

Daniel Hall, Long Garden Walk, Farnham GU9 7HX
Archaeological inspection

Daniel Hall is a substantial, probably late 18th century, rectangular barn that has been used in recent years as the headquarters of the Farnham Scout Group. It is situated at SU 83864 46897 and is currently the subject of a major restoration project.

The author was invited to examine a number of square holes that had been cut by the builders through the existing concrete floor, to an average depth of 70cm.

The exposed stratigraphy consisted of the existing 6cm-thick concrete floor, which had been laid on a 16cm-thick bed of brick hardcore. This in turn had been laid on a poorly preserved and very thin layer of whitish clay/chalk - possibly an earlier floor. Beneath this was an intermittent and thin layer of ash that lay on a 20cm-thick layer of clean buff-coloured soil - probably a plough soil level. In turn, this rested on the natural clay that underlies this part of the town and which, in this instance, occurred at a depth of c 45cm below the surface of the concrete floor. The builders' holes continued to a final depth of 70cm with no further changes in the stratigraphy.

Apart from the possible clay/chalk floor and the preceding episode of burning, there was no evidence for any activity on the site other than the remains of a shallow brick wall running across the centre of the building. The bricks were relatively modern, but underlay the concrete floor and probably represent the line of an earlier partition wall.

It seems likely that the area was either open fields or backlands until the barn was constructed in the late 18th century.

David Graham
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