



*The Old Village Hall Mill Lane
Poynings
Brighton
BN45 7AE
[01273 857 223](tel:01273857223)
info@silverstainedglass.com*

Method Statement prepared for Stephen Yeomans for Infill of Dovecote Holes Using Restoration Glass in a Grade II Listed Barn Restoration at Old Bakery, 65 High Street, Lindfield, RH16 2HN

With over 30 years of expertise, Silver Stained Glass has established a distinguished reputation for exceptional craftsmanship in stained glass design and restoration. Our work is recognised for its quality and precision, having collaborated extensively with Historic England and the National Trust on numerous nationally significant buildings, including Brighton Pavilion.

1. Project Overview

This method statement outlines the proposed approach for sensitively infilling existing dovecote holes in a Grade II* listed barn using restoration glass and lime mortar. The methodology aligns with Historic England and local conservation authority guidelines, ensuring the intervention is reversible, sympathetic to the historic fabric, and preserves the building's special architectural and historical significance.

The intervention aims to weatherproof and protect the internal structure while retaining the visual character of the dovecote openings. The approach prioritizes minimal impact, breathability, and reversibility, ensuring future conservation efforts remain viable.

2. Compliance with Listed Building Requirements

Legal & Planning Requirements

- **Listed Building Consent (LBC):** As a Grade II* listed building, the barn is protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Formal LBC is required before any alterations can proceed.
- **Consultation with Conservation Officer:** All proposed work will be reviewed in detail with the local conservation officer to ensure compliance with Historic England guidelines and local planning policies.
- **Minimal Intervention & Reversibility:** The intervention follows the principle of minimal intervention, ensuring no damage to the historic fabric and allowing for future reversibility.
- **Use of Traditional, Breathable Materials:** All materials used will be historically appropriate, ensuring compatibility with the existing masonry and preventing moisture entrapment.
- **Retention of Original Features:** The original shape, size, and positioning of the dovecote holes will remain unaltered, with no additional structural elements introduced.

3. Materials Specification

Glass Type & Thickness

- **Restoration Cylinder Glass (3mm–4mm thick):**
 - Traditional hand-blown glass with slight distortions, ensuring an authentic period appearance.
 - Allows natural light penetration while maintaining the barn's historic character.
 - Provides historically accurate aesthetics, avoiding modern reflections.

Fixing Materials

- **Lime Mortar (NHL 3.5):**
 - Traditional breathable, flexible mortar suitable for historic masonry.
 - Mixed in a 1:3 ratio (lime to well-graded sand) for strength and compatibility.
 - Ensures moisture management and prevents long-term damage.
- **Oak Support Wedges (Temporary Use):**
 - Seasoned oak wedges used sparingly to support the glass during curing.
 - No unnecessary mechanical fixings or irreversible changes.

4. Method of Installation

Step 1: Site Assessment & Preparation

- Conduct structural assessment of dovecote holes and surrounding masonry.
- Document existing conditions with photographs.
- Clean edges using a soft brush and low-pressure air; avoid aggressive cleaning methods.

Step 2: Glass Cutting & Preparation

- Measure and cut glass with 2mm tolerance for expansion.
- Hand-polish sharp edges for stress prevention.

Step 3: Lime Mortar Preparation

- Mix NHL 3.5 lime mortar with well-graded sand in a 1:3 ratio.
- Allow mixture to rest for 20–30 minutes before application.

Step 4: Glass Installation

- Apply a thin 5mm layer of lime mortar to the inner rebate of each dovecote hole.
- Position restoration glass, ensuring even bedding.
- Secure with additional lime mortar and, if necessary, temporary oak wedges.

Step 5: Curing & Finishing

- Protect mortar from rapid drying with damp hessian sheeting for at least 7 days.
- Mist periodically to prevent cracking.
- After full curing (14–28 days), optionally apply linseed oil putty for additional weatherproofing.

5. Conservation Officer & Listed Building Considerations

- **Visual Impact:** Designed to be visually unobtrusive, maintaining the barn's aesthetic integrity.
- **Reversibility:** No adhesives, synthetic sealants, or mechanical fixings, ensuring full reversibility.
- **Breathability:** Lime mortar and traditional materials maintain moisture regulation.
- **No Damage to Historic Fabric:** No drilling, widening, or modifications to the dovecote holes.

6. Health & Safety Considerations

- **Use of PPE:** Gloves, eye protection, and dust masks when handling lime mortar and glass.
- **Working at Height:** Secure scaffolding and harnesses for upper dovecote holes.
- **Safe Material Handling:** All materials stored and handled per conservation best practices.

7. Post-Installation Inspection & Approval

- A final conservation officer inspection will be requested upon completion.
- Photographic documentation of completed work will be submitted for planning approval.
- Any necessary adjustments will be made in consultation with the conservation officer.

Conclusion

This method statement ensures compliance with the strict conservation requirements of a Grade II* listed barn. By using reversible methods, traditional materials, and conservation best practices, the intervention will enhance the barn's longevity while meeting planning and heritage regulations.