

Ecological Enhancement Scheme

Project	The Hop Exchange
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<u>Updates</u>	Version A – 10/02/21 Updates to reflect changes within the
	proposed landscaping scheme.
	Version B – 20/04/21 Updates to reflect changes to local
	planning policy, biodiversity action plans and landscape scheme.
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Summary:

To maximise the biodiversity value of the proposed development, the following features will be included within the design. This document includes further details on the following enhancements;

- Wildlife friendly planting scheme
- Extensive green roofs
- Bird, bat and invertebrate boxes

Purpose of this document

This Ecological Enhancement scheme outlines the ways in which the proposed development at The Hop Exchange, Southwark will seek to enhance the biodiversity value of the site and the surrounding area.

The Southwark Core Strategy 2011 Policy 11 *Open Spaces and Wildlife* states that the LPA will "Require new development to avoid harming protected and priority plants and animals and help improve and create habitat.". The New Southwark Plan, Proposed Submission Version 2017 Policy P59 Biodiversity states "Development must contribute to net gains in biodiversity through including features such as green and brown roofs, green walls, soft landscaping, nest boxes and habitat restoration".

Biodiverse roofs are Priority Habitats under the Southwark Biodiversity Action Plan – Built Environment Habitat Action Plan, which states: "Green roofs offer a good alternative to



brownfield (open mosaic) habitats which are declining. Nesting and roosting sites can be installed into buildings to enhance them for bats and birds, either built into the fabric of new buildings or retrofitted to existing ones. Climbers and other forms of green walls can provide nectar for bees and nesting sites for House Sparrows, and other birds. Streets can be greened with trees, hedges and planters full of nectar-rich flowers and be incorporated into flood alleviation and traffic calming schemes."

Opportunities for Ecological Enhancement

Due to the nature of the site and the proposed development (extension of an existing building), the opportunities for ecological enhancement within the site are very limited. As such, the following opportunities for ecological enhancement have been identified:

- Wildlife friendly planting on roof terraces and green walls
- Biodiverse green roofs
- Bird, bat and invertebrate boxes (various locations)

The ecological enhancements detailed in this document are intended to maximise the ecology of the site itself and also link to habitats and species likely to be found within the local area.

The following considerations and references have driven the design process:

- Southwark Biodiversity Action Plan 2020
- New Southwark Plan Proposed Submission Version 2017 and Amended Policies 2019
- London Biodiversity Action Plan
- Royal Horticultural Society 'Plants for Pollinators' garden planting guidance and wildflower list
- The GRO Green Roof Code of Best Practice (2011)
- Buglife 'Creating Green Roofs for Invertebrates' Best Practice Guide
- BlackRedstarts.org.uk Green Roof design for Black Redstarts

Wildlife Friendly Planting

The top floor includes an area of accessible roof terrace (see appendix 1 for location). This will be enhanced for wildlife by various planters including species found on the Royal



Horticultural Society's 'Plants for Pollinators' lists, including lavender (*Lavandula species*), *Geranium* species, *Allium* species, and *Ceanothus* species

Approximately 100 m² of green walls will also been included within the landscaping scheme throughout the site (See Appendix 1 for locations). In order to maximise the biodiversity value, the following species found on the Royal Horticultural Society's Plants for Pollinators list will be used; *Ceanothus* species, Rosa species, firethorn (*Pyracantha rogersiana*) and *Clematis* species.

Biodiverse green roof

An area of flat roof approximately 43 m² to the north of the site and a small areas on the 6th floor roof approximately 18 m² (see Appendix 1 for location) will be used to create 'extensive' green roofs, designed with reference to the GRO Green Roof Code 2011, to contribute towards enhancing biodiversity. In accordance with the Southwark Biodiversity Action Plan, the extensive green roof will aim to meet the definition of 'open mosaic habitat'. The brownbanded carder bee (*Bombus humilis*) is a Priority Species in the Southwark Biodiversity Action Plan. In order to enhance the green roof for this locally important species, its foodplants will be included in the planting list: red clover (*Trifolum pratense*), black knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and red bartsia (*Odontites vernus*).

It is recommended that the average substrate depth should be approximately 135 mm, contoured between 80 mm and 200 mm across the roof. Variation in substrate depth is recommended by Buglife as it encourages a mosaic of less-vegetated and more-vegetated areas, providing a habitat for a wide variety of invertebrates.

In order to maximise the biodiversity value of the green roof, it will be vegetated with a wildflower blanket, or wildflower seeding combined with plug planting of wildflower bulbs. At least 20 native wildflower species will be included, to attract a variety of pollinating insects including bumble bees and butterflies.

An installation and maintenance programme will be produced and implemented for the extensive green roof, to include monitoring to ensure the successful establishment and persistence of the intended plant species.



Bird, Bat and Invertebrate Boxes

The wildlife boxes below have been chosen specifically to benefit species that are found in the local area and have been identified as conservation priority species for the Borough. The locations of boxes have been chosen to meet the requirements of the species concerned and maximise the chances of successful occupation. The indicative locations of the boxes are shown on architect's drawings. To maximise the lifespan of the boxes and minimise visual impact, all models chosen are designed to be incorporated into the masonry of new buildings during construction rather than fitted externally. All boxes are available at www.nbbs.com or direct from manufacturers.

Bat box

Bats are listed on the Southwark Biodiversity Action Plan as priority species for conservation.

One of the following two models of bat box (or a suitable equivalent) will be incorporated into the structure of the new building. The box will be located away from artificial lighting as far as possible. These boxes are designed specifically to accommodate *Pipistrelle* species of bat, which are the most common species in urban locations (See Appendix 1 for proposed location).





House sparrow terraces

House sparrows are listed on the Southwark Biodiversity Action Plan as a priority species for conservation.

In Greater London, house sparrow numbers have dropped by 68 per cent between 1994 and 2009 (BTO Breeding Bird Survey data) and sparrows are now absent from many areas of central London where they were once common. House sparrows are sociable and prefer to nest in colonies.

Two boxes of one of the following two models of sparrow terrace (or one of each) will be incorporated into the structure of the new building. Suitable equivalent boxes may also be used. The boxes should be installed a minimum of 2 m above ground. (See Appendix 1 for proposed locations).

House sparrow terraces:

2 x Vivara Pro Woodstone House Sparrow Nest Box.

Or) 2 x Schwegler 1SP Sparrow Terrace.



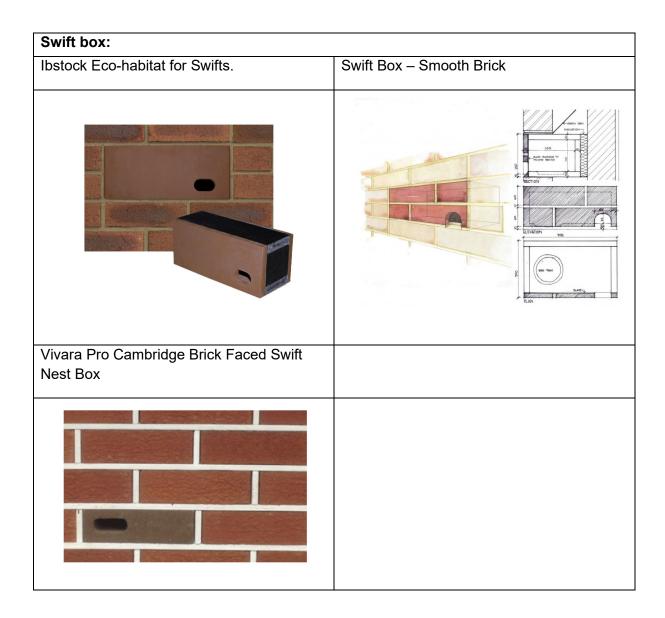


Swift box

Swifts are listed on the Southwark Biodiversity Action Plan as a priority species for conservation.



Swifts are an iconic urban bird species typically using buildings as nesting places. This species is listed as an Amber Species of conservation concern in the UK due to population declines. **Seven** of the following three models (or suitable equivalent) of swift nest box will be incorporated into the structure of the new building. The location must provide sufficient height for swifts to access the box, with a clear flight path to the entrance and out of prevailing winds and strong sunlight. (See Appendix 1 for proposed locations). The boxes must be installed in groups of at-least three boxes with each individual box located approximately 1 m apart.





Black redstart boxes and habitat

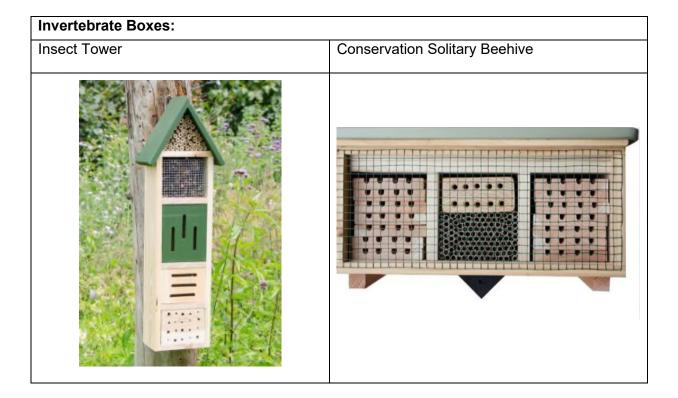
Black redstarts are listed on the Southwark Biodiversity Action Plan as a priority species for conservation. The black redstart is a small robin-sized bird that has adapted to live at the heart of industrial and urban centres. This species has a preference for high song perches and nesting in derelict buildings.

The area of extensive green roof will be made suitable for feeding black redstarts by including areas of sparsely vegetated rubble or rocky terrain.

In addition to the area of biodiverse green roof, It is recommended that **one** nest box specifically designed for black redstarts such as the **Schwegler 2HW open-fronted woodcrete nest box** is installed on the building between 3 m to 50 m above ground, adjacent to the proposed extensive green roof. (See Appendix 1 for proposed location).

<u>Invertebrate Boxes</u>

In order to provide additional habitat for invertebrates to shelter, over-winter or nest in, **two** invertebrate boxes will be installed within the site. (See Appendix 1 for proposed locations). See below for recommended models.





Appendix 1 – Location of Proposed Ecological Enhancements





arboriculture ecology landscape innovation

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