

Nigel Griffiths

2021



Nigel Griffiths is a sustainability and energy efficiency expert in the built environment with over 25 years' experience as a practitioner, project manager, author and consultant. As Director of the STBA for 8 years, he worked at the cutting edge of sustainability for heritage buildings. As a Principal Consultant with Ricardo, he provided practical energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainability strategies for numerous buildings and large property portfolios, including listed and hard-to-treat buildings. He has also worked extensively on policy development in this sector in the UK and overseas. He continues to inspect Renewable Heat installations on behalf of Ofgem, and advises private clients on retrofit strategies. He is the author of several books including the Haynes Eco House Manual, writes for the Build-it monthly self-build magazine and is the resident sustainability expert at their UK exhibitions.

Current positions:

- Policy Adviser - Sustainable Traditional Buildings Alliance
- Auditor - Ofgem Renewable Heat Incentive
- Sustainability Expert - Build-it
- Adviser to BEIS - Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund

Previous employment

2013-2021: Director, STBA

The [Sustainable Traditional Buildings Alliance](#) is a collaboration of not-for-profit organisations that acts as a forum for sustaining and improving traditional buildings in the UK.

- As Director of the STBA he worked closely with industry-leading bodies to agree and promote a common approach to the retrofit of traditional buildings.
- Under his direction, the STBA produced and disseminated industry-leading technical understanding of how buildings perform before and after energy efficiency measures have been installed.

2008–2016: Principal Consultant, Sustainable Buildings, Ricardo Energy & Environment

- Project Manager and Project Director
- Developed practical energy efficiency strategies for a wide variety of clients
- Author of numerous guides on sustainable construction and energy efficiency
- Renewable energy feasibility assessments and policy development
- Advised foreign governments on energy efficiency & carbon policy
- ESOS assessor
- Auditor for Ofgem of biomass, solar and heat pump installations accredited under the Renewable Heat Incentive

While at Ricardo, he worked on policy development and programme evaluation for major UK government departments (DECC, Defra, DfID), foreign governments and several supranational bodies. He produced reports for the Governments of Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Jersey and the Isle of Man, plus many major corporations.

He has an excellent understanding of Building Regulations, gained through his work for DCLG as a contracts manager under their research programme, having specific responsibility for parts G and H, the Code for Sustainable Homes and the Reform of the Regulations.

2006 - 2007: Author (2 books – see under “Publications” below) and consultant

2004 - 2006: Project Manager and Director, Ecos Homes

- Complete responsibility for taking this £3m development of 12 new eco-homes from concept to completion and occupation.
- Managed a large design team
- Supervised the tendering process
- Carried out value engineering, making changes to specifications
- Oversaw the build phase while liaising with purchasers, investors and other stakeholders
- Organised seminars and site tours to communicate the experience to other building professionals.
- “Great Bow Yard” won several national awards

1991 - 2003: Building renovation contractor working mainly on traditional buildings

1986 - 1990: Film Producer & Executive Director, Financial i Ltd

1985 - 1986: Assistant Actuary, Antony Gibbs Pension Services

Qualifications

- Carbon Trust accredited low carbon consultant
- HNC Building Construction, Birmingham City University
- Trained as Code for Sustainable Homes Assessor and SAP Assessor
- Trained with Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
- MA Oxon, Trinity College, Oxford, PPE.

Publications

[*The Eco House Manual*](#) (Published 2007, paperback edition 2015) Haynes

This book (published 2007) explains how to carry out environmentally friendly improvements to domestic buildings, with a clear focus on improving energy efficiency. The information is delivered in the clear practical manner for which the publishers are well known.

[*Great Bow Yard - Anatomy of an Eco-Build*](#) (2007) Eco-Logic

This book records the process of designing and delivering the Great Bow Yard development in Somerset so that planners, architects, engineers and project managers can appreciate the process of energy efficient and sustainable building. (The book was nominated for a RIBA award)

[*Planning Responsible Retrofit*](#) (2015) STBA (Co-author)

This Guide examines the issues that arise when retrofitting traditional buildings including key risks to fabric, heritage, human health and energy performance. The guide sets out the whole building approach to retrofit based on the context of the building. A series of techniques and tools to manage risks are provided along with links to technical research and accredited training in traditional building retrofit.

In addition to these publications, he has published numerous reports for UK and overseas government agencies, principally on sustainability and energy efficiency policy. He has also written many private reports for prominent corporations and public bodies in the UK.

Lecturing and CPD

Nigel Griffiths has lectured on sustainable construction and refurbishment to a wide variety of audiences including:

- NATO – Energy Security Centre of Excellence, Lithuania: Conditions for achieving behaviour change in the military
- Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB): Conference Chairman – Old buildings and energy efficiency
- National Trust: Strategies for retrofit of the let estate
- Houses of Parliament all-party group on sustainability: Eco-refurbishment
- Mayor of London’s Green 500: Masterclass on old buildings
- Church in Wales: Sustainable renovation of domestic buildings
- Royal Society: Chaired NERC seminar on research needs of the GSHP industry.
- Association of Environment Conscious Builders (AECB): Limitations of Part L
- RICS Summer School - retrofitting old buildings
- Centre for Alternative Technology (MSc Course): Principles of refurbishment
- Exeter University (MSC Course): Great Bow Yard, Langport
- Carbon Trust: Understanding and upgrading building fabric
- Energy Saving Trust: Planning Responsible Retrofit
- EcoBuild: Villains or Visionaries: Sustainability and Heritage

Memberships & Accreditations

- Resident sustainability Expert at “[Build-it](#)” Exhibitions (3 per annum)
- Otterhead Estate Trust: Director