

UK HOUSE MARTIN SURVEY 2015

COLONY CODES (FULL VERSION)



These codes need to be used on the Colony information form when carrying out the main site visits.

Building Type

Buildings such as public houses, hotels, police stations and shops should be described as Detached, Semi-detached or Terrace as appropriate (e.g. if they are located in a stand-alone building include them in the 'Detached' category). If the 'Other' category is used, please provide further details in the Colony Details/Notes column.

DET = Detached – a building containing one main unit that is not attached to other buildings. Include inns, hotels, small blocks of flats and police stations in this category if they are located in a stand-alone building.

SEM = Semi-detached – a building containing two dwelling or other units. Usually it will be clear that there are two main entrances to the unit, with clearly demarcated gardens.

TER = Terrace – a row of dwelling or other units that are all attached to each other. Any nests on the end of the terrace should still be included in this category.

BAR = Barn – an agricultural building used for storage (e.g. of grain, hay, livestock, machinery etc.).

FAC = Factory/industrial building – a building where goods are manufactured or stored. Include industrial units such as distribution centres in this category as well as large retail units such as out-of-town shopping centres.

MUN = Municipal Building or similar – usually large and complex, building structures, including schools, hospitals and council offices. These will often be municipal (local government) buildings, but other similar structures such as universities, large blocks of flats and office complexes should also be included in this category.

WOR = Place of worship – a building specifically built as a religious meeting place, including, for example, chapels converted to dwellings. Where a previously existing building structure has later been converted into a place of worship, it should be recorded in one of the other categories as appropriate (e.g. detached, terrace).

CLI = Cliff or other natural nest site – Use this category to record any nests that are located on natural structures such as cliffs and rocky outcrops.

BRI = Bridge

OTH = Other – this may include birds nesting on other man-made structures such as water towers or jetties. If this category is used, please provide further details in the box provided for Comments about colonies.

Building Age

The approximate age of the building age should be estimated. If you are undecided between two age categories, record the age as the older of the two categories.

NEW = constructed since 1990

MOD = constructed between 1945 and 1989

MID = constructed between 1919 and 1944

OLD = constructed before 1919

UNK = unknown

Number of storeys

Please record the number of storeys for the building on which the colony is located. For non-residential structures, such as bridges and water towers, the number of storeys should be recorded as '1'.

Wall surface

Use the following codes to record the type of wall surface material, *i.e.* the material on the vertical surface as opposed to the soffit. If you select 'Other', please give details in the 'Colony Details/Notes' column.

BK = Brick

ST = Stone

PD = Pebbledash

WD = Wood

PL = PVC or equivalent (plastic)

ML = Metal

OT = Other

UK = Unknown/unspecified. This code can also be used if two or more answers apply for the same colony, although where practical in this situation please record the different wall surfaces separately by splitting the colony over two or more rows on the form.

Soffit type

The soffit is the underside of a structure (*i.e.* the underside of the eaves). Record the type of soffit, using the codes below. If you select 'Other', please give details in the 'Colony Details/Notes' column.

PL = PVC or equivalent (plastic)

WD = Wood

ML = Metal

OT = Other

UK = Unknown/unspecified. Select this option if you are unable to tell what the soffit type is. This code can also be used if two or more answers apply for the same colony, although where practical in this situation please record the different soffit types separately by splitting the colony over two or more rows on the form.

Aspect of nests

The approximate compass direction faced by any nest should be recorded as N, NE, E, SE, S, SW, W or NW. The code '>1' can be used if two or more answers apply for the same colony, although where practical in this situation please record each aspect separately by splitting the colony over two or more rows on the form.

Nest height (top of which storey)

Please record which storey the nest is located at. For example, where the nests are at the top of the second storey, this should be recorded as '2'. Nests in a gable at roof level should be recorded as being on the top storey even if the gable protrudes above the level of the top storey. If the nest is located on a structure that does not have storeys, please record the height as '1'.

Example: I find a colony on a two-storey house, with nests under the eaves and another at the top of the gable end (*i.e.* level with the attic). I use two rows, one for the eaves and the other for the gable end and record the nest heights as '2' for both.

Nest location

Please record the location of the nest using the categories in the table below. If you select 'Other', please give details in the 'Colony Details/Notes' column.

EV = Under eaves – nests located under eaves on a horizontal part of the roof. *The eaves are the part of a roof that overhangs the wall of a building.*

GT = At the top of a gable – nests located at the top of a gable. *A gable is a (usually) triangular portion of a wall between the edges of a dual pitched roof.*

GO = Under a gable but not at the top – nests located along the sloping edges of a gable.

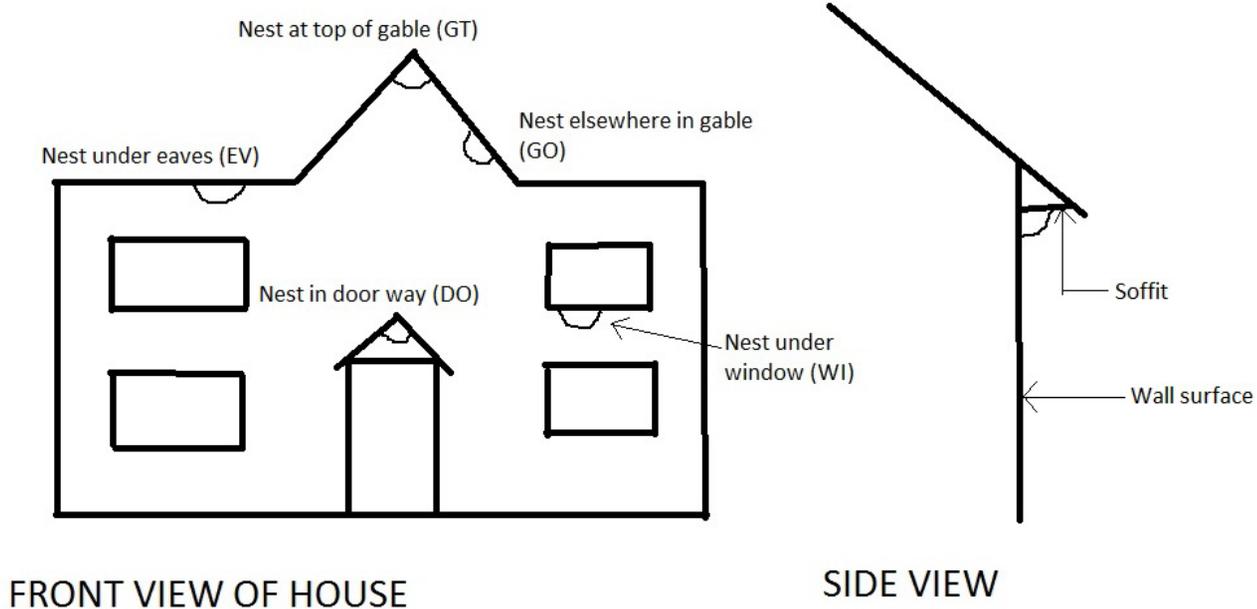
WI = attached to a window or under a window ledge – nests attached to part of a window, or underneath a window ledge.

DO = within a doorway – nests in the door way or within a porch.

OT = Other – Please use for any nest locations that do not fit in any of the above categories.

UK = Unknown/unspecified – This code can be used when the behaviour of the birds indicate a nest is present but you are unable to see the exact location of the nest. It can also be used if two or more answers apply for the same colony, although where practical in this situation please record the different nest locations separately by splitting the colony over two or more rows on the form.

DIAGRAM OF TERMS



Other definitions

COLONY: For the purposes of this survey, a colony is defined as one or more nests on a single structure.

COMPLETE NEST

A complete nest is a nest with a fully built structure (apart from the entrance hole), which is therefore ready to be used for nesting. Artificial nests are always considered as complete nests, unless they are broken. *Note that complete nests that are being used by another species (e.g. House Sparrow) should be excluded from the total count as they are not available for House Martins to use.*

OCCUPIED NEST

A nest should be counted as occupied if **it is complete and you see (or hear) any of the following evidence.**

- An adult House Martin entering or leaving the nest.
- Audible young heard, or young House Martins peeking out of the nest.
- A pile of droppings that have clearly originated from the nest during the current breeding season.

Example 1:



Both the left hand and centre nests are complete and occupied, with an adult visible in the left hand nest and a young bird in the centre nest. The right hand nest is damaged and is therefore neither complete nor occupied. A count of 2 complete nests and 2 occupied nests should be input.

Example 2:



The left hand nest is incomplete so should not be counted as occupied even though birds can be seen in the nest. The right hand nest is complete but there are no signs of occupation, so a count of 1 complete nest and 0 occupied nests should be input.