

6

Start point if arriving by train

Stop here to scan the area towards the station for Swifts feeding above the houses and flats below.

7

Mill Lane

If you arrive by train exit the station and look left down Mill Lane. In these houses there a number of breeding Swifts and House Martins, can you tell them apart?

8

Viewpoint over Churchill Retirement Homes

Walk up North Close and past Cheviot House on the right hand side. There is then a gap through which you can see a new brick building in which Swift bricks have been installed. These create new nest sites for Swifts and we work hard to encourage developers to do this as it creates nest sites. Also, having birds nesting on the home improves the quality of life for the residents. This residential home has a total of 9 Swift bricks included. Look above the home as often there are Swifts feeding here.

9

Lymington Public Library

Behind the library is one of the biggest Swift colonies in Lymington, overhead you should see and hear Swifts feeding and screaming as they form low-level screaming parties, behaviour which is only exhibited in the proximity of their nest sites.

10

Lymington Business Centre

Looking at the Business Centre you will see a gap between the centre and some flats. Screaming parties of Swifts fly through this gap at high speed and in tight formation. They have found nest sites in small gaps and holes under the eaves at the side and behind the Business Centre. We have created additional nest sites by blocking off some of the eaves and making Swift-sized holes through which the Swifts can enter. Can you see the new nest sites we have made?

11

St Barbe Museum

Around the museum there are a few nesting Swifts: listen for their distinctive screams. The Museum doesn't have nesting Swifts but some buildings on the road in front of the museum do have breeding Swifts. The church opposite used to have a colony of Swifts but was renovated and the nest sites were destroyed.

12

St Thomas's Church, park side

Two Swift nest boxes have been added to the extension to the church as well as to the church building itself, inside the quadrangle

13

Lymington Cricket Club

You are approaching the best place in Lymington to see lots of Swifts. You may see them above the tops of the houses or screaming in parties between the buildings.

14

St Thomas Park

There is one house here which has several Swift nests on all 4 sides of the building. Swifts probably nest in other buildings as well and on a warm summer's evening you will see 20 or 30 Swifts flying at high speed through this area.

15

The Kings Arms

Go into the courtyard and find a good seat in the garden. Buy a refreshing drink and wait for the Swifts to fly in at high speed from the area behind the garden and up into nest sites located on the pizza restaurant next door.

Join our Facebook group and check our website for more information and updates.

www.hampshireswifts.co.uk

 Hampshire Swifts

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Hampshire Swifts



Lymington Swift Trail



Lymington Swift Trail

Please enjoy our Swift Trail walk around the beautiful town of Lymington and explore the best vantage spots to see a glimpse of these wonderful birds. Swifts

are only present in good numbers from mid-May to the end of July. The best views are obtained on fine, still evenings from two hours before sunset to half an hour

after sunset. A digital, GPS enhanced version of this trail with pop-up images is also available to view on your mobile device. Available on our website: www.hampshireswifts.co.uk/swiftrails

1 Start Point for drivers

Car park behind Marks & Spencer: free from 1800.

2 St Thomas's Church

This is a good vantage point to see Swifts above the church and above St Thomas's St to the left. There is one nest site on the church. Can you find it?

3 High Street

There are no known nest sites on the High Street, probably because the buildings are too well maintained, eliminating the holes and gaps needed by Swifts to lay their eggs. However, sometimes you'll see them above the buildings to the right as you descend the hill.

4 Quay Hill

Turning left along Gosport Street the houses on the right hand side have quite a few Swift nest sites but identifying where they nest is difficult, as there is no public access. However, often you'll see swifts flying above and round the rooftops.

5 Car park behind Catholic church

Look towards the church and there is a large church building between you and the church proper. Watch carefully as Swifts nest under the guttering.

