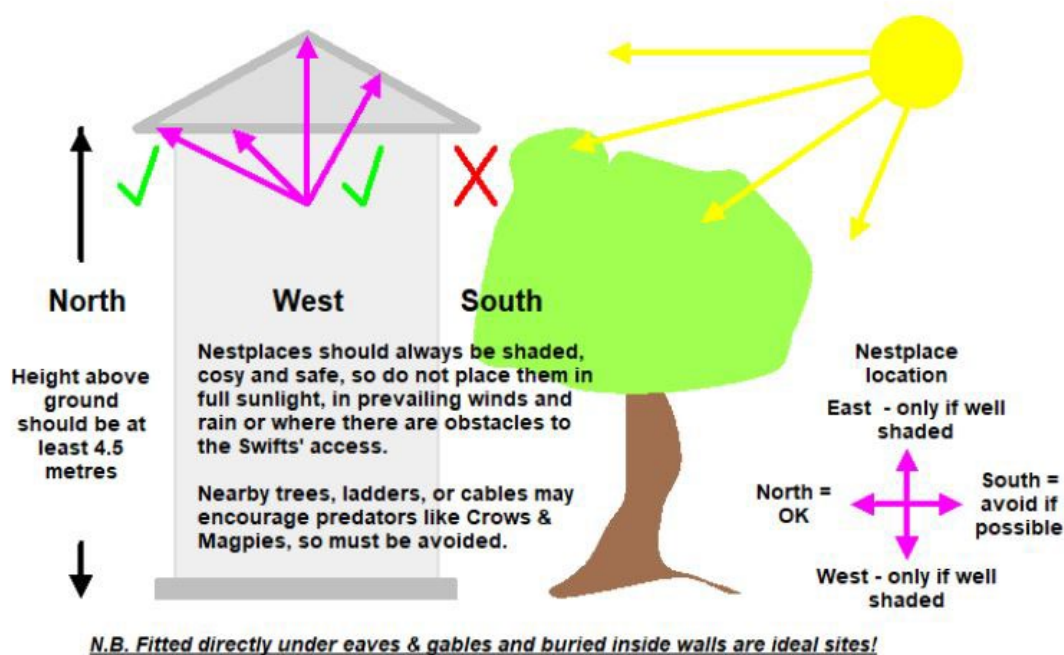


SWIFT GUIDANCE (adopted by the MTC Planning Committee on 22 July 2025)

Make your own swift box notes

1. Install near existing colony in town
2. Have swift caller (don't forget to install before nail top, happened to me!) Swifts like to nest in colonies so will be attracted to other birds nesting. MCC GI Team can provide.
3. Location- image from swift conservation webpage.



2. Not exposed to sun(above) or rain or wind.
3. Minimum height of box from ground 5-7m ideally, or higher.
4. Unobstructed flight path 15m
5. Away from trees/hedgerows & creeping plants that predators could use to get to box
6. Fit snug snugly to soffit, so predators can't perch.
7. Play calls around dusk & dusk (e.g. 6-9am & 6-9pm)
8. Install before end of April (swifts here from Africa end of April to Aug)
9. Do not disturb nests when swifts present
10. If needs replacing put swift box in exact location, swifts are loyal to their nesting site for life.

Bristol Swifts -Zeist design single swift nest box for narrow soffits 2015 (150mm or less)

1. Make boxes with a mixture of entrances at front side and base side to trial (no more than 25mm above floor level)
2. Always use long-lasting weatherproof materials as Swifts are long-lived; plan for a twenty year life at least, preferably fifty. Boxes must have tight joins and be wind and rainproof.
3. A single sheet of 12mm exterior hardwood ply 1220mm x 606mm is big enough to make two small swift boxes.
Note. This type of box is much loved by sparrows and starlings, so Go for a box with a bottom entrance instead.
4. 2-3 x 50mm brackets for either side of box (a 3rd bracket can be used To help support them even more securely, a third bracket can be attached underneath the box and fastened to the outside wall.) a handful of 25mm galvanised nails, 3 x 25mm screws and some adhesive. I use the adhesive on each section before I nail them together to give it more strength, This gives each section more strength and makes the box much stronger overall. I only use screws on the top section to give easy access.
5. If possible curve entrance into a D-shaped design (30-32mm x 65mm) on front facing swift entrance holes.



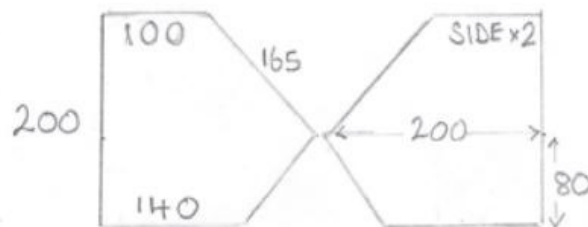
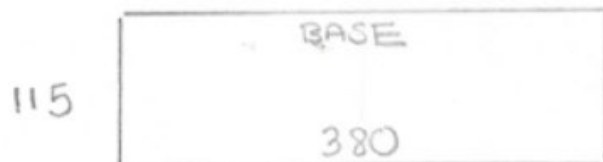
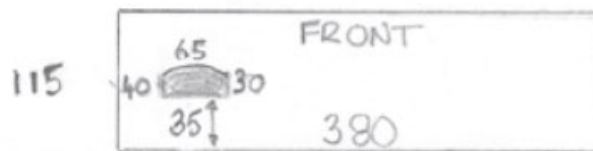
6. Feathers for nest cup. **Note Do not paint the nest cup which should remain paint free.**

7. Matt black emulsion to paint inside of boxes. (Swifts actively seeking out places which seem pitch black to us)
8. Outdoor paint-white or cream preferably to paint outside of box, as these help reflect sunlight and help stop the boxes over heating during very sunny days.
9. Pre-drill any holes using a suitably sized Predrill Countersink before using any screws to avoid splitting the wood. The predrill should make a hole a bit smaller than your screw thread. - Use 25mm galvanised screws to fasten the box together as they are the right length and resistant to rusting.



SMALL SWIFT ZEIST STYLE NEST BOX





1 x 12mm HARDWOOD PLY 1220mm x 606mm = 2 BOXES.

10. Installation of boxes – speak to GI Team due to health & safety reasons.
11. Maintenance of swift boxes.

Do not need to be cleaned out, unless other birds have used them .
Swift nest boxes need no maintenance at all other than occasional safety checks of the integrity of the construction material and any fixings

If sparrows or starlings become a problem, block up the entrance hole with something and only remove it once the first swifts have arrived.

12. Further information

www.swift-conservation.org/

[Swifts of Usk | Facebook](#)

[Chepstow Swifts Facebook](#)

www.bristolswifts.co.uk

[Swift Conservation: Take Part in Swift Mapper](#)

www.swiftmapper.org.uk/

localnature@monmouthshire.gov.uk (Monmouthshire Swift Project)