

Archaeological Watching Brief Report The Granary, Dog Lane Steyning, West Sussex

> NGR: 517673 111051 (TQ 17673 11051)

Horsham District Council
Planning Reference: DC/16/2273
ASE Project No: 170368
Site Code: DLS 17
ASE Report No: 2017336
OASIS ID: archaeol6-291556



By Simon Stevens BA (Hons) MCIfA

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Mr. Andrew Spicer to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at The Granary, Dog Lane, Steyning, West Sussex.

No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded at the site, and there was clear evidence that any potential archaeological deposits had been removed prior to the current works.

CONTENTS

1	.0	Introdu	iction
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- 2.0 **Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 **Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results
- 5.0 **Discussion and Conclusions**

Bibliography Acknowledgements

HER Summary OASIS Form

TABLES

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

Table 3: List of recorded contexts

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location Figure 2: Site plan

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Mr. Andrew Spicer to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at the granary, Dog Lane, Steyning, West Sussex (NGR 517673 111051; Figure 1).

1.2 **Geology and Topography**

- The site is located on the south side of Dog Lane, on the western side of Bramber Road/High Street, to the south of the centre of the historic town of Stevning. The Granary is surrounded by other residential properties: to the east by the Old Brewery Barn and to the south and west by the gardens of Ashbury House and Arlington House, respectively.
- According to the most recent available data from the British Geological Survey. the underlying geology at the site is chalk with localised superficial deposits of 'head' consisting of clay, silt, sand and gravels (BGS 2017).

1.3 **Planning Background**

Planning permission was granted by Horsham District Council for the demolition of existing structures and for the subsequent erection of two extensions to the property (planning reference DC/16/2773). Given the site's position in a designated Archaeological Notification Area, a condition was attached to the permission which required that:

> 'No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been secured in accordance with a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

> The development hereby permitted shall not be commenced until the archaeological site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition [i] and that provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing.

> Reason: As this matter is fundamental as the site is of archaeological significance and it is important that it is recorded by excavation before it is destroyed by development in accordance with Policy 34 of the Horsham District Planning Framework (2015).'

Subsequently a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2017) for the archaeological work was prepared by ASE and submitted to Horsham District Council and approved by Martin Brown of WYG (Horsham District Council's adviser on archaeological issues) before the commencement of groundworks

at the site. The document outlined the methodologies to be used on site (in this case an archaeological watching brief), and in the preparation of a report and archive of the results.

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The broad aims of the archaeological watching brief given in the WSI (*ibid.*) were:

'to ensure that any deposits, features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the excavations are recorded, interpreted and reported on to appropriate standards.'

1.4.2 An *Historic Characterisation Assessment* (Harris 2004) suggests that most relevant areas for archaeological research in this area of Steyning (HUCA 3) pertain to burgage plots and post-medieval industrial zones. The following specific research questions have been identified:

'What evidence is there for the evolution of the street plan during the Late Saxon and Norman period, especially in relation to settlement shift and the impact of the new river crossing at Bramber, and when and where did built-up street frontages first occur?

In the later medieval town how have tenements/burgage plots developed from the first built-up street frontages to the plots that survive today (e.g. are the plots to the north of Elm Grove Lane later than those to the south)? Have the latter been subdivided as a result of commercial pressure between 1250 and 1350?

In the post-medieval town, what different zones (e.g. social differentiation, or types of activity: especially consider the brewing and tanning industries), were there during this period, and how did they change?'

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological monitoring of groundworks at the site undertaken in July 2017 by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist) and by Lucy May (Archaeologist). The project was managed by Neil Griffin and Paul Mason (Project Managers) and by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (Postexcavation Managers).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Summary

- 2.1.2 This following background is taken directly from the WSI (ASE 2017), which in turn drew information from the West Sussex County Council Historic Environment Record and the Extensive Urban Survey of the town (Harris 2004).
- 2.1.1 The Granary lies within Archaeological Notification Area DWS8580, comprising the historic core of Steyning. The building itself has a complex structural and planning history, but is currently in residential use having in the past been the subject of numerous planning applications associated with change of use and various structural alterations.

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 Steyning lies on a narrow Lower Chalk and Greensand shelf at the foot of the scarp slope of the South Downs. This narrow band of relatively fertile soil has produced little evidence for early prehistoric (Palaeolithic Neolithic) occupation, although the ephemeral nature of the surviving material culture as it manifests in the archaeological record together with the masking nature of colluvial material derived from the higher slopes, are likely to be significant factors. A cluster of Mesolithic flint scatters are known around the valley of the Arun as it cuts through the Greensand. Later prehistoric settlement becomes more visible in the landscape as ritual landscapes gave way to organised agricultural landscapes typified by settlement clusters and field systems in the later Bronze and Iron Ages.
- 2.2.3 Some poorly dated later prehistoric ditches have been identified within Steyning itself, at Testers, White Horse Square (Gardiner 1988)

2.3 Mesolithic

- 2.3.1 During the Mesolithic the Weald would have been thickly covered with postglacial primary forest, however, palaeoenvironmental analysis is now indicating that at least limited, localised clearance was being undertaken from this time (Holgate 2003, 30-31). It seems probable that such activity was intended to encourage game.
- 2.3.2 No Mesolithic sites or finds have been identified in the vicinity of the site

2.4 Neolithic

2.4.1 A gradual intensification of woodland clearance is likely for the Neolithic of the Weald, however, such activity was probably still limited and localised in scale. The heavy clays of the region would not have been conducive to early farming and such activity may have largely been restricted to the more tractable soils on the Weald's edge (i.e. the Greensand, Downland and Coastal Plain). Exploitation of the Weald may have been undertaken on a largely seasonal basis and may perhaps have included hunting. As in the Mesolithic, the region's rivers would have provided highways into the interior from the coast.

2.4.2 Neolithic finds within the Weald tend to be sparse and this is the pattern within the vicinity of the site with no sites or find-spots within a 1 km radius of the site.

2.5 Bronze Age

- 2.5.1 Evidence of Bronze Age occupation in the Weald is limited in nature, although this is perhaps due to a general lack of fieldwork. Rare settlement sites have been encountered, for example America Wood, Ashington (Priestly-Bell 1994) and Gatwick Airport (Wells 2005) and barrows are known to exist.
- 2.5.2 More locally, two presumably Early Bronze Age barrows are recorded at Roundhill, Steyning (HER ref MWS444; MWS6671) as well as a Bronze Age or Iron Age cross-dyke (HER ref MWS445).
- 2.5.3 A Late Bronze Age hoard dating to 1000-700BC, and comprising almost a hundred objects, mainly spears, was discovered in 1981 at Clays Field, close to Bramber Castle (HER ref MWS1215)

2.6 Iron Age

- 2.6.1 It is becoming increasingly apparent that the West Central Weald was a well-settled zone during the turn of the 1st millennium AD and this appears to have its roots during the preceding Middle Iron Age. Both low-lying locations near to watercourses and elevated sites on ridge tops, or close to prominent hills, seem to have been desirable and these locations were occupied by the dominant settlement pattern of dispersed small enclosures with associated droves or trackways (Margetts in prep).
- 2.6.2 A small number of Iron Age artefacts have been recovered from within 1km of the site (HER refs. MWS457, MWS459 and MWS461).

2.7 Romano-British

- 2.7.1 Evidence for Roman activity in the Weald is sparse, and is confined mainly to the arterial network of Roman roads, way-stations and ironworking or industrial sites. The route of the east-west Greensand Way passes c. 2km to the north of Steyning. Few settlement sites have been found in the Weald (Rudling 1999), although some sites such as villas at Chiddingfold in Surrey and Wiggonholt in West Sussex are known from the less bleak periphery (Gardiner 1990).
- 2.7.2 Several find spots of Roman material have been noted in the town including some quantity of CBM and a Roman brooch found in excavations in the 1980's at Market Field (Gardiner 1993). Evidence of possible Roman occupation has been identified in Steyning Churchyard (HER ref. MWS1205) and Roman burials have been located c. 800m west of the site (HER ref. MWS5518).

2.8 Anglo-Saxon

2.8.1 The town of Steyning originated as an Anglo-Saxon minster. The *Life of St Cuthman* places its foundation in the late 7th or early 8th centuries. A secular settlement with royal connections grew up around the minster. It is mentioned in the will of King Alfred (d. 899) who left the estate to his nephew Æthelwold.

- 2.8.2 By the 11th century Steyning had become an urban centre and the primary town in the area. The importance of the town is also demonstrated by the fact that a mint was operating by the end of Cnut's reign (1018-1035). The development of a port, known as St Cuthman's Port also probably contributed to the growth of the town in this period, although, this facet of Steyning was short lived and the port had started to decline by the early Norman period. The location of the port is unknown but assumed to lie in the area north of the church.
- 2.8.3 Saxon pottery has been found within Bramber Castle (HER ref. MWS3518) and an Anglo-Saxon farmstead identified in Market Field c. 180m northeast of the site (HER ref. MWS6394). Late Saxon human remains were recovered during groundworks at 14 Coombe Drove, Steyning (HER ref. MWS6810).

2.9 Medieval

- 2.9.1 The Domesday Book records over a hundred dwellings and the first documentary evidence of a market also dates to the 11th century. At this time the minster developed into a Norman college of secular cannons belonging to the abbey of the Holy Trinity, Fécamp.
- 2.9.2 The scheduled ancient monument of Bramber Castle lies c. 500m to the southeast of the site. It was established by William de Braose early in the Norman period as a defensive and administrative centre for the newly established rape of Bramber, which became a rival of Steyning's with its own college of secular cannons. The castle initially developed as a motte and bailey castle and later developed into an enclosure type.
- 2.9.3 Unlike rival centres at Bramber and New Shoreham, the town continued to thrive into the later medieval period. It is likely that it faced some economic challenges as climatic conditions in the late 13th century almost certainly led to the complete silting of the harbour. However, a weekly market was still taking place in the mid-15th century and at this time, a guild of shoemakers and tanners is known to have been based in in the town. Several mills are also recorded in or around the town, from the time of the Domesday Book to the 15th century.
- 2.9.4 Dog Lane has been designated as part of Historic Urban Characterisation Area HUCA 3 (High Street South) which lay just to the south-west of the 11th century town but which was mostly occupied by the 13th century (Harris 2004). In general, this area has been assessed as having medium but variable archaeological potential; however, archaeological excavations in the immediate area of the current site have tended to be unproductive because of truncation associated with post-medieval breweries (ibid, 32). The site itself appears to have lain just at the edge of the built up urban area for much of its history though it was directly adjacent to known areas of light industry and irregular historic plots.

2.10 Post-Medieval

2.10.1 Steyning remained a significant and prosperous town into the earlier post-medieval period. By the 17th century it lay along an important route for coach travel between London and Shoreham and Brighton leading to the

development of inns and stabling. A free grammar school was founded in 1614 and a Market house or Sessions House served various public functions at this time.

- 2.10.2 The leather industry, which was established in the medieval period, became the town's most important trade in the 17th and 18th centuries, with a concentration of Tanyards in the southern part of the town, in the immediate vicinity of the current site. In addition to leather working, cloth-making also seems to have been practiced in the town.
- 2.10.3 There were fluctuations in the Steyning's population over the course of the post-medieval period. Although the town grew rapidly in the later 18th century, it was identified as a rotten borough in the first electoral Reform Act of 1832 and disenfranchised. However, a more sustained period of growth followed, partly as a result of trade and industry. Of particular relevance to the current site is the growth of breweries and chalk extraction and lime-burning on the southern edge of the town during the 19th century.

2.11 Listed Buildings

2.11.1 A total of 117 Listed Buildings (2x Grade I, 7x Grade II* and 108 Grade II) are located within a 1km radius of the site. The Granary is not listed.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 Mechanical ground reduction was monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. All sections were examined for archaeological deposits and all spoil was scanned for the presence of archaeological artefacts, both visually and with a metal detector.
- 3.1.2 All encountered deposits were recorded according to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart. A full photographic record of the monitoring was maintained.
- 3.1.3 The fieldwork was undertaken according to WSI (ASE 2017), in accordance with the ClfA Code of Conduct (ClfA 2014a) and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (ClfA 2014b).) as well as with reference to the Sussex Archaeological Standards (WSCC/MSCC/ESCC 2015).

3.2 Fieldwork Constraints

3.2.1 There were no physical constraints to the archaeological monitoring of the groundworks; machining was closely observed, all sections were examined and all spoil was scanned for the presence of archaeological artefacts.

3.3 The Site Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be offered to the Steyning Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Tables 1 and 2).

Context sheets	4
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	12
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	3
Trench Record forms	0

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box	0
0.5 of a box)	
Registered finds (number of)	
Flots and environmental remains from bulk	0
samples	
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample	0
samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk	0
samples	

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction (Figure 2)

4.1.1 Mechanical excavations at the site were monitored on visits during July 2017.

			Max. Deposit Thickness m
Context	Type	Description	
100	Layer	Leaf Litter	<0.05
101	Layer	Made Ground	0.30
102	Layer	Made Ground	0.50
103	Layer	'Natural'	-

Table 3: List of recorded contexts

4.2 The Stratigraphic Sequence

- 4.2.1 Monitoring of excavation to the west of the existing structure revealed a straightforward stratigraphic sequence. It consisted of a surface layer of leaf litter, context [100], which overlay a thin deposit of mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil/made ground, context [101], which in turn overlay a deposit of similar texture and colour which contained a large quantity of angular flint, context [102]. This directly overlay the 'natural' head deposits, which consisted of a greyish orangey brown clay with bands of laminar stone at depth, context [103].
- 4.2.3 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded, and this absence of material culture so close to a building apparently of same age suggests wholesale movement of material probably in the recent past. It is suggested that contexts [101] and [102] were imported into the site to level the area after significant terracing into higher ground which survives immediately to the south.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

5.1.1 The simple stratigraphic sequence and absence of any clear topsoil or subsoil, demonstrated that there had been significant earthmoving at the site, presumably in the recent past, supported by the paucity of deposited detritus that would be expected close to any property of age.

5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

5.2.1 It is clear that there has been substantial earthmoving at the property in the recent past, presumably associated with one of the previous planning applications for change of use and/or structural alterations.

5.3 Consideration of research aims

5.3.1 Given the lack of archaeological remains, none of the research aims could be addressed in any meaningful way.

5.4 Conclusions

5.4.1 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded at the site, and there was clear evidence that any potential archaeological deposits had been removed prior to the current works.

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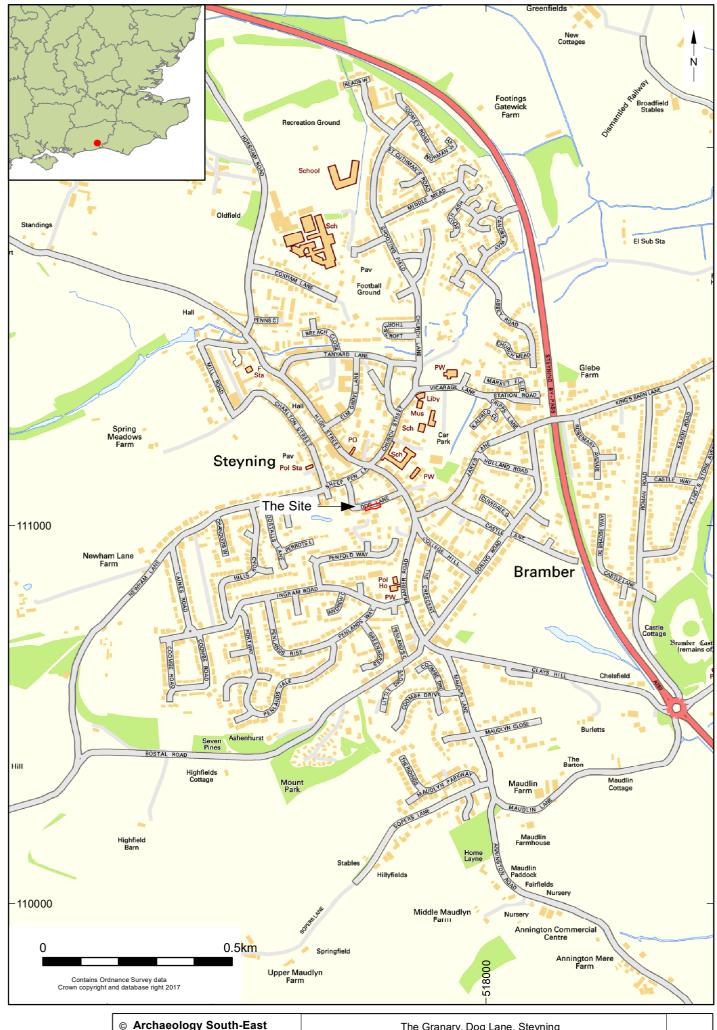
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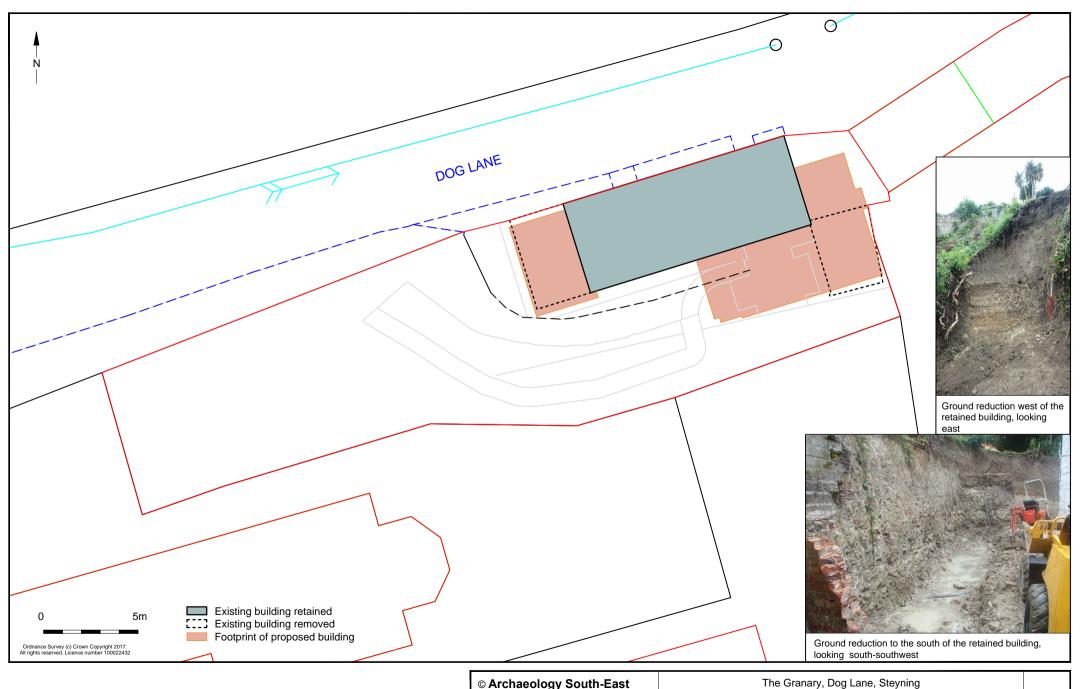
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© Archaeology South-East	The Granary, Dog Lane, Steyning		
Project Ref: 170368 August 2017	Site location	Fig. 1	
Report Ref: 2017336 Drawn by: N	Site iocation		



© Archaeology South-East		outh-East	The Granary, Dog Lane, Steyning				
Project Ref: 1703	368	August 2017	Plan of development and monitored area				
Report Ref: 2017	336	Drawn by: NH	Fian of development and monitored area				

HER Summary

Site code	DLS 17								
Project code	170368								
Planning reference	DC/16/27	DC/16/2773							
Site address	The Gran	nary	, Dog La	ne,	Steyni	ng, Wes	t Sussex		
District/Borough	Horsham	Dis	strict						
NGR (12 figures)	517673 1	1110	051						
Geology	Head De	pos	its over	Chal	k				
Fieldwork type	Eval	Ex	cav	WE	3 ✓	HBR	Survey		Other
Date of fieldwork	6.07.2017 to 28.07.2017								
Sponsor/client	Mr. Andrew Spicer								
Project manager	Neil Griffin/Paul Mason								
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens								
Period summary									
	None								
Project summary	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Mr Andrew Spicer to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at The Granary, Dog Lane, Steyning, West Sussex (NGR 517673 111051). No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded at the site, and there was clear evidence that any potential archaeological deposits had been removed prior to the current works.								

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-291556

Project details

Archaeological Watching Brief Report - The Granary, Dog Project name

Lane, Stevning, West Sussex

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Mr Andrew Spicer to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at The Granary, Dog Lane, Steyning, West Sussex (NGR 517673 111051). No archaeological deposits,

Short description of the project

features or finds were recorded at the site, and there was clear evidence that any potential archaeological deposits had

been removed prior to the current works.

Start: 07-07-2017 End: 28-07-2017 Project dates

Previous/future

work

No / Not known

Any associated

project reference

170368 - Contracting Unit No.

codes

Any associated

project reference

DLS 17 - Sitecode

codes

Any associated

project reference

codes

DC/16/2773 - Planning Application No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Other 5 - Garden **NONE None** Monument type Significant Finds **NONE None**

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country England

WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM STEYNING The Granary, Dog Site location

lane

BN44 3GE Postcode

Study area 100 Square metres

TQ 17673 11051 50.88638406951 -0.326893106109 50 53 10 Site coordinates

N 000 19 36 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation

Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator

Archaeology South-East

Project design

originator

Archaeology South-East

Project

director/manager

Neil Griffin/Paul Mason

Project supervisor

Lucy May

Type of

sponsor/funding

Client

body

Name of

sponsor/funding

Mr Andrew Spicer

body

Project archives

Physical Archive

Steyning museum

recipient **Physical Contents**

"other"

Digital Archive

recipient

Steyning Museum

Digital Contents

"other"

"other"

Digital Media

available

"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive

recipient

Steyning Museum

Paper Contents

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