



**Brady Shipman
Martin.**

**Celebrating
50 Years.**

The Planning Department,
South Dublin County Council,
Tallaght
County Dublin

14th October 2021

SDCC Ref: SD21A/0203

Applicant: Microsoft Operations Ireland Ltd.

Date of Request for Further Information: 13th September 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

This information is provided as an addendum to the request for further information [RFI] in respect of landscape and biodiversity(items No.3, 4 and 6 and 9(i) and (iii)).

A meeting was held between the Parks Department, Heritage Officer and Brady Shipman Martin on 12th October to discuss the revised site layout for the application site, prepared to address the landscape and biodiversity issues raised in the Further Information request.

A campus wide green infrastructure and biodiversity strategy, updated landscape masterplan and images to illustrate the open spaces was presented.

The Heritage Officer also queried other opportunities for other biodiversity enhancement measures within the wider campus. This submission refers to the area within the redline boundary where significant additional measures are proposed to maintain an ecological network and to provide a diverse landscape/ ecology. Other biodiversity/ landscape measures have been and are being implemented as part of previous permissions and wider measures within the campus. As noted in the formal response to the RFI, these wider campus measures include new planting of orchards, sensory planting, and the inclusion of beehives.

The Parks Department were generally happy with the proposals but queried the design of the swales. The location and extent of the swales was discussed at a meeting with Ronan Toft and Brian Harkin from the Drainage Department at a meeting with Arups and they were satisfied with the design. They were requested to provide a swale detail, and this is shown in DUB14-15_C-F03 Typical Drainage Details Sheet 2.

The Heritage Officer requested further details be provided on the species mix for the meadow areas. Details are provided below in the following.

Meadow Mix Details

It is proposed to develop the meadow areas in a manner that is consistent with the objectives of the [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025](#). Therefore, the meadow areas proposed around the site will be designed with the objective of achieving a semi-natural grassland over time and the use of



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imported seed mixes will be avoided. This will ensure that the natural seed bank and vegetative propagules present are conserved and restored to help promote increased biodiversity. It is anticipated that docks and nettles and more competitive species are likely to dominate at first. However, the meadow will be cut annually, and the clippings removed, to encourage the grasses and other species within the seed bank to develop. Paths will be mown throughout the meadow to provide a pedestrian network and to link the employee picnic space with the biodiversity garden. Signs will also be erected to inform occupants and visitors that the meadows are being managed for biodiversity. Through annual management, over time, it is expected that a species rich calcareous grassland will develop. Within Dub 11 a similar approach has been adopted and the meadow areas are established surrounded by mown grass paths. Species diversity in this area is increasing and the management for biodiversity will continue into the future.



Figure 1 Existing Meadow within Dub 11 (South-east side of Microsoft Campus)

Within the subject site areas soil not currently stripped will be protected and used as a source for the natural seed bank. Soil currently stored on site within berms will also be used as a seed source. Subsoil will be used to make up levels and the top 50mm deep layer of stored soil will be placed over the subsoil. The areas will be graded and cultivated, and the grassland left to generate naturally. No fertilizers or chemicals will be applied with less desirable species managed through annual mowing and selective hand weeding



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We trust that the above is in order.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Aine Patton'.

Aine Patton

Brady Shipman Martin

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