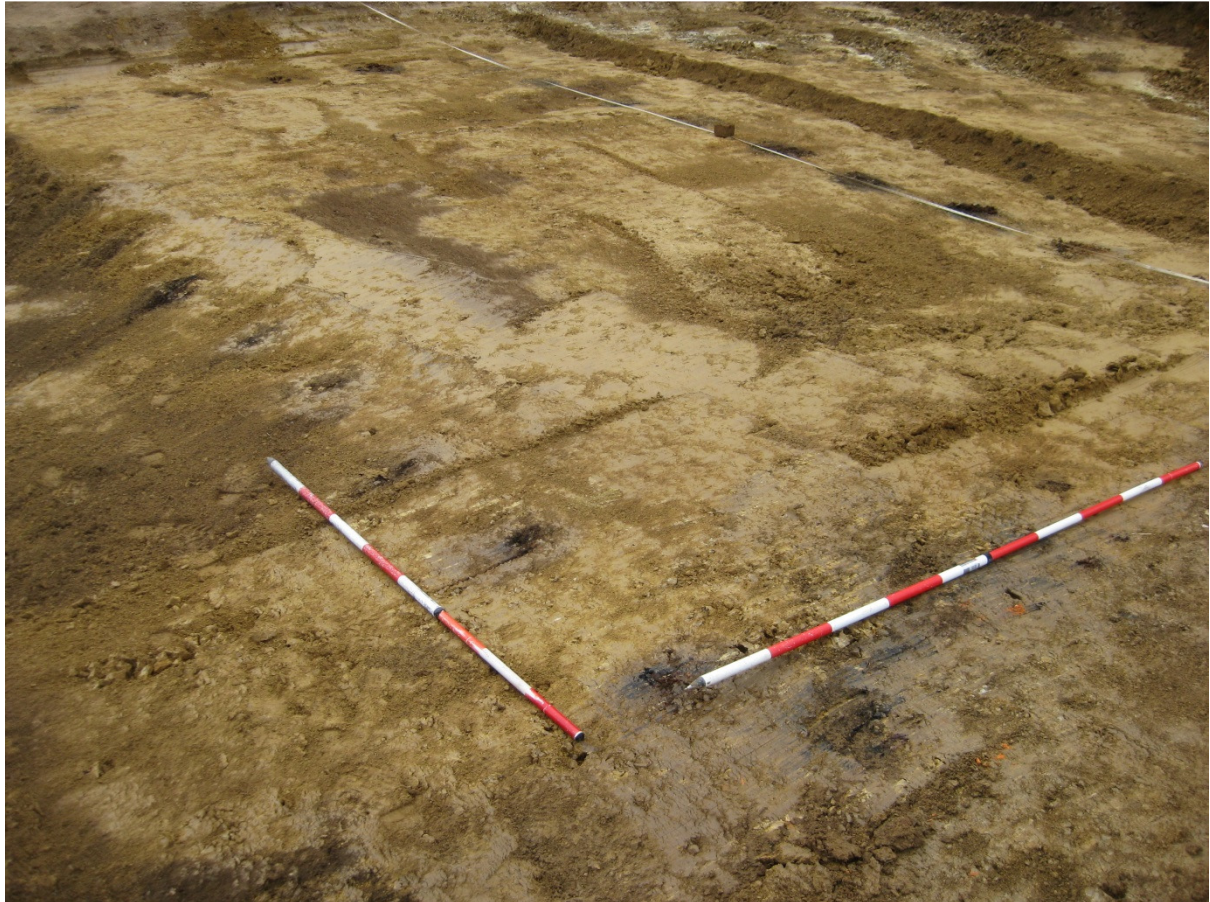


**Archaeology of R27/392, 1 Stebbings Road,  
Glenside, under Heritage NZ authority 2014/119, for  
Stebbing's Farmlands Ltd.**



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## Frontispiece

Pile hole layout for the main cottage area, view from the east and from top of soil dump.

## INTRODUCTION

The Glenside and Stebbings Roads lie on the route of the Old Porirua Road (Figs 1, 2) so some buildings and archaeological sites nearby have the potential to date to the earliest days (the 1840s) of European settlement in Wellington. Glenside historian Claire Bibby has identified the house site at 1 Stebbings Road as possibly that of the Wall family.

Anthony and John Whitehouse were both able to buy land from early settler Frank Johnson, who had sub-divided his Section 24 100 acre block into several 8 acre blocks.

Their eight acre bush-clad strips of land alongside 'the track' to Porirua were next door to each other. These sales were not registered until 23 March 1843, but agreement to the sale would have been in place before the family moved in.

The family moved into a house in this area in the early 1840s. In 1846 they must have lived through the Ngati Toa opposition to settlement in this area, and then moved further north to Paremata in 1849. They sold their 'Halfway House' property (ies) to McKain. This may be the house shown in Figure 3. If so, it is not very much like the house as identified by the archaeology and the setting well above the Porirua Stream of 1 Stebbings Road. The Walls later built the Papakowhai homestead by the Porirua Harbour.

<http://www.glenside.org.nz/wall-family-1841-1849.html>

The last occupants of a house possibly at 1 Stebbings Road appear to have been the Riddick family. Eva Samuda née Stebbings in her memoir remembers the remnants of Riddick's garden as follows:

At the end of the present Stebbings Road as one turns toward Pine Hill there used to be a small cottage. It was in the cow paddock and the site of the excavation is probably still there.

My maternal grandparents lived in this cottage for a while, and it was the home of my mother as a small child. The cottage was *owned by grandfather Benjamin Stebbings* and the site was always a special place for me.

There was always a sort of romantic aura about it. In the corner by the road grew a tall black poplar and along the northern fence was a sturdy privet hedge.... Alas, they are no more. The council decided the road was too narrow and cluttered up with greenery. They therefore widened the road and removed the lot. Only the occasional plot of wild narcissi suggests a former habitation. (The Onslow Historian, Volume 22, 1994, <http://www.glenside.org.nz/stebbing-garden-hh.html>)

Also, a house occupied by W. Barrow burned down in 1901:

Constable Hutton, of Johnsonville, has advised, the police authorities that at 8 o'clock last evening a six-roomed house *owned by Mr. H. Stebbings* and occupied by Mr. W. Barrow was burned down at the Half-way House, near Johnsonville. ... A defective

chimney is believed to have caused the outbreak. (Paperspast Evening Post 24 December 1901).

The passages quoted are all plausible references to the house at 1 Stebbings Road but it is not possible to be certain. The memoir relating to Riddick's garden is the most plausible but then it says little about the house itself. At various times, 'Halfway House' is both a reference to a particular house but also to a particular area and it is difficult in the various sources to be sure as to which of several houses are being referred to, or just the general area 'half way' between Wellington and Porirua.



Fig. 1. Locality map for Glenside.





Fig. 2. 1941 aerial photograph showing 1 Stebbings Road and Archsite R27/392 site area (arrowed). Source Retrolens.



Fig. 3. "House we halted halfway to Porirua August 28, 1849." Ref: A-100-001. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. <http://natlib.govt.nz/records/23075603>. Glenside Historical Society notes: 'Shows Anthony & Susannah Wall's Accommodation House, known as the Halfway House, at Glenside, near Johnsonville.' The house with twin gable ends, a width of 20 foot (estimated from the height of the eaves), no nearby hill slopes and a nearby stream is difficult to reconcile with 1 Stebbings Road. The location seems more like that of what became Glenugie homestead at 27 Glenside Road.



Fig 4. R27/392 prior to 2018 excavation, view from the east.

### **Archsite R27/392**

This is a small terrace at the intersection of what is now Glenside Road and Stebbings Road (Fig. 4). In 2005, this general area was test excavated under authority HP 2006/122 by Arczoo with a series of shallow trenches on Glenside Road (area 2 or B in the 2005 report) and a little further up the hill on an indistinct terrace (area 1 or A). The latter site area was partially excavated by Arczoo Ltd. It was identified as an early house site with some lines of pile holes and brick paving - and then sealed under a felted geotextile and partially buried.

Stebbings Farmlands Ltd has held a second authority Heritage NZ 2014/119 to carry out further work. This authority was actioned starting 1-2 August 2018 with an investigation of the partially excavated house site as recorded, stabilised and left by Arczoo. The final work for Arczoo was carried out by Opus archaeologists Elizabeth Pishief and Nick Cable. Their s. 18 report can be found on Archsite attached to R27/392.

### **SETTING**

R27/392 is at NZTM E1751830 N5437013. It lies on a moderate hill slope above the headwaters of the Porirua Stream and at the corner of Glenside Road and Stebbings Road (the latter is now closed to traffic).

The soils are loess-derived clay loams of variable depth over weathered greywacke. Ground cover was rough ungrazed grass.

## EXCAVATION PROCEDURE

The full development site at the corner of Stebbings and Glenside Road was scraped to remove topsoil and grass cover. This quickly identified the felted geotextile which had been laid on most of the archaeological site and in what proved to be shallow trenches about 1.8 m wide and 30 cm deep. Some soil had been laid over the cloth in the trenches but there was none on the flat areas of the cloth; some areas that had not been excavated in 2005 had been simply left with a grass cover. Initial cuts over the full site area removed the geotextile except in the trenches. Some ceramic fragments were recovered in the course of the topsoil removal.

An initial finding was a rectangular area or pad of grey clay loam topsoil (Figs 5 - 8) in the western corner of the terrace and some artefacts including a complete cod bottle and fragments of further examples damaged by the digger. The 2005 plan shows this area as possible rubbish pits. It appeared to be soil wash under a rectangular section of the house, probably a lean-to (see below).

The surface sloped down from NW to SE but nevertheless there must have been poor drainage in the western corner under what seems likely to have been a lean-to attached to the main house or cottage.

A typical soil profile was as follows:

Depth below surface (cm)

0-20	Grey loam topsoil often with rubbish including the felted geotextile
20-70/120	Yellow-brown sandy clay subsoil with the base of pile holes at c. 50 cm below the surface
70/120	Weathered greywacke bedrock, observed in deepest cuts at rear of terrace

A disturbed area of brick paving was noted in the north-eastern quadrant of the terrace but not the full extent of the placed paving recorded in 2005 and which must have been partially destroyed since.

Two long sections were cut across the site: (1) K K' across trench B and the rectangle of grey clay loam topsoil (Figs 5, 6, 9) and (2) K2 K3 running down the slope from trench B to the fence line on Glenside Road (Figs 10, 11). K K' in the grey clay loam topsoil showed a pile base in section and a general depth of about 20 cm for the topsoil (see Figs 6, 9). This patch of soil has been interpreted as topsoil wash around the piles and under the floor of the lean-to of the house/cottage (topsoil washed from the slope above). It may have extended quite a bit further under the main part of the cottage but this area had been removed in the 2005



excavations. At this stage of stripping, some indistinct pile bases were showing on the south-western perimeter of the terrace and the topsoil patch.

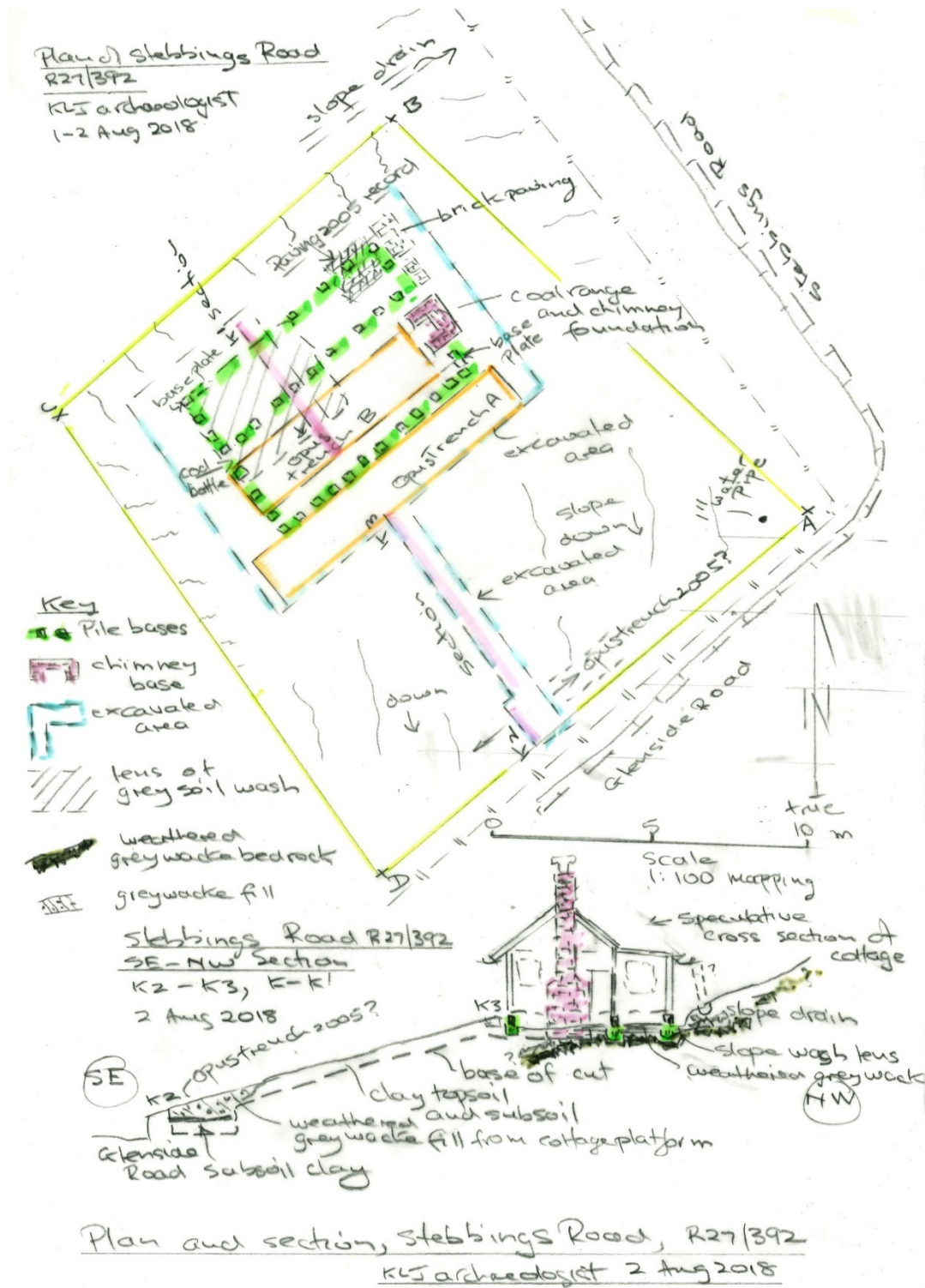


Fig. 5. General plan of R27/392. Impression of cottage and section down the hill slope at lower right.



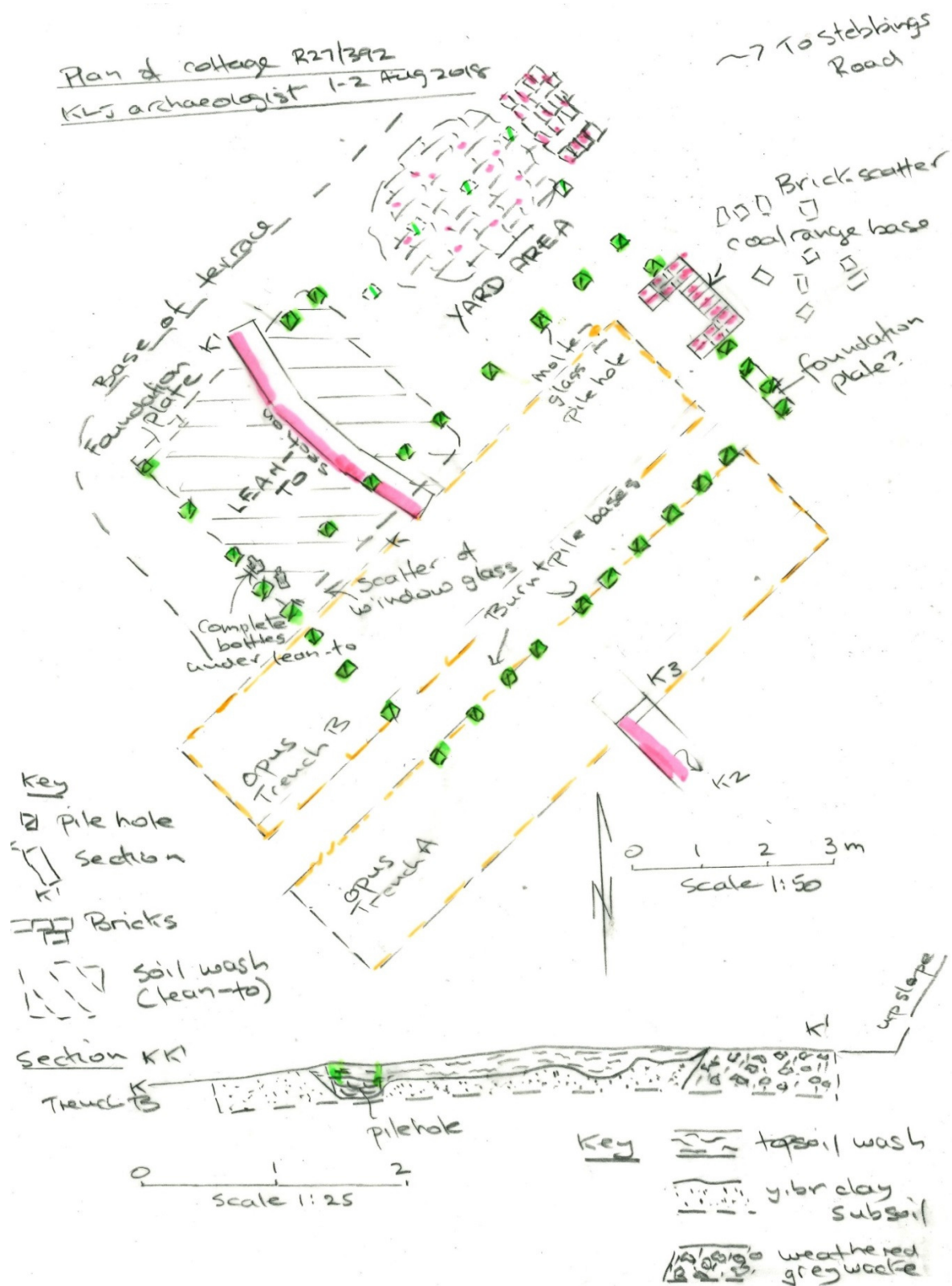


Fig. 6. Detail of pile hole layout section K K'. Section K K' is curved because digger was held stationary in the area north-west of the chimney base while the bucket was extended. This was to avoid possible damage to the archaeological features such as the brick paving in the 'yard area'. Compare with Fig. 7 which is more or less at same scale.

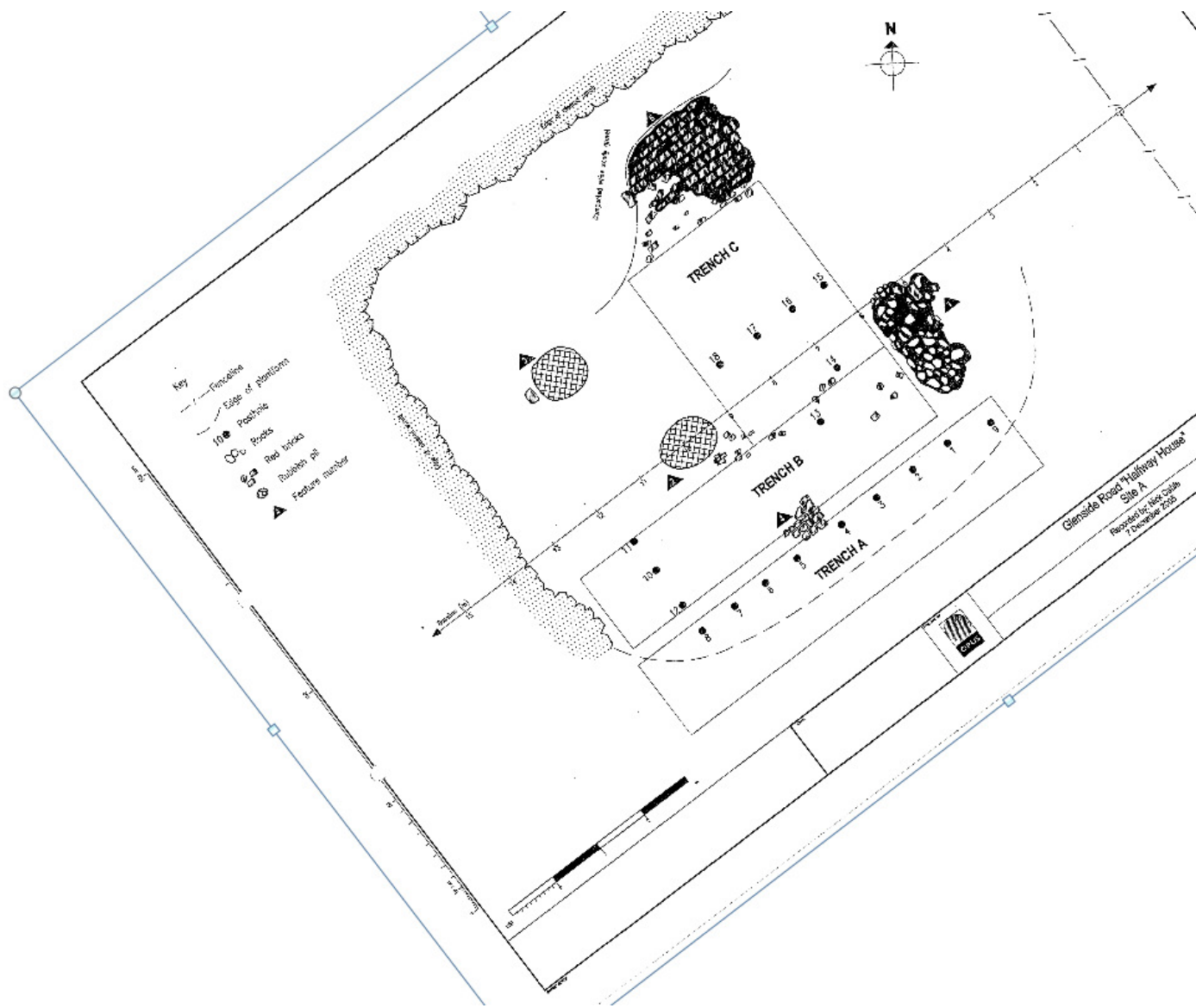


Fig. 7. 2005 plan of trenches A and B and the paving and pile holes. Compare with Fig. 6.

K2 K3 showed an even profile of natural clay subsoil down the slope. Near the Glenside Road fence the section showed a layer of weathered greywacke and clay over a thin lens of topsoil with clay loam to the base of the cut at about 100 cm below the surface (Fig. 11). This was initially puzzling and appeared to be perhaps an early formation for Glenside Road or a dray track. However, it seems most likely to be one of the Arczoo 2005 exploratory trenches, mapped in the 2005 plans as Area A. It is described as 'Area 2' in the 2005 report: 'trench 2 m wide and 30 m long was dug between the trees and the fence on the upper side of Glenside Road'.

On the house terrace, a brick chimney base was found on further stripping of the eastern end under an area where a disturbed brick area had been recorded in 2005. This area of brick foundation was three courses deep and 1.35 x 0.8 m in plan area and founded on solid subsoil clay (Figs 12 - 14). The bricks were very regular and tightly placed but not mortared. The foundation had an opening towards the interior of the house (i.e. it was a rectangle with wings). It is interpreted as a coal range foundation, comprised of an interior alcove for the coal range with an exterior brick chimney. Scattered towards the west were more frogged and plain bricks cast down a slight slope to the north-east which are interpreted as a collapsed chimney.

On the house terrace itself, successive spits of about 5 cm were taken off the whole area and the fill and filter cloth in the trenches A and B were removed. This procedure quickly revealed a rectangular outline of pile hole bases at 60 cm (2-foot) intervals on the south-eastern elevation, somewhat different spacing elsewhere (Figs 14 - 17). The full central row of pile holes (total 9) corresponds in part to piles 15 - 18 in the 2005 plan (see Figs 6, 7). The south-eastern elevation corresponds to piles 1 - 9 on the 2005 plan but the 2018 excavation found the pile bases (10 in total) by excavating the balk between trenches A and B. The pile holes must have been visible in 2005 in the section of trench A and were depicted then as being in the trench base. Figures 18 - 20 show all the piles and pile holes.

At the western corner (west of the grey soil in-wash) and between the brick chimney base and the eastern corner there were linear remains or organic stains of wooden foundation plates or possibly base plates for wooden framing on piles, collapsed down (Fig. 21). There were no pile holes beneath the linear stains at the north-western corner so it seems probable that this was a foundation plate placed on fairly solid bedrock.

On the north-western elevation below the old terrace excavation scarp, and partly along the north-western perimeter of the rectangular patch of grey topsoil in-wash, the digger came down on to a hard weathered greywacke. This was obviously resistant to pile holes being cut and only a faint trace of grey topsoil marked them, such as they were. Only a few pile bases were noticed on this elevation of the grey in-wash patch. Nevertheless, it must be the case that there was a wall (perhaps on a ground plate) on at least the western end of this elevation.

Whether the house wall extended all the way along this north-western elevation is unclear. If it was enclosed as a lean-to it must have been before or after the placed brick paving shown in the 2005 plan. It seems more likely that the north-eastern area was a small brick-paved

yard, even although there are a few faint traces of pile holes which do not form a regular line (see Fig. 6). The pile holes may have been for a verandah. A lean-to was erected west of the yard.

The pile hole bases were up to 40 cm square; a few of these with the base of the pile in situ and packed in with earth. Typical outlines were irregular and went to a depth of about 50 cm below the modern surface and perhaps 40 cm below the original levelled terrace surface. A number of the pile holes had bricks on their flats on the upper part of the pile hole. These were probably inserted to brace the wood of the pile above after the piles had rotted at ground level.

The wood of the piles appeared to be split totara and puriri (full section of trunk some 30 cm in diameter, Figs 18 - 21). The wood of some piles had a carbonised upper surface, evidence that the house had burned down or that an abandoned site had been burned through. One pile hole near the fireplace had molten glass fragments in it, as if a bottle had been caught in fierce heat and melted glass had run down into the hole.

A brick-lined drain above the house was observed in some final scrapings of the house terrace. This may have drained the foot of the slope but seems more likely to have been a surface drain for a downpipe from the north-western eaves of the house (see Fig. 5).





Fig. 8. Early stage of scraping, view to south-east, rectangular outline of lens of topsoil wash under the western corner of the cottage. Part of 2005 Opus Trench B centre left.



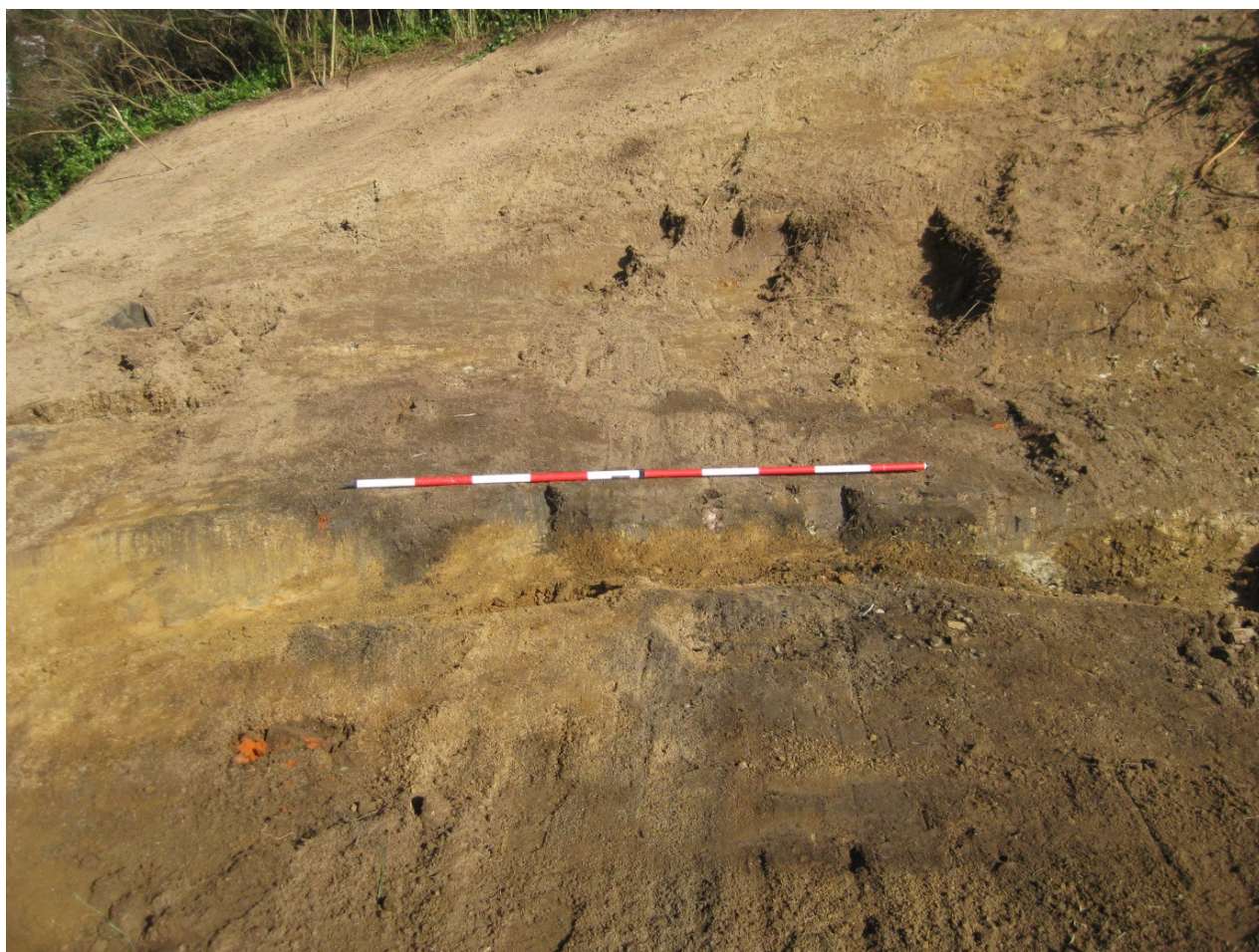


Fig. 9. Section K K' through lens of topsoil in-wash, view to south-west.





Fig. 10. Section K2 K3 down slope to south-east, the outlines of Arczoo trench A and trench B (dug out) in lower right half of the photograph.



Fig. 11. Lower part of section K2 K3 showing weathered greywacke fill (from cutting for cottage?) over a charcoally soil. Silty clay subsoil at bottom. This is probably a backfilled Opus trench from 2005.





Fig. 12. Chimney/coal range placed-brick foundation, view to north-east.



Fig. 13. Chimney/coal range placed-brick foundation, view to south-west.





Fig. 14. View to north-west across site showing chimney/coal range base (lower right) and lens of soil wash (inside ranging poles) to the west.





Fig. 15. Last phases of controlled excavation, central and south-west elevation pile holes.



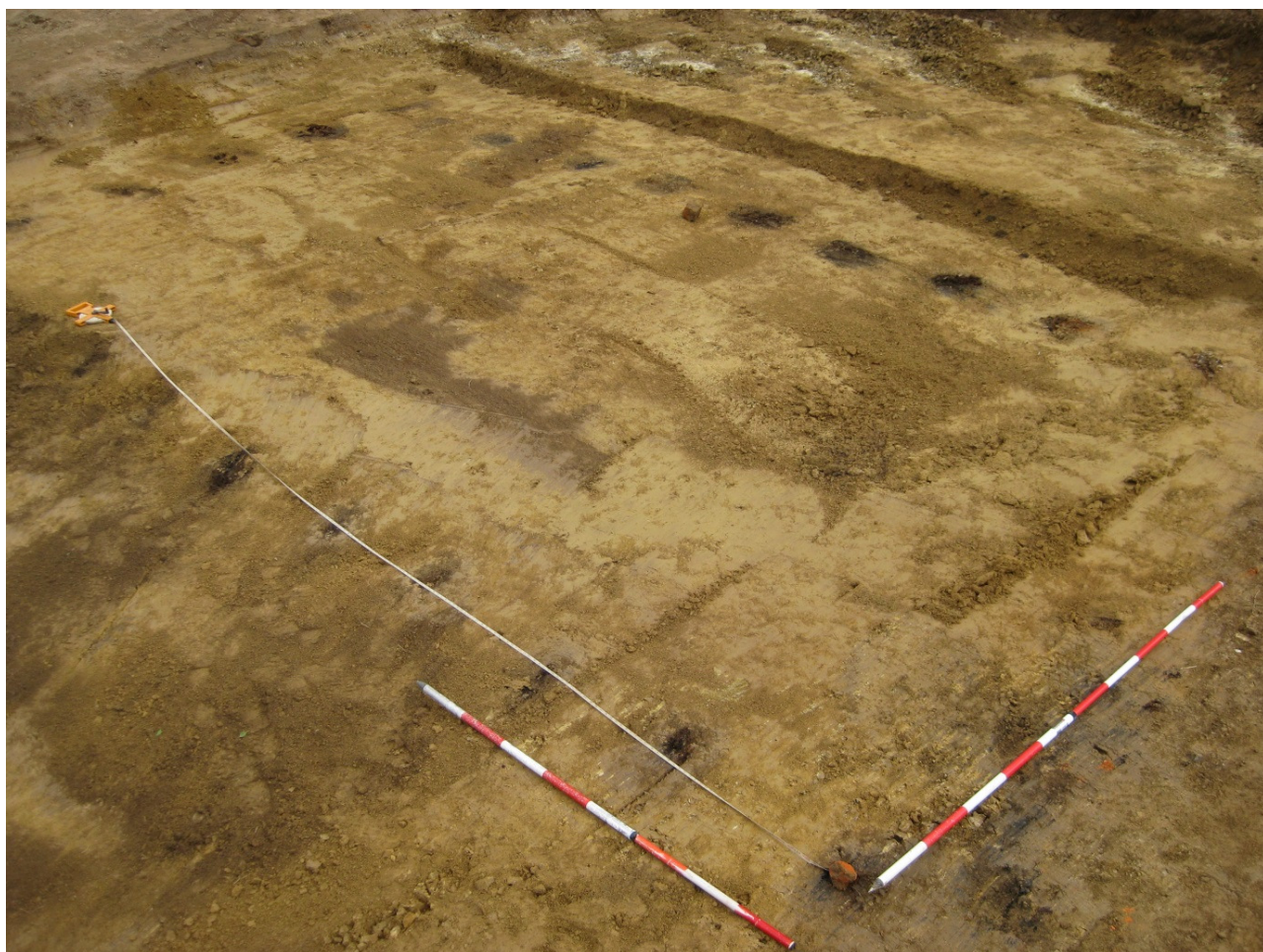


Fig. 16. Central (top) and south-eastern elevation pile holes, top left south-western elevation pile holes, view to west from the soil dump. Chimney base (excavated out) at right (upper end of ranging pole).





Fig. 17. Reverse view of the above photograph after stripping another spit, view to east. Weathered greywacke bedrock (grey colour) lower left.





Fig. 18. Pile-hole contents, south-east elevation, showing pile base turned out by digger with charcoal to right. Probably totara.



Fig. 19. Pile-hole contents, south-east elevation, showing pile base turned out by digger with sawn base of tree bole showing. Probably puriri.





Fig. 20. Typical pile holes, south-west elevation.



Fig. 21. Organic stain of ground or foundation plate at western corner.





Fig. 22. Brick-lined slope drain above the cottage platform (covered in soil at left). This drain may have carried storm water from the lean-to roof of the cottage (see Fig. 5).



## ARTEFACT ANALYSIS

The ceramics and glass are grouped according to the sequence and area of stripping of the soils on the site. The topsoils may have materials washed down from the upslope.

### Iron (Fig. 23)

Several mattress springs were found at the south-western end of the cottage. The diameter of the outer rings was 95 mm.

Other iron included a casement-window stay and a butcher's slide hook about 185 mm long.

6" wire nail with faceted head, other nails.

Cast iron coal range fitting such as a damper plate (150 x 70 mm).

### Brass or copper sheet

A small piece of copper or brass sheet was found near the chimney base, less than 0.5 mm thick.







Fig. 23. Iron and copper artefacts. Top: mattress spring, butchers hook, casement-window stay. Bottom: nails, thin copper sheet, mattress spring.

### Bricks (Fig. 24)

The chimney and coal range foundation bricks were plain unfrogged, with a variable yellow to orange fabric (some 'marbled' with yellow streaks), poorly vitrified. Dimensions of any one brick varied, typically D 68-70 mm, W 96-100 mm, L 212-215 mm.

Some other bricks from the chimney and paving were frogged but with no lettering. These had a red fabric, poorly vitrified - dimensions D 61-63 mm, W 100-102 mm, L 212 mm.

Both types of brick were variably faceted with black vitrified surfaces from the original firing. There was no mortar adhering to any of the bricks so the lime in the mortar must have leached away in the acid soils.

The bricks are interpreted as being of local Wellington manufacture and the relatively poorly vitrified fabric suggests bricks of the era before about 1870. Otherwise the bricks are a typical size of 19<sup>th</sup>-C bricks (and for that matter, modern bricks).

Similar bricks with poor vitrification and some black vitrified surfaces can be seen supporting the sides of the No. 1 Slipway at Evans Bay which dates from 1871 (NZ Historic Places Trust n.d.) and not unlike the great brick wall on Tasman Street on the eastern side of the Mt Cook Massey University complex which dates from before the 1890s. (The convict bricks were manufactured from the 1870s and of course have the Queen's Arrow on them.)

<https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/fms/sustainability/documents/Tasman%20Street%20Brick%20Wall.pdf?012AAA19109B556DDA8387F08A0EE760>







Fig. 24. Sections through bricks, showing orange poorly fired fabric, frogged brick at bottom. Scale bar 20 cm.

### **Window glass**

Fragments of window glass were found on the south-east elevation. This was about 1/8 inch thickness and appears to have had a polished finish, i.e. it did not have the 'hammered' or uneven finish that might be associated with window glass of this era. Nevertheless, the glass found was probably fitted in the house and well polished glass, albeit expensive, was in use in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## Ceramics and glass

Table 1. Ceramics, brick-lined drain uphill and to west of cottage.

Style	Vessel form	Fabric	Comment
BW UGTP Asiatic Pheasants	Large dinner plate, 3 fragments	Whiteware	First produced 1834 but uncommon until c.1860s
Purple UGTP Cable	Large dinner plate	Whiteware	Popular in second half of 19 <sup>th</sup> century
Light crimson UGTP flower motif		Stoneware china	Date c. 1890
Grey UGTP ivy motif	Saucer	Stoneware china	Date c. 1890
Undecorated	Saucers, cups, cup bases	Bone China	c.1800 – 1900s
Undecorated	Unidentified vessel	European Porcelain	c.1800=1900s
Undecorated	Pie dish	Buff-bodied Earthenware	c. 1800s - 1950s



Fig. 25. Ceramic sherds recovered from brick-lined drain. Top row (left to right): Asiatic Pheasants plate, Cable plate. Middle row (left to right): red UGTP vessel, grey UGTP saucer, Bone China cup, unidentified European Porcelain vessel. Bottom row (left to right): Bone China cup sherds, buff-bodied earthenware pie dish.



Table 2. Glass, brick-lined drain uphill and to west of cottage.

Style	Vessel form	Fabric	Comment
Black beer	Bottle bottom end, dip moulded		c.1830 - 1860
Opaque black glass	Glass button with copper fixing	Opaque glass	Diameter 22 mm Thickness 3 mm, small recessed glass boss at centre
Cobalt blue glass	Small medicine bottle, e.g. milk of magnesia or castor oil, cup-bottom mould		Diameter 42 mm, two-piece mould mark, 1850 – 1900. Mould mark 6 on base.



Fig. 26. Glass artefacts collected from brick-lined drain. Top image (left to right): “Black beer” bottle, button, cobalt blue medicine bottle.



Table 3. Ceramics, down slope in trench K2 K3 east of cottage terrace.

Style	Vessel form	Fabric	Comment
BW UGTP geometric Gothic pattern on rim	Plate rim	Whiteware	Popular in second half of 19 <sup>th</sup> century
BW UGTP Asiatic pheasants	Two fragments, dinner plate	Whiteware	First produced 1834 but uncommon until c.1860s
BW UGTP Willow Pattern	Fragment dinner plate	Whiteware	1805 – 1900s
Brown UGTP, geometric rim	Saucer	Whiteware	c.1840 - 1880
Brown UGTP, Gothic motif	Jug	Whiteware	c.1840 – 1880 Unusual decoration
Undecorated	Saucer or cup	Stoneware china	1880-1900 Quotidian ware



Fig. 27. Ceramic sherds from K2 K3. Top row (left to right): Gothic UGTP plate, Asiatic Pheasants plate, Willow plate. Bottom row (left to right): brown UGTP saucer, brown UGTP jug, undecorated vessel.



Table. 4. Ceramics, surface below topsoil, south-eastern slope below cottage terrace.

Style	Vessel form	Fabric	Comment
BW UGTP Willow Pattern	Dinner plates, two frags	Whiteware	1805- 1900s
BW UGTP Asiatic Pheasants	Dinner plates, two frags, scalloped edge	Whiteware	First produced 1834 but uncommon until c.1860s
UGTP light green, flower motif, flower embossed	Dinner plate	Whiteware	1800 – 1860 Embossing on marly
UGTP blue, rambling rose	Cup, flared rim	Bone china	1880 - 1900
UGTP grey Rhine	Dinner plate rim	Whiteware	–Second half of 19 <sup>th</sup> century
UGTP brown Acanthus motif, embossed pattern, rim scalloped	Mug rim	Whiteware	1805 - 1900
Brown salt-glazed stoneware jar	Base of small bottle	Salt-glazed stoneware	c.1830s – 1920 56 mm diameter
Blue and green banded wares	Bowl, plate, cup	Stoneware china	1880 - 1900
Undecorated	Cups	Bone china	1800 – 1900
Off-white china bisque	Dolls arm and hand complete	China bisque (unglazed)	Numerals ‘5/0’ at end of arm, possibly a size?



Fig. 28. Ceramic sherds from below topsoil. Top row (left to right): Willow plate, Asiatic Pheasants plate, salt-glazed stoneware vessel. Middle row (left to right): green UGTP plate with embossed marly, Bone China cup, Rhine plate, brown UGTP plate. Bottom row (left to right): green and blue banded ware, Bone China cups.



Fig. 29. Ceramic doll's arm, surface below topsoil, south-eastern slope below cottage terrace.



Table. 5. Glass, surface below topsoil on south-eastern slope below cottage terrace.

Style	Vessel form	Fabric	Comment
Green glass Codd	Neck and finish, marble		-1872-1930s
Green glass bottle, applied club sauce finish	Neck and finish		1850 – 1900s
Green glass stopper			1850 - 1900
White opaque glass, pink blush on exterior	Rim of lamp shade or mantle, scalloped edge		1850 - 1900



Fig. 30. Glass vessels from below topsoil. Top row (left to right): Codd bottle fragments and marble, glass stopper, club sauce finish. Bottom row (left to right): Codd bottle lip, opaque lamp shade fragments.

Table 6. Glass, western topsoil rectangle and brick paving areas.

Style	Vessel form	Fabric	Comment
Green glass, complete cod	Embossed THE PHOENIX AERATED WATER Co WELLINGTON	On base, mould mark 26 [and indecipherable]	1890 – 1950 180 long x 50 mm diameter #
Green glass Worcestershire sauce bottle	Embossed HOLBROOKS & Co	On base, mould mark 4.	1875-1900s ## 225 long x 48 mm
Green glass bottle stopper			
Aqua glass	Bottle base, possibly Worcestershire sauce	On base, mould mark S [and indecipherable]	Diameter 48 mm
Dark olive bottle. “black beer”	Bottom only, moderate kick-up with combination pontil mark		pre-1870s

# <http://www.wellingtonantiquebottles.org.nz/timeline.shtml>

## <http://letslookagain.com/tag/history-of-holbrooks-worcestershire/>



Fig. 31. Glass vessels from western topsoil and brick paving area (left to right): Phoenix Aerated Water Co. Codd bottle (top), glass stopper (bottom), Holbrook Worcestershire sauce bottle, “black beer” (top), aqua bottle base (bottom).





Table 7. Ceramics, western topsoil rectangle and brick paving areas.

Style	Vessel form	Fabric	Comment
UGTP grey Rhine	Dinner plate	Whiteware	–Second half of 19 <sup>th</sup> century
UGTP green plum blossom	Bowl rim	Whiteware	c.1840 - 1890
BW UGTP Asiatic Pheasants	Dinner plate rim	Whiteware	First produced 1834 but uncommon until c.1860s
UGTP dark blue geometric and ribbon motif on rim	Dinner plate	Whiteware	c.1840 - 1890
Undecorated	Jar	Whiteware	1805 – 1900s mould (organic) patterns under crazed lead glaze



Fig. 32. Ceramic sherds from western topsoil and brick paving area (clockwise from top left): Rhine plate, green UGTP bowl, Asiatic Pheasants plate, whiteware jar, dark blue UGTP plate.



Table 8. Ceramics from under cottage area.

Style	Vessel form	Fabric	Comment
BW UGTP banding and medallions	Dinner plate	Whiteware	c.1840 - 1890
BW UGTP 'Country scene'	Base of cup	Whiteware	-1805-1900s
BW UGTP ivy or star motif	Saucer	Whiteware	c.1840 - 1890
BW UGTP Willow Pattern	Shallow bowl/platter or small plate, scalloped edge	Whiteware	-1805-1900s
Undecorated	Cups, saucers	Whiteware	1880s-1900s
White moulded	Fancy cup or milk jug	European Porcelain	c.1800 – 1900s
Undecorated	Saucer rim, damaged in house fire?	Bone China	1800-1900
Cream salt-glazed small crock or bottle	Bottle	Slip-glazed Stoneware	c.1850 – 1920 Diameter 93 mm
Grey stoneware with rough black glaze	Chinese preserves jar?	Stoneware, two fragments, possibly burnt	Chinese village manufacture?



Fig. 33. Ceramic sherds from under cottage. Top row (left to right): blue UGTP plate, blue UGTP cup, blue UGTP saucer, blue UGTP cup, Willow plate. Middle row (left to right): undecorated whiteware cups, possible Chinese vessel. Bottom row (left to right): undecorated whiteware cup, European Porcelain jug, Bone China saucer, slip-glazed stoneware bottle.

Table 9. Glass from under cottage area.

Style	Vessel form	Fabric	Comment
Green glass	Codd and applied lip fragments (MNV = 2). One embossed keys MARK WELLINGT [ON] on base makers mark CWB. Another: [CANN]INGTON SHAW & CO. Also embossed TH[OMSON LEWIS??] AE[RATED WATER]		1889 – 1930s Cannington Shaw & Co. was a UK manufacturer.  Probably a Thomson Lewis & Co Crystal Springs bottle
Aqua green glass	Blob top soda bottle finish		c.1840s-1900
Moulded translucent glass		About 1 mm thick, possibly sand-blasted and with pink colouring	Probably a kerosene lantern mantle 1840 - 1920
Olive green	Case gin, dip moulded		Pre-1880



Fig. 34. Glass fragments from beneath cottage (left to right): Thomson & Lewis Codd fragments, blob-top soda finish (top), kerosene lantern glass (middle), case gin bottle (bottom).



## **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

Excavation under Heritage NZ authority 2014/119 has shown the full outline of the house at 1 Stebbings Road. An impression of the cottage is shown in Figure 5.

A more or less complete perimeter of pile holes (some with piles) for the main house or cottage and a chimney/coal range base were found. The main house was 7.5 x 3.5 m or 24 x 12 feet in plan and would have had a truss roof with gables or hips. There was probably a lean-to extension (3.5 x 3.5 m) to the north-west and a small brick-paved yard to the north-east possibly with a short length of verandah. The western corner of the terrace appears to have been poorly drained and topsoil wash had made its way under the lean-to. It seems unlikely that the lean-to was earth-floored or that the patch was a small vegetable garden later covered by the lean-to. There was probably an entrance on the north-west elevation and a path to Stebbings Road and the headwaters of the Porirua Stream.

There was no obvious waste water system such as ceramic pipes so a long drop must have been in use on the slope to the south-west and at some distance from the house. Nor was there any trace of electricity fittings.

The building is most likely to have burned down completely to judge from the several wooden piles found partly burned at ground level and the molten glass in one pile hole. If the roof was corrugated iron, the iron must have been removed before or after the fire and the chimney knocked down. If accidentally burned down, there is a question as to why no nails, no domestic fittings or cooking utensils, no coal range or range fittings (apart from one possible plate) and only a few mattress springs and a window stay, no charcoal, no obvious ash lenses. It may be that the house was abandoned, all the contents and fittings taken out, roof stripped, and then burned down. The site may have been tidied up after burning down, but if so, the chimney bricks were not salvaged.

### **Age of the cottage**

The general size of the cottage 24 x 12 feet is quite characteristic of early cottages, and it may have been a pre-fabricated building.

Although some of the ceramics may be quite old, e.g. the whiteware or earthenware Willow Pattern fragments, it must be remembered that such ceramics could have been in use for a long period of time. So the oldest artefacts do not necessarily give an age for the cottage. The most recent artefacts, e.g., the blue- and green-banded china fragments, show that the cottage may have been lived in as late as about 1910. There are no artefacts of manufacture more recent than about 1910. Also the lack of reticulated sewage and any evidence of electricity usage both suggest a house that went out of use before about 1900.

The earliest materials that are in situ and will date the building of the cottage are the bricks, especially the chimney foundation bricks and the chimney bricks, rather than the paving bricks. There are no maker's names in the frogs of any of the bricks. The poorly vitrified

fabric of the bricks suggests that they will be date to before about 1880 and could be early (1850s -1870) Wellington manufactures. However, it is impossible to be definite about this. Overall, it seems likely that the house was built in the 1860s or more probably the 70s (an era of peak immigration to NZ) and was abandoned and burned down by the first years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

It is not possible to be certain about the names of the original historical occupiers of the house/cottage.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

This report should be submitted in final fulfilment of the conditions of the Heritage NZ authority 2014/119.

The artefacts recovered are the property of Stebbings Farmlands Ltd.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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