

Waddington Parish Council

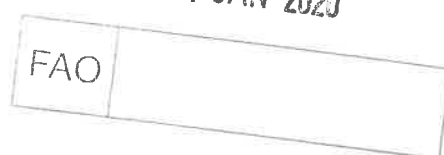
Clerk: Mrs. Carolyn [REDACTED]
4 Park Avenue
Off Waddington Road
Clitheroe
Lancashire BB7 2HW

Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Website email: [REDACTED]

30th December 2020

Adam Birkett
Planning Department
Ribble Valley Borough Council
Council Offices
Church Walk
Clitheroe
BB7 2RA

RECEIVED BY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
- 4 JAN 2020



Application reference: 3/2020/0932

Dear Mr Birkett,

As local residents, we would be prepared to support the above-named planning application, if Ribble Valley Borough Council takes measures to incorporate swift nest bricks into this new build project as a biodiversity enhancement to the Parish. We have no other objections to the development.

If Ribble Valley Borough Council intends to grant permission for the above planning application, I urge you to make installation of six swift nest bricks a planning condition, providing a minimum of three nest bricks to each gable end of the new building.

Section 40 of the **Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006**, states: *"Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity."*¹

This is supported in Section 109 of the **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**, which states: *"The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: ...minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures..."*²

The Bat Survey conducted at this site identifies the existence of recently used Swallow nests in outbuildings, indicating sufficient conditions are present for flying-insect eating birds feeding on the wing such as Swifts, Swallows and House Martins. However, the mitigation recommended in that document does nothing to provide for such birds in this new development plan.

Installing integral swift bricks would contribute to these objectives and demonstrate the commitment of both Waddington Parish Council and Ribble Valley Borough Council to protecting and enhancing biodiversity. Designing for and installing swift bricks into the fabric of the new building during the construction phase is easy, inexpensive, and will last the lifetime of the building.

¹http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/pdfs/ukpga_20060016_en.pdf

²<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/11-conserving-and-enhancing-the-natural-environment>

Why are swifts important?

Swifts are a quintessential sign of British summertime and an intrinsic part of the Ribble Valley and the Parish of Waddington. They can be seen, now in much lower numbers, soaring over rooftops on late summer evenings, with their dark sickle-shaped wings and distinctive 'screaming' calls. These charismatic birds spend nearly their whole lives in flight and are migrant birds, with one of the longest migration journeys in the world, travelling 14,000 miles from central/southern Africa in early May just to breed in the same village or town here in the UK, before leaving again in August.

However, swifts are in trouble, having declined significantly by 53% between 1995-2016 (5% per year and continuing). Swifts are now an 'Amber-listed' species on the list of Birds of Conservation Concern³ and a Priority species for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

Without our help, swifts will be lost as a breeding species in the UK.

Swifts are entirely reliant on buildings to nest. Nest sites are being lost when buildings are demolished or refurbished - and because swifts are faithful to their nest site, breeding success of swifts is being severely affected. The RSPB and the British Trust of Ornithology believes this loss of nest sites is a key driver behind the dramatic decline of swifts.

All is not lost, however. There are lots of simple and inexpensive solutions, easily deployed in all manner of developments which addresses the issue - swift bricks being one such example.

Nesting swifts are clean birds and not to be mistaken with House Martins which build their mud nests under eaves and typically deposit faeces directly below to the ground. Swifts do not take nesting material into their nests, adults do not roost on the nest other than for initial incubation of eggs and the young are quiet within the nest.

I enclose an annex which lists a range of possible solutions, products and resources, including boxes to suit an external rendered finish as proposed.

I therefore urge the RVBC to include the above condition for the developer to provide swift nest sites integral to the new building as a biodiversity enhancement to this development.

If we do not take action now to save swifts, no more will future generations hear the exhilarating sound of screaming parties of swifts soaring over rooftops on a summer evening. With their loss, a part of our British heritage will be lost with them too.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

Waddington Parish Councillor

³www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/bird-and-wildlife-guides/bird-guide/status_explained.aspx



SWIFTCONSERVATION

KEEPING THE SKIES ALIVE

www.swift-conservation.org

Swift Nest Bricks – installation & suppliers



Swift Bricks installed by Notting Hill Housing Association / Barnet Council - simple, cost effective, neat

What's great about Swifts?

- **Swifts are stunning** – the UK's fastest bird in level flight, faster than a Peregrine Falcon in a dive
- **They bring us the Sound of Summer** - their screaming calls & dashing flight are exciting, unique
- **They can live up the grimmest places** – they'll nest in the bleakest of urban concrete jungles
- **They've travelled so far to be with us** – they're only here for 12 weeks out of 52, spending the rest of the year in Africa over the Congo & Sahara
- **They're a technological marvel** – Swifts use the same high-tech aerodynamic technologies that engineers use for advanced aircraft designs
- **They've been with us for 49 million years** – let's make sure they stay with us!
- **They can eat up to 20,000 flying insects a day each** - many of them harmful or pests
- **They can help you get Planning Permission** - installing Swift Bricks can meet Planners requirements and gain you BREEAM points too

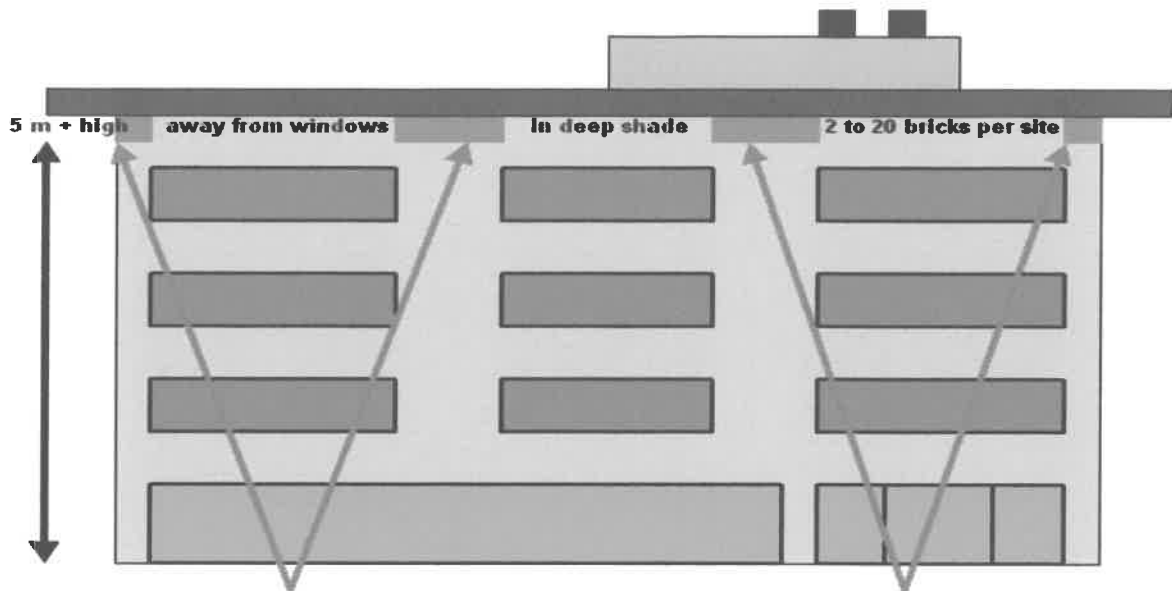
and

- **Swifts are the cleanest birds ever** – they rarely defecate in the nest & eat their chicks' droppings
- **They're so discreet** - you'll hardly know they are in the roof, nesting over your heads
- **Wildlife is good for us!** - it makes us happier and healthier

Swift Nest Bricks – easy but choosing the right site is important

Swift nest bricks, hollow blocks sized to hold a nest, are an excellent way to provide Swifts with nesting opportunities. They should be fitted either on a side of the building that gets some shade during the day, or under an overhang or under the eaves, to give protection from heat, but not over windows or near to vents. They should be sited at least 5 metres above ground, with clear adjacent airspace so the Swifts can access them in high-speed direct flight (they usually fly straight in and out). Make sure that predators (cats, crows, magpies, squirrels, and rats) do not have easy access (e.g. by climbing up creepers or flying in from close perches). See the drawing below, and the photos at the end of the leaflet for guidance and examples.

Where to Install your Swift Bricks



Install the Swift bricks under the roof, in the top course of blockwork, in shaded areas out of direct sunlight, (shown here as pink blocks) and away from windows. Swift Brick installations do not usually generate any problems with droppings, but the Swifts may be disturbed by people staring at them! Minimum height from the ground should be 5 metres, and the boxes should not be obstructed by trees, ladders or aerials.

Choosing your "Swift Nest Brick" nest box

You can find a good range of Swift nest bricks illustrated below, with details of their suppliers, plus a brief summary of the various materials and types and their uses. Select the Swift nest brick that meets your needs, your budget, and your ability to fit it. The longer lasting the Swift nest brick and the more soundly it is fitted, the better it is for the Swifts.

Fitting the Swift Nest Brick

Good nest bricks are made to give many years of useful service, and so installation and any fixings used must be equally long-lasting. They may also be fitted behind metal and timber cladding, in which case the manufacturer's advice on suitable fixing methods should be obtained.

Keep yourself safe

Establish a safe system of work and follow scrupulously all safety advice before installing Swift nest bricks. Use the appropriate personal protective equipment required for the task.

Checking use and maintenance

Swift nest places do not usually need any cleaning. Many Swift nest bricks, if competently installed do not need any maintenance. Where bricks with removable covers are used, there will be a need to regularly check those covers for integrity. We suggest this is done as part of the building's regular maintenance programme.

How many

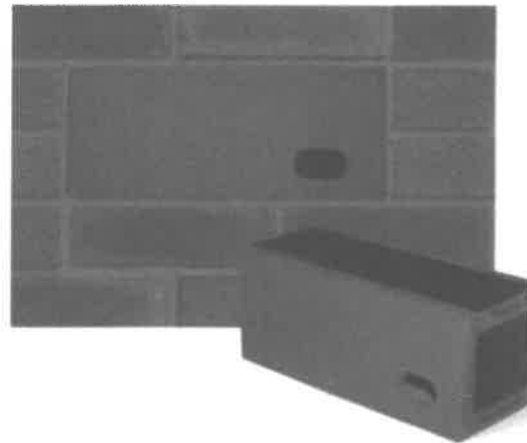
Swifts like a few neighbours and a busy Swift colony will be a powerful attraction to other Swifts to come in and nest. So fit at least two to twenty boxes on your site, taking into account its size. For a house, two boxes, for a school or office or warehouse project, ten to twenty.

The Ibstock "Eco Home for Swifts" Brick clay and recycled plastic



**Discrete and attractive terracotta box ideal for new and restored buildings
Insert under eaves or in high walls - Terracotta & recycled plastic plank**

**Made to order - takes 10 to 14 days
Available in smooth red, blue & cream clays Size
326mm x 140mm x 140mm
Product code UNQ.SWIFT01 £POA**



**www.ibstock.com
sales 0844 800 4575
design advice 0844 800 4576
technical services 0844 800 4577
literature and samples 0844 800 4578**

**Ibstock Brick Ltd. Cattybrook Sales Office
Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4BX**

Action for Swift's "S" Swift nest box Laser-cut Foamboard and brick



Revolutionary, light-weight, aesthetically attractive new Swift brick that replaces a single brick and can be laid easily and quickly by any bricklayer.

It comprises a laser-cut PVC foamboard nest chamber and a brick slip front and is one of the simplest and lightest nest bricks on the market.



Simple and proven, (see photo below) this nest brick encourages Swifts and House Sparrows to nest in brick and rendered cavity walls.

It can be made to different brick sizes, cavity widths and brick facings; it includes a built-in nest form and it is available in left and right hand entrance versions.



The version of the "S" Brick for rendered walls



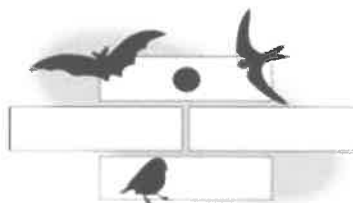
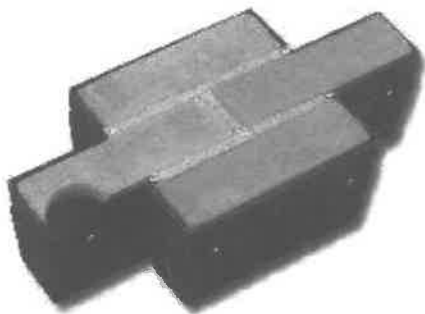
An occupied "S" Brick In Cambridgeshire

For full details on the "S" Swift Brick

Web: actionforswifts.blogspot.com

e-mail: actionforswifts@gmail.com

**The Bird Brick Houses nest box
Plastic and brick**



This nest box is made out of plastic with a detachable plastic front frame holding your own brick or stone finish, made to your needs, and set into the wall.

This box can be supplied with various front panels permitting entry by Swifts or several other bird or bat species. It matches neatly into standard brick patterns, and even into flint walls.



Tel: - 01323 488732

e-mail : Enquiries@birdbrickhouses.co.uk

**Bird Brick Houses, The Old Parlour, Wilbees Farm,
Arlington, E. Sussex, BN26 6RU**

**Web site:
<http://www.birdbrickhouses.co.uk/>**

Schwegler "Woodcrete" Bricks & Boxes of Cement –fibre compound

Swift nest bricks from Schwegler are made from a compound called "Woodcrete"

A mixture of cement and plant fibre, it is strong and long lasting, if heavy

Such boxes, if sensibly sited and maintained, have the potential to last as long as the building, making them particularly attractive and cost effective

<http://www.schwegler-natur.de/index.php?main=home>

UK suppliers: NHBS

Phone - 01803 865913 Prices on application

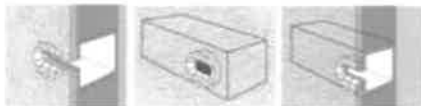
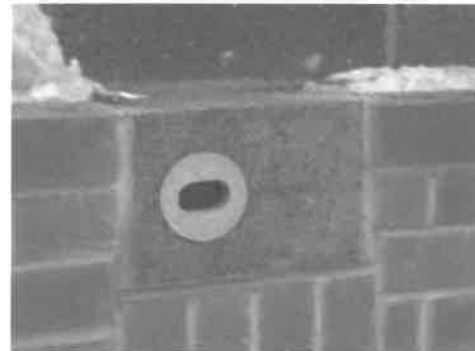
customer.services@nhbs.com

http://www.nhbs.com/about/contact_us.php

NHBS, 2-3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 5XN UK

On the right, the Schwegler Swift Brick No: 25 suitable for solid walls.

265mm wide x 220mm deep x 180mm high



Installation



Above, the Schwegler Lightweight Swift Box 1A designed for fitting into plastered and insulated walls. W 340mm x H 135mm x D 150mm (plus 17mm for the protruding entrance ring)

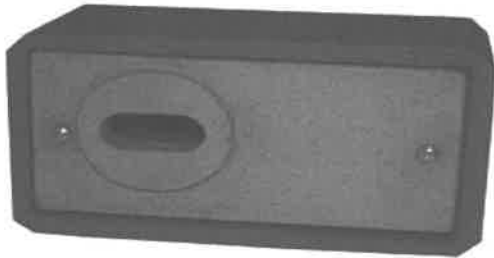


Schwegler make several designs of Swift nest box that can be sunk into the walls of brick or block built buildings, or bolted on to the surface.

The one illustrated to the left and above, the Swift & Bat Box 1MF, is their double box. There is also a single version



WoodStone® Build-in Swift Nest Box
Code 90068



Made from a cement and wood fibre mixture this nest-brick is intended for insertion into walls at five metres or above from ground level, in an area providing clear air-space. This box can be opened for cleaning and/or checking in winter

W 33cm x H 19cm x D 16cm

Cement and wood fibre mix

Every WoodStone® nest box from CJ Wildlife is guaranteed for 10 years.

WoodStone® Build-in Swift Box
Code 90060



Made from a cement and wood fibre mixture this nest-brick is intended for insertion into walls at five metres or above from ground level, in an area providing clear air-space. This box once fitted requires no further maintenance, and may be plastered over, leaving only the entrance hole visible.



Sales:
Tel: 0800 731 2820
sales@birdfood.co.uk
http://www.birdfood.co.uk/ctrl/node:169;page:87;/vivara_pro

W 31cm x H 17cm x D 17cm

Material Cement and wood fi

Every WoodStone® nest box from CJ Wildlife is guaranteed for 10 years.

For current prices please contact the Suppliers direct

Attracting the Swifts - using the Swift Calls CD

It can take a while for Swifts to find a new nest place. But nest site occupation can be speeded up if a recording of Swifts' attraction calls is played to attract them. Full instructions plus CD and MP3 recordings of the calls are available from us - see below for contact details.

Do's & Don'ts – please tell the occupiers

Do give the birds' peace and quiet and every chance to breed

If a bird falls from the nest and cannot fly, consult the Swift First Aid pages of our web site

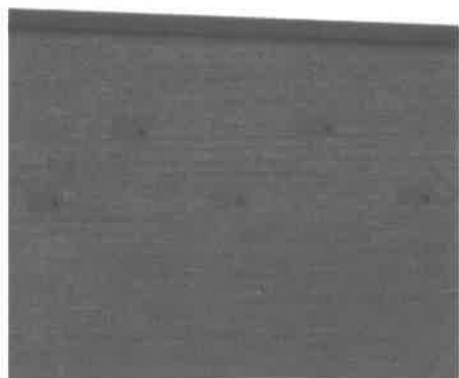
<http://www.swift-conservation.org/SwiftFirstAid.htm>

Don't stand and stare at the nest box when the Swifts are around. It may put them off

Don't disturb the Swifts at any time - they may well desert the nest

Don't allow creepers or plants to encroach on the nest. They will give access to predators

Some examples



Antrim Public Library, Northern Ireland: Ibstock
Swift bricks were used to bring life to this
featureless wall



Swifts used the Antrim nest bricks in 2014



Eight Schwegler Swift Bricks were installed and
hidden behind the plastered facade of the new
Cullompton Library in Devon



The New Library at Cullompton - the Swift Bricks
are scarcely visible but should bring some aerial
life and action to this new site



Two Schwegler Swift Bricks installed in the walls of the Maternity Unit at the Lister Hospital



The Lister Hospital at East & North Hertfordshire NHS Trust Stevenage Hertfordshire



Left & below:

An example of Swift Bricks being used on a major project: the "Pelikan" construction site, built by GUNDLACH, in Hannover, Germany

80 Swift bricks were incorporated in the walls of this new development which will bring Swifts flying over this huge modern housing project



Further advice is available

See our web-site at www.swift-conservation.org

or contact us at mail@swift-conservation.org.uk

