

# Swift & bat bricks

Information for Kingsbrook residents



**As part of our work to help give nature a home at Kingsbrook, we are installing 'swift bricks' in a number of houses, plus 'bat bricks' and 'house martin cups'.**

*Swifts, bats and house martins are all very useful because they feed on flying insects in and around where we live. This leaflet explains, and what it means for you as homeowners.*

## What is a 'swift brick'?

A 'swift brick' is a special nestbox for these fast-flying birds which visit Britain in summer. We are incorporating the bricks into carefully chosen walls of about one in four of our houses, where they shouldn't affect you in any way – Swifts are very clean birds.

Made of moulded plastic and coloured to match the brickwork, the bricks do not affect the integrity of the walls at all.

Each brick is a totally sealed unit, apart from the entrance hole, so nothing can enter the cavity wall, loft space or interior of your house through the brick.

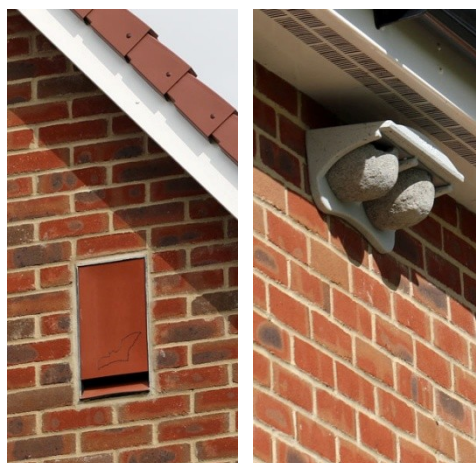


## Why do we want to help swifts?

Swifts spend most of their lives flying high in the air, only coming down to find a place to lay their eggs and rear their young, usually in holes in building walls.

However, their numbers have declined dramatically. One of the big problems is that many holes in old buildings are destroyed during restoration work, and new buildings don't have holes. Adding swift bricks is a really simple way to help save the swift.

## Bat boxes & house martin cups



Bat boxes (above left) work in exactly the same way as swift boxes – they just have a different shape of cavity inside. Bats cannot enter your house through it. One bat can eat over 1000 flying insects an hour!

House martin cups (above right) are mini-domes hung under the eaves, which mimic the mud nests of this other declining summer visitor.

## What can you expect to see?

Swifts only visit Britain for three months from early May to early August. They are sometimes mistaken for swallows, but are all-dark, with very pointed, crescent-shaped wings.

House martins are smaller with white bodies and a bold white patch at the base of the tail. They visit from April to September.

It can take wildlife a few years to find new nesting bricks. However, once they have moved in, the swifts and house martins will fly in several times a day in summer with food for their chicks. The bats only emerge at dusk.

There is a chance that some Swift Bricks might be used by nesting house sparrows, but as this is another declining bird, that is not a problem.

## How you can help

The nests won't need cleaning out, so there's nothing you need do except leave them be!

Across Britain, all sorts of wildlife is in serious decline, from hedgehogs to house sparrows.

At Kingsbrook, Barratt Homes and David Wilson Homes are working with the RSPB and Aylesbury Vale District Council to set a new standard, creating a rich environment where wildlife can thrive, and which helps improve your quality of life as well.

## Further information

If you have any further questions about wildlife bricks at Kingsbrook, please speak to the sales team in the Show Home offices. If they cannot answer your query, they will find out the answer for you!

For all information about Kingsbrook, go to [www.kingsbrook-aylesbury.co.uk](http://www.kingsbrook-aylesbury.co.uk)