

**Rev A - 10 October 2016**

**DESIGN AND ACCESS ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED  
ALTERATIONS TO REAR EXTENSION, LIGHT WELL TO FRONT AND  
INTERNAL REFURBISHMENTS AT 16 HOLLYCROFT AVENUE NW3 7QL**



**FRONT VIEW OF 16 HOLLYCROFT AVENUE, LONDON NW3 7QL**

**LOCATION**

The property lies within The Redington and Frognal Conservation Area. The conservation area is further sub-divided and Ferncroft Avenue lies within Sub Area 2. There are three roads known as The Crofts. Hollycroft Avenue is one of these roads. Hollycroft Avenue is more modest than Ferncroft Avenue and largely comprises of semi-detached houses of varied individual appearance but with a “mix and match” set of elements and materials. This gives the street an overall coherent appearance. While most of the houses are built of red brick, these are interspersed by houses with rendered upper floors or tile hanging. The continuity of a small palette of materials play a significant roll in the overall harmony of the appearance of Hollycroft Avenue but this is also helped by the regular spacing of mature London Plane trees that dominate the street view looking upwards along Hollycroft Avenue.

Windows are mainly timber framed traditional casement style. The fronts of the houses are set mainly as pairs of houses. However, the rears of the houses have changed considerably over the years. There is an eclectic mix of sizes and styles of architecture from traditional to modern. There are large mainly glass extensions and multiple single and double storey extensions that have grown over the years giving a patchwork of heights and depths to the rear extensions. The garden rises up at the rear and landscaping work should be kept to a minimum to avoid high retaining walls.

## HISTORY

### No. 16 Hollycroft Avenue

There is no relevant planning history within the planning website that relate to house that I can find.

The property was built as a single family house and has been used as a single family home for many years. The original rooms of the house have been preserved and much of the original detailing is still apparent. There is visual evidence however that the house has been extended at Garden level to the rear, although this is historic– See image below.

Application Number	Site Address	Development Description	Status	Date Registered	Decision
<a href="#">2006/3456/T</a>	16 Hollycroft Avenue, London, NW3 7QL	REAR GARDEN, ALONG BOUNDARY WITH 24 HOLLYCROFT AVENUE: 1 x Ash - Fell.	FINAL DECISION	31-07-2006	No Objection to Works to Tree(s) in CA
<a href="#">T9601844</a>	16 Hollycroft Avenue London NW3	The removal of 1 X Conifer from above garden	FINAL DECISION	06-06-1996	Approve works (TPO) -with conditions
<a href="#">8644</a>	No. 16 Hollycroft Avenue, N.W.3.	The formation of a means of access to the highway at No. 16 Hollycroft Avenue, N.W.3.	FINAL DECISION	17-03-1970	Conditional

### No. 14 Hollycroft Avenue

There is planning history to the neighbouring house which, I believe, is relevant. Planning permission for a large 3 storey rear extension has been allowed last year and this has implemented by starting on site.

2015/3208/P	14 Hollycroft Avenue London NW3 7QL	Three storey rear extension from lower ground floor to first floor to replace existing two storey rear extension, including first and second floor roof terraces.	FINAL DECISION	10-07-2015	Granted
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No 14 Hollycroft Avenue  
Planning Application - 2015/3208/P  
Granted 17-12-2015

**Rear view of no. 14 Hollycroft Avenue – as approved by Camden: date 10-07-2015**

**No. 20 Hollycroft Avenue**

This house benefits from a 2 storey rear extension with a side extension. No 20 has a wider plot than normal and a wider rear extension has been allowed.

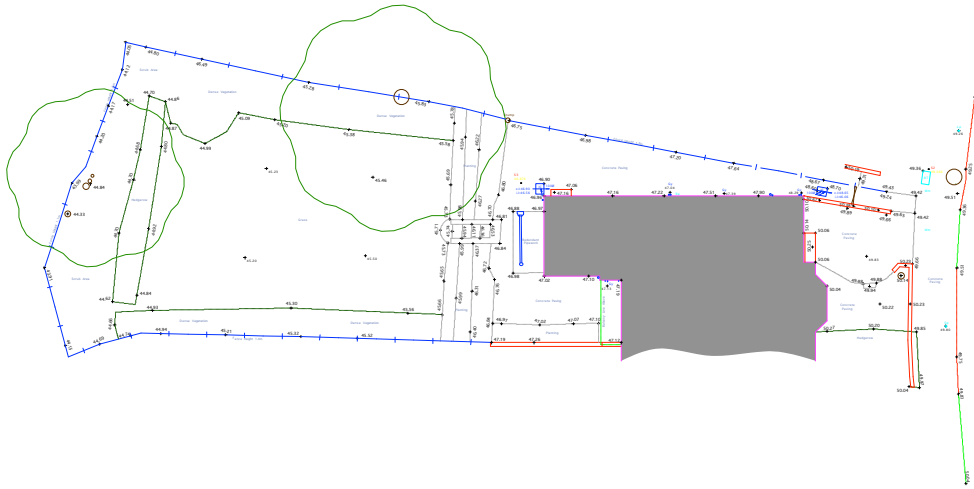
<a href="#">2008/5174/P</a>	20 Hollycroft Avenue London NW3 7QL	Amendment to planning permission granted on 5th October 2007 (2007/3638/P) for change of use of the existing flat and maisonette to a single family dwellinghouse, including re-building to enlarge the basement, ground and first floor extensions with balcony, and alterations at roof level, namely erection of extension with pitched roof at rear first floor level.	FINAL DECISION	17- 11- 2008	Granted
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**NEARBY HOUSES WITH SIMILAR WIDER REAR EXTENSIONS TO BOTH 24 and 20**

## REASON FOR THE PROPOSAL

The site is a large area and benefits from the side boundary that is splaying at an angle giving a particularly wide plot for this house. This offers the potential for a wider rear extension without enclosing the neighbours property. See site plan below.



The current rear view of the property is poorly detailed and does not contribute to the architecture of the locality – see photograph below.



IMAGE B – Existing Rear View as seen from the garden

Rear View showing splayed boundary and ugly rear blank wall.

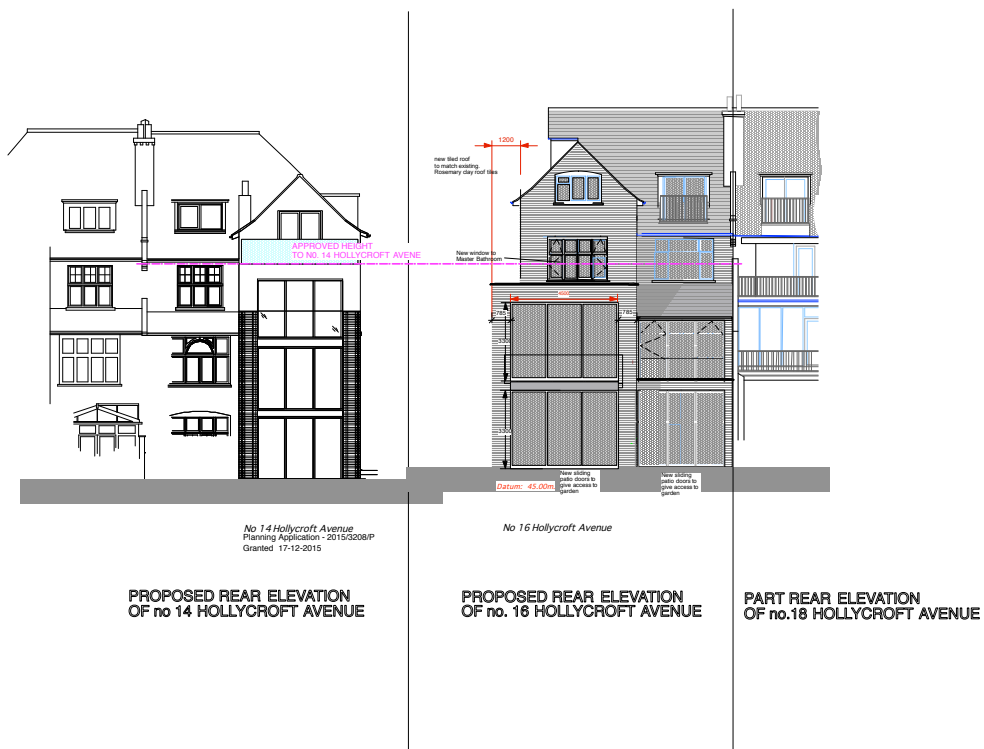
The upper floor of the extension is finished in a particularly ugly pebbledash finish. Note, the proposed new rear extensions will be built of red facing to finish as the traditional house and to copy its adjoining neighbour.

The client's brief is to achieve a full improvement and renovation to the house to make it sustainable for future generations. The ground floor has magnificent rooms of good proportion. The ornate cornice detail, picture rails, skirting, window shutters and door architraves are original and the client does not want to harm or destroy these features.

The proposal involves rebuilding the extension with a slightly enlarged footprint, extending part of the side passage way, to give light and views to the particularly lovely garden to the two main floors.

The plot size is large compared to most in this locality and this wider plot offers more scope for a wider rear extension. This additional width provides the opportunity to create a wider rear facade, with views to the rear garden, which has a more definite relationship with the existing building, using stock red bricks to match the existing in style, proportion and colour.

Replacing the existing garden blank rear wall with a new sliding doors giving garden access will further enhance the relationship and create an impression of one singular build to echo the architecture of the neighbouring properties. See the approved plan of the neighbouring property at no.14 Hollycroft Avenue – elevation drawing below.



## LAYOUT and SITE PLAN

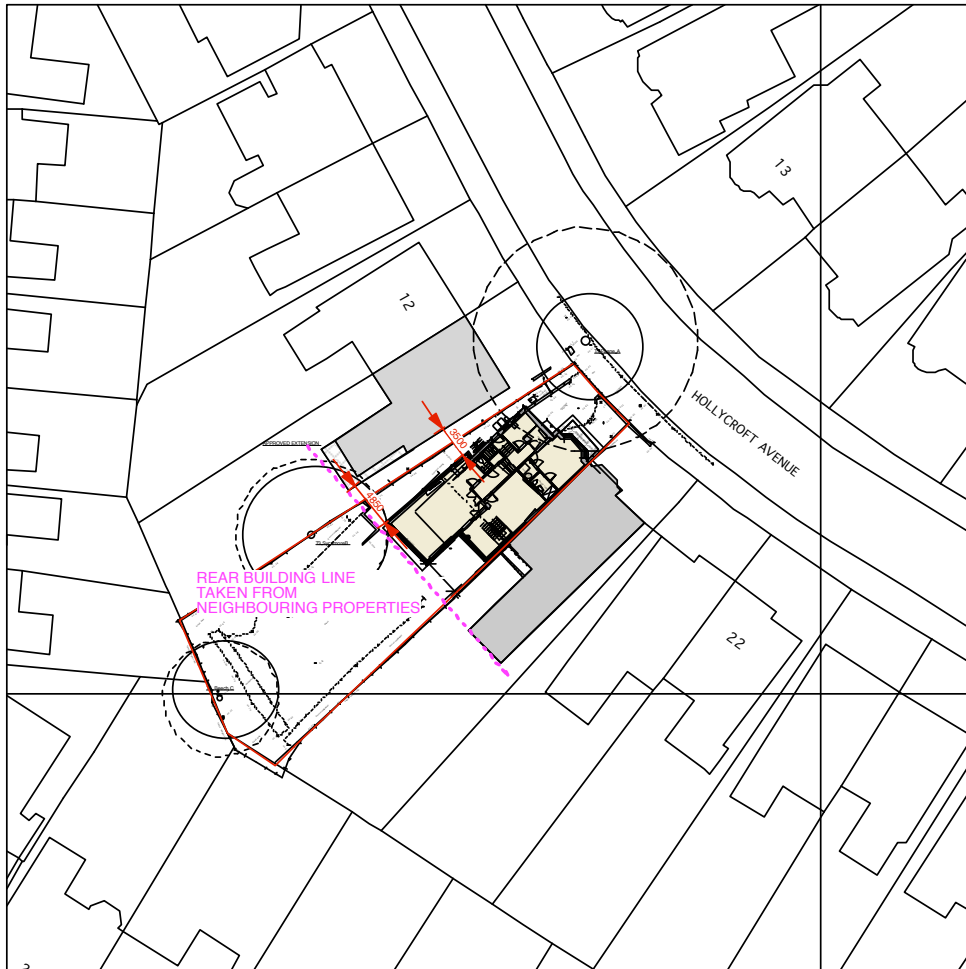
Internally the Ground floor has been lowered to enhance the internal spaces and create a more open, sustainable and usable living area overlooking the beautiful spacious garden.

A new internal staircase has been introduced to improve the internal circulation and link the Garden floor with the Lower Ground floor rooms

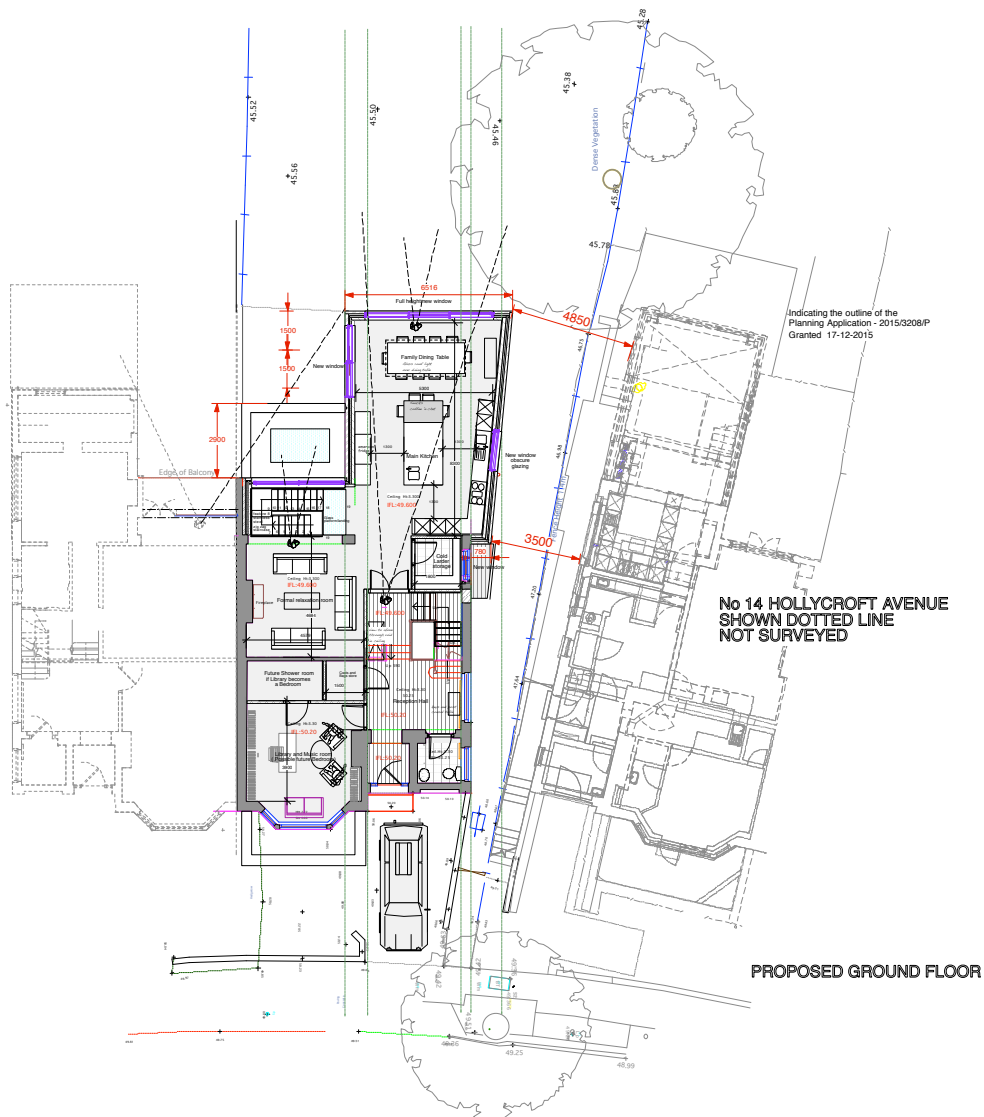
On the first floor the proposed extension now encompasses a master bathroom which links to a dressing room and then to a large master bedroom.

It is proposed to drop the lower ground floor level to achieve a greater floor to ceiling height of 3.3m throughout. This will enable the client the opportunity to occupy the entire area and create a more desirable and usable living space.

Towards the front of the existing house it is proposed that a new light well should be constructed to allow the intake of natural light into the lower ground floor (see drawing 06.951.17 for details). The proposed light well to the front of the property will be discreet in its appearance, using a glass panel sitting on stainless steel supports. The internal walls of the light well will be painted white in order to reflect sunlight into the spaces below. There will be some soft landscaping/ planting within the space.



SITE PLAN SHOWING PARTICULARLY WIDE PLOT TO no. 16 HOLLYCROFT COMPARED TO OTHER PLOTS



## GAP BETWEEN BUILDINGS

This is a particularly wide plot with a wide gap between it and its neighbouring property. The gap becomes wider as the plot fans out to become a particularly wide garden at the rear.

The gap between the regular houses in Hollycroft Avenue vary but are rarely greater than 2,000mm

Projecting side extensions are evident in the locality, and can be found at 20, 22 and 24 Hollycroft Avenue.

Allowing for the proposed projecting rear extension the gap between the two properties is greater than 3,500mm and widens to be almost 5,000mm at the rear of the proposed extension.



## Use

The client wishes to renovate and extend the property as his own family dwelling house. The client has no desire to sell the property on completion. The extension and alterations are to better incorporate the garden into the function of the house and to provide a more efficient and better organisation of spaces. The proposal provides an enlarged kitchen at ground floor which will give great views over the rear garden. Access to the Lower Ground floor is via a feature staircase and linked via a double height void. The first floor will be reconfigured to provide a large dressing room off the master bedroom, a bedroom with an en suite at the rear and a small linen cupboard. The proposed alterations to the front garden are to incorporate an existing car parking space for a single vehicle and to establish a more structured planting area.

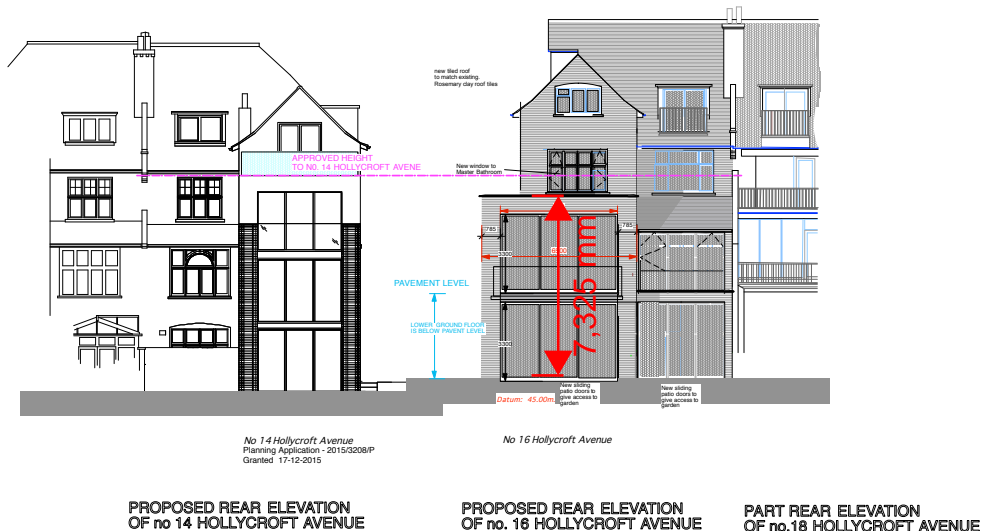
## PROPOSAL - USE

The current use of the building is that as a single-family house  
It is intended to create accommodation for a new younger family and a parents room at Lower Ground floor. In this way the house will be fully SUSTAINABLE for more generations.

## DESIGN

### REAR EXTENSION

The rear extension has been designed in consideration of guidance notes in the Conservation Area Statement and in particular with paragraphs F/N19 and F/N20. It is angled on plan to reflect the fan shape of the plot of land. It has regard for the scale, design and use of appropriate materials (See notes below). It is two storey in height when seen from the garden and is lower than the neighbour's extension. It has regard for the rear views of this group of houses. It will not adversely affect the rear of the surrounding group of houses as the rear line has been broken several times and there is no constant theme to the rear appearance.





PROPOSED FLANK WALL ELEVATION

The plot has a dramatic slope from front to rear garden. Access is via a steeply sloping ramp. This means that the proposed Lower Ground floor is totally below the pavement level to Hollycroft Avenue.

The effect will be that the great part of the rear extension will appear below foot level and be not obtrusive.

The extension will NOT remove the view from the pavement to the trees in the rear garden.

The proposed lowering of the basement floor allow the lower ground floor to be become accessible to the garden by sliding doors, thereby allowing the opportunity for additional family space to be accessible to wheelchair user

The existing openings at the flank wall have been largely maintained meaning that the internal staircase will still enjoy a comfortable intake of natural light.

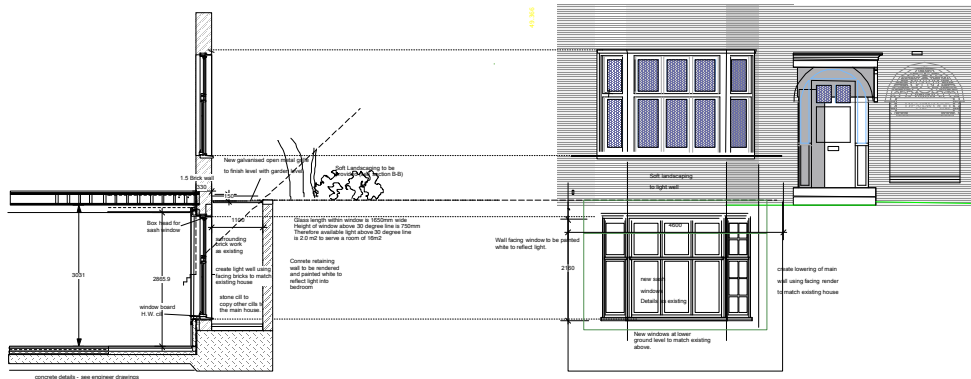
All windows and doors are to be painted timber construction with period detailing. The proposed extension is subordinate to the host building. The bulk of the rear extension cannot be seen from the street and therefore is not contrary to Guidance.

The alterations to the rear extension are to help accommodate additional family space. It has been designed to give a sensitive and lightness of touch to compliment the original house. The replacement windows at Ground and Lower Ground floor level are selected to maximise the light and views to the rear garden.

The rear fenestration allows light to flood into the family areas. This will give light into the main rooms and give views to the garden and sky and a provide a feeling of space rather than a heavy solid construction (Camden Planning Guidance SPG).

The construction of a light well at the front of the property allows light into the Guest/parents Bedroom which will be used on irregular times.

The proposed light well to the front of the property will be discreet in its appearance, using a galvanised open grille that is finished level with the surrounding garden level. The internal walls of the light well will be painted white in order to reflect sunlight into the spaces below. There will be some soft landscaping/ planting within the space.



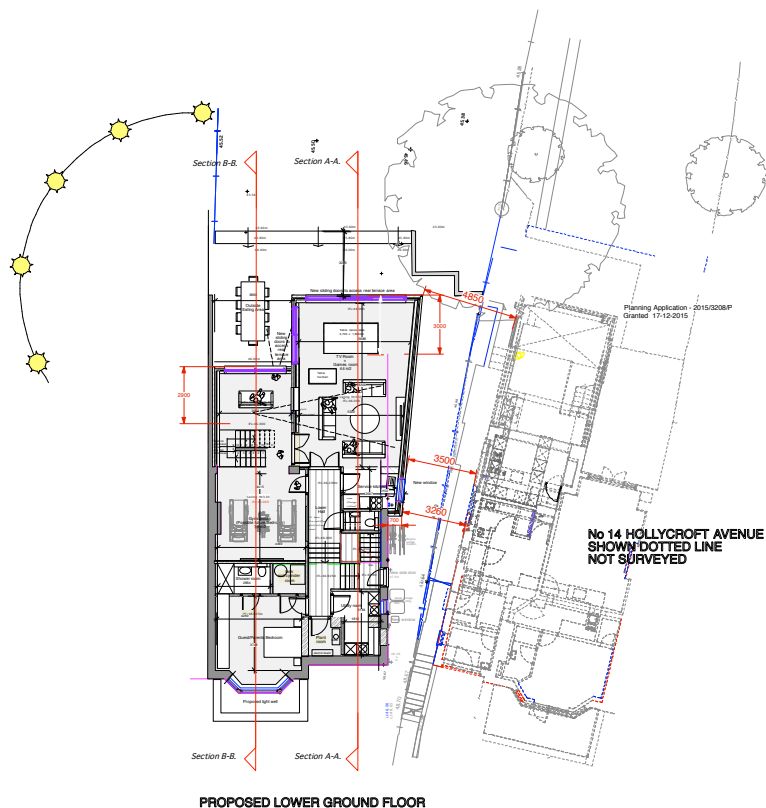
## EXTRACTS FROM THE CAMDEN DESIGN GUIDANCE NOTES

### 4.7 Good practice principles for external alterations

Alterations should always take into account the character and design of the property and its surroundings. A harmonious contrast with the existing property and surroundings may be appropriate for some new work to distinguish it from the existing building; in other cases closely matching materials and design details are more appropriate so as to ensure the new work blends with the old.

The design of the extension does not harm the architectural integrity of the main house. The proposed alterations to the rear extension complies with Guidance Note 19.12. - *A rear extension is often the most appropriate way to extend a house or property. However, rear extensions that are insensitively or inappropriately designed can spoil the appearance of a property or group of properties and harm the amenity of neighbouring properties, for example in terms of outlook, daylight and sunlight. The infill extension is sensitively designed. The rear extension fully complies with the BRE guidance Site Layout Planning for Daylight and Sunlight to adjoining properties. The existing extension will remain only be partially visible from the rear garden no 18 Ferncroft Avenue.*

**4.8 Scale:** Extensions should be subordinate to the original building in terms of scale and situation unless the specific circumstances of the site, such as the context of the property or its particular design, would enable an exception to this approach. More detailed guidance on design considerations is contained within CPG1 Design (Design excellence chapter).- *Rear extensions should be designed to be subordinate to the building being extended, in terms of location, form, scale proportions and dimensions; respect the original design and proportions of the building, including its architectural period and style; respect existing architectural features, such as projecting bays or decorative balconies; respect the historic pattern and established grain of the surrounding area, including the ratio of built to unbuilt space; make sure it does not cause a loss of amenity to adjacent properties with regard to sunlight, daylight, overshadowing, light pollution/spillage privacy/overlooking, and sense of enclosure; and allow for the retention of a reasonable sized garden.* With this proposed extension the host building is clearly undisturbed and the extension will not do any harm to the host building or its locality.



## EXTRACTS FROM THE POLICY GUIDANCE

### Rear extensions

4.9 A rear extension is often the most appropriate way to extend a house or property. However, rear extensions that are insensitively or inappropriately designed can spoil the appearance of a property or group of properties and harm the amenity of neighbouring properties, for example in terms of outlook and access to daylight and sunlight.

*Neighbouring properties have been fully considered with regard to daylight/sunlight and any possible overlooking*

### General principles that have been taken into account within this proposal.

4.10 Rear extensions should be designed to:

- be secondary to the building being extended, in terms of location, form, scale, proportions, dimensions and detailing; **YES**
- respect and preserve the original design and proportions of the building, including its architectural period and style; **YES**
- respect and preserve existing architectural features, such as projecting bays, decorative balconies or chimney stacks; **YES**
- respect and preserve the historic pattern and established townscape of the surrounding area, including the ratio of built to unbuilt space; **YES**
- not cause a loss of amenity to adjacent properties with regard to sunlight, daylight, outlook, overshadowing, light pollution/spillage, privacy/overlooking, and sense of enclosure; **YES**
- allow for the retention of a reasonable sized garden; **YES**
- retain the open character of existing natural landscaping and garden amenity, including that of the neighbouring properties, proportionate to that of the surrounding area.

4.11 Materials should be chosen that are sympathetic to the existing building wherever possible (see also CPG3 Sustainability on Sustainable use of materials). YES

*Materials have been chosen that are sympathetic to the existing building. The windows to the front and flank elevations can be timber framed painted white. Removal of window openings will be in filled with salvaged bricks and be properly keyed into surround brickwork with pointing to match.*

#### **Height of rear extensions**

4.12 *The new extension is subordinate to the original building. Its height respects the existing pattern of rear extensions. Ground floor extensions are generally considered preferable to those at higher levels.*

#### **Width of rear extensions**

The width of rear extensions should be designed so that they are not visible from the street and should respect the rhythm of existing rear extensions.

*See earlier notes and examples of other rear extensions within the larger plot size.*

*The new extension is subordinate to the original building, its height respects the existing building heights.*

#### **Side extensions**

Certain building forms may lend themselves to side extensions. Such extensions should be designed in accordance with the general considerations set out above in paragraph 4.10.

Side extensions should also:

- be no taller than the porch; and
- set back from the main building.
- significant views or gaps are compromised or blocked;
- the established front building line is compromised;
- the architectural symmetry or integrity of a composition is impaired;
- the original architectural features on a side wall are obscured; or
- access to the rear of a property is lost.

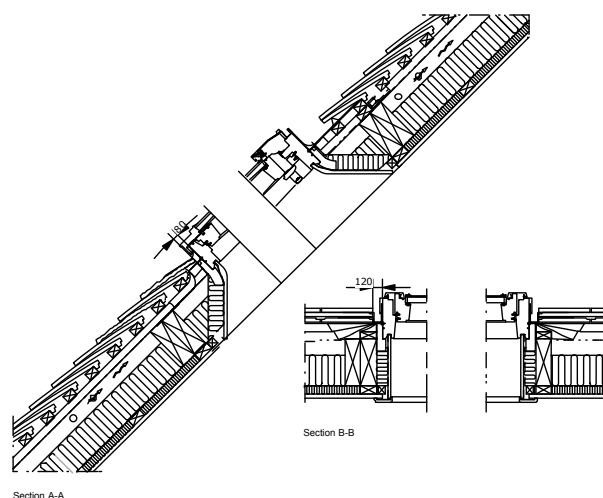
*All of the above have been taken into account with this proposal*

## Roof lights

5.21 Roof lights can have an adverse impact upon the character and appearance of buildings and streetscapes.

5.22 Roof lights should be proportioned to be significantly subordinate both in size and number and should be fitted flush with the roof surface.

*It is intended to only use the Conservation style roof light that will sit flat with the surrounding roof tiles. See drawing 06.951.18 for details*



Section A-A  
VELUX WINDOW DETAILS. Scale 1:25  
Conservation roof system window for plain tiles.  
Type M06 603x930 visible glass.

## Balconies and terraces

5.24 Balconies should form an integral element in the design of elevations. The key to whether a design is acceptable is the degree to which the balcony or terrace complements the elevation upon which it is to be located. Consideration should therefore be given to the following:

- detailed design to reduce the impact on the existing elevation;
- careful choice of materials and colour to match the existing elevation;
- possible use of setbacks to minimise overlooking – a balcony need not necessarily cover the entire available roof space;
- possible use of screens or planting to prevent overlooking of habitable rooms or nearby gardens, without reducing daylight and sunlight or outlook; and
- need to avoid creating climbing opportunities for burglars.
- It should not result in overlooking of habitable rooms of adjacent properties.

*The proposed inset balcony at the rear elevation at Second floor level will copy the detail of the neighbouring property and thereby emphasize the symmetry at roof level.*

## **ENERGY SAVING AND RENEWABLE ENERGY PROPOSAL**

A range of thermal efficiency measures are proposed to be implemented.

These include:

1. Ensure that the building is in a good state of repair.

*A FULL REFURBISHMENT OF THE PROPERTY IS TO BE UNDERTAKEN TAKING HIGH HEAT LOSS BUILDING INTO A LOW THERMAL HEAT LOSS AND WELL INSULATED BUILDING.*

2. Minor interventions - upgrade the easier and non-contentious elements:
  - insulate roof spaces and suspended floors;

*THE ROOF SLOPES ARE TO BE FULLY INSULATED TO CURRENT BUILDING REGULATION STANDARDS. THE SOLID LOWER GROUND FLOOR SLAB IS TO BE FULLY INSULATED TO CURRENT BUILDING REGULATION STANDARDS.*

- provide energy efficient lighting and appliances

*LIGHT FITTINGS WILL BE LOW ENERGY TYPE*

- draught-seal doors and windows;

*ALL WINDOWS WILL BE DOUBLE GLAZED AND FITTED WITH THERMAL BREAK WHERE APPLICABLE TO THE SLIDING ALUMINIUM DOORS AT THE REAR GROUND AND LOWER GROUND FLOOR.*

- provide hot water tank and pipe insulation.

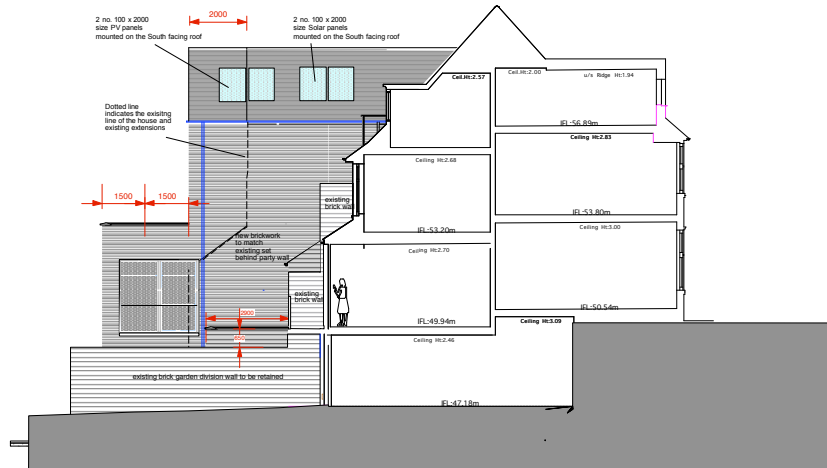
*ALL NEW PLUMBING INSTALLATION WILL BE FULLY INSULATED*

- install high-efficiency boiler and heating controls;

*HIGH EFFICIENCY BOILER WILL BE SUPPLIED AND FITTED*

– install solar panels, where not visible from the street or public spaces.

*IT IS PROPOSED TO INSTALL BOTH SOLAR AND PV PANELS TO THE REAR ROOF SLOP. SEE DRAWING No's. 06.951.13 and 16 for proposed location of panels.*



ELEVATION VIEW FROM No. 18 HOLLYCROFT AVENUE

## ACCESS

Both access points to from Hollycroft Avenue to the main house are to be retained. There will be the existing front door; a side door with access to the staircase from the side passageway. In addition the glazing system will provide access to the rear garden from the house . The existing main staircase from ground to second floor will be retained. A new staircase from lower ground to ground has been proposed.

The main front door will have only a single stepped access to the property. This will allow easier access for semi ambulant persons.

The rear garden sliding door is accessible by going down the side ramped access pathway to the rear terrace level giving scope for the enjoyment by a wheelchair user.

## SUMMARY

The extensions have been sympathetically designed to harmonise with the host building without dominating it.

There is no harm to the environment, other than the process of building, which will be limited to about 6 months.