



RIGHT OF LIGHT  
CONSULTING  
Chartered Surveyors

# Daylight and Sunlight Report

(Within Development)

**5 May 2021**

Erskine Mews, London  
NW3 3AP

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DAYLIGHT AND SUNLIGHT REPORT  
Erskine Mews, London NW3 3AP

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# 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 Right of Light Consulting has been commissioned by the residents of Erskine Mews to undertake a daylight and sunlight study in connection with the development at Erskine Mews, London NW3 3AP. The aim of the study is to check whether the proposed accommodation will provide its future occupiers with adequate levels of natural light.
- 1.1.2 The study is based on the numerical tests laid down in the Building Research Establishment (BRE) guide 'Site Layout Planning for Daylight and Sunlight: a good practice guide, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition' by P J Littlefair 2011.
- 1.1.3 Appendix 1 identifies the windows analysed in this study. The no sky line contours for the habitable rooms are also presented in Appendix 1. The numerical results of the BRE daylight and sunlight tests are provided in Appendix 2. Overshadowing to gardens and opens spaces contour drawings are provided in Appendix 3.
- 1.1.4 Right of Light Consulting confirms that the proposed design satisfies all of the requirements set out in the BRE guide 'Site Layout Planning for Daylight and Sunlight'. In our professional opinion, the proposed design will provide the development's future occupiers with adequate levels of natural light.

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## 2 INFORMATION SOURCES

### 2.1 Documents Considered

2.1.1 This report is based on the following drawings:

21st Architecture Ltd

303_GA_00	General Arrangement Plans - Proposed	Rev A
303_GA_01	General Arrangement Plans - Proposed	Rev A
303_GA_02	General Arrangement Plans - Proposed	Rev A
303_GA_03	General Arrangement Plans - Proposed	Rev A
308_GE_01	Proposed General Arrangement Elevations North Elevation South Elevation	Rev A
308_GE_02	Proposed General Arrangement Elevations East Elevation West Elevation	Rev A
308_GE_03	Proposed General Arrangement Elevations	Rev A
308_GE_04	Proposed General Arrangement Elevations Elevations in Context	Rev A
308_GS_01	Proposed General Arrangement Sections Sections A-A Section B-B	Rev A
308_GS_02	Proposed General Arrangement Sections Sections C-C Section D-D	Rev A
308_GS_03	Proposed General Arrangement Sections Sections E-E	Rev A
308_GS_04	Proposed General Arrangement Sections Sections in Context	Rev A

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### **3 METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY**

#### **3.1 Local Planning Policy**

3.1.1 We understand that the Local Authority takes the conventional approach of considering daylight and sunlight amenity with reference to the various numerical tests laid down in the Building Research Establishment (BRE) guide ‘Site Layout Planning for Daylight and Sunlight: a guide to good practice, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition’ by P J Littlefair 2011. A new European standard BS EN 17037 ‘Daylight in Buildings’ was published in May 2019. An update to the BRE guide to take into account the European standard is expected sometime in 2021. It is not yet clear how, and to what extent, the European recommendations will be adopted by the BRE and Local Authorities.

3.1.2 The standards set out in the BRE guide are intended to be used flexibly. The BRE guide states:

“The guide is intended for building designers and their clients, consultants and planning officials. The advice given here is not mandatory and the guide should not be seen as an instrument of planning policy; its aim is to help rather than constrain the designer. Although it gives numerical guidelines, these should be interpreted flexibly, since natural lighting is only one of many factors in site layout design.”

#### **3.2 National Planning Policy Framework**

3.2.1 The BRE numerical guidelines should be considered in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which stipulates that local planning authorities should take a flexible approach to daylight and sunlight to ensure the efficient use of land. The NPPF states:

“Local planning authorities should refuse applications which they consider fail to make efficient use of land, taking into account the policies in this Framework. In this context, when considering applications for housing, authorities should take a flexible approach in applying policies or guidance relating to daylight and sunlight, where they would otherwise inhibit making efficient use of a site (as long as the resulting scheme would provide acceptable living standards).”

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### 3.3 Interior Daylighting

3.3.1 The interior daylighting recommendations set out in the BRE guide are based on British Standard BS 8206 Part 2 and the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers Applications Manual on window design. Collectively, the guides set out three main criteria for interior daylighting. These are summarised as follows:

#### **Test 1 - Average Daylight Factor**

3.3.2 The Average Daylight Factor (ADF) can be calculated using the following formula:

$$df = \frac{T A_w \theta}{A (1-R^2)} \%$$

where

T is the diffuse visible transmittance of the glazing  
A<sub>w</sub> is the net glazed area of the window (m<sup>2</sup>)  
A is the total area of the room surfaces (m<sup>2</sup>)  
R is their average reflectance  
Θ is the angle of visible sky in degrees

3.3.3 The ADF test is applied to habitable rooms within domestic properties. A kitchen is generally deemed to be a habitable room if it is large enough to accommodate a dining area. If the kitchen is small, or if the property has a separate dining area, then the accepted practice is to treat the kitchen as a non-habitable room.

3.3.4 For the purpose of this study, we have assumed BRE internal reflectance coefficients pertaining to medium wooden floors (0.4), light painted walls (0.8) and matt white painted ceilings (0.85).

3.3.5 We have assumed that each window is double-glazed and has a glazed area that equates to 80% of the structural opening size. A glazing transmittance value, inclusive of a maintenance to allow for the effect of dirt and grime on the glazing, of 0.68 has been used.

3.3.6 To achieve a predominately daylit appearance, the guide recommends an ADF of 5% or more if there is no supplementary electric lighting, or 2% or more if supplementary lighting is provided. The guide also gives minimum recommendations for dwellings of 2% for kitchens, 1.5% for living rooms and 1% for bedrooms. The minimum targets have been adopted for the purpose of this study.

- 
- 3.3.7 The BRE guide does not give guidance on how to apply the ADF test to spaces which contain a mix of room uses e.g. open plan living, dining and kitchen areas. For this assessment we have set a target of 2% with the aim of reaching the predominately daylight benchmark.
- 3.3.8 A special procedure is required for floor to ceiling windows such as patio doors. If part of a window is below the height of the working plane (a horizontal plane 0.85m above the floor in housing), this portion should be treated as a separate window. The ADF for this window has an extra factor applied to it, to take account of the reduced effectiveness of low level glazing in lighting the room. A value equal to the floor reflectance may be taken for this factor. The ADF for the portion of the window above the working plane is calculated in the normal way without this additional factor, and the ADFs for the two portions are added together.
- 3.3.9 Reflected light can be factored into the ADF calculation. For example, where a window has a large obstruction in front of it, the angle of visible sky can be increased by around 6°, assuming the obstruction is painted a light colour.

### **Test 2 - Room Depth**

- 3.3.10 If a daylight room is lit by windows in one wall only, the depth of the room L should not exceed the limiting value given by:

$$\frac{L}{W} + \frac{L}{H} \leq \frac{2}{1-R_b}$$

where

W is the room width  
H is the window-head height above floor level  
R<sub>b</sub> is the average reflectance of the surfaces in the rear half of the room

### **Test 3 - Position of the no sky line (Daylight Distribution)**

- 3.3.11 If a significant area of the working plane lies beyond the no sky line (i.e. it receives no direct skylight), then the distribution of daylight in the room will look poor and supplementary electric lighting will be required.

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3.3.12 The no sky line assessment is not applicable where a room derives its daylight solely from a light well or atrium. In these situations the room relies on borrowed light instead of direct skylight.

### **3.4 Sunlight to Windows**

3.4.1 The BRE guide states that, in general, a dwelling or non-domestic building which has a particular requirement for sunlight, will appear reasonably sunlit if:

- at least one main window wall faces within 90 degrees of due south, and
- the centre of at least one window to a main living room can receive 25% of annual probable sunlight hours, including at least 5% of the annual probable sunlight hours during the winter months between 21st September and 21st March.

3.4.2 The guide states that, where groups of dwellings are planned, site layout design should aim to maximise the number of dwellings with a main living room that meets the above recommendations.

3.4.3 The guide states that sunlight is viewed as less important in kitchens and bedrooms.

### **3.5 Overshadowing to Gardens and Open Spaces**

3.5.1 The availability of sunlight should be checked for all open spaces where sunlight is required. This would normally include:

- Gardens, usually the main back garden of a house
- Parks and playing fields
- Children's playgrounds
- Outdoor swimming pools and paddling pools
- Sitting out areas, such as those between non-domestic buildings and in public squares
- Focal points for views such as a group of monuments or fountains.

3.5.2 The BRE guide recommends that, for an open space to appear adequately lit throughout the year, at least 50% of its area should receive two hours of sunlight on 21st March.

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## **4 RESULTS OF THE STUDY**

### **4.1 Window Reference Points and No Sky Line Contours**

4.1.1 Appendix 1 identifies the positions of the windows analysed in this study. The no skyline contours for the habitable rooms are also presented in Appendix 1.

### **4.2 Daylight & Sunlight Data**

4.2.1 The numerical results of the BRE daylight and sunlight tests are provided in Appendix 2. Overshadowing to gardens and open spaces contour drawings are provided in Appendix 3.

### **4.3 Interior Daylighting**

4.3.1 All habitable rooms surpass the BRE minimum Average Daylight Factor (ADF) recommendations by a significant margin.

### **4.4 Sunlight to Windows**

4.4.1 All dwellings have a main window which faces within 90 degrees of due south. All living rooms also have a main window which meets the annual and winter sunlight hours numerical targets. The proposed development therefore satisfies the BRE direct sunlight to windows requirements.

### **4.5 Overshadowing to Gardens and Open Spaces**

4.5.1 The results show that 66% or more of the area of each amenity space will receive at least two hours of sunlight on 21 March. This is significantly better than the BRE recommendation which states that at least 50% of any garden or amenity area should receive at least two hours of sunlight on 21 March. The proposed development therefore passes the BRE overshadowing to gardens and open spaces test.

### **4.6 Conclusion**

4.6.1 Right of Light Consulting confirms that the proposed design satisfies all of the requirements set out in the BRE guide 'Site Layout Planning for Daylight and Sunlight'. In our professional opinion, the proposed design will provide the development's future occupiers with adequate levels of natural light.

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## 5 CLARIFICATIONS

### 5.1 General

- 5.1.1 The report provided is solely for the use of the client and no liability to anyone else is accepted.
- 5.1.2 The study is limited to assessing daylight, sunlight and overshadowing of the proposed development as set out in section 2.1, (and) 3.1 and 3.3 of the BRE Guide.
- 5.1.3 The study is based on the information listed in section 2 of this report and a site visit undertaken in July 2020.
- 5.1.4 We have undertaken the survey following the guidelines of the RICS publication "Surveying Safely". Where limited access is available, assumptions will have been made.
- 5.1.5 This report is based upon and subject to the scope of work set out in Right of Light Consulting's quotation and standard terms and conditions.

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## APPENDICES

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## **APPENDIX 1**

### WINDOW KEY & NO SKY LINE CONTOURS





Proposed Extension

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18



Proposed Extension

2

4

18

16

15

3

6

14

8

12

11

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10



10

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12

14

16

18

8

6

4

2

Proposed Extension

5

1



Key:

- Window reference
- ⊙ G1 Gardens and Amenity Areas
- ▨ Area receives no direct sky light (applied to habitable rooms)
- Area does receive direct sky light.
- ▬▬ Light aperture.

Project Name: Erskine Mews, London NW3 3AP

Drawing Title: Window Key and No Sky Line Contours

Scale: Do not scale

Drawing No: 1 of 1 Rev. .

Rev	Date	Details of revision



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## **APPENDIX 2**

### DAYLIGHT & SUNLIGHT DATA

**Appendix 2 - Average Daylight Factor (ADF)  
Erskine Mews, London NW3 3AP**

Reference	Target ADF based on room use		Average Daylight Factor Coefficients					Actual
	Primary room use	ADF	T	Aw	A	R	Theta	ADF
<u>Erskine Mews</u>								
<u>Second Floor</u>								
Window 1			0.68	0.73	80.8	0.7	57.2	0.7%
Window 2			0.68	0.8	80.8	0.7	154.2	2.0%
<b>Total ADF for room</b>	Bedroom	1.0%						<b>2.7%</b>
Window 3			0.68	2.91	83.96	0.7	68.4	3.1%
Window 4			0.68	0.8	83.96	0.7	156.1	2.0%
<b>Total ADF for room</b>	Living Room	1.5%						<b>5.1%</b>
Window 5			0.68	0.75	66.83	0.71	69.6	1.1%
Window 6			0.68	0.8	66.83	0.71	155.8	2.5%
<b>Total ADF for room</b>	Bedroom	1.0%						<b>3.6%</b>
Window 7			0.68	4.63	52.26	0.66	73.1	7.8%
Window 8			0.68	0.8	52.26	0.66	157.5	2.9%
<b>Total ADF for room</b>	Living Room	1.5%						<b>10.7%</b>
Window 9			0.68	1.46	61.03	0.7	71.3	2.3%
Window 10			0.68	0.8	61.03	0.7	156.0	2.7%
<b>Total ADF for room</b>	Bedroom	1.0%						<b>5.0%</b>
Window 12			0.68	0.8	55.75	0.7	157.4	3.0%
Window 11 (lower)			0.68	0.46	55.75	0.7	57.8	0.3%
Window 11 (upper)			0.68	0.91	55.75	0.7	75.0	1.6%
<b>Total ADF for room</b>	Bedroom	1.0%						<b>4.9%</b>
Window 13 (lower)			0.68	1.15	41.34	0.67	53.6	0.7%
Window 13 (upper)			0.68	2.16	41.34	0.67	63.7	4.1%
Window 14			0.68	0.8	41.34	0.67	159.1	3.8%
<b>Total ADF for room</b>	Living Room	1.5%						<b>8.6%</b>
Window 16			0.68	0.8	58.6	0.7	157.5	2.9%
Window 15 (lower)			0.68	0.46	58.6	0.7	56.2	0.2%
Window 15 (upper)			0.68	0.91	58.6	0.7	75.1	1.6%
<b>Total ADF for room</b>	Bedroom	1.0%						<b>4.7%</b>
Window 17 (lower)			0.68	1.14	41.82	0.67	57.5	0.8%
Window 17 (upper)			0.68	2.13	41.82	0.67	63.9	4.0%
Window 18			0.68	0.8	41.82	0.67	160.1	3.7%
<b>Total ADF for room</b>	Living Room	1.5%						<b>8.5%</b>

**Appendix 2 - Sunlight to Windows**  
**Erskine Mews, London NW3 3AP**

Reference	Room Use	Annual Probable Sunlight Hours	
		Total	Winter
<u>Erskine Mews</u>			
<u>Second Floor</u>			
Window 3	Living Room	56%	16%
Window 4	Living Room	90%	27%
Window 7	Living Room	21%	1%
Window 8	Living Room	92%	26%
Window 13	Living Room	56%	23%
Window 14	Living Room	96%	29%
Window 17	Living Room	58%	25%
Window 18	Living Room	94%	29%

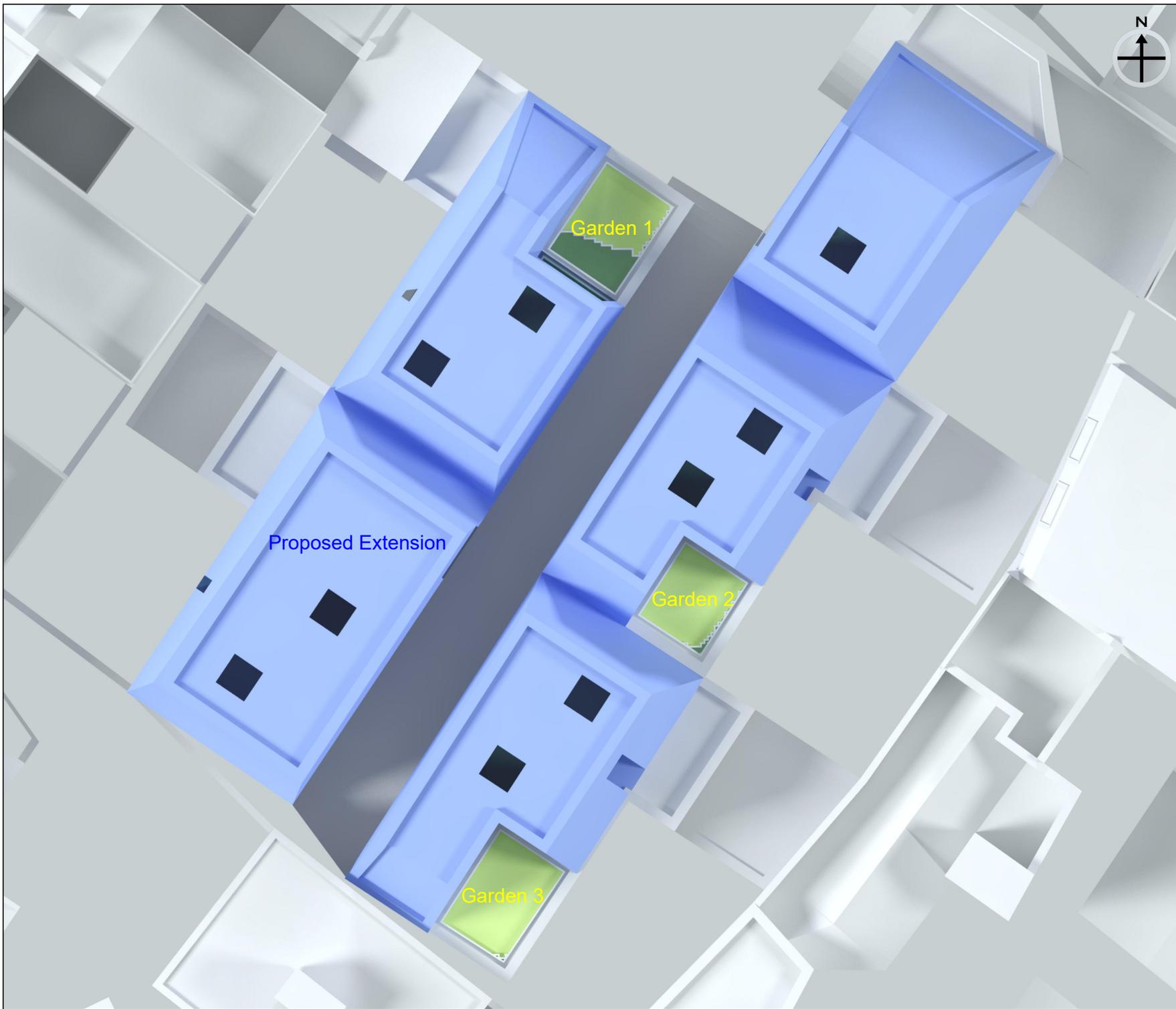
**Appendix 2 - Overshadowing to Gardens and Open Spaces**  
**Erskine Mews, London NW3 3AP**

Reference	Total Area	Area receiving at least 2 hours of sunlight on 21st March	
<u>Erskine Mews</u>			
<u>Second Floor</u>			
Garden 1	7.02 m2	4.62 m2	66%
Garden 2	5.32 m2	5.13 m2	96%
Garden 3	6.89 m2	6.86 m2	100%

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## **APPENDIX 3**

### OVERSHADOWING TO GARDENS & OPEN SPACES



**Key**

- Receives under two hours sunlight on 21st March before and after the development.
- Receives at least two hours sunlight on 21st March before and after the development.

Proposed Extension

Garden 1

Garden 2

Garden 3

Project Name: Erskine Mews, London NW3 3AP

Drawing Title: Appendix 3 - Overshadowing to Gardens and Open Spaces



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