



Welcome to UK News
23rd January 2025
Your bi-weekly update from around Cemex UK
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HEALTH & SAFETY

Latest Safety Alert



The latest Safety Alert details a high potential incident where eight of the 12 mounting bolts securing a mixer truck drum were found to be missing. If the drum had broken free while the mixer truck was travelling on the highway, it had the potential to result in a very serious incident.

You can read the Alert at the end of this document and on the UK News download page: www.cemexuknews.co.uk/downloads

The Alert reminds us of the importance of effective pre-use checks, backed up with regular / robust inspection and defect reporting schemes in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.

Please review the Alert with your team(s) as appropriate, taking any necessary remedial action where shortfalls in processes are identified.

Please display the Alert on relevant notice boards.

Look after yourself and each other. Health and Safety information and resources can be found at the following location:

<https://cemex.sharepoint.com/sites/UKHealthandSafety/SitePages/Safety-Alerts.aspx?web=1>

LTI Milestone Achievement

Congratulations to everyone in North East Materials UK who have recently celebrated their 8 years LTI free milestone. This is a significant milestone – well done.

LTI and TRI milestones demonstrate that ZERO is possible, even with challenging environments and working processes. With the right level of focus and attention to Health & Safety, our Zero4Life objective can be met and sustained.



Staying Safe in Adverse Weather Conditions

With the recent adverse weather, it is crucial to be aware of the risks associated with icy conditions around our workplaces, and to mitigate these as much as possible. Slips Trips and Falls are our main cause of incidents during winter months.

This week our UK operations have suffered three incidents directly relating to ice: a contractor slipped on the ice while walking onto site resulting in a fracture to a bone in their ankle. In this instance, the contractor used the vehicle access, rather than the pedestrian entrance. It was subsequently identified that the pedestrian access gate was frozen shut, a situation that had occurred previously.



At another site an arctic vehicle entered the yard, the driver lost control due to the icy conditions, resulting in a collision with the stairway adjacent to the bay. The impact caused the platform to penetrate the cab through the windscreen, leading to considerable damage – see image. Fortunately, the driver did not suffer any injuries, although he was understandably shaken by the event. This incident was recorded as a HiPo. Another incident earlier in the day at the same site, involved the driver of a loading shovel losing control on the ice and striking the barrier surrounding the settlement pit. Again, there were no injuries reported, but there was damage to the barrier.

These incidents highlight the importance for Site Managers to:

- Assess the level of risk relating to the icy conditions and, where necessary, restricting access or closing a site until conditions are safe to continue.
- Following an incident, act swiftly to remove the hazards to avoid a repeat incident.
- Report and resolve known issues relating to icy conditions in a timely manner to avoid unsafe behaviours, ensuring they are documented through the near miss / hazard alert system.

Slips on ice can result in various injuries, from minor bruises to severe fractures and head injuries. Injuries can lead to time off work, affecting productivity and team dynamics. Incidents leading to damaged vehicles and buildings can increase costs and have a direct impact on both our company and our customers and contractors.

To ensure everyone's safety, please ensure these steps are followed:

Ways to reducing risks caused by ice:

- ❄️ If conditions are severe, assess if access needs to be restricted or sites need to be temporarily closed until conditions improve or sites can be made safe.
- ❄️ Stop, think and check it is safe, and always STEP IN if you see anything unsafe.
- ❄️ Apply salt or sand to walkways and carparks to improve traction and melt ice.
- ❄️ Walk Carefully: Take small, deliberate steps and keep your hands free to help maintain balance. Always use handrails when available, especially on stairs and ramps, using three points of contact. Ensure you wear shoes with good traction to prevent slips.
- ❄️ Consider deferring non-urgent maintenance tasks.
- ❄️ Report Hazards: Immediately report any icy patches or hazards. Step In.
- ❄️ Stay Informed: Pay attention to weather forecasts and plan accordingly.



By following these guidelines, we can significantly reduce the impact of freezing conditions and ensure a safer working environment for everyone.

Look after each other and step in if someone isn't taking care.



CUSTOMER CENTRICITY

Customer Experience Day



You are invited to join the EMEA Customer Experience Day on 4th February.

Join to hear more about:

- 2024 Customer Experience Performance Highlights
- The EMEA winners of the 2024 SCE Awards
- Customer Experience 2025 vision and goals

Click this Zoom link to join: <https://cemex.zoom.us/j/82998744123>



FUTURE IN ACTION

NEW! RSPB Partnership Blog



This week we have launched our new-look Earthly Matters, the RSPB/Cemex Partnership Blog – the January 2025 edition. We've changed over to a poster format so this can now be easily shared on workplace notice boards and rest areas, for those looking for an interesting read over your cup of coffee or lunch.

At the end of last year we welcomed Carl Cornish, our new RSPB Senior Business Conservation Adviser, which you can read all about [HERE](#). In our first blog of 2025, Carl shares an update on the partnership's early new year activities.

Looking ahead to next weekend we have the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch – get involved by clicking [HERE](#), and details about National Nest Box Week – 14th to 21st February, with some ideas for Valentines gifts!

You can find the January edition of Earthly Matters at the end of this document and on the UK News website [HERE](#).



Lower CO₂ Clinker Innovation

At the end of 2024 Cemex had a thought leadership article published in the International Cement Review (ICR) journal.

The article, written by Mike May, European Sales Manager for Dry and Specialist Mortar, explains how, as part of our ongoing commitment to decarbonise our operations and products, we have developed products with a reduced clinker content.

You can read the full article at the end of this document and on the UK News download page: www.cemexuknews.co.uk/downloads



Supporting Grass Roots Football



Over the past few years Cemex UK has contributed to various junior football teams as part of supporting grassroots football, by sponsoring football kits or supporting other areas related to improving facilities.

In 2024 Cemex provided sponsorship for the football kit for Belvedere Park Football club in Burton on Trent. The junior squad includes George, the son of EMEA H&S Director, Robert House (see photo). Grassroots football is essential for health and wellbeing and provides other social benefits to communities surrounding our Cemex operations.

Working Like a Dog for Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary

As one of 2024's final Lend a Hand activities, Dan Mann from Cemex's Public Affairs team, dedicated a day to volunteering at Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary.

Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary, located in the heart of Lancashire, is a haven for animals in need, providing care and shelter for hundreds of dogs, cats, rabbits, and farm animals. As one of the largest animal sanctuaries in the North West, its mission relies heavily on the support of volunteers who contribute their time and energy to ensure the sanctuary's operations run smoothly.



The volunteering day was packed with meaningful activities. Dan was given the wet, cold and unenviable task of removing, power washing, and cleaning the Perspex panels of the dog kennels to tidy them up, with no growling about it. This crucial maintenance helps to ensure that the kennels remain clean, hygienic, and welcoming for their furry occupants. After the cleaning process, the panels were carefully re-bolted, and the area was tidied, leaving the space in pristine condition, and making sure that they weren't ruff.

In addition to maintenance work, Dan also had time to take a paws and walk some of the dogs. This not only provided the animals with much-needed exercise but also offered them companionship, helping to



reduce stress and improve their overall well-being. For many of the sanctuary's dogs, interactions with volunteers like this are essential in preparing them for adoption into loving homes.

Reflecting on the day, the analyst shared: "No bones about it, volunteering at Bleakholt was an incredibly rewarding experience. It was wonderful to contribute to such a vital cause and see firsthand the dedication of the staff and volunteers who care for these animals. Spending time with the dogs and helping improve their living conditions was a highlight of the day, and Max (pictured) is clearly happy with my work."

Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary welcomes volunteers year-round and is always in need of support, if you would like to get involved, or if you would like to adopt an animal (including Max!), please message Dan, at Daniel.mann@cemex.com for more information.

Christmas Tree Collection – Blythe House Hospice



Seven volunteers from our Concrete Products site at Dove Holes volunteered a day to help collect Christmas trees from around the Derbyshire area, to raise funding for Blythe House Hospice.

Blythe House Hospicecare, in partnership with Helen's Trust, offers a wide range of free services to care for, and support, anyone in the High Peak, Hope Valley, Derbyshire Dales and North East Derbyshire who is affected by life – limiting illness.

Donna Woolliscroft, Julian Wildgoose, Mark Green, Gary Collins, Dave Robinson, Archie Phillips and Aaron Hamilton all gave a day to help. They travelled around the surrounding villages / towns and helped other volunteers to collect Christmas trees. All the Christmas trees are recycled, and the volunteers managed to collect a record amount this year with over 920 trees which has raised over £13,000.

Paul Kania, Miller Operations Manager, commented: "This is a fantastic achievement and will aid the hospice to carry on doing the amazing work they do. Thanks, Donna, for arranging the day and look forward to you all achieving a new record amount collected next year!"



PROFITABILITY

500th Train to Parkfield

Tuesday 21st January marked the 500th train into Parkfield Road since its first train on 1st August 2023. You can read all about the Parkfield Road Restoration Project [here](#).

Using trains brings significant CO₂ savings by removing trucks off the roads. By using alternative transports methods demonstrates Cemex's Future in Action commitment to net zero CO₂ by 2050.



This has only been achieved with the close cooperation between Operations, Supply Chain Rail team and Commercial colleagues. Well done to everyone involved.

Compressor Management and Efficiency

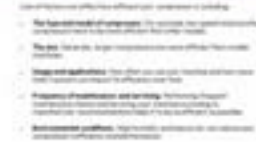
The Operational Excellence team has been working on Compressor Management and Efficiency Guide as part of the 50001 energy audit and a compressor efficiency project in Readymix.

The team has created a comprehensive guide on the subject, which outlines the various factors that affect compressor efficiency, such as the type and model of the compressor, its size, usage, maintenance frequency, and environmental conditions.

The guide highlights common causes of compressor inefficiency, including irregular maintenance, low-quality air intake, poor system design, high operating pressure, dirty air filters, and inadequate lubrication. To address these issues, the guide provides practical steps to prevent overheating and the importance of performing regular maintenance. It aims to help teams optimise their compressor systems, ensuring efficient and reliable operation throughout the year.

You can view the guide on Sway [HERE](#). It is a valuable guide in helping to improve the efficiency of your compressor systems.

What affects Compressor Efficiency?



EMPLOYEES

Our Cemex UK 2025 Wellbeing Plan

Our Wellbeing Strategy Group UK has now finalised our 2025 Wellbeing Strategy Plan and we are delighted to share it with you.

In 2025 we plan to continue with bi-monthly campaigns aligned to national / international campaigns. We will also be planning periodic focussed campaigns over a whole week, and we'll be including different formats of communications, to reach a wider population of our UK colleagues.



The plan has been drafted to align with some of the UK's national and international commemorative days of awareness and will also incorporate materials from the wider EMEA Wellbeing plan.

Our 2025 Themes:

Jan / Feb – Gut Health / Time to Talk

Mar / Apr – Neurodiversity / Sleep

May / Jun – Diabetes

Jul / Aug – Self Harm and Suicide

Sep / Oct – Menopause / Cancer

Nov / Dec – Cancer/ Vitamin D testing

Please be sure to check UK News and your workplace noticeboards for the resources and activities we will be sharing and running throughout the year.



Coming Up – Time to Talk Week!

In February we are planning to run Time to Talk Week (3rd – 7th February) where we will be providing resources and encouraging you to take time out with your colleagues, to be open about our mental health and talk about how we are really feeling. Having someone to listen can help you work through what's going on and feel better able to cope if things are getting tough. We don't need to be experts to help our colleagues open up when something's up. We will be sharing some tips which will help you to spot when someone may be struggling, open up a conversation and be a good listener, plus plenty of resources to signpost colleagues to support. Further communications coming soon!

Wellbeing Group Members

The Wellbeing group is chaired by Lucy Forster, HR Business Partner, and is made up of members from across our Cemex UK businesses, alongside representatives from Health & Safety, HR, Communications and Social Impact. The group meets regularly and plays an important role in helping to ensure that we focus on areas of wellbeing that matter most to us all.

Here is a little reminder of our current group members:

- Lucy Forster – HR BP
- Andy Taylor – Health & Safety Director UK
- Chiedza Mupfumira – Specialist Social Impact UK
- Gary Donnelly – Logistics Supervisor at Dove Holes
- Hugh Reynolds – Supply Chain Compliance Officer
- Julie Welch – Health & Safety Manager
- Gemma Crawford – Customer Service Manager
- Mary Ann Macinnes Collins – Health & Safety Manager
- Mike Higgins – Technical Manager Laboratories & Products Development UK
- Natasha Page – Facilities Manager & HR Advisor
- Nicola Drabble – Rail Logistics Coordinator
- Phil Repton – Asphalt Plant Manager
- Richard Jenkins – Tanker Driver
- Richard Kelly – Operations Manager (Readymix)
- Tina Baxter – Communications Adviser
- Vanessa Smithson – Quarry Manager
- Vicki Elliot – National Commercial Manager for Cement
- Paul Lucas – Logistics Supervisor

Understanding Gut Health

Gut health is a crucial aspect of overall well-being, yet it often doesn't receive the attention it deserves. In the UK, digestive disorders significantly impact the quality of life for many individuals, accounting for over 10% of GP consultations in the UK. Understanding how to maintain a healthy gut can lead to better health outcomes and improved daily life.

What affects our gut health?

Our brains have a direct effect on the stomach and intestines. For example, the very thought of eating can release the stomach's juices before food gets there. This connection goes both ways. A troubled intestine can send signals to the brain, just as a troubled brain can send signals to the gut. Therefore, our stomach or intestinal



distress can be the cause *or* the product of anxiety, stress, or depression. That's because the brain and the gastrointestinal (GI) system are intimately connected.

Stress can cause stomach problems and change the levels of bacteria in the gut. This is because stress can elevate stress hormones, cause inflammation, and change the way the body functions. In turn, this can cause your gut bacteria to release metabolites, toxins, and neurohormones that can cause changes to the way you eat and affect your mood.

Other factors affecting our gut

Lack of sleep

A lack of sleep can not only cause stress, leading to the aforementioned symptoms and elevated cortisol levels but it can also impact your food choices and when you choose to eat. When tired you are more likely to eat processed foods that are higher in carbohydrates, sugars and trans fats, all of which can contribute to reduced gut health.

A highly processed diet

Highly processed foods tend to be higher in carbohydrates, refined sugars and trans fats, and include less fibre than fresh produce. Eating processed foods on a daily basis can lead to dysbiosis, which can affect your health and wellbeing.

Taking antibiotics

Antibiotics are used to treat a range of bacterial infections but as they are used to kill bacteria and prevent them from spreading, they can negatively impact your gut health by reducing the variety of bacteria species in your digestive system and altering their metabolism.

Tips for good gut health.

To avoid problems such as constipation, heartburn and symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), it's important to eat the right foods. Are some links to some 'good gut' advice:

NHS - 5 lifestyle tips for a healthy tummy: Click [HERE](#)

NHS - Good foods to help your digestion: Click [HERE](#)

Guts UK - Guts, Health and Lifestyle: Click [HERE](#)

Want to find out more – check out these videos and podcasts?

Is there a link between our gut and mental health? – Crowd Science podcast, BBC World Service - watch [HERE](#)

The Gut Health Podcast – listen [HERE](#)

Listen to Your Gut: A new podcast exploring the fascinating world of gut health – listen [HERE](#)

How your gut affects your mental health – listen [HERE](#)

By following these guidelines and utilising available resources, you can take proactive steps towards better gut health. Remember, small changes in your diet and lifestyle can make a big difference in your digestive well-being.

Please download and share our signposting poster on workplace noticeboards and wellbeing boards. You can find the poster at the end of this document and on the UK News download page [HERE](#).



Coming Soon! Time To Talk Week 3rd – 7th February



February is Mental Health Awareness month and this year our Wellbeing Strategy Group will once again be launching our 'Time to Talk Week' to coincide with the charity Mind's annual Time to Talk Day on Thursday 6th February.

Time to Talk Week is aimed at encouraging people to take time out and spend some time talking to each other about our mental health. It's a chance for our workplaces to come together to talk, listen and change lives. The more conversations we have, the better life is for everyone.

Talking about mental health isn't always easy and sometimes it's even harder to say how you really feel. But a conversation has the power to change lives. **Time to Talk Week** is the perfect opportunity to start a conversation about our mental health – but not just next week – keep those conversations going beyond next week.

Look out for emails early next week sharing our 2025 **Time to Talk Week** assets and resources.

Celebrating Long Service Awards

We would like to send huge congratulations and thank you to the following colleagues for reaching long service milestones in January 2025.

We appreciate all your contributions and hard work over the years:

- Mark Fowler, Logistics Supervisor, celebrated 25 years
- Carl Willoughby, Plant and Field Technician, celebrated 25 years
- Lee Wearing, Health and Safety Adviser, celebrated 25 years
- Gary Pell, Assistant Quarry Manager, celebrated 25 years
- Michael Naden, Weighbridge Operative, celebrated 15 years



NEW Retailer Discounts Available

Our Cemex UK Lifestyle has plenty of new retailers now offering discounts in 2025. These include Dunelm, schuh, FootAsylum, RHS and more!

Also, don't forget to take part in the 'Month of Prizes' to win up to £1,000.

Click [HERE](#) to access our platform.



Advanced Payment EMEA

A Message from the UK Accounts Payable Team

We continue making progress in the Migration of our GES operational processes to the ServiceNow (SNOW) platform and as part of this effort, the Advance Payments service will become a digital flow, and all requests will be managed through this tool.

Some important benefits:

- Service monitoring and approval documentation.
- Compliance with authorisations according to global policy.
- Service status visibility.

The Advance Payments will be available soon in ServiceNow, so you will receive separate notifications on this matter.

At GES we continue to evolve our processes, making them simpler and more efficient to improve our service level and create a better user experience.

Our Employee Assistance Programme

Did you know that Cemex offers all employees a free, confidential employee assistance programme called Lifestyle Support?

You can find a guide all about How Care first can support you at the end of this document and in the UK News website:
www.cemexuknews.co.uk/downloads



Lifestyle Support is easy to access, available 24/7 and can provide help and support with a wide range of issues or concerns such as family matters, debt, relationships, bereavement, depression and anxiety.

It is run by a separate provider and not part of Cemex; we don't receive any employee specific information from them.

Contact the Employee Assistance Line (Lifestyle Support) for confidential advice and support – call 0808 168 2143 or visit www.lifestyle-support.co.uk (Username: cemex Password: cemex).

Internal Vacancies

IVC Ref	Position	Company	Location	Closing date
04-01-2025	Driver - Mixer	Materials LR - Readymix	West Yorkshire	31/01/2025
05-01-2025	Maintainer Operator	Cement Operations	Rugby Cement Plant	31/01/2025



We would love to hear from you for the next edition

To send us a story: either click on 'submit a story' on the UK News website or
email gb-communicationsandpublicaffairs@com

If you can, please include a photo too (taken in super fine landscape setting and saved
as a jpeg.) Thank you.



SAFETY ALERT

TRUCKMIXER MOUNTING BOLT FAILURE (HiPo)



DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT

A truckmixer owned by an Independent Haulage Contractor (IHC) was stopped from working when it developed a noise thought to be originating from the gearbox on the drum.

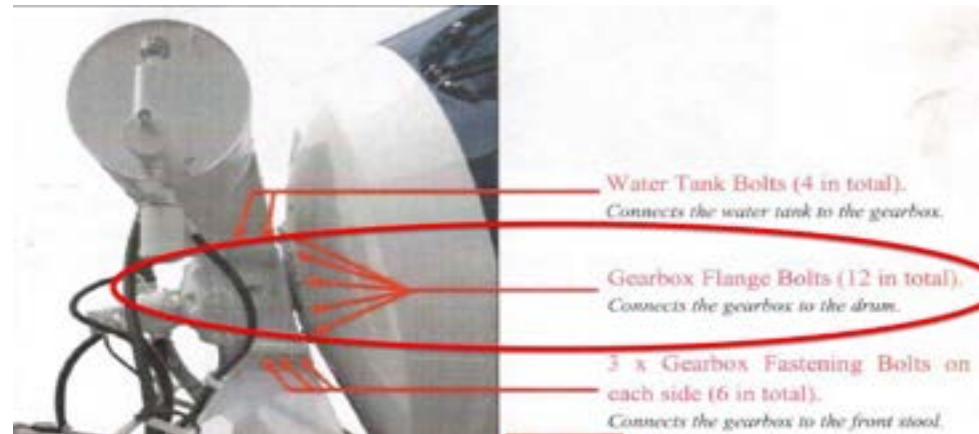
On closer inspection, it was found that some of the mounting bolts from the drum mounting flange to the gearbox were missing; only 4 out of 12 fitted bolts remained. The truck mixer had a new drum fitted 8 months earlier, however no formal maintenance inspections were subsequently carried out on this area of the drum.

HOW COULD THIS HAVE BEEN AVOIDED

- Operators must ensure they follow OEM maintenance schedules in accordance with the specific equipment operators guide (drivers handbook).
- Best practice is to have this area checked during the formal documented safety inspection by the vehicle maintenance provider in accordance with the attached truckmixer inspection sheet.
- Ensure robust defect raising and rectification regimes are in place, which should be audited and checked by the vehicle owner.

KEY FINDINGS

Safe Systems	After the repairs were carried out, the driver was advised the mounting flange should be regularly inspected; however, this doesn't seem to be common knowledge.
Inspection & Maintenance	All transit mixer drums are supplied with an original equipment manufacture (OEM) handbook, which highlights all required maintenance activities and schedules.
Inspection & Maintenance	All drivers should visually inspect the mixer gearbox mounting bolts (as per picture 1) as part of their daily pre-use inspection, checking for signs of movement or missing bolts.
Tools and Equipment	This type of incident appears more likely to occur following the removal of the drum.



Look after yourself
and each other

Don't let anyone act unsafely, always stop unsafe practices.

Tools and Equipment

Use the right, well maintained, tools/equipment for the job. Never make do.

Safe Systems

Follow safe systems of work, site rules, signage and traffic signals.



STOP THINK ACT

Lower-CO₂ clinker innovation

As part of Cemex's ongoing commitment to decarbonise its operations and products, the company has developed products with a reduced clinker content. Mike May, Cemex's European sales manager for dry and specialist mortar and executive committee chairman of MPA mortar looks at the development and impact of clinker reduction.

■ by **Mike May**, Cemex, UK

By developing products with a reduced clinker content, Cemex supports the decarbonisation of its construction materials



© Cemex UK

As a global operation Cemex is committed to reducing emissions through a multi-faceted approach to decarbonisation. As one of the world's largest building materials solutions providers, climate action has been a top priority for Cemex for many years with its Future in Action climate action strategy now spearheading a global decarbonisation programme at speed. In line with the company's wider ambitions, the continued focus for Cemex's Urbanisation Solutions and specialist Mortar business is firmly fixed on achieving sustainable excellence through circularity, and natural resource management with the primary objective of becoming a net-zero CO₂ company.

“As an industry, there is no one-size fits all when it comes to meeting its stringent environmental targets.”

As an industry, there is no one-size fits all when it comes to meeting its stringent environmental targets. Every business has a unique set of demands, but the push towards net-zero emissions by 2050 presents quite a challenge for the mortar market at large.

Significant strides have been made to reduce the environmental impact of mortar through the adoption of lower-carbon cements and the use of alternative fuels. Recycling much of its returned product also reduces the need for new raw materials as well as minimising waste. Advances have been made here in the right direction, but there remains a need to increase the scale of adoption for more new energy-efficient technologies and processes to lower emissions from production and transportation. The industry is vibrant, strong, experienced and recognised for supplying quality products. Moving forward, many of these challenges will be overcome through increased investment and specialist training, to embrace new technologies and develop more sustainable practices.

New UK mortar plant

To help support significant growth with the demand for specialist mortar product solutions, Cemex UK's Mortar business has announced plans for a new plant in Swindon, Wiltshire, opening in the second half of 2025, dedicated to dry mortar and sprayed concrete production. As part of the Cemex Urbanisation Solutions offering, the new facility will enable Cemex UK's Mortar business to increase production capacity in the southeast and southwest to become a national supplier of both dry mortar and sprayed concrete. Building work for the new facility began in August

“The company is pursuing new R&D product development processes that favour lower-CO₂ clinker as well as projects on the carbon capture front.”

“Across all other mainstream elements of Cemex’s business, the company is working hard to lower emissions using existing technology and more traditional processes to implement and scale its ‘reduce before capture’ strategies.”

2024, with development works progressing into the new year. The site is planned to be operational during the second half of 2025 and will supply a full range of lower-carbon high performance mortar solutions.

Lower-CO₂ clinker innovation

Innovation is a key lever for Cemex to significantly reduce its CO₂ footprint. The company is pursuing new R&D product development processes that favour lower-CO₂ clinker as well as projects on the carbon capture front. Through a number of high-profile projects in situ and in the pipeline, Cemex is actively pushing boundaries to find new ways to accelerate the decarbonisation process. Globally, it sees carbon capture at the final leg of the journey. The company recently received welcome news that a Cemex consortium has been selected to receive EUR157m (US\$171.1m) in funding from the EU Innovation Fund for a pioneering CO₂ capture project at its Rüdersdorf cement plant in Germany. The project, Cemex’s largest planned carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS) project to date, aims to capture 1.3Mta of CO₂ from Rüdersdorf’s cement production, ultimately decarbonising the site by 2030.

Micronised clinker

Across all other mainstream elements of Cemex’s business, the company is working hard to lower emissions using existing technology and more traditional processes to implement and scale its ‘reduce before capture’ strategies. When it comes to clinker reduction, Cemex has several key initiatives underway. Earlier this year the company developed an innovative approach designed to decrease CO₂ emissions in cement production by

reducing the size of clinker particles. This process called micronisation, when combined with the use of proprietary admixtures, allows cement to significantly reduce its clinker factor per tonne of product, thereby lowering its carbon footprint.

Additionally, clinker micronisation has the added feature of maintaining the specified development strength required by the highest global cement standards. Pioneered by the Cemex Research and Development Centre in Switzerland, the company has created an alternative to traditional clinker grinding, enhancing efficiency and significantly boosting the strength of the final product. Industrial scale production trials have validated initial R&D findings to demonstrate that the adoption of clinker micronisation has the potential to reduce the clinker factor in cement products by up to 50 per cent. Concretes produced with Cemex’s micronised clinker require less cement to reach the desired strength performance, further reducing the CO₂ footprint.

Clinker represents the most carbon-intensive part of the cement manufacturing process with the most direct CO₂ emissions being generated by the chemical reaction of clinker production in the kiln. Cemex’s wider efforts across the company concentrate on substituting clinker with byproducts from other industries like blastfurnace slag and fly ash. Waste from other industries and alternative raw materials reduce the clinker factor while maintaining the same quality and durability of its products. This is a critical

“The ongoing focus on innovative production techniques, has enabled Cemex to reduce the embodied carbon of its standard mortar range by up to 30 per cent including specialist sprayed concrete solutions, alongside a brand-new offering of Cemex geopolymers clinker-free masonry mortar.”

success factor for its specialist dry mortar and sprayed concrete offerings where decarbonisation challenges are equally matched by the need to ensure product performance is not compromised.

New geopolymers clinker-free masonry mortar

The ongoing focus on innovative production techniques, has enabled Cemex to reduce the embodied carbon of its standard mortar range by up to 30 per cent including specialist sprayed concrete solutions, alongside a brand-new offering of Cemex geopolymers clinker-free masonry mortar. Due to be officially launched in the UK in 2025, the new development in mortar is an innovative collaboration between Cemex UK Mortars and Cemex’s Global R&D. The clinker-free geopolymers masonry mortar is much anticipated with a customer pipeline awaiting trial. With lower-carbon solutions in high demand, particularly in the specification sector, the company looks forward to bringing the new solution to market and receiving customer feedback during the coming year.

The full lower-carbon mortar range is now included as part of Cemex’s enhanced Vertua range, which is comprised of the company’s most sustainable products. The Vertua brand covers five sustainability attributes: lower carbon emissions, increasing energy efficiency, saving water, incorporating recycled materials and optimising design. Any Cemex products that bear the Vertua brand must meet requirements for at least one of these sustainable attributes.

Future in action

At the forefront of the circular economy in the construction value chain, Cemex’s Future in Action strategic climate action programme continues to pioneer new technologies to increase the use of waste and residues as alternative raw materials and fuels across its operations, with the primary objective of becoming a net-zero CO₂ company. Providing cement, ready-mix concrete, aggregates, mortar and urbanisation solutions in growing markets around the world, it is powered by a multinational workforce focussed on delivering a superior customer experience, enabled by digital technologies. ■

2024

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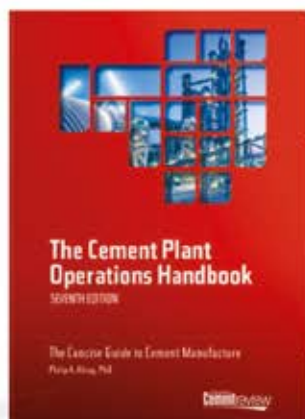


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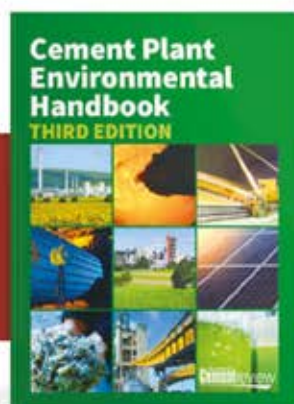
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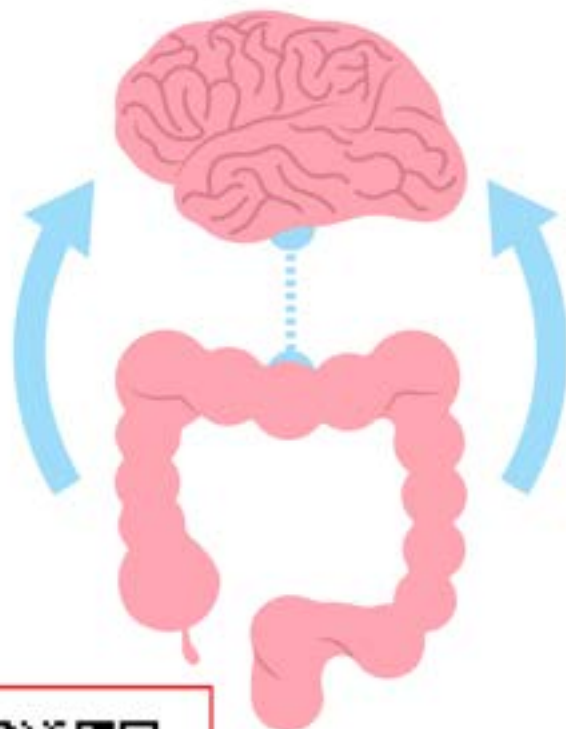
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Understanding and improving Gut Health



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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

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch
24th - 26th 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