



Green Heritage & Conservation Specialists

Green Structural Solutions (GSS) – under our specialist division Green Heritage & Conservation Specialists – is proud to lead the conservation and structural restoration of Little St Mary’s, Bramber. This Grade II listed property, dating back to the early 17th century, has stood through centuries of Sussex weather, including the devastating 1925 floods. Our mission is to safeguard this heritage landmark while restoring it with integrity and authenticity.

Historic Background

Little St Mary’s, located on The Street in Bramber, is part of a larger Grade II listed structure alongside St Mary’s Lodge. According to Historic England, the building was originally timber-framed and later re-fronted with flint and red brick, bearing the date stone 1620. It features traditional casement windows and a clay-tiled roof, with architectural evidence of both medieval and 17th-century craftsmanship.

The property lies within Bramber’s Conservation Area, opposite the Grade I listed St Mary’s House – itself dating from circa 1470. The area’s architecture and materials reflect the historic vernacular of rural West Sussex, combining timber, flint, lime, and clay tile.

The 1925 Bramber Floods

In January 1925, Bramber and nearby Steyning were hit by catastrophic flooding as the River Adur burst its banks. The photo below shows Little St Mary’s during that flood, with villagers delivering supplies by horse and cart. This event remains part of local history, illustrating both the vulnerability and resilience of the area’s heritage buildings.



Little St Mary's during the 1925 flood (courtesy of local archives).

Additional historic imagery and context can be found via:

- Historic England Photo Archive: IOE01/02239/04 – Little St Mary's / St Mary's Lodge.
- Gravelroots Historical Gallery – Bramber Floods 1924–1925.
- Beeding & Bramber Local History Society Archive – Winter Floods, 1925.
- St Mary's House & Gardens official website – local heritage context.

Our Restoration Approach

Our work at Little St Mary's focuses on sensitive structural and material repairs that maintain historic integrity. We are using air-dried oak for replacement purlins and props, traditional lime mortars for all masonry and flint repairs, and reclaimed handmade tiles for roofing. Every intervention follows heritage best practices to ensure longevity and authenticity.

Working closely with Manorwood Conservation, VKHP Consulting Engineers, and Horsham District Council's Conservation Officers, we are undertaking full re-roofing, oak frame repairs, dormer rebuilds, and flintwork restoration using heritage-approved methods.

Preserving the Past for the Future

This project celebrates more than just structural preservation – it honours the spirit of craftsmanship and the story of resilience that defines Sussex heritage. Through Green Heritage & Conservation Specialists, we aim to continue this legacy, one historic building at a time.