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04 DEC 2014	
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APPENDIX 2:

EXTRACT FROM COUNTY KERRY RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGY – LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT – Ballylongford Creek

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1. Ballylongford Creek



Area Description

Subtle changes in topography create the limit to this area. These changes run from Letter Point on Bunaclogga Bay to the summit of Knockanore Mountain before falling east to Tullahennel and crossing flat topography to Leanamore. From here the boundary turns north to join a rise in topography at Glansillagh before joining the shoreline of the River Shannon at Knockinglas Point. There is one viewing point for this area.

Landscape Type

Viewpoint: Knockanore Mountain (looking east)

Landscape Type as per Wind Guidelines: Hilly & Flat Farmland, Coast

Scale: The extent of this landscape area is relatively small. The landscape within this area is comprised of small features such as fields, walls, hedges and individual houses. These elements break up the landscape into small-scale units, with the height and scale of Knockanore Mountain being the dominant feature.

Landform: There is a gentle slope towards the estuary, generally flat.

Landcover: Moorland is present on high topography on the northeast slopes of Knockanore Mountain. The remaining part of the area is generally pasture with some marginal land.

Enclosure: Fields are enclosed within sparsely vegetated stone hedgebanks.

Human Influence: High. It is a managed landscape. There are also numerous dwellings located outside of settlements in the area.

Road Network: There is a dense network of roads in the area.

Settlement Pattern: Generally within the villages of Astee and Ballylongford, and in clusters along the main access roads. Isolated farmsteads are also present.
Prominent Features: Knockanore Mountain, River Shannon Estuary.
Perception: It is a peaceful landscape.
Natural & Cultural Heritage Features: Carrigafoyle Castle and Lislaughtin Abbey/Friary. There are Architectural Conservation Area's in Ballylongford and Astee. Protected structures are concentrated in Ballylongford. There are clusters of archaeological monuments recorded for the area but parts of the area are without monuments.
Amenity & Recreation: Beach at Letter.
Quality of Landscape: This landscape has a prominent landmark in Knockanore Mountain which is visible from the surrounding area. It is an attractive rural landscape with views north towards the Shannon Estuary.

Development Capacity Assessment				
		Yes	No	Detail:
1	Designated amenity/view as per Kerry County Development Plan 2009-2015?	√		Secondary Special Amenity, north of R551.
2	Is the landscape important for scenery, tourism or recreation?		√	
3	Identified in the public consultation as a scenic landscape?		√	
4	Is there a limited amount of the particular landscape in the county?		√	
5	Does it provide a setting that contributes to the character/amenity of a settlement?	√		Ballylongford & Astee
6	Coastal landscape?	√		Estuary
7	Are there dominant features in the landscape?		√	
8	Are cultural, historical or archaeological associations present in the landscape?	√		Historical
9	Windfarm(s) in the area or visible from the area?		√	1 visible in Co. Clare. Turbines permitted to south of Astee.
10	Is the landscape of national/county importance?		√	

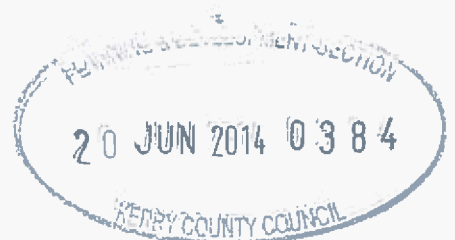
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Development Capacity Summary:

There are dispersed dwellings throughout the area with more dense residential development along roads. Planning permission has been granted for wind development in this area. Such development will alter the otherwise rural landscape as it presents today. Any assessment of landscape capacity must be made within the context of this altered landscape. Having introduced wind development into the area, it is considered that this landscape does have the capacity to accommodate further wind development. The area with capacity for wind development begins in Tullahennel and then heads eastwards. It is being zoned as being Open to Consideration as existing permissions diminish capacity in the area. Despite permission existing for 4 turbines west of this area, it is considered appropriate to ensure the protection of Knockanore Mountain. Knockanore Mountain is not only a dominant landscape feature but views to and from the mountain are important to the visual amenity of the area. Wind development on and all the reaches of this mountain would have a significant adverse impact on the visual amenity of the area. It is therefore considered that Knockanore Mountain has no capacity to accommodate wind development. The three public consultation summary maps differ in their opinion on the area, no consensus. Development on the estuary side of the road could impact on views of Carrigafoyle Castle. This area is visible from the south and southeast, meaning there is intervisibility. These areas share similar characteristics with this one.



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NEW STACK AT BRANDON PRODUCTS LIMITED

Landscape Report

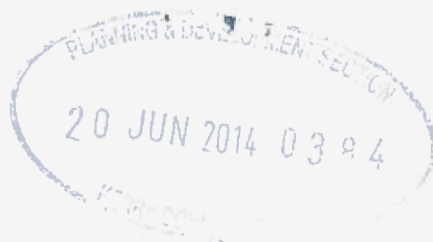
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BRADY SHIPMAN MARTIN
Landscape, Planning and Environmental Consultants

MAY 2014



Landscape Report

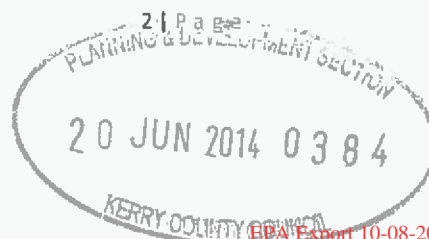
1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Brandon Products Limited is a small commercial facility located along the north side of the Curraghdarrig Cross / Beale (Kilcolman) Local Road some 1.3km west of Astee in North County Kerry. The facility is located circa 220m west of Curraghdarrig Cross and circa 500m west of the local road junction with the R551 Ballylongford – Ballybunion Regional Road. The Brandon Products facility is located circa 1.8km south of Letter Beach on the Shannon Estuary and the access road to the beach passes south to north circa 120m to the east of the facility.
- 1.2 Brandon Products Ltd. is proposing to provide a 25m high stainless steel chimney stack. The structure is to be located to the rear (north) of the main building. The new chimney stack will have a diameter of 0.7m and will replace an existing circa 15m high stack, which is to be removed.
- 1.3 The landscape and visual assessment into the proposed project noted that the existing facility – and proposed development – was visually most open from the access road to Letter Beach located due east of the site (see Photomontage Views 2 (Figures 1.2.1 and 1.2.2, and Figures 1.9.1 and 1.9.2 of separate Photomontage Report) as prepared for the landscape and visual assessment). As a result, it is proposed to provide for new screen planting along the roadside boundary to improve medium and longer-term screening of the facility.
- 1.4 Details of the proposed screening are set out on landscape drawing 6057-300: Proposed Screen Planting Plan and Section (refer Appendix 1). The visual screening effect of the proposed measures after 2 years and 10 years post-planting is illustrated on Photomontage Figures 1.2.3 and 1.9.3 (2 years) and Figures 1.2.4 and 1.9.4 (10 years) of Photomontages View 2 and 9 from the Letter Beach Access Road.

2.0 Landscape Screening Proposal

- 2.1 The landscape measures propose the planting of a minimum 5.0m wide screen belt along circa 170m of the boundary with the access road to Letter Beach (refer Appendix 1: Drawing 6057-300: Proposed Screen Planting Plan and Section).
- 2.2 The planting comprises the planting of circa 450no. 'feathered whips' of circa 1.2 to 1.5m in height, planted at staggered 1.5m locations/spacings in each of 4 rows. The planting is to be protected by the provision of a 1.2m high post and net wire fence.
- 2.3 Species to be planted are all common deciduous and evergreen native Irish comprising:

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- 180no. *Crataegus monoqyna* (Hawthorn), 1.2m high
- 90no. *Alnus glutinosa* (Alder), 1.5m high
- 90no. *Betula pendula* (Hawthorn), 1.5m high
- 90no. *Pinus sylvestris* (Scot's Pine), 60cm high

- 2.4 Only shrub species (hawthorn) will be planted underneath the existing powerline.

3.0 Outline Landscape Specification

3.1 Existing Open Stream

The existing stream shall be fenced off prior to commencement of the works. The channel shall be kept open during the works, and shall not be polluted with soil, fuel or chemicals.

3.2 Standards of Workmanship and Materials

Works to be carried out to comply with BS 4428 (General Landscape Operations) and BS 3936 (Nursery Stock).

3.3 Unsuitable Weather

Planting and other landscape works will be suspended in wet weather and when conditions are unsuitable.

3.4 Plants generally

All plants shall be well-grown, sturdy and bushy according to type and free from all diseases and defects.

3.5 Materials

All plant material shall be good quality nursery stock, free from fungal, bacterial or viral infection, Aphis, Red Spider or other insect pest, and physical damage. It shall comply with the requirements of the appropriate sections of BS 3936, Specification for Nursery Stock, where applicable.

All plants shall have been nursery grown in accordance with good practice and shall be supplied through the normal channels of the wholesale nursery trade. They shall have the habit of growth that is normal for the species.

3.6 Species

All plants supplied shall be exactly true to name.

3.7 Feathered Whips

Whips shall have a well-defined, straight and upright leader and stout, straight stem and be well furnished with strong lateral branches of balanced, feathered habit. Whips shall have been at least twice transplanted and shall have an extensive fibrous root system. Roots shall be of the habit normal for the species. Whips shall have a minimum height of 1.2m.

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3.8 Conifers

Conifers shall be supplied root balled or container grown, with a good fibrous root system. Plants shall conform to specified height with well-developed, uniform branching systems. Conifers shall have a minimum height of 60cm.

3.9 Damage

All plants are to be adequately and carefully packed and protected to survive transport, by whatever means, to the site, without damage in loading, transit or unloading.

3.10 Planting Generally

All planting operations shall be carried out in accordance with BS 4428 and good horticultural practice. Particular attention must be paid to correct depth of planting ensuring the soil is firmed in around the roots.

3.11 Herbicides

Only approved and appropriate herbicides shall be used on the site.

3.12 Stakes

Stakes shall be turned and pointed at one end. Sizes shall be as follows:-

Whips/conifers generally: 1.2m long x 35mm dia.

Set stakes vertically in the pit, to the western side of the tree station. Drive stake before planting to secure firmly and to leave between 60cm above ground. Drive stake with a drive-all, wooden maul or cast iron headed maul, not with a sledge hammer.

3.13 Tree Ties

Tree ties shall be of rubber, PVC or proprietary fabric laminate composition, and shall be strong and durable enough to hold the tree securely in all weather conditions for a period of three years. They shall be flexible enough to allow proper tightening of the tie.

3.14 Soil Conditions

Planting shall not be carried out while the ground is frozen or waterlogged.

3.15 Whip Planting

Excavate tree pits to 15cm all round larger than the natural spread of the roots of the plant.

Place tree in pocket at same depth as in the nursery, spreading out roots to their natural configuration. Backfill pocket carefully incorporating ameliorated soil mix from stockpile on site.

Firm soil around roots, and firm thoroughly on completion. Any surplus soil shall be spread evenly over the surrounding area.

Fit short stake and 60cm high spiral rabbit guard.

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3.16 Watering

Water-in all plants thoroughly after planting.

3.17 Workmanship

Leave ground free of superficial debris including all stones and debris over 35mm diameter and grass / weed within 500mm of plant.

3.18 Replacements

The planting will be inspected in spring and again in the September following planting. Any tree or shrub found to have died shall be replaced to the original specification.

4.0 Aftercare

4.1 Period

All planting works shall be maintained for a minimum period of 12 months from completion of the works.

4.2 Performance Standards

All plants shall be alive, healthy, free of minor defects and free of weedkiller or cultivation damage.

Planting areas shall be free of weeds and debris. Any dead or dying plants shall be replaced.

4.3 Weed killing

Protect foliage of all plants during applications of herbicides. No plant, foliage or stem, shall be directly sprayed. Any plants affected by herbicide shall be replaced.

4.4 Watering

Water all planting as necessitated by dry weather. Apply water as a fine spray, to moisten full depth of root run. Avoid washing or compaction of the soil surface.

4.5 Fertilizer

Top dress planting pits with a 10:10:20 N:P:K fertiliser at 15g/pits in April/May following planting.

4.6 Tidiness and Clearance

All landscape areas shall be maintained free from debris, including free from all aftercare debris.

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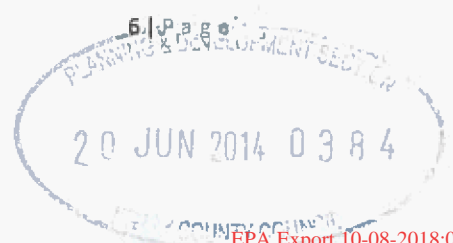
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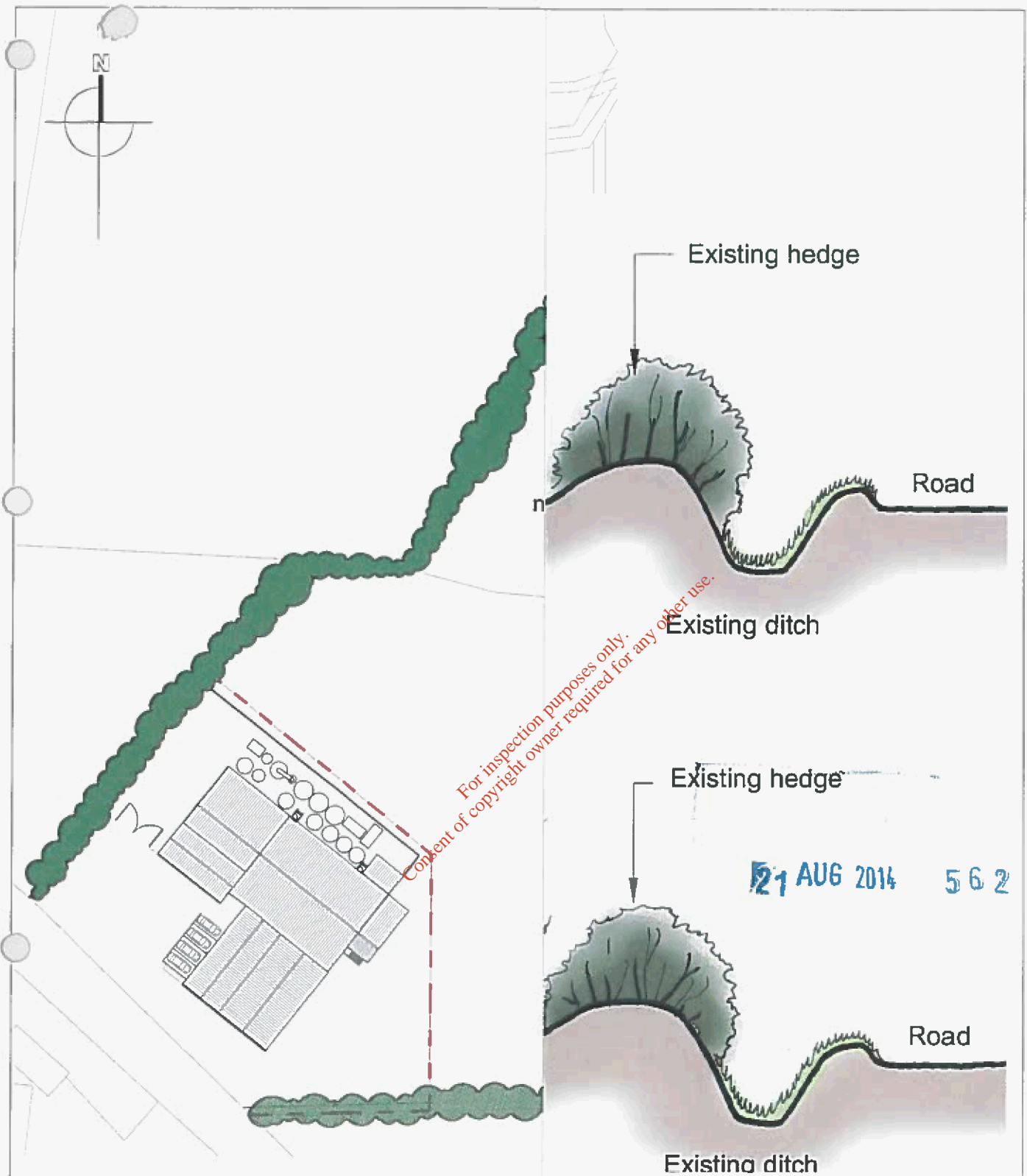
APPENDIX 1:

**LANDSCAPE DRAWING 6057: 300 PROPOSED SCREEN
PLANTING PLAN AND SECTION**

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Plan Scale 1:1000

Rev	Date	Drawn	Checked	Description

As shown @ A3	Status	Planning
May 2014	Drn. MG	Chd. TB
No. 057	Drawing No. 300	Rev. 00
DUBLIN	CORK	LIMERICK
DUNDRUM BUSINESS PARK, DUNDRUM ROAD, DUBLIN 14		
+353(0)1 2081900 Fax: +353(0)1 2081911 email: mail@bsmconsult.com		

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