



Taking action to stop the catastrophic decline of Sheffield's swifts

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How to drill your soffit for swifts

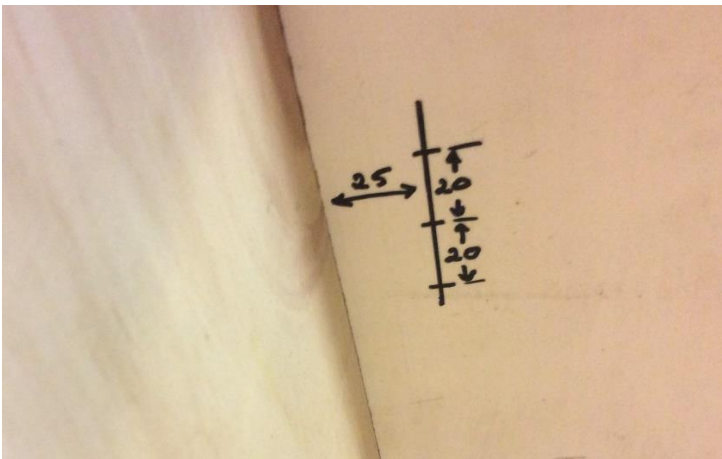
Disclaimer. The following is for guidance purposes. Please undertake your own research before commencing building works, and only proceed if you are experienced at working up ladders. Take all necessary safety precautions. (Fix ladders to wall. Wear a harness. Wear safety goggles. Wear gloves)

You will need 29mm holesaw and matching arbour. Final hole to allow access for swifts should measure 30mm x 65mm

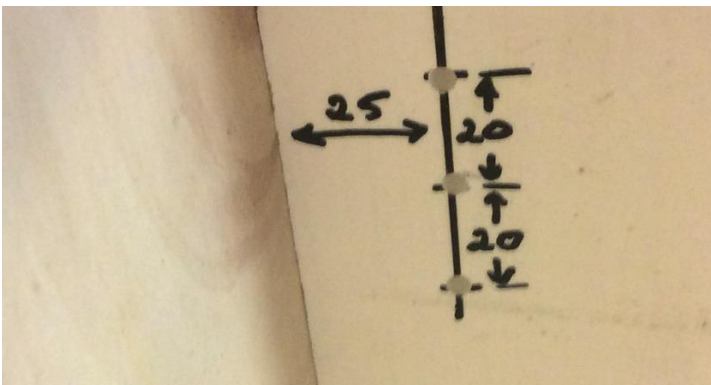
<https://www.toolstation.com/abracs-holesaw/p63747> <https://www.toolstation.com/holesaw-arbor/p42954>

For holes close to wall, mark a line 25mm from wall. For hole in mid soffit, mark first line 75mm to 150mm from wall.

1. Mark 3 points 20 mm apart on the line



2. Drill pilot holes (4mm) on cross lines





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3. Drill with 29mm holesaw



4. File or sand the points to 30mm across





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5. Take a rotary file and chamfer the side of hole closest to the wall. (To enable swift to grip)



6. View from above. (This would be inside soffit).



7. If the chamfer feels smooth, roughen with sharp scribe or screwdriver to enable swift to grip

8. Smooth all sharp edges with fine sandpaper/emery cloth.

A HUGE thanks to Len Riley from [Bolton and Bury Swifts](#) for painstakingly, reproducing the task and for detailing and photographing every step on our behalf – Thank you Len.