



## Wild West End House Martin & Swift Survey

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **What is the survey doing?**

Trying to learn more about the local population of house martin and swift so this can be used to inform future conservation actions for them.

#### **What is a house martin?**

The house martin is a 'black and white' migratory bird, which arrives in the north east from around mid-April; it spends the winter in Africa. It nests predominantly on houses (usually under the eaves) and is an aerial insectivore (i.e. it eats insects in flight).

#### **What is a swift?**

Swifts, dark brown and long winged, are the most aerial of British birds. They are summer migrants to the north east, wintering in Africa. They arrive a little later than house martin (usually from early May), but like that species they feed on aerial invertebrates. They nest in cavities, mainly in the roof spaces or in the eaves of buildings.

#### **Do I need to be a bird expert to get involved?**

Not at all. The instructions are easy to follow, describe both species and, with a little practice, both species can be easily identified.

#### **How much time will it take?**

There are two elements to the survey. If you wish to be involved in the documentation of casual records of nesting house martin and swift across the WWE project area, then your time inputs can be as little or as much as you wish.

If you want to undertake the more formal transect survey, this will take around an hour for each survey, with about twenty minutes associated paperwork. This has to be repeated three times during the breeding season (mid-May to Mid-July).

#### **What do I say to local people who ask me what I am doing?**

Your survey pack, which will include full instructions, recording forms and recording maps, will also include an information sheet that you can hand out to interested people. This explains what the house martin & swift survey is about, a little more about the Wild West End project and, crucially, how to get in touch with it.

#### **How do I get involved?**

By contacting the WWE Project Officer and survey coordinator, Ruth Hayward on Tel. 07410 944713 or by sending an email to [wildwestend@greeningwingrove.org.uk](mailto:wildwestend@greeningwingrove.org.uk)

#### **Will the surveys take place in 2021?**

It is hoped to repeat the survey work in 2021.