

Saving our Swifts 2025

Daniele Muir, Tayside Swifts/
Perthshire Wildlife



Swift Conservation Projects



- Raise awareness of swifts across area and undertake Citizen Science swift surveys through working with various groups, schools, churches and communities
- Use this information to update Swift Priority Area map and SwiftMapper; conserve existing nest sites and recommend new nestbox locations
- Provide advice and nestboxes to residents; ensure nestboxes are monitored
- Work with Planners, developers and contractors



Summary Report Tayside Swifts Projects 2013 - 2020



Swift action

Swift populations in Scotland have fallen by over 62% in the past 25 years (BTO surveys)

The first swift conservation project in Tayside started in 2001 in Dundee

The aim of our Swift Conservation Projects is to work with local groups to raise awareness of what is happening to swift numbers, locate and protect existing nest sites, map swift colonies and help populations expand again by erecting nestboxes

We have given Swift Conservation talks & delivered Swift Walks to schools across Tayside

18

9

Training
sessions for
professionals,
including the
Buildings for
Biodiversity
Conference

We have been working with
local authority Planners in
Angus and Perth & Kinross to
create Swift Priority Zones



33

Community events
attended

14

Guided walks and
survey training events

We have worked with

8

church groups

13

Exhibitions to
demonstrate how
people can help
swifts



15

Schools have
had a swift
nestbox
erected on
their building



80 occupied swift nest sites
discovered



We have
worked with
36
businesses



Swift Conservation Projects have taken place in the
Carse of Gowrie, the Pitlochry area,
Strathearn, Stanley, Kinross, Crieff and
Tay Landscape Partnership area, Forfar, Kirriemuir,
Edzell and Carnoustie

269

Swift nestboxes
erected,
creating new
homes for swifts





We prepared
the 'Swift
Best Practice
Advice Note'
for
NatureScot

[Microsoft Word - SNH Swift Best Practice Report v2.docx](#)





15

Bat boxes
erected

Our Facebook
page was set up in 2012,
now with 519 followers, and
we have a dedicated
Swift section on
taysidebiodiversity.co.uk

Now, in 2025, we have 1,044 followers on Facebook!

[Projects – Swifts – Tayside Biodiversity](#)



We have
produced four
'Tayside Swifts'
Newsletters



Our 5th [Swift Newsletter August 2023 – Tayside Biodiversity](#)

And our recent Tayside Swifts E-News - [SPECIAL EDITION –
TAYSIDE SWIFTS E-News: MAY 2025](#)



Thank you to all our partners, business champions, and the Provost of Angus, Cllr Ronnie Proctor, MBE, who has been our Swift Champion for the past few years.

We have had the pleasure of working with many local community groups, adding a swift focus to their wider projects or helping groups set up their own swift initiatives. Enjoy the 10 minute video at vimeo.com/198993788

The projects would not have happened without funding from Hillcrest Housing Association, Perth & Kinross Quality of Life Trust, SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund, Kirriemuir Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme, Andie Miller Trust, Angus Council Town Centre Fund and Perth & Kinross Community Environment Challenge Fund – thank you.

Tayside Swifts is a member of the UK Swifts Local Network –
actionforswifts.blogspot.co.uk



Angus Swift Projects

- Kirriemuir
- Edzell
- Carnoustie
- Forfar
- Angus Coastal Towns ongoing



Kirriemuir Town Centre Swift Conservation Project



Funded by Kirriemuir Conservation Area
Regeneration Scheme



- Guided walks
- Checking planning applications
- Drop in sessions, library
- School visits
- Talks in Care Homes
- CARS training days
- Kirriemuir Charette
- Banners/ leaflets on display in town
- 95 nestboxes erected –
115 nest sites



Kirriemuir Charettes



Graham Ross @Graham_M_Ross · 12h

@PerthshireWild presents Cyril the Swift + #Kirriemuir swift #conservation - they fly far enough to go to moon+back!



1





Swift Mission

Secret Dossier requesting my help!!!

SWIFT MISSION: TOP SECRET

TO: Daniel Milne

MISSION: Your mission is to do the following:

- Find out as much as you can about Swifts and why they need our help
- Visit a secret location in Kirriemuir and decide the best place to put the swift boxes – do some research and use the information contained in this file to help you (hint: a compass would be useful)
- Take photographs of the swift boxes before, and after they are fixed in position
- Convert the 'Swift Calls' CD into a mp3 file that can be copied onto an Android tablet
- Test mp3 file on tablet and connect to Bluetooth speaker
- Help prepare a report for special agent Daniele Muir (Tayside Swifts Project Officer)

This is your mission if you choose to accept it.
Remember, the swifts in Kirriemuir need your help!

Swift Mission

This is the end of my blog as the nest boxes are now in place and we must wait to see what happens in May. Uncle Russell is going to play the Swift Calls music hoping it will attract the attention of new swifts coming to Kirriemuir looking for nest sites. It is possible they won't be used this year or even that swallows might like them. As there are two boxes I think it would be nice to have swifts in one and swallows in the other so we can compare them but I will just be happy if they are used even if we have to wait a few years. I have learned that if I work with nature I have to be patient e.g. I am hoping Hedgy has been hibernating in the shelter my brother and I made for him in my last project and looking forward to seeing him again in the spring along with swifts using the new nest boxes.









A Swift Saunter

THURSDAY 3RD JULY

8.15PM - 9.30PM

MEET AT KIRRIEMUIR LIBRARY

Contact info@sustainablekirriemuir.co.uk for 2025 events



SUSTAINABLE
KIRRIEMUIR



Forfar Swift Conservation



- Supported by Angus Council's Town Centre Fund
- Coincided with Covid but we continued until 2022!
- Nestboxes installed all over town, including two schools
- Training session for council architects and planners



TAYSIDE SWIFTS' FORFAR SWIFT CONSERVATION PROJECT

HELP SWIFTS WITH A FREE NESTBOX!

We will put it up for you too!

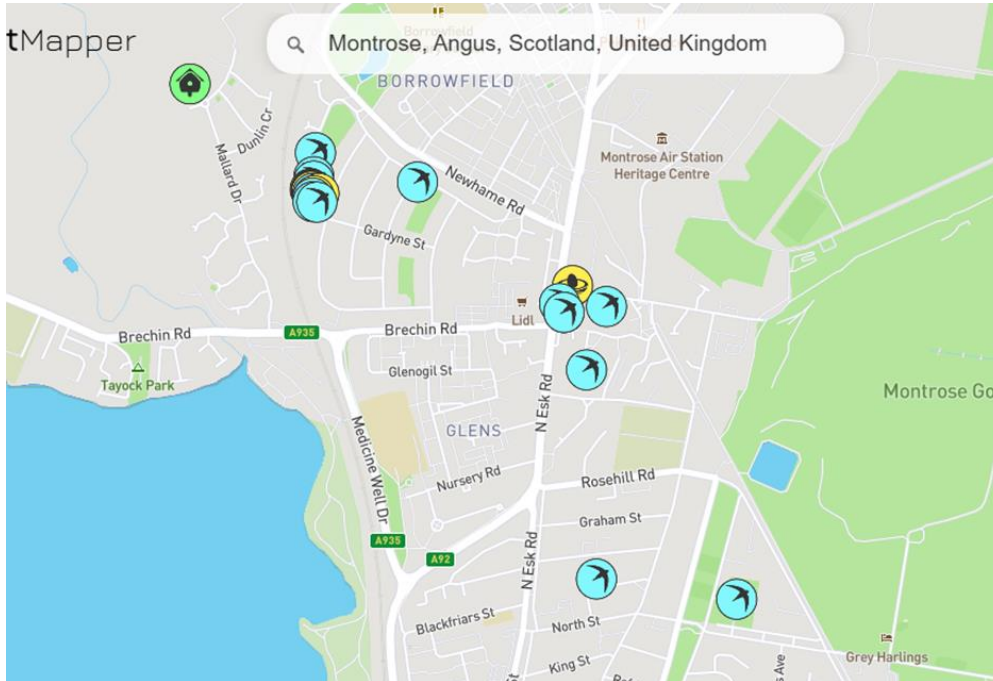


Do you have a spot on your house that is
1m high, not south facing & has a clear flight path?

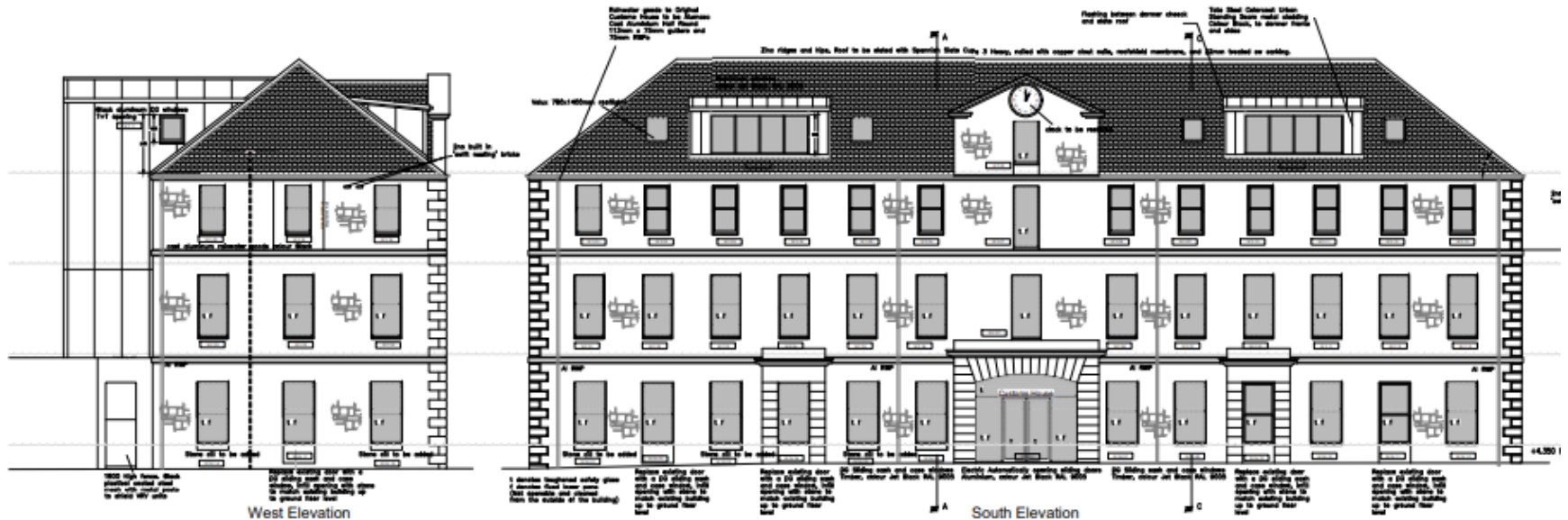
If so, please contact dmur@taysideswifts.co.uk by 15 Nov
for more info at taysideforfarproject.co.uk - search for swifts
hosted by Anne Rogers



Angus Coastal Towns - Montrose



Customs House, Montrose Port Authority

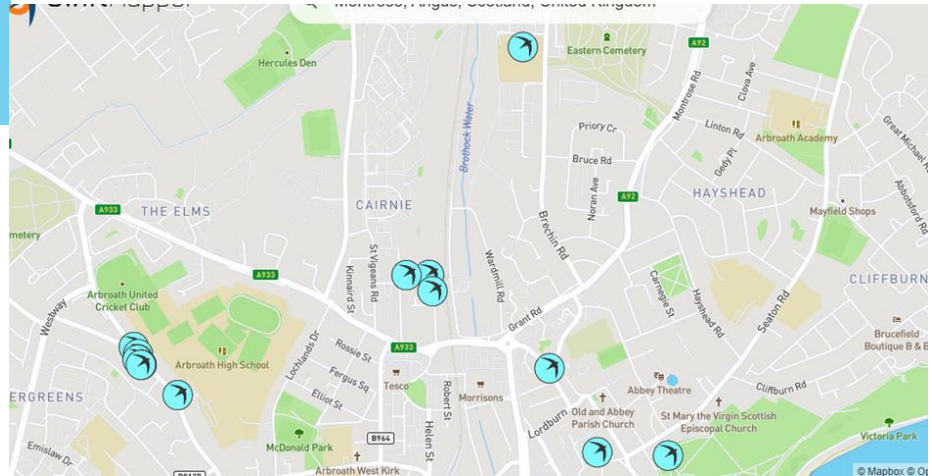
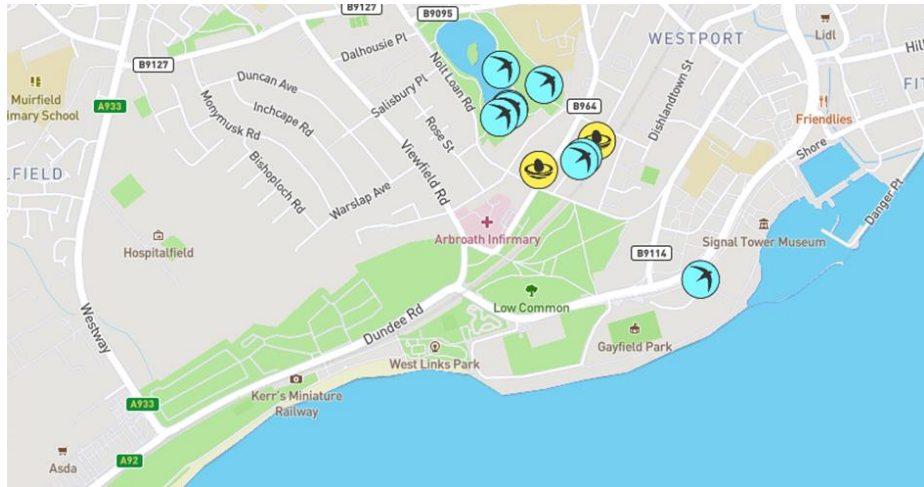


5 inbuilt swift bricks

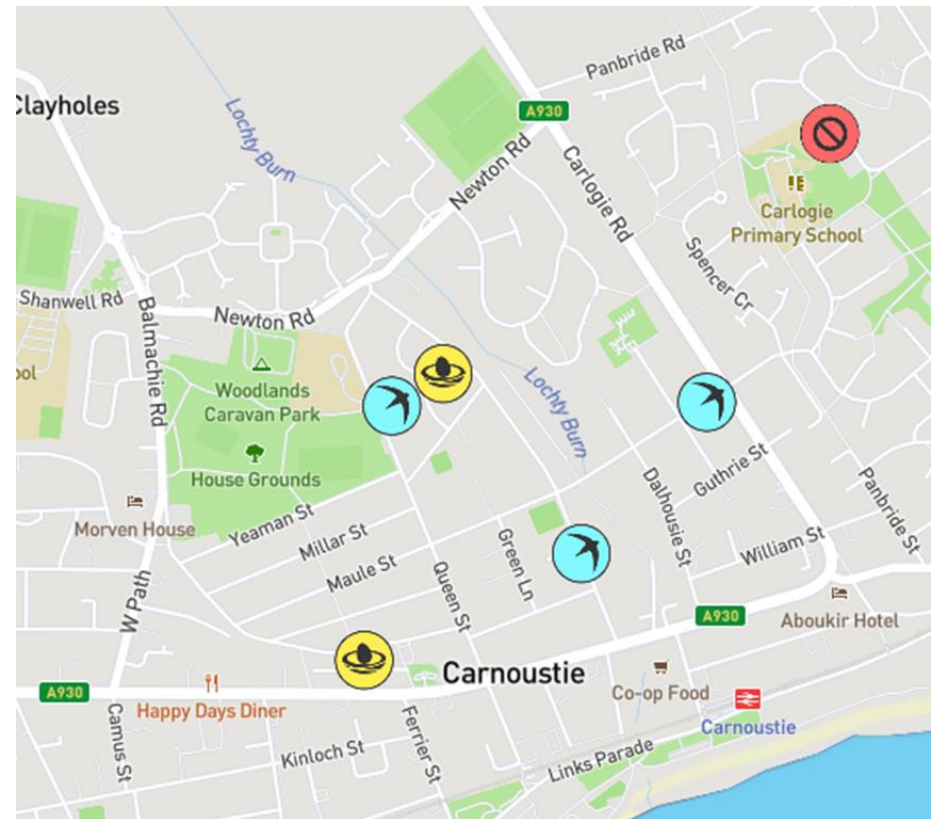
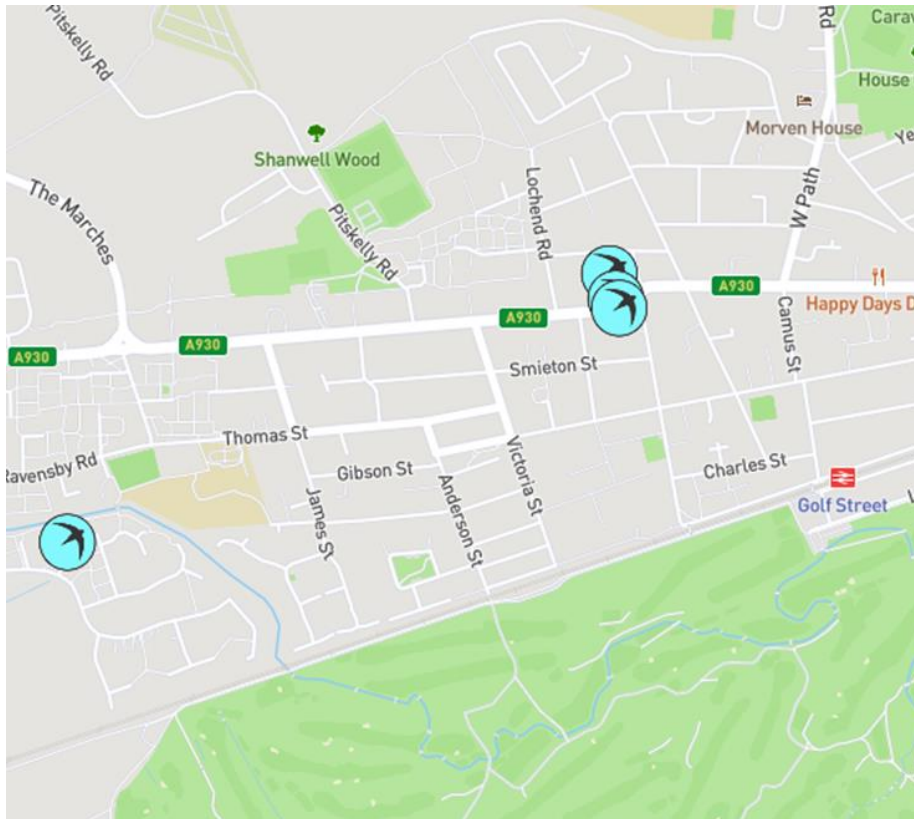




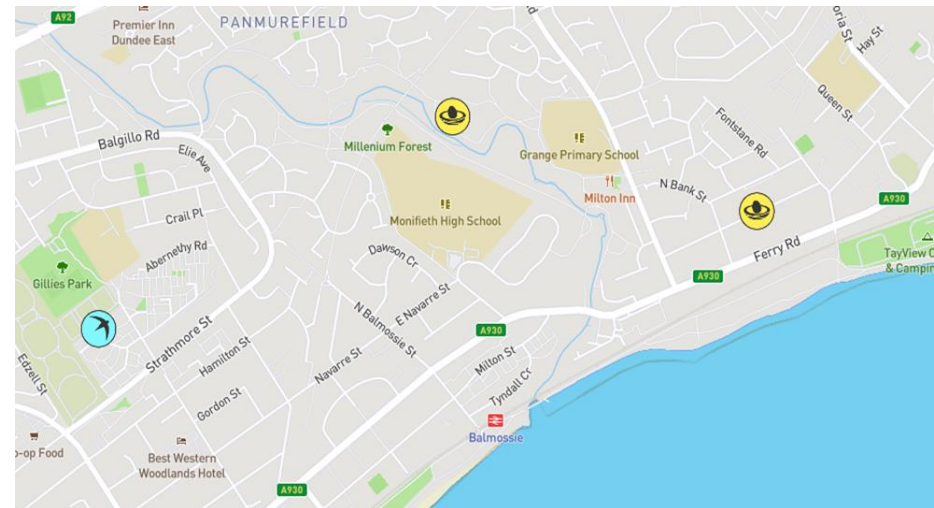
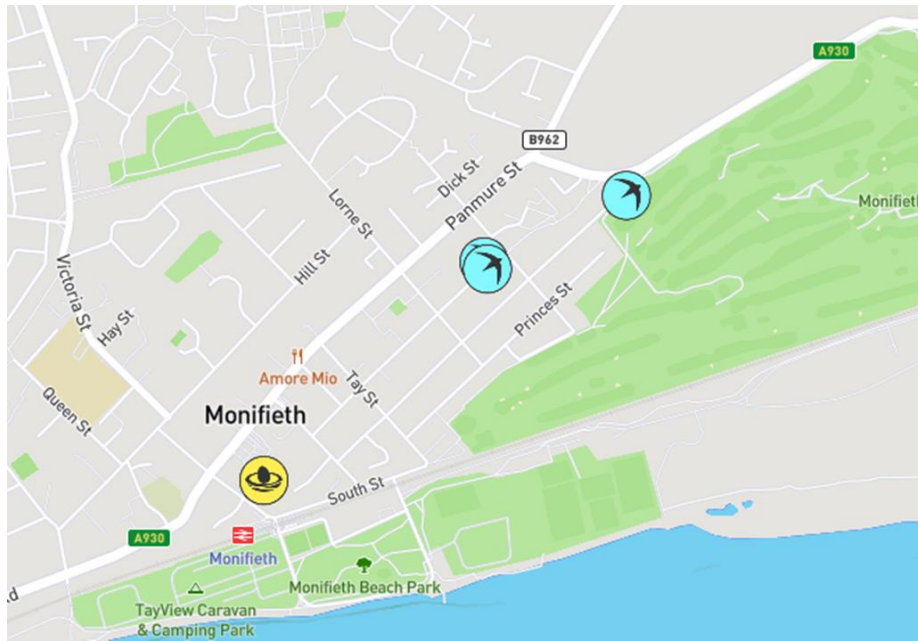
Angus Coastal Towns - Arbroath



Angus Coastal Towns - Carnoustie



Angus Coastal Towns - Monifieth



Angus walks this summer:

- Carnoustie – 3rd July
- Monifieth – 4th July
- Montrose – 17th July
- Arbroath – 18th July
- All meeting at 8.30pm



www.Facebook.com/TaysideSwifts



Swift survey and training – nice and easy!

- Date (dry summer evening/ morning)
- Location
- Type of building
- Number of swifts
- Swifts v Swallows and Martins and nest sites
- Screaming party - likely to be nesting close by
- Nest sites?
- Put onto SwiftMapper!



[Swift Mapper](#)



Current projects in Perth & Kinross - Blairgowrie





Say Goodbye to the Swifts



Inchture Church, Carse of Gowrie

















Biodiversity Villages & Towns



59 swift nest boxes
installed across Perth &
Kinross – town halls,
churches, schools,
health centre, public
toilet, private homes
and farms



June 28th, Blairgowrie Library
June 29th, Kettins Community Hub
June 30th, Kinnesswood bus stop

Guided Swift walks & survey training sessions

Join us to find out about these fascinating birds & how to help them. Meet at 8.30pm. Bring binoculars if you have them.

More info from Daniele on perthshirewildlife@gmail.com

Tayside Biodiversity Festival



**Swift
Awareness
Week**



Industrial Estates and Business Parks



Nestbox design

Impeckable



Schwegler



Vivara Woodstone



Tayside Swifts videos:

- <https://vimeo.com/198993788/477aef0042>
- <https://vimeo.com/239963206>



Photos by:

- Martin Ridley
- Geoff Moy
- Mark Smyth
- Andrew Rogers
- Bev O'Lone
- Daniele Muir
- Nick McKinlay
- Swift Conservation



Thank you!

