



# **Corkey Windfarm Repowering**

**Further Environmental Information  
Addendum to Environmental Statement**

## **Chapter 11- Archaeology**

March 2020

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# Table of contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Non-Technical Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Visualisations</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>6</b>



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## Further Environmental Information Addendum to Environmental Statement Chapter 11- Archaeology

### 1 Non-Technical Summary

1. An application for the Corkey Windfarm Repowering (the “Development”) was submitted to Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council (“CC&GBC”) in June 2019, accompanied by an Environmental Statement. On 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020, CC&GBC issued a ‘Further Environmental Information Request as informed by a consultation response issued by ‘Historic Environment Division’, which requested visualisations of the Development from Lissanoure Demesne and Armoyn Round House.
2. This Addendum to the Environmental Statement provides these two visualisations. Commentary is also provided on whether consideration of these visualisations changes the conclusions set out in the Environmental Statement with respect to significant effects.
3. No changes to the conclusions of the Environmental Statement are applicable as a result of these visualisations.

### 2 Introduction

4. An application for the Corkey Windfarm Repowering (the “Development”) was submitted to Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council (“CC&GBC”) in June 2019. On 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020, CC&GBC issued a ‘Further Environmental Information Request (“FEIR”) as informed by a consultation response issued by ‘Historic Environment Division’ (“HED”) as outlined below:

*“HED (Historic Monuments) would require additional information from the developer to permit an informed and reasonable planning decision to be taken. A visual impact assessment to include photomontages – as outlined in main response – is therefore requested as per Policy BH3 of PPS 6.*

*HED (Historic Monuments) considers that the proposed development represents a major and substantial change to the current wind farm and consequently may involve a greater magnitude of visual effect upon historic environment assets. HED (Historic Monuments) has reviewed Chapter 11 Archaeology and Cultural Heritage of the Environmental Statement. No photomontages or wireframes from any of the scheduled or State Care monuments accompanied the visual impact assessment. The photomontages associated with the Landscape and Visual Assessment although useful, do not adequately aid the assessment of the impacts of the proposed development upon the designated sites and monuments within the archaeological landscape. Additionally, no assessment of the potential impacts upon the State Care and Scheduled sites at Armoyn (ANT013:010 and ANT013:089) has been undertaken.*

*As such, HED (Historic Monuments) would require additional information from the developer to permit an informed and reasonable planning decision to be taken. A visual impact assessment to include photomontages – as outlined below – is*

*therefore requested as per Policy BH3 of PPS 6. If this additional information is not submitted as requested the proposal could prove contrary to policy and noting the precautionary principle contained in paragraph 6.10 of the SPPS.*

*The assessment of the impact of the proposed development upon Lissanoure demesne (AN/049) and its setting should be supplemented with photomontages. Photomontages should be taken from several points within the demesne including – but not limited to – from:*

- 1. The front of Lissanoure Castle (ANT018:011);*
- 2. The water's edge at c. 306495, 424220 (view spot marked by bench);*

*No assessment of the potential impacts upon the State Care site at Armoy was carried out. Corkey windfarm is currently visible from Armoy, alongside Altaveedan windfarm. Both of these windfarms are currently experienced at a distance from – and in a separate landscape context to – Armoy; however, the proposed increase in turbine height pertaining to this proposal may have an impact upon the views in this direction. Photomontages should therefore be taken from several points within the site including – but not limited to – from:*

- 1. The base of the round tower, at the doorway, looking towards the proposed development.”*

5. Since submittal of the application, the cumulative situation has changed with the refusal of the Armoy Wind Farm application appeal (Ref No.2018/A0199). Effects upon the setting of the scheduled Armoy Round Tower (ANT:013:010) was one of the main issues considered as part of the appeal as was economic/social benefit, public safety and visual amenity and landscape character. In regards to heritage, the Commissioner (Ref No.2018/A0199, paragraphs 26-30) found that short range views within and out of the early ecclesiastical site are critical to understanding its prominent location and its setting near the crossroads and along the Well Water. In regards to more distant views of the surrounding countryside, these were considered to already include modern features so that the addition of Armoy Wind Farm in fairly close proximity did not spoil the appreciation or enjoyment of the heritage assets as these were not critical views to appreciating their cultural significance. The effect was found to not be unacceptably adverse though ultimately Armoy Wind Farm was refused upon landscape character and visual amenity impacts. The Armoy Round Tower is c. 2 km from the refused Armoy Wind Farm and 11 km from the Development.
6. The cumulative assessment within the ES included Armoy Windfarm which at the time of submission was a valid application; therefore, the assessment remains the worst case with no significant cumulative effects identified.

## 3 Visualisations

7. Following subsequent consultation with HED, they clarified their position via email on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019, where they requested two visualisations from:
  - the front of Lissanoure Castle (NGR c. 306605, 424351); and
  - the front of the round tower at Armoy (NGR: c. 307786; 433247).



Plate 1: Snapshots provided by HED where yellow markers indicate visualisation locations with Lissanoure Castle on the left and Armyo round tower on the right

8. Following this response, two visualisations were prepared:

- Figure 1: from Lissanoure Castle (ANT018:011) located at 306610, 424365; and
- Figure 2: from Graveyard at St Patrick's Church near Armyo Round Tower (ANT013:010) at 307793 433240 N.

### 3.1 Lissanoure Castle (ANT018:011)

9. The Environmental Statement ("ES") submitted in June 2019 as part of the Corkey Windfarm Repowering included both a landscape and visual assessment from Lissanoure Demesne of which Lissanoure Castle is part (Sections 6.7.10 and 6.7.16 of Chapter 6 of the ES) as well as a heritage setting assessment (Section 11.5.2.3 of Chapter 11 of the ES). Lissanoure Demesne lies slightly over 3 km from the Development, and is not a publicly accessible asset. Both of these assessments highlighted the introverted setting and screening of the surrounding landscape from within the demesne (as shown in Figure 1) which reinforces the enclosed nature of the garden and its associated heritage assets. It is these aspects which define the heritage setting of the demesne and heritage assets within it. The surrounding landscape, including the upland hills in which the Development is located, do not contribute to the cultural significance and distinctive character of the heritage assets or their experience, understanding and enjoyment.

10. Key views are restricted to within the designation boundary and do not include long distance views to the surrounding landscape due to screening provided by woodland as shown in Figure 1. As such, the Development remains largely screened from the castle and within the grounds of the estate. The visualisation shown in Figure 1 does not change the assessment of effects presented in the ES.

11. Due the limited visibility and lack of contribution of the surrounding landscape to setting, the Development remains as assessed within the ES, no change to the setting of the heritage assets and a negligible magnitude of change within the wider landscape context, an effect which is not significant in terms of the EIA Regulations.

### 3.2 Armyo Round Tower (ANT013:010) and Earthwork Enclosure (ANT013:089)

12. The assessment within the ES focused upon potentially significant effects in lines with the EIA Regulations. The heritage assets at Armyo were considered but as significant effects were not anticipated for heritage assets at distances greater than 5 km, the assessment of potential effects on the Armyo Round Tower c. 11 km away was not included within the ES (see Section 11.3.1.2 of Chapter 11 of the ES). The State Care/Scheduled sites at Armyo (ANT013:010 and ANT013:089) are located just over 11 km to the north of the closest turbine. Their setting is clearly defined by their relationship to each other, the Well Water, and their relationship to Coolkerran Road (formerly the Slige Midluachra, one of the five roads to Tara). The Development is not within this setting but located, as highlighted by HED, in a distant landscape context of this north/south running ridge which is already characterised by modern elements including Altaveedan Wind Farm, the operational Corkey turbines and other single turbines (as shown in Figure 2). As such, the Development results in fewer turbines with an increased tip height in an area in which turbines are already sited. This does not alter the more distant landscape context as

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currently seen from Armoy. The visualisation shown in Figure 2 does not change the assessment of effects presented in the ES (which the Armoy Round Tower was scoped out of, as receiving a not significant effect). As scheduled monuments of high sensitivity with no change to their setting and a slight change to its wider landscape context, the effect is assessed as not significant in terms of the EIA Regulations.

## 4 Summary

13. In summary, Further Environmental Information in the form of two visualisations has been included at the request of CC&GBC and HED in order to meet PPS6 Policy BH3-Arcaheolgoical Assessment and Evaluation. For Figure 1, the assessment remains as presented within the ES for the heritage assets within Lissanoure Demesne, a negligible magnitude of change to the wider landscape context which is not significant in terms of the EIA Regulations. For Figure 2 and the heritage assets at Armoy, the decision to remove the Armoy heritage assets from further assessment, due to their being no potential for significant effects to arise remains the same, the setting of these assets will remain unchanged, with only a slight change to wider landscape context which is not significant in terms of the EIA Regulations.
14. All information required by HED has been provided, and the Development is compliant with Policies BH1 and BH2 of PPS6. There is no change to the conclusions of the ES as a result of the information presented in this document.

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