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Proposed development at 13 St Cross Street London EC1.

Biodiversity Policy.

Prepared by A Alexandrou Architect.10/03/2011.

Our aim is to examine and protect any evidence of wildlife on the site and to provide if possible a suitable environment to assist with the enhancement of the borough of Camden's biodiversity measures.

The site at basement level is mostly concreted over from where the previous building was demolished but at the rear of the premises there is growth of wild bushes grass and flowers which provides a suitable habitat for insects and birds to feed on them.

It is proposed to retain and protect this area as a garden for the basement / lower ground flat.

A suitable area for a green or brown roof as contained in Camden's RUDP policy guidelines is the main roof. In this proposal there will be no overlooking of adjacent properties.

A soils examination from a previous project in 1992 prepared by N G Lambert B.SC of Soils Ltd. Shows that the site rests on made up soil, the area being on a previous river bed below. This type of soil by its nature contains crushed aggregates and this is confirmed in the report, which should be suitable for a brown roof construction in preference to a sedum matt. The roof finish which is proposed as asphalt will be an ideal base for the soil, capable of sustaining areas of moisture without damage.

We are therefore proposing a brown roof garden on the main roof. This to be a depth of 200mm and to be set back from the boundary edges to allow for a natural soak way to filter off excess water. Also this will help reduce visibility.

This is to be planted with borders of low level shrubs to provide shelters for birds (especially sparrows which are in danger) areas of wild grass and wild flowers to attract insect for the birds to feed and nest. We would also propose areas of scented flowers such as the Alium family and small herb areas such as mint and other flowering herbs to attract bees. This type of environment will also be suitable for butterflies.

Bird boxes will also be included at a height of 1.5m to protect nests from predators.

The proposal has a large terrace to the rear at first floor level and balconies, at the front to the building at each level. It is proposed to save and provide soil form excavations for planting to these locations to further enhance the biodiversity measures.