**About**

Born in Hampshire in 1746, William Curtis began his career as an apothecary, before turning his attention to natural history and botany. He worked as a demonstrator of plants at the Chelsea Physic Garden from 1771 to 1777 and two years later established his own London Botanic Garden at Lambeth. He published *Flora Londinensis*, a pioneering work about the flora found in the London region around the mid 18th century. Published in six large volumes, the descriptions of the plants included hand-coloured copperplate prints by botanical artists such as James Sowerby, Sydenham Edwards and William Kilburn. Despite the importance of the work, it was not published beyond 300 copies and in 1817 and 1828 it was enlarged by William Jackson Hooker, director of Kew Botanical Gardens, and George Graves to include additional species from the other British Isles.
Condition

Spine leather severely damaged, with leather delaminating from scuffed areas. Leather missing entirely from headcaps. Exterior joints splitting at head and tail and all cover edges degraded to such and extent that 90% of siding marble paper is missing. Front fly leaves and a number of text leaves creased, crushed and folded with tears. Cover corners are unstable with boards splitting and leather missing.
Restoration by Anthony Zammit

Repaired the exterior head and tail joints on the covers. Consolidated splitting boards and re-covered degraded corners with new leather. Re-built missing head caps leather and prepared paper to re-cover exposed boards. Repaired inside joints, flattened the creased, crushed and folded leaves and repaired tears to fly leaves and interior of the textblock using Japanese paper. Two cloth-covered slip-cases were also made to ensure volumes are protected in the future.