

## NIGEL DAVID COPSEY

Date of birth : 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 1958, Gloucester, United Kingdom.

Secondary Education :  
Beacon Comprehensive School,  
Crowborough, East Sussex.  
8 GCE's  
A Levels : History, English,  
Economics.

University : 1978–82, University  
of York, BA (Hons) Politics Class  
2:1

College of Further Education :  
1989–1991, Weymouth College,  
Dorset :

City and Guilds Craft and  
Advanced Craft

Certificates, Stonemasonry;  
College

Diploma, Lettercutting and  
Architectural

Stonecarving,

Distinctions throughout.

Bournemouth University, 1998–  
2000 : Post-Graduate Diploma,  
Building Conservation.

2003 Full Professional  
Accreditation, United Kingdom  
Institute of  
Conservation, now ICON.

### Employment:

1982–1984, self-employed  
drystone waller, Cornwall;

1984, drystone waller, Avon  
Wildlife Trust, Bristol;

1984–1985, Spain : teaching  
English; renovation of rammed  
earth and stone Moorish house,  
Chite, Granada;

1985–1989, Cornwall, stone  
waller, dry and mortared; hard  
landscaper;

1991–1992: freelance letter  
cutter and monumental  
mason/carver

1992–1999, self-employed letter cutter, stone carver, fixer mason, conservator in partnership with Oliver Coe; Copsey & Coe.

#### Major projects:

West Pennard House, Somerset, supply and fix of Bathstone windows, including bay window, door surrounds, chimneys and finials for two extensions.

Waynefleet Tower, Esher, Surrey: conservation and repair of 1470 brick gatehouse and 1738 William Kent Gothic Revival stone windows. The stonework is the earliest example of Gothick detailing. Grade 1 listed

Several Japanese Gardens for Geoffrey Northcote.

Building of dry-stone wall installation in courtyards of West Dorset District Hospital for sculptor Richard Harris.

Captains House, Isle of Portland, Dorset, conservation restoration of ruined circa 1700 classical mansion.

Conservation works to C18 Church and cemetery of St George Reforne, Portland, Dorset, for Churches Conservation Trust; surveyor, Philip Hughes.

Conservation and repair of South Lytchett Manor, Lychett Minster, Dorset for Dorset County Council.

Repair and repointing of the mediaeval masonry of The Dower House, Compton Durville, Somerset.

Refurbishment of Hamstone porticos, Palace Court, Bayswater, London.

Freelance for Harvey Stonemasonry, Ham Hill, Somerset:

Stonecarving for:

Pierced Hamstone balustrades, Norton Manor Camp, Taunton, Somerset; Extension, Masonic

Lodge, Yeovil, Somerset; Tudor pinnacles, Dillington House, Somerset

Numerous hamstone mullion windows, door surrounds, fireplaces, chimneys, headstones.

Freelance for Nimbus Conservation:

Stonecarving for West Front, Truro Cathedral;  
Carving of stone finials, All Saints Church tower, Langport, Somerset;  
Crocketted pinnacles, Long Ashton church tower, Carved and fixed.

Freelance for Strachey & Strachey Conservation:

Conservative rebuild of George Gilbert Scott alabaster reredos, St Asaph Cathedral, North Wales, with Strachey and Strachey Conservation.

1999–2002 Senior Stonemason, project and site manager and

specifier, Nimbus Conservation Limited.

Major contracts:

Corfe Castle, Dorset, consolidation stone and core-work of 11<sup>th</sup> Century curtain wall;

Repointing and masonry repairs, church tower, Winterbourne Came, Dorchester, Dorset.

Reordering of Sanctuary, carving of new altar, St Aldhelms Roman Catholic Church, Sherborne, Dorset;

Dismantlement, conservation, repair and rebuild of 17<sup>th</sup> Century alabaster monument, Church of Saint Mary Magdalene, Walkeringham, Nottinghamshire.

Conservation and repair of C16/ C17 marble and alabaster monuments, De Borbach Chantry, West Dean, Wiltshire.

Cleaning and reinstatement of previously stored marble statuary, Brodsworth Hall, South Yorkshire;

Cleaning and repair of C17, C18 and C19 wall Monuments, Church of St Werburghs, Derby

Extensive conservation and repair of 150 Feet tower and steeple, nave and chancel walls, St Stephens Church, Redditch, Worcestershire.

May–August 2001: Sponsored by Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, London, and the Manifold Trust to work alongside American Masons on a major restoration of an 1800 brick cape in Whitingham, Vermont, encouraging in them a thorough understanding of the proper use of traditional lime mortars, also developing in them an understanding of European repair ethics. The project was for the Landmark Trust USA Inc.

Holding public workshops in Vermont in the use of lime mortars in the repair of old buildings. Public lectures in the same.

August 2001 Masonry consultant to the Irish Hunger Memorial, Battery Park City, Manhattan, New York City. Advising on the correct

use of lime mortars in the rebuilding of an Irish cottage, centrepiece of a large sculpture designed by Brian Tolle; demonstrating good practice in the pointing and laying up of masonry and dry–stone walls in accordance with sound ethical practice; building bridges between artist and masons.

May–October 2002

Stonemason and masonry/conservation consultant on Arts and Crafts style/ English Revival stone and timber–framed house, Springfield Vermont, USA. The Richter house is part conversion of an old stone farmhouse, part new–build, with new stone outbuildings and dry–stone walls.

Preparatory repair work to the Old Company Store of the Vermont Marble Company in West Rutland, VT, now the headquarters of the Carving Studio. The building was built using marble off–cuts of a variety of face–finish. It will be repointed by ourselves in the spring of 2003 using lime putty mortar.

Surveys, condition reports and recommendations for Churches Conservation Trust :

Monuments, Stainburn Church; monuments and mausoleum, St Andrews Church, Shotley; monuments, St James Church, Toxteth, Liverpool. Condition report on carved stonework, St Peters, Wintringham, North Yorkshire.

Design, carving and fixing of new stone fireplaces and associated conservation work.

Summer 2003:

Conservation and repair of the Old Company Store, West Rutland, Vermont.

Visiting artist at the Carving Studio and Sculpture Center, West Rutland, Vermont.

Surveys of and reports upon a variety of vernacular and National Historic Register buildings in Vermont for architect Tom Keefe.

2004

Conservation and Repair work for the Fitzwilliam Estate, Malton, North Yorkshire;

Production of strategic and practical conservation plan for the town of Malton which is 90% owned by the Estate, trialing methods and mortar mixes.

April 2004

Phase one of repair and conservation of stone, earth and brick Moorish settlement house, Chite, Granada, Spain.

Summer 2004

Structural repair and repointing of Champlain Black limestone cottage, Isle La Motte, Vermont;

Condition surveys of Unitarian Church, Burlington, VT, of the Ira Hill House, Isle La Motte, VT, and of the Marble Museum, Proctor, VT.

Continuing new-build stonework at the Richter House, Springfield, VT

2004 - 2010

Freelance consultant conservation specialist and

adviser to Fitzwilliam Estate, Malton.

Researching many of the historic buildings of the town, as well as preparing Management Plan for Yorkersgate, Malton.

See [www.nigelcopsey.com](http://www.nigelcopsey.com) as well as [www.maltonbuildingsgroup.com](http://www.maltonbuildingsgroup.com)

Freelance project manager and stonemason/conservator for Fitzwilliam Estate Malton.

Major projects: York House: project designer and specifier, as well as lead craftsman, building and educating a team of craftsmen, as well as organizing Ryedale Building Conservation and Heritage Fair in 2008, in association with the SPAB and Ryedale District Council, focused upon the house, which was opened to the public whilst a live conservation project. Organising further events throughout the project, including Open Rehearsal of Haydn Opera as part of Ryedale Festival. Delivery of traditional crafts training workshops in the house, including in lime and earth plastering.

Vanbrugh Arch, repair, conservation and like-for-like restoration of 17thC stone stair, Talbot Hotel Gardens, Owston's Warehouse and 1725 Navigation Quay, Forsyth House; Estate Offices Buildings (originally 1604 stables of Lodge); exterior stucco repair and conservation, Saville House; like-for-like repair and substantial reconstruction, gable wall of 18thC warehouse, Navigation Wharf, repair and conservation of vaulted undercrofts, Talbot Hotel; assorted smaller repair and conservation projects.

Rewriting of Standard Specifications for repair and conservation of Estate's historic and traditional building stock.

Design and delivery of training days in traditional skills and conservation ethics in association with Fitzwilliam Estate, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and York University and NHTA (Yorks and Humber)

Delivery of Lime Training with Alan Gardner for Churches Conservation Trust at All Saints

Church, Harewood, 2008 and 2009.

Freelance consultancy for Settrington Estate and a variety of private clients.

Variety of conservation and repair contracts for private clients, including Castle Howard Estate (Atlas Fountain, Boar Monument).

2010, delivery with Alex Holton, of 5-day Stone conservation and repair course in partnership with Restorative Techniques, NHTA (Yorks and Humber) and York University.

2010 Management Plan, New Pilfit Field Shelter for private client and Natural England.

2010, Conservation of West and Beakhead Doorways, St Mary's Priory Church, Old Malton

2011, founding of Malton Buildings Group, with web-site, to promote understanding and appreciation of the distinctive and important architectural and cultural history of Malton and surrounding villages.

Conservation Management Plan, Lambing Sheds, Settrington, for Settrington Estate and Natural England

Conservation and repair of Final Royd, 18thC merchants house, Birkenshaw, West Yorkshire for Fiona and Colin Hill; surveyor, Julie Cater, LHL Group.

2011, conservation and repair of upper tower, St Andrews Church, Bywell. Anglo-Saxon tower, circa 1000AD but built using Roman spolia. Architect, Christopher Downs, client: CCT.

Interior limecrete floors and lime plastering, Ivy Cottage, Cowick, to much-abused circa 1600 brick house.

Conservation and repair- chancel of St Michael's Church, Crambe; architect, Dominic Lockett; client Church of England Commissioners and PCC.

Conservation and repair of table tombs in churchyard of same, LEADER-funded, architect: Peter Gaze Pace

Delivery, Lime Mortars and More, training for under-25s, Harewood All Saints in partnership with Churches Conservation Trust and IBIS Roofing.

Like-for like replacement of central stone column within circa 1712 stone vault, Talbot Hotel, Malton.

Conservation and repair, Exclamation Gate piers, Castle Howard Estate; LEADER-funded

Conservation of 12thC doorways, St Botolph's Church, Bossal; architect, Peter Gaze Pace

Conservation and Repair, 'Mary Fountain', gothic revival public drinking fountain, South Cliff, Scarborough for Civic Society

Establishment, with Ben Gourley and Mark Wilson, of Traditional and Sustainable Buildings Centre, to offer skills training in all aspects of the pattern of traditional and vernacular building locally, as well as in the use of compatible and sustainable materials for new build. Courses to be based at Hall

Farm, Thornton Dale, as well as being peripatic as appropriate.

Lectures and practical day delivery upon various modules of MA Conservation, York University, but especially regarding lime and earth mortars and their uses.

Variety of public lectures on conservation of York House and Malton, as well as tours of house and town to variety of interested groups and organizations, including Yorkshire Gardens Trust; Yorkshire group SPAB; Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Group; Malton and Norton Historical Society; Yorkshire Art Fund, Bridlington Augustinian Society, The Men of the Stones.

Other presentations:

Lecture, Restore Omaha Conference, Omaha Nebraska, November 2005

Lecture, Soft Mortars in a Cold Climate, Traditional Building Conference, Chicago, Illinois, April 2006



September 2010, presentation,  
Mud Mortars in Masonry  
Construction, RILEM Historic  
Mortars Conference, Prague,  
Czech Republic

EBUK AGM 2010 – presentation,  
earth masonry construction in  
and around Malton

February 2011, lecture for visit to  
York University of staff and  
students from Architectural  
Conservation Course at Royal  
Institute of Art, Stockholm: the  
practice of lime conservation

ICON Plastering Seminar,  
September 2011, Ironbridge:  
Presentation, Mud Mortars in  
Masonry Construction, Malton.

Membership of  
Organisations:

Active, campaigning member of  
the Society for the Protection of  
Ancient Buildings;

ICOMOS UK

Fully Accredited Member, ICON

Senior Member, RILEM

Earth Building UK (EBUK)

Building Limes Forum

Last updated, January 2012