

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Royal Falcon Pub, High Street, Lowestoft

PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: DC/07/0249/LBC

National Grid Reference: TM 5516 9399

Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record Reference: LWT 157

Clare Good, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, March 2007

SCCAS Report Number: 2007/054

Oasis ID. No. - suffolkc1-25630

Summary

Refurbishment of the Royal Falcon Pub, High Street, Lowestoft, (TM 5516 9399, LWT 157), required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. Internal pad holes were excavated within the building, which is thought to be late medieval in origin. No archaeological finds or features were revealed during the monitoring

Introduction

Planning consent for the refurbishment of the Royal Falcon Pub, High Street, Lowestoft required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. Extensive first floor restoration was to take place, which required strengthening of the beams on the ground floor. As such, three internal pad holes were excavated in order to construct support for the first floor. The building is thought to be at least late medieval in origin; a timber framed construction with at least one beam with '1577' etched into it. Premier Brickworks Ltd commissioned the project, on behalf of their clients.

Stefan Gunther, Conservation Officer for Waveney District Council, requested a monitoring visit after excavation of the initial pad hole, in order to observe it and the upcast soil to determine the presence, if any, of archaeological evidence in this area.



Figure 1: Site location

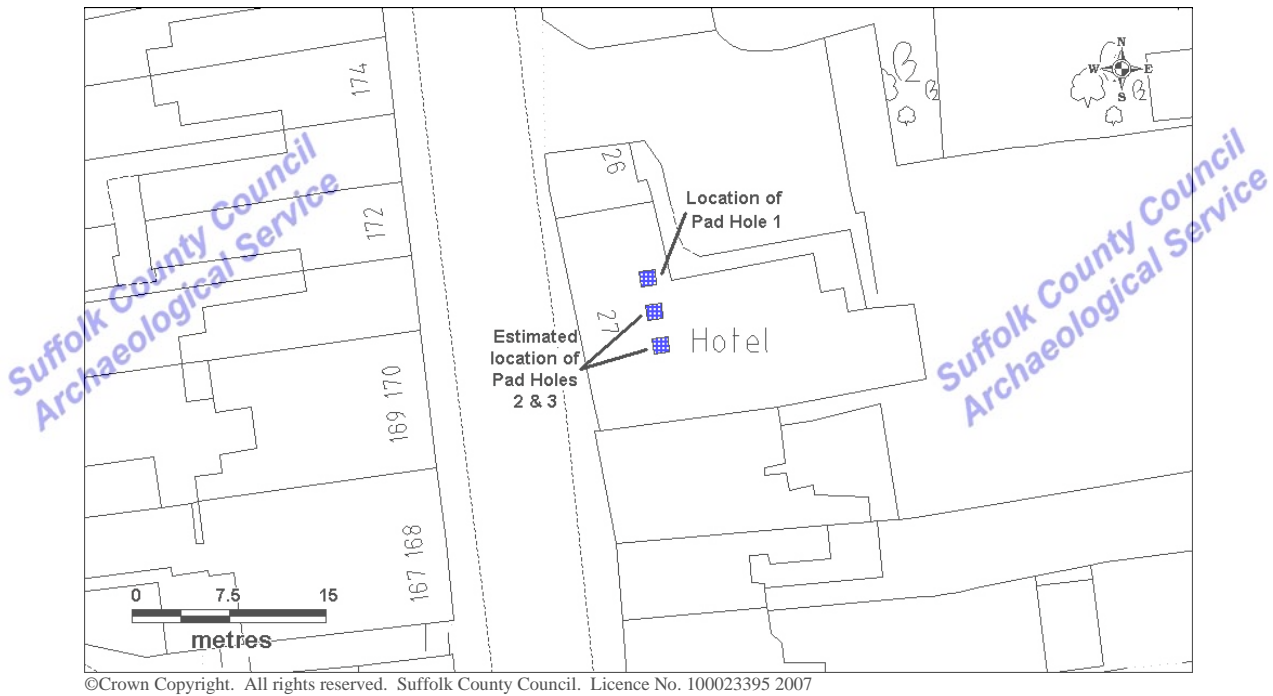


Figure 2: Location of pad holes within building

Results

Pad hole 1 was excavated by hand through the floor of the pub, past floor joists and pipe work. As a consequence, visibility was poor during the archaeological monitoring. It was excavated to a depth of 0.56m below the floor surface through made up ground throughout, and was 1m square.

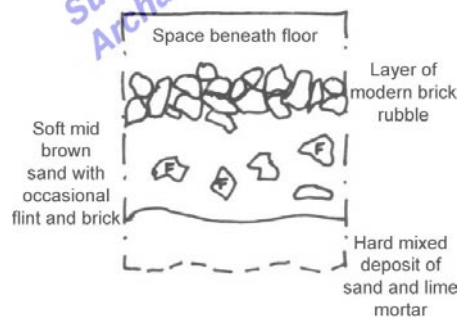


Figure 3: Sketch section of pad hole 1, scale 1:20

Modern (20th century) brick rubble was present in the top two layers of fill, suggesting a modern origin for these.

The lower level of fill consisted of a hard mixed deposit of sand and lime mortar, which implies a rough date of pre 1850, when lime mortar was superseded by cement. No further dating evidence was apparent within this layer.

The upcast spoil was retained on site for inspection but no archaeological finds were seen.

The presence of lime mortar suggests a date of before 1850 for the lower layer of fill but without further dating evidence a precise date cannot be estimated. The restricted view and the lack of evidence in pad hole 1 meant that archaeological inspection of the remaining holes was not thought necessary.

Clare Good, Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, 28th March 2007