

The Jealous Wall Folly, Southern Ireland

Now owned by Westmeath County Council and due to be part of a new Visitor's Centre, this remarkable folly was built in 1760 and originally constructed to look as though it was a 200 year old ruin.



Some 55m long and up to 20m high, it was erected by Lord Belvedere to block the view of his estate from his neighbour and brother, George Rochfort, whom was accused of having an affair with Lady Belvedere.

Problem

Despite appearing seriously unstable, with an erratic and uneven line of pinnacles listing off plumb and various openings looking ready to collapse, the bulk of the structure was in fairly good condition. However, spreading ivy had shifted large sections of stonework and weathering had greatly affected much of the original lime mortar, to the point of failure in some areas. Full structural integrity had to be sympathetically restored without disruption to the original fabric.



Solution

A programme of concealed repairs was devised by WT's structural engineer. Initially all ivy and other vegetation was removed and the wall jet washed before temporary repairs were carried out.

Precision diamond core drilling was undertaken horizontally, vertically and at various angles to allow the installation of Cintec grouted stainless steel anchors up to 14m long. The accuracy of this drilling was crucial. In several instances two 65mm diameter core holes, which had to be a minimum 50mm from the wall face, were drilled through the 300mm thick wall while allowing a horizontal anchor to pass unhindered between them.

All voids were then grouted, pinning stones refixed and extensive lime mortar repointing carried out to fully restore and secure the Jealous Wall while retaining its original 'unstable' form.

