
KRONOSPAN, CHIRK

**COLOUR STUDY UNDERTAKEN IN RESPECT OF THE
DEVELOPMENT OF A LOG DELIVERY AND
TRANSFER SYSTEM AND BUILDING TO HOUSE A
REPLACEMENT WOOD CHIPPING AND FLAKING
SYSTEM AND DEMOLITION OF EXISTING
DEBARKING AND CHIPPING FACILITIES**

APPENDIX B - COLOUR STUDY

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Figure 1b Viewpoint E Revised Proposal

Figure 2a Viewpoint M Original Proposal

Figure 2b Viewpoint M Revised Proposal

Figure 3a Viewpoint N Original Proposal

Figure 3b Viewpoint N Revised Proposal

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 Concern has been expressed about the visual impact of the Proposed Development of a log delivery and transfer system and building to house a replacement wood chipping and flaking system and demolition of existing debarking and chipping facilities.

1.1.2 These concerns specifically relate to the development as viewed from short sections of the Llangollen Canal towpath and from one of the few elevated vantage points within the buffer zone of the World Heritage Site (WHS) to the east of Chirk.

1.1.3 In a meeting held with Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC) and a representative of the World Heritage Site Group on 19th December 2017 it was agreed that three lines of investigation would be followed to seek to address these concerns. The three lines of investigation were:

1. Examination of the building design to see whether building volumes might be reduced
2. Consideration of alternative cladding colours
3. Examination of the possibility of screen planting within the strip of Canal & Rivers Trust land alongside the canal.

1.1.4 This document provides a description of the colour study. It should be noted that as a result of item 1, an alternate scheme design has emerged which achieves a reduced building volume through omission of a component of the scheme (the chipper) and through the removal of storage areas within the building. The colour study examines both the design originally submitted under planning application P/2017/0699 and the revised design detailed in the Planning Statement Addendum (March 2018).

2.0 COLOUR STUDY

2.1 Process of the Colour Study

2.1.1 The colour study has sought to examine the effects of substituting different cladding colours on the main proposed elements of the scheme designs. The baseline for the study is the pale 'goosewing' grey coloured cladding (RAL 080 70 05) utilised across the majority of the established Kronospan

site. This colour was proposed for the Proposed Development for consistency with the existing site. The colour study examined the potential for mitigating visual impact that might be achieved by substituting the 'goosewing grey' with three alternate colours, these being a darker 'quartz' grey (RAL 080 50 20) and two different shades of green – the 'Camouflage' mid-green (RAL 110 50 10) and the darker 'Olive' green (RAL 100 30 20).

2.1.2 The four colours were applied to the visible parts of the Proposed Development as viewed from three different viewpoints; Viewpoint E to the east of Chirk; and Viewpoints M & N which are located on the Llangollen canal towpath. These viewpoints correspond with the areas of concern as expressed by the Local Planning Authority.

2.1.3 Figures 1(a), 2(a) and 3(a) illustrate the Proposed Development as it would appear in the four colour schemes from the vantage points of concern. Figures 1(b), 2(b) and 3(b) illustrate an alternative scaled down version of the Proposed Development again, as it would appear in the four colour schemes from the same vantage points.

2.2 Outcome of the Colour Study

Original Design

2.2.1 The illustrations reveal that from the east (Viewpoint E), in both versions of the Proposed Development, the baseline 'goosewing' grey coloured cladding renders the proposals consistent with the established presence of the Kronospan facility. The Proposed Development as submitted extends the influence of the facility further north with the addition of a notable new element. The colour of the building contrasts with the existing background which is largely defined by vegetation.

Revised Design

2.2.2 The alternate design diminishes the extent of change considerably due to the reduced extent of façade visible, but the 'goosewing' grey is still a contrasting element. The quartz grey and camouflage green variants of both schemes are effective in reducing the degree of contrast but are still clearly discernible as contrasting shapes against the existing background. The darker olive green can be seen however to be far more recessive in this

landscape context and thus this colour can be seen to provide successful mitigation of visual impact. From the canal towpath (within the WHS) a similar conclusion can be reached, with the darker green shade appearing to assimilate better with the adjoining tree and hedgerow vegetation

3.0 COLOUR STUDY CONCLUSION

- 3.1.1 In reality, the degree of integration or contrast will depend on the lighting conditions on the day and the season of the year – which will influence the colour and density of adjoining elements. During the winter months, there may be times when a dark green shade could be more visible, or contrast more against its surroundings than would paler shades of grey or green. Albeit, it should be noted that photograph used from Viewpoint E was taken in November and so this demonstrates the effectiveness of a darker green colour even during winter months.
- 3.1.2 Overall, it is concluded that use of a darker shade of green has the potential to mitigate the effect of the northward extension of the facility that this development would involve. In all instances the Proposed Development, however coloured, would be seen in the context of the existing and established industrial facility and would not result in a significant visual effect. The use of colour would however mitigate the non-significant effects that would be experienced.