

# Earthly Matters



## Cemex & RSPB Partnership Blog January 2025



Welcome to the January 2025 edition of **Earthly Matters**, the blog dedicated to the partnership between Cemex and the RSPB.



### Partnership Update

**Carl Cornish, RSPB Senior Business Conservation Adviser, has recently joined the Cemex / RSPB partnership and shares his first partnership update.**

I'm now a couple of months into my new role as the Senior Business Conservation Adviser for the RSPB – Cemex Partnership. This time has been spent meeting the Cemex people I'm working with and how my role fits into and supports Cemex ways of working. Everyone has been welcoming so far. I've been working with Tina Baxter on putting a plan for this year's blogs; having meetings with Sean Cassidy about his biodiversity role; and working with Mark Kelly and his planning team. Planning work has included a meeting with the owner of a new site and commenting on restoration plans for a quarry extension.



This month I've visited West Heath in the South Downs National Park. This sand quarry has some areas already restored to Lowland Heathland, a conservation priority habitat. The UK is nationally important for the Lowland Heathlands of Northwestern Europe, but over 80% has been lost over the last couple of centuries to land use change. Because of its nutrient-poor soils it was considered a waste land to be used for conifer plantations, developments and then ploughed when artificial fertilisers became available.

At West Heath I was impressed with the mosaic of heathers and bare ground with lichens and mosses. Such areas are important for many specialist insects, reptiles and birds. Areas of bare ground being colonised by vegetation are rare in the wider countryside and quarrying is one of the few drivers for creating these habitats.



### National Nest Box Week – 14th to 21st February

National Nest Box week raises awareness of providing nest boxes for hole-nesting species. Birds that will use hole type nest boxes are House and Tree Sparrows; Blue, Coal and Great Tits; Pied Flycatchers and Redstarts. Nest boxes with an open front can be used by Robins, Spotted Flycatchers and Wrens. There is also scope for these traditional nest boxes, and more specialist ones, on buildings and at sites.

♥ Looking for a Valentines gift? What gift says 'I love you' more than a nest Box?

📧 We're interested to know of instances of birds nesting in unusual places on your sites. It's surprising what birds will find to nest in that replicated a natural hole. Let us know at the email address below.

### Actions for Nature

- Please remember to clean bird tables and feeders to help keep the birds using them healthy. [How and When to Feed Birds in Your Garden](#)
- Submit Big Garden Birdwatch results if you take part.
- Visit a wetland site to celebrate World Wetlands Day <https://www.worldwetlandsday.org/about>. Or it could be that you work at a site with a waterbody. Many quarries are some the country's best wetland areas. We'd be interested to hear about your visit and what you see.

If you'd like further information or advice about any of the topics in this blog please contact Carl Cornish at [carl.cornish@rspb.org.uk](mailto:carl.cornish@rspb.org.uk)

**RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch**  
**24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> January** - Get involved by visiting the [RSPB website](#).



### Send us your stories and photos

We are looking for staff stories to include in upcoming blogs, these can be experiences from work or home. We would love to share them in an upcoming blog. Send them in to: [gb-communicationsandpublicaffairs@cemex.com](mailto:gb-communicationsandpublicaffairs@cemex.com)

