

Ahaura Bridge Replacement

Archaeology and Artefact Snapshot

The logo for WSP, consisting of the letters 'w', 's', and 'p' in a stylized, lowercase, white font on a red background. The 'w' and 's' are connected, and the 'p' is separate.The logo for Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, featuring a stylized white 'W' symbol to the left of the text 'WAKA KOTAHI' in a bold, uppercase font, with 'NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY' in a smaller, uppercase font below it.



CLIENT Waka Kotahi NZ
Transport Agency

DESIGN AND CONSENTING WSP

CONTRACTOR HEB Construction

SUB-CONTRACTOR(S) Tru-Line

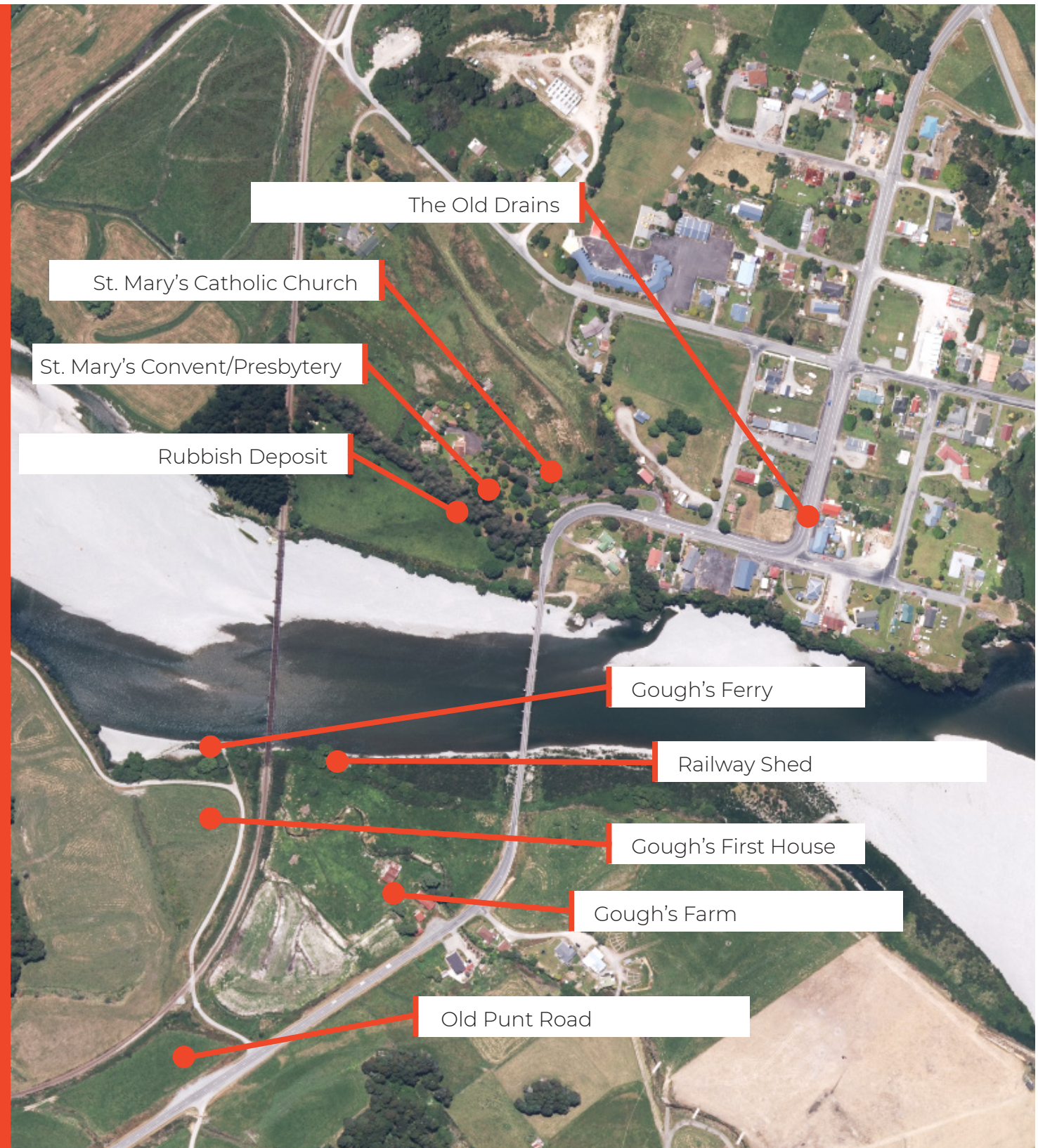
Background

Archaeologists gather physical evidence and use that information to better understand how people lived in the past. Recent archaeological discoveries uncovered during construction activities associated with the new Ahaura Road Bridge provide tantalising glimpses into the history and development of the locale during the 19th century. Long before the start of construction activities it was identified that the new realignment passed through archaeologically sensitive locations relating to potential archaeology sites of both Māori and European origin.

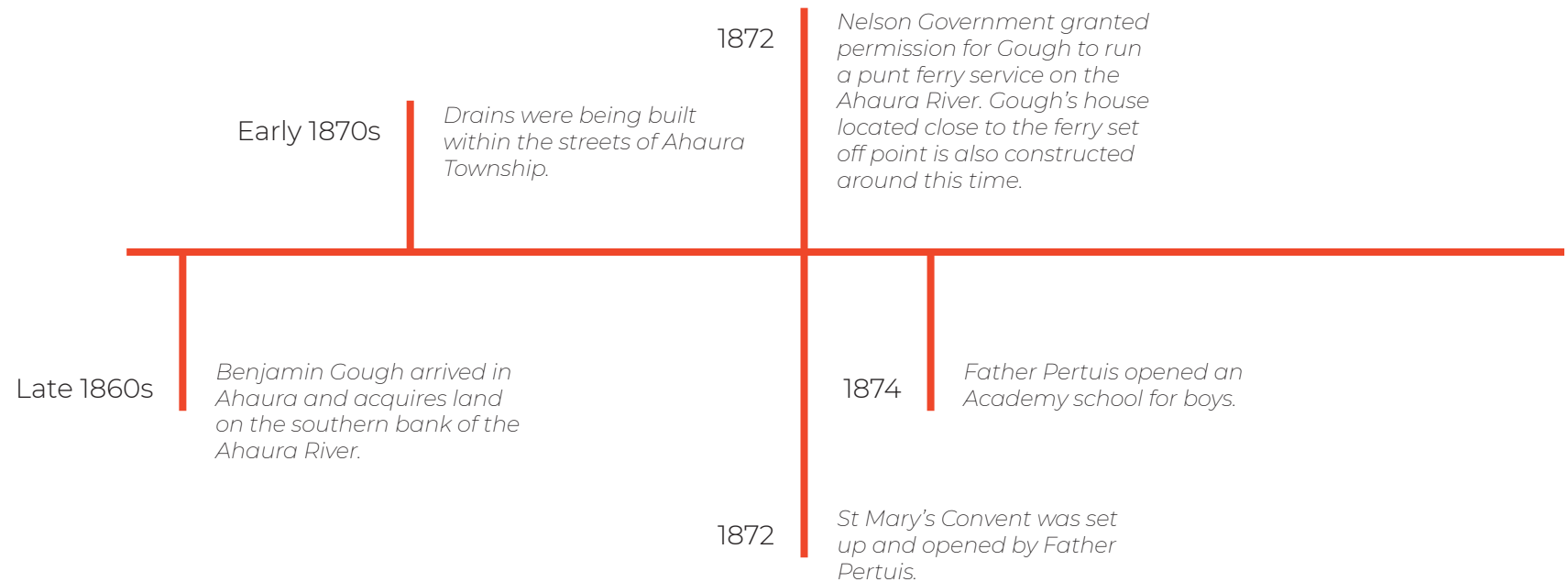
Archaeological sites in New Zealand are defined as any places associated with pre-1900 human activity that can be archaeologically investigated. While the avoidance of such sites is always preferred, sometimes critical infrastructure such as the new Ahaura Bridge is required to be constructed in such places. The 2014 Heritage New Zealand Act protects all New Zealand archaeological sites and requires an Archaeological Authority if the site is to be modified or destroyed. Because of this an archaeology team has been working alongside the contractors to monitor the project groundworks under an Archaeological Authority when there was a risk the works could reveal archaeological remains.

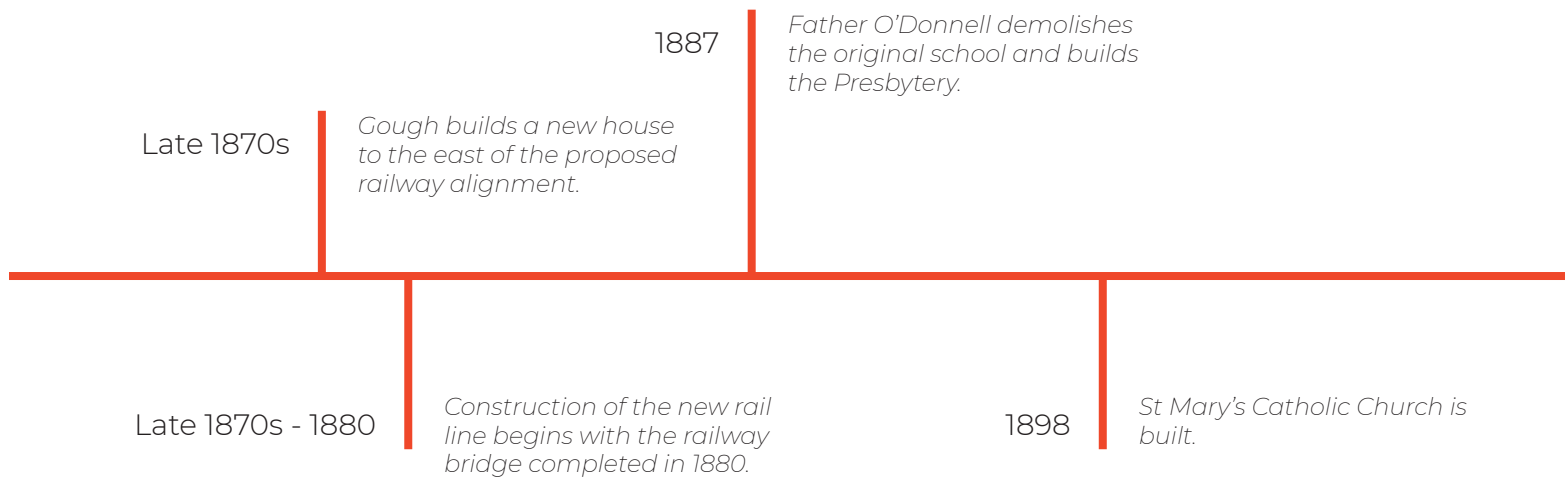
Overview

Up to seven new archaeological sites have been identified and investigated as part of the project, all associated with early European settlement. The archaeological investigations provide not only a history of the land use at the locale, but also insights into different facets of 19th century life in Ahaura; aspects of its transport, educational, religious, and commercial history and development. With more than 5,000 individual artefacts recovered, it has been the largest archaeological project of its kind on the West Coast and the largest artefact assemblage recovered from a single archaeological project on the Coast.



19th Century Development Timeline





Benjamin Gough

The archaeological remains unearthed on the south side of the river are inexorably linked to Benjamin Gough. Originally born in Waterford, Ireland, Gough 'came out to the colonies at an early age' and participated in the gold rushes in Victoria, Otago and the West Coast. He was one of the original settlers of Ahaura arriving there in the late 1860s. He was the local punt ferry operator, had a farm of 70 acres, and was the proprietor of Gough's Hotel located within the Ahaura township.

Gough featured prominently in the running of the township, evidenced by hundreds of newspaper articles containing his name in the mid-late 1800's until his death in 1918, when his estate was sold. The land on the south side of Ahaura River, where the new SH7 realignment runs, was originally part of his farm, and physical remains relating to his ownership and use of this land were uncovered during the recent construction activities.

Figure 1. In 1872 the Nelson Government granted permission for Gough to run a punt ferry service on the Ahaura River

Figures 2 & 3. View of the exposed portion of the old punt road which led to the set off point of Gough's Ferry.

BENJAMIN GOUGH

is authorised to place upon the River Ahaura, opposite the Ahaura Island, near the township of Ahaura, a self-acting Punt, travelling upon a Wire Rope across the River, and the said Benjamin Gough is protected in the sole right of ferrying on the said River, within one mile of the said Island for eighteen months from the date hereof, and is authorised to charge tolls, according to the annexed Schedule upon the following conditions:—

1. That a good safe Punt and a competent ferryman shall be at all times in attendance at the Ahaura ferry, and the Punt and gear kept in good order.
2. That all Government officers and servants on duty shall be ferried free of charge.
3. That this protection shall not prejudice the right of the Government or any local governing body to erect a Bridge, or to grant protection for the erection of a Bridge over the Ahaura river, within or without the limits hereby protected.
4. That this protection shall not be transferred without the sanction of the Governor.

Given under my hand, at Nelson, this 27th day of November, 1876.

OSWALD CURTIS.

SCHEDULE OF TOLLS.

	£	s.	d.
For each person	0	0	6
For each horse and rider	0	2	0
For each horse and dray	0	2	0
And for every extra horse	0	0	6
For each waggon and horse	0	5	0
And for every extra horse	0	0	6
Cattle—each	0	1	0
Sheep—per 100	1	5	0

1809 OSWALD CURTIS

Figure 1.



Figure 2.



Figure 3.

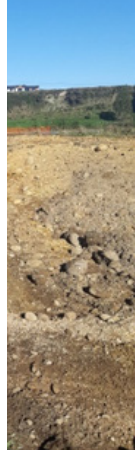


Figure 4.



Figure 5.

The Old Punt Road

In 1872 the Nelson Government granted permission for Gough to run a punt ferry service on the Ahaura River, close to the township itself. This ferry service was the primary and safest way of crossing the Ahaura River until 1879 when the first bridge was built. The ferry carried foot traffic, horses, carts, and farm animals and it was double the price to catch the ferry during rush hour 10am – 5pm. Gough's punt ferry set off point was from a little bay to the west of the railway line on the southern Ahaura riverbank while the landing point was on north bank close to 'Ahaura Island'.

Figure 4. 19th century tincture/medicine bottle, possibly discarded by a ferry passenger making their way up to the punt.

Figure 5. View of the exposed portion of the old punt road which led to the set off point of Gough's Ferry.

While the ferry set off point was located outside of the new highway realignment, a section of the Old Punt Road leading to the ferry departure point was revealed and investigated by the archaeology team during the construction works. The investigations showed the original road was formed by a metalled surface and that it had associated flanking gullies for water run-off. The exposed section measured c. 60m long by 3.5 m wide. Also found in association with the road was a 19th century tincture/ medicine bottle, possibly discarded by a ferry passenger making their way up to the punt.

Figure 6. Archaeologist Sam Kurmann investigating the Old Punt Road.



Gough's Farm

The land on the south side of Ahaura River where the new SH7 realignment runs was originally part of Gough's Farm. The historic sources indicate that Gough's house was initially located close to the ferry set off point, while the land now taken by the new highway realignment was a grassed paddock. Sometime in the late 1870's, and perhaps in response to plans to build the new railway line, Gough built a new house in the grassed paddock, just to the east of the new highway realignment.

While the new highway realignment avoided the location of Gough's second house, construction of a temporary haul road close by revealed the remains of a timber lined drain or submerged water flume. The exposed portion of the drain measured 0.90 m wide, and 0.50 m deep and the internal timber planks would have conveyed water at pressure.

Figure 7. 1870's survey plan showing B. Gough's House and Gardens. The image shows part of the Old Punt Road and the ferry crossing location.

Figure 8. An Archaeologist inspecting a historic bottle top that was found at the site of Gough's second house.

Figure 9. View of the submerged timber water flume found in the drain close to the location of Gough's second house. The evidence suggests the timber was arranged in order to channel water at pressure.



Figure 7.



Figure 8.



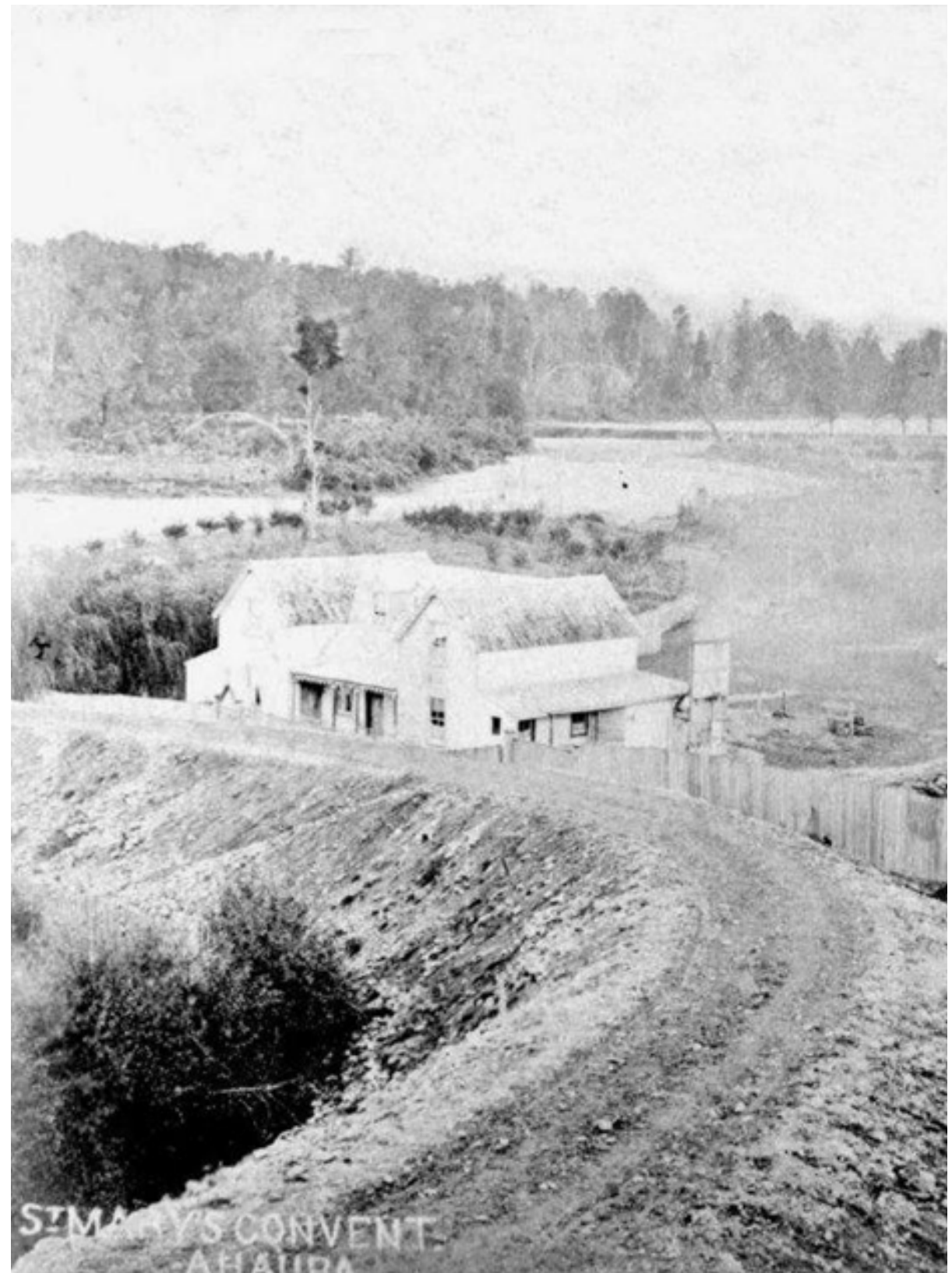
Figure 9.

St Mary's Convent

Irish Catholics, mostly originally miners, made up a large proportion of the West Coast population in the 19th century. St Mary's Convent was a catholic boarding school for girls that was set up by Father Pertuis (parish priest of Ahaura) and opened in 1872.

The convent was established as a West Coast branch of the St. Mary Convent in Wellington and was run by the Sisters of Mercy. The convent was first advertised as a 'boarding and dayschool for young ladies' in June 1874. They offered English education, with plain and ornamental needlework, and the standard curriculum; music, French, and drawing came at an extra cost. In 1874 Father Pertuis opened an Academy for boys at the school. This same year the sisters returned to Wellington as it was difficult for them to maintain a religious community in such a remote district.

Figure 10. St. Mary's Convent School, and the Academy. The image is taken from atop a large gravel embankment that forms the northern approach to the Ahaura bridge (ca. 1870s-1880s). Source: History House.





A photograph of the convent taken some time between the 1870s-1880s shows the road (atop of a large man-made embankment) leading towards the bridge, and at least two large buildings (probably the girl's and boy's schools). An early 1880s account of the school grounds describes a large flower and vegetable garden on the river side of the school property and corrugated iron fences delineating the play areas.



Figure 11.



Figure 12.

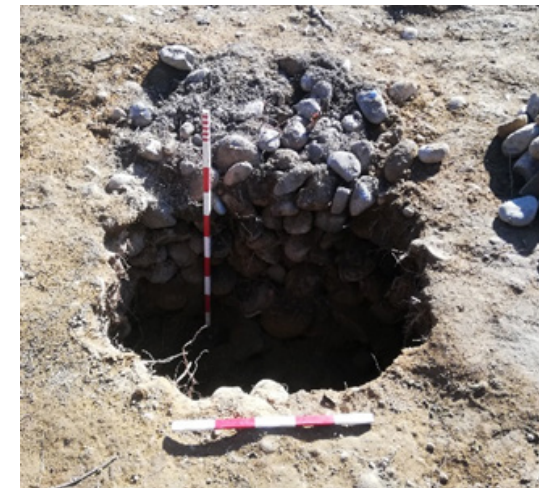


Figure 13.

Figure 11. Archaeology Team Member (Senior Planner) Anne McNoe excavating the remains associated with the girls boarding school.

Figure 12. Archaeology team investigating the old drains associated with the girls boarding school. Infilled drains such as these often contain a wealth of historic artefactual evidence.

Figure 13. Mid-excitation view of the convent well feature.



Figure 14.

Railway Shed

The foundational remains of what seemed to be a long rectangular building were also excavated by the archaeologists within Gough's paddock, this time close to the southern abutment of the railway bridge. The building remains were characterised by a row of large postholes aligned along a north-south axis. Some of the postholes still had timber posts (likely red beach) indicating for a large structure supported on timber piles. The post-hole footprint measured 10 m long by 8 m wide.

What was unusual was a lack of associated archaeological artefacts which if present might have offered insights into the age and purpose of the building. Clues to its purpose may be implied by its distance to the southern abutment of the railway bridge. It is considered that a shed would have been required as a work shed and for the storage of valuable equipment during construction of the railway bridge.

Figure 14. Archaeological Team Member (Senior Planner) Anne McNoe excavating the remains of the possible shed likely associated with construction of the original Ahaura Rail bridge in the late 1870's.



Figure 15.

The Presbytery

In May 1887 Father O'Donnell, originally from Limerick, Ireland, and the then Catholic parish priest for Ahaura, had the original school demolished and erected a two-story Presbytery as his residence. Father O'Donnell was however recalled to Christchurch at the end of the year. After his departure there was a succession of up to 14 parish priests in Ahaura until 1912, including many Irish and French priests. All of these would have lived in the Presbytery during their posting.

The remains of the Presbytery were recently uncovered during construction works. The archaeologists were able to trace the ground floor plan of the building from its surviving concrete foundations and the physical elements identified. These included an old veranda at the front, the remains of the old fireplace and a lean-to addition at the back of the building. The lean-to addition at the back incorporated pile floor supports built in the same manner as many West Coast buildings are today, signalling a certain longevity of building methods.

Figure 15. Scene at Ahaura with St Mary's Catholic Church in the foreground and the Presbytery in the background. Date unknown, circa 1910?. Photographer unidentified. History House.



Figure 16.

The high-quality concrete foundations found indicated a large residence reflecting the important role and status of the priest within the local Catholic community of the time. The imposing nature of the building likely also reflects the growing confidence and position of the community. In addition to being the parish priest's residence the Presbytery would have been a place for receiving both community members and visitors.

Figures 16 & 17. Archaeologists investigating the remains of the old presbytery building.

Figure 17.



Figure 18.



Figure 19.



Figure 20.



Figure 21.

Many artefacts relating to the 19th century occupation of St Mary's Convent were found by the archaeology team. These included old building materials including historic Brunner bricks, and domestic refuse in the form of old ceramics and glassware.

Figures 18 & 19. Archaeologists investigating the remains of the old presbytery building.

Figure 20. Archaeologists Stephen Conroy, Sam Kurmann and Anne McNoe investigating the remains of the old presbytery building.

Figure 21. Archaeologists investigating the remains of the old presbytery. Also visible in the image is the top of the large rubbish deposit denoted by the black soil.

North Bank Rubbish Deposit



An exceptionally large 19th century rubbish deposit was discovered close to the Presbytery building. It measured c. 42 m long, between 4 – 9.5 m wide and between 1-1.5 m thick. It was composed of multiple layers of discarded domestic rubbish representing prolonged and sustained disposal of domestic waste over a period from the convent school and the old presbytery.

The domestic rubbish included a wide variety of artefacts from the 19th century including glass and medicine bottles, various types of ceramics, discarded building materials, discarded clothes items, metal objects and various other miscellaneous items including religious objects. A sample of this material was taken for specialist study as it contains valuable information relating to the social and cultural life of the convent, the associated schools, and later the Presbytery.

The archaeologists worked with the project engineers to preserve the deposit below the new highway embankment. Protecting such deposits, where possible, ensures its preservation so that at some point in the distant future the archaeologist of tomorrow could perhaps further investigate the secrets of the deposit.

Figure 22. Archaeologists recording the large rubbish deposit.

St. Mary's Catholic Church

The remains of St Mary's Catholic Church, built in 1898 by the Currie Brothers, were found by the archaeologists to the northeast of the Presbytery. Churches such as St Mary's were important locations for communal worship and a gathering space where the local community marked or celebrated significant life events, including births, marriages, and deaths.

The archaeological remains found at the site included substantial timber posts marking the footprint of the structure, and concrete steps and a footpath positioned at the front of the church. Flooding appears to have been a particular issue for the church as the original builders also constructed a number of water drains to keep the site dry.

Figure 23. View of the exposed remains of St Mary's Catholic Church on a frosty winter morning.

Figure 24. Surviving fence post from the old church site.

Figure 25. Archaeologist Nick Mainwaring investigating the old church site.



Figure 23.



Figure 24.



Figure 25.

Ahaura Township

European settlement of the Ahaura area began with the establishment of a pastoral run near the junction of the Ahaura and Grey Rivers in 1858. The discovery of gold in the 1860s led to an influx of settlers. Ahaura was established in about 1863 as it was a suitable landing place for barges at the confluence of the Grey and Ahaura Rivers. After a severe flood in 1871, the township shifted to higher ground. By this time the West Coast gold rushes were at their height and thousands of men were working claims nearby.

Figure 26. View of a section through the 19th century drain in Ahaura Township. Visible in the image is the timber lining.

Figure 27. Awahono School pupils visit the site and hear from the archaeologists.

Figure 28. Archaeology Team member Wouter Van Plateringen investigating the drain on Clifton Street



Figure 26.



Figure 27.



Figure 28.

The flourishing township of Ahaura boasted numerous drinking houses and stores, a bakery, a police station and courthouse, several lawyers and doctors, as well as a bank and post office.

Archaeological discoveries within the town itself included a 19th century stone filled drain uncovered on Camp Street, and a much larger second drain - also from the 19th century - on Clifton Street. The stone filled drain measured up to 100 m long, and up to 1 m wide and deep. The larger second drain measured more than 40 m long, 1.5 m wide and 1.5 deep. Its sides were lined with timber in the 19th century and many of these original timbers were still present.

Figure 29. Archaeologists investigating the 19th century drain in Ahaura Township.





Figure 30.



Figure 31.



Figure 32.



Figure 33.

Old records pertaining to Ahaura suggest that drainage was a problem along Clifton and Camp Streets. This hazard is likely what initiated construction of the drains. Newspaper accounts suggest both present by at least the early 1870's.

Artefacts relating to 19th century life along the main street of Ahaura have been discovered by the archaeology team. These included a range of historical materials such as the remnants of a glass infant feeder bottle, horseshoes, decorated ceramic fragments, leather shoes, stoneware ink pots, and clay smoking pipes. There was also a range of glass bottles recovered, largely fragmentary, including case gin, ring seal, black beer, poison, and torpedo bottles – used for aerated waters. These all help us understand the lives of the inhabitants of the township during the 19th century.

Figure 30. Archaeologist Sheelagh Conran excavating the old drain on Clifton Street.

Figure 31. Heritage New Zealand's regional archaeologist being shown a preserved boot that the archaeologists uncovered on Clifton Street.

Figure 32. Alana Kelly and Johanna Huston documenting the remains of the old drain.

Figure 33. Archaeologist Alana Kelly documenting the remains of the old drain.

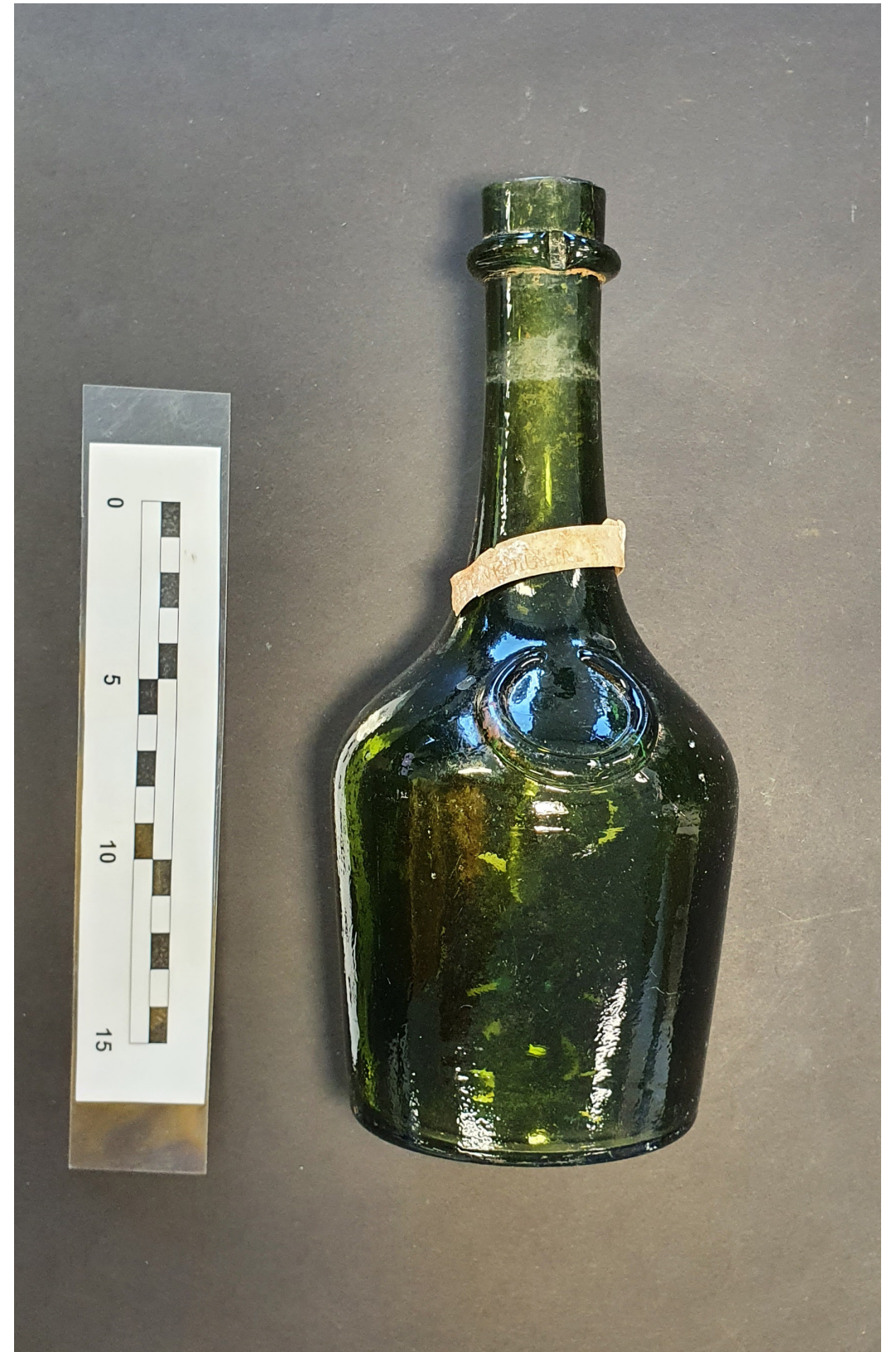
The Artefacts

Archaeological artefacts are typically discarded materials from the everyday lives of peoples of the past. Whether intact or fragmentary, these artefacts provide an archaeological dataset that allows for investigation into many avenues and themes of our shared histories. Even the smallest of historical artefacts can inform us on the wider events of colonialism and the globalisation of peoples in the 19th century in New Zealand.

Glass bottle fragments can be linked to specific local chemists and breweries, metal objects can be identified to specific international patents, and ceramics with makers marks can be traced to an individual manufacturer halfway around the world. Even the small, broken, and incomplete artefacts recovered are part of a dataset with unlimited interpretive potential. With over 5000 artefacts recovered and catalogued to date, with more to be processed, there are many stories of Ahaura waiting to be unlocked and told.

Glass

Figure 34. Benedictine liquer bottle.



A large mixture of complete and fragmentary glass alcohol bottles have been recovered during the Ahaura archaeological investigations. Alcohol bottle types such as black beer, ring seal, and case gin bottles are common throughout historic archaeological sites in New Zealand.

Both Udolpho Wolfe's Aromatic Schnappes and the Benedictine bottles are common brands of alcohol that were developed and produced during the 19th century. All glassware was imported into New Zealand prior to 1922. As such, many of these bottles were reused multiple times.

Figure 35. WOLFE'S// AROMATIC SCHNAPPS// SCHIEDAM" bottle.

Figure 36. Ring seal beer bottle.

Figure 37. Case gin bottle fragments.

Figure 38. Black beer bottle.



Figure 35.



Figure 36.



Figure 37.



Figure 38.

Pharmaceutical bottles in New Zealand come in many shapes and sizes. Bottles of these types often provide an insight into the early world of medicine in New Zealand. Smaller tincture bottles are usually plain, but the larger bottles will often have embossing detailing the patent, chemist, doctor, or other proprietors of the business specific to the product.

Early pharmaceutical bottles also encapsulate a large array of remedies including alleviators, cordials, elixirs, embrocations, purgatives, tonics, and more; many of which dabble in the realm of medicinal quackery.



Figure 39.



Figure 40.



Figure 41.



Figure 42.

Figure 39. Cough syrup bottle - Front "DR A BOSCHEE'S//GERMAN SYRUP". Side "PROPIETER".
 Figure 40. Small tincture bottle and medicine bottle "PARKINSON & CO//CHEMISTS//GREY MOUTH". Side "L.M. GREEN".
 Figure 41. Indian ink bottle.
 Figure 42. Medicine bottle.



Figure 43.



Figure 44.



Figure 45



Figure 46.

Torpedo and round bottoms are two types of early aerated water (fizzy drink) bottles. Their unusually shaped rounded bases ensured the bottle was not stored upright. This guaranteed the wired-on cork remained wet, preventing it from shrinking and allowing the escape of carbonation or evaporation. Both the Whilrey styled salad oil condiment bottle and the cobalt blue castor oil bottle are common domestic bottle types in New Zealand assemblages



Figure 47.

Figure 43. Torpedo bottle "M. A. WHITMORE // GREYMOUTH".
 Figure 44. Torpedo bottle fragment "[STR- IK]E & BLACKMORE" Greymouth brewery.
 Figure 45. Whilrey salad oil condiment bottle.
 Figure 46. Round bottom bottle base "RO[S] S'S // [BEL]FAST".
 Figure 47. Castor oil bottle.

Metals

Figure 48. Curry comb for a horse.





Figure 49.

Figure 49. Salter's Spring Balance, Sylvester's Patent.

Figure 50. Spoon.

Figure 51. Decorative burner of a historic brass lamp.

Figure 52. Curry comb for a horse.

Figure 53. Cut style nails.



Figure 50.



Figure 51.



Figure 52.

Metal artefacts encompass a wide range of objects and wares. However, they are often difficult to identify and investigate due to their rusted condition.

Cut nails are manufactured from flat sheets of iron cut into nail blanks and hammered to make a head. This manufacturing style occurs after 1800 replacing traditional wrought nails, and pre-dating modern wire nails.



Figure 53.

Matchboxes

Matchboxes are a common metal artefact type found across historic archaeological sites in New Zealand. They are typically small boxes with a ribbed surface for striking phosphorous tipped matches against. A variety of labels and brands exist within the historic context and, in instances where they survive, can indicate relative dates and timelines.

Figure 54. Five complete matchboxes.

Figure 55. Close up of a matchbox.



Figure 54.



Figure 55.



Figure 56.

Clay Pipes

Clay smoking pipes are a fairly common artefact type found within archaeological contexts in New Zealand. Smoking was very prevalent in 19th century society and basic clay pipes were cheap and easy to manufacture. In some instances, clay pipes were only used a few times before being discarded or were offered free to patrons in hotels. More ornate examples of clay pipes can also be found, although they are less common.

Figure 56. A stem "BEN NEVIS", a branded bowl "BEN NEVIS CUTTY", and a plain bowl of clay smoking pipes.

Shoes

Figure 57. Fragments of a Derby style men's shoe with surviving outer and mid sole, toe cap, lace holes, and vamps.





Figure 58.

Figure 58. Heels of shoes with surviving iron and copper nails.
 Figure 59. Soles of shoes, possibly women's due to narrow size.
 Figure 60. Fragments of a Derby style men's shoe with surviving outer and mid sole, toe cap, lace holes, and vamps.

Shoes and other leather artefacts are common finds in historic archaeological sites in New Zealand. Due to the hardy nature of leather, these artefact types survive well within both wet and dry deposits. The surviving elements can indicate the manufacturing style, such as mass-produced machine methods or handmade types.



Figure 59.



Figure 60.

Ceramics

Figure 61. A toothpaste jar lid Outer circle: "CHERRY TOOTHPASTE//PATRONIZED BY THE QUEEN" Inner Circle: "FOR BEAUTIFYING AND PRESERVING THE TEETH & GUMS//PREPARED BY JOHN GOSNELL & Co LONDON". Image of a young Queen Victoria in centre.



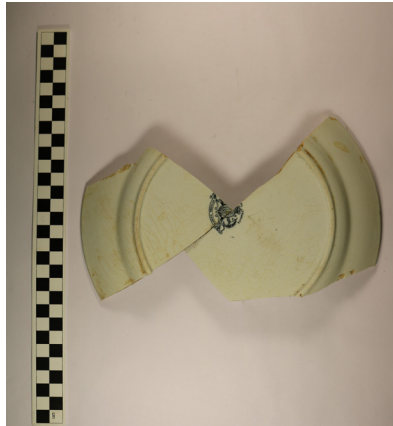


Figure 62.

Figure 62. Earthenware ceramic plate with makers mark "[ROY] AL GRANITE//ATHENA SHAPE" with coat of arms.

Figure 63. Earthenware fragments of a child's plate with a partial nursery rhyme and scene.

Figure 64. Earthenware plate with makers mark "PH..." "EA//W" in a decorative ribboned ring.

Figure 65. Blue sprigged style decoration.

Figure 66. Porcelain teacup fragments painted with a floral Chinese style polychrome design.



Figure 63.

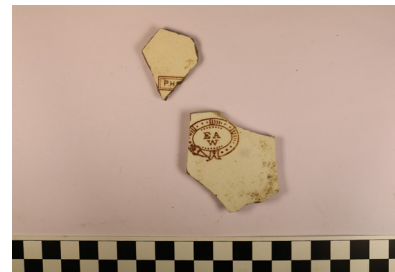


Figure 64.



Figure 65.

In New Zealand historical archaeology ceramic artefacts are very common and generally classified into three main body types – earthenware, stoneware, and porcelain. These types encompass a wide range of artefacts including teawares, tablewares, servingwares, chamberpots, ink bottles, gingerbeer bottles, industrial water pipes, telegraph insulators, handles, and much more.

A wide range of decoration techniques were used on historic ceramics, including under glaze transfer prints, painting, gold gilt, moulding, and more. Scenic patterns of rivers, countrysides, and foreign countries were popular, as were floral and geometric designs – even on chamberpots.

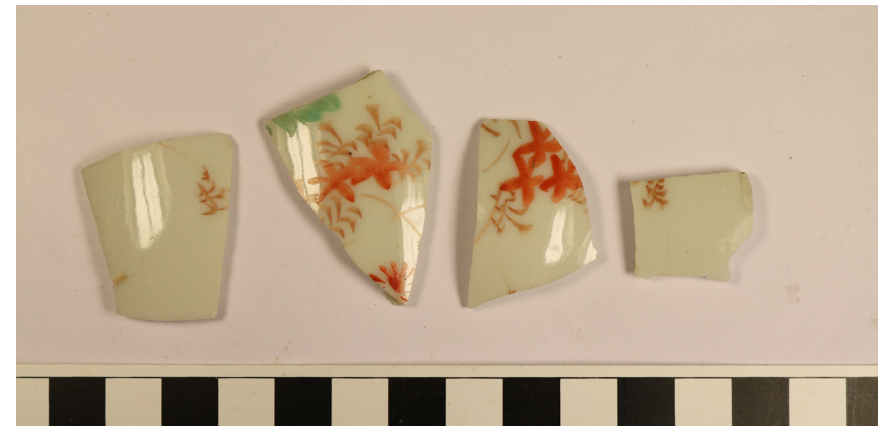


Figure 66.

Stoneware is a dense and robust ceramic that is often used for utilitarian purposes. Because the ware is nonporous and durable it is ideal for both industrial pipes and utilitarian storing vessels such as crocks, jars, and bottles. While they are not as pretty as the delicately decorated porcelain and earthenware counterparts, stoneware vessels are an important ware within the historical household.



Figure 67.



Figure 68.



Figure 69.



Figure 70.



Figure 71.

Figure 67. White salt glazed stoneware bottle, possibly for ginger beer.
 Figure 68. A toothpaste jar lid Outer circle: "CHERRY TOOTHPASTE//PATRONIZED BY THE QUEEN" Inner Circle: "FOR BEAUTIFYING AND PRESERVING THE TEETH & GUMS//PREPARED BY JOHN GOSNELL & Co LONDON". Image of a young Queen Victoria in centre.
 Figure 69. Brown salt glazed stoneware ink bottle, with makers mark stamped on base.
 Figure 70. White salt glazed stoneware ink bottle with makers mark stamped at base.
 Figure 71. Egg cup with moulded relief.



Figure 72.

Tablewares

The historic dining table had a wide range of wares including teawares, flatwares, servingwares, cutlery, and drinking vessels. The array of objects common to the historic dining table included elaborately decorated platters and serving tureens, delicate teacups and saucers, and highly decorated dinner plates. In addition to the 'good' and fancy ceramic wares, plainer everyday metal objects were common too. Silver cutlery and metal enamelware were common in historic day to day New Zealand settings, especially towards the early 20th century.

Figure 72. Enamelware mug.

Figure 73. Silver fork.



Figure 73.

Other Artefacts

With most archaeological assemblages come uncommon, unusual, and rare finds that do not fit within the typical categories, such as the ceramic egg (pictured right) used to encourage chickens to lay. The Ahaura artefact assemblage is no different and objects relating to church activities were recovered. Very few archaeological sites related to historic religious activities have been formally investigated in New Zealand.

The investigation and excavation of the St. Mary's Convent, St. Mary's Catholic Church site, and the Presbytery in Ahaura provides a unique and special chance to investigate our shared past. The artefacts and data recovered from this investigation can inform research on themes of Roman Catholicism, gender in religion, Roman Catholicism in New Zealand, early Irish settlement of New Zealand, early rural settlement, and the development of the Ahaura Township itself.

Figure 74. A brass bell.

Figure 75. Silver crucifix.

Figure 76. A ceramic egg, to encourage laying.



Figure 74.



Figure 75.



Figure 76.

Summary

The archaeological remains uncovered at Ahaura are really about the story of a local place. The physical remains and artefact residues that survived below the ground and within the landscape provide a tangible link to the lives of some of Ahaura's 19th century settlers and the environment that shaped their lives. Without the archaeological investigations in advance of construction works, the affected archaeological sites and their secrets, would have been lost forever. A theme of change and development of later 19th century Ahaura emerges through the archaeological record; in a sense, it is quite fitting that the remains were uncovered and studied as a result of the latest milestone in Ahaura's developmental history, the new road bridge.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH, A. H. A.
NO. 1262 B.



Acknowledgements

Booklet main content by TJ O'Connell; artefact content by Alana Kelly & Nick Cable; content review by Sheelagh Conran and Anne McNoe; and design by Luke Hempleman.

Thanks to the Archaeology Team including: Alana Kelly, Anne McNoe, Johanna Huston, Nick Mainwaring, Sheelagh Conran, Stephen Conroy, Sam Kurmann, Torben Fischer, Wouter Van Plateringen and remote support from archaeologist Emily Howitt.

Thanks to Waka Kotahi, WSP, HEB Construction and TruLine for support of archaeology works including the best digger drivers on the Coast!

And a very special thanks to the Ahaura community.

Figure 77. Scene at Ahaura, with St Mary's Catholic Church. Photograph taken by William Archer Price between 1900 and 1930



CLIENT	Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency
DESIGN AND CONSENTING	WSP
CONTRACTOR	HEB Construction
SUB-CONTRACTOR(S)	Tru-Line
DOCUMENT PREPARED BY	WSP