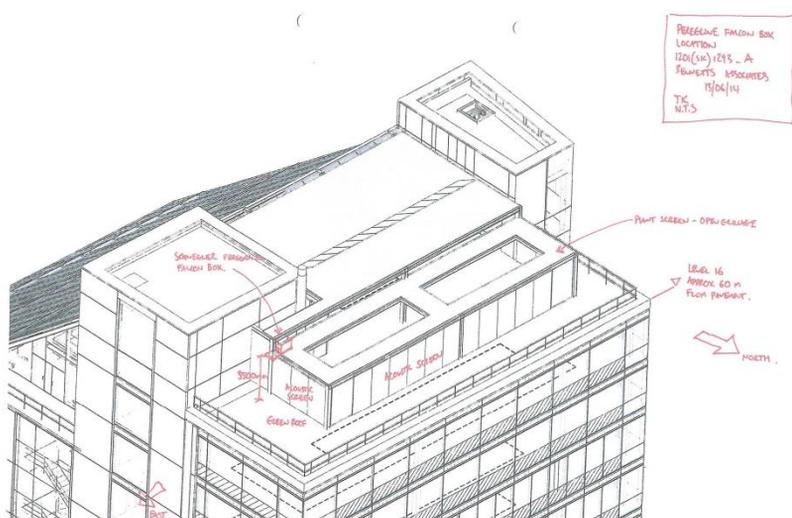


70 MARK LANE, SIR ROBERT McALPINE



BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT OVERVIEW

70 Mark Lane is an island site in the City of London. The proposed building consists of 15 storeys of office accommodation above a ground floor of reception, four retail units and service space. There is one basement level with car park served by an existing access ramp. The floor plates step back from south to north above level 10 forming three atria with a southerly aspect.

Due to the trend for new buildings to be constructed with smooth façades, natural nesting areas for Peregrine Falcons have been reduced. Therefore the inclusion of an artificial nest box will provide much-needed habitat space for the species.

Early in design stage discussions it became clear that to enhance the ecological status of the site, the project team needed to think outside the box.

Bird and bat boxes had initially been suggested by an ecologist as one way of enhancing the ecological status of the site. However due to the nature of the cladding of the new building, the majority of which is glass, it proved hard to find suitable locations.

The project design team worked closely with the ecologist and came up with the idea of installing a Peregrine Falcon nest box on the building. Due to building renovations and the construction of buildings that have smooth façades and roofs, it is proving harder for Peregrine Falcons to find suitable nesting and living spaces. There are several pairs of Peregrine Falcons in London and this would provide an opportunity for the species to prosper.

Peregrine Falcon nest boxes are ideally placed above heights of 30m, so the 70 Mark Lane project is ideal. The nest box will be placed near the top of the east core and face north east in a manner that allows a clear area directly below it. Installing the box facing north east reduces the chance of eggs and young birds overheating.



Fact box

Company name:
Sir Robert McAlpine

Project name:
70 Mark Lane

Location:
London

Biodiversity enhancement:
Peregrine Falcon nest box

Size:
N/A

Cost:
£1,700

Tips:

- It is very important to ensure that the location of the box is in a suitable place as Peregrine Falcons can be choosy about where they nest

Year completed:
Ongoing - due September 2014

Categories:

- Large scale permanent
- Small scale permanent
- Most innovative