

Landscape Design Rationale

Landscape proposals in relation to proposed public park at Finisklin closed landfill Sligo.

Design Rationale :

Please read in conjunction with attached Landscape Masterplan (Drawing 21/MOR/SCC/001)

The Proposed Development will consist of the remediation works and development of a new park located on the closed Finisklin Landfill site. The total area of the Site will be 6.27ha, which the majority namely 4.8ha, will comprise of a new public park. The proposed works will include the following:

- Remediation works including the installation of six (6No) biowindows, one (1No) bioactive trench and increasing the thickness of the landfill capping layer within a localised portion of the Site, these remediation works have been agreed with the EPA in accordance with requirements of CoA H0006-01;
- Provision of a ca. 4.8 ha public park including 1,000m of a 3.5m wide walking track;
- Construction of an 18m2 viewing platform;
- Construction of a ca. 750 m2 car park, including 27No. of car parking spaces and 10No. of bicycle parking spaces;
- Demolition of a 4m2 single story concrete block hut;
- Modifications to the existing site entrance and provision of new gates;
- Provision of a new pedestrian entrance; and,
- Associated ancillary works including land grading, drainage works, landscaping, fencing and seating areas.

Objectives :

The principal objectives of the landscape proposals are :

- To create a layout which provides a visually and aesthetically pleasing context for exploration of the existing regenerating vegetation, which creates a distinct character and maximises views to the adjacent seascape and distant scenic landscape.
- To provide a low key natural and contextual area which maximises the existing stands of rejuvenating Willow and Gorse scrub to best effect in conjunction with existing on-site features such as extensive wildflower grassland areas.
- To optimise the subtle nature of the circulation route and resting nodes to emphasize pleasant views from the site and to ensure that negative views where possible are visually softened and integrated into pleasant surroundings.

The aim is that the landscape layout will add to and positively reinforce the naturalised character of the lands.

Design Ethos and Biodiversity Aspects

This design style is based on a sensitive enhancement of the site, using a controlled spatial arrangement, and a visual sequence of directing focus and attention within the areas. This visually entices focus into the central wildflower grassland area and to the sea and mountain views after progressing through contrasting areas of semi enclosed Willow scrub upon entering the amenity area. Spatial differentiation and view-point direction is achieved through the use of focal point seating and a viewing platform for punctuation within the design and the creation of clearly defined circulation routes offering a sequence of views to the best of the sites natural attributes.

The objective is to superimpose a low key walking track network with considered key nodes which allow for exploration and appreciation of the scenic landscape and the expanse of regenerating native and naturalised vegetation.

The intention is to form a considered network of defined circulation routes which harmonise with the existing regenerating landscape and which offers the user a sequence of landscape experiences as they progress through the site.

Key nodes form focal point resting and viewing areas. These have been strategically placed based on a considered review and analysis of the site and hinterland.

The seating areas are located at key points offset from the circulation pathway within the natural open areas, each offering a distinct focus and offering key views to the distant landscape and the bay.

The existing regenerating vegetation is primarily retained throughout the site. The mid sized randomly distributed clusters of Ulex and juvenile Salix scrub provide partial spatial definition and aids in the creation of a sequence of exploratory experiences throughout the site.

Existing retained stands of Salix (Willow) provide vertical punctuation within the space. The irregular nature of the space creates interest coupled with the gradation in topography, gradually leads visitors along the footpath network to the north western corner of the site for key waterscape views.

A designated entrance space is proposed to link with a continuation of the southern boundary roadside footpath. Car parking is provided as well as a separate pedestrian entry point from the public road area.

Upon entering the site from the public road, the initial area which the proposed pathway passes through is currently overgrown with dense Willow. It is proposed to clear of Willow / scrub in this area where soil will be spread and to enhance with species rich grassland to aid in promoting biodiversity and in keeping with the all Ireland Pollinator plan.

It is proposed to surface the footpaths in a low key hoggin or water bound macadam surface or similar to future detail. Based on a mixtures of grit and fines, this self compacting surface will be unobtrusive on the landscape and will provide a suitable surface for pedestrians, children's buggies etc.

The bio-window locations are strategically placed and lightly buffered with a surround of low to mid sized regenerating planting so they integrate well into the setting.

A low key walking track network with considered views is incorporated which allow for exploration and appreciation of the scenic landscape and the expanse of regenerating native and naturalised vegetation. The walking track is a generous width of 3.5m

Key seating areas form focal point resting and viewing areas. These have been strategically placed based on a considered review and analysis of the site.

On areas where soil is to be deposited (note no new soil will be imported to the site), (see attached and also as outlined in engineers drawings), the existing scrub vegetation will be removed. It is proposed to re-seed these areas with species rich grassland to aid in promoting biodiversity and in keeping with the all Ireland Pollinator plan.

The resting nodes / seating areas act as key pivot points offset from the circulation pathway within the natural open areas, each offering a distinct focus and offering key views to the distant landscape and the bay.

A viewing platform is incorporated at a strategic point in the design. (Size 6 x 3 m). The intention is that this will be a feature area along the walking track route which harmonises with the existing regenerating landscape and which offers the user prime views to the sea together with a sequence of landscape experiences as they progress through the site.

In the future it is envisaged that other elements can be added to enhance the area over time budget permitting. These include :

- A central play zone (designated 50 x 50m space).
- Educational proposals include developing habitat piles (hibernacular) to be built from the cleared Willow.
- Signage may be added in the medium term. Based on the re-use of the landfill for amenity purposes interpretive signage will highlight points of interest based on local natural amenity, ecology and the scenic setting.



Area for proposed extension to existing public footpath to new entry point to amenity area



Optional continuation of stone wall and pathway.



Existing track way outside of amenity area boundary. Proposed buffering with transplanted Willows at upper end to minimise views



View to industrial building will be visually softened over time as juvenile Willow scrub matures



Selected Ulex and Willow scrub cleared from upper level rock armour area to facilitate key views



Key view to scenic bay



Existing wildflower areas allowed to progress and develop unhindered.



Open view to establishing grassland / wildflower area and distant scenic views incorporated to best effect within amenity area layout



Mid level Ulex scrub vegetation retained to create spatial definition through pathway network.



Key scenic view from area on higher level ground



Existing wildflower areas allowed to progress and develop unhindered.



Selected view to northwest captured from mid level



Project : Public Park at Finisklin closed Landfill
 Drawing No. 21/MOR/ SCC/ 002 Rev A
 Date : Oct 28th, 2021
 Client : Malone O Regan Environmental / Sligo County Council
 Notes :



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Concept / Analysis

Scale 1 : 1000 @ A1 (1:2000 @ A3)