

CANON NEWMAN HALL SUMMARY

Canon Newman Hall was built in 1968 to serve St Leonard's community. In 2013 it was sold to a private party who plan to convert it to a single-family residence. Located on Dental Street in the center of old Hythe, close to the early medieval coast, it is potentially rich with evidence of our early history.

On September 11th 2015 the concrete forecourt that had been used for parking was broken up and removed and the surface roughly graded to a depth of 20cm below the pavement level allowing us look at the area and determine if there were any areas that may hold clues to the property's history. We noticed a large darkened area to the west of the site (Context A) that contained particles of charcoal and some iron slag near the surface. The results of our further search and excavation are recorded in detail in the Finds List and Context. We also noted a neat dark patch in the otherwise natural gault clay. This patch was 20cm wide by 60cm long and contained a partial dog skeleton (Context B). There was a line of stones running North to South that seemed interesting. Other various finds we found throughout the site (Context General 20).

Context General 20

This refers to the overall site and finds on the surface that have been exposed during grading. The prevailing material is the natural yellowish gault clay and there is a line of stones through the center of the site running north/south. At the north end of this line, against the building to the north was a very wet area which appeared to drain along the line of stones toward Dental Street to the south.

Other finds such as pottery and glass fragments and a hand-hewn post with a sharpened point in the ground near the line of stones. These items are listed on the finds list and noted on the site map as C, D, E and F.

Site Code: CNH		Context No. GENERAL 20	
Date: 12/9/2015		Recorded by: JOHN. O.	
Trench/Area: GENERAL SITE			
Feature Type: Deposit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cut <input type="checkbox"/> Fill <input type="checkbox"/> Structural <input type="checkbox"/>			
Deposit/Fill 1. Compaction <small>ie Loose, hard, friable, soft, plastic, firm.</small> 2. Colour <small>ie Light/Mid/dark then hue and main colour (reddish brown)</small> 3. Composition <small>The relative proportions of Sand, Silt and Clay - ie sandy clay (lesser/main)</small> 4. Inclusions <small>Elements of the deposit making up less than 10% - ie Charcoal, oyster shell, mortar</small> 5. Thickness & Extent <small>The main dimensions of the context - ie 0.2m at centre, tapers to .01m</small> 6. Any other details		Cut 1. Shape (plan) <small>ie Rounded, sub-rounded, Square, linear.</small> 2. Dimensions & Depth <small>Long side x width x depth</small> 3. Break of Slope <small>Base and top, sharp, gradual or imperceptible</small> 4. Slope <small>Vertical, steep, concave.</small> 5. Base <small>Flat, rounded, tapered.</small> 6. Fills <small>List of fill deposits.</small> 7. Any other details	
SITE 9.8M x 6M. GENERALLY YELLOW SANDY CLAY THROUGHOUT ON THE SURFACE FOLLOWING THE GENERAL GRADING AND REMOVAL OF CONCRETE SLABS TO A DEPTH OF 20CM BELOW PAVEMENT LEVEL. A FEW ISOLATE FINDS WERE MADE ON OR NEAR THE SURFACE. THESE WERE PROBABLY MOVED BY THE GRADING AND SO THEIR POSITION IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE. MARKED ON SITE MAP AS: C, D, E, F THERE WAS ALSO A LINE OF STONES RUNNING S/N AND CONSIDERABLE WEETNESS ALONG THE LINE. POSSIBLY THE COURSE OF AN OLD CONDUIT FOR DRAINAGE.			
Contexts above: [] [] TOP 20CM REMOVED BY GRADING [] [] [] This context: [] [] 20CM BELOW PAVEMENT [] [] [] Contexts below: [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []			
Discussion and sketches: (continue on rear if required) SEE SITE MAP AND DETAILS INCLUDING STRATIGRAPHY. FINDS: C CN.P.002 CERAMIC SHRED D CN.W.023 WOOD POST E CN.G.012 GLASS FRAGMENT F CN.P.022 TILE FRAGMENT. NOTE: THE FIND WAS NOTED ON 15/9/15 AFTER THE DIGGING OF 2 LARGE 1METER DEEP FOOTINGS AND WE THINK IT WAS BUG UP BY THE BACKHOE AND SO IS POSSIBLY FROM A DEPTH OF 1METER. SEE FINDS LIST http://bit.ly/1URCap6			
Contains? Pot <input type="checkbox"/> Lithic <input type="checkbox"/> Bone <input type="checkbox"/> Metal <input type="checkbox"/> Glass <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Small Finds: ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ SEE FINDS LIST			
Samples (Type/number): Plan/s: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Section/s: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

Context A20

This refers to the top 20 cm of the pit to the west of the site.

Remember we are already 20 cm below the pavement level. The first observations were numerous charcoal fragments and, on digging below the surface, an abundance of iron slag indicating some industrial activity. Possibly a forge or blacksmiths workshop. Below the surface about 10 cm – 20 cm were numerous oyster shells and animal bones, the left overs of a typical local diet in medieval times, and roof tile fragments. There were a few pottery sherds (see Finds List).

Site Code: CNH Context No. A20

Date: 12/9/2015 Recorded by: JOHN O. Trench/Area: A

Feature Type: Deposit Cut Fill Structural

Deposit/Fill	Area	Cut
<p>1. Compaction ie Loose, hard, friable, soft, plastic, firm.</p> <p>2. Colour ie Light/Mid/dark then hue and main colour (reddish brown)</p> <p>3. Composition The relative proportions of Sand, Silt and Clay - ie sandy clay (lesser/main)</p> <p>4. Inclusions Elements of the deposit making up less than 10% - ie Charcoal, oyster shell, mortar</p> <p>5. Thickness & Extent The main dimensions of the context - ie 0.2m at centre, tapers to .01m</p> <p>6. Any other details</p>	<p>AREA: 185cm x 2.75cm. APPEARS TO CONTINUE TO THE WEST BENEATH THE FOUNDATION OF ADJOINING GARAGE</p> <p>DARK LOESSER DEPOSIT IN A CLEARLY DEFINED AREA SURROUNDED BY THE NATURAL YELLOW CLAY SURFACE (20CM BELOW THE PAVEMENT HEIGHT)</p> <p>NUMEROUS FLECKS OF CHARCOAL AND EVIDENCE OF BURNING.</p> <p>DEPOSIT/FILL CONTAINED IRON SLAG, ANIMAL BONES, OYSTER SHELLS, BROCKEN ROOF TILES AND A FEW POTTERY SHERDS. EXCAVATED TO A DEPTH OF 20CM (40CM BELOW PAVEMENT)</p>	<p>1. Shape (plan) ie Rounded, sub-rounded, Square, linear.</p> <p>2. Dimensions & Depth Long side x width x depth</p> <p>3. Break of Slope Base and top, sharp, gradual or imperceptible</p> <p>4. Slope Vertical, steep, concave.</p> <p>5. Base Flat, rounded, tapered.</p> <p>6. Fills List of fill deposits.</p> <p>7. Any other details</p>

Contexts above: REMOVED BY BACKFILL

This context: FILL DARK

Contexts below: FILL DARK

Discussion and sketches: (continue on rear if required)

SEE SITE PLAN, DETAIL, STRATIGRAPHY.
SEE FINDS LIST.

<http://bit.ly/24RCap6>

Contains? Pot Lithic Bone Metal Glass Other

Small Finds:

Samples (Type/number):

Plan/s: Section/s: Photos:

Context A60

This refers to the deposits in the pit below Context A20. The result of a 30 cm wide and 60 cm deep hand-dug trench dug through the center of the pit. The iron slag deposits are few and only in the first 10 cm. Below that the animal bones become numerous and the pottery finds clearly older and some of shellyware. Many were blackened with soot from cooking and there is still the presents of oyster shells. The area was excavated by the backhoe to depth of 1 meter for foundation footings and this deep trench exposed the full depth of the pit. Cut into the natural gault clay the pit was a frill 85cm below the original pavement level and extended beneath the garage at the west of the site. A curved roof tile fragment was dug up by the backhoe and deposited a few meters from the trench, (see C.P. 022 in the Finds List). A yellow brick fragment and a thin brick or floor tile were also found at 65 cm below the pavement

Site Code: CNH Context No. A60

Date: 12/19/2015 Recorded by: JOHN O. Trench/Area: A

Feature Type: Deposit Cut Fill Structural

Deposit/Fill 1. Compaction <small>ie Loose, hard, friable, soft, plastic, firm.</small> 2. Colour <small>ie Light/Mid/dark then hue and main colour (reddish brown)</small> 3. Composition <small>The relative proportions of Sand, Silt and Clay - ie sandy clay (lesser/main)</small> 4. Inclusions <small>Elements of the deposit making up less than 10% - ie Charcoal, oyster shell, mortar</small> 5. Thickness & Extent <small>The main dimensions of the context - ie 0.2m at centre, tapers to 0.1m</small> 6. Any other details	BELOW A20 A TRENCH WAS DUG THROUGH THE PIT TO A DEPTH OF 60CM (80CM BELOW THE PAVEMENT LEVEL) X 20CM WIDE PIT CUT IN YELLOW NATURAL CLAY SOME IRON SLAG WAS FOUND IN THE TOP 30CM ALONG WITH OYSTER SHELLS AND BONES. TOWARD THE BOTTOM OF THE TRENCH WAS EVIDENCE OF A HEARTH WITH CHARCOAL FRAGMENTS AND SOME SOOTED POTTERY SHELDS. WHEN THE BACKHOE DUG OUT FOR FOOTINGS (2 TRENCHES 1METER SQ BY 1METER DEED) IT WAS EVIDENT THAT THE PIT HAD BEEN DUG OUT OF THE NATURAL GAULT CLAY (SEE STRATIGRAPHY ON DETAILS) THE (ROMAN?) ROOF TILE WAS DUG FROM THIS AREA BY THE BACKHOE.	Cut 1. Shape (plan) <small>ie Rounded, sub-rounded, Square, linear.</small> 2. Dimensions & Depth <small>Long side x width x depth</small> 3. Break of Slope <small>Base and top, sharp, gradual or imperceptible</small> 4. Slope <small>Vertical, steep, concave.</small> 5. Base <small>Flat, rounded, tapered.</small> 6. Fills <small>List of fill deposits.</small> 7. Any other details
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Contexts above: DARK FILL

This context: DARK FILL

Contexts below: GAULT CLAY. (NATURAL)

Discussion and sketches: (continue on rear if required)
 SEE SITE PLAN, DETAIL, STRATIGRAPHY, FINDS LIST

<http://bit.ly/1URcap6>

Contains? Pot Lithic Bone Metal Glass Other

Small Finds:

Samples (Type/number):

Plan/s: Section/s: Photos:

At this time we are waiting to accurately date the finds, finish the photography and complete the research. When finished we will publish the results and make available to all.

The following people have worked on the site or given valuable advise and research time:

Milaena Sanderson John Osborne
David Paton

Kate Oakley and her colleagues at FRAG

Brin Hughes

Mike de la Mare

What we still need to research: Who owned the property before 1968? Was there a dwelling or a building there and what was it used for? How far do the records go back? Is there any reference to building, activity, ownership that we can find? Were there other adjacent buildings on Dental Street? Can the presence of iron slag be accounted for?



