

## Guide to sources

*Convict Landscapes: Locating Australia's Convicts, 1788-1868 - Van Diemen's Land*

<https://www.convictlandscapes.com.au/VDL>

### Research

*Conduct record location files* During the Australian Research Council project *Landscapes of Production and Punishment* (DP170103642) we collated thousands of locations as part of our transcription project. When brought together, this provided a good idea of where and when convicts were stationed in the colony. This information was further bolstered by research provided by Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, drawn from the ARC linkage project 'Conviction Politics: Investigating the Convict Roots of Australian Democracy'

*Thompson files*  
*THR* John Thompson was a historian and amateur archaeologist with a deep interest in the convict system. Over decades of tenacious research he located many convict places and collated their histories. John passed-away in 2017, with his extensive archive deposited at the Tasmanian Archives (NS6052)  
Tasmanian Heritage Register

### Primary sources

British Parliamentary Papers

Henry Melville, *Van Diemen's Land*, Hobart Town, Henry Melville, 1833.

James Backhouse, *Extracts from the letters of James Backhouse, Lindfield, Schools of Industry*, 1834.

James Ross, *Statistical View of Van Diemen's Land*, Hobart Town, 1832.

James Ross, *The Hobart Town Almanack for the Year 1829*, Hobart Town, James Ross, 1829.

### Archival sources

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Tasmanian Archives (TA)                | Map series: AF; Frankland, map of Hobart Town, 1839; J Arrowsmith map of Tasmania 1840<br>Plan series: PWD<br>Photo series: PH<br>LSD 266/1/14<br>Correspondence series: CSO 1, WO 55 |
| National Library of Australia<br>Trove | Blue Books of Statistics, 1822-55<br>Online newspaper series  |

### Secondary sources

Alexander, Alison, ed. *Convict Lives at the George Town Female Factory*. Hobart: Convict Women's Press, 2014.

Andrews, Wendy. *Footprints : The People and Places of Early Clarence Plains and Rokeby*. Howrah: Tranmere-Clarence Plains Land & Coastcare Inc, 2008.

Austral Archaeology, *Queens Domain Cultural Heritage Management Plan*, p. 53

Bartlett, A, 'The Launceston female factory', *Tasmanian Historical Research Association*, vol. 41, no. 2, June 1994.

Brand, Ian. *The Convict Probation System: Van Diemen's Land 1839-1854*. Hobart: Blubber Head Press, 1990.

Davis, Graeme R. In *Pioneers' Footsteps : Exploring Deloraine's History and Built Heritage*. Deloraine: Graeme Davis, 2015.

Frost, Lucy, and Alice Meredith Hodgson, eds. *Convict Lives at the Launceston Female Factory*. Hobart: Convict Women's Press, 2013.

Green, Anne, *Places of Management, Mentoring & Medicine in Launceston*, Launceston City Council, 2007;

Harris, S. *A Magnificent Failure: Governor Arthur's Water Supply Scheme for Launceston from the South Esk at Evandale 1835-7*. Hobart: Institution of Engineers, 1988.

Hudspeth, Audrey, and Lindy Scripps. *Capital Port: A History of the Marine Board of Hobart 1858-1997*. Hobart: Hobart Ports Corporation Pty Ltd, 2000.

Lord, Richard. *Impression Bay: Convict Probation Station to Civilian Quarantine Station*. Taroona: Richard Lord and Partners, 1992.

Macfie, Peter. "Dobbers and Cobbers: Informers and Mateship among Convicts, Officials and Settlers on the Grass Tree Hill Road, Richmond, Tasmania." *Tasmanian Historical Research Association* 35 (1988): 112-27.

Macfie, Peter. "Government Sawing Establishments in Van Diemen's Land, 1817-1832." In *Australia's ever-changing forests V: proceedings of the fifth national conference on Australian forest history*. Hobart, 2002.

Newitt, Lyn. *Convicts and Carriageways*. Tasmania: Department of Main Roads, Tasmania, 1988.

Parham, David, and Brett Noble. *Convict Probation Stations Archaeological Survey*. Hobart: Tasmanian Archaeological Society, 1994.

Rigney, Frank L. *A Midlands Odyssey: A Journey through Parts of the Northern Midlands of Tasmania*. Great Newstead: Frank L Rigney, 2008.

Ryland, Alison. *Tasmanian Convict Probation Station Inventory*, Heritage Tasmania, 2003.

Tuffin, Richard. "Australia's Industrious Convicts: An Archaeological Study of Landscapes of Convict Labour " PhD thesis, University of Sydney, 2016.

Williams, Brad. *Oatlands Goal Historical Study & Archaeological Survey*, Southern Midlands Council, May 2004.

#### **Useful websites**

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[www.bagdadbtashistory.com](http://www.bagdadbtashistory.com)

[https://parks.tas.gov.au/Documents/Egg\\_Islands\\_Management\\_Plan\\_2010.pdf](https://parks.tas.gov.au/Documents/Egg_Islands_Management_Plan_2010.pdf)

[www.femaleconvicts.org.au](http://www.femaleconvicts.org.au)

<http://ontheconvicttrail.blogspot.com>

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2020

## Guide to the main fields

Convict Landscapes: Locating Australia's Convicts, 1788-1868 - Van Diemen's Land

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|                           |  |  |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| <i>Place Type</i>         | <i>assignable party</i>  | An assignable party refers to convicts that were eligible for assignment to free settlers, but had been retained by the Government to work at stations or in parties. In the post-1837 rationalisations, these parties became less frequent  |
|                           | <i>bridge station/chain gang/gaol gang/road station/road/bridge station</i>  | These stations are relatively interchangeable and could be combined. However, records do make distinctions between them. The identifier is a guide only, as stations could change, or be made up of different types (such as a road station, with men working on a bridge and with chain gangs [Ross is an example of this]) |
|                           | <i>female factory</i>  | Establishments for the incarceration and forced labour of female convicts  |
|                           | <i>female hiring depot/hiring depot</i>  | These were stations managed by the government (usually Convict Department) where men and women were worked, whilst awaiting hire by free settlers  |
|                           | <i>public works</i>  | Like the type above, <i>public works</i> could be many things - including road works. In this instance, it is being used to refer to works often done under the aegis of the Engineer's department   |
|                           | <i>gaol gang</i>   | Gaols have been excluded from this list of places. However, sometimes gangs, often working in the streets of a town, could be detached from barracks to work. These were known as <i>gaol gangs</i>  |
|                           | <i>House of Correction</i>   | A specific term used for certain establishments  |
|                           | <i>invalid depot</i>   | Convicts too aged or infirm for life in other government parties or stations were often directed to these places   |
|                           | <i>nursery</i>   | An establishment for the infant children of female convicts. Convicts remained in these establishments until the child was weaned  |
|                           | <i>party</i>   | These represent groups of convicts working in particular areas of labours. Records make reference to <i>parties</i> , <i>road parties</i> , <i>gangs</i> interchangeably. Where reference has been made to a physical location (i.e. station) they are referred to as such. Otherwise, they are a party                      |
|                           | <i>penal station/punishment station</i>  | These were places of additional punishment in the colonies, for convicts who continued to offend whilst in assignment/with the Government. During the probation era, penal stations generally are referred to as punishment stations   |
|                           | <i>prisoners' barracks</i>   | Located in urban areas, these were the incarceration and labour hubs, from which convicts were assigned, sent out to other Government stations, or worked in nearby parties  |
|                           | <i>probation station</i>   | The first probation station was built in 1841. These were places where convicts were to be worked, before being allowed to work for free settlers. Probation stations were nearly always run by the Convict Department   |
| <i>Responsible Budget</i> | Similar to <i>Management</i> , this field primarily attempts to capture the economic stimulus behind the convict labour. This is particularly important from 1837, as distinctions begin to be drawn between colonial and British purses |  |
|                           | <i>British</i>   | The Convict Department and Commissariat generally represented the British government in all matters economic. Most places were in some way funded by Britain, particularly prior to 1837   |

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|---|---|
| Where works were deemed to be of benefit to the colony, the Colonial government was generally expected to pay for superintendence and, sometimes, the maintenance of the convicts and their stations                |   |
| Some parties/stations were funded by public subscription (i.e. Long Marsh Dam, Recherche Bay). The <i>Private</i> Convict Department/colonial government always had control, but so too did the private subscribers |   |
| <i>Responsible Agency</i>   | <p>This represents the main department responsible for the management of the party/station/establishment. However, it is difficult to accurately determine for what purpose parties/stations were run and by whom. This is particularly the case for the post-1837 period, when the British Treasury began to draw distinctions between works of colonial and British benefit. Many places also had a mix of staff paid for from both the colonial and British purse. As such, the types of management listed should be considered as indicative only</p> <p><i>Colonial department</i> This only applies to Port Arthur penal station, when it was handed over to colonial administration in 1871</p> <p><i>Convict department</i> This department was overseen by the Principal Superintendent. From 1843 the position became the Comptroller General. The department was primarily responsible for the discipline and maintenance of convicts and, increasingly from 1837, ensuring that British interests (penological and economic) in convict labour were upheld. The Convict Department was responsible for the administration of certain stations/establishments, as well rations and clothing of all sentenced convicts</p> <p><i>Engineer/Public Works department</i> This represents the Colonial Engineer's department, which from 1837 was replaced by the Department of Public Works. Convicts working for this department were often engaged in large civil works</p> <p><i>Ordnance department</i> This represents the Commissariat and, from 1836, the Royal Engineers. These departments were almost wholly using convict labour in the British interest</p> <p><i>Roads and Bridges department</i> This department operated from 1829-47 and was responsible for transport and communication infrastructure. Prior to 1829 it was an offshoot of the Colonial Engineer's department. After 1847 it was under the Department of Public Works.</p> |
| <i>Mapping Accuracy</i>   | <p>The accuracy of the geolocated point:</p> <p><i>Low</i> If the point can only be guessed at (i.e. placed in the vague locality/town of the same name)</p> <p><i>Med</i> If the point is derived from geolocated historic plans of poor accuracy, or derived from surveys which only vaguely locate the place (i.e. a heritage precinct study)</p> <p><i>High</i> If the point is derived from geolocated historic plans of high accuracy, or derived from the archaeological/architectural evidence of the site itself</p>   |
| <i>Roads</i>  | A small amount of research was undertaken to illustrate the expanding road network of Van Diemen's Land. The metadata for this provides the estimated first date the road was constructed, as well as the source from which this information was derived  |
| <i>Historic Plans</i>   | In some instances georeferenced archival plans have been provided as an overlay   |
| <i>Basemaps</i>   | Background mapping information, with options to select a custom-made topographic map and an orthophoto, hillshade, simple complex render from LISTmap Tasmania (CC)   |

## Guide to the metadata

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <i>Identifier Code</i>    | Unique identifier code for the place. This combines a <i>PlaceCode</i> + <i>TypeCode</i> + <i>PhaseCode</i> . A short, two-letter code to represent <i>PlaceCode</i> . A short, two-letter code to |
| <i>Place</i>              | The geographic location of the station/party   |
| <i>Type</i>               | See description above  |
| <i>Responsible Agency</i> | See description above  |
| <i>Responsible Budget</i> | See description above  |
| <i>Start Year</i>         | Earliest known year party/station/establishment is known to have operated  |
| <i>End Year</i>           | Last known year party/station/establishment is known to have operated  |
| <i>Mapping Accuracy</i>   | See description above  |
| <i>Note (Accuracy)</i>    | Notes about how the location was derived, including the reference (historical or archaeological) that was used   |
| <i>Note (Dating)</i>      | Pertinent notes about the place, the way it was located, or its historic evolution   |
| <i>Key references</i>     | Sources utilised to derive the location, type and dates of operation (not general research)  |
| <i>Archival reference</i> | URL for archival plan reference (if available)   |