

25th October 2023

Rachel Robinson, Planning Officer
High Peak Borough Council

Re: Discharge of Conditions DOC/2023/0067: Eastern Mill, Milltown, Glossop, Derbyshire

I am writing on behalf of the Derbyshire Swift Conservation Project, an organization working to conserve Swifts in Derbyshire and part of a national network of Swift groups throughout the UK.

The Condition 14 Swift Method Statement (Enzygo, 24th July 2023) states that ***“the proposals are to include eight specific new Swift boxes, including externally mounted boxes at the refurbished Easton House and Coach House, and integrated boxes at the new buildings”***.

The decision notice for the original planning application HPK/2022/0317 states that: ***“Condition 14:Integral nest bricks shall be provided in line with British Standard BS 42021:2022, to ensure continued nesting opportunity on site”***

Best-practice guidance has recently been made available with the publication of British Standard BS 42021:2022 ***“Integral Nest Boxes – selection & installation for new developments”***: <https://knowledge.bsigroup.com/products/integral-nest-boxes-selection-and-installation-for-new-developments-specification-1/standard>

One key element of this guidance is that all integral nest boxes should be Swift bricks, as these can be safely used by all small bird species including Swifts. Also, it sets out the numbers required as follows:

- ***“To provide new and enhanced opportunities for nesting, the number of integral nest boxes on new residential developments shall at least equal the number of dwellings, i.e. the ratio of integral nest boxes to dwellings is 1:1. ”***
- ***“External nest boxes are additional to the installation of integral nest boxes on new developments and should not be included as part of the 1:1 ratio.”***

British Standard BS 42021:2021 is available only by subscription but the key elements are summarized on the NHBS blog <https://www.nhbs.com/blog/universal-nest-bricks>.

Since approximately 85 dwellings are to be built in this development then 8 Swifts bricks is far below that expected by British Standard BS 42021:2022 and it would seem appropriate that this development is built incorporating a much higher number of Swift bricks (otherwise known as “universal bricks”) so providing nest sites suitable for all these rapidly declining urban bird species.

We request that this condition is not discharged until the Swift Method Statement is amended to ensure this development is built with up to 85 internal nest bricks (i.e. 1 brick per dwelling) designed for Swifts as a universal biodiversity enhancement for urban bird species and that photographic evidence of installation is made available upon completion.

We are happy to provide further advice and assistance.



Yours faithfully

Andy Broadhurst

Derbyshire Swift Conservation Project

Member of SLN Swifts & Planning Group