

Green Roofs for Biodiversity – Meeting UK Biodiversity Action Plan Targets

Green roofs can play an important role in meeting local targets for biodiversity as laid out in local, regional and national biodiversity action plans. To achieve such targets the implementation of a green roof needs to consider specific design issues and cannot, in general, rely on generic systems.

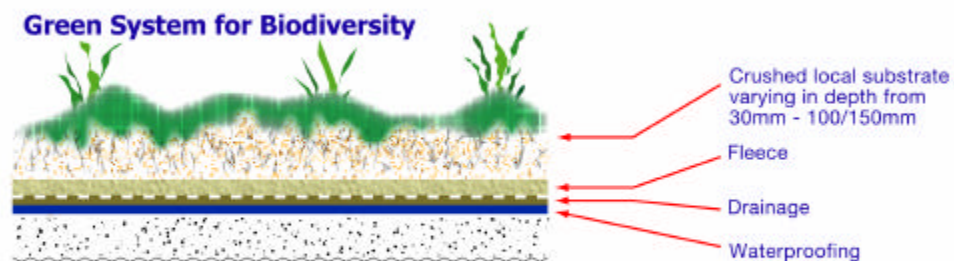
The design will be reliant on the ecological and edaphic [soil] conditions in the local area. Such consideration will target the specific flora and fauna associated with these habitats and, where specific species are the major concern, take into consideration their ecological requirements in the design.

It is important that professionals with a **full** understanding of green roof technology and green roof design are involved in the process of implementation from design to installation.

Green Roofs for Biodiversity - General Principles

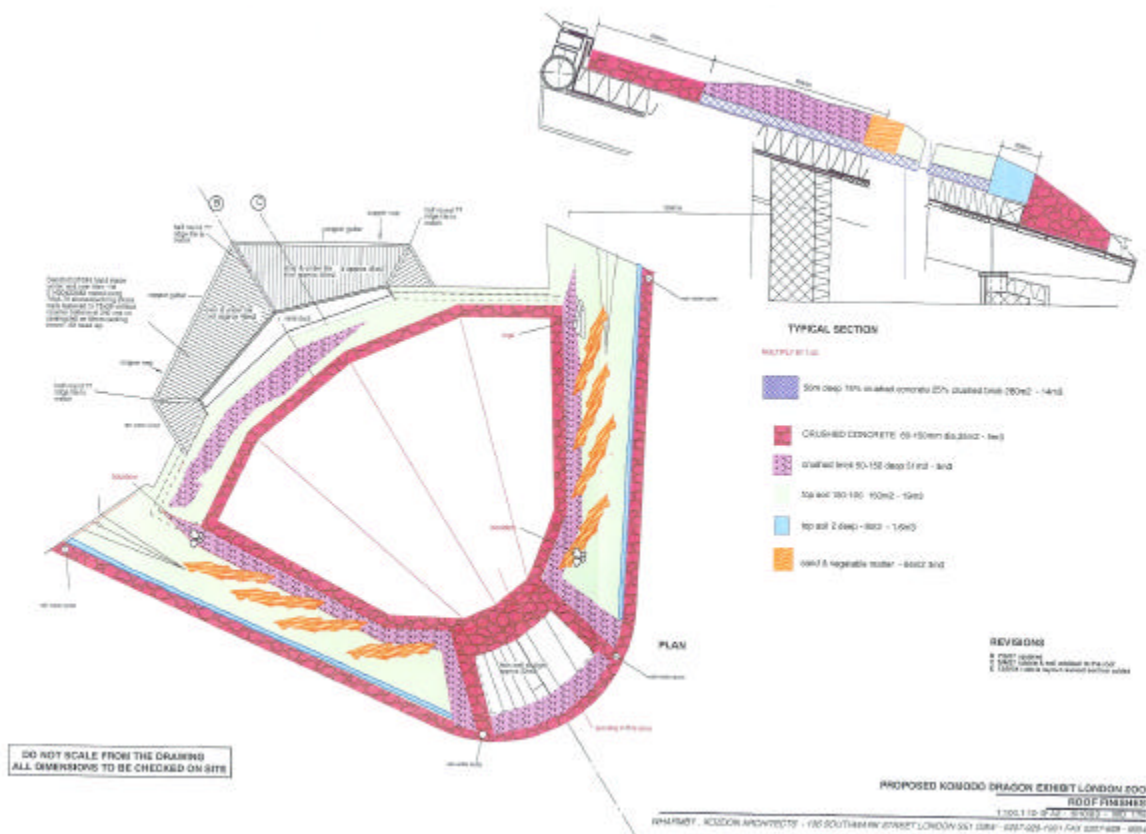
The general principles of green roofs for biodiversity are:

- Various substrates [appropriate to local terrestrial conditions]
- Varied substrate depths



These principles will lead to a green roof that provides a mosaic of habitats for the flora and fauna associated with similar terrestrial habitats at ground level.

Komodo Dragon House London Zoo



The growing medium of the green roof lies on a moisture retention mat and consists of various blends of crushed brick and concrete. All the material is from a secondary aggregate source. The depth of aggregate varies throughout the roof and the majority of this has been covered with topsoil from the original site excavation.

The use of crushed brick and concrete as the basis for the growing medium is characteristic of soil types on brownfield land. Therefore the green roof on the Komodo Dragon House replicates the ecological circumstances of brownfield sites in urban areas of the UK.

The green roof has been seeded with an appropriate seed mix and will be maintained by ZSL staff over the first two years to establish a varied plant community.

The roof is an integral part of the 'Green Roofs – Urban Biodiversity and Science Technology transfer Project' between Switzerland and the UK.

*Courtesy of Dusty Gedge of Livingroofs.org
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