



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2014

Archaeology

ARCH2

Unit 2 Archaeological Skills and Methods

Sources Booklet

A

Sources for use in answering the questions in Section A

Introduction: The Rocks, Sydney

The Rocks is a neighbourhood in Sydney, Australia. The archaeological excavations of the Cumberland Street/Gloucester Street area of the Rocks were carried out in the mid 1990s. They allowed archaeologists a glimpse into the development of this area from Aboriginal occupation through the settlement by convicts from 1788, to the working class neighbourhood of the nineteenth century.

The project involved nine archaeologists, a project historian and 400 volunteers. The excavations took 20 weeks and focussed on an area that covered two half-city blocks and contained the remains of 42 houses. The site produced over 750 000 artefacts and the results of the excavation have been interpreted and presented in both the Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre and the Rocks Discovery Museum.

Map 1 Map showing the location of Sydney



Figure 1 Plan of the position of the areas of excavation between Cumberland Street and Gloucester Street

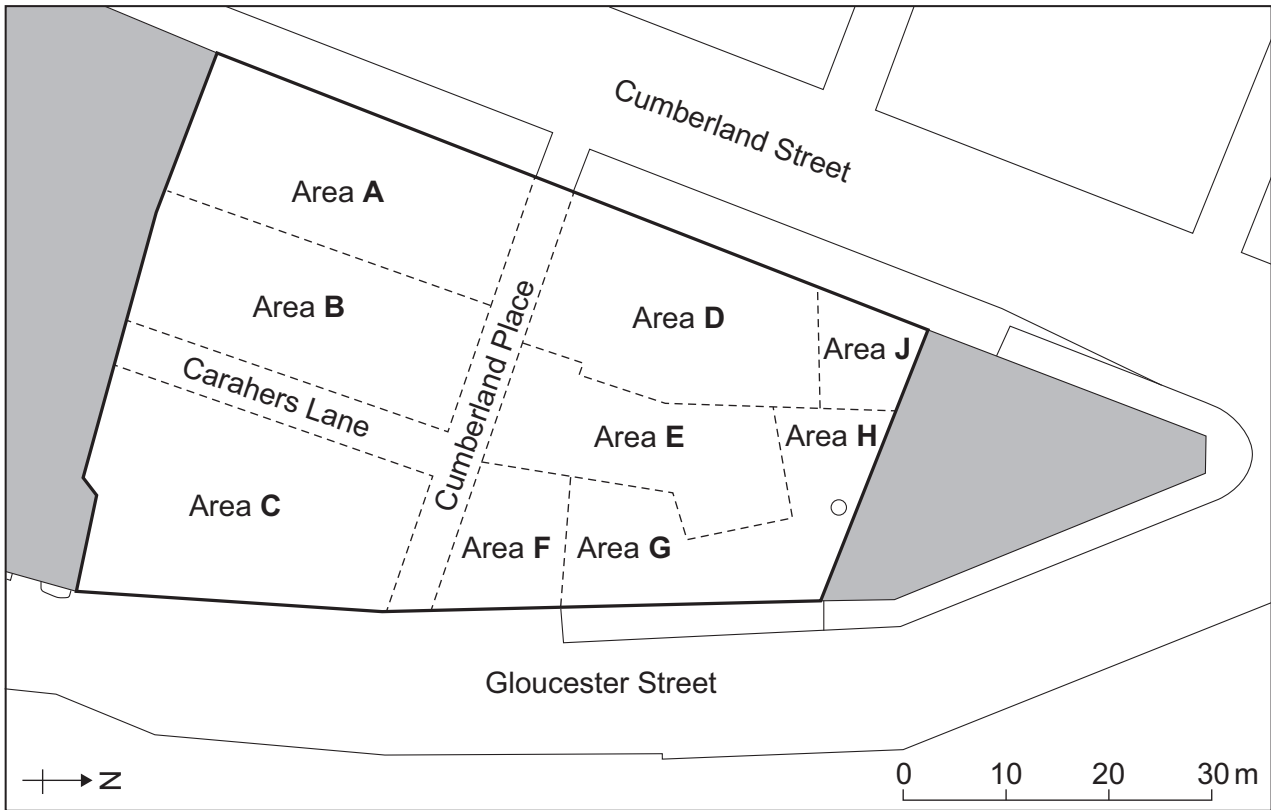


Figure 2 A view over the site to the north-east during the early stages of excavation



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Figure 3 Photograph of Cumberland Place which connects Cumberland Street and Gloucester Street in 1901



Figure 4 The excavations at the Cumberland Street/Gloucester Street site at a later stage than Figure 2



Figure 5 Members of the local community excavating at the Cumberland Street/ Gloucester Street site

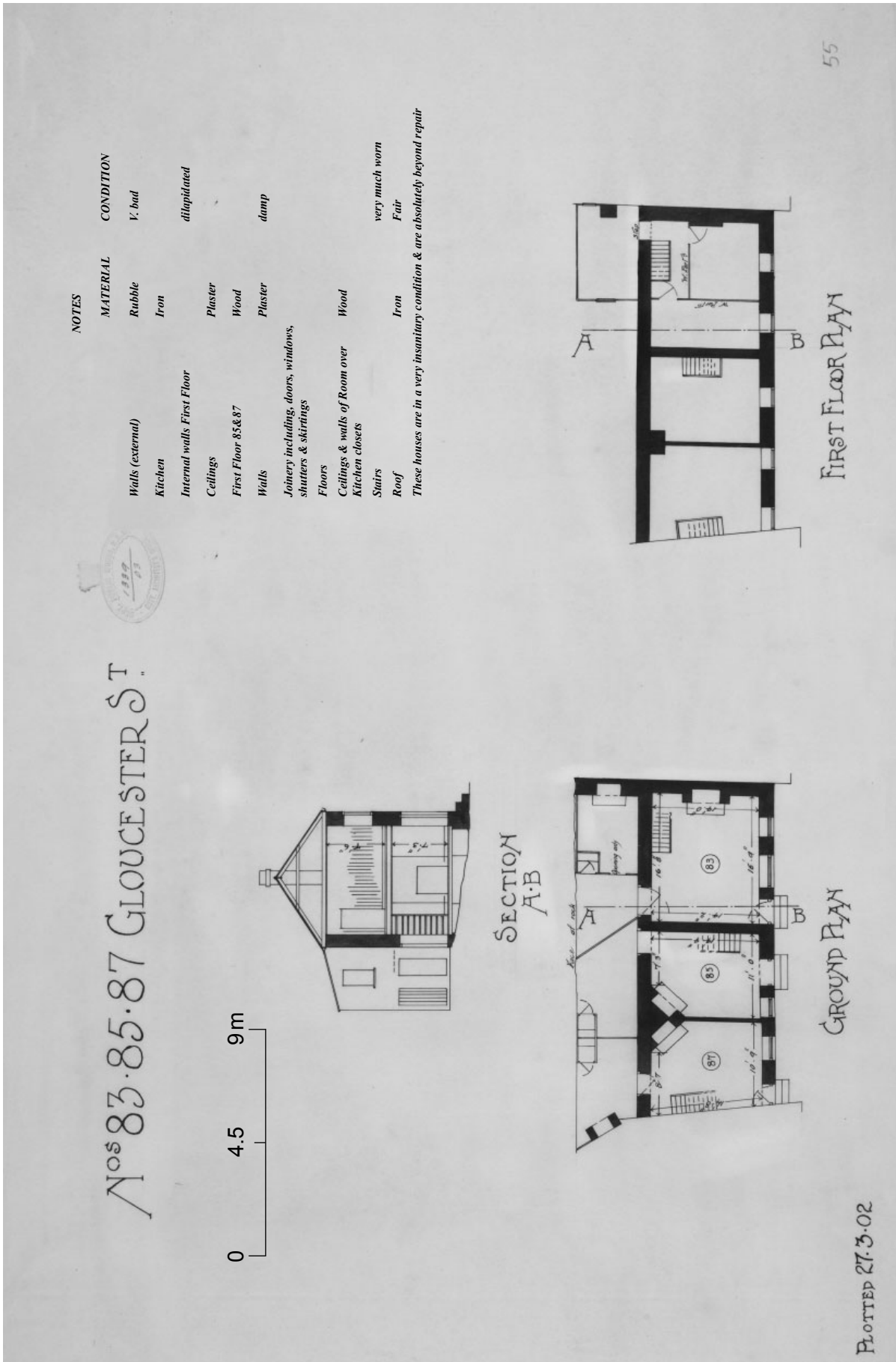


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Figure 6(a) Backroom, doorway and yard of 93 Gloucester Street under excavation



Figure 6(b) Plans of 83, 85 and 87 Gloucester Street shortly before demolition in 1902



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Figure 7 Cattle horn cores and pelvis in Area A of the plan in Figure 1 (scale shows centimetre intervals)

Glossary: horn core - the bony parts of the cattle skull that horns grow over.



Figure 8(a) Sherds from transfer printed ware dinner and tea sets

Glossary: transfer printed ware - cheap, mass produced pottery, examples of which include blue and white willow pattern.



Figure 8(b) Large earthenware storage jar (scale shows 10 centimetre intervals)

Glossary: earthenware - a type of low quality pottery.



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Figure 9 Greenstone ornament found on site, probably a small imported Maori earring from New Zealand



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