



Sheffield Swift Network

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Homeowners Guide to Swift Bricks in Extensions

For retrofitting within existing buildings [↪ Retrofitting Swift Bricks](#)

1. Before We Start

Thank you for considering swift bricks in your project. Installing swift bricks provides permanent nest places not only for swifts but for up to nine other species, and best of all, those bricks will remain in the building for its lifetime.

Learn more about swifts here: [👉 Swifts – Part Bird, Part Sky](#)

S Brick Range from Action for Swifts. Starting at **£38.50** plus VAT and shipping, the non-profit Action for Swifts offers the S Brick, with options to fit most projects. The 100 mm Cavity Universal Double Terrace provides **two nest chambers in one unit** for **£50.00** plus VAT and shipping.

All AfS nest bricks conform to [British Standard BS 40421](#) and are Class A1 fire rated.

As a charity, we can't purchase products on your behalf, but we will support you throughout the decision, placement and ordering process. Once you have chosen your items, we will liaise with AfS, copying you into emails so prices and details are confirmed, and you can complete the purchase directly.

2. To get started we need to know.

- The site address and architect elevation drawings if available.
- **The type of external finish** (e.g. brick / timber / cladding / render / EWI system).
- If it's a **brick finish**, please provide the **name** of brick and the **manufacturer** plus at least one good **photo** of the existing or specified brickwork so the **AfS** can match the swift brick front.
- The **cavity depth available** (outer brick or cladding + cavity width)
- Is the internal structure blockwork, timber or steel frame.

This information allows us and Action for Swifts to advise the most suitable nest brick and configuration for your project, and ensure the brick fits the cavity correctly



3. Where to Place Swift Bricks

Swift bricks should be positioned as close as possible to the roofline, ideally beneath the eaves if they are present. Installing bricks in these locations significantly increases the chances of swifts taking up residence, as this is the area where they naturally seek entry points. Install as many as you can afford - their longevity is invaluable – adding them at this stage is cheaper than retrofitting them when your colony grows!

- Minimum **height** 4.5 m above ground (2 storeys). There is no maximum height.
- Install **as many bricks** as you can afford.
- Install bricks in **clusters** (grouped together) where possible. 1 metre apart preferable - but not essential.
- Gable ends are ideal.
- Every aspect is acceptable avoid driving rain or full sun - unless protected beneath deep eaves.
- A 5-metre clear flight path is required away from obstructions (e.g. trees, balconies, garages and neighbouring buildings).
- Avoid placing bricks directly above windows or doors.
- Avoid siting bricks where predators can perch or climb.



4. Checking Cavity Depth

Your architect or builder should be able to tell you the cavity depth. Various swift bricks are made to suit different cavities and types of wall construction. Please confirm:

- **Cavity Depth** (e.g. 50 mm, 75 mm, 100 mm).
- **Outer leaf thickness** - (usually standard brick, ~102.5 mm). Please advise depth in mm if timber / cladding / render/ External Wall insulation (EWI)
- Any **insulation** thickness that might clash with the brick chamber.

5. Swift Caller - Essential for Attracting New Swift Tenants

Swift callers play recorded calls that encourage passing birds to explore sites. **For detailed info and stockists:** [👉 Swift callers](#)

- Cost **£30 - £65**.
- Set on a timer to play for 2 hours after sunrise and 2 hours before sunset.



Ready to Get Started?

Email or call for our free, no obligation advice. We'll guide you each step of the way, the only thing we ask in return is please send us photos of the project for our website and social media platforms- great stories encourage further nest provision throughout the city – and that's what we are all about!

Thanks for getting in touch, Chet, Nicola, Ann and Flora [Trustees] [Sheffield Swift Network](#)

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Swift bricks – they're in the building for life!

