

11

**West Lewis
Island Pastoral
Station
Excavation**

ALISTAIR PATERSON, ALEXANDER BURCHAM, ANNIE CARSON,
KEN MULVANEY, JO MCDONALD



Figure 11.1. West Lewis Island settlement, Building 1, the main homestead structure: (a) in 1979 showing condition with bloodwoods and prickly pear; (b) following vegetation removal within the building walls, leaving the prickly pear behind the stone paving (both photos Jack McIlroy); (c) in 2006 with the prickly pear gone, along with the disappearance of the wooden posts (photo Ken Mulvaney); and (d) view taken in 2017 during current project.

The historical settlement at West Lewis Island is defined by the presence of ruined stone structures and archaeological deposits consistent with nineteenth-century occupation.

There is a long history of this place being investigated, particularly by the Western Australian Museum (WAM). In 1901 the curator John Tunney visited the islands to collect animal specimens – his name with the date '1901' is scratched into the walls of several ruins. The structures were visited in 1971 by David Hutchinson of WAM, in a visit where 'All hut floors and other enclosures were searched and the ground was dug over in most of the huts and inside the ring of stones near one hut' (cited in McIlroy 1979: 68). Based on an assessment of the age of metal containers at the site, Hutchinson felt the buildings to have been occupied as late as the 1930s, which is an assessment that seems several decades too late, as our work here has demonstrated. Materials collected by Hutchinson are held in the History Collection of WAM. These 1971 investigations led to the site being added to the Register of the National Estate (Place ID 10107) in 1978. The Statement of Significance noted archly, 'The claimed significance of this site is based on speculation which has not been substantiated by historical or archaeological evidence' (Australian Heritage Database 2022). This place is also on the WA Heritage Office register (Place 08691).

In 1979 WAM again visited the island as part of a Historic Sites survey directed by Jack McIlroy (Figure 11.1) and organised by Hutchinson, who received a grant from the Australian Heritage Commission (McIlroy 1979). A search of the Australian Heritage Council records reveals no documentation of this trip, not even the original photographs. However, WAM holds objects collected by McIlroy in the 1970s in the History Collection

as well as photographic transparencies. These items are provided here as supplementary material and referred to in the following analysis. They include: clay pipes, ceramic vessels, glass bottles and parts of clothing. That expedition to the archipelago lasted 14 weeks, with several weeks spent at the West Lewis Island settlement. This fieldwork involved clearing the site of prickly pear, surveying the structures, and conducting excavations. The artefacts were thought to suggest an earlier occupation, likely in the 1870s. McIlroy surmised that the settlement was possibly abandoned by 1882 based on historical accounts – although he notes leases granted in 1896 'after the settlement was abandoned' (McIlroy 1979: 103). He suggested the Tunney graffiti was evidence that the place had been abandoned by 1901.

Many questions remained: McIlroy was unsure as to why this island was chosen to be settled, it being 'out of the way'; what the relationship was to Karratha Station and to Flying Foam pastoral leases; who 'Hall' and 'EBE' were, as they engraved their names there, possibly in 1903; and the reason for the settlers 'choosing the site and their reasons for abandoning it'.

In 2003 Alistair Paterson (UWA) and Corioli Souter (WAM) visited the islands to assess historical sites as part of the CALM (now DBCA) Management Plan for the Dampier Archipelago (Paterson and Souter 2004). They described the West Lewis Island settlement in a report to CALM and subsequent publications (Paterson 2006; Souter et al. 2006). They were provided with low-level aerial photography by local heritage enthusiast Warren Richards. They noted that:

The historical settlement is located where the West and East Lewis islands are joined by a sand bar at low tide, possibly allowing for easier offloading of stock. The survey recorded the remains of stone buildings and yards, and an extensive array of rock engravings in the centre of the settlement. Many of the engravings likely predate the colonial era, although Aboriginal people were involved in many historical activities in the region and continued to produce rock art after settlement. (Paterson 2006: 101)

Their site plan shows the structures and a concentration of rock engravings on a stone outcrop adjacent to the structures (Figure 11.2). They described the settlement thus:

Two types of remains were present, with one large building (no. 1) which had been robbed of masonry, and several smaller buildings with thicker stone walls (2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, and the stockyards).

Most structures were close to protective rock outcrops, perhaps shielding them from the cyclones which batter the Northwest annually. The distinctive fan-shaped stone yards would have forced sheep into the stone shearing shed. The effort to build these structures and yards indicates a substantial investment in labour to build this sheep station. (Paterson 2006: 103)



Figure 11.2. West Lewis sheep station buildings and environs with overlay of Mcllroy recording and rock art recording by Paterson (Paterson 2006: Figure 3).

The archaeological fieldwork done during the Dynamics of the Dreaming project aimed to:

- analyse the rock art at the settlement and consider how it compared to rock engravings on West Lewis Island (WLI) more widely (see Chapter 10);
- record fully the historical components of the rock engravings;
- determine the functional history of the built structures through excavation;
- conduct further historical research;
- better understand the WLI settlement in the history of the archipelago;
- consider the evidence for historical Aboriginal occupation at the WLI settlement.

Historical accounts of West Lewis and East Lewis islands

Nineteenth-century historical accounts occasionally mention 'Lewis Island' (which East and West Lewis islands were commonly referred to as), but these were not specifically named in many accounts by whalers, pearlers, explorers and other colonial observers. The 1882 *Western Australian Almanack* (Figure 11.3a) described six people on the island: Percy Beurteaux (station assistant), John Durlacher (grazier), G. G. Jewell, J. Macvean (grazier), J. P. H. Toller (grazier) and T. Young (pearler). Clearly then the settlement was involved in both pastoralism and

pearling (Burcham 2019; Paterson 2006: 103).

One year later, the pastoral lease was advertised for sale in *The West Australian* (21 August 1883: 2). The pastoral leases included Lewis, Enderby, Rosemary, Angel, Gidley, Dolphin and Legendre islands. The total lease area was 60,000 acres: all well grassed, and watered by springs and wells. An adjacent lease (N1936) was 50,000 acres, known as 'the Peninsula ... forming part of Nickol Bay' which had 3,000 sheep, mostly ewes, and 150 stud

flock introduced from Victoria (Figure 11.3b) – this was presumably the Burrup Peninsula.

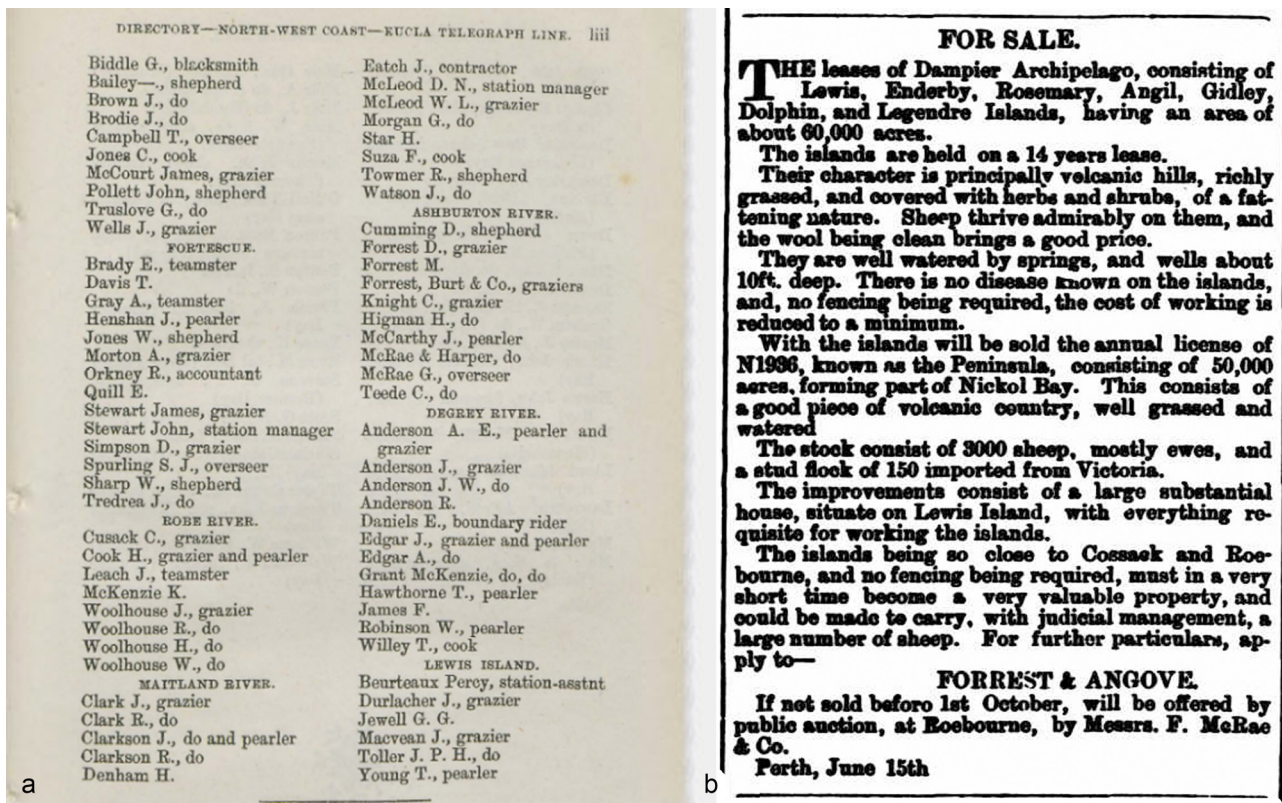


Figure 113. Historical records relevant to the West Lewis Station: (a) *The Western Australian Almanack and Directory* for 1882, p. 118, show residents in the district, including on the Lewis islands; and (b) advertisement for the sale of the Dampier Archipelago lease, *The West Australian*, 21 August 1883, p. 2.

While this account suggests that several other islands were available for stock, there is no archaeological evidence to suggest these other islands were used for this purpose other than introduced buffel grass around waterholes observed on Enderby and Rosemary islands. There is an excavated well at the Lewis Island settlement, and there are natural rock holes

Accompanied by his two wives, he fled along the coast to Hampton Harbour, and taking to the water at the nearest point to Lewis Island, swam in company with his women to a small island about half a mile. Resting for a while, he then took to the sea again, and swam across Mermaid's Straits to the nearest point of Lewis Island which was at least two miles [3.2 km] distant. (Durlacher [1900] 2013: 25)

Durlacher noted that 'Cockroach' was a smallpox survivor and a warrior who had transgressed traditional marriage restriction and had thus absconded with his two wives to the islands. It is unclear whether they expected the settlement to provide some form of sanctuary or if this was an opportunistic vantage point from which to access outer islands of the archipelago.

The annual publication of the *Western Australian Almanack* lists the names of people, including Durlacher, who were on Lewis Island in the 1880s:

- Percy Beurteaux (station assistant, 1882)
- John S. Durlacher (grazier, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1884, 1886)
- W. Fosgate (1884, 1886)
- G. G. Jewell (overseer, 1882, 1884, 1886)
- John L. McDougall (sheepfarmer, 1885, 1887,

which would have sustained stock.

One report of Aboriginal people on the islands at this time is about an Aboriginal man – the 'infamous Cockroach' – who swam with two women to Lewis Island through rough seas in 1881:

- 1888, 1889)
- D. McVean (sheepfarmer, 1884, 1886)
- William McVean (sheepfarmer, 1884, 1886)
- J. P. H. Toller (grazier, 1882, manager, 1884)
- T. Young (pearler, 1882)
- Victor (diver, 1887, 1888, 1889)

It may be that 'Victor' was an Aboriginal diver, as it was not unusual for Aboriginal people to be listed with only one name.

European settlers associated with Lewis Island included a 'McVean' or 'MacVean', the 'Government lessee' of Barrow Island, who sold this lease to a Mr H. J. Cooke at a cost of £600 in 1881 (*The Inquirer and Commercial News*, 1 June 1881: 3). *The Western Australian Almanack* and *The Herald Western Australian Almanack* both reference a W. McVean/Macvean/MacVean as a grazier in the Roebourne/Cossack area in 1878–1879, the Maitland River area in 1879–1884

and Lewis Island in 1884–1886 (Burcham 2019). Paired with Durlacher's account of the settlement being established by 1880, it is possible that McVean was the manager/owner of the Lewis Island station and lessee of the Dampier Archipelago referred to in 1881 as previously including Barrow Island. In the aftermath of a cyclone in 1882,¹ 'Mr McVean's boat, the *Mary*, was piled up at Lewis Island, and his buildings blown down' (*The West Australian*, 7 March 1882: 3). The lease of the islands of the Dampier Archipelago was later advertised in 1883. The advertisement of sale ran for several months in

colonial newspapers.

A buyer may not have been found, for two years later, in 1885, J. McVean is still involved. John L. McDougall was a young man who moved to the North West from Victoria and worked on the island. In two letters (to his mother, held by Hutchison in 1971) he describes the station and Aboriginal workers. These suggest that McDougall arrived in the Pilbara around February/March 1885 and worked in the archipelago under McVean. McDougall's letter of April 1885 details Aboriginal labourers and pearlers at the West Lewis site:

Lewis Island
April 8th / [18]85

My dear [Mama],

Although it is only a few days since I wrote you I may as well answer your letter now which I got just as I was sending my last letter away. I was glad my letter from Melbourne reached you all right – also the telegram from Adelaide but I telegraphed again from Fremantle you ought to have it by the time you wrote. I was glad to hear that Martin had paid up all right at last. It was very kind of Miss Blanche to have aided in the way she did If you were [writing?] to any of them you might mention that I have not forgotten my promise to write to [Henry?] but will do soon. We have made no arrangement about the place as yet and as I do not [care?] about remaining idle any longer than possible. I have made a bargain with a young fellow to cut hay at one of the islands we will be able to get blacks to do the greater part of the work for us and I believe that it will pay us as we can obtain ready sale for it in Cossack. And I have no doubt that Mr Macvean and I will come to an understanding before long. It is most likely that I shall take a managing share in the place [for that] a person is likely to get chances here not to be had in the more settled places.

I was away at one of the stations on the mainland for about a week and found the people most kind. The stations up here ought to pay for in cases where they have to shepherd they get blacks to do the greater part of it and have no yards or huts and only give the blacks a bit of flour and tobacco and the people tell me that they seldom lose sheep. And the greater part of their shearing is done in the same way. Nearly all the stations have pearling boats and of course employ the the blacks for diving: at the season that they cannot dive they shear and of course the divers come in handy for them while on shore.

I do hope dear Mama that I may not have to avail myself of your offer with regard to returning to Victoria as I will begin to regard myself as a ne'er-do-well. I hope Agnes is keeping strong and that your own health is good. I trust you have had no more bush fires since.

I am dear Mama with much love ... your loving Son

John L McDougall

p.s love to Goggins(?)

In May 1885 he describes pearling on the island:

Lewis Island
May 14th, 1885

My Dear Mama,

Both your letters reached me last week and I was glad to learn you were all well, but will be anxiously looking out for your next. It is quite [---] that there be a letter for me in Cossack now as there has been a steamer in

1 Cyclones on the Pilbara coast were recorded in 1872, 1880, 1882, 1889, 1894 and 1898.

lately. Mr [Macvean] is going into Cossack today and will be back in a day or two. I think the photo of the little fellow most life like when I see it – I could fancy I could hear him say [Goggins] but what made you put his hair down near his face like that. I showed my own photo to Mr [---], he looked at and said that he thought he had seen the face before but could not remember when, but they are better than I expected.

Shearing will start as soon as Mr [Macvean] returns from Cossack and as soon as that is over I think we will come to an arrangement. Most likely I should take a managing share in the place. The pearling boat belonging to the place has not done much this season as yet, but they hope to do better before long as there will be a new ground open so they will have a chance to get onto a good patch, one boat got 20 Tons this year, which with the pearls would amount to between three + four thousand pounds, but a boat like that would have about 50 blacks as divers. Some of the boats come [onto] the island here for water and the blacks have to take the casks off to the boat if the tide is in two of them get hold of a cask and no matter how tough it may be or how far they have to go two of the blacks swim out to the boat and push the casks between them. They are like ducks in the water, it is a strange thing that the blacks can hardly say a word of English, so everyone up here has to [learn] blacks language to make themselves understood. I am doing my best to pick it up. The tides go down a long way here. There is an island about a mile from this one on which we live and in spring tides it is quite dry between the two islands and sheep can go from one place to another. We have had splendid rains here within the last week which will do a great deal of good as everything was very dry before but now it is just like another spring / It is another spring here after every fall of rain. I fancy all sorts things grow all the year round such things as would only grow in other places in the warm weather. There is no weather cold enough here to kill any plant. And if it is no warmer than what it was last summer, I found it not nearly as hot as what I found it in N.S.W. No doubt things are looking well in that quarter now but I suppose I cannot expect a letter from "Hugh" before I write him. I hope to have some shells to send over by Mr Macvean, I am sending you some seeds of a beautiful creeper that grows on the islands it has a most lovely scarlet flower but you had better not sow until spring as cold weather would kill it. I wish Mama you would send me a paper now and again as we are always behind [hand?] in getting news and Mr [Macvean?] does not get any papers but those sent him by his friends. I do hope Mama that you have recovered from the cold that you caught while in [Sandhurst?] you must take great care of yourself now that the cold weather is setting in for I am sure that it must be very damp [---] during the winter months. It is just like you Mama to offer me the money to [---] to Victoria but [---] I would [---] even enough money to pay my way back if I did not [---] to [---] and it is not hard to get employment of any kind here.

Trusting that this will find you in good health and that your next letter will reach me soon.

I remain with much love to all

Your loving son

John L. McDougall

Reports of the WLI station continue throughout the 1880s. Wool from the station was exported and sold in London in May 1886 (*The West Australian*, 24 November 1886: 3). In the November 1886 edition of the 'Roebourne Notes' of *The West Australian* it was reported that 'some natives were giving trouble at Lewis Island. The police chartered the cutter Maggie at government expense for the purpose of proceeding to the island and inquiring into the truth of the report, and, if necessary to arrest such natives as were misbehaving themselves.' It's not clear what happened as the Malay crew of the police vessel mutinied and absconded with the vessel (*The West Australian*, 24 November 1886: 3). A year later, in 1887, the station 'Lewis Island and adjacent islands' was again for sale, this time without stock (*The West Australian*, 28 December 1887: 2). The *Western Australian Almanack* lists

only two occupants of the Lewis Island settlement in 1889: McDougall and a diver named 'Victor'. During this period the need for Aboriginal divers was potentially diminishing. After the mid-1880s there was a shift towards 'diving dress' (hard hat diving), and the traditional swimming and diving skills of Aboriginal divers became less relied upon. The larger hard hat vessels used Malay, Chinese and Japanese divers.

Soon after this, the settlement was abandoned. As stated earlier, in 1901 the WAM curator Tunney used the settlement as a base while collecting zoological specimens. Three decades later, a visiting sailing ship detailed that 'on East Lewis are stone yards erected that might easily hold 100,000 sheep, with water obtainable almost everywhere in the dry season at 14 feet, and with edible grasses and crested spinifex' (*The cruise of the Silver Gull. Into the Willy-Willy. From Our Cor-*

respondent. *The West Australian*, 21 March 1934: 12).

Archaeological work in 2017

The Dynamics of the Dreaming Linkage Project fieldwork was conducted at the WLI settlement in June 2017, focusing on the structural remains, rock art and midden (Figure 11.4). The archaeological fieldwork here included surface survey and excavation at site WLA-01 as well as rock art recording (see

Chapter 9). A total station instrument and DGPS recording were used for the survey. Here we present the results of the archaeological recording and analyses for each built structure and other archaeological features.

BUILDING CODES	CRAR+M DATABASE ID	FEATURE TYPE	HISTORICAL FEATURE TYPE	NOTES
BLD1	WLA01-2017-CF001-01	Historical	Building	
BLD2	WLA01-2017-CF001-02	Historical	Building	
BLD3	WLA01-2017-CF001-03	Historical	Building	
SWE4	WLA01-2017-CF001-04	Historical	Building	
SWE5	WLA01-2017-CF001-05	Historical	Building	
BLD6	WLA01-2017-CF001-06	Historical	Building	
BLD7	WLA01-2017-CF001-07	Historical	Building – stockyards	Sheep yards and shearing?
	WLA01-2017-CF001-08	Historical	Stone arrangement – path	
	WLA01-2017-CF001-09	Historical	Unknown – no data or photos	
	WLA01-2017-CF001-10	Historical	Unknown – no data or photos	
	WLA01-2017-CF001-13	Historical	Stone wall	
	WLA01-2017-CF001-14	Historical	Line of stones	Straight line of single stones, running EW
	WLA01-2017-CF001-15	Historical	Line of stones	Straight line of single stones, running NS
	WLA01-2017-CF001-16	Historical	Well	
	WLA01-2017-CF001-17	Historical	Fence post	Adjacent to CF-019 (cobble)
	WLA01-2017-CF001-18	Historical	Fence post	Adjacent to CF-019 (cobble)
	WLA01-2017-CF001-19	Historical	Stone arrangement – path	Cobbled feature within Building 1
	WLA01-2017-CF001-20	Historical	Stone feature (chimney?)	Stone feature on southern edge of square 330249
	WLA01-2017-CF001-21	Historical	Stone pile	Stone pile on top of NW corner of feature CF001-01
	WLA01-2017-CF001-22	Historical	Narrow stone wall	
	WLA01-2017-CF001-23	Historical	Stone walled enclosure	Circular stone structure
	WLA01-2017-CF001-24	Historical	Stone walled enclosure	Large oblong-shaped stone structure on the side of a slope
	WLA01-2017-CF001-25	Historical	Stone arrangement – path	Pathway from kitchen storage to topmost structure
	WLA01-2017-CF001-26	Natural	Creek	
	WLA01-2017-CF001-27	Historical	Artefact scatter – midden	
	WLA01-2017-CF001-28	Historical	Artefact scatter – midden	
	WLA01-2017-CF001-31	Historical	Unknown – no data or photos	
	WLA01-2017-CF001-32	Historical	Ballast pile	
	WLA01-2017-CF001-33	Historical	Stone feature	Limestone feature in creek bed

Table 11.1. Historical features of West Lewis Island pastoral station recorded in 2017.

Survey and excavations

Each excavation square focused on an area of interest within the buildings. This included inside doorways, perpendicular to the inside and outside of building walls, across the interior/exterior of stone walled enclosures, floor surfaces, areas which were potentially highly travelled, and in sweep and discard zones (Figure 11.5). Removal of deposit typically involved excavation units (XUs) of between 5 and 10 cm. All archaeological material was sieved with 5 and 2 mm

sieves and recovered finds bagged. Soil samples were also collected. All heights for XU corners were recorded with the Total Station. Back at UWA, the archaeological finds were sorted into material classes and various subclassifications. These have been subsequently weighed and a basic quantification provided within each XU. Key diagnostic artefacts have been extracted – these include munitions, clay pipes, lead seals, buttons and diagnostic food containers. A functional

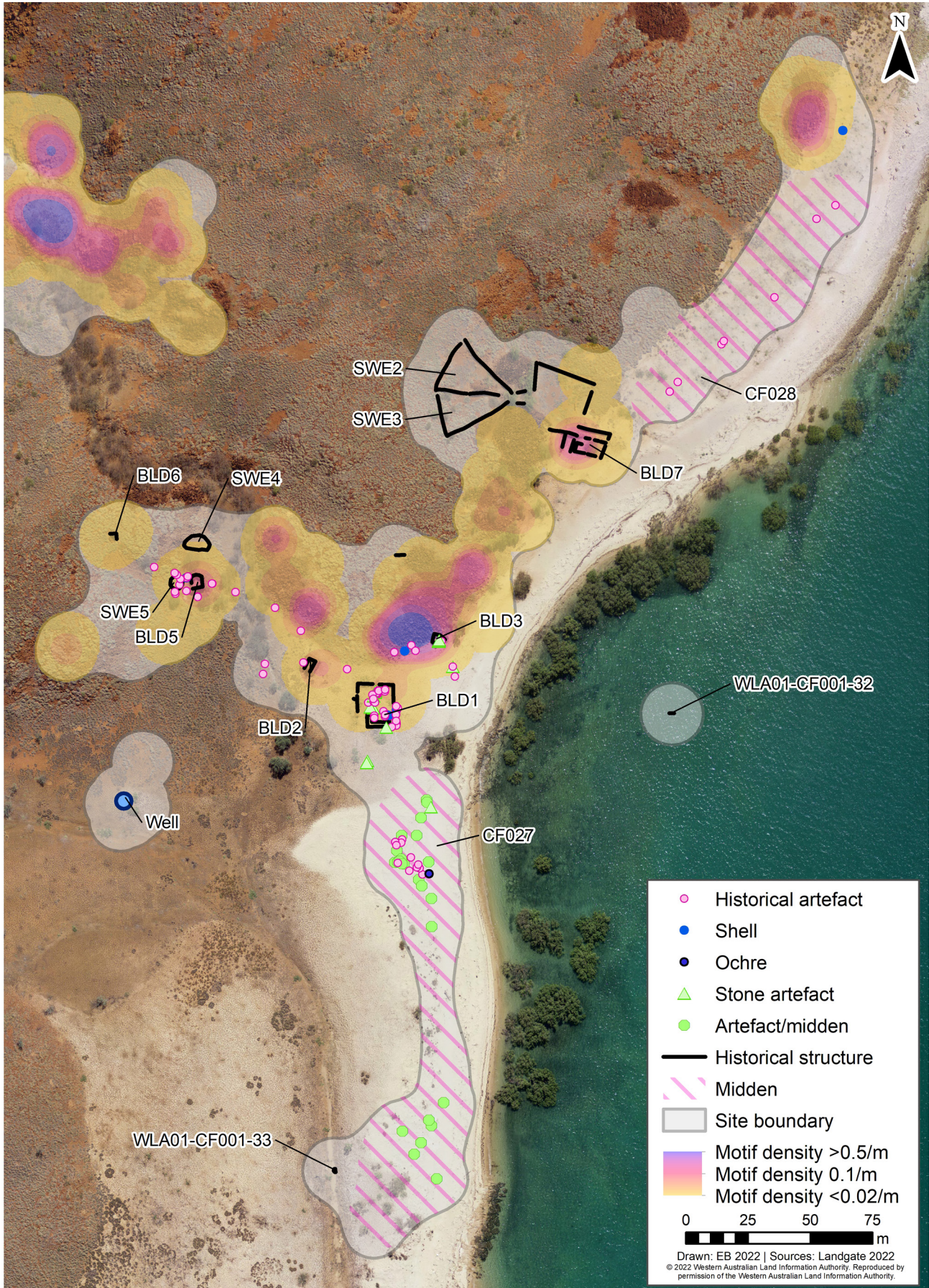


Figure 11.4. Historical settlement showing structures, surface artefacts and heat map of all recorded rock art.

Drawn: EB 2022 | Sources: Landgate 2022
 © 2022 Western Australian Land Information Authority. Reproduced by permission of the Western Australian Land Information Authority.

and spatial analysis was conducted by Burcham (2019), and catalogued in the CRAR+M database. this chapter presents some of those findings. All finds are

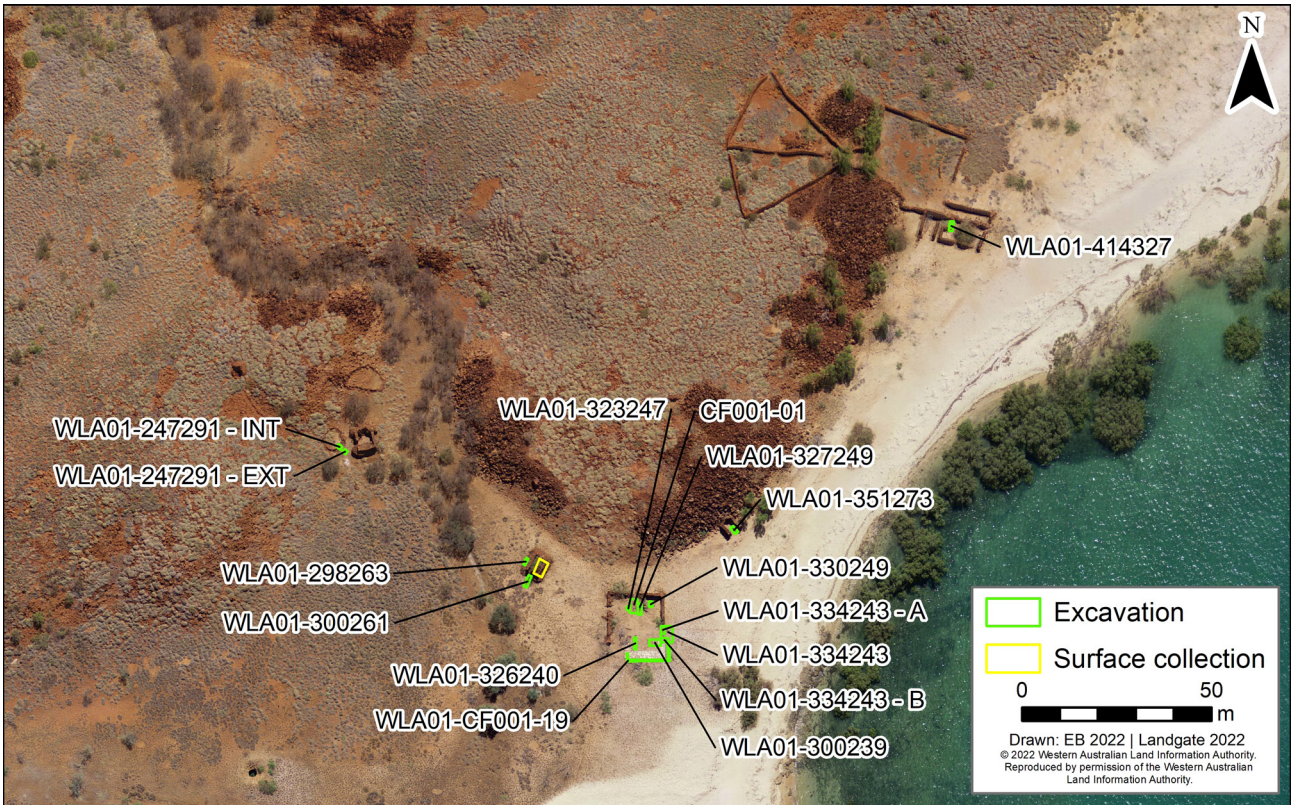


Figure 11.5. The West Lewis Island pastoral station excavation areas investigated in 2017.

SQUARE NAME	LOCATION WITHIN SITE	XUS	NOTES
247291	Building 5; SWE5	Surface – XU02	Divided excavation square – interior and exterior.
298263	Building 2	XU01-XU03	
301263	Building 2	XU01-XU03	
326240	Building 1	XU01-XU03	
327249	Building 1	XU01-XU04	Divided excavation square – A and B
330239	Building 1	XU01-XU02	
330249	Building 1	XU01-XU03	
334243	Building 1	XU01-XU07	Separated into 4 subsquares: A-D
340190		Surface	No XU data
414327	Building 7	XU01-XU03	Duplicate XU02 and XU03
CF001-01 NI	Building 1	Feature clean in BLD1	
CF001-19E1	Building 1-F19	Surface – all finds	Not divided into XUs – narrow trench which surrounds Feature 19
CF001-19NW	Building 1-F19	Surface – all finds	Not divided into XUs – narrow trench which surrounds Feature 19
CF001-19S	Building 1-F19	Surface – all finds	Not divided into XUs – narrow trench which surrounds Feature 19
CF001-27	Feature 27 (midden south)	Surface – all finds	Surface collection
CF001-28	Feature 28 (midden north)	Surface – all finds	Surface collection

Table 11.2. Excavation and collection areas at West Lewis Island pastoral station.

The largest amount of archaeological material was recovered from Building 1 (Figure 11.6), reflecting its larger size and

the greater number of excavation squares. The small amount of historical material collected from the midden reflects a strategic sampling process which targeted diagnostic surface

artefacts rather than retrieval from excavation squares. No Aboriginal material was collected from the middens during this fieldwork.

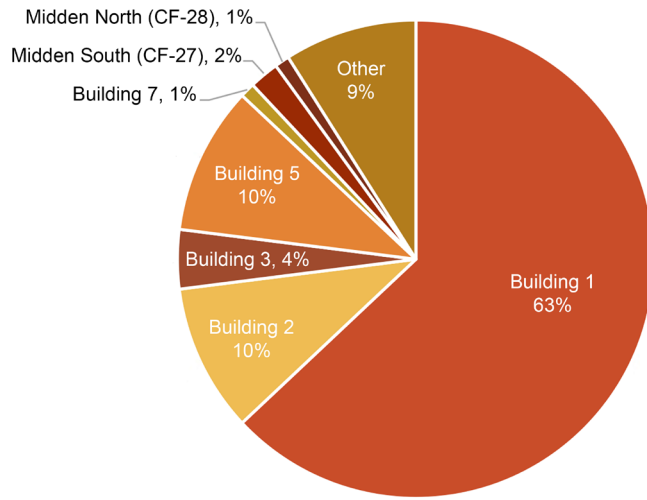


Figure 11.6. Archaeological materials recovered from the different buildings (by weight).

Select finds

There was a wide range of historical artefact types, which assisted with determining the function of different areas

within the settlement. These are presented in figures 11.7 to 11.15.



Figure 11.7. Personal adornment. From left: decorated clasp, small hook, and two eyelets.



Figure 11.8. Top left: two halves of a grommet, typically used for canvas. Top row: range of 4-hole and 2-hole metal sew-through trouser buttons, typical after the 1850s, including one 'Made to Order' haberdashery brand. Fourth button from left is cloth-covered, likely for a jacket or coat. Lower row: 2-hole sew-through buttons of bone or mother-of-pearl, commonly used for shirts, and a 4-hole sew-through metal button.



Figure 11.9. Clay smoking pipes: two stem fragments, and a bowl with wood decoration.



Figure 11.10. Modified glass artefacts. Left: olive glass fragment with 8 flake scars on one surface. Right: olive glass flake with diagnostic characteristics and possible evidence of use.



Figure 11.11. Lithics. Left: quartz flake, CF001-01; chalcedony flake, square 334243/XU3; quartz flake, square 334243/XU4; quartz flake, square 334243A/XU9. Right: two basalt flakes, Square 344243.



Figure 11.12. Munitions (from left) two cases for shotguns, possibly Ely type; (right) two bullet cases.

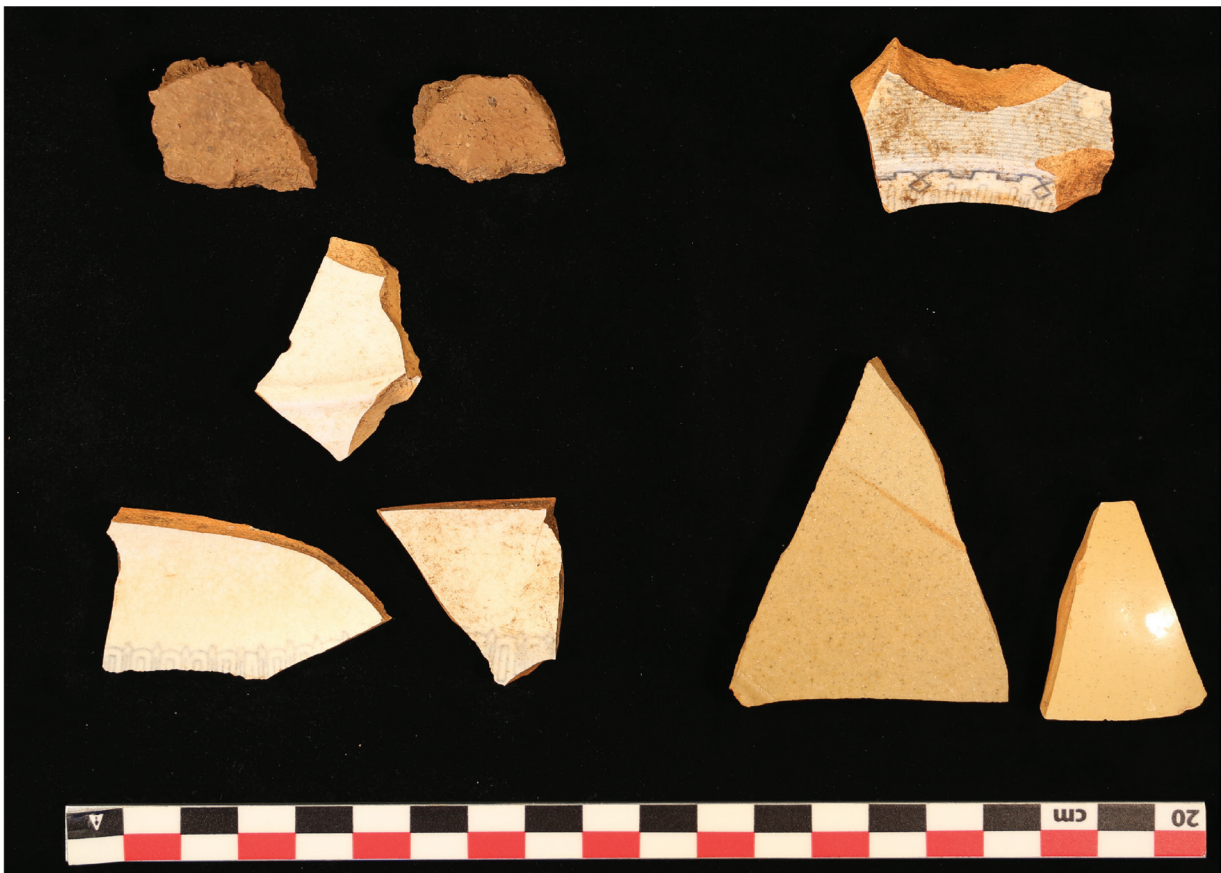


Figure 11.13. Ceramics. Top left: fragments of earthenware, consistent with locally made wares from island SE Asia; top right: glazed red earthenware; lower left, domestic stonewares; lower right, stoneware storage container.

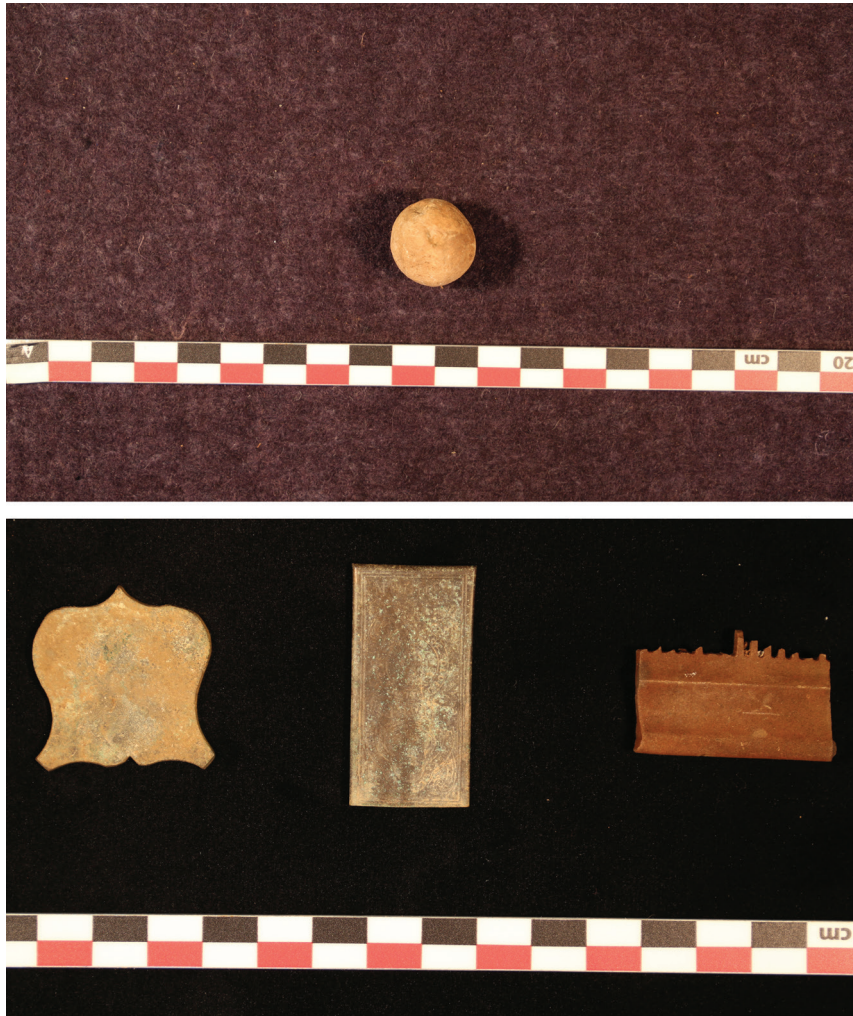


Figure 11.14. (Upper) Small clay ball, possibly a toy. (Lower) Brass 'shield' object, possibly a lid; Copper alloy box lid with incised decoration; comb.



Figure 11.15. Range of nail types at the settlement (largely from Square 330239), including ferric cut, hand wrought and wire nails. Two copper nails, possibly from ship part.

Historical engravings at the pastoral station

As already observed, some rock art at the settlement was produced in the historical period. The broader rock art assemblage, which mostly pre-dates the colonial settlement, is reported on in Chapter 9. Here we detail the numerous instances of graffiti (Frederick 2017; Frederick and Clarke 2014) and other rock art found on the built structures (Table 11.3) and explore the nature of this. Most of the graffiti is located on the stones used in the walls of the buildings, but some is also found on outcrops and blocks still in their natural position. There are depictions of historical subjects

(including four boats), and there are also names, initials and dates. Many of these post-date the colonial-era occupation of the pastoral station. Some relate to visitors in 1901 and 1944 while others are more contemporary (1971 and 2016). A total of 79 motifs were recorded on the buildings, most of which have been produced by a scratching technique. A small number were pecked, or incised, with the remainder being combination techniques (Table 11.3). Almost half of these motifs are located on Building 7, with many also on buildings 5 and 2.

TECHNIQUE	BLD1	BLD2	BLD3	BLD4	BLD5	BLD6	BLD7	YARD 1	TOTAL
Scratched	8	8	6		15	2	27	2	68
Pecked		1		1	2				4
Incised	1			1			2		4
Incised, scratched		2							2
Abraded, pecked		1							1
Total	9	12	6	2	17	2	29	2	79

Table 11.3. West Lewis Island Pastoral station motifs located on buildings: technique.

The project classified 46 motifs as graffiti, using the taxonomy developed for the broader project (see Chapter 3). Image enhancement (D-Stretch) has clarified these productions. These motifs represent mark-making during the construction and settlement in the colonial period, subsequent historic visits to the island and more recent acts which could be considered as vandalism (see Frederick 2017). As discussed in Chapter 9, not all of this recent mark-making has been necessarily produced by Europeans working at or visiting this place; that they may have been made by Aboriginal people labouring on the pastoral station, or brought here to work on the pearling trawlers (Paterson and Wilson 2009), cannot be precluded.

Most of the clearly European markings are placed on the built structures, while there is a number of Aboriginal

motifs on the built structures which were clearly made on the blocks before they were moved to the buildings (Table 11.4). As one travels further away from the colonial built environment, the proportion of indeterminate motifs (i.e. of uncertain authorship) decreases. There is a concentration of this ambiguous art around the waterhole on site WLA-016 (see Figure 9.21), where several stone structures considered likely to be recent additions were also found (see Chapter 9). Beyond these two site complexes, at the settlement and around the semi-permanent water, there is a total absence of European graffiti and transitional authorship. Most of the enigmatically authored motifs are located on the natural outcrops, but 37 were also found on the built structures (Table 11.4). These different mark-making behaviours are discussed in more detail in Chapter 9.

	ABORIGINAL	EUROPEAN	POSSIBLY ABORIGINAL	TOTAL
Built structures	16	26	37	79
Natural outcrops	425	6	201	632

Table 11.4. West Lewis Island pastoral station showing distribution of graffiti and other transitional images (excluding grinding

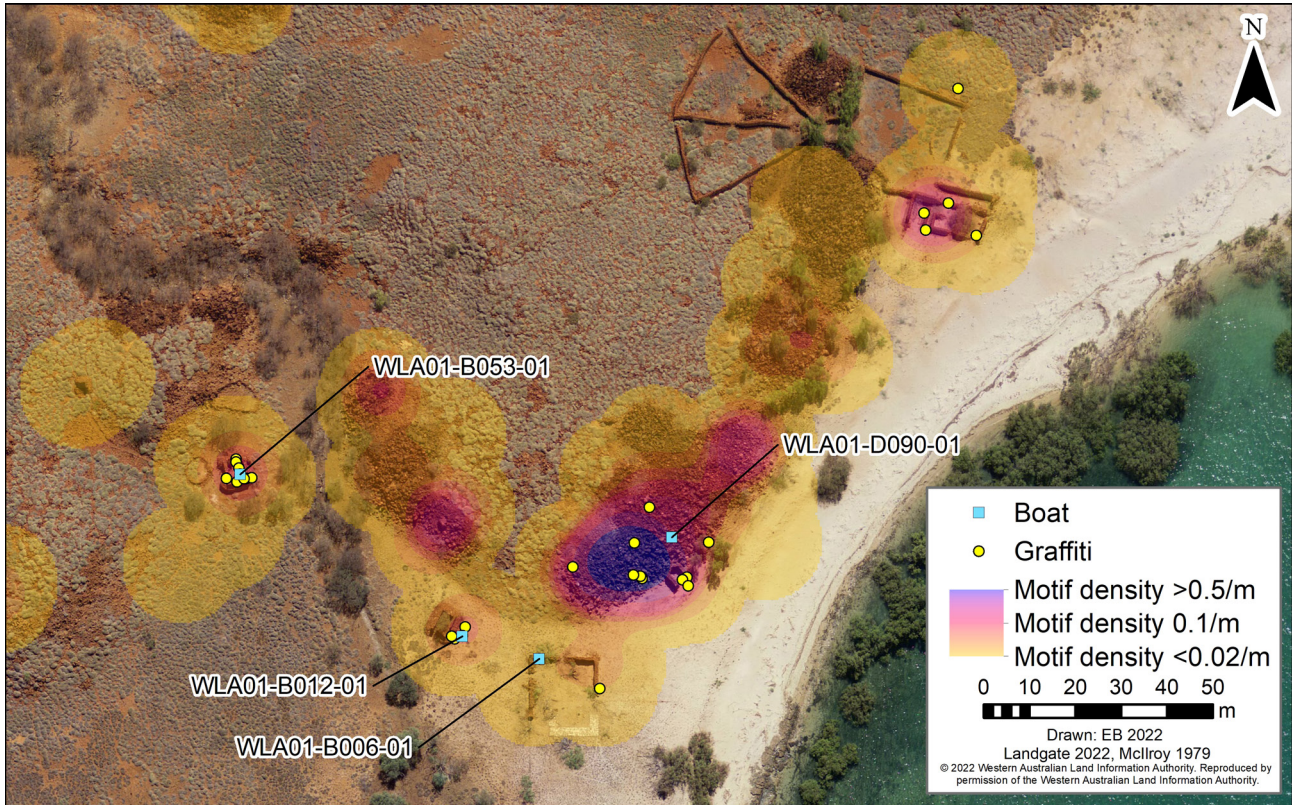


Figure 11.16. WLA-01 showing locations of recorded graffiti within the background of motif density recorded across the broader area.

Given their post-contact production, and the logic of the contrast state rankings, it would be expected that all historical engravings should be in contrast state 5 (indicating less weathering). However, most are in CS4 and there are some in

contrast states 2 and 3 (Figure 11.17). Our explanation for this apparently anomalous result is that the dominant scratching technique does not always fully penetrate the darker outer surface of the rock to reveal a lighter basalt bedrock interior.

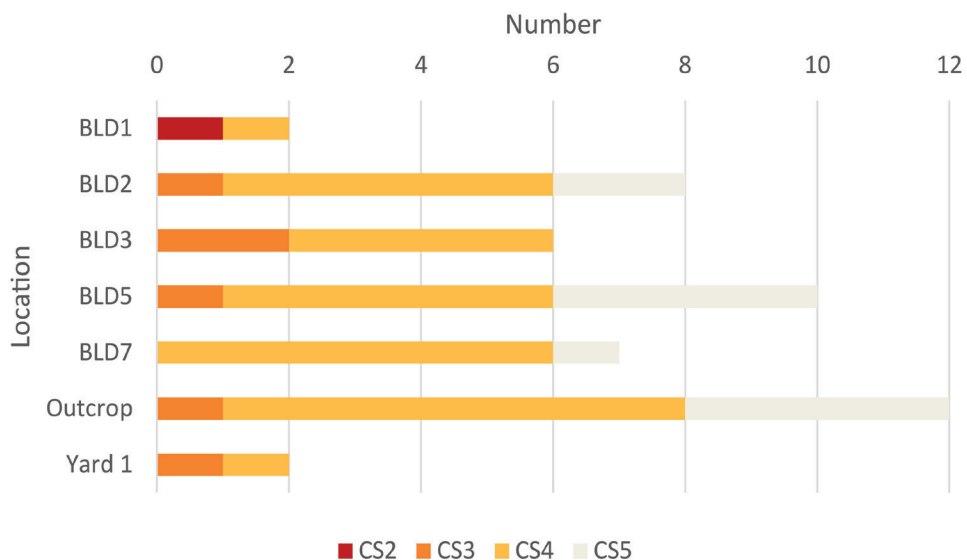


Figure 11.17. West Lewis homestead contrast state for graffiti and rock art on buildings and adjacent natural outcrop (Other).

The motifs classified as graffiti can be divided into the following thematic categories:

- text (alpha) and numbers (numeric) and combinations (alphanumeric);
- figurative motifs (humans, animals and boats);
- geometric;
- tracks;
- other (random and directional scratching).

SUBJECT	BLD1	BLD2	BLD3	BLD4	BLD5	BLD6	BLD7	YARD 1	TOTAL
Alphabetical (initials)		2			2		1	1	6
Word	1	2	3						6
Alphanumeric					4				4
Date					4				4
Geometric	3	1		2		2	12	1	22
Figurative	1	6	3		1		3		14
Random scratching	2				1		7		11
Directional scratching	2				3		6		9
Tracks/arrows	1	1							2
Total	9	12	6	2	17	2	29	2	79

Table 11.5. West Lewis Island pastoral station motifs recorded on the buildings showing subject type.

Based on their form and technique, we consider that 17 motifs (five anthropomorphs, 10 geometric, two zoomorphic) were made with a very thin metal implement, which we assume was fencing wire and/or bottle foils.

Most of these motifs (n = 43) recorded on the buildings were produced once the walls were constructed. A fair proportion of the motifs (n = 15), however, are likely to have been already present on these surfaces prior to these being

quarried and dressed for construction (Table 11.6). From their current position, a number of motifs (n = 21) may have been moved from elsewhere or could have been produced *in situ*. This analysis was based on the motifs' schemata (considering representative motifs across the WLA-01 assemblage) and position (i.e. the assessed difficulty of accessing the panel surface within the wall structure to produce the motifs *in situ*), and to a lesser extent on assessed contrast state.

PLACEMENT	BLD1	BLD2	BLD3	BLD4	BLD5	BLD6	BLD7	YARD 1	TOTAL
In situ	4	9	3		13		13	1	43
Moved	4	2	1	1	2	1	4		15
Uncertain	1	1	2	1	2	1	12	1	21
Total	9	12	6	2	17	2	29	2	79

Table 11.6. Motifs interpreted as being produced in place (*in situ*); moved to this location during construction, i.e. pre-dating building construction; or of uncertain placement.

A motif on Building 7 exhibits 'E B E' in an ornate 'script' with floral embellishments. This looks like the oldest of the inscribed alphanumeric, but is unfortunately not accompanied by a date. Three of the inscribed dates are from 1901 – likely all from Tunney's expedition (Figure 11.19). Three motifs on Building 5 are dated 1944. The name 'Blair' is accompanied by the date 7-8-44, although these are produced in different styles of script and likely with different instruments. The 1944 dates could be attributed to the survivors of a plane wreck of a US Navy Catalina flying boat on the eastern end of Enderby Island (Paterson 2006: 100; Souter and Paterson 2004: 20). Morris (2000: 16) proposes that this wreck belonged 'to the 10th Air Wing of the United States Navy which operated from Crawley Bay (Perth), Geraldton and Exmouth between 1942 and 1944'. This Catalina was involved in night bombing raids and reconnaissance over Timor during the Second World War (Burcham 2019; Morris 2000; Souter and Paterson 2004), and was forced to put down in the waters of the Dampier

Archipelago due to mechanical problems. The disabled sea plane broke its moorings overnight and washed ashore on Enderby Island, where it has been further dispersed in subsequent cyclones to its current resting place amongst the mangroves and across the hillslope (Morris 2000: 20; personal observations, Jo McDonald, 2021). It is possible that the vessel landed closer to West Lewis and broke its moorings and drifted across to Enderby Island, stranding its occupants on West Lewis. The plane's crew may have traversed the island in search of fresh water, encountering the historic settlement and commemorating their presence by scrawling the date.

Multiple '1971' inscriptions may correspond to David Hutchison's visit to the island (in June 1971) to evaluate the condition of the settlement buildings (McIlroy 1979: 68). More recent inscriptions (over the last 20 years) were most likely made by recreational fishermen visiting the island (Figure 11.19).



Figure 11.18. European graffiti and dates across the settlement landscape showing the mixture of dates, scripts and techniques, with enhanced image: (a–b) scripted lettering B023-01; (c–d) motif B047-01 with two examples of 1944 date; (e) motifs B051-01 and -02 – a dual date inscription 1944 and 1971; and (f–g) motif B050-01 1971 date.



Figure 11.19. Panels B048-01 and B049-01 showing their relative proximity and location on top of a built wall displaying recent graffiti 'HASELOFF' and 'NEATE BOY'.

Four boat motifs are identified at the settlement. All have been produced using a scratching technique and have a linear and outline forms. Three are located on buildings, the fourth is located on the adjacent outcrop (see Figure 11.20). Boat motif B006-01 is located on a square block on the outside corner of Building 2. This is a depiction of a single-masted vessel with a single gaffe-rigged sail. The hull of the vessel is visible but there is no rudder nor any details of bow or stern section

(Figure 11.20). Boat motif B053-01 is located on an angular block on Building 5 (Figure 11.21) on the outside southern wall close to the eastern corner. This motif is the most detailed boat image depicting a single-masted vessel with both a front and rear sail, and rigging. The hull has a bisecting line, and this depiction has a rudder, bow and stern. The level of detail, particularly of the bow and stern sections, rigging and rudder, suggests a familiarity with the vessel.



Figure 11.20. Panel WLA01-2017-B006-01 showing placement context (left) and motif closeup (sketch and *original*).



Figure 11.21. Panel B053-01 showing location on Building 5, with camera facing north (left) and detail of the boat motif (right).

The third clear boat engraving (D090-01) is inscribed on the lower rocky slopes, close to buildings 3 and 4. The panel faces east, towards the passage between the Lewis islands (Figure 11.22). This motif depicts a vessel with two irregular masts. No sail is discernible in this motif. Several of the lines around the hull indicate corrected lines, reflecting either the awkwardness of

inscribing onto this surface or possibly an unfamiliarity or awkwardness with the material, possibly wire, used to produce the motif. There is an extension line from the stern section, indicating possibly either rigging or an incomplete rear sail. The two masts may indicate this was a pearling lugger.



Figure 11.22. Perspective from panel D090-01 overlooking the passage between West and East Lewis islands (left) and boat motif (right).



Figure 11.23. Panel B012-01 showing location on Building 2, with camera facing north-east (left) and detail of the boat motif (centre) and geometric motif (right).

These sailing vessel depictions were most likely produced during the colonial period. Given these include both two and one-masted vessels, it seems likely that multiple vessels have been depicted.

Several historical references to the West Lewis Island pastoral station indicate that there was a 'pearling boat belonging to the place' (John McDougall's May 1885 letter) – the *Mary*, a 12-tonne wooden sailing cutter and lugger (Anderson 2014: 74). The station required a vessel to reach the mainland for supplies and to deliver sheep as well as offload produce (e.g. wool) for market. The *Mary* is likely to have carried sheep to and from the main station site, either to market (through Cossack or Fremantle) and possibly to the other islands of the archipelago which were included in the station's lease.

Before this, the *Mary* was used as a pearling lugger. In early March 1882, a cyclone struck and beached the *Mary* (*The West Australian*, 7 March 1882: 3) as well as destroying several of the station's buildings. During a gale in February 1889, this vessel was lost at sea without trace. At the time of her loss, and that of all hands, the owner of the *Mary* was listed as William McVean.

A fourth boat (B012-01) was identified during the post-fieldwork photograph audit (Figure 11.23). This is located on a doorway in Building 2. It has a strong vertical line and multiple fine lines making the 'sails' and 'hull', plus other scratchings. There is a much clearer (more recent?) geometric symbol (B012-02) also made on this panel with wire.

West Lewis Island Pastoral Station Excavation

Building 1

Building 1 (BLD1) (WLA01-2017-CF001-01) is the largest of the settlement buildings. Six excavation squares and six feature cleans were placed within and around this (Figure 11.24). The historical rock engravings throughout Building 1 are also described in this chapter.

The investigation squares were located to test whether different types of past activity could be discerned – focusing on likely locations for internal structural elements, such as posts and walls. These collections and excavation areas are summarised here. The history of use

for this structure remains slightly enigmatic. The stone flagstone flooring has several stone bases for wooden posts, which are now absent. This suggests that there was a timber structure, possibly with other elements which could include hay, canvas or corrugated iron, which are now gone. This may help explain the fact that the

standing stone walls are not aligned with the flagstones on the eastern side of the building. It seems likely that the stone walls were a separate phase of construction, and may reflect a strategy of coping with cyclones given the description in 1882 of buildings at the settlement being destroyed by a cyclone.

Surface collection

As excavations progressed in the BLD1 area, all artefacts found on the surface were logged with a GPS point, collected and bagged. This area has likely been picked over by earlier teams (such as McIlroy, see earlier). This

surface assemblage consisted of olive bottle glass, ceramic sherds (72.8 g) and several flaked artefacts, including two of basalt, one quartz core fragment and one piece of worked glass (Figure 11.25).

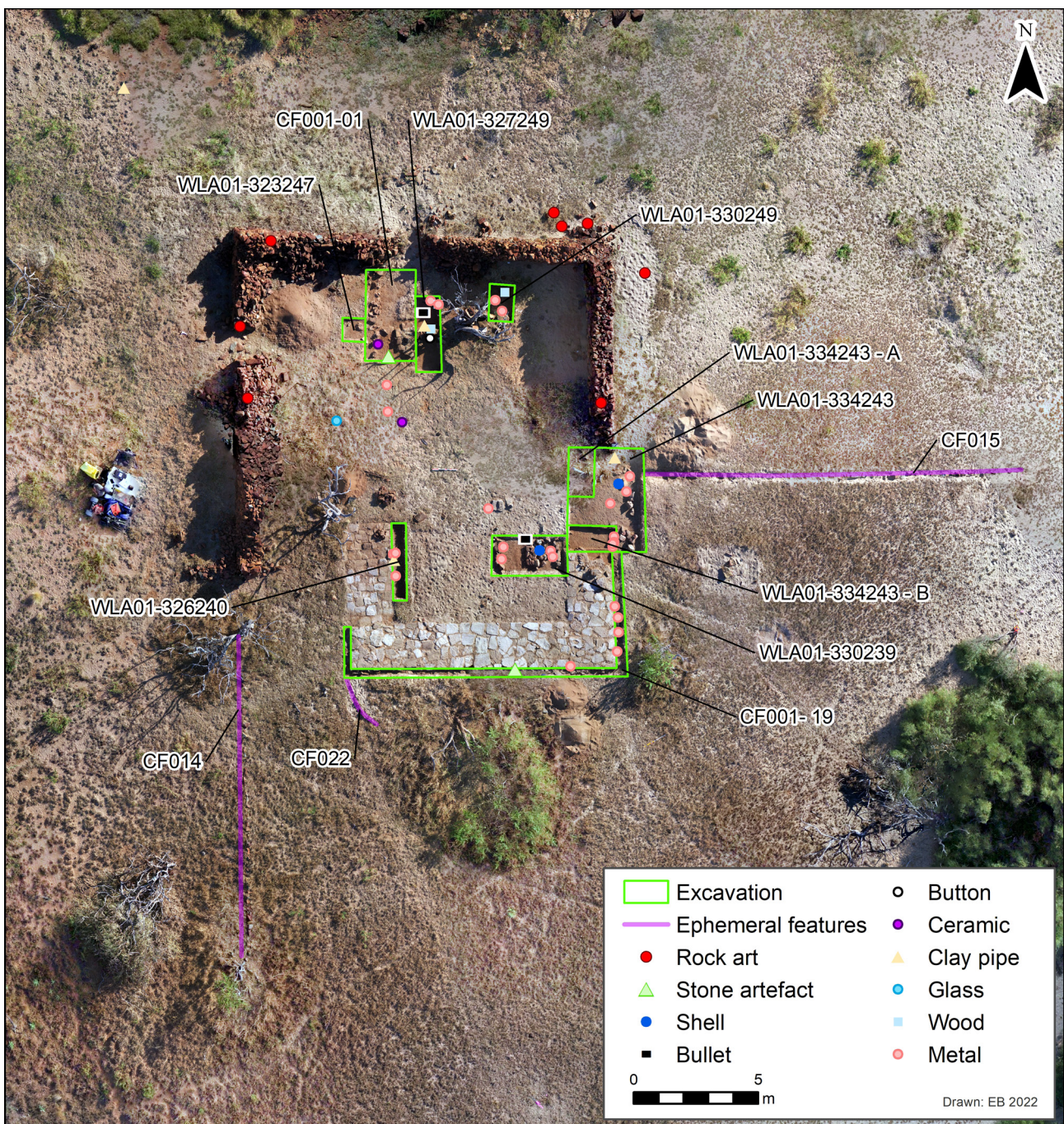


Figure 11.24. Location of excavations and some key finds at Building 1. The ephemeral features are stone lines radiating out from the structure. The flagstone flooring was possibly associated with timber posts, now absent.



Figure 11.25. Selection of finds from West Lewis homestead: (a) quartz bipolar fragment collected during surface survey; (b) ventral surface of olive bottle glass flake; (c) clay pipe collected from Square 327249A with major erosion to upper section of bowl; and (d) indurated sandstone flake from Square 334243B XU01.

Square WLA01-327249

This excavation square (3 m x 1 m) targeted the stone structure orientated east to west (see Figure 11.26). It was placed straddling the low wall to discern variability on either side of this feature (subsquares A and B). This stone feature is one layer of stones high, unlike the multiple stacked stones of the outer walls of the building. It is likely an internal barrier within Building 1 – potentially a wall support between internal rooms.

The square proceeded to four XUs on either side of the wall, two in each subsquare A and B of 1.5 m x

1 m. The sediments from each subsquare were similar, being a single stratigraphic unit of very coarse beach sand mixed with browner sediment (SU01). The top XU of each subsquare was noticeably loose, while lower XUs (particularly 327249B-XU02) were more compacted. Variability in pH level of the sediment was minor between subsquares A (pH 7) and B (pH 7.5). Munsell colour change was noted within excavation square B, from 5YR 4/6 in XU01 to 5YR 5/4 in XU04.



Figure 11.26. Square 327249 A and B (facing north), showing (left) excavation on either side of a stone barrier feature; and (right) timber with bolt embedded (MLP-WLA01-20170614-327249A-XU03-Bag11-7), excavated from the north-eastern corner of 327249A.

Window glass and timber were recovered from both subsquares, as were ferrous materials and nails. Bolts and timber were also found in the northern half (A) of the square (Figure 11.26), while they were not present in the southern half of the square. Clothing items include the fragment of a shoe heel and two buttons (one in each section of 327249), along with domestic ceramic sherds

and glass fragments. Organic material included 1.3 g of pearl shell. Four quartz flake fragments were found in 327249A (one each in XUs 02 and 03, and two in XU04). Olive glass was present as well as several clay-pipe fragments in 327249A (Figure 11.25). One 22 mm bullet casing was also found 327249A.

Square CF001-01 (north interior wall clean)

A feature clean (3 m x 2 m) was placed on the western boundary of Square 327249 to help understand the interior wall feature. A single XU of mixed, sandy topsoil around the wall and associated cobbling contained structural artefacts (e.g. nails (10), wire, window glass

and a 48 g lump of melted lead). Other artefacts included glass (27.4 g of olive; 9.1 g of various colours) and sheep bone (13.5 g, degraded). Charcoal (303.4 g) was present, as were five fragments of coarse-grained volcanic material.

Square WLA01-323247

Square 323247 was a 1 m x 1 m feature clean and collection from the interior wall feature which was initially investigated in Square 327249. It comprised a single XU of disturbed, sandy topsoil overlying stone cobbling.

Several structural artefacts were collected, including a bolt, 16 nails, lead sheeting and window glass. One lithic artefact was recorded along with a shoe heel, ceramic sherd (2.3 g), and glass of various colours (22.6 g).

Square WLA01-330249

Square 330249 (Figure 11.27) was a 2 m x 1 m excavation in the north-eastern corner of CF001-01 (BLD1), adjacent to a stacked stone feature. A single stratigraphic unit

was excavated in three XUs. This sediment is lightly compacted and very coarse brown (10YR5/4) beach sand (pH 8 in XU01; 7.5 in XU03).



Figure 11.27. MLP-WLA01-20170615-330249-XU03-5: (left) Square 330249 end of XU03 (view north) and (right) ferrous strap/fixture found within Square 330249, XU02.

Metal artefacts were common and included bolts, wire, ferrous nails (45) and copper nails (15). Rusted ferrous fragments (2,500 g) included a rusted lock and ferrous strapping/fixture (see Figure 11.27). No clothing-related artefacts were found here. Domestic items included ceramic sherds (16.3 g), glass (7.1 g), the base fragment of a ferrous container (63.9 g) and a Griffin & Co. bottle seal made of lead. Olive bottle glass was also present.

A large quantity of economic shell (2,117 g, 49% of

the total assemblage) was collected from this square, as was a large number of stone pieces (n = 111). This included 53 igneous lithic fragments from the lowest XU (03) of the square and three quartz fragments (one from XU01 and two from XU02). Charcoal was also present (52.9 g). A single fragment of red ochre (0.3 g) was also found here. The only other area where ochre was found was in the southern midden (CF-27, n = 5).

Square WLA01-334243

This larger square (4.2 m x 3 m) was excavated in three XUs to investigate the area which separated the north-eastern part of the cobbled feature (CF001-19) from the southern end of the eastern wall (Figure 11.28). Subsquare 334243A proceeded to XU04. Subsquare

334243B continued to XU08, the deepest level reached at the site during the June 2017 excavations. Subsquar 334243C and D excavated areas underneath the north-eastern flagstone flooring of CF-019. Sediments were not systematically recorded in these squares.



Figure 11.28. (a) Square 334243 view west, end of XU03; and (b) subdivisions of Square 334243, view south.

Most of the window glass from the site was excavated from this subarea of Building 1, and other architectural and structural artefacts were also present in higher numbers and weights compared to the other excavation areas. This collection included bolts, wire, ferrous ($n = 316$) and copper nails ($n = 22$) and a large amount of fragmentary sheet metal 'ferrous other' (44% of this subcategory). Several items of clothing (three buttons and two eyelets) and three bottle seals were found here. Over a third (35%) of the domestic glass was uncovered here, along with olive bottle glass, ceramic sherds, a rectangular ferrous container and a single clay

pipe. A small quantity of pearl shell (481 g) was present in this area (this was not found in significant quantities elsewhere in this building). Bone fragments present (3 g) are likely of sheep.

A sizeable number of stone flakes in a variety of materials were found in Square 334243B, although less than were found in subarea B ($n = 111$). This included three chalcedony flakes (in XUs 01, 03 and 07) and a single indurated sandstone flake (Figure 11.25d). Charcoal was present throughout, as was some resin and two bullet casings. Many of these lithic items are thought to relate to the wall construction and dressing of local stone.

Feature CF001-19

Feature 19 was a low blocky stone arrangement (see Figure 11.29). Multiple methods were used to record this feature. The surface of the feature was swept and sieved. Excavations of the feature's exterior (see Figure 11.30) involved three collections: the eastern exterior (CF001-19EI), southern (CF001-19S) and a north-western excavation (CF001-19NW). These three excavations formed a narrow excavation trench around the exterior of the feature. The collection here included the smallest number of ferrous nails from Building 1 ($n = 69$), and a rusted metal bracket and some bolt fragments (460

g) were also collected. An average amount (15%) of all window glass was recovered from the southern and eastern sections of this area. Glass and ceramic sherds were present, as was one bottle seal. No clothing artefacts came from this area. Faunal artefacts were a minor contribution (<160 g economic shell, <30 g of pearl shell and <1 g of bone). Charcoal was present, as was a large andesitic basalt core (1,211 g) collected from the south-eastern section. Fragments of igneous stone were found mostly ($n = 121/134$) on the eastern side; this is the only raw material type present in this square.

Square WLA01-326240

The interior of the flagstone verandah (CF001-19) was investigated by two excavation squares – 326240 and 330239. This 0.5 m x 3.0 m excavation square was situated adjacent to CF001-19 and involved three

excavation units. The square was initiated to find further traces of structural features, such as posts and stone piling (Figure 11.29).



Figure 11.29. WLA01-2017-326240 showing (left) location of posts and (right) a stone pile.

Square WLA01-330239

Square 330239 was 3.0 m x 1.5 m with two XUs. Two stone features were revealed by this excavation (Figure 11.30).



Figure 11.30. Square 330239-XU02, end level (BLD1), view east, showing two stone elements assumed to be internal structure foundations.

These two interior excavations of CF001-19 did not produce different assemblages, although a higher number of nails and more window glass was collected from the eastern square (330239). A single piece of clothing (an eyelet) was found in 326240. Domestic artefacts (52.9 g) were collected from both squares, including ceramics (43.1 g) from 330239. A small amount of glass (6.5 g) was recovered from both squares as were three items interpreted as 'indulgences' (a clay

pipe, 3 g of olive bottle glass and a 'J. T Morton' bottle seal) in the western excavation square. Bone (less than 10 g), shell, charcoal and pearl shell are present. Three quartz fragments were collected from the deeper XUs of 330239 along with most (n = 10, 297 g) of the igneous stone fragments (n = 14, 310.1 g) from this subarea. A fragment of slate (2.3 g) and one shotgun cartridge were collected from the eastern square.

Graffiti and other rock art

Nine motifs were recorded on Building 1 (Table 11.7 and Figure 11.31). These include two European inscriptions 'Sustenance' and a sailing boat. Sustenance was a man known to have procured Aboriginal workers for the pearler Chapman, mentioned in the Colonial Secretary Record (CSR) files detailing the murder of Cooramarra – a Beagle Bay man – by Edward (Ned) Chapman on Lewis Island in June 1877. Chapman's procurement of Aboriginal workers from Sustenance was a breach of the *Pearl Shell Fisheries Act* (CSR vol 877, p. 100 [5/11751 No 2310]). This incident is discussed more fully in Chapter 18.

Three motifs have been moved from elsewhere on the site during construction, and three motifs, because of their placement, are of uncertain origin. Many of the panels also have battering resulting from the construction phase. Four of the motifs are located inside the building; three are on surfaces which face outwards; and the remaining two are on the wall's top surfaces. The motifs of uncertain authorship are random and directional scratching and an angular geometric.

MOTIF ID	PLACEMENT	TYPE	CS	LENGTH	WIDTH	TECHNIQUE
WLA01-2017-B001-01	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Word, Sustenance	4	2	6	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B002-01	Wall inside, prior	Geometric	2	10	4	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B003-01	Wall top, uncertain	Geometric	2	3	6	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B003-02	Wall top, prior	Geometric	2	7	4	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B004-01	Wall inside, prior	Random scratching	2	4	2	Incised
WLA01-2017-B005-01	Wall outside, <i>in situ</i>	Random scratching	4	15	15	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B006-01	Wall outside, <i>in situ</i>	Figurative, boat	2	15	17	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B007-01	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Directional scratching	2	5	1	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B008-01	Wall outside, prior	Directional scratching	3	8	3	Scratched

Table 11.7. Recorded motifs at WLA-01 West Lewis Island homestead Building 1 (lengths in cm).

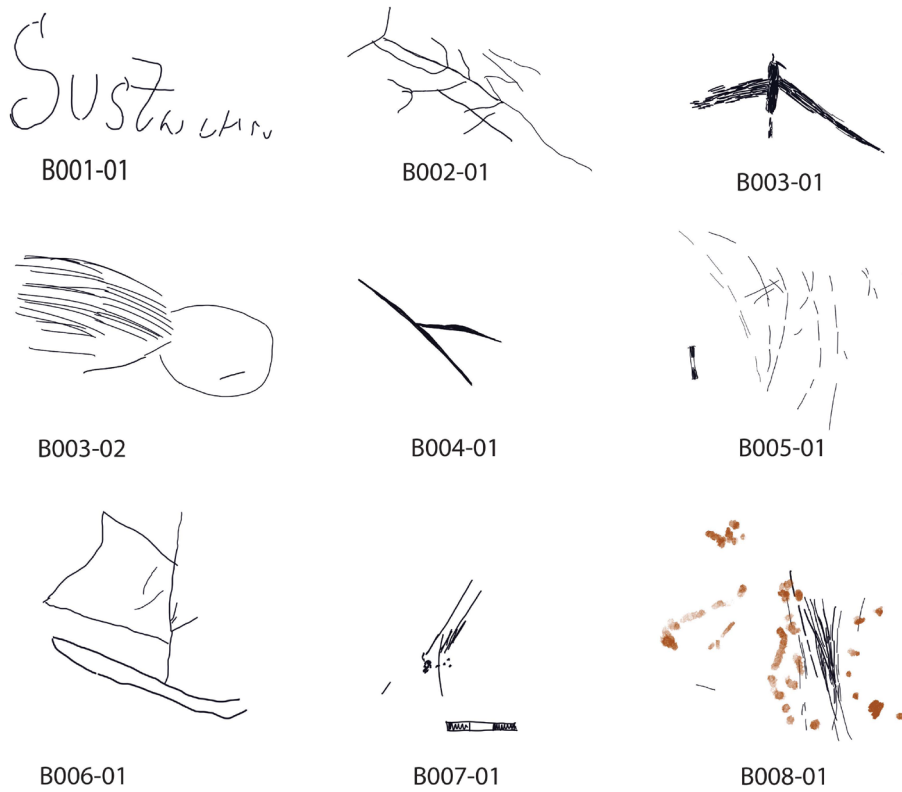


Figure 11.31. WLA01 Building 1: (top) line drawings of the petroglyphs present on the stones; and (bottom) during excavation, showing context for the boat (B006-01).

Building 2

Building 2 (WLA01-CF001-02) has high exterior stone walls with a single room which was paved with flat stones. A tree's roots has destroyed a portion of the flagstone flooring. The interior was swept and sieved (CF-001-02F). It was assumed that this floor surface had been cleaned in earlier excavations by WAM and archaeological items were not expected. Nonetheless, our floor

sweep revealed a nail, a ferrous fragment (part of a hairbrush?), ceramic sherds, bone (26 g) and pearl shell (150 g), and one andesitic basalt stone artefact (88.7 g). Charcoal was also present.

Excavation squares were positioned outside the building's walls (Figure 11.32).

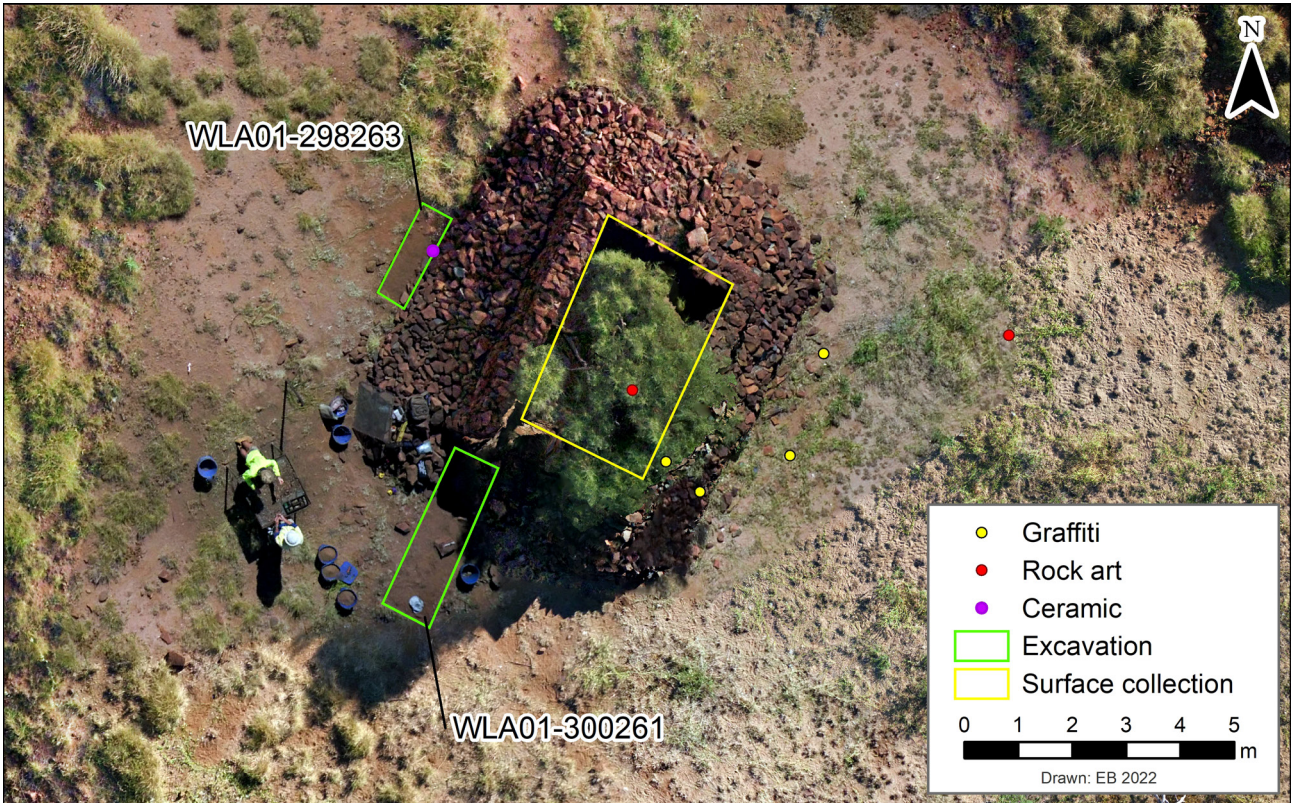


Figure 11.32. West Lewis settlement Building 2: (left) excavation areas and (right) interior.



Figure 11.33. Building 2 interior ashowing entrance and tree now growing inside; (b) the cleaned southeast corner and (c) extensive flagging revealed by the floor sweep collection.

Squares WLA01-298263 and WLA01-300261

Square 298263, aligned along the external western wall, was a narrow trench (2.0 m x 0.5 m) with three XUs (Figure 11.34a). Its pH was 7.5 and Munsell colour 10YR4/3. The third and lowest excavation unit of the square was more compact but affected by extensive ant activity. Located outside the doorway of Building 2, Square 300261 explored the 'sweep zone' at the only entrance to the room and was 3 m x 1 m with two XUs (Figure 11.33 and Figure 11.34b).

The floor sweep zone revealed a substantial number of nails (121), some glass (12.8 g), a lead seal and a badge thought to be an ornament. Four buttons (three from 300261, one from 298263) were found, and

domestic items represented a good proportion of the finds and included a clay pipe and olive bottle glass. Ceramic sherds, found mostly from the western exterior wall square, represent 26% of the settlement's ceramic artefacts. Most (67%) of the site's pearl shell was located at this structure (Square 300261) with only an additional 150 g (5%) in 298263. Diagnostic and non-diagnostic bone (37.6 g) included turtle carapace and sheep bone (48.9 g). A large number (n = 213) of igneous artefactual fragments, including a core (25.8 g; in XU01 of 298263), were found in the door area. No charcoal was found in Square 298263.



Figure 11.34. West Lewis settlement Building 2: (a) Square 298263, end of XU02 (view north); and (b) Square 300261, end of XU02 (view north).

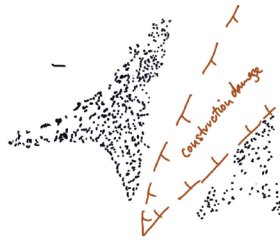
Graffiti and other rock art

Twelve motifs were recorded on Building 2 (Table 11.8 and Figure 11.35), all on interior wall surfaces, with two panels (B012 and B013) in the doorway. Several of the panels have multiple motifs on them. Marks include four European letters (three indecipherable words, and the letter D), a geometric mark and a faint sailing boat (on Panel B012). The two definitive Aboriginal motifs,

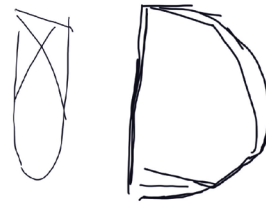
which had been moved from elsewhere during construction, include a damaged marine tail (Panel B010) and a scratched radiating geometric (see Figure 11.35). The four motifs on Panel B009 may be Aboriginal in origin (although they are, schematically, more contemporary forms).



B009-01 to 04



B010-01



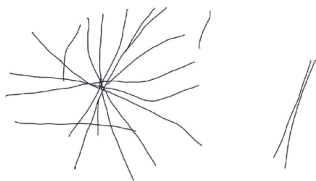
B011-01, 02



B012-01, 02



B013-01



B014-01



B020-01



Figure 11.35. Building 2 view to the east: graffiti and Aboriginal motifs, with photo showing context for Panel B020.

The human track on Panel B011 looks like a Murujuga sandal form, although this is scratched with a very thin line. Many of the panels also have battering resulting from the construction phase. Scratching is the dominant

technique and there is some deeper incising. The marine tails are the only pecked motifs here. There is a notable absence of random scratching in this group of motifs.

MOTIF ID	PLACEMENT	TYPE	CS	LENGTH	WIDTH	TECHNIQUE
WLA01-2017-B009-01	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Figurative	4	8	2	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B009-02	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Figurative	4	8	3	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B009-03	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Figurative	4	6	3	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B009-04	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Alpha	4	3	3	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B010-01	Wall inside, prior	Figurative	5	9	6	Pecked
WLA01-2017-B011-01	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Tracks	3	5	8	Incised, scratched
WLA01-2017-B011-02	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Alpha	4	7	5	Incised, scratched
WLA01-2017-B012-01	Wall inside, uncertain	Figurative	4	6	6	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B012-02	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Figurative	5	1.5	1.5	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B013-01	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Word	5	3	4	Abraded, pecked
WLA01-2017-B014-01	Wall inside, prior	Geometric	4	5	8	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B020-01	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Word	5	4	16	Scratched

Table 11.8. West Lewis homestead Building 2: recorded motifs (lengths in cm).

Building 3

Building 3 (WLA01-2017-CF001-03) is a three-sided structure with high stone walls and a small interior room with a sandy unpaved floor (Figure 11.36). This building has a different construction technique compared with most other settlement buildings. Here the rear wall

has been constructed by stacking smaller stones on top of large *in situ* blocks which are part of the natural rock outcrop. The building is open at the front and has no defined door. Building 4 is also constructed in this manner.



Figure 11.36. Building 3 and Building 4 with excavation location.



Figure 11.37. Building 3: (a, b) location of excavation; (b, d) Square 351273; (c) end of 351273XU07; and (d) detail of the charcoal rich feature encountered.

Square WLA01-351273

The excavation of Square 351273 (3 m x 1 m) within this building was deeper than others at the site (seven XUs). The sediment in XU01 and XU02 was fine, loosely compacted, wind-blown sand. The base of XU02 revealed a loose ashy lens (hearth?) with a very small fraction size in the south-western corner. This was excavated as a separate feature (Figure 11.37c and d).

The lower levels of the excavation included stone ($n = 119$) and glass flaked artefacts, with a notable presence

of quartz artefacts in the lower XUs ($n = 5$). Very few artefacts were introduced architectural objects: no nails of any kind were collected. Glass and three buttons (one of which is bone) were recovered, as was a very small amount of olive bottle glass (7.1 g), including one flake. The faunal remains within this building included bone fragments (unidentified 11 g, burnt sheep bone 31.6 g) and shell located within the hearth feature.

Graffiti and other rock art

Six motifs were recorded on Building 3 (Table 11.9 and Figure 11.38), all scratched on the interior surfaces of the walls. One of the motifs (B019-01) is a small scratched bird track, which was likely produced before the block was moved to the building. The two 'elongated arrows' (on panel B018) could be spears or harpoon points. These may be Aboriginal in origin, or copies made by a European person. Panels B015, B016 and B017 have

European inscriptions (two are largely indecipherable words), while one clearly marks the presence of John Tunney on site in July 1901. The cursive writing on Panel B017 may also have been authored by Tunney as the date seems to be 1901 and the letters visible suggest either Johnny or Tunney, although in cursive, rather than capital, letters.

MOTIF ID	PLACEMENT	TYPE	CS	LENGTH	WIDTH	TECHNIQUE
WLA01-2017-B015-01	Wall inside, in situ	Word	4	14	7	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B016-01	Wall inside in situ	Word	4	12	13	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B017-01	Wall inside in situ	Word	4	16	18	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B018-01	Wall inside uncertain	Figurative	3	15	3	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B019-01	Wall inside, prior	Figurative	4	4	1	Scratched

Table 11.9. West Lewis homestead Building 3: recorded motifs (lengths in cm).

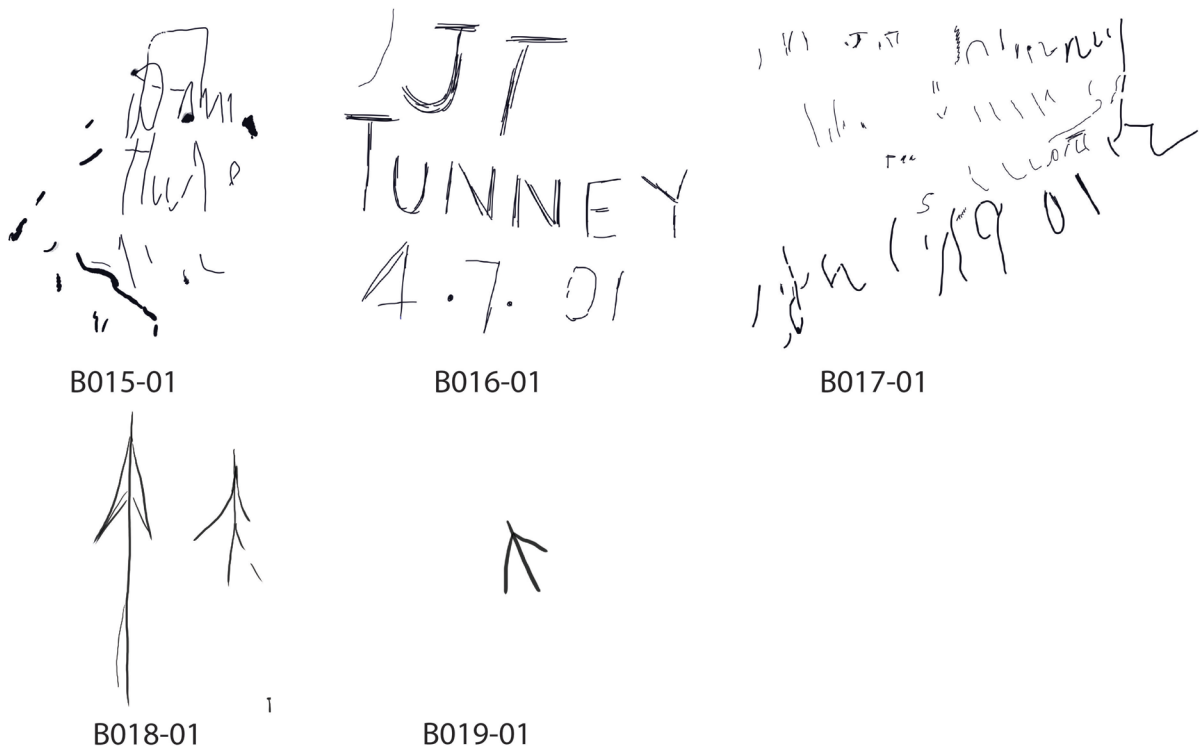


Figure 11.38. West Lewis Building 3 view to the west: graffiti and Aboriginal motifs (not all to scale), with photo showing context for Panel B015.

Building 4

Building 4 (WLA01-CF001-04) was not excavated, but its construction was observed to be similar to that found with Building 3. The outline of two walls can be seen

(Figure 11.39); an outside wall is aligned parallel to the boulders at the base of the outcrop (running SW–NE) and a curved rear wall joining the two (NW–SE).

Graffiti and other rock art

Two motifs were recorded on Building 4 (Figure 11.39). Both Building 4 motifs are geometric, and one (a pecked arc) is likely to pre-date the historic period. The second motif is a deeply incised converging line-set made on

the interior surface wall of this building (Table 11.10). This motif may have been produced using metal, likely a piece of fencing wire.

MOTIF ID	PLACEMENT	TYPE	CS	LENGTH	WIDTH	TECHNIQUE
WLA01-2017-B021-01	Wall inside, prior	Geometric	3	11	15	Pecked
WLA01-2017-B022-01	Wall inside, uncertain	Geometric	3	7	1	Incised

Table 11.10. West Lewis homestead Building 4: recorded motifs (lengths in cm).



Figure 11.39. West Lewis Building 4 view to the west: graffiti and Aboriginal motifs, with photo on right showing context for Panel B021. Motif B022-01 is likely to have been incised using wire.

Building 5

Building 5 (WLA01-CF001-05) (Figure 11.40 and Figure 11.41) is a large, high-walled building with thick buttressing added to the exterior and interior of the northern and southern walls as additional support for the structure. The interior of Building 5 is paved with flagstone; however, no floor sweep of this interior was done. This building is interpreted to be a kitchen given

a large fireplace feature within the northern wall. There were surface artefacts recorded in and around the building as well as historical inscriptions. The engravings present on the walls of Building 5 (n = 16) included predominantly 'graffiti' (n = 11) and linear scratching.

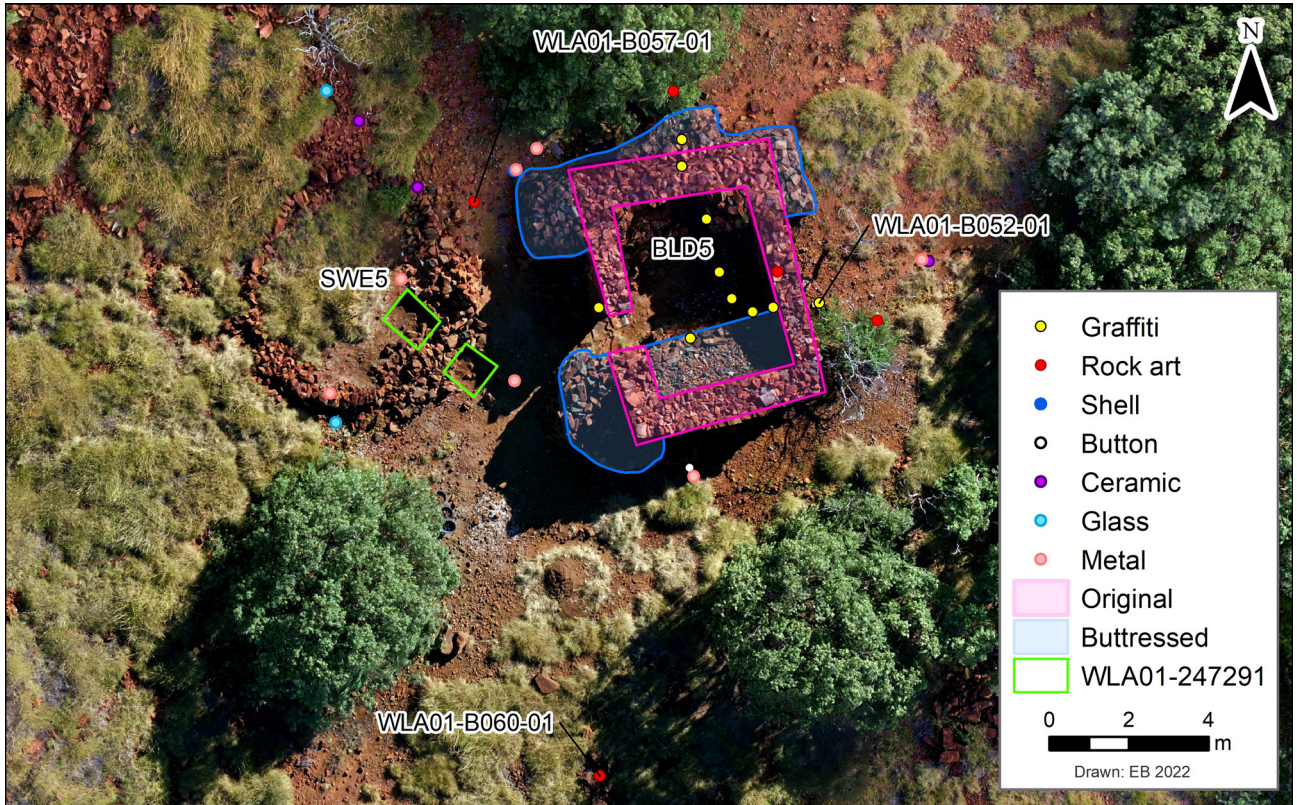


Figure 11.40. Locations of Building 5 and SWE5 excavation squares. Note the original vertical walls (pink), which have been reinforced with stone buttressing (blue).



Figure 11.41. (a) View of Building 5 from the west across SWE5; and (b-d) various structural details of Building 5 during the recording.

The circular stone walled feature SWE5 to the west of Building 5 was described as a 'garden patch' by Hutchison (1971; McIlroy 1979: 70) and was the source of

the main concentration of collected artefacts from this investigation.

Square WLA01-247291 (interior and exterior)

Square 247291 was 2 m x 1 m and straddled one side of the low circular stone wall (Figure 11.42). This was positioned in the hope of distinguishing between the

interior and exterior of the feature. Both the exterior and interior subsquares (each 1 m x 1 m) were excavated in two XUs.



Figure 11.42. Feature SWE5: (a) view from the south with details of Square 247291 from exterior square towards interior square; (b) before excavation; (c) shows the stacked blocks in part of its construction; and (d) at completion of excavation of Square 247291.

A relatively high number of clothing items was found here ($n = 7$), including buttons, eyelets and clasps. There is a major increase in domestic artefacts compared with the other settlement buildings, largely due to the number of ferrous containers found in both the interior ($n = 12$) and exterior ($n = 2$) of SWE5. Lead seals (Figure 11.43), glass and ceramics were also found at SWE5, as were many faunal remains, including bone (11.7 g) and shell

(123.4 g). There was a significant concentration of oyster shell (1,671.8 g) here which was not found elsewhere in the excavations. Sheep bone (62.8 g) was found within the interior of SWE5. These finds suggest that SWE5 may have functioned as a refuse pit, as it is filled with discarded objects associated with the potential domestic function of Building 5. This doesn't preclude it also being a (composted) garden patch.



Figure 11.43. Lead seals collected from Square 247291 exterior.

Graffiti and other rock art

Seventeen motifs were recorded on Building 5 (Table 11.11 and Figure 11.44) and this structure has been a focus for much of the recent graffiti production. Two European inscriptions include an indecipherable word and a sailing boat; three motifs had been moved from elsewhere at the site during construction;

and three motifs, because of their placement, are of uncertain origin. Many of the panels also have battering/damage resulting from the construction phase. Four of the motifs are located inside the building; three are on surfaces which face outwards; and the remaining two are on the wall's top surfaces.

MOTIF ID	PLACEMENT	TYPE	CS	LENGTH	WIDTH	TECHNIQUE
WLA01-2017-B043-01	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Alpha	5	5	7	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B044-01	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Alpha	4	6	8	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B045-01	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Alphanumeric	5	9	7	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B046-01	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Geometric	4	7	3	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B047-01	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Date	5	14	11	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B048-01	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Alphanumeric	4	17	13	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B049-01	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Alphanumeric	4	5	12	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B050-01	Wall outside, <i>in situ</i>	Date	3	9	15	Gouged, scratched
WLA01-2017-B051-01	Wall outside, <i>in situ</i>	Date	4	13	12	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B052-01	Wall outside, <i>in situ</i>	Date	5	4	15	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B053-01	Wall outside, uncertain	Figurative	4	6	10	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B054-01	Wall outside, <i>in situ</i>	Alphanumeric	4	3	19	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B055-01	Wall outside, prior	Line set	2	10	1	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B056-01	Wall outside, <i>in situ</i>	Geometric	4	16	9	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B056-02	Wall outside, <i>in situ</i>	Line set	2	8	4	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B057-01	Wall outside, Uncertain	Line set	3	3	18	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B060-01	Rubble outside, prior	Random scratching	2	9	3	Scratched

Table 11.11. West Lewis homestead Building 5: recorded motifs (lengths in cm).

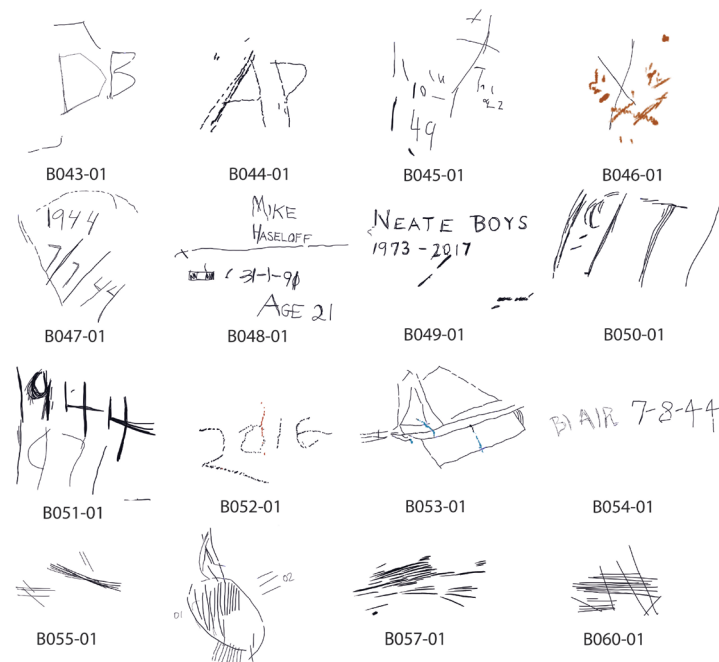


Figure 11.44. West Lewis Building 5: recorded graffiti and Aboriginal motifs, with photos below showing contexts for panels B052 (left), B060 (middle) and B057 (right).

Building 6

Building 6 (WLA01-2017-CF001-06) (Figure 11.45) was interpreted by McIlroy (1979: 93–95) to be a slaughterhouse given its proximity to Building 5 and because these two buildings are linked by a pathway. Yet McIlroy also

thought the distance of this building from the stockyards (SWE2 and SWE3) contradicted this potential function. No further excavation works were undertaken here in 2017.



Figure 11.45. West Lewis Building 6.

Graffiti and other rock art

Two motifs were recorded on Building 6 (Table 11.12 and Figure 11.46). The directional scratching is on an exterior surface of a wall of this building, while the geometric motif is located on top of the northern wall, indicating it could have been produced here. Both motifs are

scratched and both are likely to pre-date the historical period, although the placement of the geometric motif makes this difficult to confirm. Both motifs are relatively weathered (CS1 and CS3), and it is likely that the authorship of these is Aboriginal.

MOTIF ID	PLACEMENT	TYPE	CS	LENGTH	WIDTH	TECHNIQUE
WLA01-2017-B058-01	Wall outside, Prior	Directional scratching	1	3	1	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B059-01	Wall top, uncertain	Geometric	3	7	6	Scratched

Table 11.12. West Lewis homestead Building 6: recorded motifs (lengths in cm).



Figure 11.46. West Lewis Building 6: recorded motifs, with photos showing contexts for panels B058 (a) and B059 (b).

Building 7 and Stockyards

Building 7 (WLA01-2017-CF001-B07 and WLA01-2017-CF001-B07-01) and the adjoining stockyards (WLA01-2017-CF001-E02 and WLA01-2017-CF001-E03) with stone walled enclosures SWE1, SWE2 and SWE3 are of particular interest within the settlement landscape. Building 7 is a series of rooms attached to the funnel-shaped yards (Figure 11.47).

These rooms are likely related to the use of the

yards. While the function of each room has not yet been determined, it is most likely that shearing occurred here. Several of these rooms have stone floors which would have been suitable for shearing, keeping the fleeces free from dirt. Other rooms had sandy floors. All structures were photographed, and the historical and other engravings were recorded.

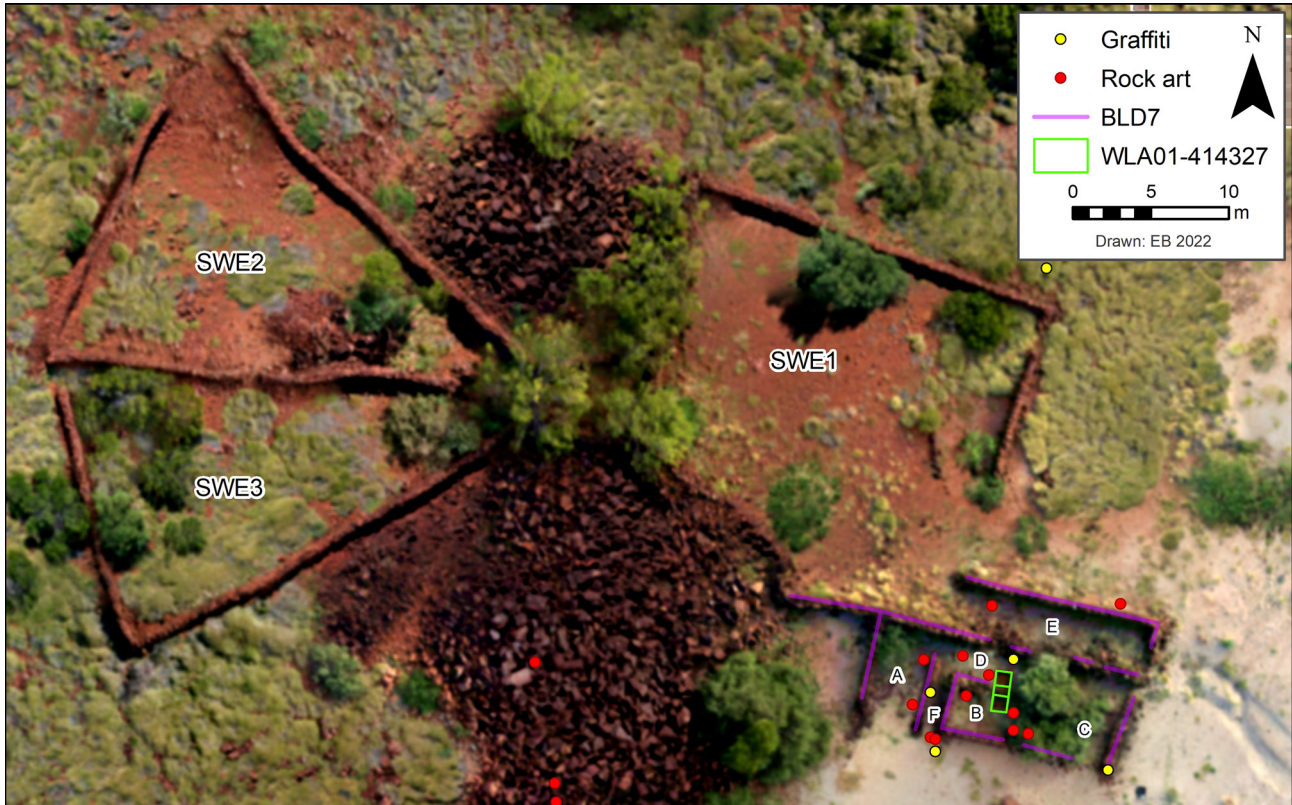


Figure 11.47. Location of BLD7 excavations.

Square WLA01-414327

Excavation square 414327 was located on either side of the base of an internal wall to see whether any difference could be noted between these internal rooms with sandy floors (Figure 11.48).

Architectural and structural artefacts included bolts, nails, screws and wire. No clothing or domestic artefacts were present. Faunal remains included sheep bone, burnt (16 g) and unburnt (103 g); some economic shell (<9 g); and a small amount of charcoal. Olive glass was present. Seven igneous stone flakes and fragments were recovered from XU03. There was no clear difference between these assemblages and room functions.

No traces of roofing were found around Building 7 by McIlroy (1979: 96) or the 2017 survey team. However, it is probable that the areas A–F (Figure 11.49) were covered by corrugated iron sheeting. Building 7 may have served various pastoral functions. Areas A, B, C and F all have cobbled floorings, suggesting areas where people worked with reduced amounts of dust inside the building. Sheep were potentially held within Room E and moved into a

larger paved and enclosed room for shearing (Room C). After being shorn, sheep are likely to have been moved west through Room D and exited the building through Feature F. It is also possible that shorn sheep were moved back into the catching pens with unshorn ones in order to move the shorn sheep into SWE1 for other post-shearing processing (e.g. drenching). This would, however, make it difficult to bring unshorn sheep from the yard into the shed.

The large room to the west (Room A) may have served as a holding area for wool bales, allowing easy loading though a large opening facing the water. Room B also could have had this function as it is a relatively enclosed room on most sides, providing a dry space. Depending on bag/bale size, smaller doors of this room may have made this difficult. It is suggested that Room B may have been a wool sorting area, storage room for equipment or general area shaded by the elements in which to eat at mealtimes.

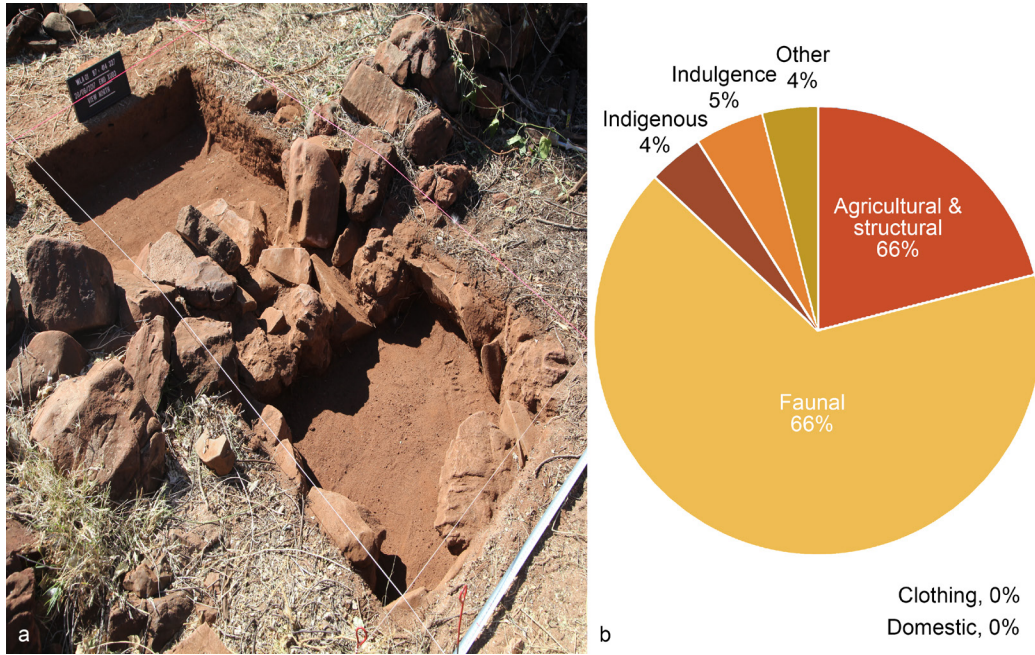


Figure 11.48. Square 414327 (left) at completion of excavation. Graph on the right shows functional categories of collected items.



Figure 11.49. Building 7 associated with the sheepyards: (a) view north into Room A and Feature F; (b) Feature F internal, facing south; (c) Room D and entrance into Room B, view east; and (d) high external Wall 3 of Room E.

SWE1, SWE2 and SWE3 were stockyards, where a range of pastoral processes, such as drafting and separating, could occur. The funnel shape of the south-west corner of SWE1 presents a narrow 'choke point' between two natural rockpiles, which splits the opening into SWE2 and SWE3 (Figure 11.50). This split

of openings is a point where stock could be drafted into separate mobs, allowing the split mobs of sheep to be released to grazings either on West Lewis or on East Lewis across the sandbar at low tide.



Figure 11.50. Yards associated with Building 7: (a) north-west triangular yard (SWE2) looking north towards outer gate; (b) 'choke point' entry into SWE2 from SWE1; and (c) looking east along the wall between yards SWE2 and SWE3.

Graffiti and other rock art

Building 7 has the largest number ($n = 29$) of recorded motifs (Table 11.13). Two of these are on the tops of walls, the remainder are on interior wall surfaces. Eleven of these engravings are geometric (one likely a European pentagram, placed in a doorway), while 16 'other' motifs are either random, multidirectional or directional scratching. There is one figurative motif (a possible dog or sheep) and one ornately scratched set of initials with floral embellishment. The contrast states for most motifs on Building 7 are CS3 and CS4, with only one motif (the quadruped) being clearly recent (CS5). The oldest motif (with CS2) is an Aboriginal production, but again, contrast state does not help define the authorship or chronology here. Four of the five blocks with Aboriginal

motifs have been moved into place within the structure, with motifs already on them; the remaining Aboriginal production could have been produced in place. Five of the seven European productions were clearly created on the blocks within the structure (the other two are uncertain). Eight of the motifs with less conclusive authorship appear to have been produced on the walls of the buildings; the other nine may have been moved from elsewhere (Table 11.15).

Many of the panels also have battering resulting from the construction phase. Scratching is the dominant technique, and there is some deeper incising, which appears to have been produced with wire. There are no pecked motifs here (Figure 11.51).

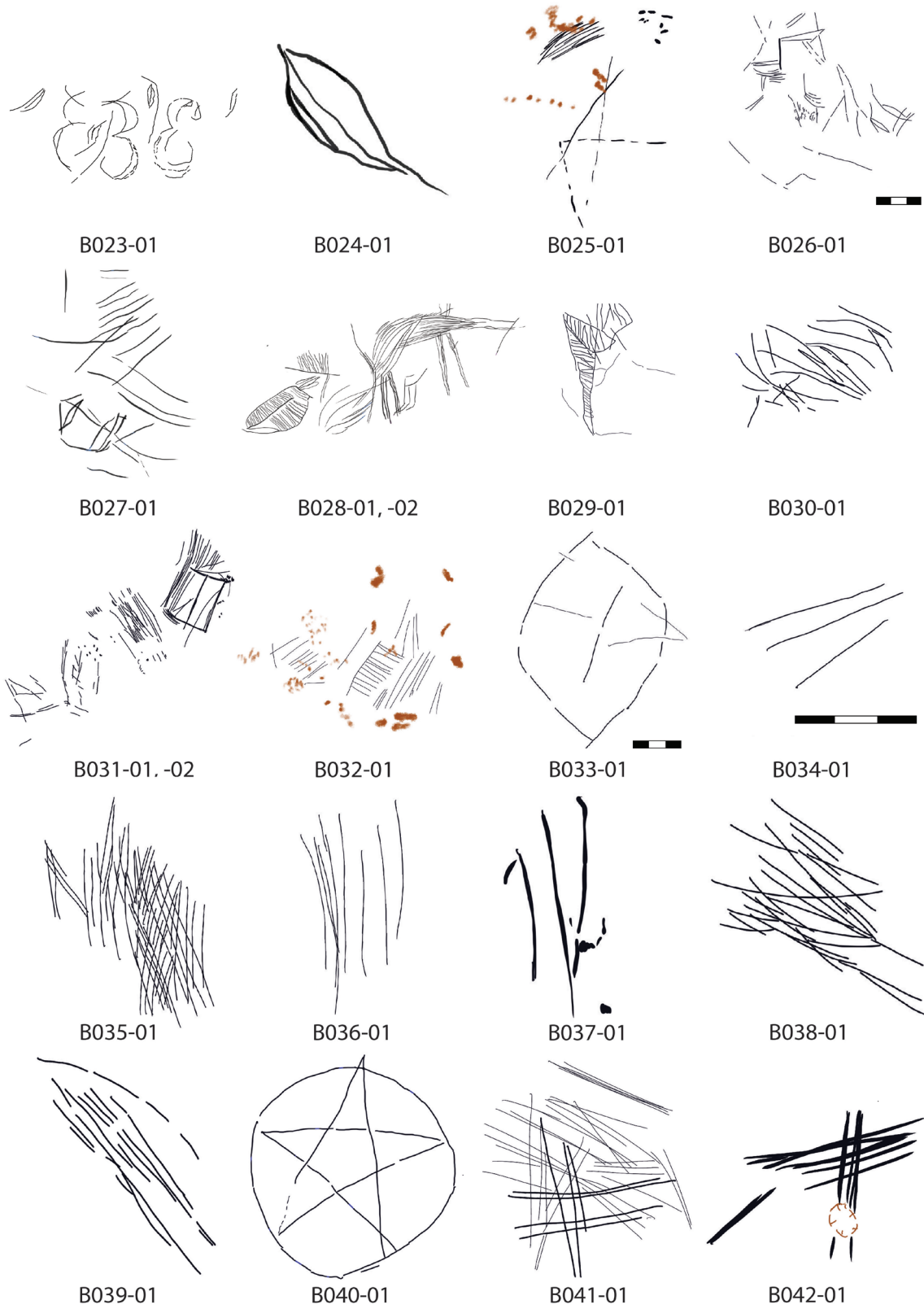


Figure 11.51. Building 7 graffiti and Aboriginal motifs.

MOTIF ID	PLACEMENT	TYPE	CS	LENGTH	WIDTH	TECHNIQUE
WLA01-2017-B023-01	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Alpha	4	7	15	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B024-01	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Geometric	4	3	1	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B025-01	Wall inside, uncertain	Random scratching	4	9	5	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B026-01	Wall inside, uncertain	Random scratching	3	11	9	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B027-01	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Line set	4	7	7	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B028-01	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Figurative	5	10	15	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B028-02	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Geometric	4	9	4	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B029-01	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Geometric	4	5	2	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B030-01	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Random scratching	3	7	7	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B031-01	Wall inside, <i>in situ</i>	Random scratching	3	10	5	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B031-02	Wall inside, uncertain	Geometric	3	5	7	Incised
WLA01-2017-B032-01	Wall inside, uncertain	Geometric	3	4	6	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B033-01	Wall inside, uncertain	Geometric	4	13	10	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B034-01	Wall inside, uncertain	Line set	3	5	2	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B035-01	Wall inside, prior	Line set	4	4	6	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B036-01	Wall inside, uncertain	Directional scratching	3	9	4	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B037-01	Wall inside, uncertain	Line set	3	5	8	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B038-01	Wall inside, prior	Line set	4	7	5	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B039-01	Wall inside, uncertain	Line set	4	6	6	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B040-01	Wall top, <i>in situ</i>	Geometric	5	1.5	1.5	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B041-01	Wall inside, prior	Random scratching	2	3	4	Scratched
WLA01-2017-B042-01	Wall top, uncertain	Line set	4	5	8	Incised

Table 11.13. West Lewis homestead Building 7: recorded motifs (lengths in cm).

CF027 and CF028 surface middens

Site features CF027 and CF028 are surface concentrations of occupational material on the sand dune and beach rock platform between the settlement and the inlet. It is assumed that these relate to camping and may in part reflect previous Aboriginal occupation prior to the development of the pastoral station. High concentrations of artefacts interpreted as representing 'indulgence' activities (Burcham 2019) were found here (Figure 11.52): olive bottle glass fragments are numerous and a clay pipe was also found in CF027. No

clothing items nor 'other' artefacts were found in either area. Domestic artefacts included glass and ceramics – ceramics contributing more to CF028, whereas glass was more common in CF027. Architectural and structural items included ferrous nails, ferrous 'other' and a piece of window glass within CF027. Within CF028, one piece of lead sheeting accounted for 92% of the structural and architectural categories (by weight), with ferrous pieces making up the remainder.

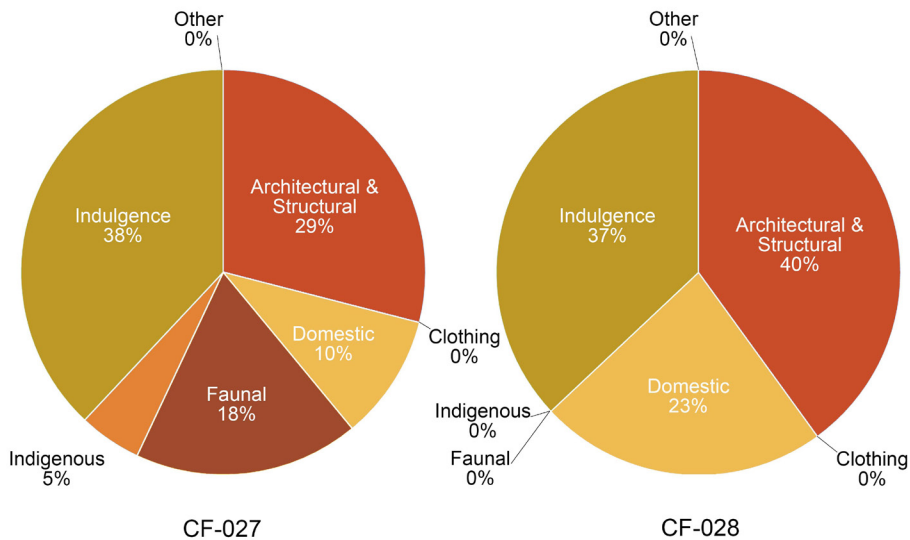


Figure 11.52. Functional categories of material found on the surface in CF027 and CF028.

Large quantities of shell were observed on the surface of this midden on the sand sheets north and south of the settlement buildings (see Figure 11.4 and Figure 11.53). We did not collect or record in detail shell or stone artefacts from CF027 or CF028 during the 2017 fieldwork. The survey of these two features focused on collecting surface historical artefacts (no excavation was done here). Ochre and flaked glass were collected

while shell and stone artefacts were left *in situ*.

CF028 to the north of Building 7 and the stockyards may potentially be a discard area for historical refuse. Indigenous artefacts were not observed amongst the collected material from CF028; however, Aboriginal artefacts may be present under the modern sand sheet's surface.



Figure 11.53. CF027 south of the West Lewis pastoral station building, midden feature showing scattered shell. Scale (10 cm) in foreground beside sheep bone.

Discussion

The West Lewis Island settlement is one of the most significant concentrations of historical archaeological occupation in the Dampier Archipelago, followed by Black Hawk Bay settlement (see Chapter 13) and the whaling station on Malus Island. These settlements all relate to colonial-era industries focused on the islands. Our investigations allow us to make several observations about West Lewis Island, which, combined with the historical record, allow us to interpret the history of this place. The archaeological evidence is consistent with the scant historical record, provided at the start of this chapter, which describes the island as a pastoral settlement with some pearlshers present. The archaeology and the historical sources also suggest that the settlement had a mixed Aboriginal and European population. Both lines of evidence suggest that colonial occupation began here by the late 1870s and continued until the late 1880s / early 1890s. Based on the material culture present, abandonment is assumed to have occurred before the twentieth century.

Furthermore, our analysis suggests that:

1. The archaeological record is consistent with colonial occupation in the latter decades of the nineteenth century, especially when we compare the evidence with other early colonial sheep stations in the Pilbara. The homestead complexes featured a range of different-purpose structures in proximity to each other, with the homestead occupying a central position and tending to be larger. Across the west Pilbara frontier from the 1860s, the construction of stone buildings was a testament to committed settlement, although many of these earlier stations were eventually abandoned for other central locations after several decades of use. In this regard West Lewis Island is like Inthanoona, Old Woodbrook and Springs stations – all inland from Roebourne. As seen at many colonial settlements of this period in the Pilbara (Paterson 2006), the site was well

provisioned with imported goods, bottled liquids including alcohol, tinned meat and other material culture. This, then, was not some isolated outpost, but articulated into the wider colonial world.

2. The archaeological evidence and functional analysis of artefacts from the various buildings reveals how each of the individual buildings was used for a different domestic and pastoral purpose. While our interpretation of the building history agrees largely with that of McIlroy (1979) and Paterson and Souter (2004), we have been able to designate more specific functions through the application of artefact categories and excavation (see Burcham 2019). Building 1 is assumed to have been a homestead/central working building; Building 2 possibly a secure storeroom; buildings 3 and 4 small rooms for residences; Building 5 a cook house; Building 6 an outhouse; and Building 7 the woolsheds. The two middens are assumed to have been in part the focus for Aboriginal activities – prior to and possibly during the historic period.
3. The largest building in the settlement (Building 1) is assumed to have been a homestead. The flagstone floor structure is carefully made and suggests a greater level of attention of detail – comparable to other early Pilbara stations like the original Sherlock Station homestead, which used more decorative stone materials, or Old Woodbrook Station, where the stone for the head station revealed better masonry techniques. It is difficult to determine from the remaining standing walls how Building 1 was designed. It is possible that much of the building used timber framing, a proposal supported by the evidence for posts along the margins of the flagstone floor. If so, it may well have been that a timber structure articulated with other structures within the stone walled area. It may also be possible that Building 1 was used early in the settlement's life and then robbed of building material during the later use of the site, possibly to create the thicker buttressing walls of buildings 2 and 3, following damage by a cyclone. The account in 1882 that, following a cyclone, 'Mr McVean's boat, the *Mary*, was piled up at Lewis Island, and his buildings blown down' (*The West Australian* 1882: 3) provides a likely date for this.
4. As stated above, a significant amount of labour has gone into quarrying and dressing the natural stone blocks, all likely removed from the adjacent outcrop. Several structures reveal high levels of masonry skills: the flagstone floor of Building 1, Building 2, Building 3 and Building 7. It is possible multiple stone masons operated across the colonial frontier in the nineteenth century, and supervised construction work at West Lewis Island.
5. The design of the buildings and stockyards, supported by historical census records and faunal remains, indicate that the primary activity that occurred at this place was sheep pastoralism. The construction of extensive stone yards reflects a sustained pastoral presence on the island – the stone stockyards are equal in size to those at Inthanoona. Historical advertisements state that there were no fences, as the ocean provided a perfect barrier, although small amounts of fencing wire were used in the the stockyards. These sheep would have fed on local grasses across the island. Water for these animals can be found at a number of natural waterhole locations at different places around the island which could have operated as small outstations. An excavated historic well was built on the valley floor near the settlement.
6. The historical accounts indicate the presence of both pastoralists and pearlers at different times. The small quantity of pearl shell recovered from the settlement, is as expected. If luggers deposited pearl shell at this place, it would have been subsequently shipped elsewhere.
7. The historical record shows Aboriginal people at the settlement, as divers, workers and visitors. Aboriginal people in the Pilbara (and from the Kimberley) provided much of the labour for sheep stations as well as diving for pearl shell. The handful of named Aboriginal people listed in historical sources likely underestimates the larger population. The practise of procuring Aboriginal people to contribute to this labour force is recorded in the murder of a Kimberley man on West Lewis Island in 1877, the name of the procurer being recorded on Building 1.
8. The archaeological evidence for Aboriginal people at this settlement includes the extensive rock art assemblage in the vicinity of the pastoral station and surface midden deposits on the adjacent beach areas which have clear evidence for Aboriginal camping and toolmaking activities, including the use of introduced materials (i.e. glass). A Holocene midden was possibly in place prior to the historical settlement, especially given the extensive rock art assemblage located adjacent and upslope of the settlement. However, it is also

likely that the midden continued to be used contemporaneously with the historical settlement. This pattern is seen across the Pilbara, with Aboriginal camps continuing adjacent to the main pastoral settlement (Smith 2008). Further recording and excavation of the midden is required to explore possible diachronic change and to confirm this hypothesis.

9. The two buildings (4 and 5) constructed abutting the natural rock outcrops suggest a different type of habitation. These had sandy floors and no doors. The presence of stone artefacts within these is suggestive of Aboriginal people using these structures during the pastoral occupation period. Also likely, however, is that the buildings were coincidentally constructed above an older camp site.
10. The dry-stone wall construction across the settlement involved the 'dressing' of the local available stone blocks. This has created much debitage, which is hard to distinguish from lithic artefacts made previously by Aboriginal people, using this same material. Further detailed lithic

analysis could further explore the evidence for Aboriginal stone tool manufacture within the built structures, especially given stone artefacts were also identified in squares excavated outside the defined buildings.

11. Evidence of marking behaviours in and around the settlement relate to both the colonial occupants (contemporary with the settlement) and more recent visitors as well as Aboriginal people before and during the settlement. The use of metal implements to create both post-contact and traditional art forms suggests at least some of the figurative and geometric elements of this assemblage were produced by Aboriginal people housed at the settlement during the pastoral period. The historical and mixed-origin elements of the marks made on the buildings demonstrate that numerous rocks with existing engravings were moved into place on the built structures, as well as suggesting that people used the built structures for defined marking behaviours. The broader rock art assemblage is described in detail in Chapter 9.

References

- Anderson, R. 2014. First Port in the Northwest: A Maritime Archaeological Survey of Cossack 25–30 June 2012. Department of Maritime Archaeology Report Series, No. 297. Perth: West Australian Museum.
- Australian Heritage Database. 2022. *West Lewis Island Pastoral Settlement, West Lewis Island via Dampier, WA, Australia*. Australian Government. <http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl>
- Burcham, A. 2019. A 'share in the place': the isolated frontier settlement of West Lewis Island, Dampier Archipelago, Western Australia. Unpublished BA (Hons) thesis, Archaeology and CRAR + M, University of Western Australia.
- Durlacher, J. S. 2013 [1900]. *Landlords of the Iron Shore*. Perth: Hesperian Press.
- Frederick, U. K. 2017. Out of time and place: graffiti and rock art research. *The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology and Anthropology of Rock Art*, eds B. David and I. J. McNiven, pp. 635–654. New York: Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190607357.013.44>
- Frederick, U. and A. Clarke. 2014. Signs of the times: archaeological approaches to historical and contemporary graffiti. *Australian Archaeology* 78: 54–57. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03122417.2014.11681999>
- Landgate. 2022. *WA Now Mosaic (LGATE-320)* [data set]. Accessed via Web Mapping Service <<https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/wa-now-aerial-photography-mosaic>>. All aerial images reproduced by permission of the Western Australian Land Information Authority, Perth.
- McIlroy, J. 1979. *Dampier Archipelago Historic Sites Surveys*. Canberra: Australian Heritage Commission.
- Morris, K. 2000. *Dampier Archipelago Nature Reserves Management Plan 1990–2000*. Management plan no. 18. Perth: Department of Conservation and Land Management. <https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/documents/parks/management-plans/decarchive/dampier_archipelago.pdf>.
- Paterson, A. 2006. Towards a historical archaeology of Western Australia's northwest. *Australasian Historical Archaeology* 24: 99–111. <https://www.asha.org.au/pdf/australasian_historical_archaeology/24_04_Paterson.pdf>
- Paterson, A. and C. Souter. 2004. Cultural Heritage Assessment & Management Proposal for Historical Archaeological Sites – Dampier Archipelago, Western Australia. Karratha: Conservation and Land Management (Karratha).
- Paterson, A. and A. Wilson. 2009. Indigenous perceptions of contact at Inthanoona, northwest Western Australia. *Archaeology in Oceania* 44(S1): 99–111. <https://doi.org/10.1002/j.1834-4453.2009.tb00071.x>
- Smith, S. 2008. Early Pilbara headstations: spatiality and social relations. Honours thesis, Archaeology, University of Western Australia.
- Souter, C., A. Paterson and F. Hook. 2006. The assessment of archaeological sites on Barrow Island and the Dampier Archipelago, Pilbara, Western Australia: a collaborative approach. *Journal of the Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology* 30: 86–93.
- The Herald Western Australian Almanack and Commercial Directory*. 1873–1885. Fremantle: James Pearce.
- The Inquirer and Commercial News*. 1881. 1 June, p. 3.
- The West Australian*. 1882. 7 March, p. 3.
- The West Australian*. 1883. For sale. 5 June, p. 2.
- The West Australian*. 1886. 24 November, p. 3.
- The West Australian*. 1887. 28 December, p. 2.
- The West Australian*. 1934. The cruise of the Silver Gull. Into the Willy-Willy. From our correspondent. 21 March, p. 12.
- The Western Australian Almanack and Directory*. 1880–1889. Perth: Stirling and Son.

First published in 2022 by
UWA Publishing
Crawley, Western Australia 6009
www.uwap.uwa.edu.au
UWAP is an imprint of UWA Publishing,
a division of The University of Western Australia.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**



Centre for
Rock Art Research
+ Management

This book is copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced by any process without written permission. Enquiries should be made to the publisher.

Copyright © 2022

The moral right of the author/s has been asserted and the Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property rights of the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation, as representatives of the Ngarda ngarli are acknowledged.

ISBN: 978-1-76080-245-5
Design by Upside Creative.