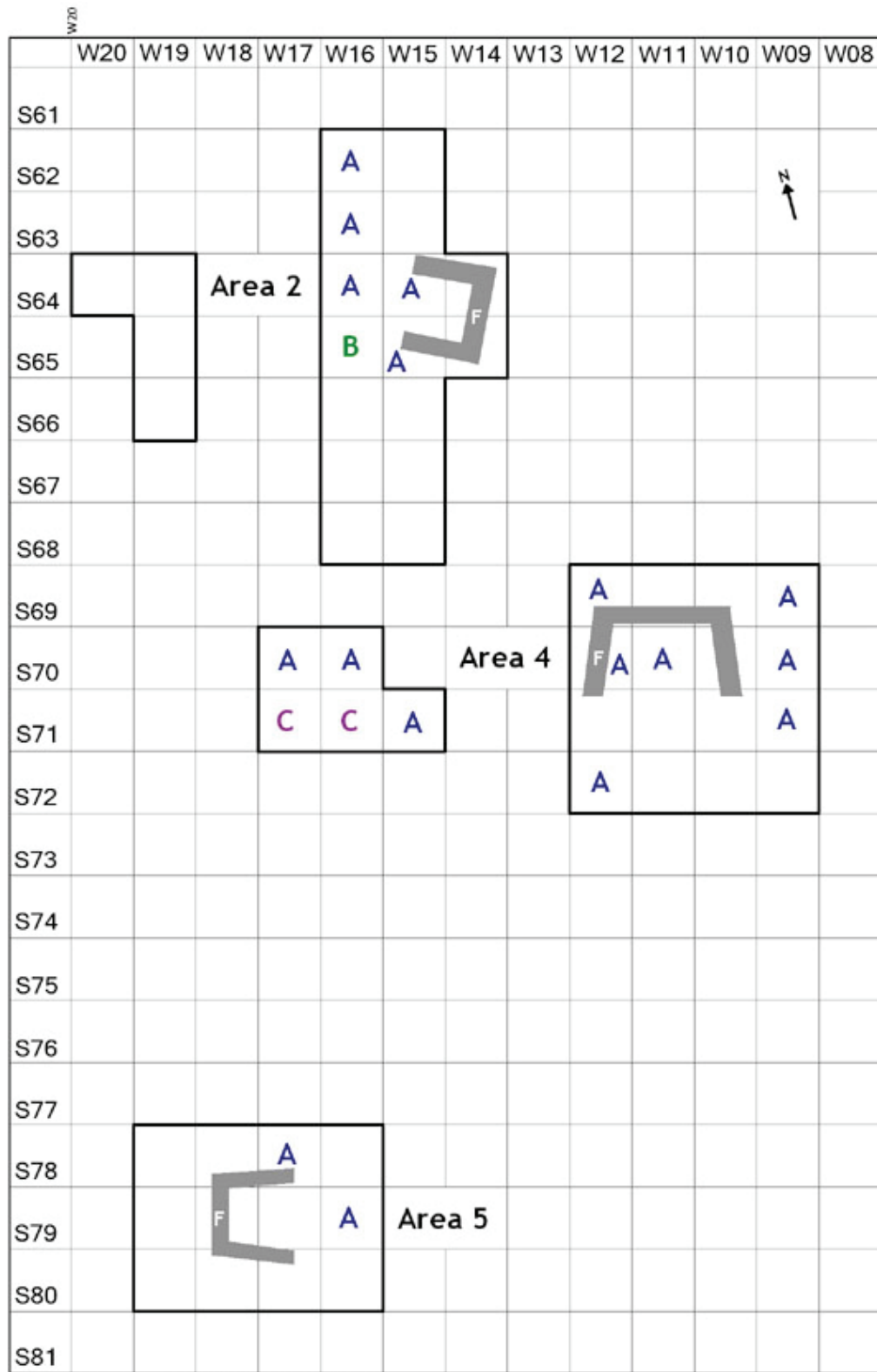


Figure 4.3 Areas 2, 4 & 5: Distribution of ceramics by NISP

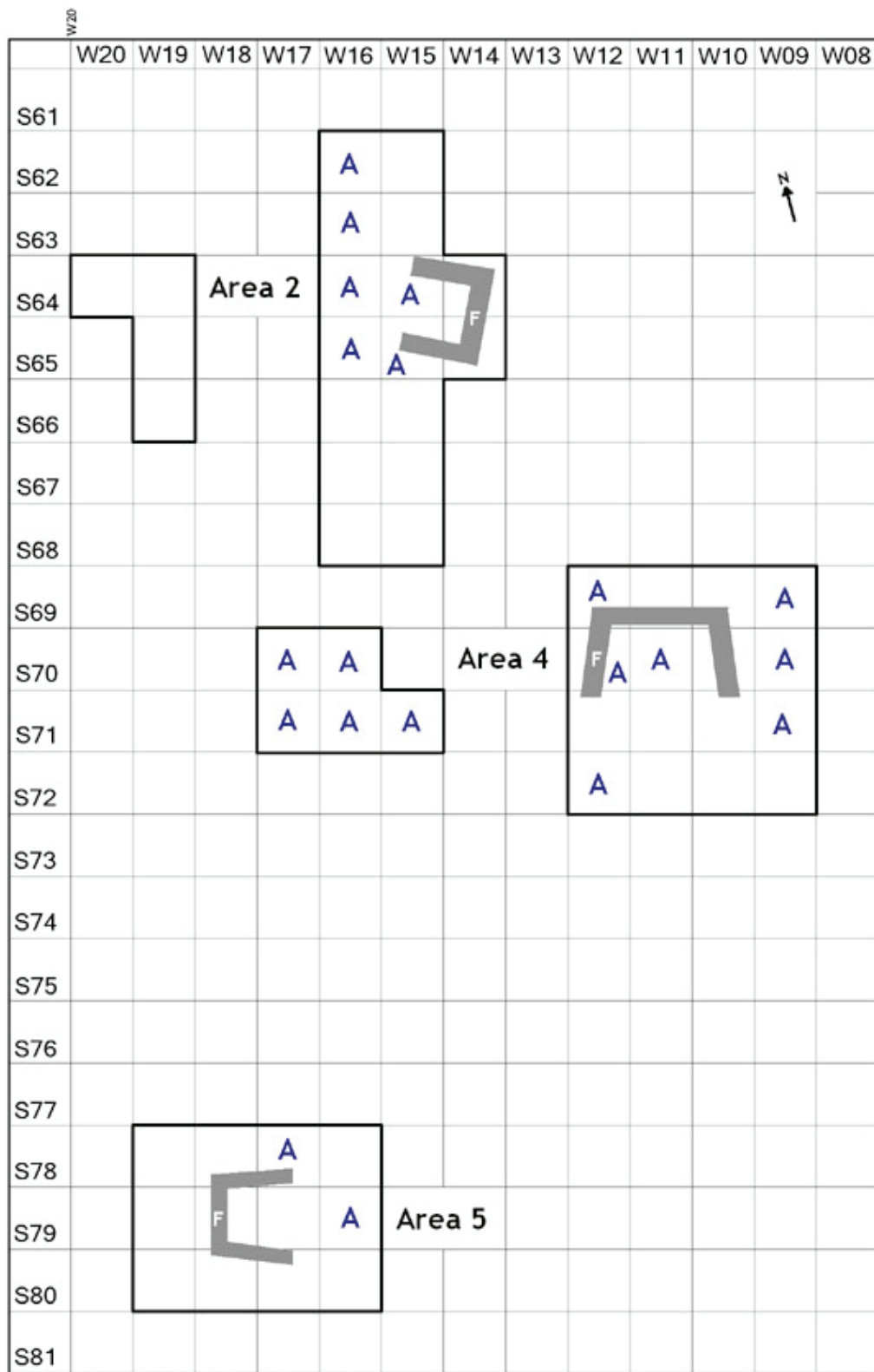


Figure 4.4 Areas 2, 4 & 5: Distribution of ceramics by weight

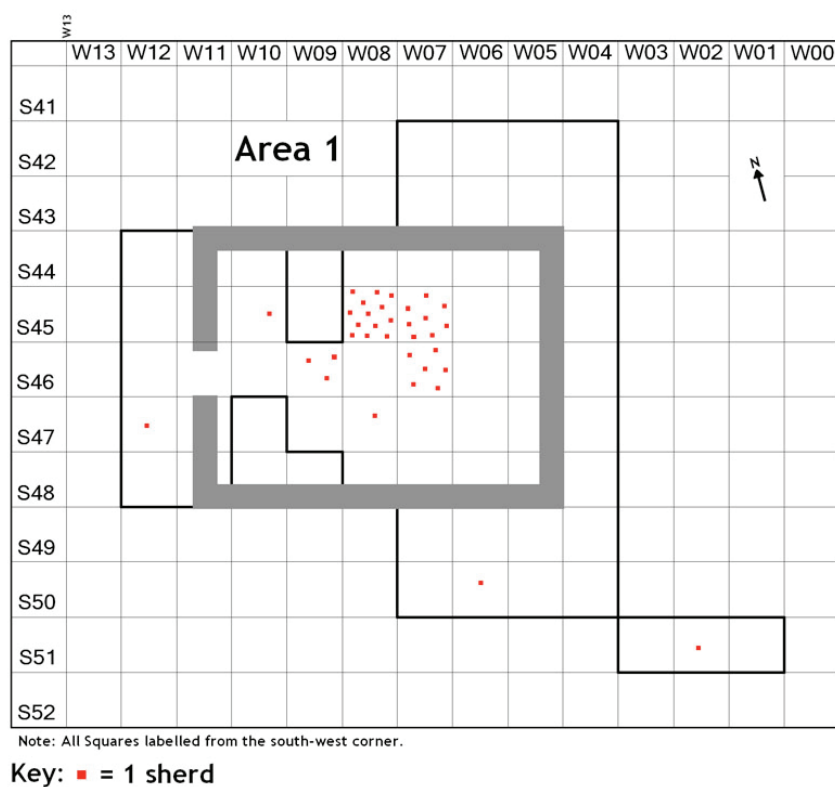


Figure 4.5 Area 1: Distribution of milk jug sherds

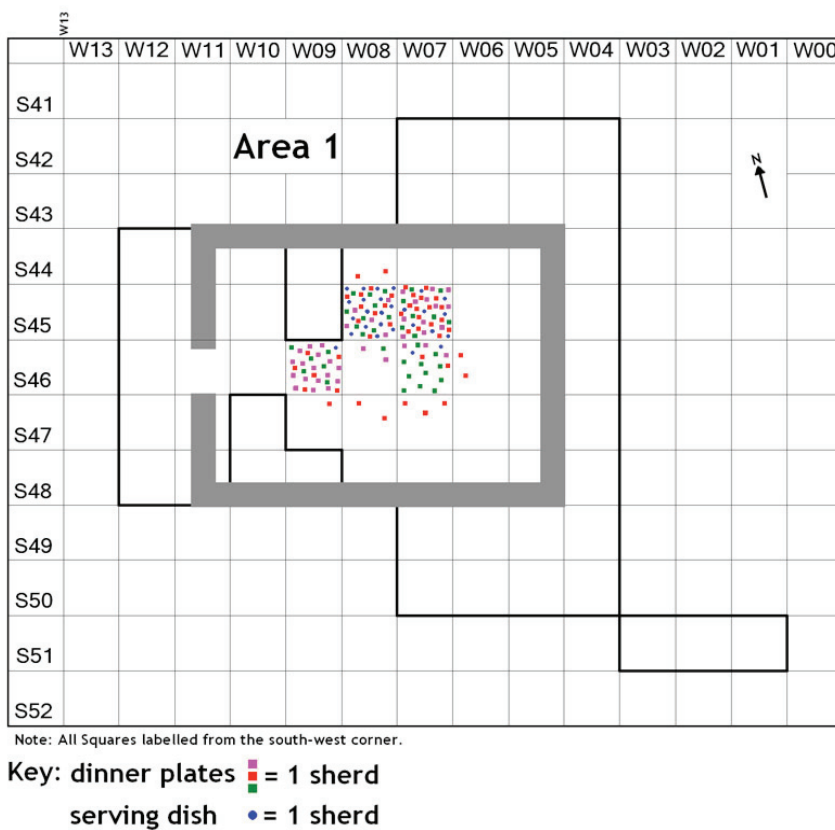
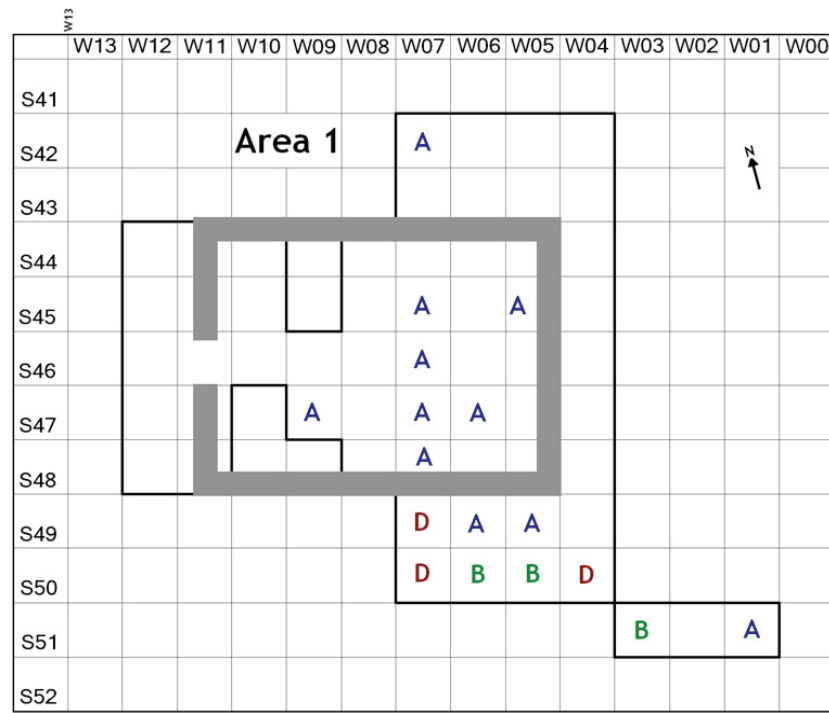
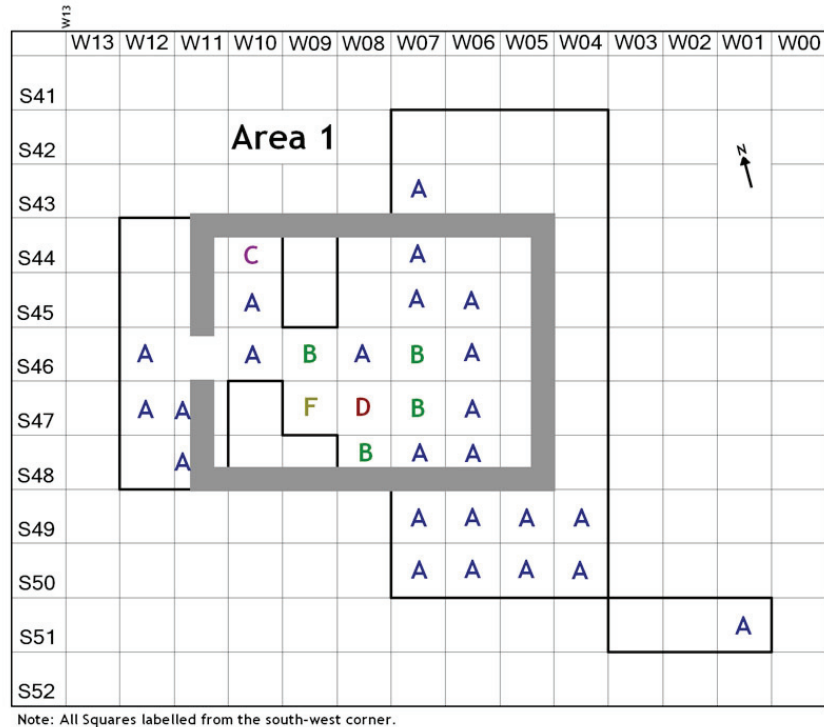


Figure 4.6 Area 1: Distribution of Asiatic Pheasant tableware



Key: A = 1-5
 B = 6-10
 C = 11-15
 D = 16-20

Figure 4.7 Area 1: Distribution of clay pipes by NISP



Key: A = ≤ 100g B = 101-200g C = 201-300g D = 301-400g
 E = 401-500g F = ≥ 501g

Figure 4.8 Area 1: Distribution of iron fastenings by weight

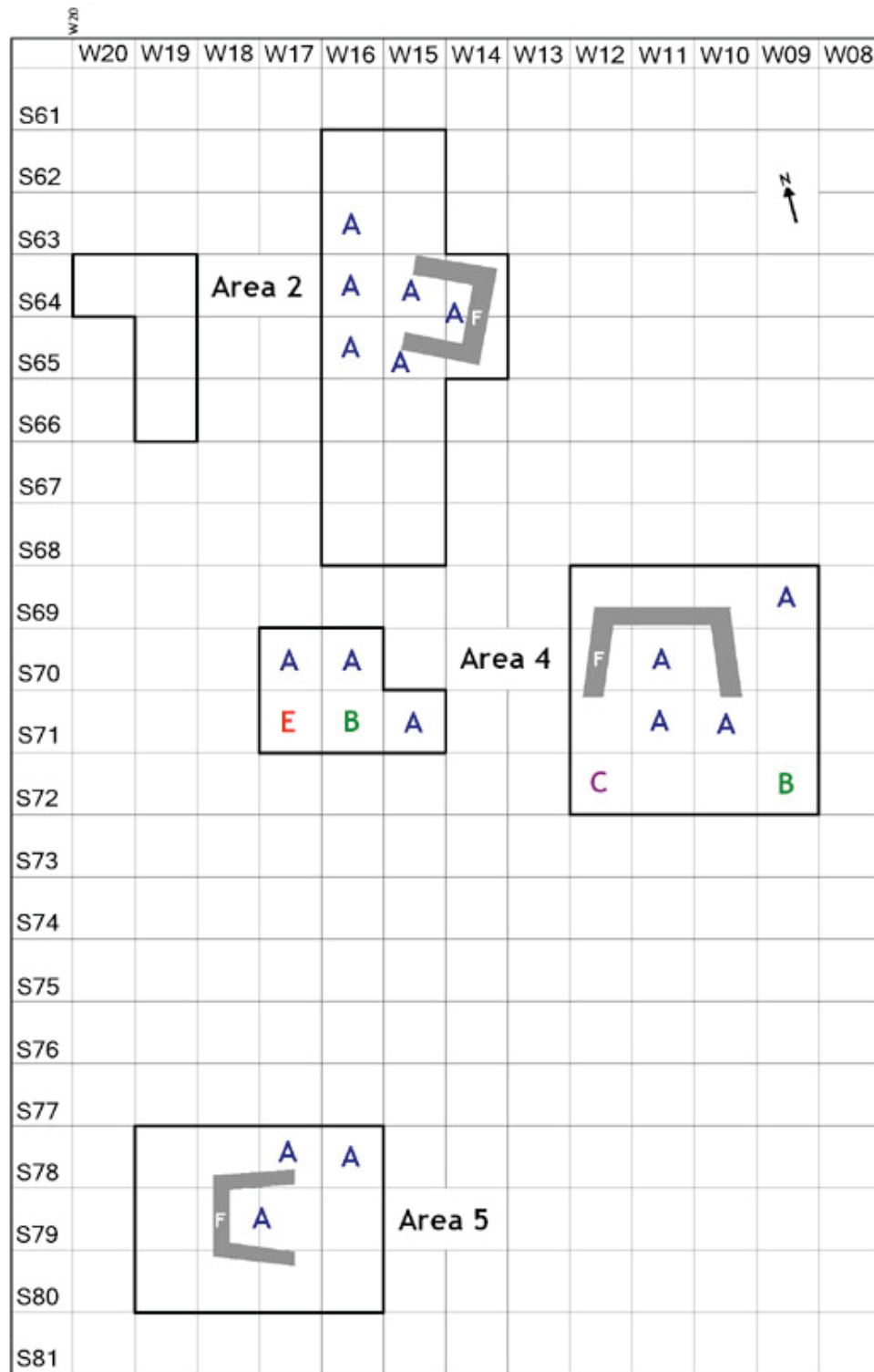


Figure 4.9 Areas 2, 4 & 5: Distribution of clay pipes by NISP

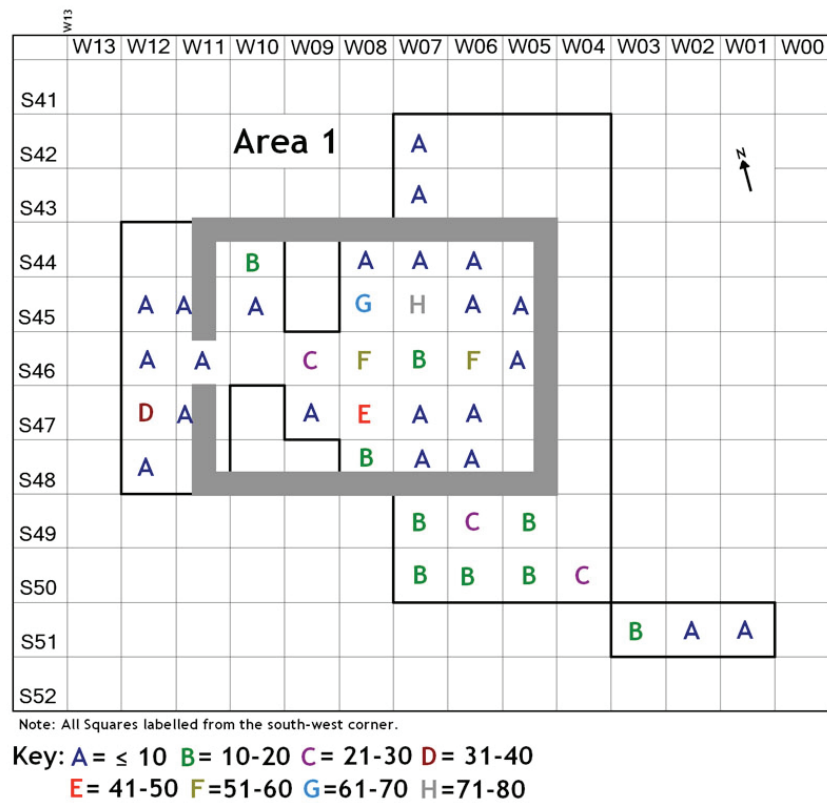


Figure 4.10 Area 1: Distribution of bottle glass by NISP

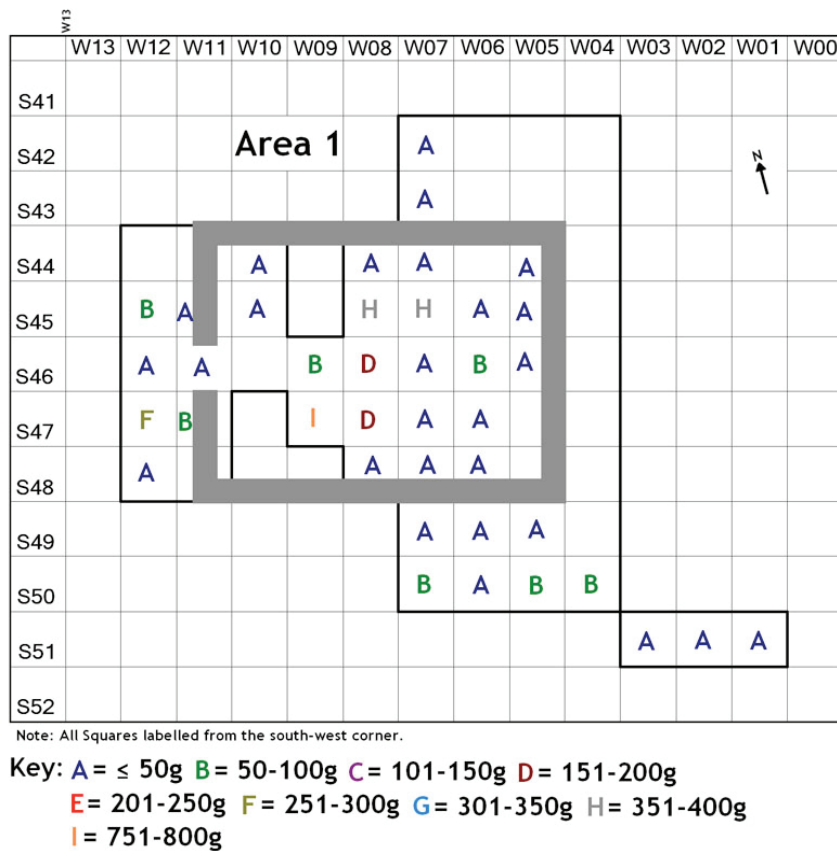


Figure 4.11 Area 1: Distribution of bottle glass by weight

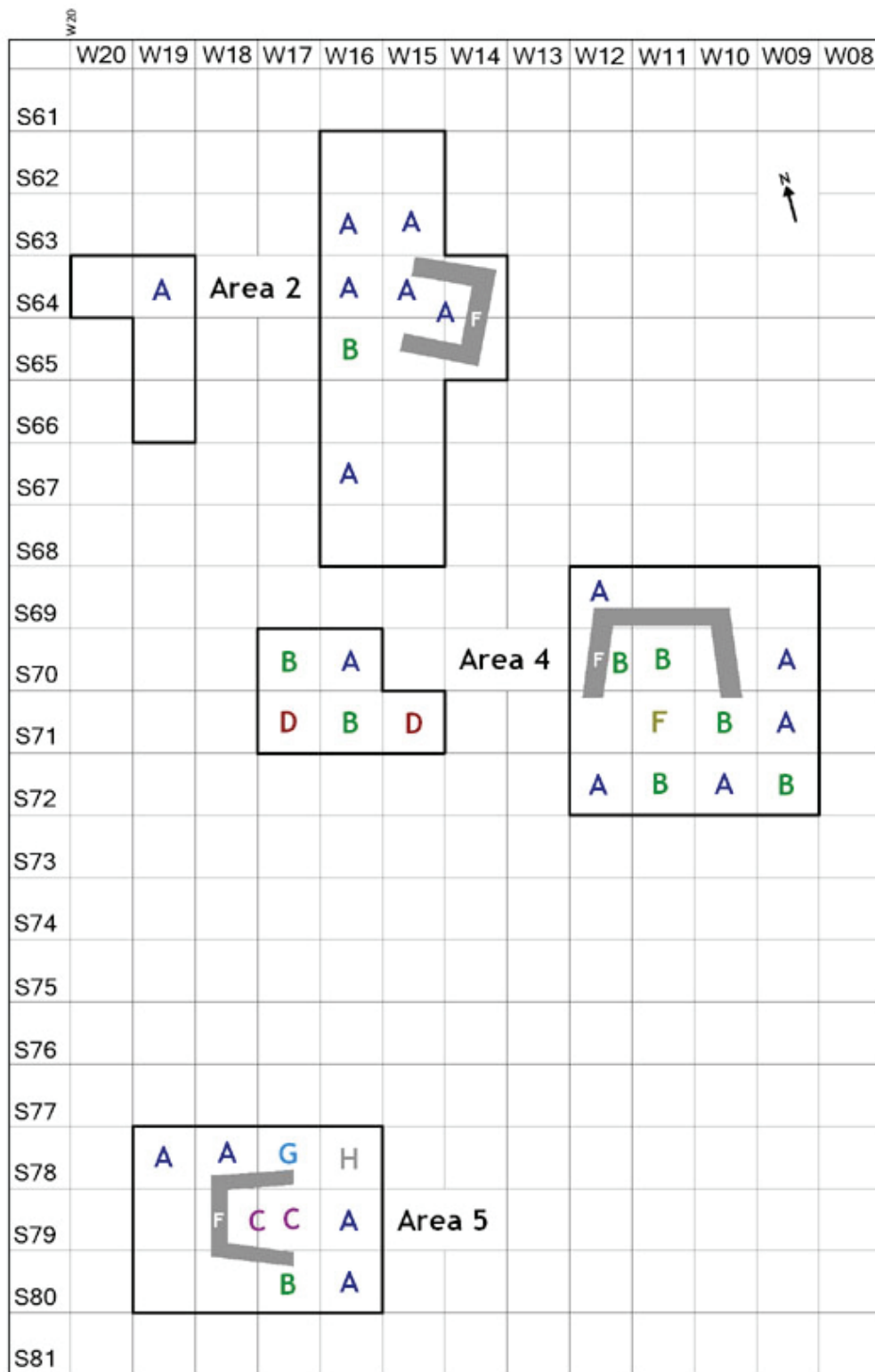
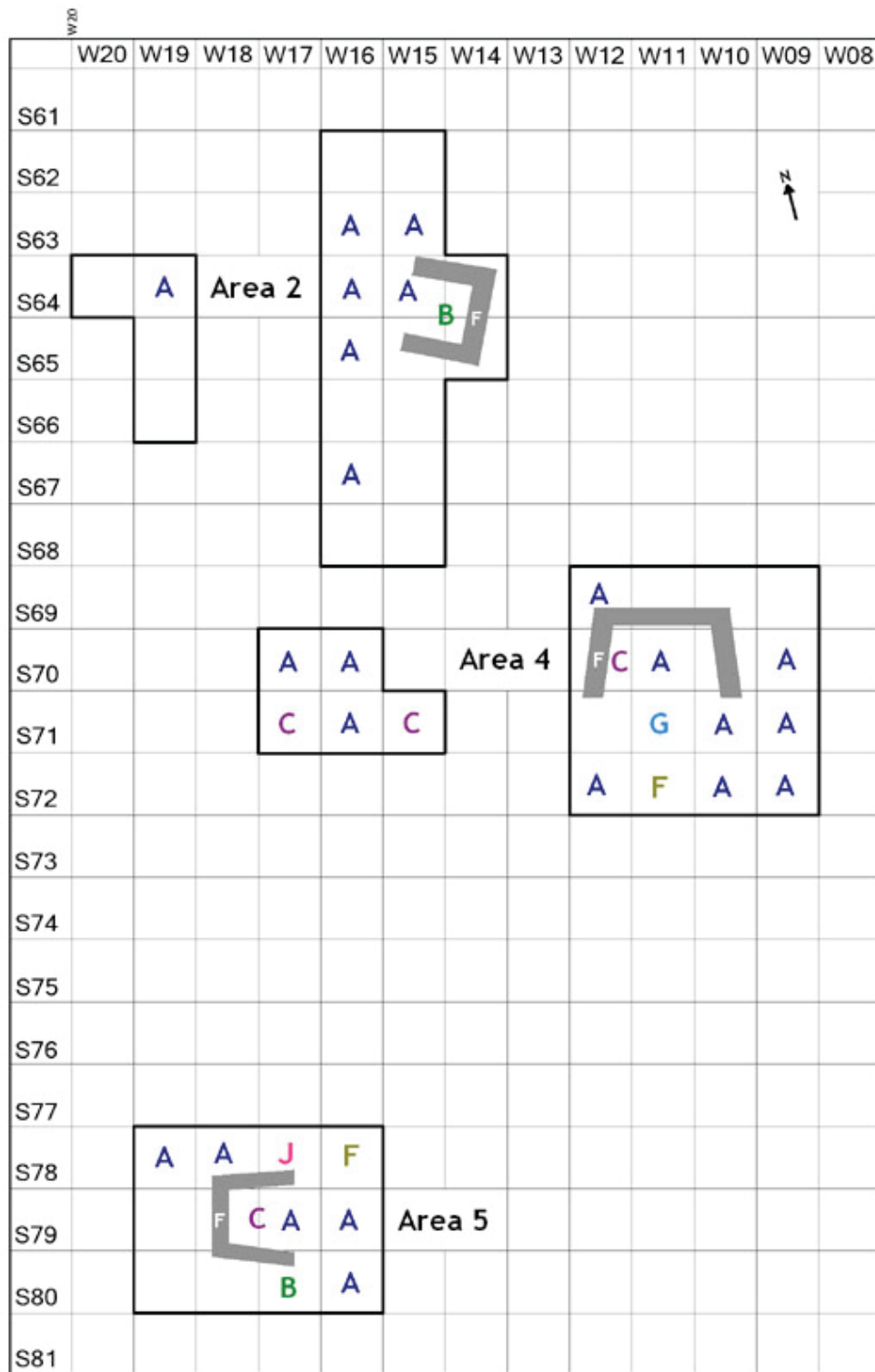


Figure 4.12 Areas 2, 4, & 5: Distribution of bottle glass by NISP



Note: All Squares labelled from the south-west corner.

Key: A = ≤ 50g B = 50-100g C = 101-150g D = 151-200g
 E = 201-250g F = 251-300g G = 301-350g H = 351-400g
 I = 751-800g J = 851-900g
 F = Fireplace

Figure 4.13 Areas 2,4, & 5: Distribution of bottle glass by weight

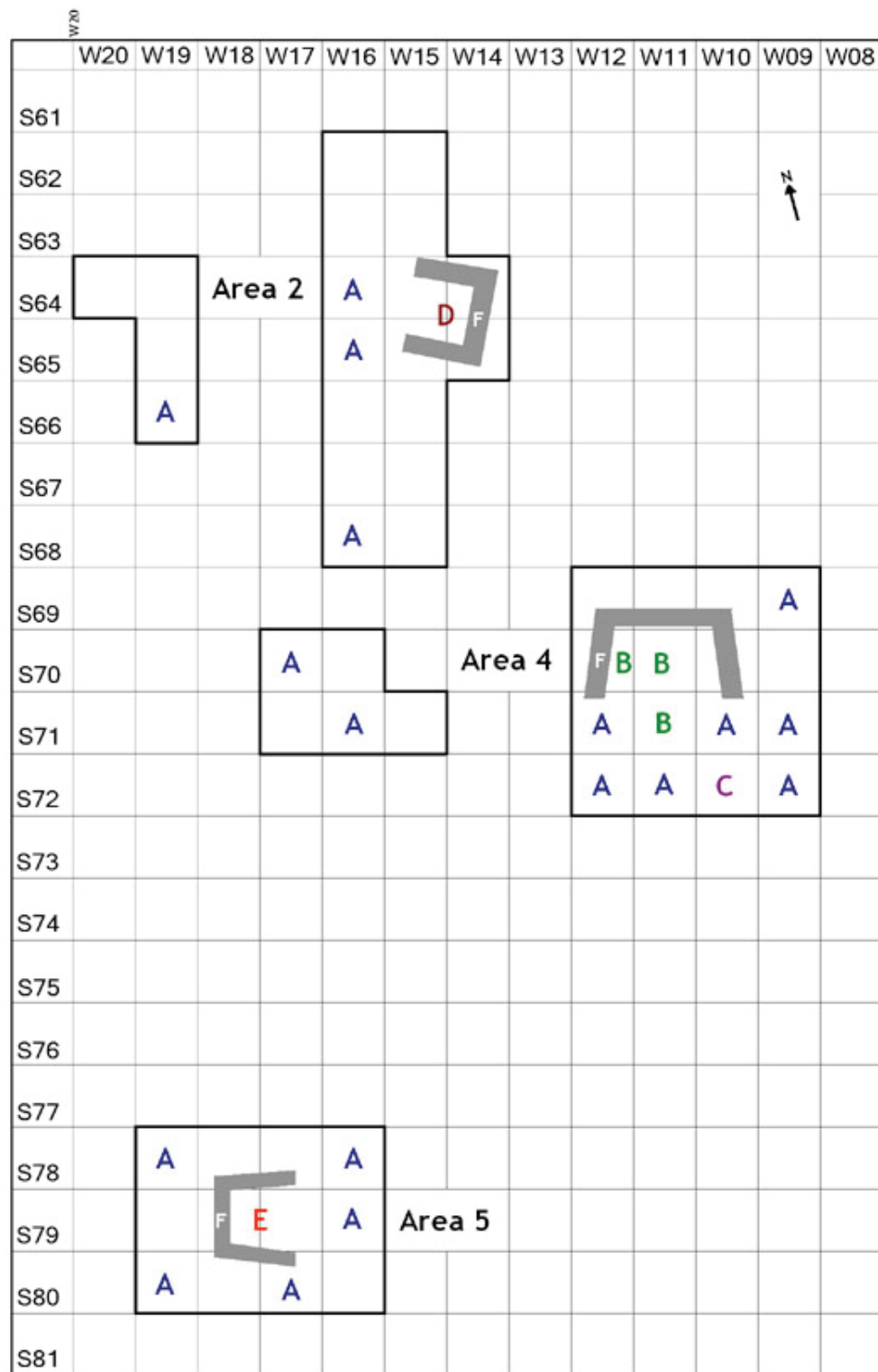


Figure 4.14 Areas 2, 4 & 5: Distribution of iron fastenings by weight

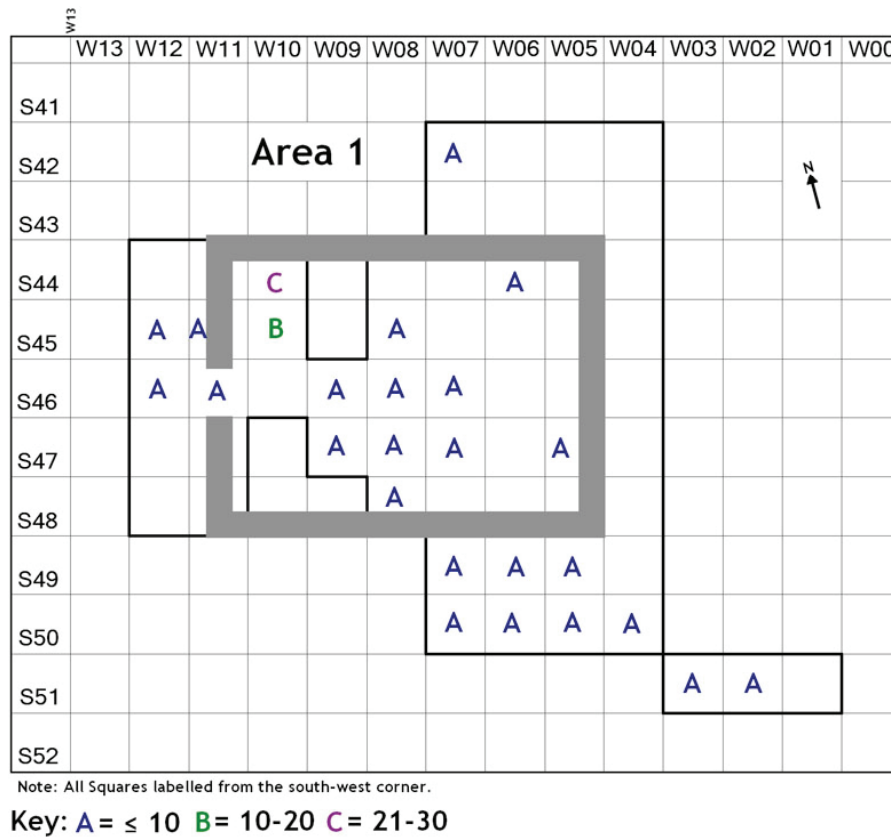


Figure 4.15 Area 1: Distribution of copper alloy fastenings by NISP

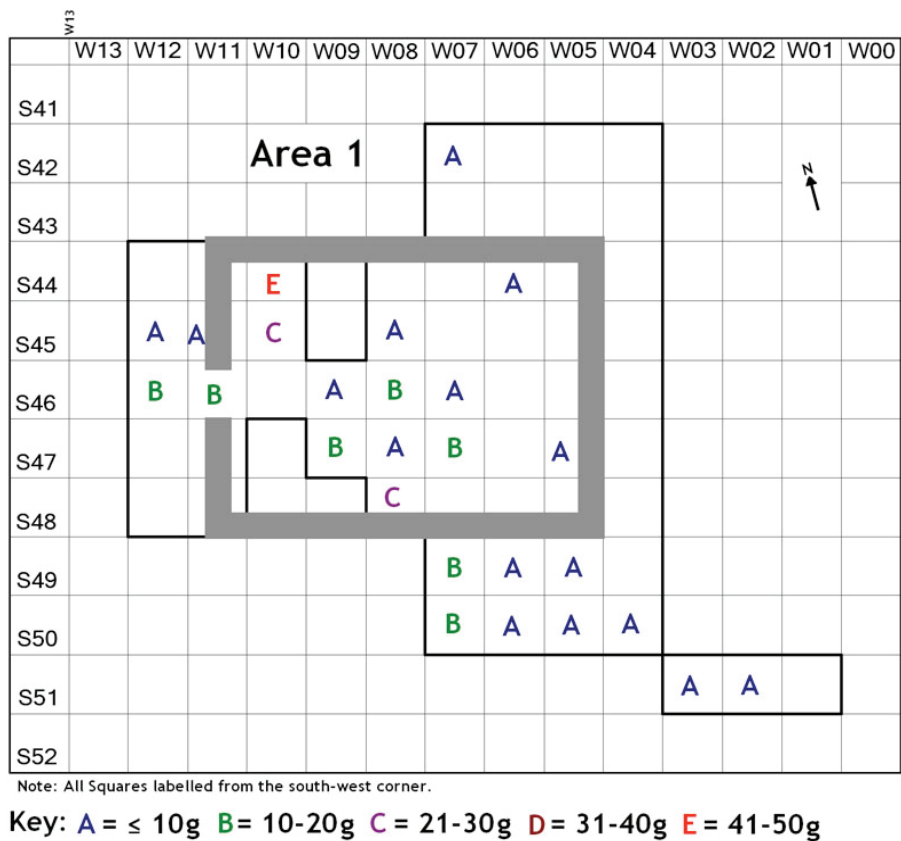


Figure 4.16 Area 1: Distribution of copper alloy fastenings by weight

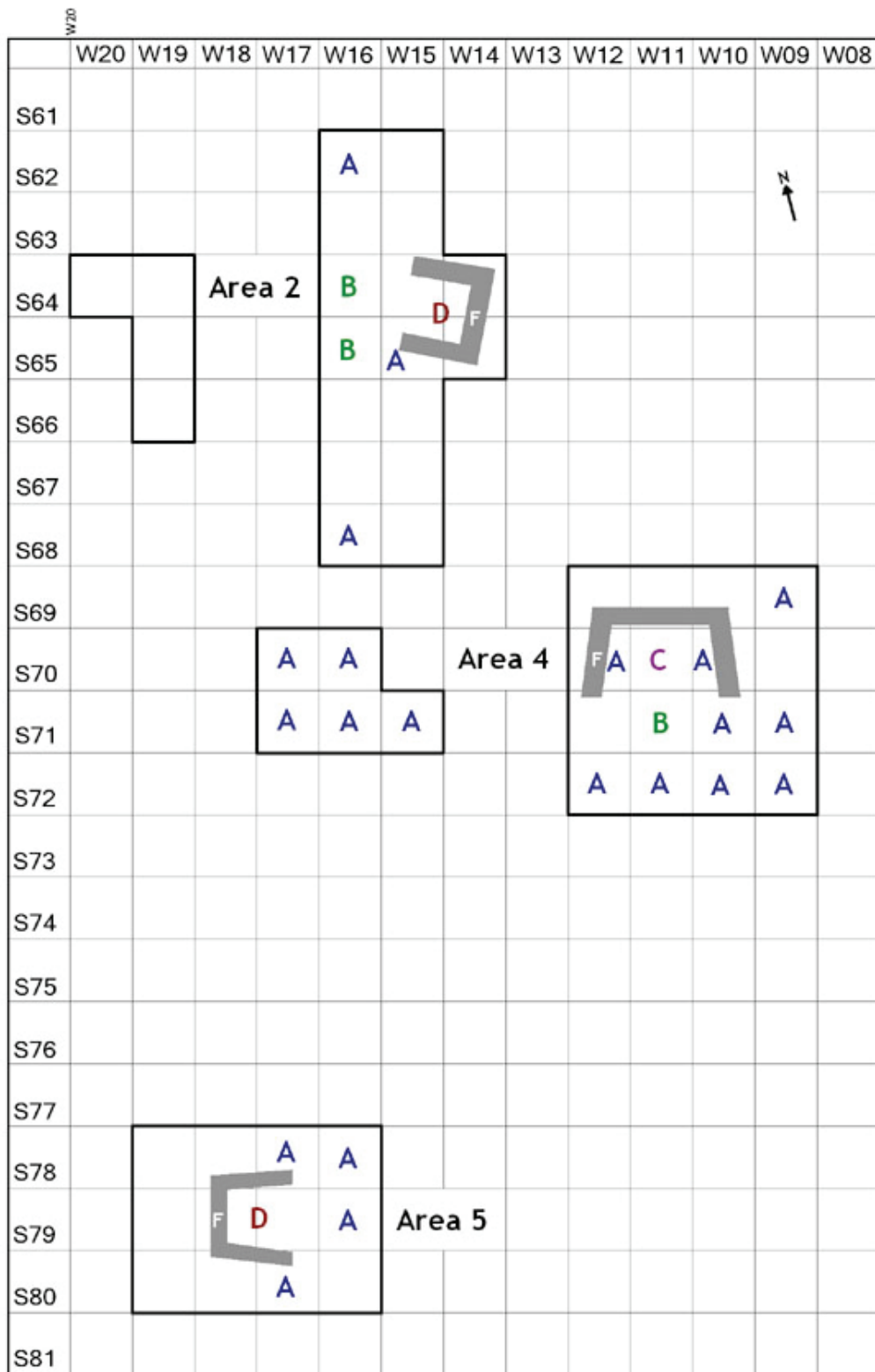
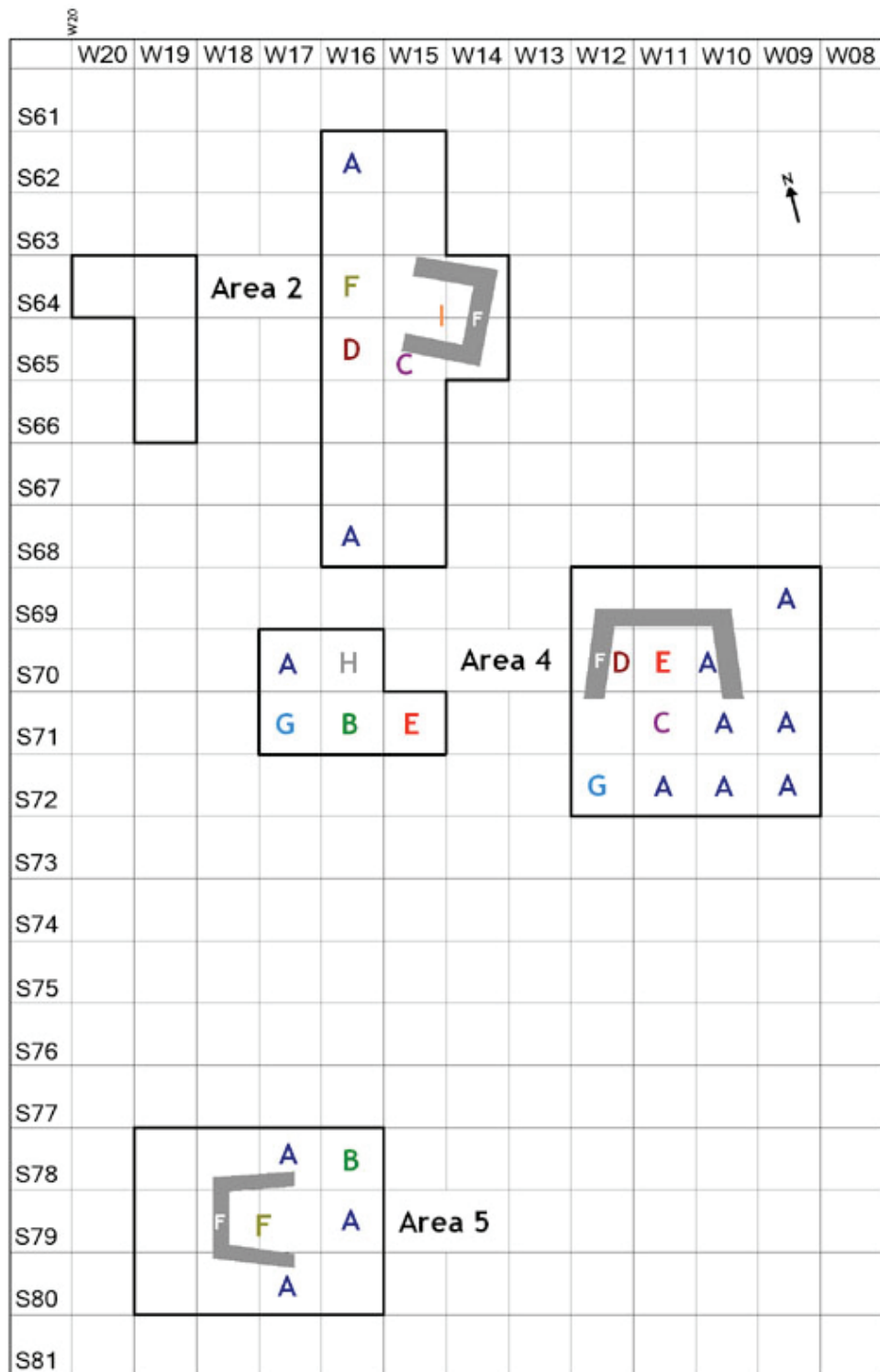


Figure 4.17 Areas 2, 4 & 5: Distribution of copper alloy fastenings by NISP



Note: All Squares labelled from the south-west corner.

Key: A = $\leq 10g$ B = 10-20g C = 21-30g D = 31-40g
 E = 41-50g F = 51-60g G = 81-90g H = 101-110g
 I = 171-180g
 F = Fireplace

Figure 4.18 Areas 2, 4 & 5: Distribution of copper alloy fastenings by weight

In Area 4 pipe fragments were also quite numerous, with small concentrations in front of the fireplace and in the excavated area to the west (Figure 4.9). A minimal number were recovered from all other areas. Interestingly enough, despite the small numbers involved, all the pipe fragments from Area 2 were found in and immediately in front of the fireplace.

The glass assemblage from Oashore, while not particularly useful for dating purposes, still forms a significant proportion of the overall assemblage. In general bottle glass was found throughout the site, with no major concentrations being encountered. The proportions of glass sherds, when examining both NISP and weight, found in Areas 1, 4 and 5 seem to be relatively similar, while Area 2 yielded far fewer glass artefacts (Figures 4.10 to 4.13).

Iron artefacts were by far the most numerous objects found at Oashore and iron fastenings form a large part of this category. In Area 1 small concentrations of iron fastenings can be seen around units S44/W10 and S47/W8-9 (Figure 4.8). The small quantity in S44/W10 probably relates to the hearth located in this area described earlier. Timbers, possibly from the Area 1 building itself, have been burnt here leaving behind the iron fastenings. In Areas 2, 4 and 5, concentrations also occur in the fireplaces (Figure 4.14) which clearly indicates that many of the iron fastenings have been deposited in this way. The Area 5 fireplace contained particularly large spikes, suggesting that larger structural timbers were burnt here. Whether this activity occurred whilst the whaling station was still in operation or shortly thereafter, is not able to be determined.

Copper alloy fastenings show a similar pattern, with small quantities being found in fireplaces and hearths. This is clearly evident in the hearth area in Area 1 (Figures 4.15 and 4.16). Similarly Areas 2, 4 and 5 also have concentrations of copper fastenings in the fireplaces (Figures 4.17 and 4.18). While most of these fastenings are of maritime origin, the ten clenched nails from Area 1 are specifically associated with the manufacture of small clinker-built boats. All of them are used fastenings and were found in and around the hearth area. This could only have resulted from part or parts of a small boat having been burnt in this hearth. Boats played an essential role in the day to day running of a whaling station and so this activity most likely dates to after Period 1. However, whaleboats had a relatively hard life and so it is possible that timbers from boats which were no longer servicable were used as fuel.

4.3 Function of Site Areas

Area 1

The nature of the artefacts recovered from Area 1 fully reflects a domestic function for this area. Furthermore this function is represented by both Period 1 and Period 2 material. For example ceramic tablewares from Period 1 include the milk jug and Davenport sherd, whilst the most notable example from Period 2 is the Asiatic Pheasant dinnerware.

The exact nature of the domestic arrangement in the stone cottage during Period 1 is less than clear. The building is clearly the most substantial structure in the site and may possibly have been the headsmen's residence. More particularly it may have housed William Woods, who became headsmen late in 1840, married in 1841 and lived at Oashore with his wife and family until the station was sold in about 1848. When Bishop Selwyn made a brief visit to Oashore in 1844, Woods was absent, but the bishop was received cordially by Mrs Woods, whom he noted had four children (Ogilvie 1994:216). The cottage is easily large enough to have accommodated a family of six or seven. Alternatively the building may have been used as the living quarters for an unknown number of crew, with Woods living elsewhere in the site.

Period 2 material clearly shows that the house was still being used or was reoccupied after the whaling station had ceased to function. The main employment for anyone living here after 1860 is likely to have involved farming or a closely related activity. Until 1875 Oashore remained part of the Rhodes brothers' Kaituna Run and it is quite probable that any persons living at the site were under their employ. By the 1860s the solidly built stone building is likely to have been the only cottage fit for habitation, with other largely wooden structures having either been removed or fallen into disrepair. It is likely that this occupation had ended by 1900 as any usage of the site after 1906 is precluded by the fact that the property on which the station is located was split up and a boundary fenceline erected down the middle of the site.

Area 2

Area 2 has a well built stone fireplace and chimney, to which a wooden hut or cottage was likely attached. Area 2 is relatively depauperate in material remains, except for ferrous metal, and contained no diagnostically early artefacts apart from copper fastenings. The depth of soil built up in Area 2 was also much deeper than expected and so apart from around the fireplace, excavation in many units may not have reached the bottom of the cultural deposits. The fireplace is also the area of the hut which is likely to have seen the most use after the whaling period and so earlier items may have been displaced. While the fireplace is quite substantial, its original purpose was probably to stave off the cold during the winter months when whaling was carried out. No readily available source of firewood was present at Oashore and so whale blubber may have been employed as fuel.

Area 3

Area 3 was investigated as a possible garden area, due to the presence of a walled enclosure below the Area 1 cottage on Carrington's 1849 map (see Figure 2.4). The stone walls at either end of the garden could still be seen as definite alignments of stones before the excavation. Excavation of a trench below the house in Area 1 and in the south-eastern corner of Area 3, seemed to confirm that the area was indeed a garden. The trench conducted in units S51/W1-3, revealed a dark, charcoal-stained soil mixed with small fragments of artefacts (see Figure 2.11). In the corner of the garden a less well defined soil was encountered but it was also mixed with a small amount of artefactual material. This was interpreted as the result of rubbish and ash being dumped on the garden and then the soil being worked, thus mixing and dispersing material throughout the matrix.

Area 4

The large size of the stone fireplace in Area 4, as described earlier, suggests that it served a communal function, probably for cooking. In light of this argument Area 4 has been interpreted as a cookhouse, although it may well have housed some of the crew as well. The fireplace, which is over 1.5 metres in width, could easily have catered for the cooking needs of the maximum crew at any one time of thirty-five men. The domestic rubbish, in the form of ceramic tablewares, bottle glass, and clay pipes, tends to support the argument that this area had a communal function.

A number of postholes were also found in Area 4, shedding some light on the nature of the original structure. Two small postholes, one on either side of the fireplace, may possibly have housed poles which supported an iron bar or wire across the front of the fireplace from which pots and kettles could be hung. Other larger postholes were found at random throughout the excavated area. One possibility is that the original building may have had a wooden floor, supported by piles set into the ground. Only a relatively small area was investigated and so the exact dimensions of the building are not known.

Area 5

Area 5 probably served a similar function to that of Area 2, in that it is a hut or cottage site constructed and lived in by the whalers. Investigations in this area were limited to the immediate vicinity of the fireplace and so little knowledge of the original structure as a whole was gained. The decoration of the fireplace with pieces of whalebone turns it into a personalised feature. This is in stark contrast to the large block-like construction in Area 4, which has a purely utilitarian function. The material culture also clearly identifies Area 5 as a whaler's hut, with all datable material belonging to Period 1 (see Table 4.1). The absence of any obviously later 19th-century material suggests that this area was not reused after the whaling period. It is not known how many such huts were present at Oashore at any one time. At least one of the Oashore originals, Philip Ryan, is known to have had his own cottage, as “it was at Ryan’s cottage that the *Britomart* party stayed the night after their flag-raising ceremony at Oashore on 15th August 1840” (Ogilvie 1994:215). Unfortunately without more details it is not possible to relate such information to the archaeological record.

Area 7

In Area 7 very little in the way of domestic artefacts were recovered, except for a little bit of bottle glass, a single pipe fragment and only a couple of ceramic sherds. This reflects the different function of this area in the site. Two objects manufactured from copper sheeting were found exclusively in Area 7, which indicates that this was a working area. The discovery of part of the base of a wooden slab wall, also seems to confirm that this building is the one marked on Carrington’s map as a boat shed (see Figure 2.4).

4.4 Life At Oashore

The material culture of the Oashore whalers as established in the artefact assemblage reveals that life must have been fairly basic, for both the crew and those further up the rankings. All material goods in the 1840's would have been imported from Australia, with many originally coming from Great Britain, and it seems that only the bare necessities were shipped in. Almost without exception, the domestic artefacts recovered, from the ceramics to the clay tobacco pipes, represent utilitarian items used in everyday life. Very little in the way of personal goods or other less functional artefacts were found, suggesting that many whalers may simply have not had a wealth of material possessions.

From the ceramics assemblage it is clear that plates and teacups were the most common vessel types, with minimum numbers of 13 and 7 respectively. Although not all of these are associated with the whaling period, it is clear that at least some of the men were eating and drinking from ceramic vessels. The decoration types are instructive as they not only convey information about dating but can also be used as economic indicators. Six of the plates, not including the later Asiatic Pheasant tableware, are decorated in fashionable transfer-printed designs, ranging from Willow pattern to other unidentified patterns in blue and purple. Willow pattern was very popular in the early part of the 19th-century, and while it was printed on some of the finest tablewares, it was also mass produced on cheaper earthenwares. None of these plates appear to form matching sets and single pieces or mismatched sets could probably be purchased quite cheaply. Other styles such as the shell-edge decorated plates, were already old fashioned by 1840 and although still produced, may well have been purchased second-hand. Some pieces however, such as the Davenport plate, dated to 1836, were almost certainly purchased as new. The small number of vessels

represented however, means that it is impossible to argue for any differentiation in economic status between different site areas.

Whether ceramic dishes were part of individuals private possessions, or were made available for the men to use or purchase from the station store is not clear. What is clear is that the number of ceramic dishes recovered seems disproportionately low for the number of men working at the station, especially during the peak years of the 1840's. It is possible that major refuse areas were not sampled by the present excavation, but it is equally possible that many of the men were using vessels other than ceramics. It is documented from the Taieri Island whaling station in Otago that tin dishes were present among the domestic supplies and may have been used instead of ceramic plates or bowls (Coutts 1976:300). Tin deteriorates in the ground and so does not generally survive in archaeological contexts (Lawrence 2004). It is also important to remember that any unused stores and serviceable possessions are most likely to have been taken away either by the station owner or the individual workers, when their time at Oashore ended. Many whalers also only stayed for a season or two and so may not have discarded much in the way of material possessions during this period.

Numerous clay tobacco pipe fragments attest that tobacco smoking was a popular habit amongst the whalers, although once again the number recovered does seem disproportionately low for the number of men whaling at Oashore at any one time. Even over a single season it is likely that each individual worker would go through several pipes, which broke easily and were cheap to replace. Even so, clay pipe fragments were found both inside and outside the houses and in most units excavated and so it is likely that the minimum number of 12 pipes greatly under represents the actual use of tobacco.

Likewise evidence for the consumption of alcohol, synonymous with whaling in any popular account, is light on the ground. Only 13 'black-beer' and other bottles, dating to the whaling period, which most likely originally contained alcohol were recovered. Glass bottles would likely have been precious commodities in the context of a remote outpost of civilisation, such as Oashore, and were probably reused once emptied of their original contents. At the end of each season it is also plausible that items such as casks and bottles may have been shipped out to be reused, which would explain the relative scarcity of bottle glass. It is also clear from other whaling stations (see below, section 4.5) that most of the alcohol at the time was shipped in casks, with the contents then probably being distributed through the stations store. Casks were made to be reused and so unless one was left behind; it is unlikely that this practice would leave evidence in the archaeological record.

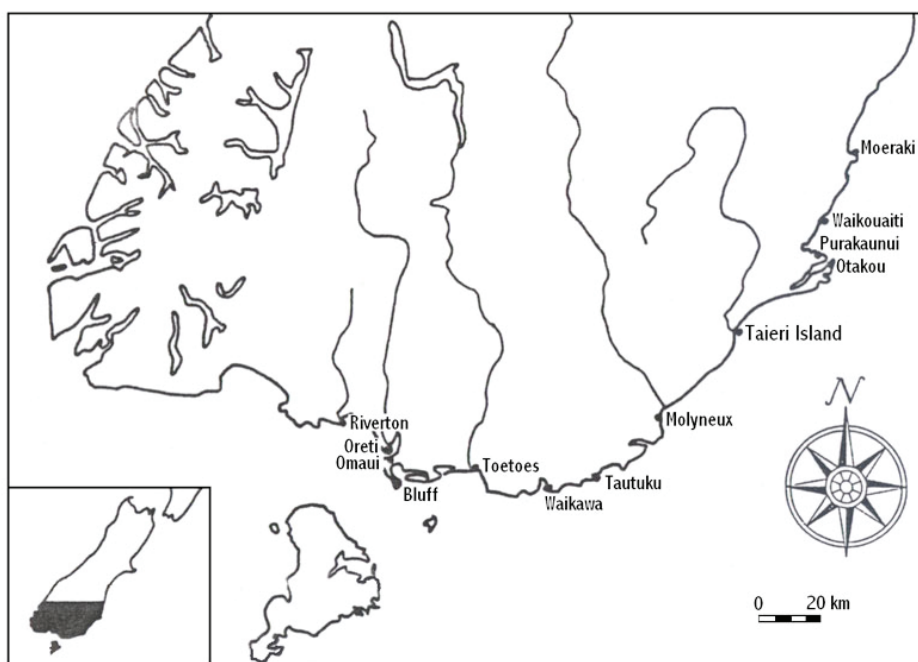
Very little in the way of personal items were recovered, except for items relating to clothing and footwear. Personal touches were added to the Area 5 fireplace however. The hearth of the fireplace had been constructed from the rib bone of a juvenile whale and was flanked by plates of whale bone at each end. Several polished stones, which can be found on the beach at Birdlings Flat immediately around the headland to the west, were also recovered from the vicinity of the fireplace. Either a whaler or some other person at the time must have collected these items. Apart from these few items though, the assemblage is characterised by purely utilitarian items. Even the transfer-printed ceramics, which appear highly decorative to us today, are simply the cheap everyday commodities of the time. Overall the material culture of the Oashore whalers reflects the fact that it was a working whaling station, and while the basics were supplied, other less functional commodities were harder to come by in this outpost of civilisation.

4.5 Comparison With Other Shore Whaling Stations

4.5.1 New Zealand Shore Whaling Stations

Taieri Island, Otago, South Island

No comparable assemblage to that of Oashore has previously been excavated in New Zealand. The only investigation of any note at a shore whaling station was conducted by Coutts at the Taieri Island Station in 1972 (Coutts 1976). The whaling station site is located on the shoreward side of Taieri Island at the mouth of the Taieri River (see Figure 4.19). The station was first set up by the Weller brothers', who were based just up the coast at Otagou, in 1839. The enterprise started badly, resulting with the manager being changed during the first season. The 1840 and 1841 seasons were no better, with an output of just 23 tuns of oil combined and the station was subsequently closed (Prickett 2002:32). In 1844 the station was running again, this time under the management of Tommy Chaseland on behalf of Johnny Jones, before it was abandoned again probably in 1845 (Prickett 2002; Coutts 1976).



(From Campbell 1993, Fig.1)

Figure 4.19 Location of whaling station sites along the southern coast of the South Island

The investigation of the Taieri Island whaling station was part of Coutts' research into interaction between European and Maori populations during the early historic period in southern New Zealand and so his primary focus was not on fully documenting the material culture of the whalers themselves. During ground survey of the site Coutts identified at least four likely whalers' huts, whose positions "were indicated by concentrations of beach pebbles which must have been brought up to the sites by the whalers" (Coutts 1976:296). The best preserved of these huts was then chosen for excavation, with about 27m² being investigated in total. The excavated hut was roughly 6.5 by 3 metres in size. The surviving features included the bases of walls constructed of water-rolled pebbles cemented with a sand-based mortar; earthen floors and a small

stone lined fireplace without a chimney. The bases of wooden studs were found in the walls and Coutts suggests that the upper half of the building may have been wooden, probably with a thatched grass roof (Coutts 1976).

Despite the small area excavated a range of artefactual materials were recovered. These include 32 ceramic sherds; 293 clay tobacco pipe fragments; 2 gunflints; numerous ferrous metal artefacts and a quantity of copper alloy fastenings (Coutts 1976). While Coutts lists all of the artefact categories present at Taieri Island, no artefacts are described in detail. The Taieri Island assemblage is nevertheless still useful for basic comparative purposes, such as the presence or absence of certain artefact types. Information on the material present at Taieri Island has been fleshed out a little by Matt Campbell who visited the site in 1990 as part of his survey of the whaling stations along the southern coast of Otago. He recorded that ceramics, clay pipes, glass, metal, and sawn bone, were all visible as surface deposits. One ceramic backmarked 'Copeland and Garrett New Fayence Ware' datable to between 1833 and 1847, along with an early 'pig-snout' type gin bottle top were also recovered (Campbell 1993).

4.5.2 Australian Shore Whaling Stations

Much more archaeological data regarding shore whaling stations is available from Australia, where several sites have been the subject of major excavations. Notable amongst these is the Cheyne Beach whaling station investigated by Gibbs and two whaling stations in Tasmania investigated by Lawrence. Unlike the Taieri Island site, the artefact assemblages from these sites have been fully analysed and the results made available, albeit in as yet unpublished form.

Cheyne Beach, Western Australia

The Cheyne Beach shore whaling station is located south-east of Perth in Western Australia (see Figure 4.20). Investigation of the site was carried out by Gibbs as part of his historical and archaeological Ph.D. study on the shore-based whaling industry in Western Australia. From historical sources he found that descriptions of industrial activity, and even less frequently information on the domestic activity at whaling stations was lacking (Gibbs 1995:193). His primary aim therefore in excavating a whaling station was to examine the living and working conditions of the whalers through an analysis of their material culture (Gibbs 1998).

Historically it is known that the Cheyne Beach station was "occupied almost continuously between 1846 and 1877, the longest use of any Western Australian shore whaling station" (Gibbs 1995:195). From this it was expected that substantial deposits of rubbish would be found, allowing for a full study of the material culture of the whalers. In total 105 metre squares were excavated with both domestic structures and midden areas investigated. The result is a large sample of the material culture of the Cheyne Beach whalers, with which to compare and contrast that from other sites. The ceramics assemblage consists of a minimum of 128 vessels and 411 clay pipe fragments. Glass included tablewares as well as bottle glass and other glass. Clothing hardware includes 99 buttons and 5 buckles, along with brass eyelets from footwear. Metal artefacts were dominated by iron fastenings and other ferrous metal items, such as hoop iron, with a smaller number of copper alloy fastenings being found. No diagnostic items of whalegear, such as harpoon heads, were found.

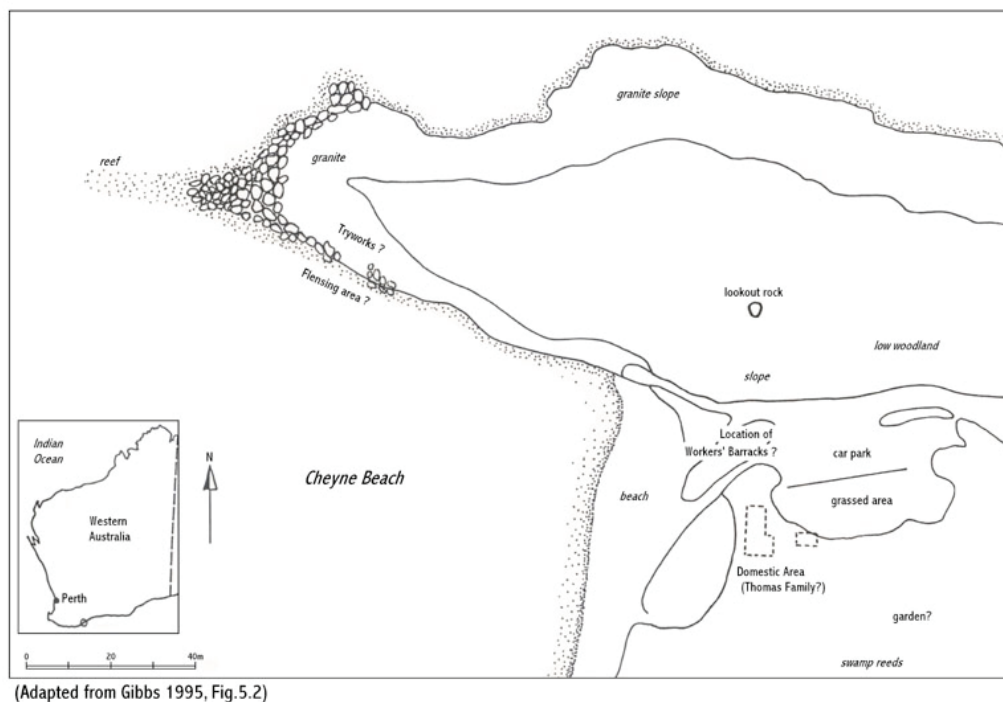
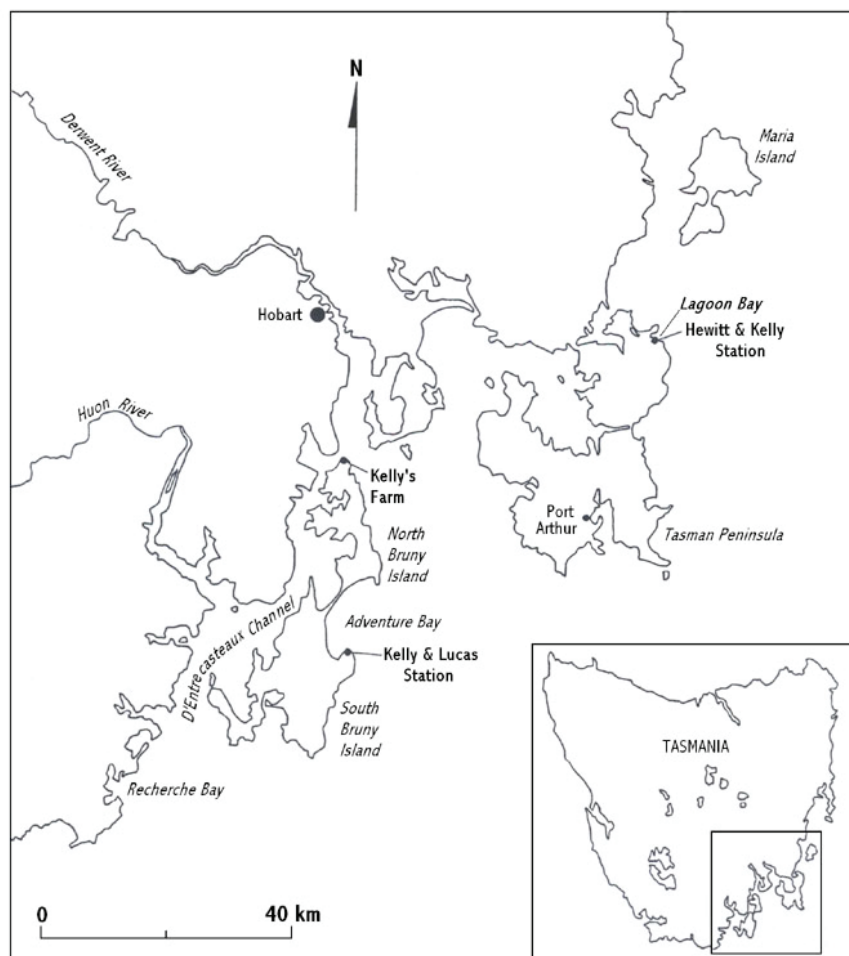


Figure 4.20 Site plan of the Cheyne Beach Shore Whaling Station Site

Adventure Bay, Tasmania

Adventure Bay is located mid-way up the east coast of Bruny Island, off the south-east coast of Tasmania (see Figure 4.21). The shore whaling station site at Adventure Bay was one of two investigated in Tasmania by Susan Lawrence, and was excavated in 1997. Shore whaling began as early as 1806 in Tasmania (Prickett 1993:190) and the remains of over fifty shore whaling station sites have been surveyed to date (Lawrence 2004). Adventure Bay was selected for archaeological investigation due to its outstanding state of preservation and as mitigation against any future damage caused by increased visitor numbers, due to the newly created South Bruny National Park (Lawrence 2004).

The Adventure Bay station was owned by James Kelly in partnership with Thomas Lucas and was one of four operating in the bay in the 1830s (Lawrence 2004). The whaling operation was probably set up in about 1829 and likely terminated in 1842, when Kelly went into bankruptcy (Lawrence 2004). It was around this time that other whaling stations in the bay also began to close and when the whalers left, the area was not permanently occupied by Europeans until a timber industry was established there in the 1880s (Lawrence 2004).



(Adapted from Lawrence 2004, Fig.2)

Figure 4.21 Location of the Adventure Bay and Lagoon Bay whaling stations, Tasmania

The Adventure Bay excavation was quite extensive totalling 287.75 square metres and sampled the manager's quarters, crew barracks, a storage hut and the tryworks area (Lawrence 2003). The artefact assemblage is similarly impressive, consisting of over 25 000 artefact fragments, weighing 172 kg, providing a large sample of the material culture of the whalers. Over 10 000 fragments of rubbish were concentrated in an area in front of the main stone building at the site. Most of this consisted of food waste and no similar concentrations were encountered elsewhere in the site (Lawrence 2004).

Despite the large size of the assemblage only a small number of ceramic and glass vessels are represented, with minimum numbers of 18 and 37 respectively (Lawrence 2003). Common decorative styles amongst the ceramics include Willow Pattern in underglaze blue and blue shell-edge mouldings. As with Cheyne Beach and Oashore, a large quantity of iron artefacts were recovered, including 32 kg of hoop iron from one area and 14 kg of hardware, such as nails and spikes, from around the main building (Lawrence 2004). A far smaller quantity of copper alloy fastenings and fragments of copper sheathing were also found. Most of the buttons were either plain bone disks or of copper alloy. A large clay tobacco pipe assemblage represents a minimum of 73 pipes, with almost all of the imported pipes having come from Glasgow and also a few pipes from Sydney manufacturers and distributors (Lawrence 2004). Evidence for the use of flint-lock firearms, in the form of several English gunflints, was also recovered.

Lagoon Bay, Forestier Peninsula, Tasmania

The Lagoon Bay site, excavated by Lawrence in 1999, is located in a small inlet on the east coast of the Forestier Peninsula and lies south-east of Hobart (see Figure 4.21). The whaling station at Lagoon Bay was started by James Kelly, who owned several stations, and Thomas Hewitt in 1838. Whaling continued throughout the 1840s and “a final application to extend the lease on the station by a further three years was lodged in 1851”, although there is no evidence that this extension was ever taken up (Lawrence 2004).

A similar area to that of Adventure Bay was excavated, with the crew barracks and the manager’s quarters being sampled. The artefact assemblage however, is much smaller, with only 15 700 artefacts recovered weighing 93kg (Lawrence 2004). No major concentrations of rubbish, such as that outside the main building at Adventure Bay, were encountered.

The ceramics assemblage comprised a minimum of 24 vessels, including three plates decorated with the Willow Pattern and two shell-edged decorated plates. Forty glass and stoneware containers were found. Again a large quantity of iron artefacts and hardware was found, totalling nearly 38 kg and also a significantly greater number of copper alloy fastenings, than at Adventure Bay (Lawrence 2004). The use of flint-lock rifles is indicated by three lead balls for muzzle loading weapons and one gunflint. Buttons were quite numerous, with a wide range of materials represented, including shell and plastic. Only two clay tobacco pipe manufacturers were identified; William Murray and Alexander Coghill, both Glasgow companies, also present in the Adventure Bay assemblage (Lawrence 2004). Like most other whaling stations very little in the way of personal items or possessions were found, with the exception of several cowrie shells, which live in warmer waters well north of Tasmania and so must have been brought to the site by one of the whalers (Lawrence 2004).

4.5.3 Discussion

Most shore whaling stations in New Zealand and Australia operated in the 1830s and 1840s, with a small percentage dating to before or after this period. Whaling stations were also outposts of civilisation and generally had to rely on supplies from far away ports such as Sydney. The material culture of such sites is therefore likely to be very similar, with any major differences being the result of the length and success of individual operations and the number of men employed at any one time.

Whaling at Oashore was carried out from 1840 and is not likely to have continued much past 1850. At Taieri Island the tenure was very brief, with whaling only being carried out on an intermittent basis between 1839 and 1845. Cheyne Beach is an exception amongst shore stations, running from 1846 to 1877. While Adventure Bay and Lagoon Bay ran from 1829 to 1842 and 1838 to c.1851 respectively. From this evidence it is clear that the period 1830 to 1850 covers almost all of the whaling activity undertaken in the sites discussed above. The fact that the date ranges and the sources of supplies are held in common by most whaling stations suggests that there would be more similarities between sites than differences.

In Table 4.2 the presence or absence of selected artefact categories between the five whaling stations is illustrated. Shell-edge decorated ceramics, as described earlier, are generally accepted as markers of early to mid-19th-century contexts. Shell-edge ceramics are present in all of the sites, apart from Taieri Island where information on decoration types is sketchy. Willow Pattern decorated plates are found in all sites, clearly demonstrating the popularity of this design in the 1830s and 1840s.

Table 4.2 Comparison of selected artefact categories between Oashore and other whaling stations in New Zealand and Australia

Site	1	2	3	4	5	6
Oashore	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Taieri Island	?	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Cheyne Beach	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
Adventure Bay	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Lagoon Bay	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓

Key: 1 = shell-edge ceramics

2 = willow pattern ceramics

3 = harpoon heads

4 = gun parts

5 = gun flints

6 = hoop iron

Gunflints were also found in most sites. As mentioned earlier flint-lock mechanisms were often erratic and had already begun to be replaced by percussion-lock weapons by the late 1820s. In other words they were old technology at the time and a sure sign of an early context. The absence of gunflints from Oashore and Cheyne Beach is surprising, especially as gun parts from Oashore allude to the use of at least two muzzle loading weapons of some description at the site.

Hoop iron from barrels can also be seen to be a typical artefact type from whaling stations. During the 1830s and 1840s everything from flour to salted meat and bulk spirits would have been stored and transported in casks, not to mention the fact that wooden barrels were also the means by which whale oil was stored on site to be shipped out to the market in London. The lack of hoop iron at Oashore is not surprising, considering that apart from a small sample around the boat shed, only domestic areas were excavated. Evidence for cooperage would likely have been found had areas in the industrial part of the site nearer the tryworks been excavated. Also interesting is the fact that only at Oashore were items of whalegear recovered, in the form of two harpoon heads, which could be said to be definitive of whaling station sites.

In none of the whaling station assemblages is there any clear evidence for any differentiation in social or economic status, between different site areas. Lawrence identifies managers' quarters at both Adventure Bay and Lagoon Bay, but apart from the size of the buildings and the number of artefacts there seems to be little reason to suggest this. Such buildings, like the Area 1 stone structure at Oashore, may just have easily had a more communal function, which would account for their greater size and concentration of artefacts. The amount and type of rubbish built up at each site also has a direct relationship to both the number of men working there and the financial state of the station, as well as any reuse or disturbance of the site in the period between the closure of the station and the time of excavation. For example Oashore's crew peaked at 35 men in 1844 and the station was relatively successful as a commercial enterprise, but this is not reflected in the material record. At Taieri Island the number of men working there at any one time is not known, although an inventory of 1841 lists four whale boats, two good and two old, so they probably had enough men to crew two boats at least (Coutts 1976). Similarly, exact numbers for Cheyne Beach are not known, although Gibbs notes from documentary sources concerning other whaling stations in Western Australia, that the "average shore whaling party could be composed of between 12 and 30 men who would work together almost continuously for between four and six

months” (Gibbs 1995:193). The population at both Adventure Bay and Lagoon Bay ranged from between 20 to 30 men (Lawrence 2003). As crew numbers waned, with the collapse in the numbers of southern right whales, it is likely that some areas of sites fell into disuse, thus preserving earlier material, while other areas continued to be used thus displacing earlier material.

Overall the range of material culture represented from these five sites is remarkably similar. At Oashore under-glaze transfer printing was by far the most popular form of decoration on ceramic vessels and this can also be seen in data from Cheyne Beach, Adventure Bay and Lagoon Bay. Most patterns are in under-glaze blue, but other designs in red, green, purple and brown are also represented. Most of the ceramic vessels are also typified by not forming matching sets. For example of the five shell-edged plates from Adventure Bay, all differed slightly in the design of the mouldings (Lawrence 2004).

A reconstruction of life for the whalers at each respective site, also shows no major differences. Apart from clay tobacco pipes and utilitarian items such as buttons and footwear, very few artefacts which could be considered as personal possessions were recovered. Popular pastimes obviously included the taking of tobacco, as attested by numerous clay pipe fragments at each site, but may also have included tea drinking, as tea cups, generally decorated with fashionable transfer prints, were one of the more common ceramic vessel types identified at all sites, apart from Taieri Island. Alcohol was almost certainly an indulgence familiar to most whalers, but archaeological evidence, in the form of bottle glass at least, would have us believe otherwise. The likely situation is that most alcoholic beverages were stored in casks and there is documentary evidence that James Kelly, at least, was “buying large quantities and measuring the amounts in gallons rather than bottles, which suggests that alcohol was in casks” (Lawrence 2001:220). Generally it seems that while whalers were afforded small pleasures, such as tobacco and alcohol, only basic foodstuffs and necessities were supplied to whaling stations along with the gear necessary to hunt and process the whales.

4.6 Comparison with Contemporary New Zealand Historic Sites

Contemporary historic sites are also equally relevant in comparison with the material culture of the Oashore whalers. It would be expected that the range of material culture in early to mid-19th-century sites in New Zealand would be similar, and that any major differences would mainly reflect the different function of each site. Several sites have been selected, all incidentally from the North Island, whose occupation extends in part to this early period of New Zealand's history.

Table 4.3 lists all of the sites and shows the presence or absence of some selected artefacts categories, which is a simple and useful way of comparing sites of differing ages and functions. All have been the subject of archaeological excavations where the artefact assemblage has been analysed and made available in either a published or unpublished format. The Mechanics Institute, Fort Ligar and Brown's Mill sites are all located in Auckland and contain small amounts of material dating back to the 1840s (Macready and Goodwyn 1990; Brassey 1989; 1990). Rewa's Pa and the Te Puna Mission Station sites, both in the Bay of Islands, date back to around 1830 and have a number of items relating to this early period (Best 2002; Middleton 2004). The Edmonds Ruins site, also in the Bay of Islands, is a family home first occupied in about 1840 and continuously used throughout the nineteenth-century (Challis 1994). Finally the Omata Stockade site, in the Taranaki, was established during the New Zealand wars in 1860 and was abandoned by 1867 (Prickett 1994). While most of these sites do

contain early material, they also invariably contain later material, reflecting the fact that many sites were reused after the initial phase of occupation.

Table 4.3 Comparison of selected artefact categories between Oashore and other historic sites in New Zealand

Site	Date*	1	2	3	4	5
Rewa's Pa	c.1830	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Te Puna Mission	c.1832	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Oashore	c.1840	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Edmonds Ruins	c.1840	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
Brown's Mill	c.1841	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Mechanics Institute	c.1843	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
Fort Ligar	c.1845	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
Omata Stockade	c.1860	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓

* Dates refer to the earliest context at each site

Key: 1 = shell-edge ceramics

2 = 'black-beer' bottles

3 = whalegear

4 = gun parts

5 = edgebanded and hairlined ceramics

Shell-edge ceramics were found in early contexts at Rewa's Pa and Brown's Mill, but also from the later Omata Stockade site. Edgebanded and hairlined decorated ceramics were present in both early and later contexts, and so can not be considered as early markers for New Zealand sites at least. Other artefacts generally considered as early types like 'black-beer' glass bottles were present in all sites and in later 19th-century contexts. Surprisingly one item of whalegear, a whaling lance head, was recovered from the Te Puna Mission house site (Middleton 2004). Apart from Oashore, Rewa's Pa was the only site containing gun parts, these included nine gunflints, a ramrod pipe and a Brown Bess musket hammer (Best 2002).

In general it can be noted that the historic sites contained a far greater number of glass bottles than Oashore. At Te Puna over 100 kg of bottle glass was excavated, with 'black-beer' types dominating the assemblage (Middleton 2004). Large quantities of 'black-beer' bottles were also found at the Omata Stockade (Prickett 1994). The decoration styles of early context ceramics were also very similar, with transfer-printed patterns and shell-edging being common at both Oashore and other historic sites.

In general the material culture of the Oashore whalers looks little different when looking just at the range of artefacts present in all of the other historic assemblages. Large differences in the quantity of items such as bottle glass, suggests that at sites such as Te Puna people were buying alcohol and other beverages in bottles, rather than in bulk containers such as casks, which are documented as having been used in whaling stations. This also reflects the fact that whalers might only have had supplies shipped in a few times a season, while other sites probably had more immediate access to supplies. Overall however, while life on a whaling station may have lacked variety, it was not too dissimilar to that of people in other communities, engaged in different activities, around New Zealand in the middle of the nineteenth-century.

5. Conclusion

The analysis of the artefact assemblage from the Oashore whaling station has shed some light on the whalers who lived and worked there. Reconstructing the day to day life of the whalers in any great detail however, is difficult as many items they used were probably taken away when they left the station and after it was finally abandoned. No rubbish dumps were found either and so it is unlikely that the present analysis represents the full range of material culture available to the whalers. The excavation and subsequent analysis also revealed that at least part of the site had been reoccupied after the whaling station closed. This later material has been analysed largely to separate it from that directly related to the operation of the whaling station and is not relevant to a discussion of the material culture of the Oashore whalers.

As would be expected, the range of material culture from Oashore is quite limited, reflecting the nature of European settlement in New Zealand in the 1840s. At this time most European settlements, such as shore whaling stations, were isolated communities who were largely dependent on outside supplies to maintain their existence. By necessity all of the material goods represented in the artefact assemblage, would have been imported to New Zealand from Australia, with many having originally come from Britain. Usually the company that owned the station would have supplies shipped out to them directly from Sydney. At Oashore limited supplies may have been obtained locally from Akaroa and fresh foodstuffs may also have been purchased from local Maori.

The isolation of Oashore and singularity of supply lines means that the material culture is mono-cultural in appearance. All of the artefacts are European and all of the identified manufactured items from Period One were made in England. Likewise most of the men recorded as having worked at Oashore are European, being mostly British and Irish, with a few Americans thrown into the mix. Maoris may well have been employed at Oashore at some stage, although there is no direct evidence in the material culture to suggest this.

Oashore was primarily an industrial camp purposely set up to engage in whaling and this is clearly reflected in the material record. This is best illustrated by the recovery of two iron harpoon heads, one from Area 4 and one from Area 1. Other items relating to the industrial nature of the site include artefacts manufactured from copper sheathing, recovered from the boat shed area (Area 7). A significant number of copper alloy fastenings also provide a clear link to the maritime nature of the industry. A large quantity of ferrous metal artefacts was also recovered, including hardware related items such as iron fastenings from the station buildings and other items such as firegrate fragments and parts of a small stove directly used in day to day life by the whalers.

A large proportion of the material culture represents the domestic activity of the whalers, reflecting the fact that it was primarily domestic structures which were investigated during excavation. Most of the artefacts in this category consist of small fragments of glass and ceramic vessels. The number of glass bottles from Period One is very small, suggesting that most alcohol arrived at the station in casks. Likewise the number of ceramic vessels is also quite small and consists largely of plates and cups, decorated in underglaze transfer-prints. The amount of early material recovered has also been negatively affected by the later occupation of the site, especially with regard to Area 1. Apart from clay tobacco pipes, very few items which could be considered as personal possessions were recovered. Most artefacts of a personal nature consist of utilitarian items such as footwear and buttons. Guns were present at the station, as evidenced by four gun parts, although who they were used by or for what purpose is not known.

Comparisons with the artefact assemblages from other shore whaling station sites in New Zealand and Australia show that the material culture from such sites is very similar. This is not surprising as most were supplied from the same ports, such as Sydney, and the range of material goods available in Australia and New Zealand was naturally limited. Most stations were supplied with only basic foodstuffs and condiments along with the whale-gear necessary to carry out shore whaling. Alcohol and tobacco, available from the station store, seem to have been two of the few luxuries afforded to a whaler.

The material culture of the Oashore whalers also differs very little from that of contemporary historic sites in New Zealand. Most sites dating to the 1840s in New Zealand have a great deal of artefacts in common. Shell-edge and Willow pattern decorated ceramics are two such artefacts commonly found in 1840s archaeological contexts. With most of the differences reflecting the different economic functions of sites and the nature of their occupation.

Suggestions for future research

The Oashore excavation was carried out as part of a research orientated project investigating the emergence of Pakeha culture in New Zealand. As a result the artefact assemblage has been analysed as part of this thesis with specific research questions in mind and has contributed greatly to our knowledge of the material culture of early European communities in New Zealand in general. The excavation of the Te Hoe shore whaling station, located on the Mahia Peninsula, North Island, due to take place in January and February 2005 will hopefully add to this knowledge base again. Generally however, under the current climate of legislation and practice, most archaeological excavations are carried out as mitigation projects against impending development, with little scope for a research orientated focus. Subsequently the knowledge gained from such projects is of little use for investigating larger issues or for comparing with information from other sites.

Shore whaling stations represent an important archaeological resource in both New Zealand and Australia. While it lasted the shore whaling industry was a very prosperous one and so a large number of former shore whaling station sites are still preserved. In New Zealand especially whaling stations also date to a formative period in the country's history when Europeans were first beginning to form permanent settlements. While they are the result of a specialist activity, the present study has shown that the material culture of whaling communities is equally relevant in comparison to that of other contemporary historic sites.

While they are potentially very useful sites, like many archaeological resources they are particularly vulnerable to degradation. All are located in coastal areas where pressure from development is often at its greatest. Many former whaling station sites have already been destroyed by the development of roads and buildings. Coastal zones are also subject to erosional processes which can destroy or damage sites over either a very short or longer period of time. The danger of accidental damage is also ever present, as evidenced by substantial damage to part of the Oashore site by bulldozer in 1989 (Prickett 2002).

To date very few shore whaling stations have been archaeologically investigated in New Zealand and so there is plenty of scope for future research. To fully document the material culture of European communities in New Zealand during the 1840s more work also needs to be done on other historic sites dating to this period. More survey work is also required to locate former whaling station sites and more importantly to assess the preservation and value of their archaeological resources more accurately.

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