

More ways to help

You could incorporate a nest site during building repair or renovation work.

You could fit Swift bricks or boxes into a new building or an extension.

You could put up a Swift nest box (see Swift Conservation website - see details on back page)

We recommend that a CD of Swift calls is played to encourage Swifts into a new site.

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Cherwell Swifts Conservation Project:
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Want to know more about Swifts?

Visit these websites:

Swift Conservation

(www.swift-conservation.org) for comprehensive information about Swifts, why they are declining, where to buy nest boxes, how to install them and much more

Action for Swifts

(www.actionforswifts.blogspot.com) on the importance of churches for Swifts, how to install nest boxes in church towers and other innovative ideas from Swift enthusiasts.

This project is supported by the Banbury Ornithological Society.

We gratefully acknowledge the advice and support we have received from many organisations and individuals.

Please remember that Swifts, like other birds, are fully protected by law and it is an offence to damage or destroy a nest whilst it is in use.

Please share this leaflet with a friend.

Photographs courtesy of
www.swift-conservation.org



Cherwell SWIFTS Conservation Project

**Find out about these amazing birds.
Why Swift numbers are declining.
What we are doing about it...
...and how you could help.**

Amazing Swifts

Swifts are aerial acrobats, but they are extraordinary birds for other reasons too. They spend almost all their lives flying.

They feed and sleep on the wing. They can even mate on the wing. Normally they only land to breed.

A pair of Swifts may gather 20,000 aphids midges and other insects in a single day to feed their young in the nest.

They nest out of sight in buildings: under roof tiles or in eaves or cracks in walls.



Decline

Sadly their numbers have declined dramatically in the last 20 years. One reason for this is that nest sites are lost when buildings are repaired or demolished.

What we are doing

- collecting information about the presence of Swifts and their nest sites
- telling people about Swifts and why they are declining



We have a close link with the Cherwell District Council which is committed to Swift conservation. Together we are:

- encouraging owners and landlords to carry out repairs without spoiling nest sites
- campaigning for Swifts' nest places to be included in new buildings

We are active in Banbury, Bicester, Kidlington and all the villages in the Cherwell District where Swifts are present.

What you can do to help

Please tell us if you know where Swifts are nesting - they return to the same nest site in the same building year after year.

Please tell us if you see displaying Swifts - that is Swifts performing their screaming flight low over buildings. They only do this near where they are nesting.



Please tell us if you think a Swift's nest site is at risk due to planned building work or development. It may be possible to leave the nest space intact. If not, a nest box could provide a replacement.