

UK – Preserving the Black Poplar

Willington Quarry in Derbyshire is helping preserve the Black Poplar a native tree species. The species is in decline across North West Europe and because the plant normally grows in isolation the offspring are often hybrids. So to preserve the phenotype, staff at Willington Quarry have created a nursery where the trees are fertilised on site and grown on ready for future planting.

Willington is a sand and gravel quarry which sits on the confluence of the Trent and Dove rivers so conditions on site are ideal for the tree.



GERMANY – Creating a Meadow Orchard for all to enjoy.

Growing orchards has become a declining agricultural practice. So to encourage growth of a new meadow orchard Cemex Germany have planted out a new fruit orchard at Museum Park, Rüdersdorf. Traditional orchards support a diverse range of plant and animal species and offer many benefits for Biodiversity. The fruit trees need to be carefully pruned so with expert help from Anke Kurz and Kai Gildhorn from mundruab e.V., Cemex employees and 25 residents from Rüdersdorf have taken part in workshops and organised pruning events. The orchard was planted out in 2019 and the employees and residents are starting to see the fruits of their labour as the trees start to take shape.



POLAND – Cemex Falcons

This year, we are continuing and expanding the kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) protection project at Chelm and Rudniki Cement Plants. We started the season by hanging 6 additional nesting boxes at our cement plants, and we donated another 20 to a non-governmental organization cooperating with us. As every year, the birds are supervised by an ornithologist from the University, who will study and ring them during the season. We also conduct ecological education - we inform about how to support the protection of kestrels through social media, press and radio. In addition, on our website we provide an online live broadcast from three nesting boxes and we keep a calendar describing the most important events in the life of birds and interesting facts about them. To engage Internet users even more in the project, this year we organized a competition for the most interesting observations from our nesting boxes.



FRANCE – Something to Celebrate - 20 years of partnership with the LPO

2023 sees the 20th Anniversary of the partnership between Cemex France and the LPO. Working with the NGO has given both parties many benefits. Cemex now has a deeper understanding of Biodiversity and has many initiatives around making sure species and habitats are enhanced at Cemex sites across France. So much so that in 2016 Cemex France received the ECOCERT label as well as being recognised by the Ministry of Ecology as a "Enterprises Engagées pour la nature". It's a testament to how well the partnership has worked. 20 years is a real achievement. The first National Partnership in the EMEA region and an example for others to follow.



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Croatia: Sites of Community Importance.

Croatia has 6 years to implement species and habitat management plans as part of the legal requirements associated with the SIC – Sites of Community Importance. The quarries at Sveti Juraj and Sveti Kajo sit close to the Mosor, Kozjar & Trogirsko zagora conservation areas important for birds but also because of their habitat and species – especially Kozjar. The plan for 2023 is to work with local stakeholders to produce a management plan to maintain the ecological integrity of the site and establish conservation measures to protect species and habitats.



SPAIN – Sandmartin Management

Sand Martins are protected birds that are often found nesting in sand stocks in active gravel pits. A habitat for this species was constructed at an operational extraction site in northeast Spain. The design took into account all of the Sand Martin's habitat requirements. The habitat consists of a sand stock, built on a platform that overlooks a naturalized decanting pond. This allows the birds to have easy access to food, even during the Mediterranean dry summer. The location is also protected from machine transit and people. The objective of this action is to create a safe space for the birds to nest, and avoid them nesting in active stocks. This way, we aim to promote the reconciliation between mining and biodiversity conservation. This initiative is aligned with the Extractive Sector Species Protection Code of Conduct.



Czech Republic – Spring Cleaning at Prachovice quarry

Last year we reported on work at Prachovice to install 70 bird boxes. These included boxes for smaller song birds, Starlings, bats and Tawny Owls. So it's really good to receive an update from the Czech Sustainability Team and the Plant Manager Karol Czubara. After checks by staff and volunteers we can report that close to 100% of the Songbird and Starling boxes were used. 60% of the bat boxes were used and 40% of the Tawny Owl boxes. The Tawny Owls where a significant success with chicks born during 2022 checked and ringed. The occupancy rate during the first year exceeded all expectations. So after such a successful year the team at Prachovice carried out some cleaning and repairs to the boxes over winter, so they were ready for their spring visitors return.

