How to use the map

This webmap is designed to be used on desktop or mobile device. If used on the latter you can use the geolocation feature to locate yourself in the landscape to see what historic features and activities are situated near you.
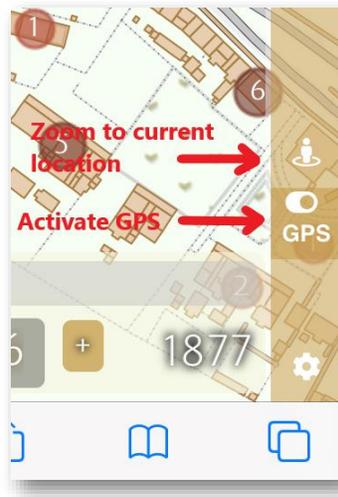
The map works like a Geographic Information System (GIS) in that it uses layers to display information. The layers you have active are shown in the main map window. At the top is a time slider, which you can use to change the map to reflect Port Arthur at any point between 1830 and 1877. If you know the exact date you want, you can click on the date to enter it.

At the right of the screen are the options for changing and searching the map. The top icon allows you to change the layers that are visible: historic features, historic plans and the basemap shown. The historic features allow you to show the location and type of convict offences, building outlines and lines (fences, roads, etc), as well as other activity areas (like cultivated fields and yards). Historic plans allow you to show historic plans from the Tasmanian Archives which have been georeferenced to the map. These are organised by year and can be turned on or off and have their transparency set, allowing you to see them compared to the modern landscape. The basemaps option allows you to chose the type of map you want under the historic mapping. These include a hillshade map (showing the landform in high detail), a topographic map, two variable detail aerial photographs and a vector-based map showing key elements of the modern site.
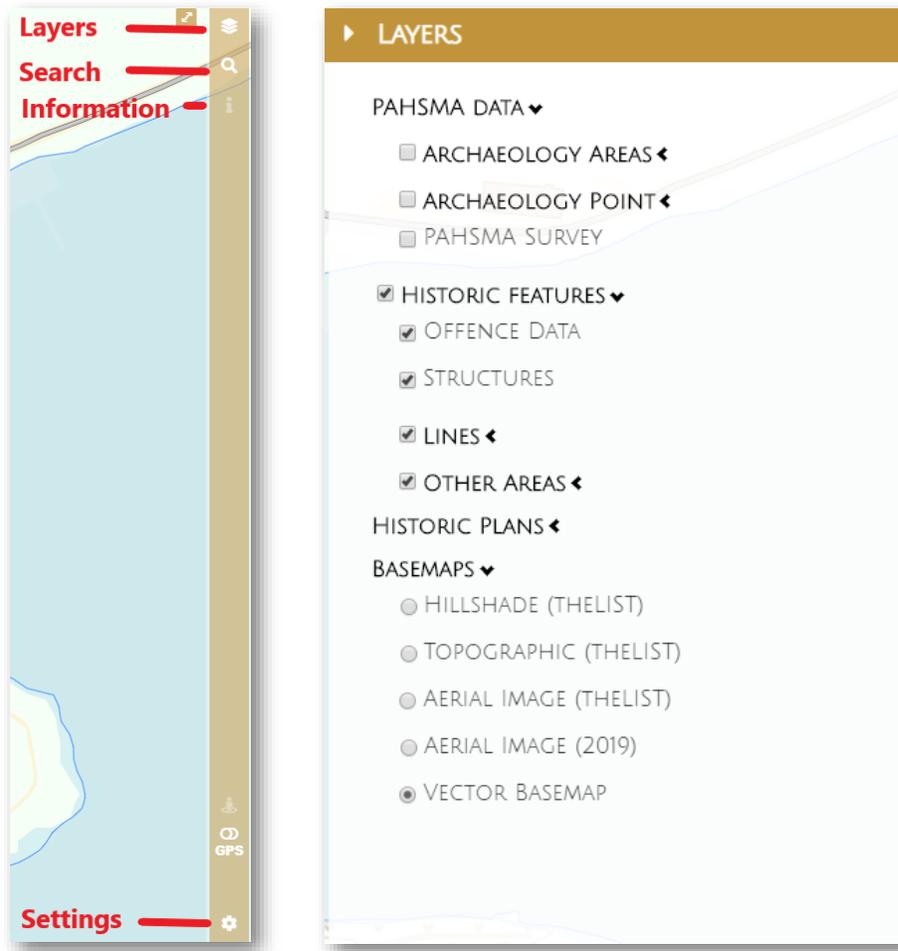
How to view information

All of the offences and buildings can be examined for their basic information, just click or tap on a shape or offence to bring up the information on the right hand side. The offences are displayed as a circle with a number in it, the number corresponding to the amount of offences that occurred in that area in that year. When selected, information about the offence, the person and the punishment will appear. When buildings are selected, the name of the structure, its years of occupation and a short history will appear.

How to use search

You can use the magnifying glass icon to search the map for specific offences, people, punishments, buildings and building functions. Under the offences tab you can filter it by the class and category of the offence to show a list of specific offences. You can also filter by the type of punishment inflicted. If you find an offence you are interested in, you can click or tap 'Show on map' and it will change the map to that year and show you where the offence occurred. Under the buildings tab you can type in the building you are interested in (such as 'Barrack' or 'School') and it will show a list of buildings and their dates. Select the one you are interested in and select 'Show on map' to change the map to that year and be taken to the location. You can also filter the buildings according to their functions.
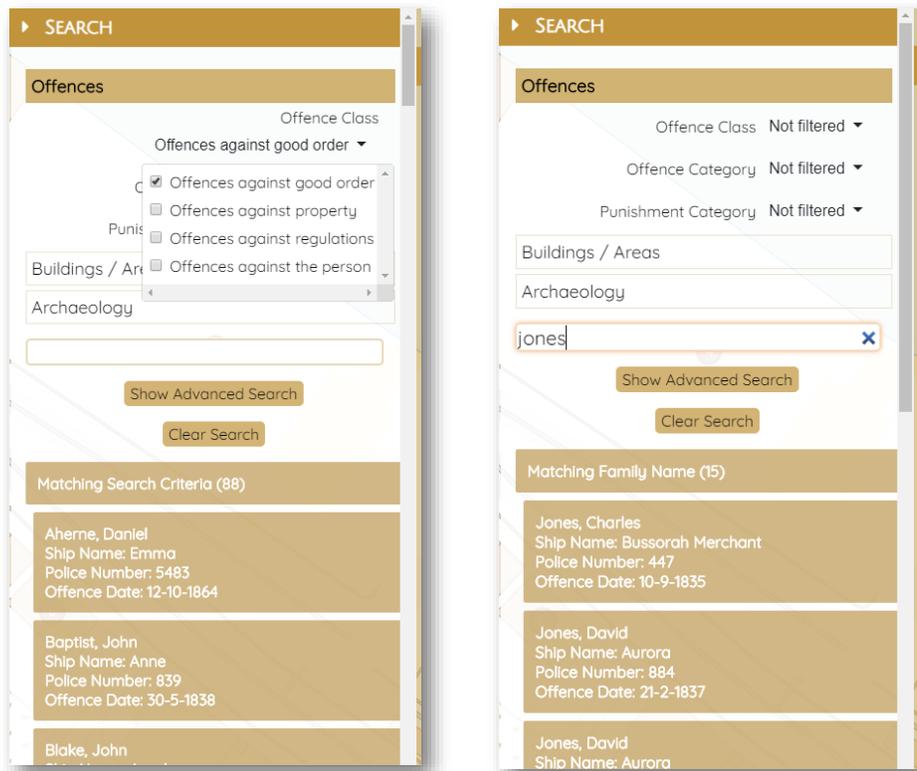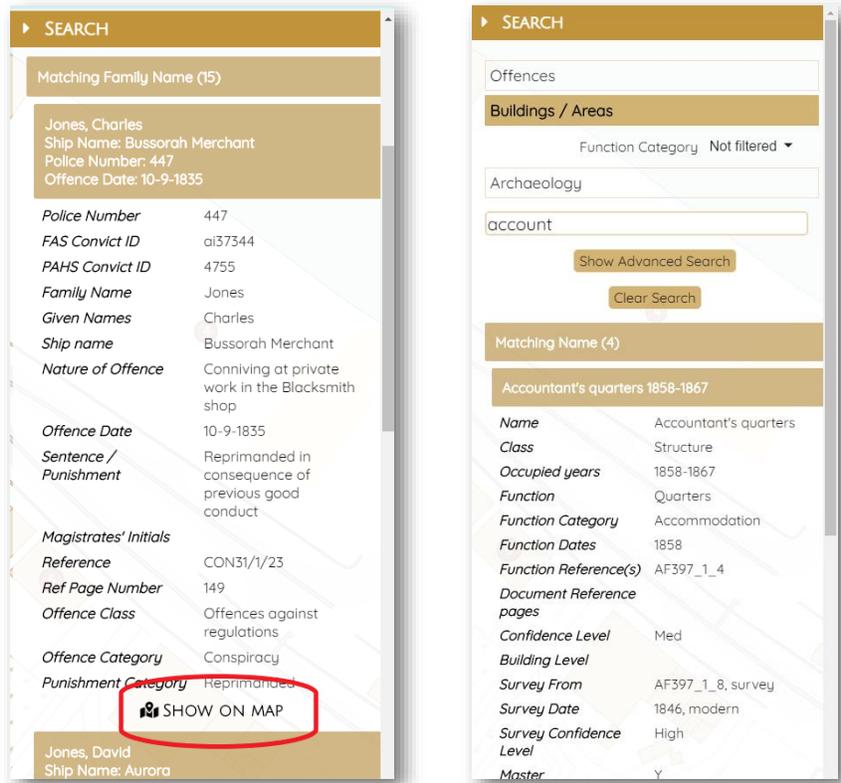
Both offences and buildings searches have an advanced search function. In offences, you can enter the name or police number of the person you are interested in, as well as the place or year/s that an offence occurred. Offences can also be filtered. This allows you to select a range of offences and locations where they occurred.

Note: it is not possible to display all the search results on the map. This is because the mapping shows Port Arthur as it was in a single selected year, meaning that you cannot display results from different years. If you are interested in seeing what offences occurred over a span of years in a certain area you can filter the search and display results individually, or you can simply clear you search query and run the time slider through the full period to see what offences turn up in the area of interest.

If you wish to cite this mapping in your research:

Tuffin, R., Gibbs, M., Roberts, D.A., Maxwell-Stewart, H., Roe, D., Steele., J., Hood, S., Godfrey, B., 2019, *Convict labour landscapes, Port Arthur 1830-1877*, www.convictlandscapes.com.au, DOI: 10.25952/5de58b5512209