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THREE PIGEONS

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AN IMPRESSIVE ENGLISH STONE FLAMING-URN FINIAL,

removed from Stowe,

the urn-shaped finial with a lobed lid topped with a very large surmount carved as flames, on a socle foot and plinth base, the later square section composition stone pedestal with a moulded rim and plain foot,

DIMENSIONS: 282cm (111") High, 79cm (31") Wide, (width = the pedestal), Urn height excluding pedestal = 193cm

STOCK CODE: 45482



HISTORY

This wonderful urn has foxed us all – it seems to be essentially of carved stone but its surface looks to be an applied cement-fondu.

It was removed from a garden in Northamptonshire that has been bull-dozed to make way for HS2. The lady whose late husband used to go swimming daily at the pool at Stowe, not far from their house, recounts how he had spotted this urn at Stowe during building works in the 1980's – it was sitting in the builder's compound having been replaced. He had made enquiries and, it being surplus to requirements was permitted to buy it. It was positioned in the centre of the lawn back at the house and stayed there for the ensuing decades until HS2 came along.