



Wild West End House Martin & Swift Survey



Transect Survey Method - Summary Instructions for Surveyors

This area-based approach documents the number of nesting house martin and swift within defined 'sample' transect survey plots; this means breeding densities in those plots can be calculated. Essentially the survey method is simple, *"One walks around some local streets, for about 50 minutes, counting swift and house martin nests as one goes"*.

Between mid-May and mid-July, three transect survey visits, separated by at least two weeks, should be walked; ideally, these should be spread as evenly as possible over the survey period.

For each survey, the transect route should be walked at a 'slow walking pace', punctuated by periodic short stops for listening and observation (each transect should take 50 to 70 minutes). The direction in which the transect is walked should be as shown by the arrows on the transect map. During survey, house martin and swift nests, colonies and occupied nests should be mapped on the recording map (using a circle with the number of nests) and documented on the recording form. The presence of 'screaming parties' of swift should also be mapped, as a circle with arrows; the arrows indicating the 'general direction' of flight of the birds

Survey visits should be undertaken in daylight hours, avoiding rainy, excessively windy, or stormy evenings and commence no earlier than three hours before sunset. Due care should be paid to maintaining surveyor safety at all times.

House martins can usually be located by call or visually when in the vicinity of the nest, so they should be obvious to surveyors. Swift may be further afield or feeding at high altitude and consequently, these may be more difficult to 'pin down' to a specific nesting location.

To undertake a transect survey for house martin and swift the following equipment is needed: binoculars; clipboard and pencils/pens; map of the transect route; copy of the transect survey recording form (one for each transect survey); copy of the survey instructions; compass, useful for working out the facing direction of nests found; the Wild West End Project information sheet and contact details, to give to interested residents.

For each survey, record: date, start and finish times and the weather details, by circling the 'best fit' conditions in the weather table (see below).

Visit	Cloud	Rain	Wind	Visibility
1	0-33%	None	Calm	Good
2	33-66%	Drizzle	Light	Moderate
3	66-100%	Showers	Breezy	Poor

On completion of all surveys, the results should be collated on to a summary form and map and all of the paperwork returned to the Project Coordinator (by the end of September).