

**Commission:** Reproduction of the main library  
**Client:** Stoke Rochford Hall, Lincolnshire  
**Specification:** Solid English Oak, unstained wax finish

On the 25th January 2005 a fire raged through Stoke Rochford Hall in Lincolnshire destroying much of the main building when the roof caved in, leaving the Main Hall extensively damaged and the Library completely destroyed. It was clear that a specialist furniture maker would be required to tackle the Library as not a single element of the extensive bookcasing was left.

The Library was designed by the Hall's architect, William Burn in the early 1840's in an unusual mix of Victorian and Jacobean styles. The size of the cabinetry and extensive use of carving and ornamental strapwork meant this would be an especially complicated and challenging project.

So when the architects searched for a suitable company with the relevant experience, choosing NEJ Stevenson, with our extensive knowledge of replicating lost or destroyed elements in other historic buildings such as Windsor Castle, Eltham Palace and Knightshayes Court, meant their decision to use us for tackling this extremely large and complex project was a relatively straightforward one.

With 32.5 metres of book-presses each standing at 3.3m high and all of the original destroyed, it would be necessary to refer to the original photographs. By the time the final drawings had been approved we'd made scores of calculations to ensure accuracy of the reproduction. The final work required a massive 500 cu/ft of English Oak and took over 100 man weeks of labour to make. Our extensive network of specialist subcontractors meant we were able to meet the timescales required without compromising our quality standards.

The project was completed successfully to time and budget, in no small part due to the client providing clear instructions as to scope, and then having the confidence to leave us to do what we do best. The recognition by the client of our ability to manage our sub-contractors and for us to produce such exceptional quality in returning the building to its former glory was an immensely satisfying conclusion to the project.



#### Specification

Manufactured in solid English Oak with an unstained wax finish

#### Contact information

If you feel we could help you with the design and production of your bespoke furniture requirements please contact me, Neil Stevenson, Managing Director, NEJ Stevenson on 02476 544662 or email me at [neil@nejstevenson.co.uk](mailto:neil@nejstevenson.co.uk)