



# SWIFT SURVEY REPORT 2024

## CASTLEBAR



Site No.	Address	Natural Nests Occupied	No. of Nest Boxes E=external B= Built-in	No. of Occupied Nest Boxes	Building Type	Protected Structure
1	Castle Street	2	0	0	Computeq Shop	No
2	Linenhall Street	2	6-E	2	Linenhall Arts Centre	NIAH/RPS
3	Upper Chapel St.	4	0	0	Former Monastery	NIAH/RPS
4	Old Westport Road	3	0	0	St Mary's Chapel	NIAH/RPS
5	Old Westport Road	6	0	0	St Mary's Hospital/HSE	NIAH/RPS
6	Knockacroghery	0	23-B	19	Lough Lannagh Leisure Centre	No
7	McHale Road	0	6-E	3	McHale Park GAA	No
8	Old Westport Road	7	18-E	15	ATU Mayo Campus	NIAH/RPS
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>30-E, 23-B</b>	<b>39</b>		

### Castlebar Summary Table

<b>Total Occupied Nests (natural and boxes)</b>	<b>63</b>
No. External Nest Boxes available	30
No. Built-in Nest Boxes available	23
No. External Nest Boxes occupied	20
No. Built-in Nest Boxes occupied	19
No. Natural nests occupied	24



# Castlebar

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: Computeq Shop, Rock House, Castle Street

Use of Building	Computeq Shop
Eircode	F23 WV74
Spatial Reference	53.85515288,-9.29780781
Protected Structure	No
Natural Nest Sites	2
Aspect of Nests	SE
Total Occupied Nests	2

The birds can gain access to the top of the wall plate via gaps behind the fascia board.



1a. Two natural nests facing SE



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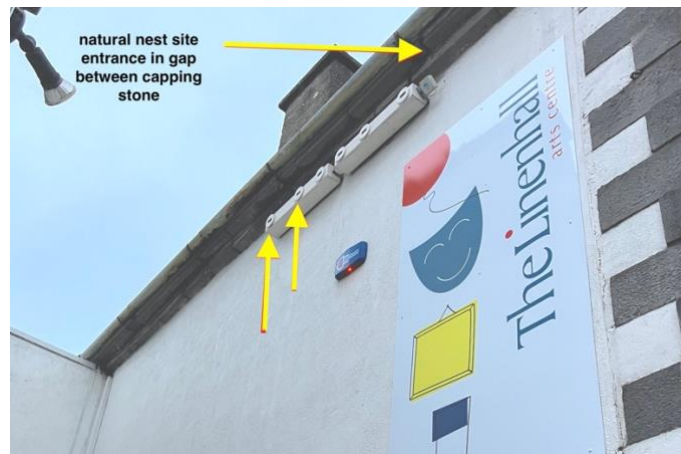


### Site No. 2: Linenhall Arts Centre, Linenhall Street

Use of Building	Linenhall Arts Centre
Eircode	F23 AN24
Spatial Reference	53.85808272,-9.29742426
Protected Structure Reg. No.	NIAH 31209038, RPS 358. Built 1785-95
Natural Nest Sites	2
No. Nest Boxes	6 (2 x Schwegler 17A installed 2014 with cameras)
No. Occupied Nest boxes	2
Aspect of Nests	NE, NW
Total Occupied Nests	4



2a. Natural Nest at back of the main building facing NE





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2b. NW facing wall 2 nest boxes occupied. In addition, there is 1 natural nest site which the Swifts get access to via a gap between the capping stones.



2c. The 6 nest boxes have cameras installed which can be viewed on TVs in the foyer of the Arts Centre for the duration of the breeding season – May to August each year. The TVs were funded through a grant from Castlebar GMA.



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### Site No. 3: De La Salle House - Monastery, Upper Chapel Street

Use of Building	De La Salle House – former Monastery
Eircode	F23 YT97
Spatial Reference	53.85839910,-9.30004478
Protected Structure	NIAH 31209043, RPS 241. Built 1885-95
Natural Nest Sites	4
Aspect of Nests	SE, SW
Total Occupied Nests	4



3a. 4 natural nest sites on the SE and SW facing aspects



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### Site No. 4: Old St Mary’s Chapel, Old Westport Road, Knockaphunta

Use of Building	Mayo Medical Academy (Old St Mary’s Chapel)
Eircode	F23 YV60
Spatial Reference	53.85121657,-9.30435240
Protected Structure	NIAH 31209002, RPS 23. Built 1885-1905
Natural Nest Sites	3
Aspect of Nests	S, N
Total Occupied Nests	3

This building is located across from Mayo University Hospital and next to St Mary’s Hospital/GMIT building. It was the chapel associated with the district lunatic asylum. Renovation of this building by NUIG took place from March to September 2015 for the Mayo Medical Academy. The architect and contractor adapted the renovation work to try to ensure the natural nest sites were retained and further nest hole entrances were provided. Prior to the renovation work there were 7 nest sites whereas in 2024 only 3 were in use (2 of the original nests and 1 new one).



4a. South facing, one original natural site occupied and chicks could be heard in nest site on 24 July 2024.



4b. North facing with two nest sites occupied. The nest site on the left is a new site whilst that on the right is one of the original nest sites preserved during building renovation.



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### Site No. 5: St Mary's Hospital, Old Westport Road, Knockaphunta

Use of Building	HSE (Health Service Executive)
Eircode	F23 HP58
Spatial Reference	53.85058368,-9.30472255
Protected Structure	NIAH 31209001, RPS 22. Built 1885-1870
Natural Nest Sites	6
Aspect of Nests	NE, SW
Total Occupied Nests	6

This building was originally the Castlebar District Lunatic Asylum.



5a. NE facing



5b. SW facing – the building was reroofed and the guttering replaced in late 2023 and early 2024 but thankfully this work did not block off the entrances to the natural nest sites



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### Site No. 6: Lough Lannagh Leisure Complex, Knockacroghery

Use of Building	Lough Lannagh Leisure Complex
Eircode	F23 A257
Spatial Reference	53.85047926,-9.31107938
Protected Structure Reg. No.	No
Natural Nest Sites	0
No. Nest Boxes	23 (8 x Schwegler 17A)
No. Occupied Nest boxes	19
Aspect of Nests	N, W
Total Occupied Nests	19

This new building was opened to the public in April 2019 but the exterior façade where the nest boxes are located was completed in 2018. Therefore, the attraction calls were initially switched on in May 2021. The project was funded by Mayo County Council. It has been an extremely successful project and most of the nest boxes have been occupied since 2021. The attraction calls have not been needed since 2021 because the colony is now very active and the Swift's social activity at the site acts as a natural attraction to prospecting Swifts.



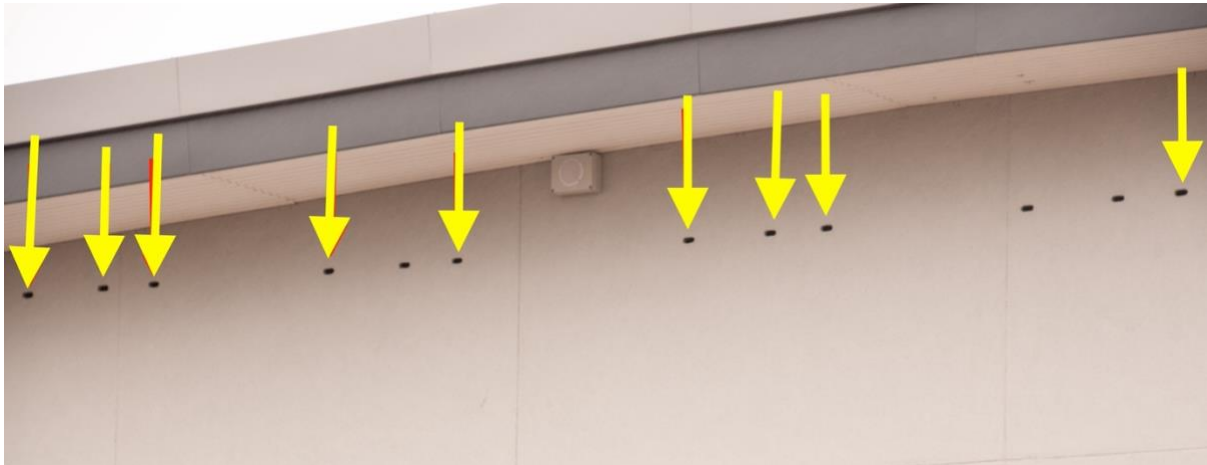
6a. Building design showing location of Swift nest boxes



6b. Swift 'screaming party' flying past the nest boxes on the north aspect



6c. Swift looking out of one of the nest boxes



6d. North facing with arrows indicating 9 out of 12 nest boxes occupied



6e. West facing with arrows indicating 10 of 11 nest boxes occupied



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### Site No. 7: McHale Park GAA Stadium, McHale Road

Use of Building	Castlebar Mitchells GAA Stadium
Eircode	F23 X651
Spatial Reference	53.85434919,-9.28449869
Protected Structure Reg. No.	No
Natural Nest Sites	0
No. Nest Boxes	6 (2 x Schwegler 17A)
No. Occupied Nest boxes	3
Aspect of Nests	N
Total Occupied Nests	3

This project was set up in 2023 with funding from Mayo CoCo. Heritage Office and support from Castlebar Mitchells Club who installed the nest boxes and who ensure attraction calls are switched on for the breeding season. There has been a very quick take-up of the project with 3 of the nest boxes confirmed occupied in 2024. Jarek Majkusiak recorded occupancy using heat-seeking equipment and confirmed by sightings of Swifts entering the nest boxes.



7a. 2023 installation of nest boxes



7b. Arrows indicate occupied nest boxes



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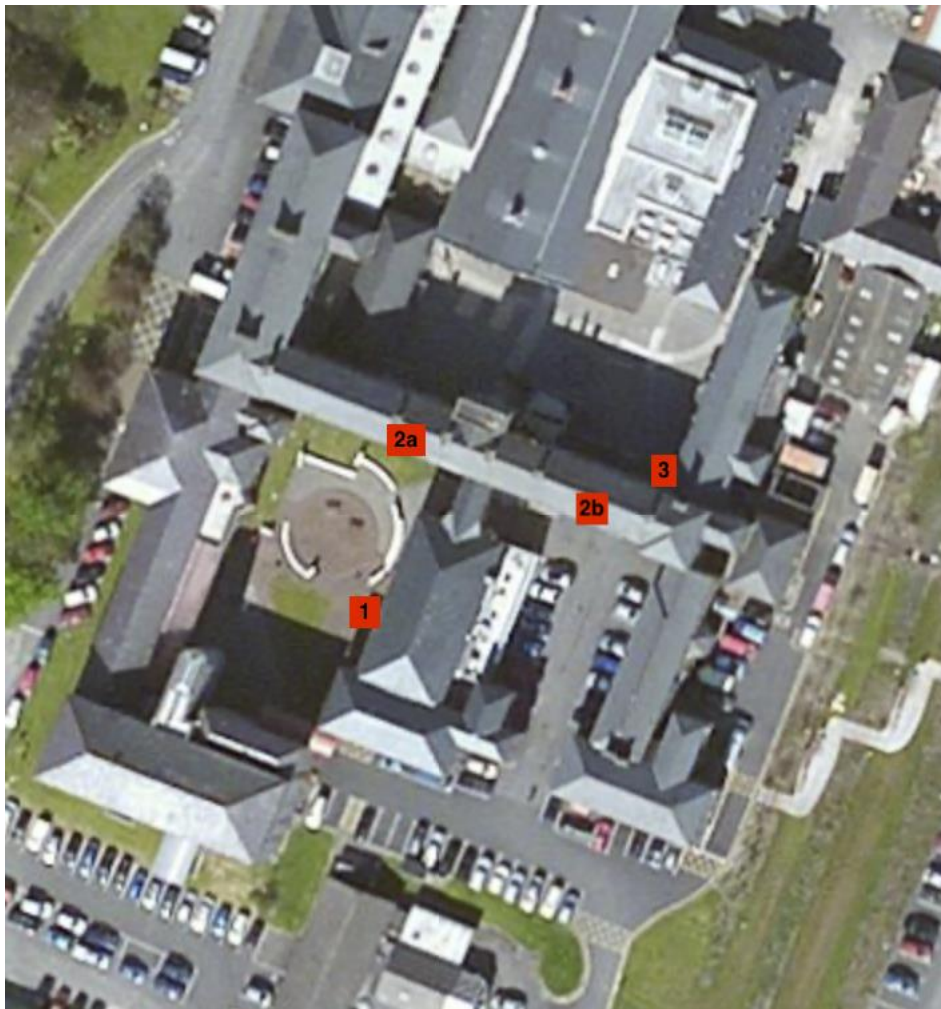
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### Site No. 8: ATU Mayo Campus, Old Westport Road, Knockaphunta

Use of Building	ATU Mayo Campus former Mental Hospital
Eircode	F23 X853
Spatial Reference	53.84923561,-9.30559158
Protected Structure Reg. No.	NIAH 3120900, RPS 20. Built 1855-70
Natural Nest Sites	7
No. Nest Boxes	18 (6 x Schwegler 17A – all nest boxes have cameras)
No. Occupied Nest boxes	15
Aspect of Nests	NW, NE, SW
Total Occupied Nests	22

The ATU Mayo Swift Nest Box project was set up in 2012. It was first nest box project installed on a public building in Southern Ireland.



8a. Overhead view of nest site locations. Site 1 is location of ATU nest box project. Sites 2a, 2b & 3 are locations of natural nest sites



8b. Site 1 ATU Mayo Nest Box Project – NW facing with 15 of the 18 nest boxes occupied



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8c. ATU Site 2a - SW facing with 3 natural nest sites



8d. ATU Site 2b – SW facing with 3 natural nest sites



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8e. Site 3 NE facing – 1 natural nest site. Swift can be seen at the entrance of the nest site