

SWALLOW METHOD STATEMENT

JANUARY 2026

Knowsley Industrial Park
WoodWard Road,
L33 7UW

U R B A N
G R E E N

QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Project No.:	UG3078				
Project:	Knowsley Industrial Park				
Location:	Woodward Road, Knowsley, Liverpool, L33 7UW				
Title:	Swallow Method Statement				
Document Type:	SMS	Issue No.:	01		
Date:	20/01/2026				
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Revision Status:					
Rev:	Date:	Issue/Purpose/Comment:	Prepared:	Checked:	

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Legend: Red Line Boundary		1 Kilometers		N	
Client:	Ryder & Granite Estates Limited	Issue:	01	Figure:	01
Project:	Knowsley Industrial Park	Scale @ A4		1:12000	
Title:	Site Context	Approved by:	CL	Checked by:	JH
Drawing Ref:	UG_3078_SITE_CONTEXT	Author:	CL	Date:	22/05/2025
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Legend

 Site Boundary

Bird Boxes

 Swallow Shed

 Swallow Cups

 Ridge / Eaves Swallow Box



U R B A N
G R E E N

Client:
Applied Nutrition

Project:
Knowsley Industrial Park

Title:
Location Options for Swallow Mitigation & Enhancement Opportunities

Issue:
01

Drawn: BIG	Checked: GS	Approved: GS
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Project: UG3078	Scale @ A3: NTS	Date: 19/01/2026
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Dwg No: UG_3078_ECO_SMS	Revision: 01
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1 Introduction

1.1 Background to the Scheme

- 1.1.1.1 Applied Nutrition is proposing to develop brownfield land at Knowsley Industrial Park in Liverpool (hereafter referred to as ‘the site’). The proposal includes the construction of a 75,000 sqft distribution warehouse featuring a three-storey ancillary office block, associated parking and landscaping.
- 1.1.1.2 Urban Green has been instructed to produce a Swallow Method Statement (SMS) in order to satisfy Condition 9 relating to Ecology.
- Condition 9 states:
- “No development shall take place (including any demolition, ground works, site clearance) until a method statement for swallow has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.”**

1.2 Site Context

- 1.2.1.1 The site is located at Knowsley Industrial Park, SJ 43708 993622 and comprises a total area of approximately 1.42ha (see Figure 1).
- 1.2.1.2 The site is located to the east of Kirkby and forms part of Knowsley Industrial Park. Historically the site has formed part of the Syntor Chemicals Plant and was subject to the storage of hazardous materials, undergoing remediation in 2015. On all aspects, the site is bounded by operational industrial development, which experiences a moderate level of vehicle and foot traffic. The site is isolated from the wider rural landscape which lies to the north and east of the site, by a network of main roads, urban development, and lack of interspersed natural habitats. Several water bodies are present within the wider landscape, namely Simonswood Brook and series of ponds, the closest of which is located within 440m of the site.

1.3 Ecological Background

- 1.3.1.1 A Preliminary Ecological Assessment (PEA) was carried out at the site on 4th June 2025 by Georgia Selvey (Ecologist, BSc), and Jake Healy (Senior Ecologist, MSc, MCIEEM). The findings of the assessment indicate that the site has the potential to support a range of amber- and red-listed Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC), with suitability for foraging, commuting, and nesting activities. Whilst there is also potential for Schedule 1 species to occur on site in a foraging and commuting context only. During the Preliminary Ecological Assessment (PEA), no evidence of swallows was recorded, however, evidence of nesting birds including a historic swift (*Apus apus*) nest and scattered droppings within B1, and a nesting pair of herring gulls (*Larus argentatus*) were recorded on site.

1.4 Legislation

- 1.4.1.1 All wild birds, their active nests, and eggs are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure, or take any wild bird, or to damage, destroy, or disturb an active nest or its contents.

1.5 Purpose of Report

- 1.5.1.1 The purpose of this method statement is to set out the mitigation measures to be implemented during the construction phase, together with the enhancement measures to be delivered post-development for the proposed scheme.
- 1.5.1.2 This Method Statement, therefore, will include details of the following:
- Roles and responsibilities;
 - Precautionary Methods of Works;
 - Compensation and enhancement methods;
 - Monitoring, and;
 - Work schedule.

2 Work Schedule and Method Details

2.1 Roles and Responsibilities

- 2.1.1.1 All operations on site will be the overarching responsibility of the Site Manager.
- 2.1.1.2 A Project Ecologist should be appointed to oversee the construction phase of the proposed development. An appointed Project Ecologist will consult with the Site Manager to ensure that all site staff are appropriately inducted to the site and are aware of their legal responsibilities regarding wildlife legislation. Updates between the Project Ecologist and Site Manager, regarding ecology, are to be maintained at regular intervals, with updates provided at least on a quarterly basis.
- 2.1.1.3 The Site Manager shall be responsible to ensure all site contractors are aware of appropriate mitigations and methodologies set out within this report, prior to their involvement in any construction activities. The Site Manager shall also be responsible for the monitoring and maintenance of artificial compensation and enhancement measures implemented on site, including the documentation of any remediations and monitoring efforts.
- 2.1.1.4 The Project Ecologist will supervise works where necessary.

2.2 Precautionary Methods of Works

- 2.2.1.1 A toolbox talk will be delivered to all operatives prior to works commencing. This will include an overview of species biology, species legal protection, and the precautionary method of works.
- 2.2.1.2 Demolition, vegetation clearance, soil stripping and other disruptive works should be conducted outside of the primary nesting season which is March to September (inclusive). If this is not practicable, an ecologist, should conduct a nesting bird check of vegetation and all buildings within 48 hours of works commencing.
- 2.2.1.3 Pre-commencement checks outside of nesting bird season (October to February, inclusive) should be carried out by a suitable contractor to determine the presence of year-round nesting birds, to establish the presence and number of swallow nests within the site.
- 2.2.1.4 If any active bird nests are found, an appropriate protective buffer (>10m) should be established around the nest and works delayed in that area until the young have fledged and the nest is no longer in use. Should an absence of nesting bird activity be observed, works should proceed in a timely manner, within 48 hours of a nesting bird check.
- 2.2.1.5 Any onsite vegetation clearance should proceed in a phased and directional manner, beginning at one end of the site and progressing slowly to allow any ground nesting birds to move away naturally.
- 2.2.1.6 Hand tools should be used to start all clearance works, before introducing heavier machinery.

2.3 Compensation and Enhancement

- 2.3.1.1 Where pre-commencement checks identify evidence of historic or active swallow nests, like-for-like compensation will be provided as a minimum. Where practicable, this will be supplemented by additional on-site enhancement measures through the provision of further suitable nesting opportunities.
- 2.3.1.2 All like-for-like compensatory nesting provisions and enhancement measures such as the installation of additional swallow nesting cups, shall be installed in advance of the bird breeding season (March to September inclusive).
- 2.3.1.3 The provision of at least four artificial nesting opportunities such as Schwegler No 10 Swallow Nest Cup (See Appendix 2) should be installed internally or externally on the completed warehouse, where practicable, as part of site enhancement measures.
- 2.3.1.4 Installation specifications include:
- Located at least 2m from ground level;
 - Maintain a clearance of 6cm between the nest cup top and the ceiling;
 - Not be vertically stacked;
 - Internal installation must be close to roof beams or ceiling junctions;
 - External installation must be sheltered from elements, under eaves;
 - Placement should avoid artificial lighting;
 - Installed away from direct draughts or prevailing winds
 - Installed away from areas of high disturbance, and;
 - Have direct external access.
- 2.3.1.5 All artificial nesting features must be installed prior to nesting season following the completion of the development, have a horizontal spacing of at least 1m apart, and should comprise of multiple nest cups to allow the potential establishment of a breeding colony.
- 2.3.1.6 Nesting cups should be left in situ and cleaned once every 1-2 years, outside of breeding bird season March to September (inclusive) and where they are confirmed to be inactive by an ecologist or suitably qualified contractor. Cleaning will be limited to the removal of droppings using appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and without the use of chemicals or water.
- 2.3.1.7 Where droppings are a health and safety concern, the installation of dropping boards such as Schwegler Droppings Board for House Martin & Swallow Nests SKU 10109 (see Appendix 2) may be carried out at the same time as initial nest cup installation. These boards should be cleaned annually, outside of breeding bird season March to September, (Inclusive).

- 2.3.1.8 Should the proposed development be un-suitable for the provision of internal or external swallow nesting cups, alternative measures will be implemented. These will comprise either the installation of a single dedicated swallow shed, or the provision of eaves or ridge-mounted overhang nest boxes with nesting cups installed within.
- 2.3.1.9 Where a swallow shed is provided, it will comprise an open-fronted, weather-proof timber-frame structure constructed of rough wood. The shed should preferably be east-facing and orientated away from prevailing winds and will be located within an area of low disturbance. The structure will incorporate artificial swallow nesting cups, installed in accordance with the specifications set out in Section 2.3. Where structural features such as roof joists create visual separation between potential nesting locations, it may be appropriate for nesting cups to be installed at reduced horizontal distances, rather than adhering strictly to the standard 1m spacing (see Appendix 2).
- 2.3.1.10 The provision of external eaves or ridge-mounted swallow nesting boxes where suitable shelter for external cup fitting is not available may be used as an alternative nesting measure where required. Such boxes shall be installed in locations that provide protection from direct rainfall and prevailing winds. Each box will measure at least 1000 mm (W) × 600 mm (H) × 300 mm (D) and will be installed at the eaves ridges of the completed buildings, preferably orientated east or south-east. The boxes will be open-fronted or open-bottomed, fully enclosed above and to the rear, and will incorporate a roughened internal surface or ledge and contain artificial swallow nesting cups, appropriately spaced, to facilitate nesting. Permanent, unobstructed access to all nesting boxes will be maintained at all times. Installation of such boxes should follow guidance set out in Section 2.3. Should this option be chosen, nesting box installation will account for at least four nesting cups to be installed as part of site enhancement, with additional cups installed as part of any required like-for-like compensation.
- 2.3.1.11 The methods listed above: installation of nesting cups, a dedicated swallow shed, and ridge/eaves box represent the three compensation and enhancement options suitable for the site. Only one option type, following subsequent guidance specified above, is required. In consideration of the proposed development, the site context, ecological connectivity, and the absence of evidence for swallow nesting identified on site (Urban Green, 2025), the installation of external swallow cups, where suitably sheltered, is considered the most appropriate option given the site's nature, location, and operational function, and is likely the most effective measure to encourage swallow to nest on site.
- 2.3.1.12 Suggested suitable installation locations for each of the potential compensation and mitigation options listed above are displayed in Figure 2.

2.4 Monitoring

- 2.4.1.1 Annual checks should be carried out on all artificial nesting features on site ensuring they remain fit for purpose and in good condition. Should a nesting feature be damaged or compromised, the Site Manager shall be responsible for immediate remediation. Documentation of any such remediation works must be retained by the Site Manager should the Local Planning Authority wish to review or monitor the site.

3 Works Schedule

- 3.1.1.1 The schedule of works, pertaining to pre-commencement and post development works, monitoring and maintenance are set out in Table 1, below.

Table 1. Schedule of works pertaining to swallows and nesting birds on site.

Task	Timing	Responsible person
Nesting bird checks (during nesting bird season).	(March – Sept, inclusive).	Ecologist
Nesting bid checks (outside nesting season).	October – February, inclusive.	Ecologist or suitably qualified contractor
Implementation of precautionary working methods.	Anytime of the year.	Project Ecologist and Site Manager
Compensatory nesting mitigation.	Prior to commencement of works and nesting bird season (March – Sept, inclusive).	Project Ecologist and Site Manager
Nesting swallow enhancements.	Following completion of the proposed development, prior to nesting bird season (March – Sept, inclusive).	Project Ecologist and Site Manager
Artificial nest monitoring.	Annually.	Site manager or suitably qualified contractor
Artificial nest and dropping board maintenance.	Every 1 – 2 years, outside nesting bird season (March – Sept, inclusive).	Site manager or suitably qualified contractor

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Appendix 1 – Relevant Legislation

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) it is an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take certain animals listed in Schedule 5;
- Intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy any structure or place which any wild animal specified in Schedule 5 uses for shelter or protection;
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any such animal while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection; or
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place which any such animal uses for shelter or protection.

In addition, under this legislation there are offences relating to sale, possession and control of wild animals listed in Schedule 5.

Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 it is an offence to:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill any wild animal listed as a European Protected Species;
- Deliberately disturb wild animals of any such species in such a way as to be likely: to impair their ability:
 - to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young, or;
 - in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate, or;
- To affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.
- Deliberately take or destroy the eggs of such an animal, or;
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal.

In addition, under this legislation there are offences relating to possession, control sale and exchange of an EPS.

Breeding Birds

All birds, their nests and eggs are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and it is an offence, with certain exceptions, to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built;
- Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird; and
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building or is in, on or near a nest with eggs or young; or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 provides further protection for selected species (including peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), barn owl (*Tyto alba*), little ringed plover (*Charadrius dubius*) and black redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) during the breeding season. If any person

intentionally or recklessly disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or disturb dependent young of such a bird. That person shall be guilty of an offence.

A number of bird species are listed as SoPI under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006.

Conservation status - Birds of Conservation Concern (Eaton et al. 2015)

The UK's leading bird conservation organisations have worked together on the third quantitative review of the status of the birds that occur regularly in the UK, updating the last review in 2011. The status of birds within the UK have been regularly monitored through a series of surveys, including the national Breeding Bird Survey, Common Bird Census, sea bird monitoring programs and wetland monitoring programs. The result of this review and continued monitoring is The Population Status of Birds in the UK, Birds of Conservation Concern 4: 2015.

Birds are assessed against criteria to place each species on one of three alert lists, red, amber or green. Red list species are considered to be of high conservation concern, being either globally threatened, having historical UK population declines, having a rapid population decline or breeding range contraction of 50% or more in the last 25 years.

Amber list species are considered to be of medium conservation concern as they meet one or more of the following criteria (but none of the red list criteria): Red listed for historical decline in a previous review but with substantial recent recovery (more than doubled in the last 25 years), a UK breeding range contraction of between 25% and 49%, a reduction of breeding or non-breeding population of 25-49% in the last 25 years, a 5-year mean of 1-300 breeding pairs in the UK, an unfavourable European conservation status, at least 50% of the UK breeding population found in 10 or fewer sites, or where the breeding population in the UK represents 20% or more of the European breeding populations.

Green list species are considered to be of low conservation concern. They include all regularly occurring species that do not qualify under any of the red or amber criteria are green listed. The green list also includes those species listed as recovering from Historical Decline in the last review that have continued to recover and do not qualify under any of the other criteria.

Appendix 2 – Artificial Nesting Opportunities

<i>Nesting provision</i>	<i>Installation</i>	<i>Example</i>
Schwegler No 10 Swallow Nest Cup	Internal installation - must have direct external access at all times.	
Dedicated swallow shed	External installation - open fronted timber frame shed with artificial nesting cups installed within the structure.	
Ridge or eaves mounted swallow box	External installation – open fronted or open bottomed boxes with internal ledge and/or artificial nesting cups.	
Dropping board	Internal and external installation – where droppings are a concern, may be fitted beneath nesting features.	