

Neath Port Talbot Swifts 2024 Report

The breeding season has now come to an end for Swifts in NPT. This will be the 3rd year that the Neath Port Talbot project has been running and I'd like to thank everyone that has contributed their time to looking for breeding swifts. This year we had a total of 102 reports confirming 24 nests, another 3 confirmed nests too but I don't have the details of those yet.

In addition, unconfirmed breeding birds totalled 9 this year. If we could have confirmed these, this would give us 36 nesting sites within NPT. Add this to the previous years sightings and we have managed to identify a possible 60 nests within NPT since starting the project. There appears to be 4 main areas for breeding swifts within the county, Neath town centre, Briton Ferry, the upper Neath valley and Pontardawe and I know that there are a lot more nest sites that we have failed to identify yet. There is also a breeding colony up in Cwmllynfell but unfortunately we don't have anyone that is able to survey this area

The project has succeeded in not only identifying breeding swifts in NPT but also erecting a swift tower at Glantawe Riverside Park in Pontardawe and putting up nest boxes at numerous sites around NPT.



I'd like to give a big thank you to Josella from NPTCBC for her hard work this year with getting the website up and running and putting together a leaflet that members of the project will be able to post through people's letter boxes where swifts have been confirmed to be breeding, making residents aware (if they aren't) and info regarding if they want to do any work on the roof space and the importance of preserving the nest site. This will be ready for the 2025 breeding season and be bilingual. It's been a drawn out process as it has had to go through the legal team but its now had the green light to go ahead. She's also created a great logo and collated all the sightings in a map which can be found on the website www.naturenpt.cymru/swifts hopefully with the addition of the website it will allow us to get more reports from people that are from outside of the WhatsApp group that we have been running for collecting swift sightings. The website will also provide people with information on swifts, nest boxes and what to do if they have them in their roof space. Josella has also been involved in the Porthcawl Swift project where they have achieved great things and are now recognised as a swift friendly town. I have to give a mention to her knitted swift called Selwyn too as I think he is truly amazing!!!



If you'd like to get involved with the project please drop me a message on WhatsApp on 07941786028 or email NPTswifts@gmail.com

All the 2024 sightings can be viewed via the link below.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LsX9VNpG3q2CqK8y9BzHU4erkmq14uL8LLggLcR1B2w/edit?usp=sharing>

If you have any feedback regarding the project going forward I'd be keen to hear from you

Dan Black