



Swift Colony Method Statement

Field House, Wellington Road, Dewsbury

Mood Developments

Report Reference: ER-5709-01

September 2021



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The information which we have prepared and provided is true and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the CIEEM's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions. This report does not constitute legal advice.

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Introduction

The following Method Statement has been produced on behalf of Mood Developments to aid in the discharge of Condition 9 of the Decision Notice 2019/62/92962/E.

The exact wording of Condition 9 is repeated below:

9. Prior to internal works commencing (other than demolition and soft strip-out works), a method statement for the creation of a swift colony nest site shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The content of the method statement shall include the:

- a) location of proposed nest features shown on appropriate scale maps and plans;
- a) detailed design(s) and/or make and model of features to be installed;
- b) means of encouraging colony establishment, including playback of "Swift Calls";
- c) timetable for implementation, demonstrating that works are aligned with the proposed phasing of construction;
- d) persons responsible for implementing the works; and
- e) initial aftercare and long-term maintenance.

The works shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved details prior to occupation of the development hereby approved, and installed features shall be retained in that manner thereafter.

Reason: to encourage the establishment of a swift nesting colony, to ensure a net biodiversity gain is achieved, and to accord with policy LP30 of the Kirklees Local Plan.

Scope of Plan

This plan relates to the Proposed Site Layout, as detailed in the Elevations plan produced by DLA Architecture, drawing no. 2018-051/0242 (July 19).

Delivering the Plan

Mood Developments are responsible for implementing the plan set out in the following Method Statement.

Where appropriate, Mood Developments will appoint an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) to oversee the implementation of this plan.

The ECoW would be a qualified Ecologist and member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, or be otherwise approved by the LPA.

Legal and Funding Mechanisms

Mood Developments will be responsible for the funding and implementation of this plan in full.



◀ Site Frontage, as proposed

Location Plan ▼



Swift boxes

Specification

Box Type	No.	Plan ref.
Woodstone Swift Nest Box	12	Orange dots

This box has been designed with a style entrance which is preferred by swifts, but discourages non-target species, i.e. house sparrows and starlings from occupying the box and displacing swift.

Should this style of box be out of stock, a suitable alternative will be selected by the ECoW.

Location Notes

Boxes will be located as shown in the figure opposite (see orange dots).

Boxes will be sited as high as possible on the eastern elevation, directly below the verges.

Where possible, boxes will not be installed directly above windows, to prevent potential conflict with new residents.

South-facing elevations have been avoided, to reduce the risk of boxes overheating during peak summer months.

Front elevations, or elevations fronting onto new roads have been avoided, to avoid illumination from street lights.

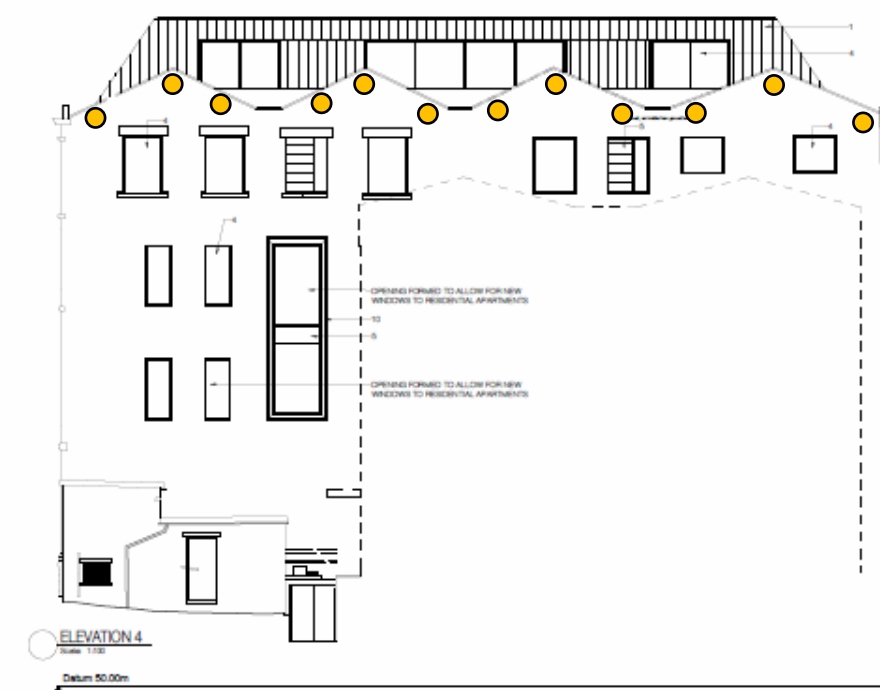
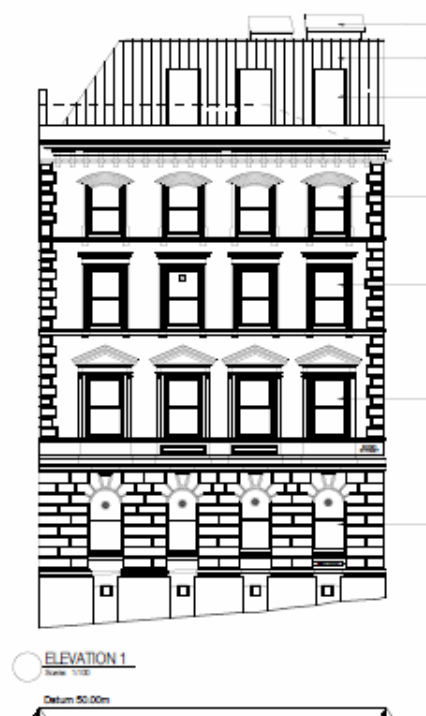
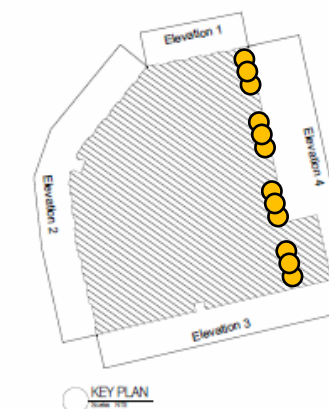
Installation

As soon as possible once scaffolding has been erected on the eastern elevation.

Boxes will be inspected by the ECoW to confirm their correct installation prior to scaffolding being removed.

The ECoW will advise on any alterations required to ensure they are 'fit for purpose'.

If required, the ECoW can oversee the installation of the boxes.



Colony Establishment

Rationale

There is a much better chance of attracting swifts to colonise the Site if recordings of Swift calls are played during key parts of the season.

Specification

The following equipment (or suitable alternatives) will be used to create the swift call kit:

- Speaker;
- Cheng Sheng player amplifier2;
- Timer3;
- 12v power supply: power cable and adaptor plugging into mains electricity supply OR 12v car battery which would need to be periodically charged, or connected to a 20W solar panel, and charge controller
- Mp3 swift calls (loaded onto an SD card or USB stick); and
- Plastic box/cover for weatherproofing.

Detailed information on equipment and set up / sourcing can be obtained from the following website:<https://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/images/21022016125352.pdf>.

Installation

The above specified Sound-system will be put together and installed by a qualified electrician.

Speakers will be positioned in a central location along the eastern elevation, directly below the verges.

The ECoW will supervise / advise on the set up and timing of this work.

Operation

Swift calls will be played the following year after installation of the swift boxes and sound-system.

Calls will be played during the second half of May (to attract displaced breeders), and from mid- June to the end of July (to attract first-time breeders).

Swift call recordings <https://www.swift-conservation.org/Shopping%21.htm> will be played daily between the hours of 6-9am, and 6-9pm,

