

Layers of History: Archaeology in Christchurch

Hamish Williams

Underground Overground Archaeology

Today's presentation...

- What is heritage?
- What is archaeology and why is it important?
- Archaeology in practice: post-quake Christchurch
- How archaeology happens – the process
- Case study: 89 Mays Road

Heritage – what is it?

- ‘property that is or may be inherited – an inheritance’
- valued things such as historic buildings that have been passed down from previous generations – things that have survived the passage of time
- Tangible vs intangible heritage
- cultural heritage vs natural heritage
- Precious and finite resource
- Protect heritage sites by putting them on lists / categorizing them
- Debate heritage – (often only when heritage is at risk of being lost)
- Heritage Lists and District Plans (*Resource Management Act 1991*)





Hydro grand Hotel (1912) demolition November 2017. Uneconomic to bring building up to code

What is archaeology?

- The discovery, recovery, and interpretation of the surviving evidence of past human activity in its context, whether above ground, below ground, or underwater.
- Archaeological sites: 'places where there is physical evidence of pre-1900 human activity that can provide evidence relating to the history of New Zealand that can be investigated by archaeological means'.
- *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014*
- Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (formerly NZ Historic Places Trust)
- You need to obtain an archaeological authority if you plan to 'damage, destroy, or modify' an archaeological site.

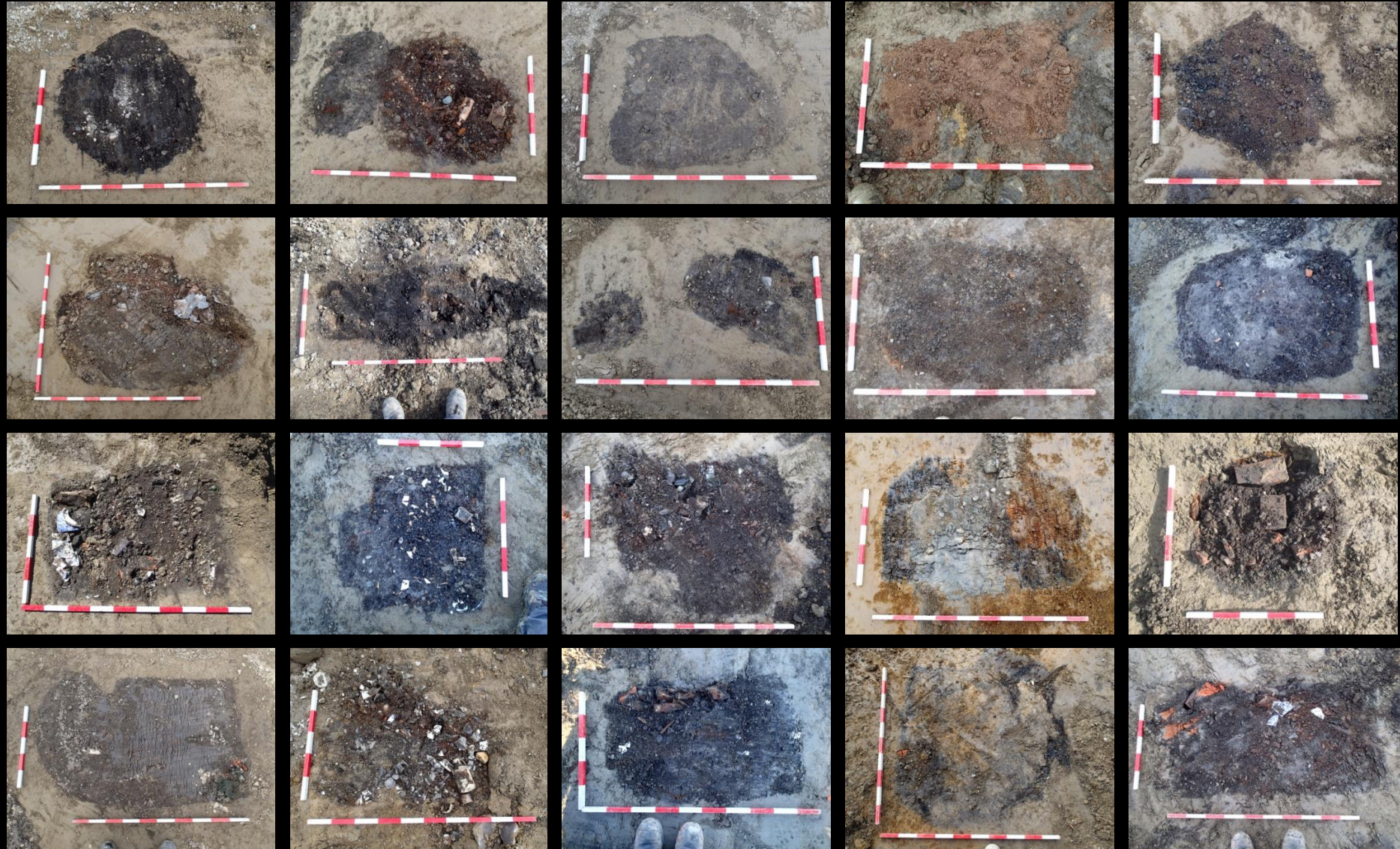


Maori archaeology – shell midden and oven



19th century rubbish pits
under excavation at the
ChCh Justice and
Emergency Services
Precinct, February 2014

Rubbish pits!





































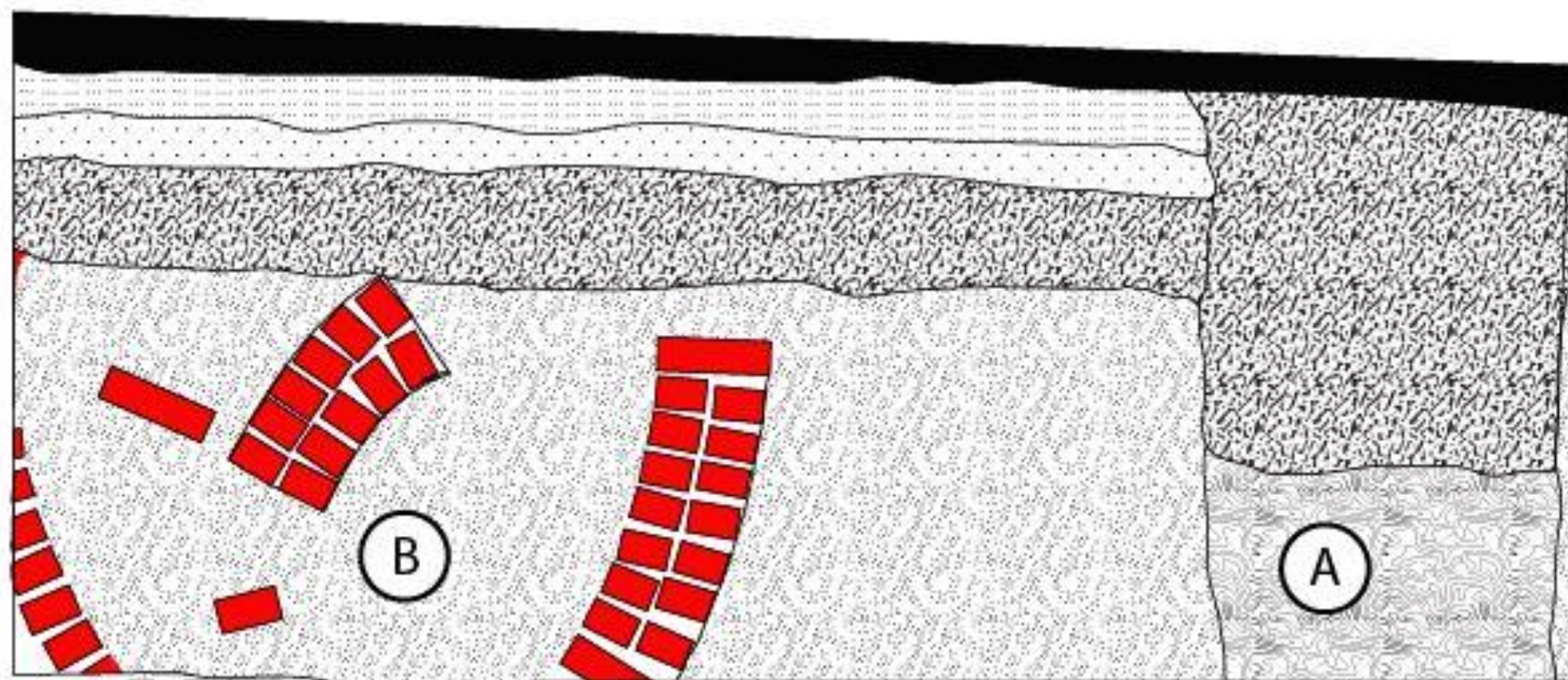




Tuam Street Outfall Drain (1873-1874)







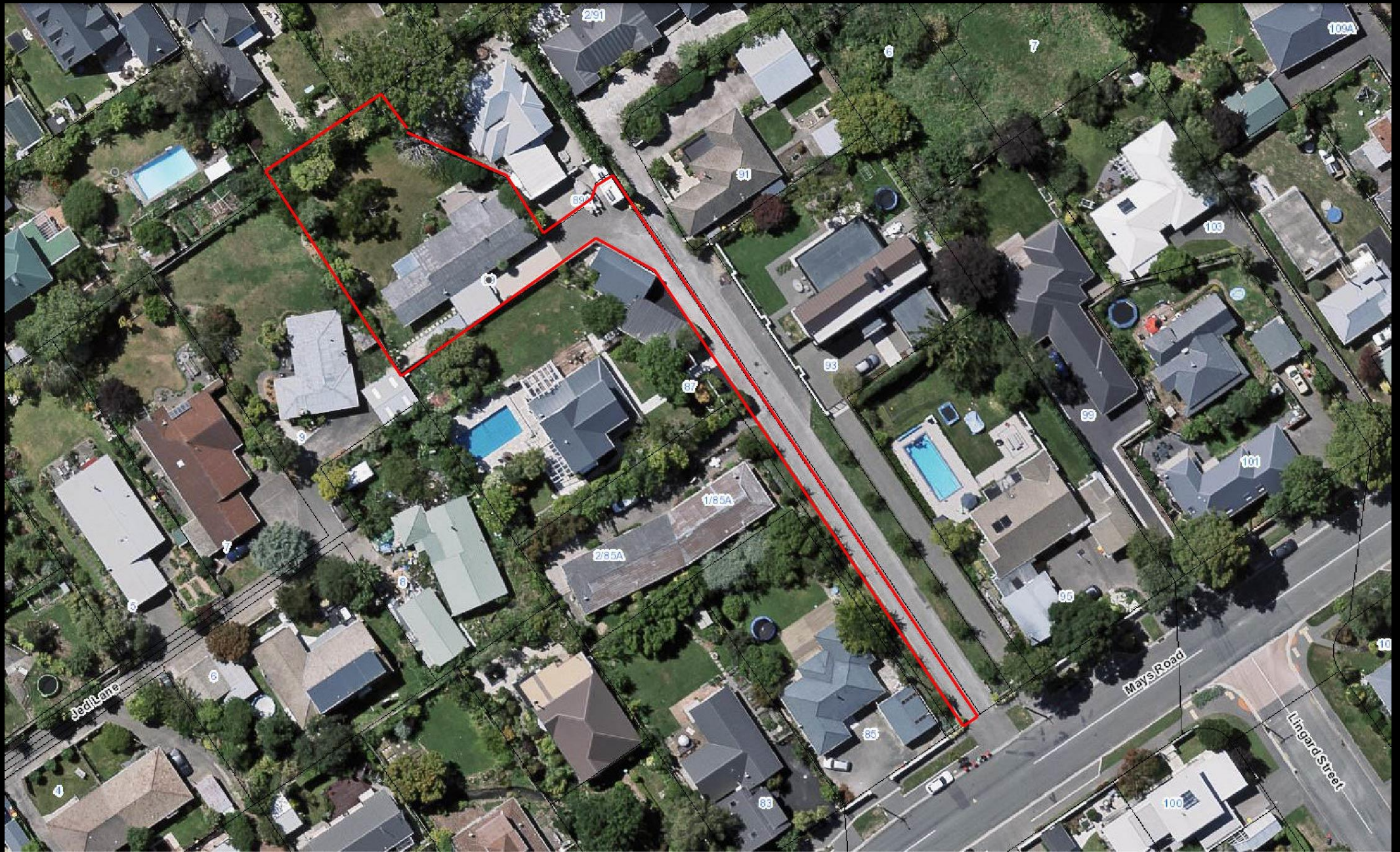
0 1000 mm

The Process.... What we do!

- Heritage and Archaeological Assessments – is an archaeological authority required?
- Field survey / Desk-based survey
- Risk assessment – what is the risk to the archaeology?
- What are the cultural (and other types of) values associated with the site?
- How could these values be impacted by the proposed works?
- Site of Maori interest? - Consultation with iwi
- Apply for the archaeological authority from Heritage New Zealand
- Authority is granted (with conditions!)
- Fee estimate: how much will the archaeology cost?
- Fieldwork: Earthworks monitoring / excavations / mapping and recording
- Research – putting what we found in context
- Material culture: artefact conservation and artefact analysis
- Reporting to client



89 Mays Road





Foundations removal and site
clearance at 89 Mays Road,
HNZPT authority 2018/758eq

29 June 2018











Asbestos under the patio.





The 1890s dwelling,
87 Mays Road.



Rebuild
excavations
at 89 Mays Road,
HNZPT authority
2018/901eq
5 July 2018





Feature 1 – rubbish pit









Feature 2







Feature 3





Feature 4

20th century
rubbish pit



Day 2 -

6 July 2018

Feature 5
Rubbish pit
(exposed in
section)



Feature 5

Rubbish pit











Feature 6
Rubbish pit





not a 19th century
backstamp... not
interested!



Feature 7

20th century
rubbish pit



Feature 8
Rubbish pit

Looks promising...



Jeff: (Frews)

“reckon this is a pre-1900 rubbish pit?”

Hamish: (Underground Overground Archaeology)

“yes... but more like a rubbish trench - it looks longer than it is wide. Lets do another scrape when you ready brother”







3 m long, 1.1 m wide, 800
mm deep

Containing 19th century
artefacts!

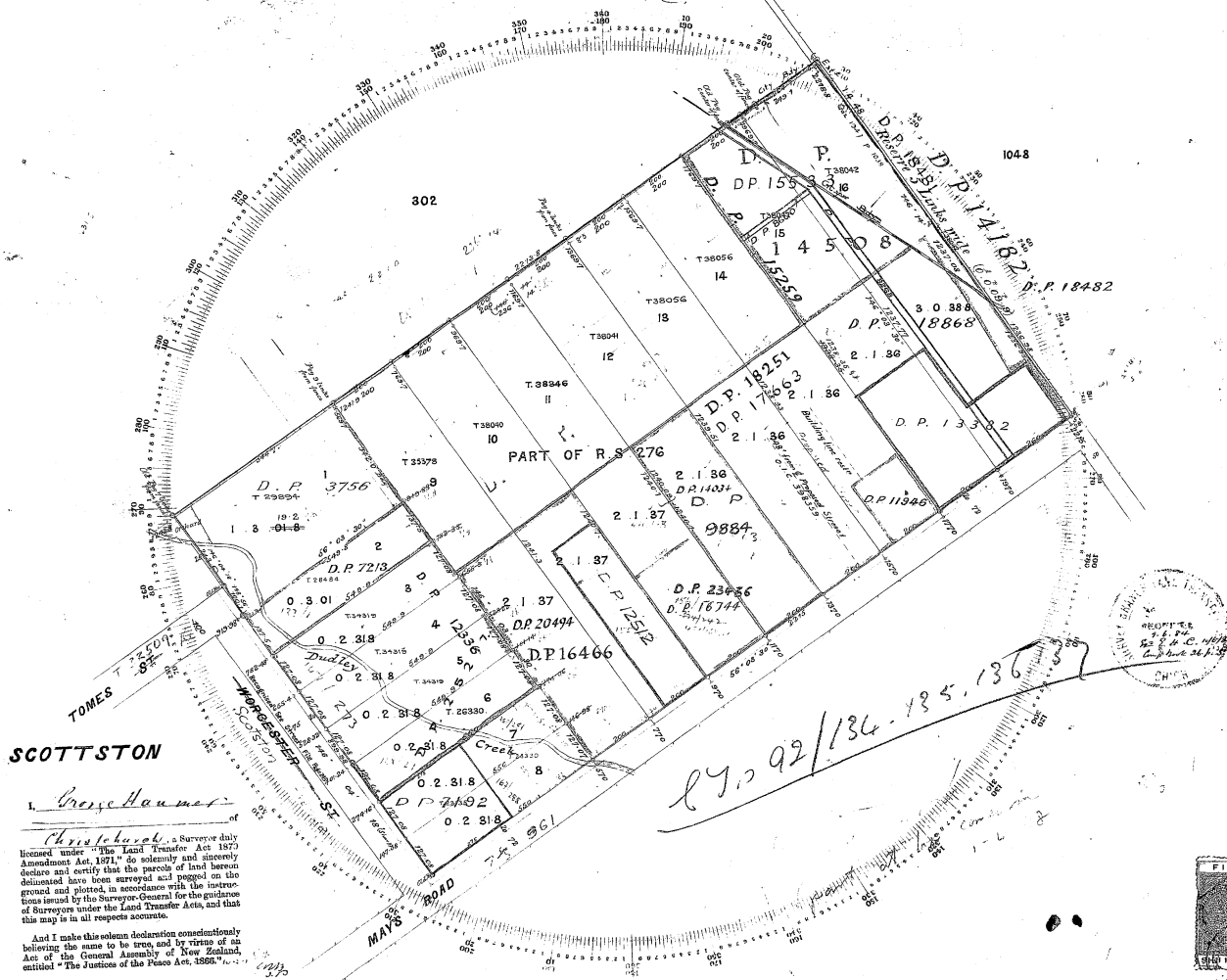




Earthworks monitoring complete.

DP 766

Received at the Land Transfer Survey Office
this _____ day of _____ 1884



SCOTTSTON

I, Cavie Haumen
 of Christchurch, a Surveyor duly
 licensed under "The Land Transfer Act, 1870"
 Amendment Act, 1871, do solemnly and sincerely
 declare and certify that the parcels of land hereon
 delineated have been surveyed and pegged on the
 ground and plotted, in accordance with the instruc-
 tions issued by the Surveyor-General for the guidance
 of Surveyors under the Land Transfer Act, and that
 this map is in all respects accurate.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously
 believing the same to be true, and by virtue of an
 Act of the General Assembly of New Zealand,
 entitled "The Statutes of the Peace Act, 1864."

Declared at Christchurch this 5th day of April, one thousand eight hundred and eighty four.
Tene
 AND SWEARE

Before me CR. B. B. B.
 A Justice of the
 Colony of New

CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH

Plan of Part of R.S. 276 - (Scottston East)
 Surveyed for James - per Chas. Clark
 By Cavie Haumen
March 1884
2 Chains

87, 92/136-135, 136



Approved
John McLean
 Chief Surveyor 1884

307

DP 766

Received at the Land Transfer Office
this day of 1854

SCOTTSTON

1. George Hamner

Christchurch, a Surveyor duly licensed under the Land Transfer Act 1870 Amendment Act, 1871, do solemnly and sincerely declare and certify that the parcels of land herein delineated have been surveyed and pegged on the ground and plotted, in accordance with the instructions issued by the Surveyor-General for the guidance of Surveyors under the Land Transfer Act, and that this map is in all respects accurate.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of an Act of the General Assembly of New Zealand, entitled "The Justice of the Peace Act, 1850."

Declared at Christchurch, this 5th day of April, one thousand eight hundred and fifty four.

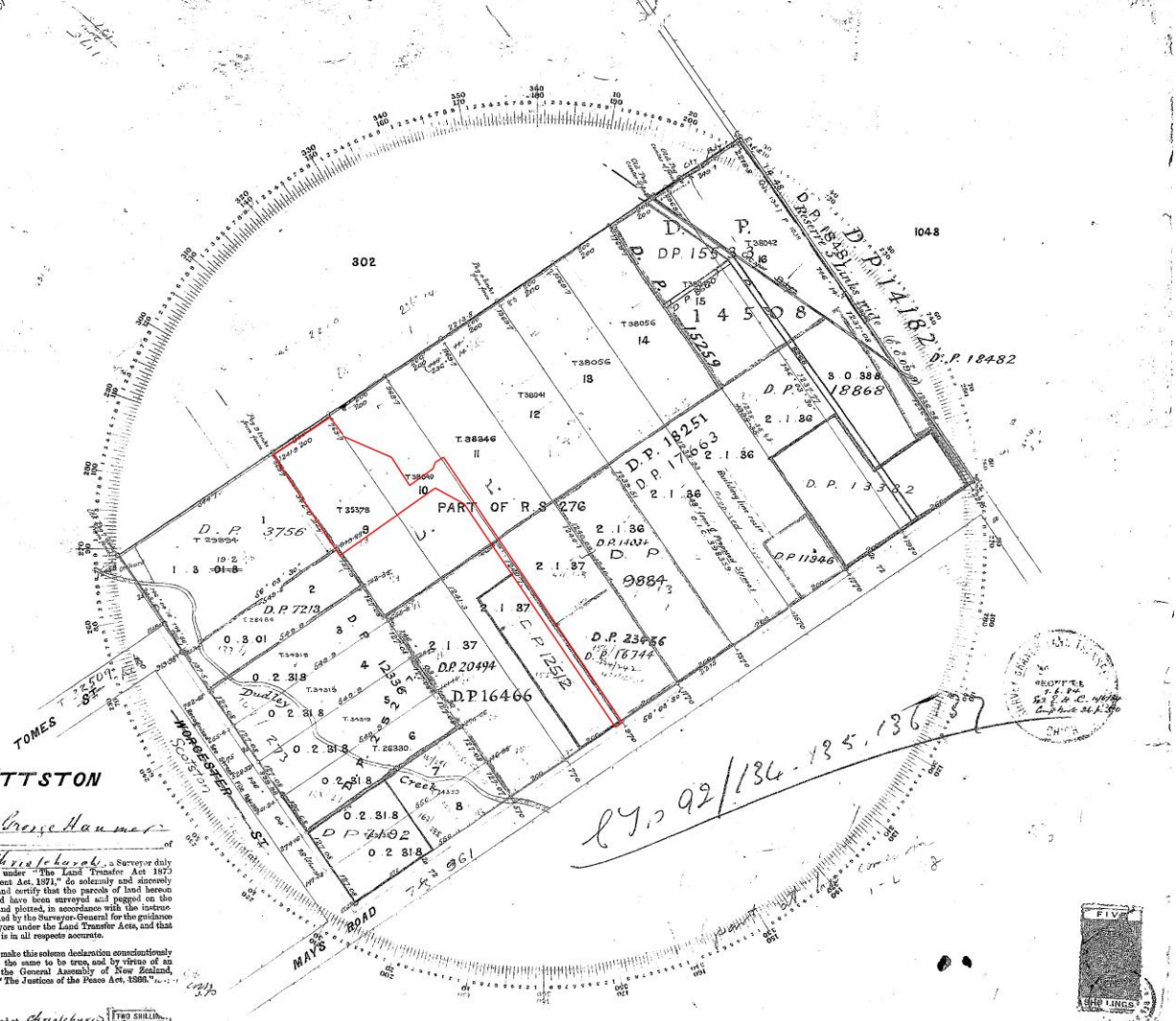
Before me, C. P. Makaka

A Justice of the Peace for the Colony of New Zealand

CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH

Plan of Part of R.S. 276 (Scottston Extension) Surveyed for the City of Christchurch - per Chas. Clarke.
By David Hamner
Makaka 1854
2 Chas. Clarke

87, 92/136-135, 136, 137



Approved
H. M. M. M.
Chief Surveyor 1854

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Who's backyard was it?

- Harry and Ada Wells purchased Lot 9 in 1892, and adjacent Lot 10 1893
- Lived here till 1898 – just six years
- Harry was an organist and an alcoholic
- Ada was a mother, teacher, family breadwinner and suffragette best friend of Kate Sheppard
- 19 September 1893 Electoral Bill passed – finally votes for women!



F. W. Basely
M. Basely
M. Collins
F. Thomas
G. S. Scales
L. J. Hanwell
E. G. Jinning

M. L. Abbott
Maurine Cotton
Ada Wells
Rose Harrow
E. Wilson
L. Wilson
E. Wilson.

May Wilson
M. E. Wilson
M. Rowley
E. L. ...

134 Victoria St

Dunbar St
Pikemus Road
Appau Road
May's Road
Ferry Road
West St Appau Road
Bij's Road Appau
May's Road
Stacy St
Sydenham
Sydenham
Sydenham.
Sydenham.
St Asaph St.

What now?

- Complete reporting for the client and Heritage New Zealand
- Analysis of the artefact assemblage
- Register the site on ArchSite, the NZ Archaeological Association's Site Recording Scheme
- Final invoice to the client
- Public engagement!
- Present talk at an upcoming 'Suffrage 125' event this September?
- Online exhibition of Feature 8 artefacts on our 'Christchurch Uncovered blog'