

The Eel Pie Island Sand Martin Bank



The TLS has constructed a series of sand martin banks along the river to encourage the return of this once common riparian bird. Due to habitat destruction, the sand martin was a rare visitor to the Arcadian Thames although their numbers are now increasing due to the artificial banks at Richmond, Eel Pie and Hampton Court.

The sand martin bank consists of a small 'shed' with a series of holes (over the water) leading to individual nesting boxes. In addition, the bank has nests for kingfishers and bat roosts. It was constructed in 2008 and has been occupied each summer since. The sand martin bank needs regular maintenance.

The nesting boxes need to be cleaned twice a year and any repairs made. Volunteers from the Petersham Sea Scouts carry out much of this work.

Total Cost of Project: £1,500 p.a including volunteer management. Sponsorship is available on an annual basis which includes sole naming rights, a special one-off event and full press coverage.