



SWIFT SURVEY REPORT 2024



BALLINA

Site No.	Address	Natural Nests Occupied	No. of Nest Boxes E=external B= Built-in	No. of Nest Boxes Occupied	Building Type	Protected Structure
1	Station Road	4	0	0	Railway Station	NIAH
2	Walsh Street	9	0	0	Ex Garda Station	NIAH
3	Barrett Street	0	6 - E	0	Arts Centre	No
4	Dillon Terrace	10	0	0	Dillons Bar	NIAH/RPS
5	Lower Tone Street	3	0	0	Shop	No
6	Walsh Street	3	0	0	Presbyterian Church/Orphanage	NIAH/RPS
7	Pearse Street	2	0	0	PTSB Bank	NIAH/RPS
8	Pearse Street	2	0	0	AIB	No
9	Mc Dermott Street	6	0	0	Scoil Croí Iosa	NIAH
10	Moy Lane/Emmet St	0	12 - B	0	Mary Robinson Centre	RPS
11	Creggs Road	0	6 - B	0	St Oliver Plunkett National School	No
12	Off McDermott St/Slí Ectra	0	24 - B	18	St Mary's Secondary School	No
13	Kevin Barry St	1	0	0	Ballina Dental	NIAH
14	Oaklawn, Killala Rd	0	8 - B	0	Culleens NS	No
15	Market Square	0	3 - E	0	Gaelscoil na gCeithre Maol	No
16	Dillon Terrace	1	0	0	Citizen's Info	NIAH/RPS
17	Lower Bridge	0	6 - E	0	IFI storage building	No
18	Abbey Street	0	6 - E	0	IFI Offices	No
19	Lord Edward Street	3	0	0	Old Union Workhouse	NIAH/RPS
TOTALS		44	21-E, 50-B	18		

Ballina Summary Table

Total Occupied Nests (natural and boxes)	61
No. External Nest Boxes available	21
No. Built-in Nest Boxes available	50
No. External Nest Boxes occupied	0
No. Built-in Nest Boxes occupied	18
No. Natural nests occupied	44



Ballina

County Mayo Common Swift Survey 2024



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



Map prepared by: Jarek Majkusiak



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Site No. 1: Railway Station Buildings, Station Road

Use of Building	Railway Station Buildings
Eircode	F26 EH76
Spatial Reference	54.10539529,-9.16455030
Protected Structure	NIAH 31204022 - built 1870-1875 Note the main station building is a Protected Structure but the sheds where the Swifts nest may not be.
Natural Nest Sites	4
Aspect of Nests	SW and E
Total Occupied Nests	4

Note: Stone building located at Ballina train station. Information was received in November 2016 from a train driver to say he has been watching Swifts use these buildings since 1993. Pre 2024 there were 4 nest sites recorded.



1a. One nest site is SW facing and the other is E facing



1b. and 1c. One nest under canopy which is E facing



1d. East facing at edge of canopy

Site No. 2: Ex Garda Station and adjacent building, Walsh Street

Use of Building	Ex Garda Síochána Station
Eircode	F26 E302
Spatial Reference	54.11420389,-9.15264666
Protected Structure	NIAH 31204083 – Built 1925-30 closed in 2005
Natural Nest Sites	Front 5 and Rear 5 = 10
Aspect of Nests	NE & SW
Total Occupied Nests	10 (pre 2024 there were 17 active nests – see note below)

Garda Síochána Station which has been closed since 2005. It was the most important swift nest site in Ballina, however, there was a fire in the front left-hand side of the building in April 2024 just prior to Swifts returned to their breeding site. There was lots of smoke billowing from the roof and water sprayed onto the roof by the fire brigade. Nest sites 1 to 6 (see pre 2024 photo below) located in this area were not used in the 2024 breeding season.



2a BEFORE the 2024 fire there were 10 active nest sites NE facing – as shown in this photo



2b. 2024 FIRE - Photo of smoking coming from inside the roof – 21 April 2024



2c. NE - 2024 there was only one nest active near area of fire on left side of building (see 1a and 1b)



2d. NE - Right hand side of front of building



2e. NE - New site found in adjacent building in 2024



2f. SW - Rear of building



2g SW - Rear of building

Site No. 3: Arts Centre, Barrett Street

Use of Building	Arts Centre
Eircode	F26 NW83
Spatial Reference	54.11140207,-9.15516257
Protected Structure Reg. No.	N/A
Natural Nest Sites	None
No. Nest Boxes	6 (2 x Schwegler 17a)
No. Occupied Nest boxes	0
Aspect of Nests	NE
Total Occupied Nests	0

Two triple compartment Schwegler 17A nest boxes were erected in May 2015 by Mayo County Council. No attraction call system has been set up and no Swift activity has been observed. An attraction call system must be installed in 2025.



3a. Ballina Arts Centre

Site No. 4: Dillon's Bar & Restaurant, Dillon Terrace

Use of Building	Dillon's Terrace
Eircode	F26 Y228
Spatial Reference	54.11538933,-9.15077448
Protected Structure.	NIAH 31204054 RPS 31 - built 1840-1890
Natural Nest Sites	9
Aspect of Nests	NE
Total Occupied Nests	9



4a NE – rear of Dillon's Terrace

Site No. 5: Rosa Boutique, Lower Tone Street

Use of Building	Shop on ground floor
Eircode	F26 WC82
Spatial Reference	54.11386114,-9.15560782
Protected Structure.	No
Natural Nest Sites	3
Aspect of Nests	SW
Total Occupied Nests	3

Guttering and fascia have not been replaced in recent years so there is still a gap available to the birds

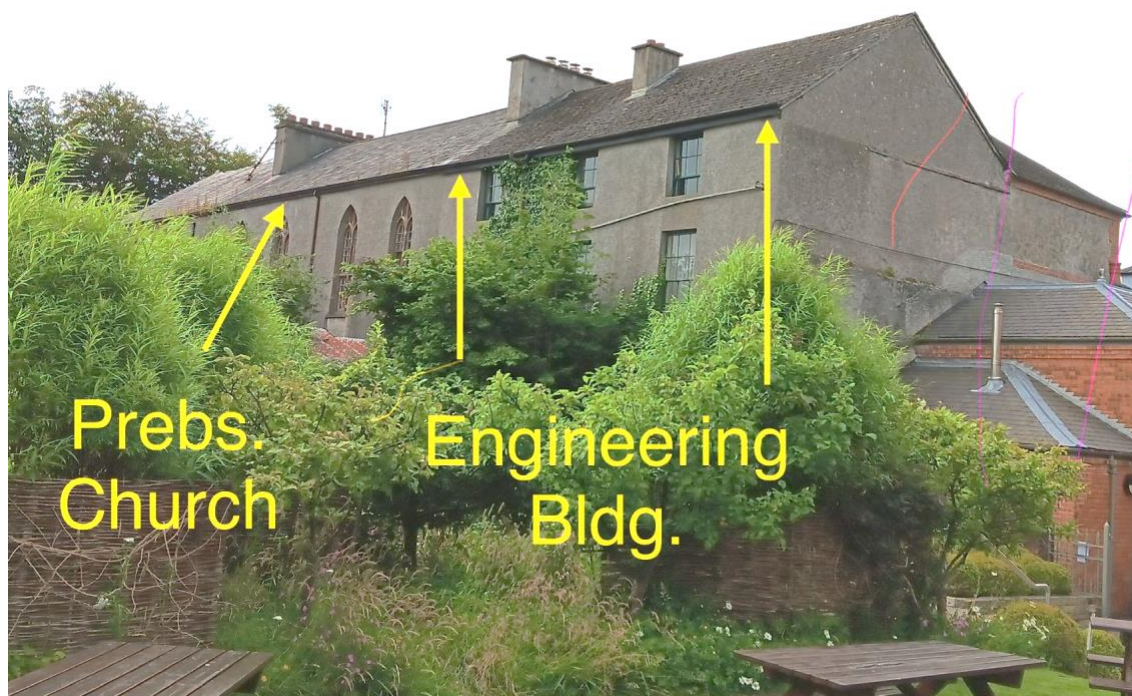


5a. SW facing on Lower Tone Street

Site No. 6: Rear of Presbyterian Church and Orphanage, Walsh Street

Use of Building	Presbyterian Church and Orphanage
Eircode	F26 AR24
Spatial Reference	54.11444915,-9.15273786
Protected Structure.	Church NIAH 31204080 RPS 14 built 1850:, Orphanage 1854: 31204079
Natural Nest Sites	3 at rear of building
No. Nest Boxes	0
No. Occupied Nest boxes	0
Aspect of Nests	NE
Total Occupied Nests	3

These natural nest sites are at rear of the Presbyterian church and Orphanage and can be viewed from the garden at the back of the Jackie Clarke museum.



6a. NE facing at rear of Presbyterian Church and Orphanage

Site No. 7: PTSB Bank, Pearse Street

Use of Building	PTSB Bank
Eircode	F26 K6AO
Spatial Reference	54.11407182,-9.15411115
Protected Structure.	NIAH 31204072, RPS 18-23 built 1800-1838
Natural Nest Sites	2
No. Nest Boxes	0
No. Occupied Nest boxes	0
Aspect of Nests	NW
Total Occupied Nests	2

Swifts seen entering through holes in two locations just under guttering. This is possible because the guttering/fascia have not been replaced so there are gaps between fascia board and stone wall.



8a. NW facing onto Pearse Street

Site No. 8: AIB, Pearse Street

Use of Building	AIB
Eircode	F26 V529
Spatial Reference	54.11460952,-9.15368736
Protected Structure.	No
Natural Nest Sites	2
No. Nest Boxes	0
No. Occupied Nest boxes	0
Aspect of Nests	NW, SE
Total Occupied Nests	2



9a. Two natural nest sites one facing NW and the other SE

Site No. 9: Scoil Croí Iosa, Convent Hill

Use of Building	Scoil Croí Iosa
Eircode	F26 F293
Spatial Reference	54.11606851,-9.16352034
Protected Structure.	NIAH 31204003 built 1880-1890
Natural Nest Sites	6
No. Nest Boxes	0
No. Occupied Nest boxes	0
Aspect of Nests	NE, NW, SE
Total Occupied Nests	6

The nest sites are found in the stone building which was a Convent (Convent of the Immaculate Conception) and is now being used by the National School, Scoil Croí Iosa.



10a. NE side of building



10b. SE front of building



10c. NW at rear of building

Site No. 10: Mary Robinson Centre, Victoria House, Emmet Street

Use of Building	Mary Robinson Centre
Eircode	F26 Y9V3
Spatial Reference	54.11363473,-9.15212631
Protected Structure.	RPS 27-28
Natural Nest Sites	0
No. Nest Boxes	12 (4 x Schwegler 17A triple compartments)
No. Occupied Nest boxes	0
Aspect of Nests	NW
Total Occupied Nests	0

The Mary Robinson Centre is owned by Mayo County Council and the building was renovated in 2021 by Mayo CoCo. Four triple compartment Schwegler 17A nest boxes were built-into the rear wall of the main building along with attraction calls. The attraction calls were switched on for the first time in 2022. In August 2024 Swifts were seen flying close to the building but not flying up to the nest boxes.

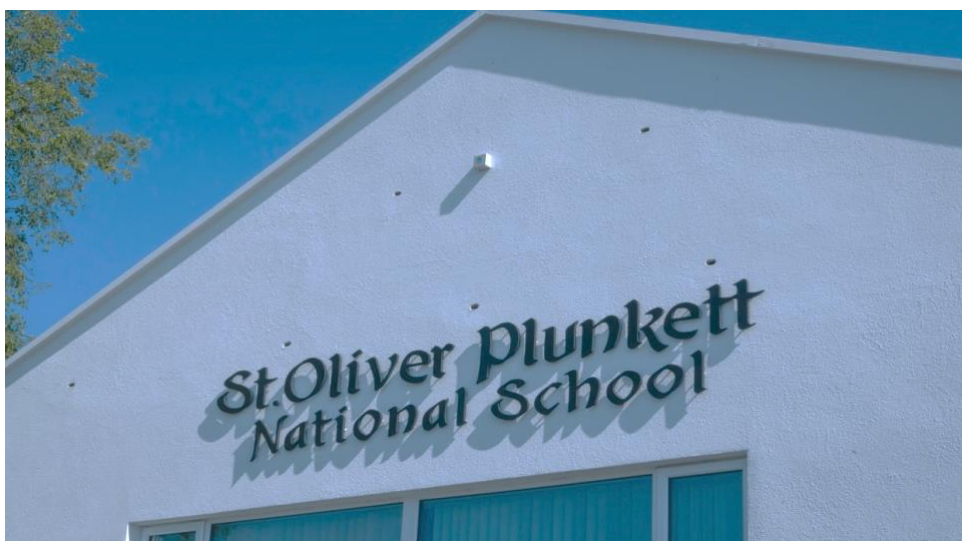


11a. NW facing rear wall of the centre with 12 built-in nest boxes

Site No. 11: St Oliver Plunkett National School, Creggs Lane

Use of Building	St Oliver Plunkett National School
Eircode	F26 YX95
Spatial Reference	54.13137856,-9.13092613
Protected Structure.	No
Natural Nest Sites	0
No. Nest Boxes	6
No. Occupied Nest boxes	0
Aspect of Nests	SW
Total Occupied Nests	0

Quay National School added an extension to the school in 2021. They built into the gable wall 7 x Vivara GZ03 Woodstone Swift Nest Box Deep. The attractions calls were switched on for the first time in 2022. In the 2024 survey no Swifts were seen near the school.



12a. SW facing gable wall with 6 built-in nest boxes GZ03

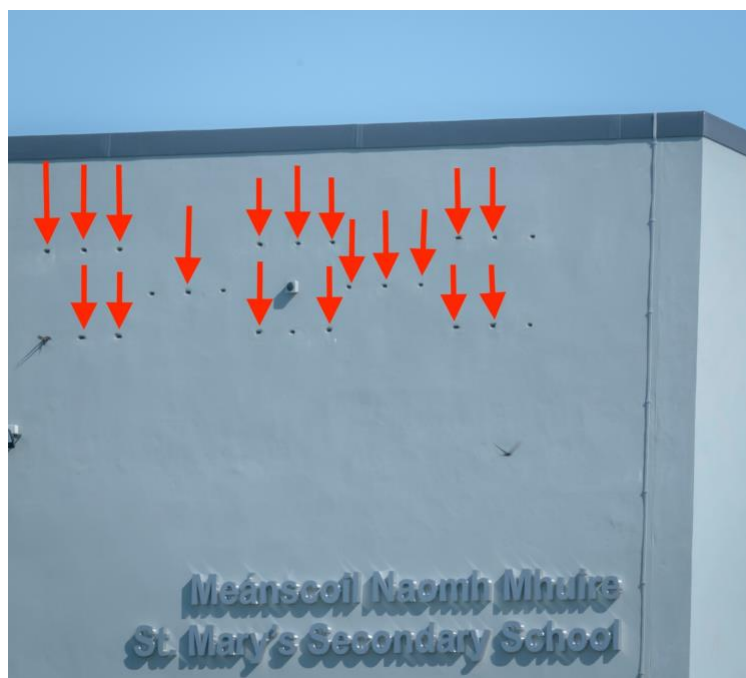
Site No. 12: St Mary's Secondary School, Slí Ectra

Use of Building	St Mary's Secondary School
Eircode	F26 YXC7
Spatial Reference	54.118202, -9.165818
Protected Structure.	No
Natural Nest Sites	0
No. Nest Boxes	24 (Vivara GZ03)
No. Occupied Nest boxes	18
Aspect of Nests	SE
Total Occupied Nests	18

New school building for St Mary's Secondary School constructed in 2021/2022. Twenty-four Vivara GZ03 Woodstone Swift Nest Box Deep have been built into one of the walls of the new building. Attraction calls were switched on for the first time in May 2022. In 2023 Swift were seen entering boxes 1 and 16. In 2024 there was extraordinary at this project seen on multiple visits and Swifts were seen entering 18 of the 24 nest boxes.



13a. Site plan showing location of the Swift nest box project



13b. SE facing 24 built-in nest boxes with 18 occupied in 2024

Site No. 13: Ballina Dental Practice, Kevin Barry Street

Use of Building	Ballina Dental Practice
Eircode	F26 T6D7
Spatial Reference	54.11238005, -9.15927708
Protected Structure.	NIAH 31204017 built 1800-1838
Natural Nest Sites	1
No. Nest Boxes	0
No. Occupied Nest boxes	0
Aspect of Nests	E
Total Occupied Nests	1



14a. E facing natural nest site onto Kevin Barry Street

Site No. 14: Culleens National School, Killala Road

Use of Building	Culleens National School
Eircode	F26 FPA9
Spatial Reference	54.13768327,-9.16758657
Protected Structure.	No
Natural Nest Sites	0
No. Nest Boxes	8 (Vivara GZ03)
No. Occupied Nest boxes	0
Aspect of Nests	E
Total Occupied Nests	0

This is a new school building completed in March 2024 and calls switched on for the first time in 2024 with no Swifts seen.



15a. E facing with 4 nest boxes in 2 locations with an attraction call speaker in each location

Site No. 15: Gaelscoil na gCeithre Maol, Market Road

Use of Building	Gaelscoil na gCeithre Maol
Eircode	F26 N82Y
Spatial Reference	54.11611882,-9.15532351
Protected Structure.	No
Natural Nest Sites	0
No. Nest Boxes	3 (Schwegler 17A)
No. Occupied Nest boxes	0
Aspect of Nests	NE
Total Occupied Nests	0

In May 2024 the nest box project was launched and the attraction calls switched on.



16a. Schwegler 17A installed in May 2024



Site No. 16: Citizen's Information, Dillon Terrace

Use of Building	Citizen's Information
Eircode	F26 W218
Spatial Reference	54.11513778,-9.15054381
Protected Structure.	NIAH 31204056 RPS 31 built 1840-1890
Natural Nest Sites	1
No. Nest Boxes	0
No. Occupied Nest boxes	0
Aspect of Nests	SW
Total Occupied Nests	1

This is a new natural nest site identified during the 2024 survey.



17a. One natural nest site – identified in 2024

Site No. 17: IFI Storage building, Ridge Pool Road

Use of Building	IFI Storage Building
Eircode	F26 NY81
Spatial Reference	54.11046494,-9.15355861
Protected Structure.	No
Natural Nest Sites	0
No. Nest Boxes	6 (Schwegler 17A x 2)
No. Occupied Nest boxes	0
Aspect of Nests	NW
Total Occupied Nests	0

New Nest Box Project for 2024. Inland Fisheries Ireland installed 2 x Schwegler 17A nest boxes providing 6 nesting compartments in July 2024 and attraction calls were switched on at the time of installation.



18a. Two Schwegler 17A nest boxes installed by IFI in July 2024

Site No. 18: IFI Offices, Ardnaree House, Abbey Street

Use of Building	IFI Offices
Eircode	F26 K029
Spatial Reference	54.11180459,-9.15041506
Protected Structure.	No
Natural Nest Sites	0
No. Nest Boxes	6 (Schwegler 17A x 2)
No. Occupied Nest boxes	0
Aspect of Nests	NW
Total Occupied Nests	0

New Nest Box Project for 2024. Inland Fisheries Ireland installed 2 x Schwegler 17A nest boxes providing 6 nesting compartments in July 2024 and attraction calls were switched on at the time of installation.



19a. Two Schwegler 17A nest boxes installed by IFI in July 2024

Site No. 19: Ballina Union Workhouse, Lord Edward Street

Use of Building	Not in use (next door to HSE Ambulance Services Office)
Eircode	F26 E260
Spatial Reference	54.11377309,-9.16634202
Protected Structure.	NIAH 31204006 RPS 12 - built 1835 to 1845
Natural Nest Sites	3
No. Nest Boxes	0
No. Occupied Nest boxes	0
Aspect of Nests	W
Total Occupied Nests	3



20a. Three natural sites identified in 2024