

waste, *n.*

Pronunciation: /weɪst/

Forms: ME–16 **wast**, ME **waast**, 15, 17 **waist**, 15 **wayste**, ME–15 *Sc.* **vast(e)**, ME– **waste**.

Etymology: < Old French *wast(e)*, dialect variant of *guast(e)*, *gast(e)*, partly repr. Latin *vāstum*, neuter of *vāstus* WASTE *adj.* (q.v. for the phonology), partly a verbal noun < *waster* (*guaster*, *gaster*) WASTE *v.* Compare Provençal *gast* ravage, waste, Spanish *gasto*, Portuguese *gasto* expense, Italian *guasto* ravage, damage, injury.

In early Middle English the word adopted < Old French took the place of the cognate native WASTE *n.* of the same meaning. In modern English the noun in some senses may be < WASTE *v.*

I. Waste or desert land.

1.

a. Uninhabited (or sparsely inhabited) and uncultivated country; a wild and desolate region, a desert, wilderness. Somewhat *rhetorical*.

c1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 163 *Ac seðen hie henen wenden, atlai þai lond unwend and bicam waste, and was roted oueral and swo bicam wilderness.*

a1400 (þa1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) l. 3072 *Þe barn sco [sc. Hagar] dide drinc o þat wel, In þat wast þan can þai duell.*

a1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 3487 *Þare many daies be dissert he dryfes with his ost,..Be wast & be wildirnes & be watirles bournes.*

c1450 *Erle of Tolous* 451 *From them he wente into a waste.*

c1480 (þa1400) *St. Martha* 21 in W. M. Metcalfe *Legends Saints Sc. Dial.* (1896) I. 285 *In þat vaste scho fand a toвне, þat nov is callit terrascone.*

1713 POPE *Windsor-Forest* 4 *But see the Man who spacious Regions gave A Waste for Beasts, himself deny'd a Grave.*

1718 M. PRIOR *Solomon on Vanity* I, in *Poems Several Occasions* (new ed.) 407 *North beyond Tartary's extended Waste.*

1815 WORDSWORTH *White Doe of Rylstone* v. 81 *Among the wastes of Rylstone Fell.*

1849 C. BRONTË *Shirley* II. xii. 275 *The shadowless and trackless wastes of Zahara.*

1854 J. S. C. ABBOTT *Napoleon* (1855) II. xiii. 221 *Napoleon was now..in an uncultivated country of almost boundless wastes.*

1864 TENNYSON *Aylmer's Field* in *Enoch Arden, etc.* 89 *Is there no prophet but the voice that calls Doom upon kings, or in the waste 'Repent'?*

1871 J. S. BLACKIE *Four Phases Morals* I. 46 *Wandering about in a boggy waste.*

1885 *Athenæum* 23 May 669/1 *A sandy waste, which is scantily clad with herbage.*

b. *transf.* Applied, e.g., to the ocean or other vast expanse of water (often **waste of waters**, **watery waste**), to land covered with snow, and to empty space or untenanted regions of the air.

1552 in A. Feuillerat *Documents Office of Revels Edward VI* (1914) 89 *A place caulled vastum vacuum .i. the*

great waste asmoche to saie as a place voyde or emptie withoute the worlde where is neither fier ayre water nor earth.

- 1655 E. WALLER *Panegyric to Ld. Protector* 41 Lords of the Worlds great Waste, the Ocean, wee Whole Forrests send to Raigne upon the Sea.
- 1667 MILTON *Paradise Lost* II. 1045 Satan..in the emptier waste, resembling Air, Weighs his spread wings.
- 1697 DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Aeneis* VII, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 409 From that dire Deluge, through the wat'ry Waste,..At last escap'd, to Latium we repair.
- 1712 J. ADDISON *Spectator* No. 309. ¶21 In Satan's Voyage through the Chaos there are several Imaginary Persons described, as residing in that immense Waste of Matter.
- 1724 A. RAMSAY *Vision in Ever Green* I. xviii, Millions of myles throch the wyld waste.
- 1727 D. DEFOE *Syst. Magick* I. vi. 163 The utmost Extent of the Waste or Expanche of Space.
- 1728 POPE *Dunciad* III. 80 Where Mæotis sleeps, and hardly flows The freezing Tanais thro' a waste of snows.
- a1771 T. GRAY in T. J. Mathias *Observ. Writings & Character Mr. Gray* (1815) 47 The song-thrush there Scatters his loose notes in the waste of air.
- 1804 T. MOORE *To Marchioness Dowager Donegall* 32 Those pure isles..Which bards of old, with kindly fancy, plac'd For happy spirits in th'Atlantic waste?
- 1804 W. L. BOWLES *Spir. Discov.* 308 Whose volcanic fires A thousand nations view, hung like the moon High in the middle waste of heaven.
- 1818 SCOTT *Heart of Mid-Lothian* xiv, in *Tales of my Landlord* 2nd Ser. IV. 388 As these broad black rain-drops mingle with the waste of waters.
- 1864 D. G. MITCHELL *Seven Stories* 257 A raft is floating upon an ocean waste.
- 1871 L. STEPHEN *Playground of Europe* (1894) iii. 82 Showing their bare faces of precipitous rock across the dreary wastes of snow.
- 1892 M. CREIGHTON *Hist. Ess.* (1902) ix. 266 The waste of waters which spread on the east..was not sea-water.
- 1892 F. P. VERNEY *Verney Mem.* I. 198 The 'great level' round the isle of Ely..was..a waste of water in winter.

c. fig.

- 1815 SCOTT *Lord of Isles* III. xvii. 103 His soul a rock, his heart a waste.
- 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings & Doings* 2nd Ser. I. 151 If she could at any time..have claimed the smallest spot in the 'waste' of George's memory.
- 1836 J. H. NEWMAN *Parochial Serm.* III. xiv. 221 The open inhospitable waste of this world.
- 1841 DICKENS *Old Curiosity Shop* I. xxxvi. 299 Miss Brass..opening the safe, brought from it a dreary waste of cold potatoes, looking as eatable as Stonehenge.
- 1901 *Scotsman* 15 Mar. 7/4 There still stood between the House and its most urgent business a dreary waste of more than a hundred and twenty questions.

2. A piece of land not cultivated or used for any purpose, and producing little or no herbage or wood. In legal use *spec.* a piece of such land not in any man's occupation, but lying common.

In some dialects the ordinary word; otherwise rare in colloquial use.

- 1377 LANGLAND *Piers Plowman* B. Prol. 163 Vncoupled þei wenden Boþe in wareine & in waste where hem leue lyketh.
- 1423 *Cov. Leet Bk.* 46 The Prioures wast in Hasillwod.

- a1500 in J. Raine *Vol. Eng. Misc. N. Counties Eng.* (1890) 58 It was graunted to the for sayd Burgeses a wast of ather syde of the town.
- 1580 in J. P. Earwaker *Lancs. & Cheshire Wills* (1884) I. 72 With th' appurtennes of and all and singular the said Mannors..moores, mosses, wasts [etc.].
- 1582 in W. Greenwell *Wills & Inventories Registry Durham* (1860) II. 54 My house I dwell in,..and the waist adjoyninge upon the same.
- 1600 in F. Collins *Wills & Admin. Knaresborough Court Rolls* (1902) I. 222 One waist with two cottages thereupon builded.
- 1662 in Horsfield *Hist. Lewes* (1824) I. 179 Times for the putting the tenants cattle into the common pastures, wastes, and commons of the manor.
- 1727 E. LAURENCE *Duty of Steward* 59 That they do not encroach upon the Lord's Waste, by digging Stone, Sand, &c.
- 1786 J. ROBERTS *Life* 60 [He was] permitted to keep six or seven cows upon the waste.
- 1799 A. YOUNG *Gen. View Agric. County Lincoln* 147 At Leak and Wrangle there are some wastes, which the cottagers sometimes take in, and cultivate potatoes.
- 1820 STARKIE *Rep. Cases N.P.* II. 464 It was contended on his part, that the *locus in quo* belonged to Lady Smith in right of her manor, as being part of the wastes of that manor.
- 1828 R. V. BARNEWALL & C. CRESSWELL *Rep. Cases King's Bench* VII. 305 It was contended, that as the adjoining land belonged to Roberts, the primâ facie presumption was that the waste between his land and the high road belonged also to him.
- 1864 TENNYSON *Northern Farmer: Old Style* vii, An' I a' stubb'd Thurnaby waäste.
- 1864 TENNYSON *Northern Farmer: Old Style* x, Dubbut looök at the waäste; theer warn't nor feeäd for a cow; Nowt at all but bracken an' fuzz.
- 1864 TENNYSON *Enoch Arden* 729 Behind, With one small gate that open'd on the waste, Flourish'd a little garden.

†3. A devastated region. *Obs.*

- 1611 *Bible (King James)* Isa. lxi. 4 They shall build the olde wastes, they shall raise vp the former desolations.
- 1697 DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Aeneis* x, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 515 All the leafie Nation sinks at last; And Vulcan rides in Triumph o're the Wast.

4. *Coal Mining.* A disused working; a part of a mine from which the coal has been extracted.

- 1695 *Reg. St. Andrew's Church Newcastle* 24 Apr. in J. Brand *Hist. & Antiq. Newcastle* (1789) II. 501 [Two men] were drowned in a coal-pitt..by the breaking in of water from an old waste.
- 1708 J. C. *Compl. Collier* 10 in T. Nourse *Mistery of Husbandry Discover'd* (ed. 3) There is this and that Invention found out to draw out all great old Waists, or Drowned Collieries.
- 1774 *Ann. Reg. 1773* 151 The foul air in an old waste of a colliery..took fire, and breaking down the barrier..between the waste and the working pit, made the most terrible explosions.
- 1839 A. URE *Dict. Arts* 990 In collieries which..have goaves, creeps, or crushed wastes, the disengagement of the fire-damp from these recesses is much influenced by the state of atmospheric pressure.
- 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 64/2 The space from which the entire quantity of coal has been removed is known in different districts as the 'goaf', 'gob', or 'waste'.
- 1911 *Act 1 & 2 Geo. V* c. 50 § 52 (2) Props shall not be withdrawn from the waste or goaf..otherwise than by

means of a safety contrivance.

transf.

1812 J. WILSON *Gen. View Agric. Renfrewshire* 26 The extent of excavation or waste, in these mines [the alum mines of Hurler, Renfrews.] is about 1½ mile in length, and the greatest breadth about ¾ of a mile.

II. Action or process of wasting.

5.

a. Useless expenditure or consumption, squandering (of money, goods, time, effort, etc.).

1297 R. *Gloucester's Chron.* (Rolls) 7725 Pulke festes he wolde holde so nobliche Wiþ so gret prute & wast & so richeliche þat [etc.].

13.. *Cursor M.* (Gött.) 252 And till þaim speke i alþermast þat ledis þair liues in mekil wast.

1303 R. MANNYNG *Handlyng Synne* 7261 Rere sopers yn pryuyte, With glotonye, echone þey be; And þyr ys moche waste ynne, And gadryng of ouþer synne.

c1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 15 Þou3 þei hem self han neuere so muche wast of mete and drynk.

c1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 60 For a3enst cristis wilful pouert þei techen in dede worldly coueitise & moche wast in worldly goodis.

c1386 CHAUCER *Parson's Tale* ¶813 Men oughten eschue fool largesse that men clepen wast.

1411–12 T. HOCCLEVE *De Regimine Principum* 521 Now wold god þe waast of cloth & pryde Y-put were in exyl perpetuel.

c1450 J. CAPGRAVE *Life St. Augustine* 47 Grete wast was not in his hous of sotil metes.

1526 W. BONDE *Pylgrimage of Perfection* III. sig. MMMviii, They consumeth superfluously and spendeth in waste, in one day, the goodes that wolde suffice and serue for their necessite, many dayes.

?1533 G. DU WES *Introductorie for to lerne Frenche* sig. Ci, Waste, *prodigalité*.

1600 SHAKESPEARE *Henry IV, Pt. 2* I. ii. 142 Your meanes are very slender, and your waste is great.

1613 S. PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* 218 They may not bury the corps in silke or needle-worke..for this were waste, and a worke of the Gentiles.

a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Twelfth Night* (1623) III. i. 129 *Clocke strikes*. The clocke vpbraides me with the waste of time.

1673 MILTON *Sonnets* xii, in *Poems* (new ed.) 57 For all this wast of wealth, and loss of blood.

1697 DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Æneis* x, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 536 Why these insulting Words, this waste of Breath, To Souls undaunted, and secure of Death?

1812 H. SMITH & J. SMITH *Rejected Addr.* 14 Your debts mount high—ye plunge in deeper waste.

1851 C. KINGSLEY *Yeast* xiii. 258 Everywhere waste! Waste of manure, waste of land, waste of muscle, waste of brain, waste of population—and we call ourselves the workshop of the world!

1853 DICKENS *Bleak House* lvii. 546 All this was done with the greatest dispatch, and without the waste of a moment.

1881 T. H. HUXLEY *Sci. & Culture* 246 The maxim that metaphysical inquiries are barren of result, and that the serious occupation of the mind with them is a mere waste of time and labour.

Proverb.

1546 J. HEYWOOD *Dialogue Prouerbes Eng. Tongue* I. ii. sig. Aiii, Haste maketh waste.

a1591 H. SMITH *Rebellion Ionah* in *6 Serm.* (1594) 99 It is good that men looke before they leape, hast makes wast.

1656 R. SANDERSON *20 Serm.* 270 But haste maketh waste, we say.

1736 N. BAILEY et al. *Dict. Britannicum* (ed. 2) at *Waste*, Wilful Waste makes woful Want.

1877 R. W. RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 347 Since there has been less haste there has been less waste.

b. Phrases, *to make*, *†do waste*, to be wasteful.

1390 J. GOWER *Confessio Amantis* II. 139, I bidde noght that thou do wast, Bot hold largesce in his mesure.

c1475 *Lytylle Childrenes Lytil Bk.* (Egerton 1995) in *Babees Bk.* (2002) i. 20 Loke þou doo noo waste.

1481 CAXTON tr. *Siege & Conqueste Jerusalem* (1893) xciii. 144 But they made grete waast & more than neded, & so by their oultrage & folye they lacked in short tyme.

1854 C. PATMORE *Betrothal* in *Angel in House* 138 Long lease of his low mind befall The man who, in his wilful gust, Makes waste for one, to others all Discourteous, frigid, and unjust!

†c. (words of) waste: useless talk. Obs.

?a1475 (‡?a1425) tr. R. Higden *Polychron.* (Harl.) (1879) VII. 187 The erle perceyvynge that he hade spoken wordes of waste [L. *se superflua dixisse*].

a1500 (‡a1460) *Towneley Plays* (1994) I. ii. 16 Yei, yei, thou iangyls waste!

c1540 (‡?a1400) *Destr. Troy* 2547 Why fader..are yo so fer troublet At his wordys of waste, & his wit febill?

†d. Wasted labour. Obs.

c1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 2908 Thei armed hem with mochel haste; But sekirly it was but waste, For thei of Troye were mo than thai,..And sclow hem foule, when thei were met.

c1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 6672 Folow noo ferthir, for it is waste.

†e. in waste, in vain, to no purpose. Obs.

1340–70 *Alisaunder* 905 But all his werk was in waste.

1390 J. GOWER *Confessio Amantis* I. 82 He spilleth many a word in wast That schal with such a poeple trete.

‡c1449 R. PECOCK *Repressor* (1860) 21 He presupposith tho gouernauncis, vertues, and trouthis to be bifore knowen of tho same men, and ellis in waast he schulde so speke to tho men of hem not bifore knowen.

c1460 (‡?c1400) *Tale of Beryn* (1887) l. 1232 Beryn..Axid aftir clothis; but it was al in wast.

c1480 (‡a1400) *St. Lucy* 280 in W. M. Metcalfe *Legends Saints Sc. Dial.* (1896) II. 395 Bot al ves in wast þai wrocht.

1488 (‡c1478) HARY *Actis & Deidis Schir William Wallace* (Adv.) (1968–9) vi. l. 920 Than Wallace said, ‘In waist is that trawaill’.

1513 G. DOUGLAS tr. Virgil *Aeneid* v. viii. 24 Ther hardy Kempis all in waist let draw, Athir at vthir, mony rowtis gret.

1553 J. BRENDE tr. Q. Curtius Rufus *Hist.* ix. f. 185, Me thinkes I..go about in waste to sturre vp your vnwilling and vnmoueable myndes.

a1556 N. UDALL *Ralph Roister Doister* (?1566) iv. v. sig. G.j^v, While my life shall last, For my friende Goodlucks sake ye shall not sende in wast.

1556 T. HOBY tr. B. Castiglione *Courtyer* Transl. Epist. A ij, Whatsoever I shoulde write therein, were but labour in waste.

1569 R. GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 681 He thought to spende no lenger tyme in waste.

1590 SPENSER *Faerie Queene* III. x. sig. Mm2^v, [She] Laught at his foolish labour spent in waste.

[1725 I. WATTS *Logick* I. vi. §3 So foolish and lavish are we, that too often we use some words in mere waste, and have no ideas for them.]

f. A profusion, lavish abundance of something.

1725 W. BROOME in Pope et al. tr. Homer *Odyssey* II. vi. 356 And there the garden yields a waste of flow'rs.

1831 SCOTT *Count Robert* iii, in *Tales of my Landlord* 4th Ser. I. 92 Cooling the fragrant breeze which breathed from the flowers and shrubs, that were so disposed as to send a waste of sweets around.

1855 TENNYSON *Brook* in *Maud & Other Poems* 111 Poor Philip, of all his lavish waste of words Remains the lean P. W. on his tomb.

g. An instance or example of wasting.

1612 BACON *Ess.* (new ed.) 73 Prefaces, and passages, and excusations, and other speeches of reference to the person, are great wastes of time.

a1657 W. HIGFORD *Instit.* (1658) 6 Use Parsimony betimes before a wast be made, for Seneca tells you, *Sera est in fundo Parsimonia.*

a1657 W. HIGFORD *Instit.* (1658) 9 Riches may be well compared unto Cisternes or Pooles, which a small stream will easily fill, if there be no leaks or wasts, but small wasts and expences continuing, and not prevented, have decieved [*sic*], and undone many.

1658 R. ALLESTREE *Whole Duty of Man* viii. §12. 187 This is a waste of that which is much more precious, our time.

1780 *Mirror* No. 79. ¶1 But to win them by offices of kindness, or attach them by real services, they consider as a fruitless waste of time.

1867 C. DILKE in S. Gwynn & G. M. Tuckwell *Life Sir C. W. Dilke* (1917) I. vii. 76 You think it a waste of money for me to contest Chelsea.

1909 *Daily Chron.* 4 Mar. 7/5 The economical woman..keeps a close watch for the small wastes that eat up more principal than the big purchases.

1920 G. K. CHESTERTON *Uses of Diversity* 54 He is somewhat anticlerical; which seems a waste of talent in a country where there is no clericalism.

6.

a. Destruction or devastation caused by war, floods, conflagrations, etc.

Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1560 J. DAUS tr. J. Sleidane *Commentaries* f. ccccxxxiiij^v, He would doubtlesse haue made an horrible destruction and waste through oute all Germany.

1601 P. HOLLAND tr. Pliny *Hist. World* I. vi. xxix. 145 It was the Ægyptians warres and not the Romanes that gave the wast to Æthyopia. [L. *Nec tamen arma Romana ibi solitudinem fecerunt.*]

a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Henry V* (1623) III. iii. 101 What is it then to me, if impious Warre..Doe..all fell feats, Enlynckt to wast and desolation?

1657 R. AUSTEN *Treat. Frvit-trees* (ed. 2) Ep. Ded. sig. a3, There having been..so great a wast, and destruction of Wood.

- 1768–74 A. TUCKER *Light of Nature* (1834) II. 304 Were charity..to be the prevailing humour in the world, it would..turn industry into its proper channel, where it would not overflow to make waste and do mischief, nor be lost among the barren sands of whimsy.
- 1855 T. B. MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* IV. xviii. 223 In three years they had committed such waste on their native land as thirty years of English intelligence and industry would scarcely repair.
- 1864 TENNYSON *Aylmer's Field* in *Enoch Arden, etc.* 84 When since had flood, fire, earthquake, thunder, wrought Such waste and havock as the idolatries Which [etc.].

†**b. pl.** Ravages. *Obs.*

- 1615 G. SANDYS *Relation of Journey* IV. 242 This City doth welnigh ioyne to the skirts of Ætna... The eiected flames haue heretofore committed horrible wastes.
- 1736 I. H. BROWNE *Pipe of Tobacco* 30 While Wastes of War deform the teeming Coast.
- 1738 J. WESLEY *Psalms* CIV. vii, Pleas'd with the Work of thy own Hands, Thou dost the Wastes of Time repair.

†**c. concr.** Something wasted or destroyed. *Obs.*

- 1609 SHAKESPEARE *Sonnets* xii. sig. B3^v, Then of thy beauty do I question make That thou among the wastes of time must goe.
- 1640 J. SUCKLING *Discont. Col.* III. (1642) E 4, Shal..This pretious Loveliness, Passe with other common things Among the wastes of time?

7. Law. ‘Any unauthorized act of a tenant for a freehold estate not of inheritance, or for any lesser interest, which tends to the destruction of the tenement, or otherwise to the injury of the inheritance’ (Pollock, *Law of Torts*, 1887, p. 285). **writ of waste** (= Anglo-Norman *bref de wast*), a writ commanding the sheriff to inhibit a tenant from an act of waste. *year, day, and waste*: see *year, day, and waste* at YEAR *n.*¹ Phrases 5b(b). *impeachment of waste*: see IMPEACHMENT *n.* 4b.

For examples of Anglo-Norman *wast* in this use see *Rolls of Parl.* I. 9/1 (1278), II. 40/1 (1330), II. 170/2 (1347).

- 1414 *Rolls of Parl.* IV. 60/2 Moreover, to enqueren what wast was made in the Kynges Maners, fro the tyme of Kyng John.. into that day.
- c1450 *Godstow Reg.* 317 Hit shold not be lawfull to the same sir william..to cast downe ony treys, noþere to make wast, sellyng or distroiyng, with~in the terme abouesaid, but for housebote.
- c1475–80 in *Oxf. Stud. Soc. & Legal Hist.* (1914) IV. 225 In an accon of waste suyd..before the kinges Justices..for brennyng of a water Mill.
- 1503–4 *Act 19 Hen. VII* c. 33 Preamble, The said Dame Cicile shuld not be therof impeched of Wast.
- 1544 tr. T. Littleton *Tenures* (new ed.) vii. 15 In such case yf the lesse make wast, y^e lessour shal haue agaynst hym a wryt of Wast.
- 1628 E. COKE *1st Pt. Inst. Lawes Eng.* I. 53 There be two kinds of Wasts, viz. Voluntarie or actuall, and permissiue.
- 1651 N. BACON *Contin. Hist. Disc. Govt.* 13 The King..leaves the noble Crown of England in the base condition of a Farme, subject to strip and waste by mean men; and crosses the Irish Seas, with an Army.

- 1651 tr. J. Kitchin *Jurisdictions* (1653) 331 If a house be uncovered by suddaine tempest, it is not waste, but if the Lessee suffer that to be uncovered, that the Timber rot, it is waste.
- 1771 *Ann. Reg. 1770* 173 Having caused a man to be apprehended who had committed waste on the estate of the earl of Donnegal.
- a1832 A. POLSON *Law in Encycl. Metrop.* II. 828/1 The principal incidents to a tenancy in estate tail are, (1) the right of the tenant to commit what is called *waste* .
- 1863 H. COX *Inst. Eng. Govt.* II. viii. 500 Such injunctions include those against waste where a person having only a limited interest in an estate in his occupation, threatens to wastefully cut down timber, or otherwise injure the freehold.

fig.

- 1679 J. OWEN *Χριστολογία* xvii. 283 Yet the whole inheritance..is eternally secured for us, and we are..preserved from such offences against the supream Lord, or committing any such wasts, as should cast us out of our possession.

8.

a. The consumption or using up of material, resources, time, etc. *Obs.* as distinct from 5.

- 1569 R. GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 751 He had long maintayned the siege to no small wast and consumyng of hys brothers treasure and riches.
- 1597 R. HOOKER *Of Lawes Eccl. Politie* v. lxii. 143 Euill ministers of good things are as torches, a light to others, a wast to none but themselues only.
- 1608 SHAKESPEARE *King Lear* vi. 100 Tis they haue put him on the old mans death, To haue these and wast of this his reuenues.

†**b.** The consumption (of candles, etc.) at a funeral or obit. *Obs.*

- 1477–9 in H. Littlehales *Medieval Rec. London City Church* (1905) 78 For the wast of ij tapres at Caustons obite, iiij d.
- 1506 in J. L. Glasscock *Rec. St. Michael's, Bishop's Stortford* (1882) 31 Rec. of Thomas Whepyll for the waste of torches at his wife's burieng, iiij d.
- 1555 in J. Nichols *Illustr. Antient Times Eng.* (1797) 141 For wast of the paskall and for holye yoyle, 5^s 10^d.
- 1556–7 in *Archæol. Jrnl.* (1886) 43 175 Paide to the chandler for waste of ye waxe, viij^d.

9.

a. Gradual loss or diminution from use, wear and tear, decay or natural process. Now somewhat *rare*.

- 1497 in M. Oppenheim *Naval Accts. & Inventories Henry VII* (1896) 300 Deliverances employentes perusynges losse & wast of the Stuff takle Store & other the premisses.
- 1514–15 *Act 6 Hen. VIII* c. 9 §1 The Carder and Spynner to delyver agayn to the same clothier yerne of the same Wolle by the same..true..weight the wast therof exceptid.
- 1551 J. WILLIAMS *Acct. Monastic Treasures* (1836) 7 Allowaunce..for the waste of souche plate as was..delyuerde..vnto thofficers of his housholde to be daylye vsed.

- 1609 SHAKESPEARE *Sonnets* ix. sig. B2^v, But beauties waste hath in the world an end.
- 1626 BACON *Sylua Syluarum* §218 Thinne Aire is better pierced; but Thicke Aire preserueth the Sound better from Wast.
- 1677 W. BADCOCK *Touch-stone Gold & Silver Wares* 3 Silver is a Mineral..that will endure melting for a long time in extream heat, with but very little wast.
- a1767 M. BRUCE *Life & Wks.* (1914) 182 Each would fondly raise Some lasting monument, to save his name Safe from the waste of years.
- 1791 J. SMEATON *Narr. Edystone Lighthouse* §90 Workmen..look upon the stone so coated, as not to be in a state of waste or decay.
- 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Nov. 422 An old venerable Cathedral still remains here, in defiance of the waste of time, and the rude hand of reformers.
- 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 272 The odour of all bodies that excite the sensation of smell cannot be given out without a waste of their substance.
- 1830 C. LYELL *Princ. Geol.* I. 135 Rounded pebbles derived from the waste of..the older Apennine rocks.
- 1847 in Aiton *Dom. Econ.* (1857) 339 The repairs now required are not mere ordinary repairs, but..rebuilding rendered necessary by the waste of time.
- 1877 T. H. HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 168 Abundant evidence of marine waste may be seen on any visit to the seaside.

b. with reference to animal tissues and structures.

- 1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomew de Glanville *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (1495) vii. xlii. 257 Yf abhomynacyon comyth of fastynge and of waste of the body, men shall restore that whyche is wasted with meete and Electuaryes.
- 1691 J. RAY *Wisdom of God* 187 Which was most providently design'd to repair the wast that is daily made of them by the frequent Attritions in Mastication.
- 1695 W. W. *Novum Lumen Chirurg. Extinctum* 15 Sudden Waste made upon Fat Persons by violent Fevers.
- 1725 N. ROBINSON *New Theory of Physick* 45 Thus far we have consider'd, how our Bodies acquire the Reparations for those Wastes, that are daily expended in carrying on the Laws of the Animal Oeconomy.
- 1796 F. BURNEY *Camilla* V. x. xii. 497 To repair the wastes of strength some time yet was necessary.
- 1814 J. WEST *Alicia de Lacy* IV. 247 It was that oblivion of thought which best repairs the waste of nature, and gives elasticity to the weary faculties.
- 1841 DICKENS *Barnaby Rudge* vi. 268 Reclining in an easy chair before the fire, pale and weak from waste of blood, was Edward Chester.
- 1875 B. STEWART & P. G. TAIT *Unseen Universe* §59 Just as no single action of the body takes place without the waste of some muscular tissue, so, it is believed, no thought takes place without some waste of the brain.

c. A wasting of the body by disease; a consumption or decline. Now only dial.

- 1570 P. LEVENS *Manipulus Vocabulorum* sig. Qiv^v/2, Wayst of body, *tabes*.
- 1584 T. COGAN *Hauen of Health* lxxii. 71 Clarie..is founde by experience verie good for the back, and restoratiue in a wast.
- 1601 P. HOLLAND tr. Pliny *Hist. World* I. xvii. xxiv. 540 In a wast, consumption, or fever hecticke.
- c1816 M. M. SHERWOOD *Stories Church Catech.* xix. 169 His disease was what the country people in England call a waste.

1878 MRS. H. WOOD *Pomeroy Abbey* I. 49 Her mother went off in a waste.

1893 'L. KEITH' *'Lisbeth* vii, Your father's family going off one after the other in a waste, and nobody but me to see to them.

d. Physical Geogr. Material derived by mechanical and chemical erosion from the land, carried by streams to the sea. (W. Suppl. 1902.)

10. Phrases.

a. to run to waste (rarely †**to flow at waste**): primarily of liquor, to flow away so as to be wasted; *fig.* of wealth, powers, etc., to be expended uselessly.

1511 *Pylgrymage Richarde Guylforde* (Pynson) f. xv^v, Moche water renneth nowe to waste.

a1640 P. MASSINGER *Parl. of Love* (1976) II. iii. 95 Shall this nectar Runn[e] vseless then to waste?

1641 MILTON *Reason Church-govt.* 41 Like that which flows at wast from the pen of some vulgar Amorist.

1741 I. WATTS *Improvem. Mind* I. iii. 54 This will secure the Workings of your Soul from running to waste, and..even your looser Moments will turn to happy Account.

1803 C. LAMB *Let.* 20 May in *Lett. C. & M. A. Lamb* (1976) II. 111 You like me..reckon the lapse of time from the waste thereof, as boys let a cock run to waste.

1818 BYRON *Childe Harold: Canto IV* cxx. 63 Alas! our young affections run to waste, Or water but the desart.

1849 T. B. MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. iii. 412 In an age of Scotists and Thomists even his intellect might have run to waste.

[1853 C. BRONTË *Villette* I. viii. 128 Beside a table, on which flared the remnant of a candle guttering to waste in the socket.]

1862 B. BRODIE *Psychol. Inq.* II. v. 166 The faculties of the mind..run to waste if neglected.

1863 *Jrnl. Royal Agric. Soc.* 24 II. 437 The sewage..ran to waste on the sea-shore.

1900 *Jrnl. Soc. Dyers & Colourists* 16 12 The water..is run to waste.

b. to go to waste: to be wasted.

a1500 *Hist. K. Boccus & Sydracke* (?1510) sig. G iij^v, There goyth of it [sc. of the sea] to wast somdele As euery man may wyt wel.

1796 H. HUNTER tr. J. H. B. de Saint-Pierre *Stud. Nature* II. 144 There is not a particle of vapour in the Universe that goes to waste.

1854 *Poultry Chron.* 2 42 We are importing ship-load after ship-load of guano..while hundreds of tons of poultry manure, which is ascertained to be equal in value, is suffered to go to waste in the United States.

1866 T. T. STODDART *Angler's Rambles* 365 Five-sixths at the least of salmon *ova* go directly to waste.

c. †to grow to waste: Of a period of time, to approach its end.

a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Othello* (1622) IV. ii. 247 The night growes to wast.

d. to cut to waste: lit. to cut (cloth) in a wasteful manner; *fig.* (? *slang*) to

apportion (time) wastefully.

- 1863 C. READE *Hard Cash* xxxix, He..said the Firm did not care to send its stuff to ladies not in the business; I might cut it to waste.
- 1863 *Baily's Monthly Mag.* Apr. 153 An hour and a half had been 'cut to waste', as the sporting reporters would say, and no tidings..had been received.

III. Waste matter, refuse.

11.

a. Refuse matter; unserviceable material remaining over from any process of manufacture; the useless by-products of any industrial process; material or manufactured articles so damaged as to be useless or unsaleable.

- c1430 *Lybeaus Disc.* (Cott.) 1471 For gore, and fen, and full wast, That was out ykast.
- 1764 in *Sixth Rep. Dep. Kpr. Rec.* App. II. 133 The Refuse or Waste used in the making of Allom, called Allom Slam.
- 1821 J. SMYTH *Pract. of Customs* (ed. 2) ii. 323 The above Duty on Cotton Wool, or Waste of Cotton Wool,..is to be charged [etc.].
- 1827 M. FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* xix. 520 The object of the preceding directions is to enable the economical experimenter to cut up into useful forms old glass, which would otherwise be thrown away as waste.
- 1851 H. MAYHEW *London Labour* II. 9/2, I may instance another thing in which the worth of what in many places is valueless refuse is exemplified, in the matter of 'waste', as waste paper is always called in the trade.
- 1863 *Technologist* 3 358 All the fibre and gluten wastes of the maize plant which are precipitated during the process of extracting the fibres, are used for manufacturing paper.
- 1864 TENNYSON *Enoch Arden* 16 Three children..play'd Among the waste and lumber of the shore, Hard coils of cordage, swarthy fishing-nets, [etc.].
- 1902 J. E. WOOD *Farden Ha'* xviii, The surrounding country (the aspect of which was scarred by pits, and distorted by black heaps of 'waste').

†**b.** *fig.* Offscourings, dregs, worthless people.

- 1592 T. NASHE *Pierce Penilesse* (Brit. Libr. copy) sig. H^v, There is a certaine wast of the people for whom there is no vse, but warre.

c. = *cotton waste n.* at COTTON *n.*¹ Compounds 3.

- 1864 *Chambers's Jrnl.* 16 July 460/2 Smith the driver..standing upon the foot-plate of No. 69, leisurely attempting to remove the surplus oil from his black hands with a very suspicious piece of 'waste'.
- 1886 J. BARROWMAN *Gloss. Sc. Mining Terms* 70 *Waste*, cotton refuse for cleaning machinery.
- 1909 *Blackwood's Mag.* Sept. 315/2 The old order of Engineer Officer..was swaddled in 'waste' rather than sail-cloth, and smelt not of pitch but of warm oil.

d. *Printing*, etc. The surplus sheets of a work. See also quot. 1888.

- 1785 W. TOOKE in H. ELLIS *Orig. Lett. Eminent Literary Men* (1843) (Camden) 430 What is called in typographical language the waste of works printed at the Academy, is seldom or never preserved.
- 1841 W. SAVAGE *Dict. Art of Printing* 810.
- 1888 C. T. JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 154 *Waste*, surplus sheets of a book beyond the plus copies. Also spoilt sheets used for running up colour on a machine, etc.

e. Coal Mining. (See quot. 1883.)

- 1883 W. S. GRESLEY *Gloss. Terms Coal Mining* 278 *Waste*. 2. (North) very small coal or slack.

12.

†**a.** An overflow of surplus water. *Obs.*

b. A pipe, conduit, or other contrivance for carrying off waste matter or surplus water, steam, etc. Cf. *waste-pipe n.* at *Compounds 2.*

- 1587 A. FLEMING et al. *Holinshed's Chron.* (new ed.) III. Contin. 1312/1 Means is made, by a standard with one cocke at Holborne bridge to conueie the wast.
- 1587 A. FLEMING et al. *Holinshed's Chron.* (new ed.) III. Contin. 1348/2 Vp vnto the northwest corner of Leaden hall..where the waste of the first maine pipe ran first this yeare.
- 1660 F. BROOKE tr. V. Le Blanc *World Surveyed* 262 He went and washed his hands at the waste [Fr. *russeau*] of the well.
- 1707 J. MORTIMER *Whole Art Husbandry* 224 If 'tis made very sloaping on each side 'tis the better, leaving a waste to carry off your waste Water in times of Floods or Rains.
- 1877 S. S. HELLYER *Plumber* v. 47 If more than one basin is fixed upon the same waste, the size should be proportionately increased.
- 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 48 Have the sink deep, as it can, by plugging the waste with a cock through which the glass tube passes, be utilised for washing purposes.

c. Waste water, effluent; *spec.* that which is free of excrement. Cf. *SOIL n.*³ 7.

The distinction between waste and soil is commoner in the combs. with *pipe*.

- 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 715/2 To connect a water-closet soil-pipe with sinks and basins..is to multiply possibilities for the spread of disease within the house, and it is strongly advisable to convey the waste from them by a separate pipe.
- 1913 E. H. BLAKE *Drainage & Sanitation* vii. 239 We may next consider the kinds of waste pipe... They comprise rain-water pipes.., soil pipes taking the wastes from closets and housemaids' sinks, and pipes taking the wastes from baths, lavatories, and sinks.
- 1959 F. G. GOODIN & J. DOWNING *Domestic Sanitation* v. 127 Sanitary fitments, may be divided broadly into those intended to receive the wastes of the human body, and those designed for dirty, soapy or greasy water.
- 1973 H. KING *Do your own Home Plumbing* ix. 87 Many older houses have a two-pipe plumbing system consisting of separate waste and soil services.
- 1976 *National Observer* (U.S.) 28 Aug. 12/3 One theory not in the report was that frozen plumbing may have

caused a backup of wastes and a contamination of the water system.

1978 T. PETTIT *Home Plumbing* x. 51/2 Waste from WCs is discharged into the soil and vent system of pipework.

COMPOUNDS

Combinations.

C1. Obvious combinations.

a. (In sense 1.)

waste-dwelling *adj.*

1900 A. LANG *Hist. Scotl.* I. iv. 70 The elder gods may have been degraded to waste-dwelling demons.

b. (In sense 5.)

waste-preventing *adj.*

1884 W. S. B. McLAREN *Spinning* 173 With waste-preventing machines much more progress has been made.

waste-preventor *adj.*

1884 *Internat. Health Exhib. Official Catal.* 94/1 New English Wash-out and noiseless Waste-preventor Cistern.

c. (In sense 11.)

waste-collector *n.*

1851 H. MAYHEW *London Labour* II. 9/2 'I don't know how it is, sir,' said one waste collector,..'but paper gets scarcer or else I'm out of luck.'

waste-dealer *n.*

1876 I. BANKS *Manch. Man* (1902) xviii. 79 Nadin..followed up the clue to a waste~dealer's who bought at his own price workpeople's 'waste' (*i.e.* warp, weft, silk, &c. remaining after work was completed).

1882 W. WESTALL *Tales & Trad. Switzerland* 289 'A doctor! What for?' interrupted the retired waste~dealer.

waste-disposal *n.*

1968 E. A. POWDRILL *Vocab. Land Planning* iv. 64 Industrial land does not include..land for..waste disposal (where this occupies a significant area detached from the industrial process).

1977 P. JOHNSON *Enemies of Society* vii. 91 We now have a good idea of the extensive damage done in the areas of Lake Baikal, the Volga, the Caspian and the Aral seas, and other Soviet areas of industrial waste-disposal.

waste-pit *n.*

1906 R. A. S. MACALISTER *Bible Sidelights* 135 That it was a temple of some sort was indicated..by a waste-pit full of sheep-bones, apparently those of sacrificial victims.

waste-tip *n.* TIP *n.*⁵ 4b.

1906 *Victoria County Hist. Cornw.* I. 520/2 The rock..is taken.., the useless to the waste tip, and the good to the deposit floors.

C2. Special combinations:

waste-basket *n.* (now chiefly *U.S.*) = WASTE-PAPER *n.* *basket.*

1850 E. BULWER-LYTTON *My Novel* I. II. vi. 117 Public men have such odd out-of-the-way letters that their waste-baskets are never empty.

1868 'HOLME LEE' *Basil Godfrey* IV, Basil tore the paper.., and thrust it into the waste-basket.

1913 J. WEBSTER *Daddy-Long-Legs* 35 If my letters bore you you can always toss them into the waste-basket.

waste-basket *v.* to put in the waste-paper basket.

1889 'M. TWAIN' *Lett.* (1917) II. xxix. 514 Send me the pages with your corrections on them, and waste-basket the rest.

1900 'M. TWAIN' *Man that corrupted Hadleyburg* 127 Indefinite testimonies might properly be waste-basketed, since there is evidently no lack of definite ones procurable.

waste-bin *n.* a dustbin.

1915 *Daily Tel.* 14 Aug. 10/7 If all the scraps after meals..be carefully kept, instead of..put into the waste-bin or burned.

waste-box *n.* *Mining* (see quot.).

1860 *Eng. & Foreign Mining Gloss.* (ed. 2) (Newcastle Terms) 66 *Waste boxes*, boxes in which the waste water of the pumping-pit is conveyed from the rings.

waste-cock *n.* a cock to regulate the discharge of waste water.

1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. of Farm* II. 317 He is able..so to adjust the cock that the requisite supply shall go to the boiler, without entirely shutting the waste~cock.

waste disposal unit *n.* (see quot. 1967).

- 1967 *Gloss. Sanitation Terms* (B.S.I.) 63 *Waste disposal unit*, an electrically operated mechanical device for reducing kitchen garbage into fragments small enough to be flushed into the *drainage system*.
- 1968 R. V. BESTE *Repeat Instruct.* vi. 64 His first conscious memory was of being in the kitchen stuffing the torn pieces into the waste disposal unit.
- 1977 *Evening Post* (Nottingham) 27 Jan. 14/4 (*advt.*) Lounge, hall, fitted cupboards, fully fitted kitchen with waste disposal unit.

waste-disposer *n.* = *waste disposal unit n.* above.

- 1962 *Which?* Mar. 82/1 There are obvious advantages..in being able to get rid of kitchen scraps straight down the drain, with a waste disposer.
- 1980 A. N. WILSON *Healing Art* vi. 62 A new sun lounge..a waste-disposer in the sink.

waste-drain *n.* a drain for carrying off waste water.

- 1833 J. C. LOUDON *Encycl. Cottage Archit.* §32 A large cock in the bottom of the receiving tank, communicating with the waste drain.

waste-gate *n.* = *waste-hatch n.*

- 1791 R. MYLNE *2nd Rep. Thames* 11 The Waste and Buck Gates are quite ruinous.
- 1948 *Shell Aviation News* No. 115. 19/1 The closed wastegate limitation is the condition where all of the available exhaust gas energy is required to drive the compressor, and all of the exhaust gas is directed through the turbine.
- 1981 *Pop. Hot Rodding* Feb. 22/1 It will be a relatively simple matter of welding in sections of bent tubing to make the necessary connections (including a waste-gate, should one be required).
- 1983 *Which?* Dec. 559/1 So a valve is needed—the wastegate—which opens when the pressure is at its maximum safe level to divert some of the exhaust gases away from the turbine.

waste-hatch *n.* (a) a gate or hatch for regulating the outflow of waste water; (b) *Engin.* a device in a turbocharger which regulates the pressure at which exhaust gases pass to the turbine by opening or closing a vent to the external atmosphere.

- 1705 *Act 4 & 5 Anne* c. 8 (21) §5 One Scuttle or small Hatch of a Foot Square in the Waste Hatch or Water course in the direct Stream wherein no Water Wheel standeth [etc.].

waste-heap *n.* (a) a pile of refuse matter; (b) *transf.* in *Cards*, a pile of cards formed from the accumulation during the course of a game of those which cannot be played (cf. *rubbish heap n.* at RUBBISH *n., adj., and int.* Compounds 2).

- 1873 B. STEWART *Conserv. Force* v. 153 Universally diffused heat forms what we may call the great waste-heap of

the universe.

- 1892 'L. HOFFMANN' *Illustr. Bk. Patience Games* 4 If its [sc. the card's] nature does not allow of its being so played, it is laid face upwards in front of the player, the cards so deposited being known as the 'waste-' or 'rubbish-heap'.
- 1913 'L. HOFFMANN' *Sel. Patience Games* 5 The cards so dealt with being known as the 'waste-heap' or 'rubbish-heap'.
- 1915 *Blackwood's Mag.* Nov. 702/2 Fosse Eight is a mighty waste-heap.
- 1975 *Way to Play* 145/3 *Waste pile or heap*, cards from the stock that cannot immediately be played onto the layout are sometimes placed face up in one or more waste piles, to be brought back into the game as appropriate.

waste heat *n.* heat produced as the by-product of some process; **waste-heat boiler**, a boiler employing this.

- 1908 A. G. KING *Pract. Steam & Hot Water Heating* xxvii. 343 When no waste heat is available, an ordinary type of pipe heater may be used.
- 1930 *Engineering* 8 Aug. 188/3 The utilization of exhaust gases in waste-heat boilers had improved the efficiency of the large gas engine.
- 1972 R. G. KAZMANN *Mod. Hydrol.* (ed. 2) iv. 130 The remainder of this energy, 'waste heat', must be disposed of into the immediate environment of the power plant.
- 1982 W. F. OWEN *Energy in Wastewater Treatm.* xii. 281 Three basic types of heat recovery equipment are typically used in wastewater heat recovery systems: shell-and-tube exchangers, waste heat boilers, and heat wheels.

waste-hole *n.* a hole for the discharge of superfluous water.

- 1839 *Civil Engineer & Architect's Jrnl.* 2 436/1 The same adjustment may be made by stopping the pump, and letting out the water from the waste-holes.

waste-inspector *n.* a water-company's or municipality's official employed to report cases of waste of water.

- 1898 *Daily News* 17 June 3/3 A turncock and waste inspector, in the service of the Vauxhall Waterworks Company.

waste maker *n.* [< title of book: see quot. 1961] a manufacturer of consumer goods that are intended not to be durable or to be partially wasted so that the demand for new goods is kept high.

- 1961 V. PACKARD *Waste Makers* v. 48 In some cases the consumers have no choice but to be waste makers because of the way products are sold to them. Many paste pots come with brushes built into the cover, and the brushes fail..to reach the bottom... Thus millions of 'empty' paste jars are thrown away with a few spoonfuls of paste still in them.
- 1970 G. JACKSON *Let.* 17 June in *Soledad Brother* (1971) 282 You dig, no waste makers, nor harnesses on production.

waste-man *n.* *Mining* a man whose duty is to inspect the waste (sense 4), and to secure the proper ventilation of the mine.

1812 J. HODGSON in J. Raine *Mem. J. Hodgson* (1857) I. 96 The waste-men or ventilators of the mine.

1825 E. MACKENZIE *Hist. View Northumberland* (ed. 2) I. 90 *Wastemen*, persons that daily examine the state of the workings, and see that they are properly ventilated.

1891 *Labour Commission* Gloss., *Wastemen*, generally old men who are employed in building pillars for the support of the roof in the waste, *i.e.* old workings and airways; and in keeping the airways open and in good order.

waste mould *n.* in *Sculpture*, a simple negative mould which has to be broken to release the cast inside it.

1929 F. J. GLASS *Modelling & Sculpture* viii. 73 You now proceed to chip away the white portion of the waste mould.

1971 *Daily Tel.* 5 Mar. (Colour Suppl.) 8/2 From this brittle clay an impression—a ‘waste-mould’—is taken, from which a plaster cast is made.

waste moulding *n.* cf. *piece-mould n.* at *PIECE n.* Compounds.

1911 A. TOFT *Modelling & Sculpture* vi. 90 The term ‘waste moulding’ implies that the mould is only made to serve the purpose of taking one cast.

1918 H. H. STANSFIELD *Sculpture* ii. 9 In waste moulding the plaster is chipped away so that the mould is destroyed.

waste-pallet *n.* *Organ-building* a valve allowing escape of air from the storage-bellows when too full (see *PALLET n.*³ 3).

1880 C. A. EDWARDS *Organs* II. i. 44 The waste-pallet is an arrangement corresponding to the safety-valve in the steamboiler.

1898 J. STAINER *Stainer & Barrett's Dict. Musical Terms* (rev. ed.) 338 In order to prevent an undue rising of the bellows when more wind is supplied than used, a *waste-pallet* is placed in every bellows.

waste-pipe *n.* a pipe to carry off waste water or steam; also *spec.* a pipe for the drainage of effluent from sinks, baths, etc., in contrast to a soil-pipe.

c1512 *Archaeologia* 58 301 Boþe þ^e suspirel and þ^e waste pipe awayde ther water in a gotir of breke.

1585 J. HIGGINS tr. Junius *Nomenclator* 362/1 *Aqua caduca*,..water that runneth ouer, or at the waste pipes or spowts of conduit heads.

1712 J. JAMES tr. A.-J. Dézallier d'Argenville *Theory & Pract. Gardening* 211 To empty the Bason entirely.., which is done by means of..a Waste-Pipe at the Bottom of it.

1876 W. P. BUCHAN *Plumbing* xiv. 90 When soil-pipes and waste-pipes are put up *inside* the house, great care should be taken that they are properly fitted up.

- 1877 T. H. HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 39 The steam which issues from the waste-pipe being cooled down by contact with the cold air.
- 1907 J. A. HODGES *Elem. Photogr.* (ed. 6) 35 To connect the waste pipe with nearest drain or gutter.
- 1946 E. MOLLOY *Plumbing & Gas-fitting* x. 221/2 For a waste pipe from a bath, sink, bidet, or lavatory basin discharging into a soil pipe from a water-closet, or a waste pipe from a slop sink, the Model By-laws specify 'a suitable trap adequately secured against destruction of the water seal'.

waste plug *n.* = PLUG *n.* 1b, †2 k.

- 1877 G. E. WARING *Sanitary Conditions City & Country Houses* 79 If the waste plug is operated by a handle rising the slab, there is a considerable length of pipe between it and the bottom of the basin.
- 1882 S. S. HELLYER *Lect. Sci. & Art Sanitary Plumbing* v. 193 These water-closets were made of marble— A the pan; B the waste-plug; C the service-pipe; D the overflow.
- 1965 A. L. TOWNSEND *Plumbing Second Year* iii. 72 The bath will..be fitted with a waste plug and chain.

waste silk *n.* the inferior silk from the outside of cocoons and from cocoons out of which the moths have been allowed to escape.

- 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 486/1 Before you begin to wind, you must prepare your cocoons..stripping them of that waste silk that surrounds them, and which served to fasten them to the twigs.
- 1875 E. H. KNIGHT *Pract. Dict. Mech.* 2292/2 *Spun-silk*, a cheap article produced from short-fibered and waste silk, in contradistinction to the long fibers wound from the cocoon and *thrown*.
- 1921 R. BEAUMONT & W. G. HILL *Dress, Blouse, & Costume Cloths* 94 The 'Schappe' or 'steeping practice' consists in placing the supply of waste silk in jacketed pans.

waste-sluiice *n.* a sluice for regulating the outflow of waste water.

- 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. of Farm* II. 327 As a waste-sluiice, the most convenient and simple, in a mill of this kind, is the trap-sluiice.

waste-spout *n.* a spout for the issue of waste-water.

- 1668 J. FLAVELL *Saint Indeede* 26 Few words run then at the wast Spout.

waste-way *n.* U.S. a channel for the passage of waste water.

- 1881 W. M. THAYER *From Log Cabin to White House* xii. 149 There was a waste-way just ahead.
- 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Sept. 621/2 Above these..is a wasteway..over which the surplus water can pour.

waste-weir *n.* (see quotes.).

- 1793 R. MYLNE *Rep. Thames* 23 There was Seven Inches of Water running over at the Waste Weir at Boulter's Old Lock.

1840 H. S. TANNER *Canals & Rail Roads U.S.* 264 *Waste weir*, a water guage; a cut at the side of a canal by which the surplus water of canals is carried off.

1868 *Chamb. Encycl.* X. 516/2 There is also the waste-weir, for the purpose of preventing a reservoir embankment being overtopped by floods.

waste-yard *n.* ? *Obs.* ? a yard for the reception of odds and ends of little value.

a1630 F. MORYSON in *Shakespeare's Europe* (1903) v. i. 460 Their houses, (which haue no such wastyardes about them as euery Farmers house hath with vs).

1826 W. COBBETT *Rural Rides* in *Cobbett's Weekly Polit. Reg.* 14 Oct. 162 And, rick-yard, farm-yard, waste-yard, horse-paddock, and all round about, seemed to be swarming with fowls, ducks, and turkeys.

1854 DICKENS *Hard Times* I. xi. 82 In the waste-yard outside [the mill], the steam from the escape-pipe, the litter of barrels and old iron, the shining heaps of coals, the ashes everywhere, were shrouded in a veil of mist and rain.

DRAFT ADDITIONS MARCH 2006

waste of space *n. fig. colloq.* a useless, inadequate, or contemptible person or thing.

1972 *Daily Tel.* 7 Jan. 11/7 Almost every silly little myth and pretension associated with the phrase *avant-garde* is perpetuated by this preposterous waste of space.

1982 *Associated Press Newswire* (Nexis) 5 Feb. On the American Institute of Certified Public Account[ant]s, the trade group: 'A waste of space. Mediocre paper shufflers.'

1997 *Time Out* 10 Sept. 183/2 His dad thinks he's a waste of space, his mum's a soft touch, he's a dole-bludging gambler.

2000 M. HERMAN *Purely Belter* (film script) 64 Bloody waste of space, that one.

This entry has not yet been fully updated (first published 1923).