

*Anything but common:  
why Van Diemen's Land  
never had commons*

Imogen Wegman  
Lecturer in Humanities  
University of Tasmania



And the Right Honourable Viscount Goderich,  
one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State,  
do to give the necessary Directions herein accord-  
ingly.

(Signed)

JAMES BULLER.

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## GOVERNMENT ORDER, No. 10.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Feb. 27, 1828.

No. 1. **I**T having been represented to the Lieu-  
tenant Governor, that instances are  
more and more prevalent, of Trespasses being com-  
mitted on Crown Lands by Sawyers, Shingle Splitters  
and others, and especially in the occupation of such  
Lands by petty Sheep owners, without any authority  
whatever from the Government, and that the same  
thereby frequently become the resort and asylum of  
the worst characters.—The persons so trespassing are  
hereby strictly required and enjoined to cease from  
the Commission of such Offences in future, and that

@imo\_weg

GOVERNMENT

Colonial

**T**HE LIEUTENANT  
Governor  
do hereby direct:

To

William P.

John Harb.

John Reber

Fran



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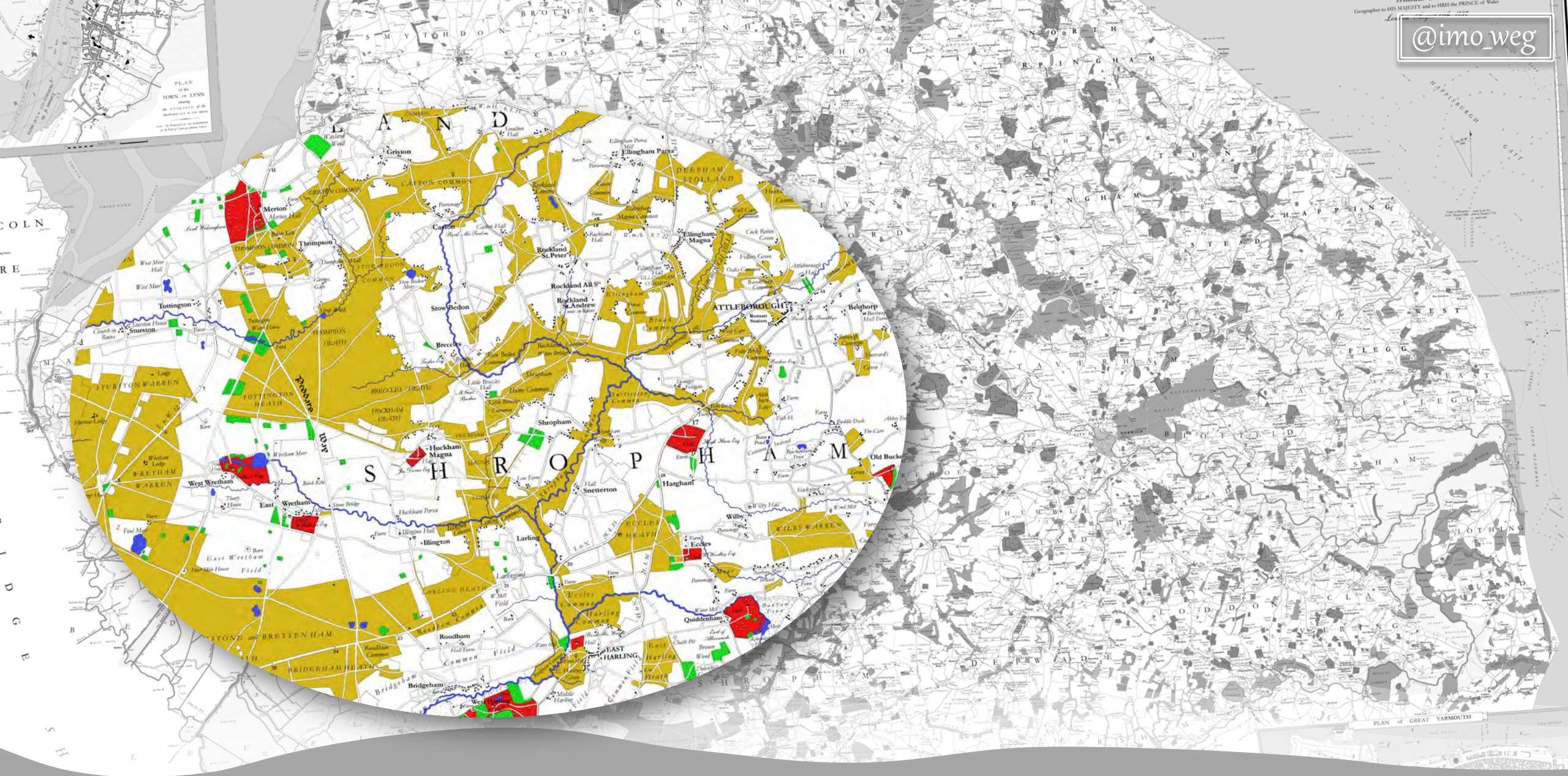
**NOTE.**

THE PUBLIC GARDEN.	The flower beds are shown thus.	
	The Trees	
THE COMMON.	Foreign Trees	
	Native	

MAP  
OF  
**BOSTON  
COMMON**  
AND  
**PUBLIC GARDEN**

PUBLISHED BY  
**GEO. H. WALKER & CO.**  
HARCOURT STREET.

Map of Boston Common and Public Garden



County of Norfolk  
William Faden, 1797 (redrawn by Andrew Macnair, 2005)

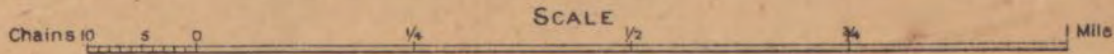


# Asia South

Jean Baptiste Bourguignon d'Anville, 1799, composite by Rumsey Map Collection, 2310054



PLAN OF THE  
**TOWN OF SYDNEY**  
 NEW SOUTH WALES  
 SHEWING COMMON  
 October 1811



Remarks: All that portion of Land bounded on the East side by Walloomseloo Bay, on the North by the River to Sydney Cove including Gov<sup>t</sup> Garden and thence by Gov<sup>t</sup> Phillips Ditch is reserved for use of Gov<sup>t</sup> House and Stock.

Plan of the town of Sydney New South Wales shewing Common

1811, National Library of Australia, 230009455

5th October, 1811.  
 HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR, anxious for  
 the Accommodation of the Inhabitants of  
 Sydney, and in Pursuance of the Intention signified  
 in his General Orders of the 6th of October last,  
 gives this Public Notice, that he has assigned, and  
 caused to be marked out and measured, a large  
 Common in the immediate Vicinity of Sydney,  
 containing One Thousand Acres, for the Common  
 Pasturage of the Cattle belonging to the Inhabitants  
 of Sydney:—The Public are to take Notice,  
 that said Commonage is described by the Act  
 of the Governor in the following Terms, “ Bounded  
 on the North side by twenty-eight Chains of  
 and a south line of one hundred and  
 twenty-eight Chains of

This land being thus assigned for the Use of the Public, no Excuse can be made for Persons in future turning their Cattle at large to seek Food where it may be most easily found, without considering whether they may not Trespass on private Property, and do material Injury to the Gardens and Inclosures of other Persons.

the most conspicuous  
 of.  
 This Land being thus assigned for the Use of the Public, no Excuse can be made for Persons in future turning their Cattle at large to seek Food where it may be most easily found, without considering whether they may not Trespass on private Property, and do material Injury to the Gardens and Inclosures of other Persons; and the Public are therefore cautioned not to permit any Horses, Horned Cattle, Sheep, Goats, or Pigs to stray in future, either upon the Grounds called Hyde Park, or on any private Property belonging to other Persons; as all Cattle which may be here found Trespasing are to be taken up, and put into the Common Pound of Sydney, until all Damage incurred by them shall be fully discharged.  
 His Excellency thus communicates to the Public

5 October 1811, Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser

@imo.weg

NOTICE.—Having sustained repeat  
serious injury from the neighb  
holders trespassing on Captain J  
at Pitt Water, I hereby notify  
all Cattle of any description fr  
Farm will be immediately im  
per or Owners profes  
The

are hereby cautioned  
upon my Farm, situ  
Linkworth's Farm at New  
own or carrying away Tim  
thereon; as any Person  
after the Date hereof w  
every Rigour of the La  
nder. JOSEPH

NOTICE.—All Persons are hereby  
ned not to trespass with their Stock  
wife on my Farm, under the Penalty of  
rigid Prosecution and of impounding all  
found grazing thereon after this Notice; I  
from the many Inconveniences and Losses  
experienced to be as explicit as possible  
that no Misunderstanding should hereaf  
cur the Description from the Deputy Su  
is hereafter inserted.  
"MR. SILVUS GATEHOUSE, 500  
Pitt Water, bounded on the South Si  
m granted to Thomas Colly; on the  
by part of Mr. Humphrey's Farm  
ed North Line of Thirty Chain  
Side by an East Line to the  
on the East Side by the l  
ett's small Farms a

### Proclama

By His Excellency LAC  
QUARRIE, Esquire, Captain  
Governor and Commander in C  
and over His Majesty's Territo  
New South Wales and its Dependenc  
&c. &c. &c.

E.—All Persons are  
against grazing Sheep  
onging to Lieut. FOR  
oint, bounded by Stanfi  
Avery, and Cox's Farm  
trespassing thereon aft  
ounded. D. RA  
m Hobart T

WHEREAS the STOCK PROPRIETORS  
of this Territory and its Dependencies are  
grivously harassed, by having their Cattle  
distrained and impounded for heavy Damages,  
done or alleged to be done to the Crops of cer  
tain Settlers, who will not enclose their Planta  
tions, but too often keep them open for the  
very Purpose of extorting such Damages out of  
the Trespassers of their Neighbour's Cattle.:

And whereas it is incident and necessary to  
the Office of Provost Marshal to make Replevin  
of Cattle and Goods distrained for Trespass,  
or otherwise:

And whereas it would tend very much to the  
Public Good if these Trespasses and Distresses  
were more frequently tried and determined in  
the respective Courts of Judicature of th

the Premises.  
by cautioned again  
ed South Arm, as  
granted to him for  
, Esq. the Propriet  
EDWARD G  
hereby cautio  
Law F



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TASMANIA





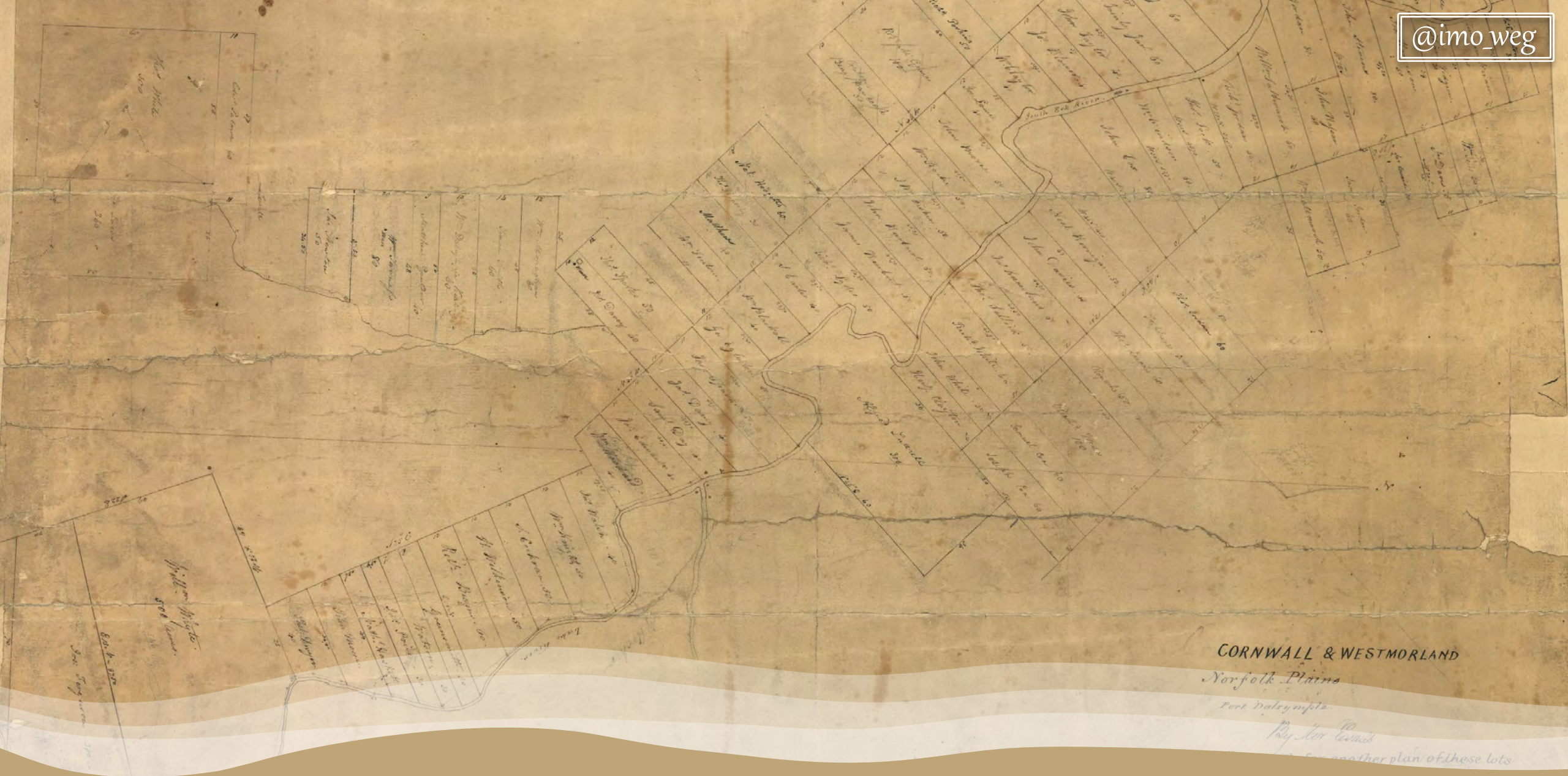
I will not trouble your Lordship with a formal return of the remains of Provisions in His Majesty's Stores, as they are literally next to none.

David Collins to Viscount Castlereagh, 1806



# Colonel Paterson's Garden at Yorkton Port Dalrymple

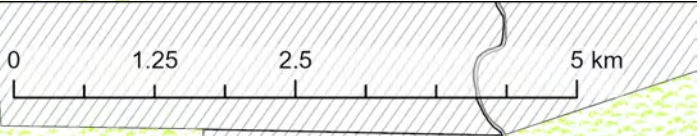
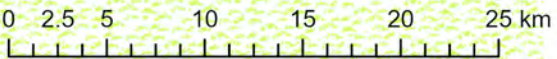
G.P. Harris (?), 1809, State Library of NSW, PXD 388



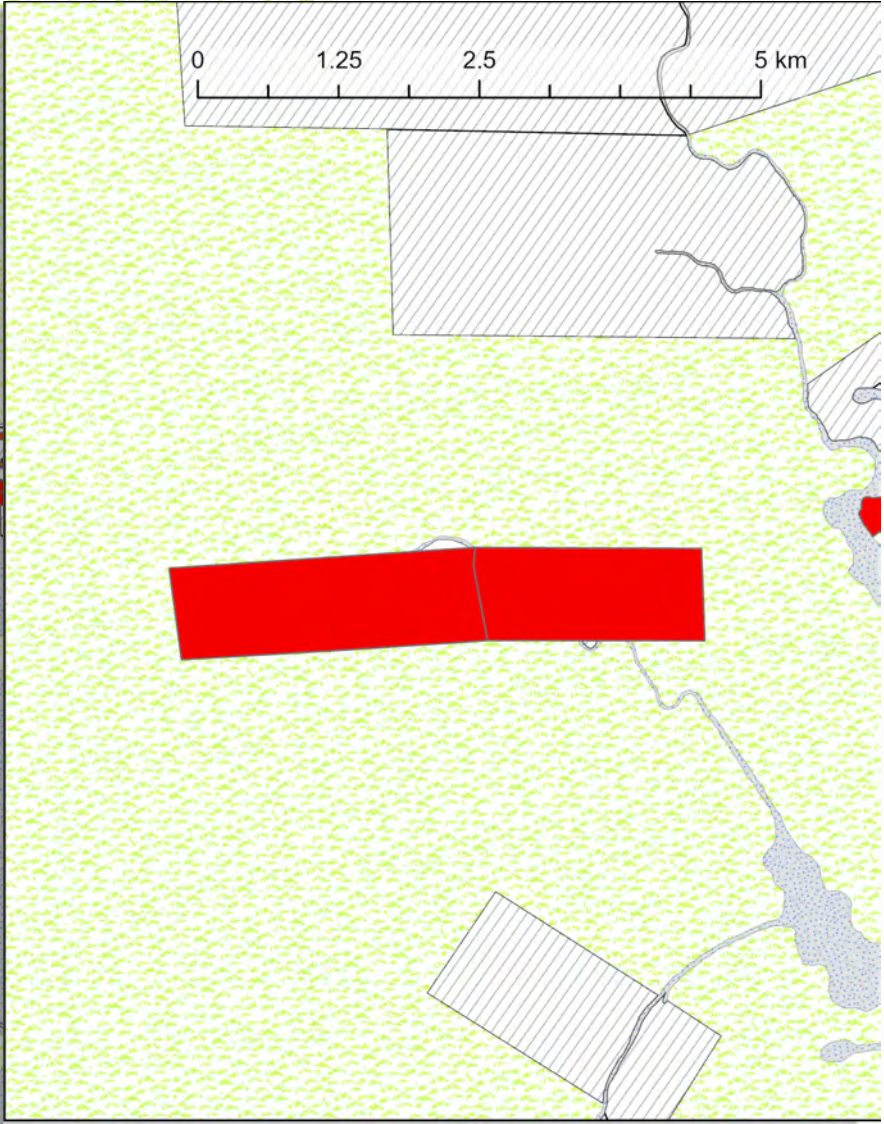
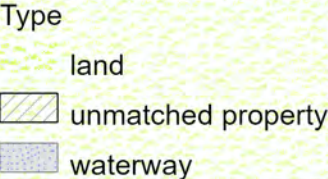
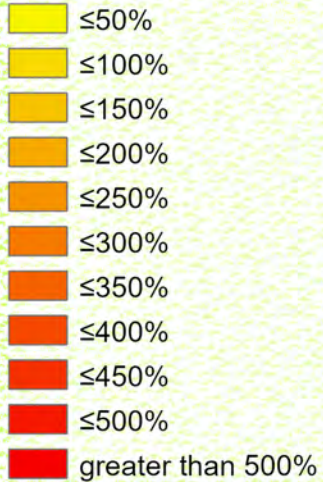
CORNWALL & WESTMORLAND  
 Norfolk Plains  
 Port Dalrymple.  
 By Mr. [unclear]  
 another plan of these lots

# Norfolk Plains

G.W. Evans, 1814, Tasmanian Archives, AF396/1/1325



Sheep stocking level  
(% of available pasture at 5  
sheep/4 acres)



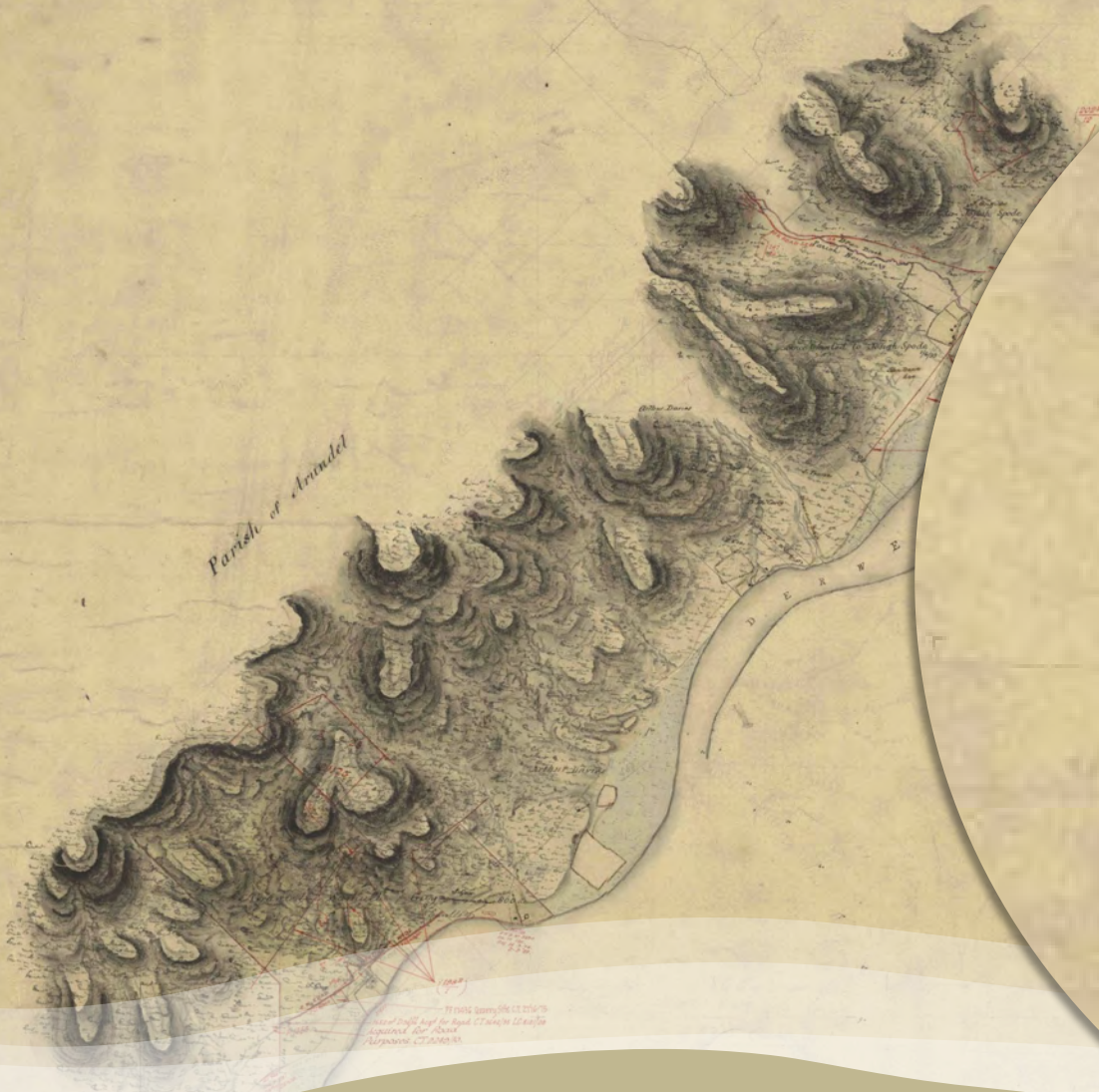
**FENCES**—We have on frequent occasions directed the attention of the colonists to this very important subject, without which, property either in crop or live stock cannot be kept secure. As the law now stands, as far as we know, no man can be compelled by his neighbour to erect a party fence, which in many instances were the expense to devolve on one, would be more than his means could well afford or common equity require him to accomplish; and this too while the indisposed or indolent party would reap an equal advantage from a duty the entire weight of which he would so unjustly throw on the shoulders of his neighbours. It must not be concealed also, that there are many to whom it would be death to be confined within the limits of their own grants, abridging so materially as it would, the advantages they enjoy by the full liberty of grazing upon Crown land or trespassing on that of individuals. There are among such, persons, it cannot be disguised, who have fastened perhaps on fifty or a hundred acres, and who possess either of their own or on the thirds sheep or cattle to the amount of several hundreds. Many settlers are disposed to erect fences, but the timber is in many situations so remote, that they are obliged, owing to the expense, to abandon the undertaking. To such persons, we should recommend a more useful kind of fence, called the

...while the indisposed or indolent party would reap an equal advantage from a duty the entire weight of which he would so unjustly throw on the shoulders of his neighbours...

...there are many to whom it would be death to be confined within the limits of their own grants...



Parish of



# Parishes of Melville and Arundel

W. Sharland, 1830, Tasmanian Archives, AF396/1/250

DIAGRAM OF A GRANT TO  
M<sup>rs</sup> G. B. FORSTER.  
PARISH OF MELVILLE  
MONMOUTH

1. 1. 5  
10. 7. 0  
H. M. the Queen  
L. S. 3788

Scale *inches to an inch*  
1. 5. 5% N.M. the RY  
CON. 44/3262. L.C.

Scale





# Blickling Hall, Norfolk

G. Shephard, 1800-30, British Museum, 1909,0406.37



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*Survey of  
Lawrenny Boundaries  
as found, cut, and fenced,  
March 1827, by*

*Edward D. Dumaesq*

*Note - Surveys join at 83 yd.*

*Scale. 2 Inches to One British Mile.*

*0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90*

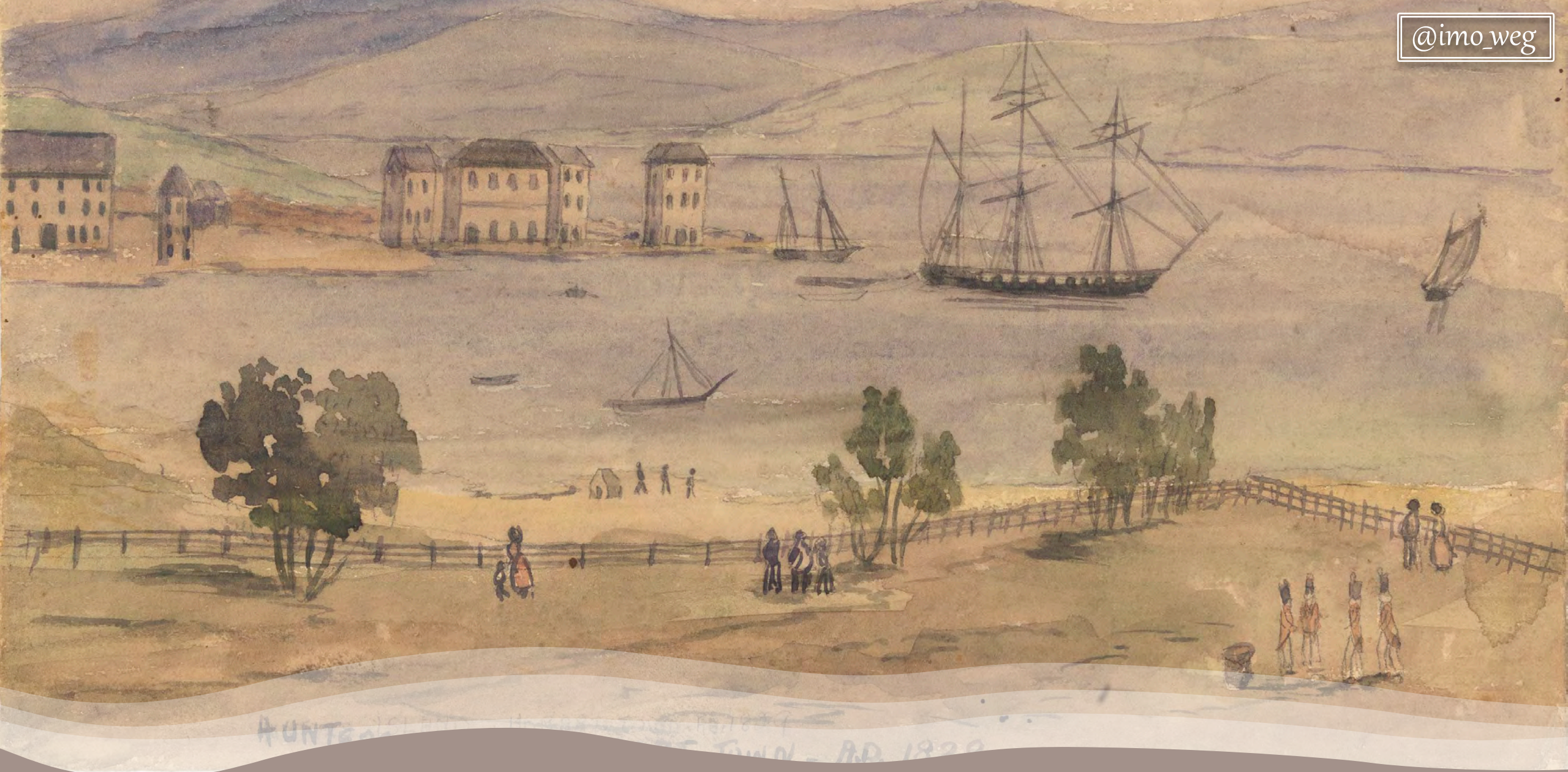
LAWRENNY.

*Kimbobean*

# Survey of Lawrenny boundaries

Edward Dumaesq, 1827, Tasmanian Archives, AF396/1/884





HUNTER'S ISLAND, HOBART TOWN, TASMANIA, 1829

# Hunter's Island, Hobart Town

c.1829, Tasmanian Archives, PH30/1/2377

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why Van Diemen's Land  
never had commons*

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