# KANDA

# North Crescent STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT 07.2021

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1. Executive Summary

# Executive Summary

- **1.1** In September 2020, Schroders UK Real Estate Fund (the Applicant) appointed Kanda Consulting, a specialist public consultation company, to undertake a pre-application community consultation for a planning application at North Crescent, containing two separate buildings, the Telephone Exchange and Minerva House.
- 1.2 This Statement of Community Involvement provides a record of the pre-application engagement carried out on proposals for the refurbishment and reconfiguration of the existing buildings; including a one storey extension, plus plant, minor demolition works associated with internal and external alterations to provide additional office accommodation and associated works.
- **1.3** A series of targeted public engagement activities have taken place to present the proposed scheme to local residents and stakeholders. This has taken place in conjunction with pre-application discussions with L.B. Camden.
- 1.4 In accordance with the March 2020 Coronavirus Act and advice published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Applicant sought to move the consultation to 'at a distance' engagement via postal and online briefing interactivity, avoiding face-to-face contact.
- **1.5** Feedback to date has been broadly positive, with stakeholders and respondents recognising that a sensitive approach to refurbishment could be beneficial to the existing buildings and would not substantially impact their heritage.
- **1.6** Through the public consultation process, some local residents shared their concerns about the impact that the extension and refurbishment works would have on local amenity. The Applicant was able to highlight that the works would be carefully managed in order to minimise any possible disruption relating to noise and dust.

# 2.Consultation Process

# 2. Consultation Process

### **2.1** Consultation Process

- 2.1.1 The consultation process was carried out in conjunction with pre-application meetings with L.B. Camden's planning and design officers.
- 2.1.2 Engagement with local residents and the wider community has comprised targeted mailouts and a consultation website as outlined in the table below.

Date	Organisation
21st October 2020	The project team had an introductory meeting with The Bloomsbury
	Conservation Area Advisory Committee (BCAAC) to present the proposals.
23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2020	The project team emailed Bloomsbury Ward Councillors Adam Harrison
	and Rishi Madlani to introduce the proposals and offer a site tour.
18 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	The project team had a further meeting with The BCAAC to present the
	proposals.
11 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	The project team once again emailed Bloomsbury Ward Councillors Adam
	Harrison and Rishi Madlani to introduce the proposals and offer a site
	tour.
21 <sup>st</sup> June 2021	A newsletter outlining the proposals for the site and detailing the virtual
	consultation was sent to an area around the site, which contained c.1519
	addresses.
21 <sup>st</sup> June – 6 <sup>th</sup> July	The consultation website was launched, with virtual exhibition boards and
	the opportunity to leave feedback.
June 2021	Social media adverts were run to advertise the consultation.
23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2021	The project team conducted a site tour with the BCAAC to discuss the
	proposals further.
28 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	The project team emailed the Bloomsbury Association, The Fitzrovia
	Partnership BID, and BRAG (Bloomsbury Residents Action Group) as well
	as Ward Cllrs Madlani and Harrison to share details of consultation and
	offered an invitation to meet.

1st July 2021	The project team emailed a follow up to the Bloomsbury Association, The Fitzrovia Partnership BID, and Bloomsbury Residents Action Group to share details of consultation and offered an invitation to meet.
2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2021	A follow-up newsletter outlining the proposals for the site and detailing the virtual consultation was sent to an area around the site, which contained c.1519 addresses.

#### 2.2 Consultation area

- 2.2.1 The Newsletter was posted to c.1519 addresses surrounding the site on the 21st June 2021. A copy of the introduction newsletter can be seen in Appendix 1. A copy of the distribution area can be seen in Appendix 2.
- 2.2.2 A follow-up newsletter was posted to the same distribution area around the site on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021. A copy of the follow-up newsletter can be seen in Appendix 7.

#### **2.3** Project Contact Methods

- 2.3.1 Throughout the process, a telephone number and e-mail address, contact@north-crescent.info, were supplied and managed by Kanda Consulting, providing further information to residents, businesses, and stakeholders on request.
- 2.3.2 The telephone number and email address continue to be managed by Kanda Consulting, and residents, businesses, and stakeholders will continue to have the opportunity to ask questions following submission.



# 3. Consultation on the Proposals

# 3. Consultation on the Proposals

- **3.1** The consultation website went live on 21<sup>st</sup> June and has received **225 page views** from **167 different users** at the time of submission.
- **3.2** Over the consultation period, from 21st June up to submission, **6 feedback forms** were received.
- **3.3** The following table sets out the key issues that were raised through the online consultation, up to the date of submission.

# Feedback Summary

One stakeholder asked about the preservation of the mews, and what the impact would be on the setting of the mews.

Stakeholders were keen to understand to what extent the project would be extending the height or massing.

Stakeholders BCAAC wanted to know to know if the existing mansard roof on Telephone House was the original.

Where sustainability was concerned, residents were generally positive about the sustainability credentials.

Some residents raised the issue of the demand for office space in the local area.

One resident wanted to know about the management of noise and disruption during the works for the extension and refurbishment of the buildings, and was particularly concerned about how traffic would be impacted by construction works.

In terms of the design, respondents to the survey had mixed views. Some respondents wanted assurance that much of the fabric and heritage of the buildings would be retained, whilst others wanted a 'brand new building'.

4.
Next Steps

# 4. Next Steps

4.1 The Applicant is committed to continuing engagement with local people throughout the process. As well as working with L.B. Camden on planning and construction management issues, the Applicant will continue to keep site neighbours informed in advance of construction commencing (subject to planning permission being granted) through a detailed Construction Management Plan. Furthermore, they will continue to respond to requests for information / questions and offer key stakeholders and close neighbours the opportunity to meet to discuss the proposals. The project website remains live, and the project email address remains open to receive feedback on the plans.

# 5.Conclusion

# 5. Conclusion

- **5.1** The consultation process has provided neighbours and local representatives with opportunities to share their thoughts about the updates to the proposals for the refurbishment and reconfiguration of the existing buildings; including a one storey extension, plus plant, minor demolition works associated with internal and external alterations to provide additional office accommodation and associated works.
- **5.2** The feedback received on the proposals was broadly positive, with stakeholders and respondents recognising that a sensitive approach to refurbishment could be beneficial to the existing buildings and would not substantially impact their heritage.
- **5.3** Through the public consultation process, some local residents shared their concerns about the impact that the extension and refurbishment works would have on local amenity. The Applicant was able to highlight that the works would be carefully managed in order to minimise any possible disruption relating to noise and dust.
- **5.4** Conversations with neighbours and stakeholders have been productive and will continue to inform the Applicant's approach to the proposals.

# **Appendices**

### **Appendix I Newsletter**



# Our Proposals

Our proposals will see both buildings updated to provide high-quality contemporary office accommodation, which is suitable for modern office occupiers and enhances their wellbeing. The key improvements we are looking to make include:



**Retaining and enhancing the existing buildings** and their façades, whilst enabling sensitive internal connections between the two buildings



Sensitively extending Telephone Exchange by one storey in order to deliver additional and affordable high-quality office space



Remodelling the roofs and rooftop plant of both buildings to **make them harmonious with the existing buildings** and create an elegant roofline



**Introducing greening** at the ground floor and on the upper levels, with an aspiration to improve public realm around the site



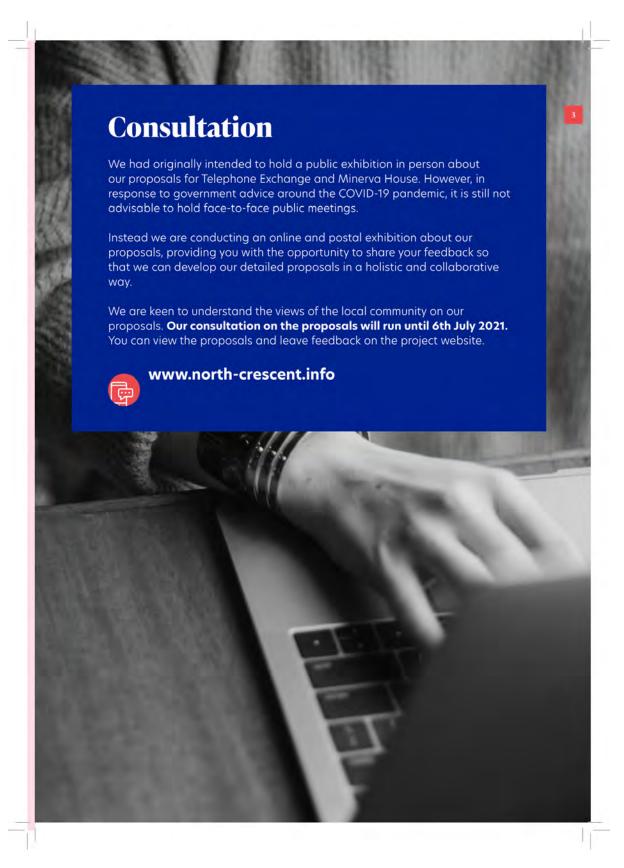
**Activating the ground floors** of the buildings fronting on to North Crescent



Designing-in active use of the building, with **inviting stairs to improve occupier wellbeing** 



**Improved sustainability credentials** including new end of journey facilities in the basement such as cycle parking and changing rooms



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# **Next Steps**

Our consultation on the proposals for Telephone Exchange and Minerva House on North Crescent will run **until 6th July 2021.** If you would prefer to receive a physical information pack, which includes a copy of the exhibition boards and a physical feedback form, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the details below to request one.

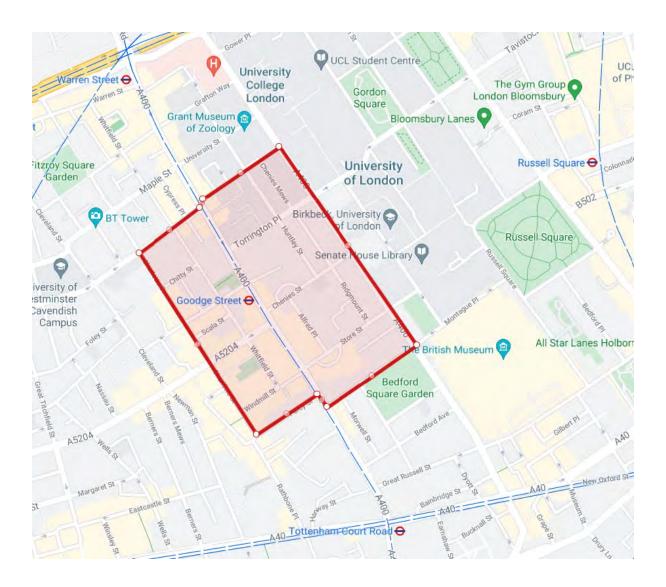


contact@north-crescent.info



0203 900 3676

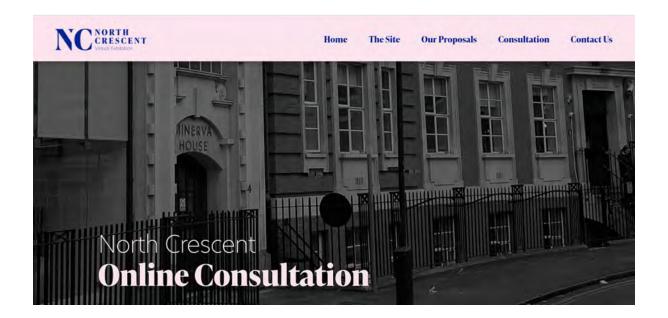
# **Appendix II Distribution Area**



(A NDA)

# **Appendix III Project Website**

Home Page



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# Welcome

Welcome to our consultation website for Stanhope's proposals to sensitively upgrade and refurbish Telephone Exchange and Minerva House on North Crescent.

Stanhope PLC, on behalf of Schroders, are looking to bring forward a new set of proposals for the site which will see the buildings enhanced to provide contemporary office accommodation which is more energy efficient as well as high-quality affordable office space, alongside the introduction of a modest roof extension.

For more details on the proposals and the opportunity to leave feedback, please visit The Proposals





Home

The Site

**Our Proposals** 

Consultation

Contact Us

# **Project Team**

### Schroders

Founded in 1804, Schroders is a global investment manager prioritising the growth of a sustainable business that takes the long-term approach. Schroders are committed to providing positive outcomes for clients, society, its shareholders and its people.

A wealth of experience through multiple economic cycles, deep relationships and their unique ability to identify and execute opportunities consistently has allowed Schroders to deliver performance across a variety of sectors in the UK real estate market.

#### MORRIS+COMPANY

Morris + Company is a company of architects. We are listeners, makers, curators, narrators, experiments and innovators. We are bold activists and obsessive fabricators. And we are connected by our love of making buildings.

Morris+Company have considerable experience working with existing buildings in a variety of London boroughs. We have particular success working in challenging historic contexts, adopting a strategy of open dialogue with stakeholders in order to engage with the most significant constraints of a property and add value to the project in a sensitive way.

The Site
See what this is all about



NORTH CRESCENT

Dedicated project website for the proposed redevelopment of the Telephone Exchange and Minerva House.

**Quick Links** 

Home

The Site
Our Proposals

Consultation

Contact Us

Contact Details

Phone:

020 3900 3676

Email

contact@north-crescent.info

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#### The site



# **Site History**

# Originally Georgian Terraces built in the 1910s, the site was redeveloped immediately after the First World War.

The Minerva Motor Company originally inhabited Minerva House. Historically, the Telephone Exchange was a telephone system responsible for a particular geographic area that provided the interconnection of two or more individual subscriber lines for calls between them. This made it possible for subscribers to call each other at homes, businesses or public spaces.

The exterior form, massing and appearance of buildings now are essentially as they were in the immediate post-war period with the exception of the rear part of Minerva House where a flat roof has replaced a previously pitched roof. Minerva House has been extensive altered internally over an extended period, and has minimal special interest.

https://www.north-crescent.info/the-site/

1/3



# The Site Today

The site is located in the heart of London, directly adjacent to Tottenham Court Road. The site is within the Bloomsbury Conservation Area boundary, and Minerva House is Grade II listed. Telephone Exchange is identified as a positive contributor in the Bloomsbury Conservation Area.

The site is highly connected. Within a maximum 13 minute walk, the site is serviced by five Underground stations; Goodge Street Station, Warren Street Station, Euston Street Station and Railway, Tottenham Court Road Station, and Russell Square.



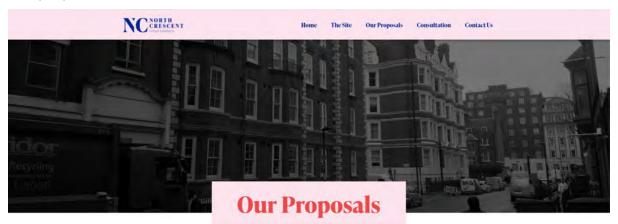


Quick Links

**Contact Details** 

https://www.north-crescent.info/the-site/

### Our proposals



# **Our Proposals**

Our proposals will see both buildings updated to provide high-quality office accommodation, which is suitable for contemporary office occupiers and enhances their wellbeing. The key improvements we are looking to make include:



Retaining and enhancing the existing buildings and their facades, whilst enabling sensitive internal connections between the two buildings



Sensitively extending Telephone
Exchange and Minerva House by one
storey in order to deliver additional
and affordable high-quality office
space



Remodelling the roofs and rooftop plant of both buildings to **make them harmonious with the existing building** and create an elegant roofline



Introducing greening at the ground floor and on the upper levels, with an aspiration to improve the public realm around the site



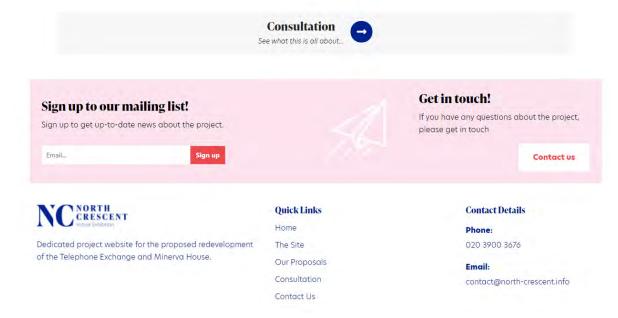
Activating the ground floors of the buildings fronting on to North Crescent



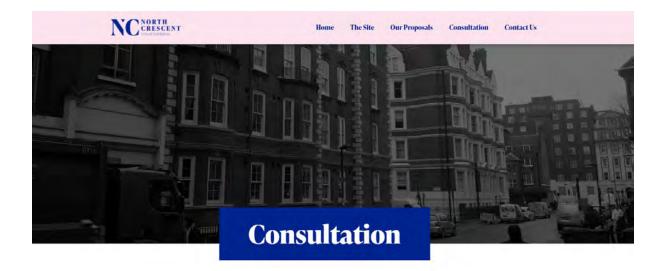
Designing-in active use of the building, with **inviting stairs to improve occupier wellbeing** 



Improved sustainability credentials including new end of journey facilities in the basement such as cycle parking and changing rooms



#### Consultation



We are keen to understand the views of the local community on our proposals.

Our consultation on the proposals for Telephone Exchange and Minerva House on North Crescent until 6th July 2021. This will be an opportunity for our neighbours to view our proposals and share their views.

Please click here to view the virtual consultation.

Exhibition Boards

Please click here to fill out a feedback form.

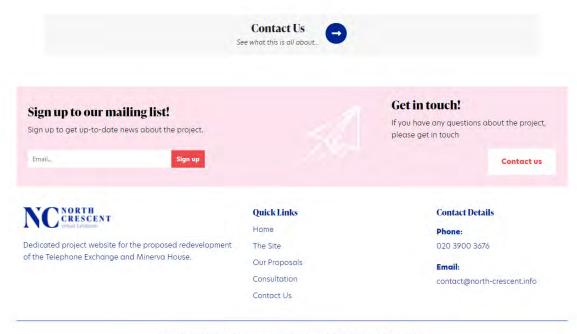


Our consultation on the proposals for Telephone Exchange and Minerva House on North Crescent until the submission of the planning application at the end of June 2021.

If you prefer to receive a physical information pack, which includes a copy of the exhibition boards and a physical feedback form, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the details below to request one.

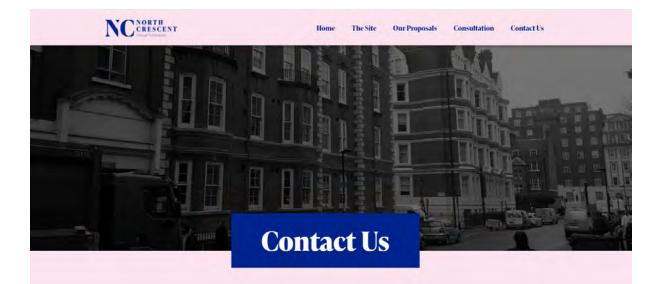






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### Contact



Thank you for taking the time to visiting the consultation website for Telephone Exchange and Minerva House on North Crescent.

If you have any questions, please get in touch on the details below, or via the contact form.

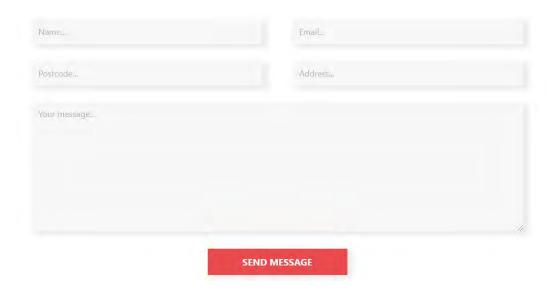
Phone:

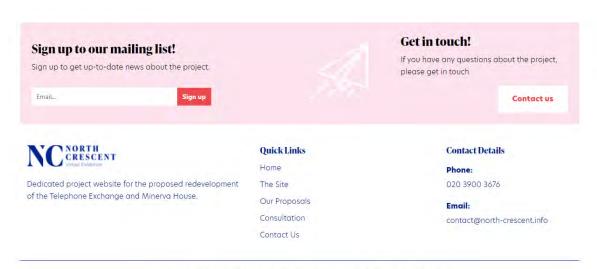
0203 900 3676

E-mail:

contact@north-crescent.info

# Get in touch





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### **Appendix IV Exhibition Boards**



# Welcome

Welcome to the virtual exhibition of Stanhope and Schroders' proposals to sensitively upgrade and refurbish Telephone Exchange and Minerva House on North Crescent.

We hoped to be able to show you our proposals for the site of a public event but unfortunately due to the angoing effects of Coronovirus, this is not possible at the moment given both government advice and our commitment to community wellbeing.

As a result, this consultation is taking place 'ata-distance' – using a range of different feedback tools. We are committed to engaging widely and making sure everyone has an opportunity to have a say on the plans in a way that suits them.

You can provide your feedback on the information set out in these boards by clicking on the 'Feedback Form' on the 'Have Your Say' section on our website. You can also provide your feedback via post.

We are keen to understand the views of our neighbours and the local community before submitting a planning application to London Borough of Camden.





# Meet the team

# **Schroders**

Founded in 1804, Schroders is a global investment manager prioritising the growth of a sustainable business that takes the longterm approach, Schroders are committed to providing positive outcomes for clients, society, its shareholders and its people.

A wealth of experience through multiple economic cycles, deep relationships and their unique ability to identify and execute apportunities consistently has allowed Schroders to deliver performance across a vaniety of sectors in the UK real estate market.

Schraders acquired Minerva House and Telephone Exchange in 2013.

### STANHOPE

Stanhope's development management model enables the team to deliver projects from inception to successful operation by immersing themselves in the detail of each project every step of the way.

This focused approach means that Stanhope deliver projects responsibly, to scope and with an open-minded approach to research and development that ensures projects are ombitious, flexible and future facing.

#### MORRIS+COMPANY

Morris+Company is a company of architects, We are listeners, makers, curators, narrotors, experiments and innovators. We are bold activists and obsessive fabricators. And we are connected by our love of making buildning.



Blossom Street Marris \* Company, Landan Baraugh of Tower Hamlets



# The site

#### Site history

The site was built out as Georgian terraces in the 1910s, and was redeveloped immediately ofter the First World War.

The Minerva Motor Company originally inhabited Minerva House. Historically, a Telephone Exchange was a telephone system responsible for a particular geographic area that provided the interconnection of two or more individual subscriber lines for calls between them. This made it possible for subscribers to call each other at homes, businesses or public spaces.

The exterior form, massing and appearance of buildings now are essentially as they were in the immediate post-war period with the exception of the rear port of Minerva House where a flat roof has replaced a previously pitched roof. Minerva House has been extensive altered internally over an extended period, and has immimal special interest.

Telephone Exchange has also be significantly altered and experienced piecemeal extensions over the years to meet with evolving standards of office space.







#### The site today

The site is located in the heart of London, directly adjacent to Tottenham Court Road. The site is within the Bloomsbury Conservation Area boundary, and Minerva House is Grade II listed. Telephone Exchange is identified as a positive contributor in the Bloomsbury Conservation Area.

The Eisenhower Centre, a deep level shelter built in 1942, is located directly south of the site. Furthermore, the Rangers Memorial which is Grade II listed is also located within the crescent.

The site is highly connected. Within a maximum 13 minute walk, the site is serviced by five Underground stations: Goodge Street Station, Warren Street Station, Euston Street Station and Railway, Tottenham Court Road Station, and Russell Square.



# **Our proposals**

Our proposals will see both buildings updated to provide high-quality contemporary office accommodation, which is suitable for modern office occupiers and enhances their wellbeing. The key improvements we are looking to make include:



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Remodelling the roofs and rooftop plant of both buildings to make them harmonious with the existing building and create an elegant roofline



Introducing greening at the ground floor and on the upper levels, with an aspiration to improve the public realm around the site



Activating the ground floors of the



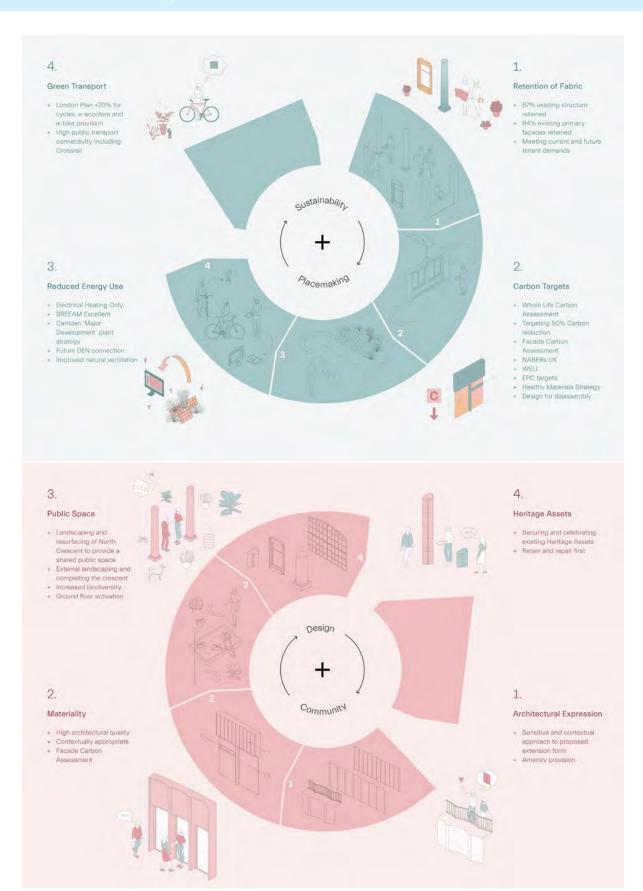
Designing-in active use of the building, with inviting stairs to improve occupier wellbeing



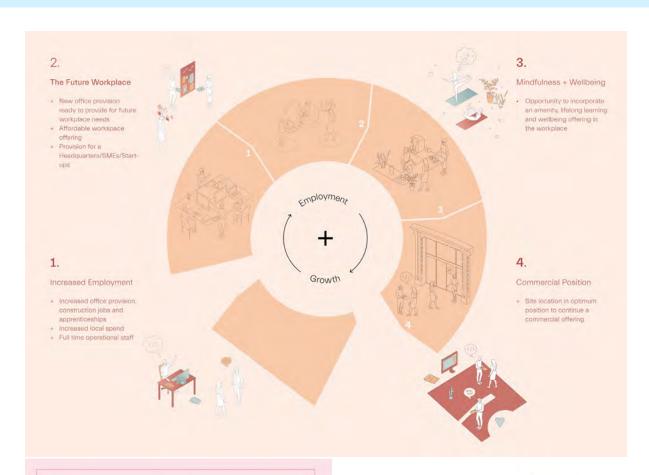
Improved sustainability credentials including new end of journey facilities in the basement such as **cycle parking** and **changing rooms** 



enable natural ventilation



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# **Rooftop and massing**

The existing plant rooftop plant is unsightly, and detracts from the Bloomsbury Conservation Area. Furthermore, it is in poor condition and has been built in a piecemeal fashion over time, which can be seen in the multiple construction and materiality methods.

As part of our proposals, we are looking to replace the existing unsightly reoftop plant as well as the current mansard roof, which is not a part of this original design of the buildings. The proposals would see the introduction of a popular forced and paid 3 or usell as possibled extression on least

The proposals would seek to extend the buildings vertically by one storey. The new storey would be set back by around 2m in order to minimise its visual impact on the surrounding conservation area.









# **Delivering contemporary office space**

#### Rooftop terraces

The proposals include the sensitive introduction of terraces on the upper levels of the building. As the current Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated, it is more important than ever to provide external amenity space for office users.

We are keen to be good long-term neighbours and recognise the importance of safeguarding local amenity. As such, we are committed to outlining the use of the terraces in an operational management plan, to be agreed with L.B. Camden, which would place limits on the hours of operation, capacity and ensure they cannot be used for events which may disturb residential amenity.

#### Cycle facilities

Our proposals will design-in active and sustainable transport, by introducing modern cycling facilities in the basement. Dedicated end-of-journey facilities will include cycling storage, changing rooms, showers, drying rooms and lockers.

In addition, the proposals include accessible and visitor facilities at ground floor.





#### Sustainablit

the current foot plant is unsignity, outdated and inefficient. The proposals seek to replace this outdated and inefficient. The proposals seek to replace this outdated plant with new high- quality sustainable energy systems, improving energy-afficiency of the buildings. We are also proposing to introduce substantial orban greening at both ground floor and upper levels. This will contribute possitively to the design of the building and the feel of the local area, linking to Camden Caunal's forthcoming Affade Place pocket park and contributing to the local effort to reduce air pollution. We also propose to provide apenable windows throughout the building to enable natural ventilation.



Indicative improvements to the wider public realm



As part of the proposals we are also exploring opportunities to improve the public realm surrounding the site.

Public realm aspirations

There is a clear opportunity to engage with the forthcoming public realm scheme in Alfred Place and continue their intent through to North Crescent.

We are committed to delivering high-quality public realm within our site and are in angoing discussions with London Borough of Camden on improving the public realm around the site.



# Design - Exterior

#### Facades

While the existing stone and brick is high-quality on the facades of Minerva House and Telephone Exchange respectively, the facades are in need of deaning and repair in order to secure their long-term future. All windows on Minerva and Telephone Exchange require replacement to meet modern building envelope and energy efficiency standards.

The proposals will seek to retain and enhance the existing focodes, while respecting the local context and maintaining the distinction between the buildings.



Bay study and material palette of Telephone Exchange







# **Design-Interior**

### Existing

Minerva House's interior has been significantly altered over time and little remains of the existing building. The interior of Telephone Exchange is not listed or highlighted as having significant value; however there are numerous key details that are architecturally inspiring and acknowledge the buildings original use.

There are a number of issues with the existing interior which the proposals would seek to address. These include:

- © Extensive damp and historical brickwork saturation
- 8. Water ingress to ton floor Varying levels of quality office space
- 8 Varying floorplate depths







### Proposed

In terms of the interior of the buildings, the proposals seek to:

We want to create an area that is both we want to create an area that is both reception and amenity space within the building, so that the ground floor can become an active, lively, shared space. This will activate the arrival internally as well as externally, directly adjacent to the potential wider vision of new public realm to North Crescent.

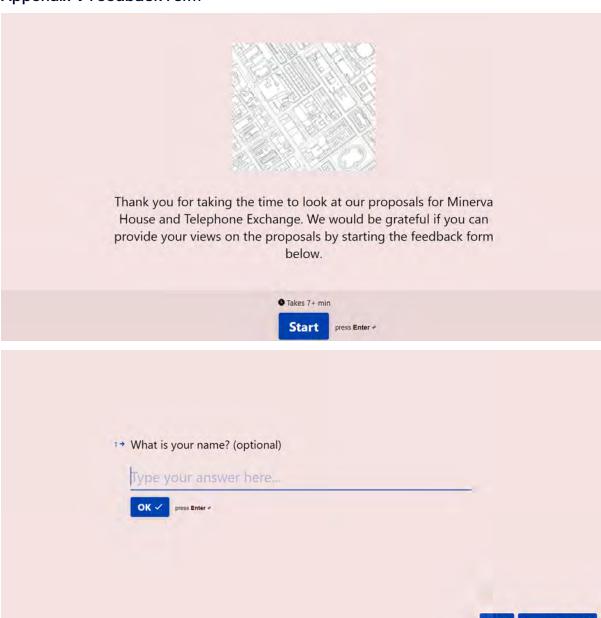




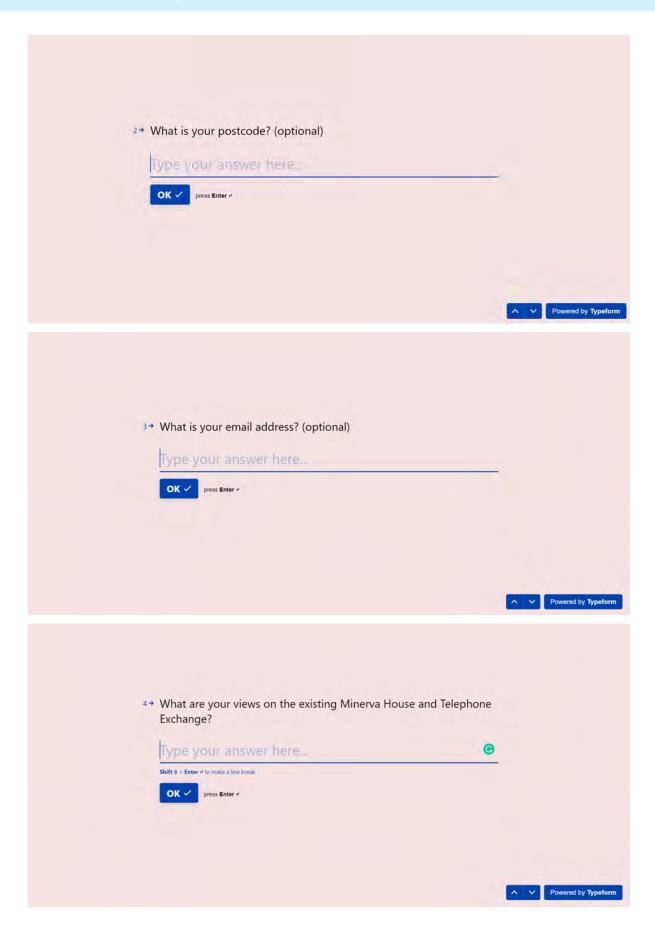


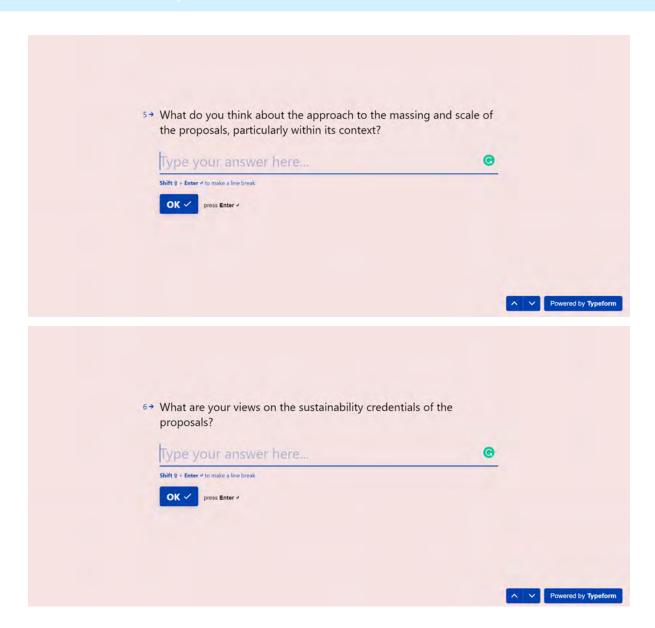


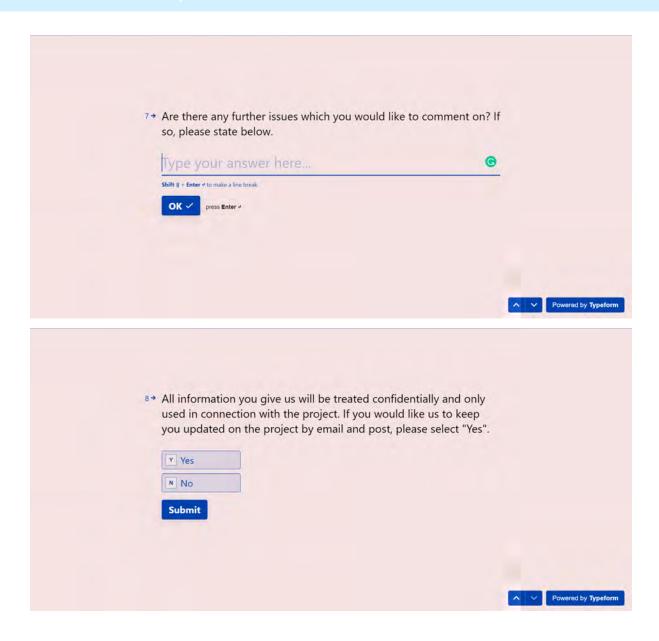
## Appendix V Feedback Form



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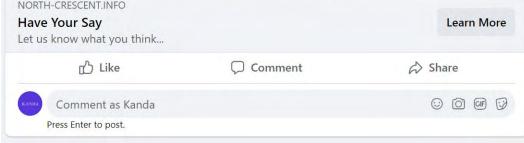
## **Appendix VI Social Media Adverts**



Stanhope PLC on behalf of Schroders are looking to bring forward a new set of proposals for the Telephone Exchange and Minerva House on North Crescent. The buildings would be updated to provide modern office accommodation which is more energy efficient and high-quality affordable office space.

They are seeking feedback on our proposals ahead of submitting a planning application to Camden Council. Let them know what you think below.







Stanhope PLC on behalf of Schroders are looking to bring forward a new set of proposals for the Telephone Exchange and Minerva House on North Crescent. This will provide modern office accommodation, which is more energy efficient and additional high-quality affordable office space.

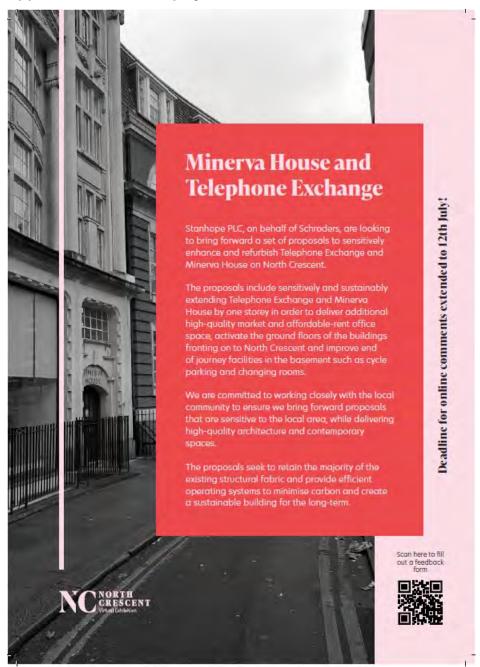
Find out more via the virtual exhibition below.





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## Appendix VII - Follow up flyer



## Our Proposals

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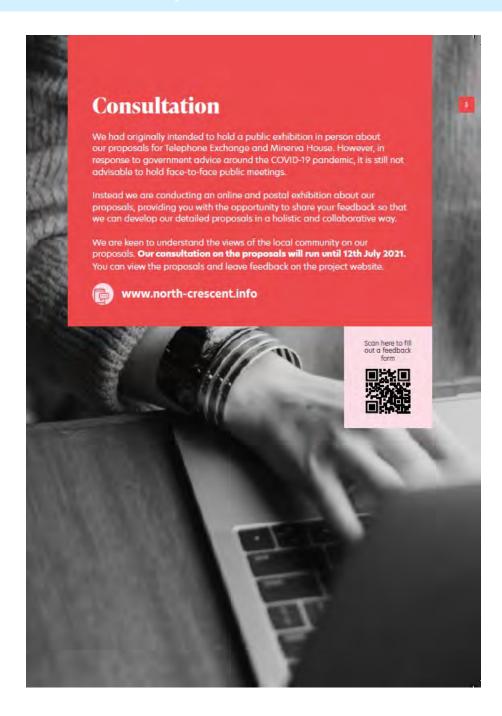
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