

Sand Martins



Cemex UK Sand Martin Code



Natural Sand martin nesting habitat has reduced dramatically leading this iconic species to seek refuge in our quarries. As an industry, we must welcome nature into our working practices and do everything we can to protect this species.

Legal Requirement

If Sand martins colonise an active quarry face, sand or dust stockpiles then all work must stop between **March and August inclusive**. All birds and their nests are fully protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird.

It is also an offence to intentionally take damage or destroy their eggs or nests while they are in use or being built, **this includes their scratching behaviour at the start of the nest building process.**

Nesting burrows can be up to 1m in length, and therefore vehicle movement must be stopped above the vicinity of the colony as this could cause the tunnels to collapse, potentially making the face unstable.

THE SANDMARTIN CODE

1 Before each nesting season, **set aside** a suitable vertical face for sand martins. This should *ideally* be a different face than one used in previous years, and must be away from the main quarrying areas to avoid any potential conflict.

2 Before each nesting season, re-profile **active faces to 45°** to make them less attractive to Sand martins. This may have to be done on a daily basis, as Sand martins may colonise a face over-night.

3 Place **netting** over those active faces that it is not practical to re-profile. This should discourage sand martins from becoming established.

4 Regularly check all operational faces for evidence of sand martin nests, particularly after quarry closures e.g., Easter. Remember, **Sand martins are protected while they are showing their scratching behaviour during early nest building.**

5 Clearly **mark out areas** which must not be disturbed with cones, tape and signs and routinely monitor activities, making changes to these marked areas as necessary.

6 Consider the effect of passing **machinery** to ensure that it does not cause damage / disturbance through vibrations.



Ensure that all personnel are aware of individual and company obligations prevent harm to this iconic species.