



# **Post Works**

## **Photographic report**

**FOR**

**Structural Conservation**

**AT**

**Bloomfield Mausoleum,  
Borrisnafarney Church of Ireland,  
Ballycormick,  
Monegal,  
Co. Offaly**

**For**

**John Chadwick (On behalf of the Select Vestry of Borrisnafarney Church)**

**Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2022**

**Creative Ireland**

**Follies Trust**

***Prepared by: Southgate Associates***

***June 2022***

## **1. Introduction**

The Bloomfield Mausoleum is a significant early to mid-19th century family mausoleum as built by the Bloomfield family in the graveyard of Borrisnafarney Church of Ireland, Co. Offaly. Over time the decorative buttresses have shifted and began to lean away from the building requiring emergency strapping to prevent their collapse. With funding provided by the Built Heritage Investment Scheme, The Follies Trust, Creative Ireland and The Moneygall Development Society, stabilisation and structural repairs have been successfully carried out by Des Rainey and his team under Southgate Associates supervision. The structure will require further works in a later phase but is now stable.

## **2. Description of works undertaken**

-Removal of the kneeler stone in each buttress, insertion of a stainless-steel rod into the masonry of the main building through the buttress' and tying with a stainless plate set into coulinex grout.

-Installation of concrete underpin to the base of each buttress.

-Raking out of several horizontal joints from each buttress to the main structure and setting of stainless steel helibars into grout in each case and repointing over each in NHL 3.5

-Repointing in NHL 3.5 to sections of the buttresses

-Cleaning of the valleys on both sides of mausoleum, repointing NHL 5 to the joints and cracks in the valleys and finishing with water repellent to both valleys.

-Installation of two replacement cast iron hoppers and downpipes to the rear of the mausoleum.

-Straps removed which had previously been holding the buttresses in place now no longer required

### 3. Photographic Report



1. The completed project for phase 1 which has had the temporary ties removed.



2. Typical buttress which has had helibars ties and stainless-steel threaded rod tying at kneeler position



3. The decorative stonework was attached



4. The high level tracery has been fixed historically with wrought iron cramps which have corroded causing opening of cracks



5. All cast iron cramps will need to be removed and the stonework numbered and rebuilt in phase 2



6. The upper level of the SE buttress has also displaced from Iron cramp corrosion and will need rebuilding in phase 2



7. End coping stones to be rebuilt in phase 2



8. Note the top course of rubble masonry has moved due to iron cramp expansion to be addressed in phase 2



9. Ditto



10. Repointed joints with crack tie reinforcement will be coloured to match existing



11. Underpinning works during the project stabilising the base of each buttress



12. Stainless steel tie rod and plates during installation. These stabilise and tie the tall and narrow decorative buttresses to the main structure.



13. The valleys have been cleared and cleaned of debris, the joints pointed in an NHL 5 and the finished surfaces protected in a Remmers water repellent



14. Ditto. While the flag roof over sails the valleys in areas the camber of the surface on either side of the valley, now cleared, should allow overshooting water to run back down into the valley and away

#### **4. Conclusion**

Stabilisation and conservation works have successfully been carried out to the Bloomfield Mausoleum at Borrisnafarney Church. Prior to the project the buttress' were leaning out of position and at a risk of collapse. While the original scope was focused on emergency stabilisation works, it was found additional grouting was required to the buttress' and also the project has managed to secure and stabilise the buttress' and surrounding stonework and also return function rainwater goods and valleys to the building. By using tie plates and rods and helibars the buttress' are now tied into the masonry of the main structure and this along with carefully installed concrete underpin to each buttress has now stabilised the structure and allowed for the unsightly straps to be removed. The conservation works to the valleys and the installation of cast iron hoppers and downpipes has returned functioning rainwater goods to the structure.

Further works in the next year or further years in a Phase 2 are recommended and should focus on the replacement of iron dowels to the arcade stones on either side of the building and rebedding of these stones on new mortar tied with stainless steel dowels. The end coping stones will need resetting and the upper sections of several of the buttress would require repointing and repair.

Overall, this years project has been a successful project and demonstrates a good example of what can be achieved using best practice to stabilise and conserve a structure which was at risk of imminent collapse. This project was partially funded by the Built Heritage Investment scheme, Creative Ireland, The Follies Trust and The Moneygall Development Fund.