HOLDEN CONSERVATION LTD

York House Cascade

Condition, Treatment and Maintenance Report

Prepared for

London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames

by
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Condition of the statues before treatment

The sculptures and cascade were last conserved in 2007. At this time the sculptures, shells, marble edges and cascade stonework were cleaned and repaired. The missing sections of the figures were also re-carved and attached. A report on the works was prepared and lodged with Richmond Upon Thames Borough council.

On inspection the sculptures, shells and marble edge to the cascade were found to be in reasonable condition, although they were covered in algae. All the 2007 repairs were found to be sound.



The sculptures before cleaning.

The cleaning and maintenance undertaken at this time, March 2012, was the first inspection since the work was carried out in 2007. The treatment included the steam cleaning of the figures, the shells and the marble edge to the cascade. The water was not drained from the ponds.

Condition of the statues after treatment

After the sculptures were steam cleaned it could clearly be seen that the marble repairs were starting to weather to match the texture of the original marble, although some still remained quite bright. The resin repairs around the marble were found to be in a good and stable condition, although some had discoloured more than others. The epoxy resin used in these repairs was chosen for it durability under very wet conditions. It is one of the properties of this resin is that it does discolour but it was felt that the priority was the long-term durability and stability of the repairs.

Photographs were taken of all the statues and repairs.



0148

Nymph no.1, after cleaning.



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Detail of the toe repair to Nymph no.1's left foot.



0152

Detail of two finger repairs to Nymph no.1's right hand.



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Detail of the nose repair to Nymph no.1.



0154

Nymph no.2, after cleaning.



Detail of the five digit repairs to Nymph no.2's right hand.

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Detail of the hand repair to the Nymph no.2's left hand.

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Detail of the toe and ankle repairs to the Nymph no.2's left foot.

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Detail of the four toe repairs to Nymph no.2's right foot.

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Nymph no.3, after cleaning.
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0140
Detail of the five digit and pearl repairs to Nymph no.3's right hand.



Nymph no.4, after cleaning.

0158



Detail of Nymph no.4's horns.

0123



Detail of the five digit repairs to Nymph no.4's right hand.

0122



Detail of the five digit repairs to Nymph no.4's left hand.

0125



Nymph no.5, after cleaning.

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Detail of the four toe repairs to Nymph no.5's left foot.

0131



Nymph no.6, after cleaning.

The black biological staining was not able to be removed from the nymph's back with the steam cleaning.

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Nymph no.7, after cleaning.

0157



Venus and the hypocampi after cleaning.

0106



Detail of the repairs to the right foreleg of the horse on Venus' right hand side.

0107



Detail of the repairs to the right foreleg of the horse on Venus' right hand side.

0114



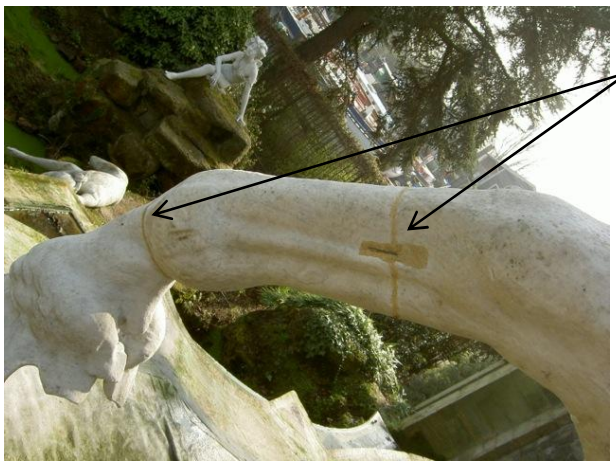
Detail of the repair to the left foreleg of the horse on Venus' right hand side.

0110



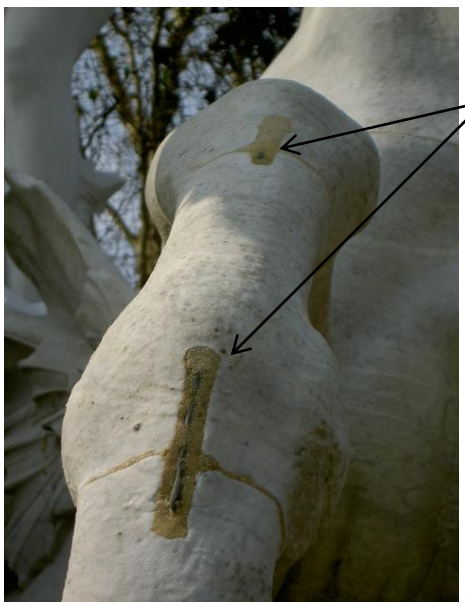
Detail of the repairs to the forelegs of the horse on Venus' left hand side.

0109



Detail of the repairs to the right foreleg of the horse on Venus' left hand side.

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Detail of the repairs to the right foreleg of the horse on Venus' left hand side.

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Detail of the repair to the left foreleg of the horse on Venus' left hand side.

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Maintenance Programme

As part of the works undertaken in 2007 an experimental treatment was undertaken to ascertain if a surface coating could be applied to inhibit the regrowth of algae. This consisted of applying to nymphs 1-6 a coat of microcrystaline wax and leaving Venus, the hypocampi and nymph no.7 un-waxed to compare the level of the biological growth. On examination in 2012, after 5 years, no significant difference in the amount of biological growths could be determined between the waxed and un-waxed sculptures. It was determined that wax coating provided minimal protection over the long term.

It is noted that the parks department have been diligent in maintaining the planting around the cascade and not allowing excessive plant growth to establish and it is considered that this has probably had a more significant effect on the condition of the sculptures. It is an established fact that allowing plant growth to encroach too closely to sculptures will create a micro-climate that encourages organic growths to establish more quickly and to a greater extent. It is recommended that the council continue with the current practice.

It is proposed that a regular maintenance review be carried out on the sculptures and cascade within the next five years.