FACT SHEET

Living Roofs

Green roofs can be installed on flat roofs through to roofs with a slope of 45 degrees. They are constructed using low maintenance plants called sedums and are primarily used for their ecological benefits and aesthetic appearance.

The environmental benefits of turf and green roofs are widely recognised. Due to the high degree of insulation that they provide, green roofs are known for their ability to provide an extremely constant temperature throughout the year. They have the ability to soften harsh edges of buildings in sensitive environments, making them blend in with the surrounding area. Green roofs also provide habitat for insects and other wildlife. Where new buildings are built on greenfield sites, this new habitat can replace one that would otherwise have been lost.

Design considerations

The most important considerations when designing green roofs are ensuring that the roof is strong enough to support the weight of the turf or plants even when fully saturated by rainfall and ensuring that the roof is watertight.

Green roofs

Methods of construction differ between pitched green roofs and flat green roofs. Flat green roofs can be either extensive (have a thin layer of growing material such as sedum matting) or intensive (greater soil depth with shrubs and even trees). The weight requirements for intensive green roofs are such that they are normally installed over concrete roof decks.

Brown roofs

A further type of green roof is known as a biodiverse or brown roof. These are constructed in a similar way to flat green roofs, but are designed with specific biodiversity objectives in mind – e.g. maximising biodiversity or providing a habitat for specific species.

Typical products we supply

- Rounded shingles
- Argex lightweight aggregate
- Sand/Soil blends

Recycled aggregate opportunities

Various recycled aggregates can be supplied in order to create an environment suitable for specific bird types.

Argex lightweight aggregate can be used to add insulation and to reduce weight when constructing roof landscapes.

Useful reference sites:
www.livingroof.org
www.blackredstarts.org.uk

DAY AGGREGATES

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