



Edinburgh Swift Project

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Senior Conservation Officer

Aims of the project

Conservation

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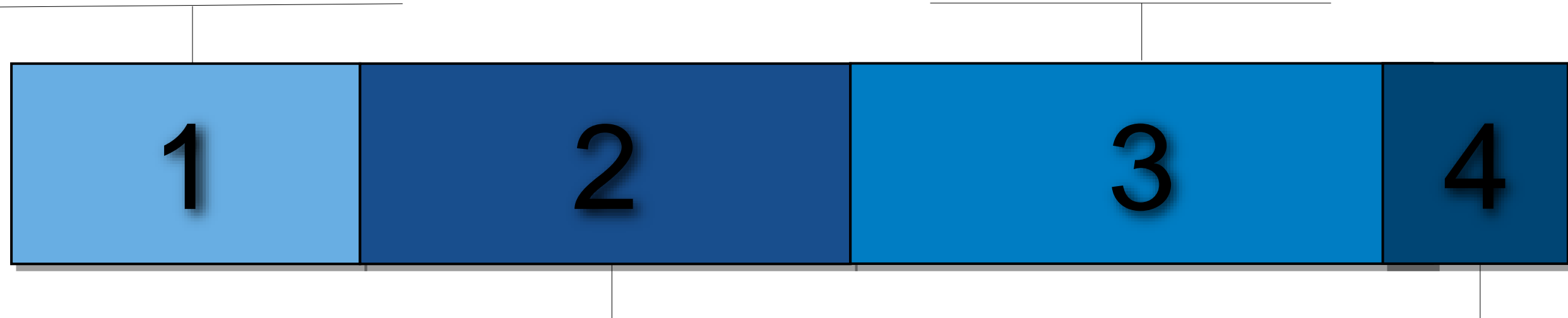
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Community Engagement

Science





Project aims

Protect and enhance Swift populations through community engagement and conservation action

COVID!!!!

Funded by ScottishPower Foundation

SCOTTISHPOWER

Community Engagement



Swift Streets and Swift Hubs

- Lillyhill Terrace and Lismore Avenue in Meadowbank
- Deanpark Avenue in Balerno
- Hillview Cottages in Ratho



8 School & Youth events (engaged 186 pupils)



Swift Awareness Week

3-11th July



RSPB Edinburgh Swift City
Self-Led Cycle and Walking Paths

Routes for all abilities, linking swift hubs, murals and survey spots across Edinburgh

Find out more:
EdinburghSwiftLocalGroup.Wordpress.com 

#SwiftSighted 

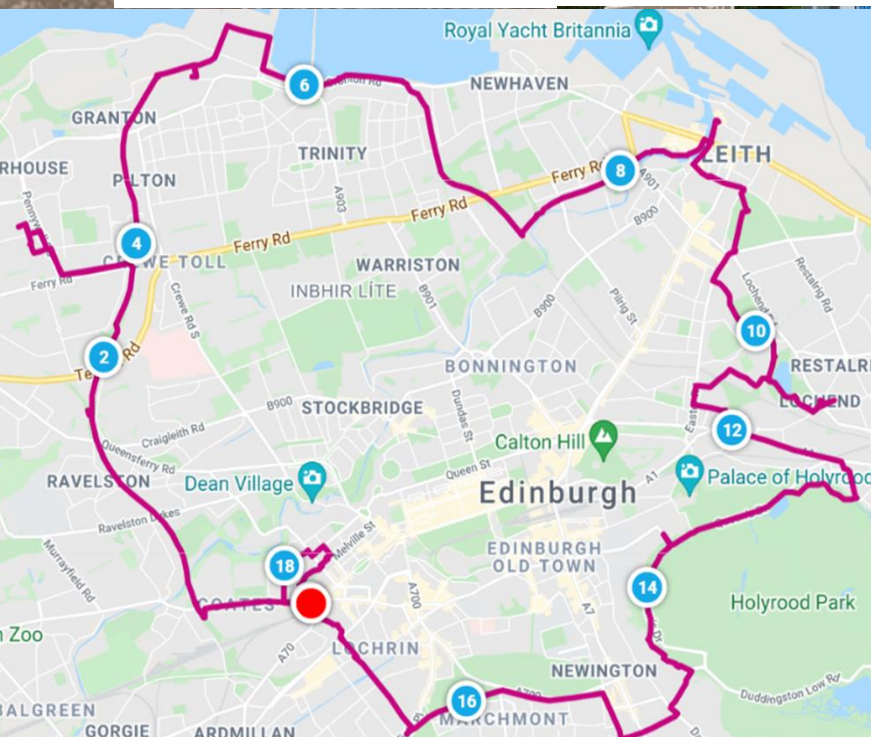


Over 2,500 people took part in Swift Awareness Week events





25 sites linked by swift-themed walking & cycle routes





Wellbeing and family resource pack

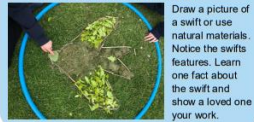
and Nature connection training



SUMMER SWIFT SESSIONS

Take part in our FIVE fun family activities and learn all about this beautiful and graceful bird, plus earn Rewards through Wild Challenge!

1 INSPIRE FRIENDS & FAMILY Spread Awareness of the Swift



Draw a picture of a swift or use natural materials. Notice the swift's features. Learn one fact about the swift and show a loved one your work.

2 COUNT YOUR WILD MILES Walk or wheel one mile



Now imagine doing that 6000 times, the whole way to The Congo. Swifts migrate to warmer places for food during our winter. They don't land again until they return to Edinburgh!

3 GO ON A BUG SAFARI



Swifts eat flying insects. Go on a bug safari or Shake a Tree and see what insects are near you! You could also Let It Grow to support the insect population.

4 DO A WILDLIFE SURVEY



Dawn & dusk are the best time to see nesting swifts and screaming parties. Upload these sightings on [swiftmapper.org](https://www.swiftmapper.org). Otherwise you can Go Bird-watching anytime. Share a picture #swiftsighted

5 BUILD A BIRD BOX



Swifts nest under roofing. Their homes are seriously under threat. Make a swift nest box to ensure they can safely nest. Instructions can be found on the RSPB Website.



Wild activities!

www.rspb.org.uk/wildchallenge
Sign up and earn rewards!



Natural wellbeing

Wellbeing activities for a working week

SWIFT SUMMER SERIES

MOMENTDAY VIEWSDAY WINDNESDAY FEATHERSDAY FLOWERYDAY

Lunch Break

Find somewhere to stand still for five minutes. Become aware of your feet supporting you. Rock back and forth. Try bare feet! Imagine having swift feet - four toes arranged in twos, each pair pointing sideways rather than forwards.

As you walk, look down and imagine a swift's view, 50m high! Look up and see if you can see any swifts. Sit for ten minutes and watch rooftops or open skies for swifts.

Find a windy spot. Take your hood down and feel the wind on your face for five minutes. Imagine being a swift - the fastest bird at level height, flying nonstop for 10 months a year.

Walk and gather any feathers you see. Decide what artwork you could make out of the feathers and make it. Post it on your social media or share this document with a friend.

Identify one wildflower and one oak tree near you. Draw what you see. Make a mental note of them or mark their location on a map. Return to collect their seeds in the Autumn.

After work or evening

Gather a small bag of natural materials. Create a picture of a Swift with your materials on the ground. Do so slowly, paying close attention to each natural item you found. Keep in mind the swifts forked tail!

Find a spot overlooking the city. Draw the landscape or city line. Imagine seeing this sight as a swift, returning to Edinburgh having travelled up to 6000 miles from Africa.

One-month old Swift babies strengthen their wings by doing 'press ups' in the nest, lifting themselves up by pushing down on their wings. See if you can do 10 press ups outside - the muddier the better! Adapt to what suits your body.

Find a river close by. Try to go at dusk (or dawn), when Swifts feed. Observe their flight. Write a poem about their feathers, flight and/or feeding. Try a haiku, free verse or acrostic poem.

Swifts feed on insects. Wildflowers and trees support many insects. Identify an area where you could plant a wildflower meadow in September or an oak tree in Nov/Dec/Jan.

Add your swift sightings to [Swift Mapper](https://www.swiftmapper.org). It is free and easy to use on the web, or a smart phone.

Share on social media using #SwiftSighted and tag @RSPBScotland to encourage your friends and family to get involved.

[rspb.org.uk/swiftmapper](https://www.rspb.org.uk/swiftmapper)



Conservation

nestbox making workshops



180 swift boxes & 93 swift bricks installed across Edinburgh

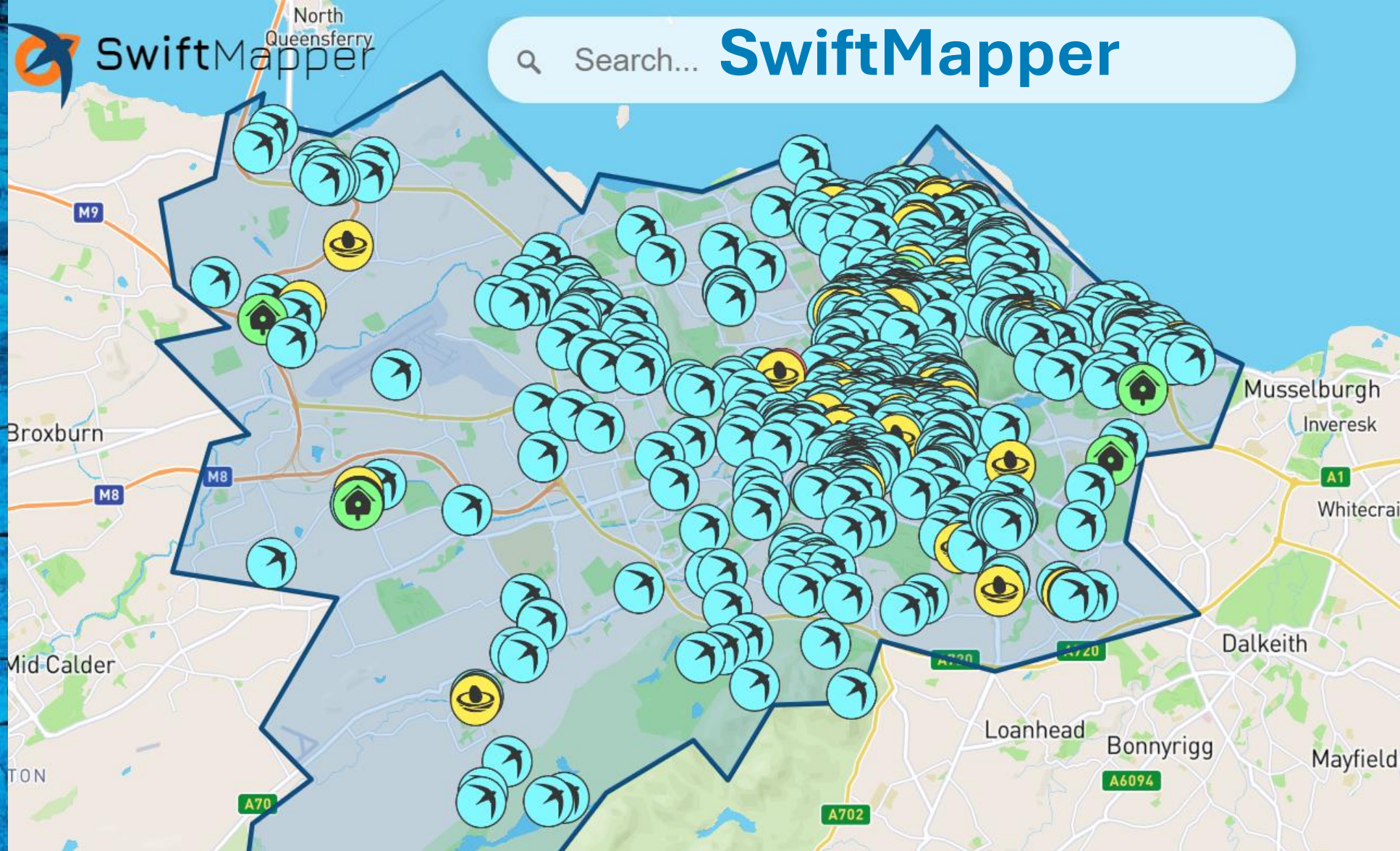
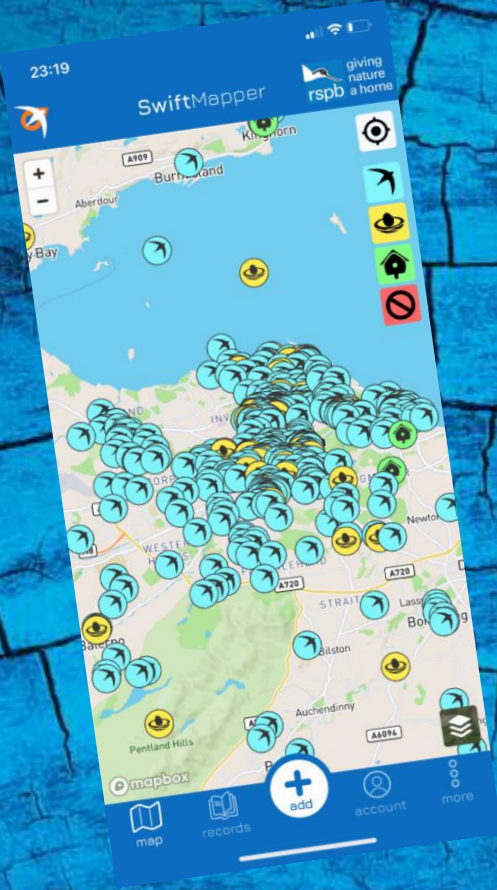


St Ninians church



St Mary's Cathedral





- 144 people received survey training
- 568 new swift surveys



Conservation

**Swift casework volunteers
securing Swift bricks in new
developments.**

**Working with Barratt Homes
to get Swift bricks into their
buildings.**



Episode 8 ft Katie O'Neill from RSPB

March 29, 2021

Did you know that the UK saw a 53 per cent decline in the swift population between 1995 and 2016? Swifts tend to nest in gaps high-up on homes and in other buildings, and when these buildings are refurbished, these swifts have nowhere to nest. The good news is we are working with the RSPB to help do our bit to

Science



What next?



Funded by ScottishPower Foundation



granton:hub

Duddingston
Primary School



north
edinburgh
arts

