

## Threatened sites guidance and decision tree

This document is intended to help guide individuals in protecting known swift nest sites they feel might be threatened in any way by demolition or renovation.

It is urged you are always polite and considerate at all times. Always be prepared to back down in any situation.

The following are some key points you can mention if you have to approach anyone (contractor or neighbour)

1. Approach them in a friendly manner and ask them (gently) if they know that there is a special bird sharing their property.
2. If yes, explain that swifts are on the list of birds of conservation concern in the UK, and ask them to safeguard them.
3. If no, show them where the birds are nesting, explain that they are on the list of birds of conservation concern in the UK, and ask them to safeguard them.
4. If they are unhappy about the swifts, assure them that these birds are not a problem; they are not messy or destructive and they are not a health risk.
5. For any of the above, you could direct them to [www.rspb.org.uk/helpswifts](http://www.rspb.org.uk/helpswifts) for advice and information.
6. If birds are in occupation and they are not willing to stop work that would disturb nests whilst in use, explain politely that the nests are protected and that to continue could be an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
7. If they continue and you think they are disturbing nesting birds, contact your local Police, ask for the Wildlife Crime Officer (WCO), and explain the circumstances.
8. It might be a good idea, if possible idea to take some pictures, and say they will be reported to the police WCO. Sometimes it can take a while to get the WCO onto site, and a warning like this may help stall the destruction.
9. If you need to contact any of the swift organisations or RSPB it is preferred in the first instance that you do this on-line via the respective websites ([www.swift-conservation.org](http://www.swift-conservation.org), [www.concernforswifts.com](http://www.concernforswifts.com); [swifts@rspb.org.uk](mailto:swifts@rspb.org.uk)).

## Decision tree

