

## Croome Park, Gloucestershire

Croome Park was purchased by the National Trust in 1996. The landscape garden was Capability Brown's first major commission and is therefore incredibly important. However it had fallen into a terrible state of repair and needed the combined forces of the National Trust and the Heritage Lottery Fund to see it returned to its former glory. The task of conserving and restoring the statuary in the garden fell to Cliveden Conservation Workshop with me as project leader. There were elements of Coade artificial stone, Bath limestone, Grinshill sandstone and Portland Limestone – all in a variable state of repair. I assisted with the specification for the statuary and managed the project of reinstating all these important elements to their original places. The project involved remodelling and casting elements as well as new stone carving before refixing on site. The project was completed on time and on budget in time for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Trust acquisition at Easter 2006.



*The Druid returned home, another of the group of nine items of statuary in the collection.*

*Rob Thomson, September 2006*

This Coade stone water nymph required considerable pinning with stainless steel as well as remodelling of new hands, feet, nose and arm to allow the sculpture to be read as originally intended. Full restoration was decided against.



*Before*



*During*



*After*