

## THE LEASOWES—Public Park Restoration

### Client

Dudley Metropolitan  
Borough Council

### Location

Dudley

### Date

2008

### Value

£1.3M



The Leasowes is a 57-hectare public park containing the remains of one of the most important and influential landscapes of the 18th century, the garden was designed by the poet William Shenstone beginning in 1743 and continuing until his death in 1763. The park is of major historic significance ranking in importance with landscapes such as Blenheim and Stowe, and being listed as Grade 1 on the English Heritage 'Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England'.

The restoration work included bringing back to life the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Beechwater Dam and Cascade as well as the High Cascade and pools at Virgil's Grove. Other work involved restoring walkways, laying new paths to improve access and additional planting to help return the woodland to its historic 1740's layout.

In general the works consisted:

- Site clearance including existing stumps and fencing
- Removal of silt from Middle and Lower Pools
- Deposition of silt to designated areas. Spread material used to reinstate rough land
- General excavation and filling to formation levels
- Construction of concrete/stone arched cascade, re-profiling of earth bund to form Middle Pool
- Design and construction of reinforced earth areas, including lining
- Clearance and minor refurbishment of existing natural and man-made cascades
- Construction of further stream cascades and stream islands
- Installation of surface water drainage and land drains
- Reconstruction of Dripping Cascade
- Construction of new pathways and steps
- Installation of cascade seat, pedestrian and vehicle bridges
- Landscaping (turfing and seeding, shrubs, perennials, aquatic planting and trees)