

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at  
Bankside House, Dymchurch Road  
Hythe, Kent**

**Planning Ref: Y07/1386/SH**

**NGR: 615860 134679**

**Project No: 3398**

**Site code: HDR08**

**ASE Report No: 2008197  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-50331**

**R D Beck  
with a contribution by Trista Clifford**

**October 2008**

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**SUMMARY**

*On 28<sup>th</sup> May 2008, Archaeology South-East maintained a watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of an extension at Bankside House, Dymchurch Road, Hythe, Kent. No archaeological features or stratified artefacts were observed. The groundwork penetrated disturbed ground and did not reach natural deposits.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1** Archaeology South-East (a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London) was commissioned by Mr Konrad Dancer to maintain an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of an extension at Bankside House, Dymchurch Road, Hythe, Kent (NGR 615860 134679) (Figs. 1 and 2).

**1.2** Bankside House lies in the parish of Hythe, close to, and to the north of the Royal Military Canal. The underlying geology according to the British Geological Survey consists of Storm Beach Gravels.

**1.3** A planning application has been granted by Shepway District Council for the construction of an extension at Bankside House (Planning ref. Y07/1386/SH). The following condition has been placed on the consent:

*No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification which has been submitted to, and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

**1.4** Details of the techniques to be used during the watching brief were set out in a Specification prepared by the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council (Shepway District Council's advisors in archaeological matters). This document provides background information re-used in this report with due acknowledgement. The Specification also stated that if significant remains were revealed during the watching brief, further archaeological measures might be required to secure mitigation on the site.

**1.5** The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the Specification, full details of which are contained within the archive. The work was carried out on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2008 by Robert Beck (Archaeologist).

## **2.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

**2.1** The application site lies within the historic settlement of Hythe. Hythe is one of the Cinque Ports and is considered to have been a medieval port which developed as the early medieval port towards West Hythe declined. Hythe is well-recorded in historic documents but there has been little archaeological work within the town to complement this data. Remains associated with the medieval port may survive on the development site. The site also lies to the north of the Scheduled Monument of the Royal Military Canal.

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1** The eastern side of the site contained a modern sunken garden feature built in the last three years, with two (Lower Greensand) stone walls acting as revetments [3] and [4]. These walls were constructed in the same way as the eastern boundary wall [2], which the present owner had raised from 400mm to 1.5m. The excavation was carried out using a 360 degree mini-excavator equipped with a 600mm wide toothless bucket. The spoil from the excavation in the western side of the site was used to backfill the sunken garden feature. The remainder of the trenches were excavated into this spoil (Figs. 2 & 3).
- 3.2** A continuous watching brief was maintained throughout the excavation of the foundation trenches. Archaeological monitoring included an inspection of the excavated topsoil and other deposits in order to identify concentrations of artefacts or ecofacts, and an examination of exposed surfaces for archaeological remains.
- 3.3** All remains identified were recorded to accepted professional standards and in accordance with *Standards and Guidance: watching brief* of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. Full details of the techniques used are contained within the archive.

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 List of recorded contexts in Foundation Trenches

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth
1	Deposit	Topsoil	10.3m	600mm	200mm
2	Masonry	Boundary Wall	>3.6m	260mm	
3	Deposit	Modern garden feature	1.2m	250mm	
4	Deposit	Modern garden feature	>3.6m	250mm	
5	Deposit	Disturbed ground	10.3m	600mm	>400mm

### 4.2 Summary

**4.2.1** No natural deposits were encountered in any part of the site. The stratigraphically earliest deposit encountered was recently disturbed soil [5]. It contained c. 10% rounded gravel, 15–20mm diameter, small sherds of modern pottery, peg roof tile fragments and modern brick fragments. This was overlain by topsoil [1], which was up to 200mm deep and consisted of dark grey almost black slightly sandy silt. It contained a small quantity of lime mortar and a few fragments of modern building materials. Both deposits also contained wire wall ties, modern mortar and modern brick fragments.

## 5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 By Trista Clifford

5.2 A small collection of finds was recovered from the evaluation at Hythe Road, Dymchurch, characterised in Table 1 below:

Context	Pottery	wt (g)	CBM	wt (g)	Stone	wt (g)
5	2	56	1	38	1	30

Table 1: Quantification of finds

5.3 Context [5] contained two fragments from a 20<sup>th</sup> century white china saucer along with a peg tile fragment with two square peg holes and traces of a pale buff mortar adhering to it. The fabric is high fired with fine sand temper. The context also contained a fragment of Lower Greensand with traces of a pale buff sandy mortar adherent.

5.4 No further work is required.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION**

- 6.1** Layer [5] was a substantial deposit of disturbed ground. A study of the recovered artefacts suggest that the most recent disturbance to the top 600mm of this deposit occurred when the present house was built, which was in the last 3 years, and that other disturbances to this depth have occurred during the 20th century.

## **7.0 CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1** The watching brief on the foundation trenches did not reveal any archaeological features or artefacts despite constant archaeological supervision.
- 7.2** The excavations were carried out in either disturbed ground or re-deposited material, both of these actions occurring during the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century. Natural deposits were not reached and archaeological features could therefore lie undetected below the proposed extension.

## **8.0 CONSIDERATION OF METHODOLOGY AND CONFIDENCE RATING**

- 8.1** A continuous watching brief ensures that all significant groundworks are fully monitored. In view of this, a confidence rating of 95% is given for the identification of remains within the area of investigation.



## APPENDIX 1 OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-50331

### Project details

Project name	Bankside House, Dymchurch Road, Hythe
Short description of the project	On 28th May 2008, Archaeology South-East maintained a watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of an extension at Bankside House, Dymchurch Road, Hythe, Kent. No archaeological features or stratified artefacts were observed. The groundwork penetrated disturbed ground and did not reach natural deposits.
Project dates	Start: 28-05-2008 End: 28-05-2008
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT SHEPWAY HYTHE Bankside House, Dymchurch Road, Hythe, Kent

Postcode	CT21 5AX
Study area	25.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TR 15860 34679 51.0701425399 1.081525135920 51 04 12 N 001 04 53 E Point

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### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Heritage Conservation Kent County Council
Project design originator	KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer
Project supervisor	Rob Beck
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Konrad Dancer

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### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	n/a
Digital Archive recipient	Worthing Museum
Digital Contents	'none'

Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Photograph','Plan','Report'

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**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at bankside House, Dymchurch Road, Hythe, Kent, CT21 5AX
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Beck, R
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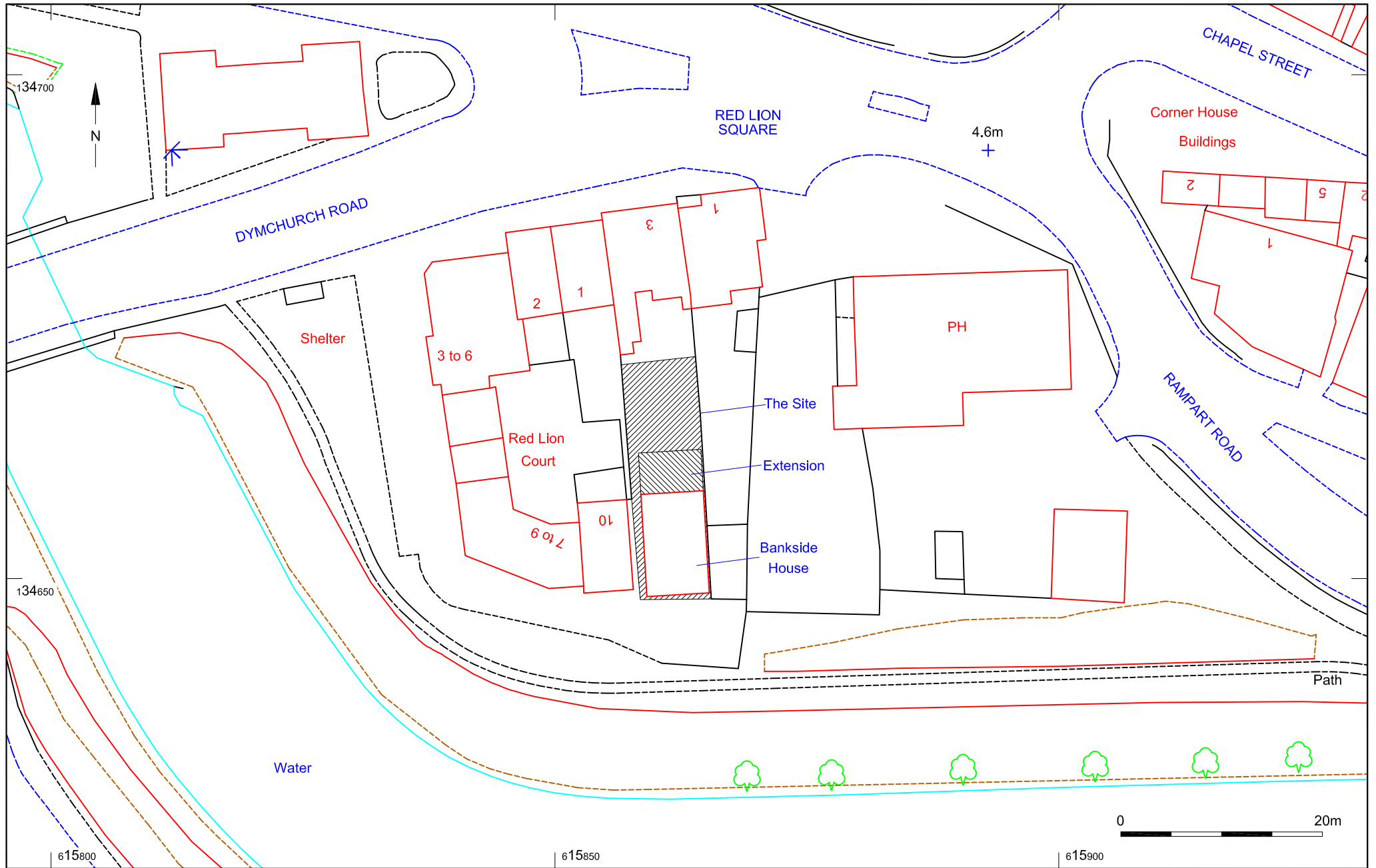
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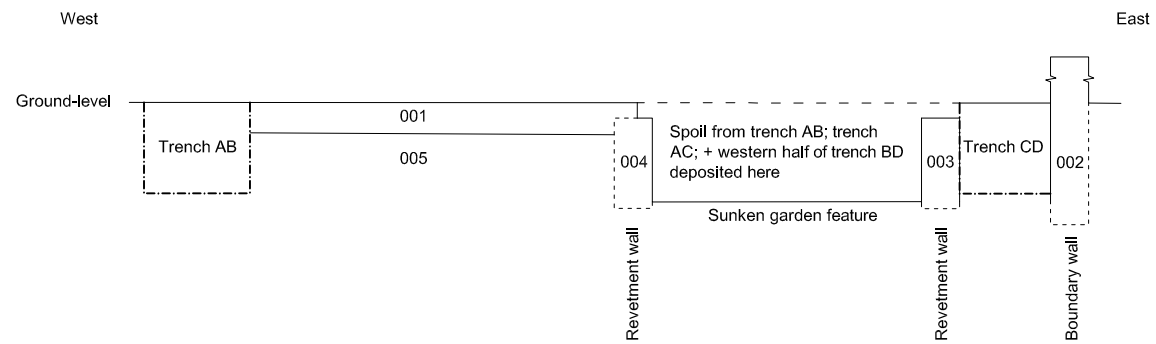
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Project Ref: 3398	August 2008	Site Location Plan		
Report Ref:	Drawn by: SM			

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Project Ref: 3398	October 2008	Plan of monitored groundworks	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: DJH		



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© Archaeology South-East		Dymchurch Road, Hythe - Watching Brief	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 3398	October 2008	Schematic section through groundworks	
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