

Earthly Matters



Cemex & RSPB Partnership Blog March 2025



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



Partnership Update

By Carl Cornish, RSPB Senior Business Conservation Adviser

I visited Denge Quarry on the Dungeness Peninsula earlier this week with Sean Cassidy, Cemex EMEA Biodiversity Manager. It feels like the end of the world in this landscape where land, sea and sky all seem in such proximity to each other. Like a stony beach stretching inland, this is a unique and rare habitat. Vegetated coastal shingle is a specially protected habitat in England. It's a fragile habitat but its plants must be tough to survive where water and nutrients are scarce and there's little shelter from the elements.

There is a history of past quarrying on the Peninsula, creating waterbodies used by birds, such as at the nearby RSPB Dungeness reserve. Most of the area is now a National Nature Reserve.

I was hoping to see some Spring migrant birds, but didn't expect a Hoopoe – see photo right! It's a colourful and funny bird (crest on its head, floppy flight), about the size of a dove, it's a rare migrant in the UK.

More expected (but still special) birds seen were Lapwings on the islands; Great Crested and Little Grebes, Shelducks, Gadwalls on the lake; Kestrel, Stonechats and Skylarks around the margins.



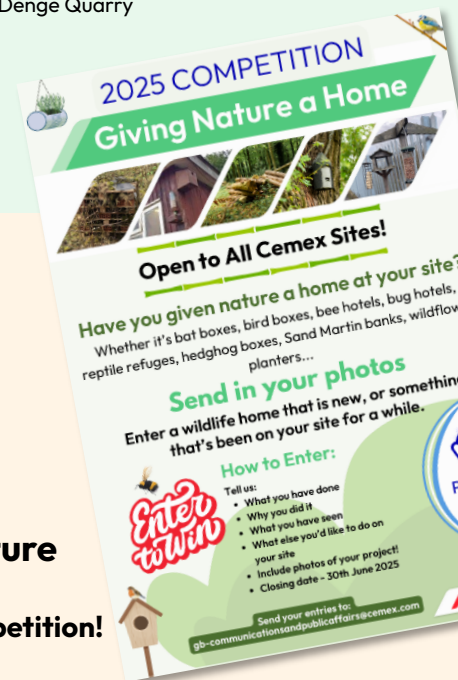
Hoopoe – spotted at Denge Quarry



Denge Quarry



Denge Quarry



Actions for Nature

Enter our new competition!

We're excited to invite you to take part in the 2025 Cemex/ RSPB Partnership Competition: **"Giving Nature A Home"**.

Across our Cemex UK sites, whether quarries, plants, wharfs, or offices, many of you have taken fantastic steps to support wildlife and biodiversity, from installing bird feeders and bug hotels to creating reptile refuges and wildflower planters. This new competition is all about celebrating these efforts and encouraging even more ways to give nature a home! Continued on page 2.

Walk on the Wild Side Day - 12th April

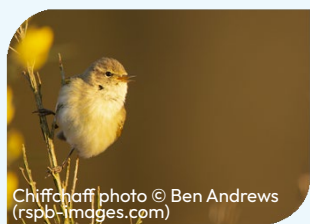
By Carl Cornish, RSPB Senior Business Conservation Adviser

Walk on the Wild Side Day is coming on Saturday April 12th, inviting you to embrace the untamed beauty of the great outdoors. Whether you're a seasoned explorer or simply crave a breath of fresh air, this day beckons you to leave the beaten path behind and embark on an exhilarating journey into the wilderness.

Spring is a great time of year to go for walk to see the great reawakening of nature. I especially enjoy hearing the birds sing, and that the variety and volume of song increases as resident birds are joined by summer migrants from late March onwards.



Chiffchaff drawing © Mark Langman (rspb-images.com)



Chiffchaff photo © Ben Andrews (rspb-images.com)

One of the earliest Spring migrants to return in March and start singing is the Chiffchaff. This is a species of warbler, a family of birds known for their songs; warble means a song or to sing. Bird song can seem difficult to learn, but here the Chiffchaff is very helpful in singing its name – two alternating notes that sound like 'chiff chaff'. Part of its Latin name means money counter; its song was thought to sound like the chink of coins from one pile to another. It's a common summer migrant and likes areas with trees. So, see if you can hear a Chiffchaff this Spring.

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How to enter our new competition

We have some great prizes to be won so we'd love to hear and see how your site is **giving nature a home!** With a **closing date of 30th June 2025**, you have plenty of time to send us your photos from your sites, showing your homes for nature. But you also have lots of time to **introduce new homes for nature to your sites**, and we've shared some ideas below to help you. Bonus points will be earned by reusing and repurposing materials to create your homes for nature.

How to enter:

- 📷 Send your photo/s to gb-communicationsandpublicaffairs@cemex.com by 30th June, along with the following information:
- Details of the site and location
 - What is your home for nature
 - Why did you introduce it on your site
 - What you have seen (wildlife activity, changes in biodiversity, etc.)



For **full instructions** on how to enter the competition, inspiration for making your site's home for nature, and details about the judging criteria, please download our PDF by scanning the QR code here, or clicking this link [HERE](#).

Success at the MPA Quarries & Nature Awards

The role that quarrying can play in nature recovery and biodiversity gain was celebrated at the recent *Quarries & Nature 2025* awards ceremony hosted by the Mineral Products Association (MPA).

In the *Biodiversity - Innovation* category, Cemex UK were runners up for the conservation grazing using a 'virtual fence' at Rugeley Quarry near Cannock Chase, Staffordshire. The certificate was proudly received by Alex Finn, Cemex UK Restoration Manager.

Willam (Bill) Newton, Quarry Manager, proudly received an award for his personal dedication and contribution to enhancing biodiversity at Willington Quarry, for his work with black Poplar trees.

And finally, the Cemex and the RSPB won a joint award recognising the 15-year conservation partnership between Cemex and the RSPB.

You can read all about the event [HERE](#).



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