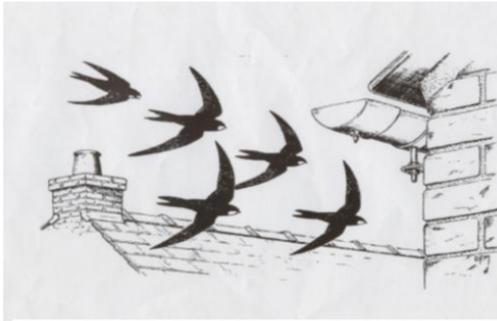


INFORMATION FOR DEVELOPERS AND CONTRACTORS



Concern for Swifts (Scotland)

The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 makes it an offence to intentionally or *recklessly* take damage or destroy or otherwise interfere with the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or to obstruct or prevent any wild bird from using its nest.

This law applies to all birds and so may affect building demolition, repair and renovation when carried out during the nesting season.

It is not only the work itself however, but also to the erection of scaffolding if this stops a bird from getting to its nest.

Ignorance of the law is not a defence and it is the responsibility of owners, factors and contractors to ascertain that no birds will be disturbed when works are carried out during the nesting season.

There are several species that nest in or on buildings. Whilst it is easy to spot the nests of starlings, sparrows, blue tits, house martins and swallows, swift nests are harder to locate.

They nest inside the fabric of a building and gain access via small holes. They tend to nest around the wallhead, or under tiles in the roof but may choose any convenient hole high up on a building. They come and go from the nest at speed, and need a clear flight path to the entrance. So, certain placements of scaffolding will prevent access.

In order to avoid unexpected delays; and if working between May and mid-August, you should

- Check if there are records of swift nest sites in the area (see the Contact list for Perth & Kinross and Angus below)
- Check for the presence of calling swifts around the building/s (usually a sign that there are nests), or ask for assistance.
- Be prepared to programme works to avoid disturbing or obstructing swift nest sites.
- If in doubt contact Concern for Swifts (Scotland) or RSPB.

If there are known swift nest sites it is permissible to block off the entrances *before the arrival of the birds in May*. Retaining these nest sites should always be a priority. If this is totally impossible, then new nest sites should be created to replace them.

With sufficient forward planning it is usually possible to complete work without unnecessary delay.

CONTACT

Concern for Swifts (Scotland) 07900 637452/ swiftscot@yahoo.co.uk or

- **in Perth & Kinross** – Dwilliamson@pkc.gov.uk (01738 475278) or DMuir@pkc.gov.uk (01250 874661/ 07919 044346)
- **in Angus** – BorlandC@angus.gov.uk (01307 461118/ 07960 839237) or cagllloyd@pkc.gov.uk (01738 475373)