FAO: Linda McEllin.

Brock McClure

Planning & Development Consultants

63 York Road

Dún Laoghaire

16th June 2026

Re : 26/60248 - Pousterle Limited (Southgreen, Kildare)

Application for residential scheme of 146 no. residential units

FI Item 4 (c & d) States:

Hedgerow removal and Mitigation planting. Where removal is unavoidable it must be clearly and satisfactorily demonstrated to the Planning Authority. In any event, removal shall be kept to an absolute minimum and there shall be a requirement for mitigation planting comprising a hedge of similar length and species composition to the original, established as close as is practicable to the original and where possible linking to existing adjacent hedges.

Ecology Response to FI Item 4 (c & d):

As part of the Further Information process, engagement was undertaken with Kildare County Council on 13th May 2026, including the Council's Biodiversity and Planning representatives, in relation to hedgerow retention, removal and mitigation proposals. This engagement was undertaken on an in-principle basis to review the revised layout and associated ecological strategy, with particular focus on opportunities to maximise retention and strengthen biodiversity outcomes. The proposed approach reflected in this response has been informed by that engagement, with amendments made to the layout, planting strategy, and biodiversity measures to address the issues raised.

The retention of existing hedgerows was prioritised throughout the design process in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, minimise, compensate). Opportunities for retention were fully considered in conjunction with the design team; however, removal of certain hedgerows is unavoidable due to site-specific constraints including significant level changes, infrastructure requirements, road safety considerations and the integration of active travel measures. No reasonable alternative layout has been identified that would allow for their retention while maintaining a viable and policy-compliant development.

Where removal is unavoidable, a comprehensive and proportionate mitigation strategy has been developed. This includes the provision of substantial new native hedgerow planting, tree planting, and biodiverse habitat creation across the site. In total, approximately 231 m of new native hedgerow is proposed along the northern boundary, 170 m along the southern boundary, and 159 m along the western boundary of Southgreen Road, in addition to lower boundary hedging along road margins. These measures, combined with retained boundary hedgerows, will ensure that overall hedgerow provision is maintained and functionally enhanced across the Site.

In particular, the proposed continuous native hedgerow along the northern boundary will reinstate the east–west ecological connectivity previously provided by the central hedgerow. This will be supported by species-rich grassland, native tree planting, and structural planting to provide a multi-layered habitat corridor. This corridor forms part of an advance planting strategy and will be implemented at an early stage of development to facilitate rapid establishment of ecological structure and function.

Additional hedgerows along the southern boundary and Southgreen Road, together with extensive native planting and SuDS features, will ensure that hedgerows, treelines and open spaces function as a coherent and connected green infrastructure network across the site.

While the maturity and structure of existing hedgerows will take time to re-establish, the scale, extent, and strategic placement of the proposed planting will, over time, provide comparable ecological function in terms of connectivity, shelter, and foraging opportunities, in accordance with best practice and in line with consultation undertaken with the Planning Authority.

Please refer to the Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) and updated Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) provided by DNV for further detail on planting proposals, staged establishment, monitoring and long-term ecological management. Reference should also be made to the Landscape Response prepared by Hayes Ryan Landscape Architects (2026) for detailed planting design and layout information.

Yours faithfully,

On behalf of DNV

Ciara Barry-Hannon

Ciara Barry-Hannon

Senior Ecologist, B.SC. (Hons), ACIEEM
DNV