CASTLE WOOD REF: 201614 ECOLOGY COVER LETTER



## **Background**

BASEcology was commissioned by CBRE:UK on behalf of Royal London Mutual Insurance Society in 2016 to undertake a Phase 1 Habitat Survey and BREEAM Assessment to support a mixed use commercial and residential planning application in Camden, Greater London. The application was subsequently granted by Camden Council on 21 December 2017 (017/0618/P) subject to Condition 32 which is detailed below:

'Prior to commencement of the development within the relevant phase (a) Castlewood House; (b) Medius House other than demolition, site clearance, and preparation works details of bird nesting features (boxes or bricks) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Features should be integrated into the fabric of the building, unless otherwise agreed by the Local Planning Authority. Details shall include the exact location, height, aspect, specification and indication of species to be accommodated, in line with the recommendations in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. Boxes shall be installed in accordance with the approved plans prior to the first occupation of the development and thereafter maintained'.

The purpose of this letter is to provide a commentary for the location of invertebrate, bird and bat boxes to support the discharge of Condition 32.

## **Invertebrate / Bird Box Provision**

As per the recommendations of the Phase 1 Habitat Survey and BREEAM Assessment report, one invertebrate box (Schwegler insect-Combi box), six bird boxes (2 x 16s swift box, 2 x Schwegler brick box Type 25 and 2 x Schwegler open fronted box 2HW) are to be installed at suitable locations around the exterior of the new development. Details of the target species along with the recommended siting and positioning of the boxes is provided below:

- Schwegler insect-Combi box: Designed for lacewings, earwigs, ladybirds, bees, masked hunters, robber flies, thrips, solitary wasps, and occasional butterflies. The box (shown on the attached plan A\_21\_100 as EXT-602) will be secured firmly to the south-eastern corner of the 10<sup>th</sup> floor beside the brown roof. This location is considered suitable providing further protection is provided along the edge to protect the box from the elements. No annual maintenance is required.
- **16s swift box**: Designed for swift *Apus apus* which is Amber listed on the Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) list and is also recorded as a local species of conservation concern. The boxes (shown on the attached plan A\_21\_301 as EXT-601) will be secured to the surface building envelope underneath the 9<sup>th</sup> floor eastern elevation. The proposed height and location of the boxes are considered suitable for use. Maintenance (if accessible) is easy although not essential.
- Schwegler brick box Type 25: Designed for swifts. For this project, the boxes (shown on the attached plan A\_21\_303 as EXT-601) will be secured to the surface building envelope underneath the eaves of the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of Medius House South Elevation. The proposed height and location of the boxes are considered suitable for use. The entrance hole insert should be sealed with silicon sealant to prevent it falling out. Maintenance (if accessible) is easy although not essential.
- Schwegler open fronted box 2HW: The box is primarily designed for black redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* (the target species for this development) (Red listed, London BAP, local species of conservation concern), pied wagtail *Motacilla alba*, grey spotted flycatcher (Red listed, S41 and London BAP priority species), although may also be used occasionally by robin *Erithacus rubecula* and wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*. The boxes (shown on the attached plan A\_21\_301 as EXT-601) will be secured to the surface building envelope underneath the eaves of 10<sup>th</sup> floor eastern elevation. The proposed height of the boxes is considered suitable although it is recommended these are installed underneath overhanging structures, such as balconies and escape routes, to be of value to black redstart. The boxes should also be carefully positioned to provide sheltered from prevailing wind, rain and strong sunlight, and angled vertically or slightly downwards to prevent rain from entering the nest box. It is recommended debris is removed from the boxes at the end of each breeding season in order to increase the likelihood of occupation in the subsequent year.

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