

## LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORT

### Offaly County Council: Acres Folly – Stream 1 October Report



## FORM B – TO BE COMPLETED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

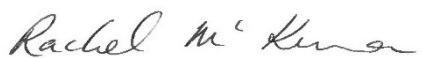
## 1. Local Authority Details

Local Authority Name:	Offaly County Council	
Contact and address:	Rachel Mc Kenna, Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore	
Telephone/Mobile Number:	05793 46800	Email: <a href="mailto:rmckenna@offalycoco.ie">rmckenna@offalycoco.ie</a> <a href="mailto:kgray@offalycoco.ie">kgray@offalycoco.ie</a>
No. of applications received:	2	No. of applications forwarded to the Department: 2

## 2. Appraisal

	Summary
Brief Description of Proposed Works (no more than 25 words), including training element, if proposed	<b>P1: Clear/repair basement, repair parapets, replace lintels, doors and window grills, re-fit external stone staircase. P2: Replace missing internal stair as Southgate drawings. P3: Landscaping works, reinstating walking routes to the folly.</b>
Briefly summarise why the local authority considers that this project qualifies for this scheme having regard to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The significance of the structure</li> <li>Efficacy of the grant in achieving the aims of the Historic Structures Fund</li> <li>Quality of the methodology and technical merit of the works proposed</li> <li>Contribution of the proposed works to keeping the structure in use, or bringing it back into use</li> <li><b>Stream 2 Applications only</b> – Indicate the public or community benefit of the project.</li> </ol>	<p><b>(1) Significance:</b> The folly was built as a pleasure building and prospect tower, to serve Acres' Hall built by Thomas Acres. The Folly was built c1812 to commemorate the victory of the Duke of Wellington over Napoleon. In a survey of Follies by James Howley 2013, he states: 'Acres' Folly is of significance as a pared-down interpretation of a 15c tower house, roofed weathered and heated.' He scored it 4/5 for significance. Described by A Tierney in Buildings of Ireland p626 as 'maybe a very early example of revival of the medieval Irish tower-house type'.</p> <p><b>(2) Efficacy:</b> Grant will <u>enable</u> the repair of this significant, vulnerable structure, which, as a folly would not normally be prioritised for funding. The folly forms part of the Acres' demesne which is in OCC ownership. It is in a key location overlooking Lloyd Park and when restored will allow for public viewing across the park and the town of Tullamore offering an important local and national focal point for this historic property – <u>encouraging the regeneration</u> of its original purpose as designed by the former property developer Thomas Acre. The proposed works will <u>support</u> significant employment benefit including conservation professionals, skilled tradesperson and the investment of private capital.</p> <p><b>(3) The methodology,</b> drawings and specification by Chris Southgate, Southgate Associates details the process required for the repairs (P1), refitting new internal stair (P2). The statement is clear and outlines techniques for repairs to masonry, basement vault and external steps.</p> <p><b>(4) Keeping the structure:</b> The structure is currently derelict and a vulnerable building with no purpose. The proposed works will serve to repair and consolidate it structurally, but also <u>bring it back into use</u> and provide it with a viable future as a managed attraction within council ownership.</p>
Has the local authority made any changes or recommendations in relation to the project scope as submitted by the applicant? (for example, recommending the grant be used for one particular part of the project)?	No

Signed:



Position: Senior Executive Architect

Date: 11 February 2020

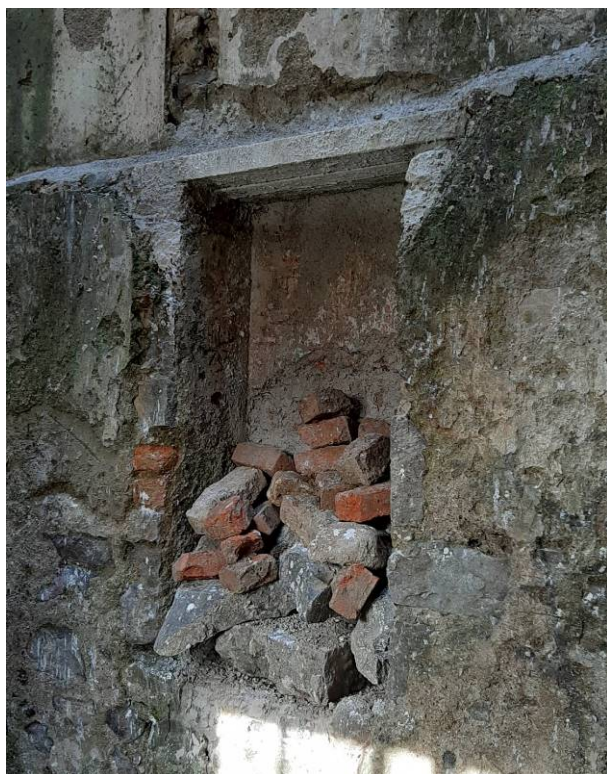


Acres' Folly: External view, internal former stair scar, basement brick vault, window grill

1. External scaffolding erected



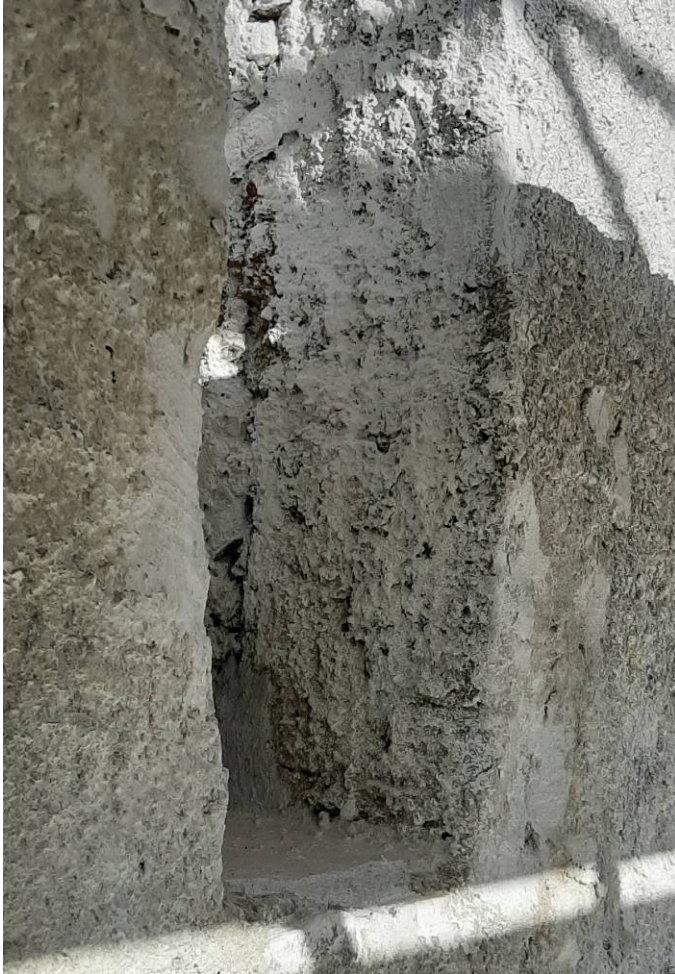
- 2. Repairs to ground floor lintels complete: This includes lintels over window, door and fireplace openings. Loose stonework complete



3. Brick vault into basement repaired – former photograph shows damaged floor into basement and destruction of fireplace. Brick vault to basement repaired with existing brick, lintel inserted over fireplace and stonework rebuilt.



- 4. External render patch repairs
- 5. First layer of external lime washing on south elevation, side and rear two coats complete



6. Removed stone steps have been returned to site for assessment regarding reinstatement  
Entrance door to raised ground floor, with basement opening below – landing area for stone steps when reconstructed.  
Prior to works and current





Entrance steps – stone returned to site for scholarly reconstruction



Works continuing with further OCC funding and Creative Ireland grant

Repairs to parapet capping



Repairs to stone chimney flues



Internal lime washing



Further external lime washing



Employment benefits of project

94 days total

Accounts to date	Excl VAT	Incl VAT
Southgate and Associates	€3,500.00	€4,235.00
Patrick McIntyre & Sons Ltd	€20,900.00	<u>€23,721.50</u>
<b>Total to date</b>		<b>€27,956.50</b>

**2020\_1103 Site Works Continued – 3 coats of lime wash, external**





New barge over former slated eaves, to be scored, grouted to match existing stonework.



New stainless steel cramps fitted to chimney pots, replacing former iron cramps



Internal lime washing commenced and associated scaffolding. First floor fireplace with dressed stone, brick fireback and original vent.





Basement brick vault repaired and temporary props in place.



Basement opening, inner steel door and outer fixings, cracked lintel (front and underside) to be injected with masons mortar.



