

Homeowners Guide to Swift Bricks

YOUR GUIDE TO S(wift)BRICKS

Your builder has installed S Bricks and in so doing YOU are helping Swifts!

Over the last 25 years, Swift populations in the UK have declined by over 60%. This is largely due to loss of nest sites due to building renovations and other improvements, such as insulation. This is compounded by a lack of nesting sites in modern homes.

Your contribution makes a welcome home after continually flying since leaving the UK last year Swifts will fly many miles in their lifetimes, never landing other than to breed and rear young.

Our Swifts get as far as Mozambique in winter, a journey of over 6000 miles. An average Swift will fly the equivalent of the moon and back – 4 times! Their Latin name *Apus apus* means 'no foot, no foot' - they have very short legs, but they do have feet!

To try and stop their disappearance, many developers are starting to incorporate S Bricks and other nest boxes in new housing developments to provide essential homes for this iconic British summer visitor.

An added gift for your new home

Swift bricks and boxes are a fabulous addition to your new home. As well as providing the Swift with a home, you will have the pleasure of watching these exciting birds swoop around the house through the summer months between

The return of Swifts to the UK heralds the start of May

Swift Bricks for homes



Swifts for great lodgers – no maintenance or special requirements!

May and August and see their chicks fledge and leave, not to touch another solid surface for 2-3 years. One S Brick is simply the size of a normal house brick, usually placed high at the gable end of the house with ample room for a family of Swifts. They are unobtrusive, fireproof in construction and do not compromise the integrity of your new build home.

Keep the faith - have patience

Not every brick will attract a family in the first year or two, but nature (like you) can seek out a quality home. Over time your S Brick will provide an essential home for these declining birds and most will become occupied over time. Occasionally other birds such as House Sparrows and Great Tits will use them, but not to worry these birds tend to be the first residents with Swifts following a year or two afterwards.

...and YOU don't need to do a thing!

You do not need to do anything to your S Brick or box. No maintenance is needed and Swifts are very clean, the adults deal with droppings in the nest. There will be little noise and disturbance from the birds, other than their calls in early summer as they return to breed. S Bricks do not attract wasps or other unwanted pests.

Likewise, there is nothing special needed in the garden for Swifts, because Swifts feed on insects high above the ground, they can fly many miles in search of food. You can however



always plant insect-friendly and fruit-bearing plants to encourage other wildlife into your garden!

But Swifts do like to congregate like you so....

you can encourage Swifts into your S Bricks by playing their calls. If you wish to give this a try or have any other question please do get in touch.

For more information

email actionforswifts@gmail.com

visit www.actionforswifts.com

**Enjoy your contribution to keeping
Swifts flying high!**