



## Welcome to UK News

29th May 2025

Your bi-weekly update from around Cemex UK

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## HEALTH & SAFETY

### UK Safety Alert – Hand Injury



The latest Safety Alert relates to a medical treatment injury suffered by an employee on a Block Plant earlier this month. The injured person and a colleague isolated relevant equipment before entering the cubing area to assess the condition of the horizontal banding machine. Unfortunately, the colleague brushed against a pack of blocks causing a block to fall and land on the injured

person's finger; glue was required to close the resulting wound.

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

Thanks go to the local team for sharing the key review points from their investigation, which include:

- Eliminating / reducing the need to interact with automated machinery where possible.
- Review safe systems of work to determine if any improvements can be made to working practices.
- STOP & THINK (Take 5) before a task to ensure all hazards and risks have been identified and necessary precautions are in place.

✦ Please also display the Alert on relevant noticeboards.

Look after yourself and each other. Before starting any new task always STOP, THINK... and CHECK it is safe, and always STEP IN if you see anything unsafe.

Health and Safety information and resources can be found at the following location <https://cemex.sharepoint.com/sites/UKHealthandSafety>

## Latest In the Mix Podcast – 5S



Here is the latest episode of the In the Mix podcast – your news and views podcast from Cemex UK.

In this episode we're speaking to Andy Taylor, UK Health & Safety Director and Adam Leverett, Head of Operational Excellence, about 5S. We hope you enjoy this episode.

You can listen to the podcast [HERE](#).

If you have any feedback, suggestions or comments please email us at: [gb-communicationsandpublicaffairs@cemex.com](mailto:gb-communicationsandpublicaffairs@cemex.com)

## Supply Chain Health & Safety Contractor Award – Q1 2025

Congratulations to Wilcox Trailers who has recently been awarded Cemex UK Supply Chain's Contractor Health and Safety Award for Q1 2025.

Wilcox Trailers have been recognised for this award for their commitment to innovation and safety in trailer manufacturing. The company's latest lightweight trailer exemplifies this dedication, combining cutting-edge materials with advanced safety features.

Safety has always been a top priority for Wilcox Trailers. Their latest trailer is equipped with a range of safety features designed to protect both the cargo and the Driver. Among these features is an automated rear door, which ensures secure and efficient loading and unloading negating the need of manually operating the door by the vehicle driver. This automated system minimises the risk of accidents and injuries, providing peace of mind.

The trailers also include the SAF tyre auto inflation system in the event of a puncture the system will maintain pressure until such time the vehicle can be parked safely to allow a suitable repair to be carried out, the system also allows for pressure adjustment due to heat and operating variations aiding tyre longevity. Other notable safety features include advanced braking system monitoring, lightweight structural components and Dawbarn sheeting system. These features collectively contribute to a safer and more reliable transportation solution.

The development of this innovative trailer would not have been possible without the leadership of Chris Bartlet, the Managing Director of Wilcox Trailers. His dedication to pushing the boundaries of what is possible in trailer design has been instrumental in bringing these trailers into operation.... under his guidance Wilcox Trailers continues to set new standards in the industry, ensuring that Cemex have received the best market leading trailers available.

Congratulations to everyone at Wilcox Trailers!



## Zero4Life Let's Do It – Shared Responsibility – MAY



At Cemex, our unwavering goal of achieving ZERO incidents and injuries hinges on the collective effort of every employee, contractor, and senior leader. It is essential that we all take care of ourselves and each other in every aspect of our work.

Health and Safety are not just individual responsibilities but shared ones. We are fostering a culture where everyone feels empowered to intervene and voice concerns about any unsafe practices they encounter.

Together, as one Cemex, we can significantly improve the daily working environment and conditions for all our employees and contractors, driving us closer to our ZERO target.



## CUSTOMER CENTRICITY

### Update! Swindon Plant Opening October 2025



Building works are progressing very well at our new Dry Mortar and Sprayed Concrete Facility in Swindon and will open in October, later this year. Our Commercial teams are working with current and new customers to promote our Experts In Mortar service offerings and plan to start supplying customers from Swindon in September.

Mortars is part of the Cemex Urbanisation Solutions business, and the aim of the new plant is to grow market share into the South East and South West regions of the UK, by increasing production capacity. This is part of our strategy to establish Cemex UK as a national supplier of both dry mortar and sprayed Concrete.

Cemex is currently producing both dry mortar and sprayed Concrete at Dove Holes in Derbyshire and dry mortar from Braintree in Essex. Demand has been large enough to reach capacity for these two plants based on past commercial strategy, however, the new Swindon plant will offer growth opportunities to increase capacity and penetrate new regional markets, while expand existing markets.





### Cemex & Sense: Celebrating Milestones, Creating Change

Cemex recently marked a proud milestone in our partnership with Sense, the national charity supporting people living with complex disabilities.

Our collective fundraising efforts in 2024 culminated in a heartfelt celebration at Sense's 70 year anniversary event in May, an occasion that not only honoured Sense's 70 years of life changing work but also recognised the incredible contributions of companies who have supported them along the way.



Representing Cemex at the event at Sense Touchbase Pears in Birmingham were Chiedza Mupfumira, Social Impact Specialist and Rob Greenfield, UK Planning & Development. Chiedza was honoured to meet Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Patron of Sense, and enjoyed the opportunity to talk to Her Royal Highness about our Sense partnership.

Reflected on the event Rob shared: "I was truly moved by the heartwarming stories we heard from individuals who have either benefited from or supported this incredible charity. The feeling of gratitude for those who enable Sense to change lives for the better every day shone throughout the event. I hope all our Cemex colleagues who have donated realise the difference they've made."

Our Cemex UK 2024 fundraising journey included the epic Cemex Wellness Challenge, where colleagues cycled 430 miles in five days, raising more than £18,000 for Sense. These efforts not only raised vital funds but also deepened our understanding of the barriers faced by people with complex disabilities - and how we can help remove them.

Looking ahead to the future, our collaboration with Sense is set to grow, enabling us to enhance our commitment to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion activities. Opportunities to be considered include:

- Becoming a Disability Confident Employer
- Offering 'virtual buddy' roles to employees
- Hosting British Sign Language learning sessions
- Providing mock interview experiences to support employability

As Chiedza Mupfumira shared: "Our ambitions in this area directly align with the incredible work that Sense carry out on a daily basis, and we're excited about the opportunities to continue our collaboration as we embark on our own journey to become a disability confident employer."

Together with Sense, we're raising awareness, building inclusion, and helping to ensure that no one is left out of life.





## Latest Earthly Matters



The May 2025 edition of Earthly Matters, the blog dedicated to the partnership between Cemex and the RSPB, is now available to read.

📌 You can find the latest edition at the end of this document and on the UK News website: [HERE](#)

In your May 2025 edition...

- Partnership Update: Butterfly spotting at Southam and Kensworth
- Bird Migration
- Actions for Nature: Provide water for the birds

## Cakes Raise Fantastic Amount for IBD



On World IBD Day colleagues at our Head Office in Coventry came together to support the Crohn's & Colitis UK charity, raising a fantastic £570 by baking and eating cakes.

Organised by Caitlin Hammond, Technical Sales Support in Customer Experience, colleagues baked some truly tasty baked goodies and together raised £320. With Cemex UK match funding an extra £200, together, their fund raising will support the charity to provide support through their Helpline services, campaigning for better health services and improved lives for people with Crohn's and Colitis, and fund vital research into treatments for the conditions.

Caitlin was delighted with the fantastic total raised and shared: "A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated, baked, volunteered, and supported our bake sale in aid of Crohn's & Colitis UK. Your generosity made the event a success and helped raise both funds and awareness for an important cause I hold very close to my heart."

You can still support the Crohn's & Colitis UK charity by donating via the JustGiving link [HERE](#). Thank you.

## Road Safety at Griffin School

Recently Darrell Colin and Tracy Booker from the Rugby Cement Plant Supply Chain team visited their local Griffin Primary school in Rugby, along with a Cement truck. They spent the morning with Reception and Year 1 children (ages 4 to 6) teaching them about road safety, being safe around large trucks, blind spots and bicycle safety.

Each child received their own high-vis jacket to take home, reminding them to stay safe when walking or biking with their parents.



Feedback from the school was very positive with the teachers sharing: “We’d like to thank Darrell and his team for a wonderful morning. They adapted it to our Year 1 and Reception class perfectly! Thank you so much to the Cemex team for their visit.”

## Wagtails Hold Up Repairs



Over at our Langley quarry the team were investigating a screen breakdown when they found a Wagtail nest with baby chicks tweeting away. Due to the nest’s location and the protected status the team were unable to commence with screen repairs and needed to wait until the young chicks fledged.

Well done to the team for abiding by the UK Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 which makes it illegal to disturb, damage, or destroy a wild bird's nest while it's being built or in use, as well as intentionally disturbing nesting birds.

## Homes For Nature – A few weeks left to enter

There are now only a few weeks left 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!



### How to enter our 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:gb-communicationsandpublicaffairs@cemex.com) by 30<sup>th</sup> 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)

**Need Some Inspiration?** Check out these resource links below: How to build a bat box – [RSPB Guide](#)

How to build a hedgehog house – [RSPB Guide](#)

How to make a bumblebee pot – [Gardener’s World Guide](#)



Build a bug hotel – [RSPB Guide](#)

Repurpose your site materials – use your old pallets for bug hotels, compost heaps, and more!

Need More ideas? Visit RSPB's [Nature on Your Doorstep YouTube channel](#) for tips and inspiration

### Judging

Competition entries, submitted by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025, will be judged by the Cemex/RSPB Steering Committee in July, and entries will be judged on the following criteria:

1. Effectiveness for Wildlife
  - Is the home well-suited and situated for the intended species (birds, bats, hedgehogs, etc)?
  - Does it provide proper shelter, ventilation, and access?
2. Sustainability & Materials
  - Have recycled, or sustainable materials been used?
3. Creativity
  - How unique is the design?

Whether it's a new addition this year or something that's been thriving for a while, we want to see your homes for nature.

Let's work together to make our sites even more welcoming for nature. We can't wait to see your creativity and passion in action!

✦ Please print the poster on the UK News download page: [here](#) and at the end of this document and share on your workplace noticeboards – thank you.



## EMPLOYEES

### Diabetes – What is it, how to live with it and how to avoid it

Diabetes Week 2025 is coming up, 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> June and this is a great opportunity to share some resources to help you understand more about Diabetes, resources to help if you are living with diabetes, or ways to help prevent getting type 2 diabetes (the most common).

Diabetes is a chronic condition that affects how the body regulates blood sugar levels. Early detection and management of diabetes are crucial to prevent complications and improve overall health.



📺 Watch this great short video from Diabetes UK, to find out more about **What is Diabetes** – [WATCH HERE or scan the QR code](#)

### Diabetes in the UK

In 2025 diabetes remains a significant and growing public health concern in the UK. Here's why:

- **Total cases:** Over **5.8 million** people in the UK are living with diabetes—a record high.
- **Undiagnosed cases:** An estimated **1.3 million** people are living with undiagnosed type 2 diabetes.



- **At-risk population:** Around **6.3 million** people are at increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes (pre-diabetes).
- **Combined impact:** In total, about **12.1 million** UK adults—roughly **1 in 5**—are living with diabetes or pre-diabetes.
- The number of people diagnosed with type 2 diabetes has **nearly doubled** over the past 15 years and accounts for approximately **90%** of all diabetes cases.
- Diagnoses among individuals under 40 are increasing at a faster rate than in older age groups.
- **Type 1 diabetes** represents about **8%** of cases. The remaining **2%** includes rarer forms of diabetes.

### Causes of diabetes

The amount of sugar in the blood is controlled by a hormone called insulin, which is produced by the pancreas (a gland behind the stomach). When food is digested and enters your bloodstream, insulin moves glucose out of the blood and into cells, where it's broken down to produce energy. However, if you have diabetes, your body is unable to break down glucose into energy. This is because there's either not enough insulin to move the glucose, or the insulin produced does not work properly. There are no lifestyle changes you can make to lower your risk of type 1 diabetes, however, you can reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes through healthy eating, regular exercise and achieving a healthy body weight.

### Signs and Symptoms

Type 1 and type 2 diabetes share some common symptoms. They can vary in intensity and may not always be noticeable. However, some of the most common signs include:

- Toilet - going for a wee a lot, especially at night.
- Thirsty - being really thirsty.
- Tired - feeling more tired than usual.
- Thinner - losing weight without trying to.
- Genital itching or thrush.
- Cuts and wounds take longer to heal.
- Blurred eyesight.
- Increased hunger.

Find out more about symptoms at Diabetes.org.uk [HERE](#) or on the NHS website [HERE](#).

But where type 1 and type 2 diabetes are different in symptom is how they appear. Type 1 can often appear quickly. Type 2 diabetes can be easier to miss because the symptoms are not so obvious. This is because it develops more slowly, especially in the early stages. This is why it is important to **know your risk** of developing type 2 diabetes. Some people have diabetes and don't know it. They can have it for up to 10 years without knowing.

Finding out your risk of type 2 diabetes only takes a few minutes. It could be the most important thing you do today...click [HERE](#) to start the Diabetes UK 'know your risk' online tool.

Find out more about the **differences** between Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes [HERE](#).

### Diabetes myths and FAQs

Knowing the facts about diabetes is important when it comes to managing the condition. There is so much information out there, but it is not all true. It is often difficult to know what is right and what is not. Head over to the Diabetes UK website to learn more about the myths associated with diabetes. Click [HERE](#) to find out more.





### Next time...

In our next article we will be sharing resources on effective ways to reduce your risk of Type 2 Diabetes, and advice on how to reverse type 2, known as **remission**.

### Celebrating 40 Years of Outstanding Service – Thank You, Gary!

Please join us in recognising a truly remarkable milestone – Gary Hayhurst’s 40 years of dedicated service to Cemex.

Gary began his career in the Lincolnshire Paving Solutions gangs, and over the past four decades he has built an inspiring legacy of commitment, growth, and leadership. His journey has taken him through various roles in the Asphalt business, from multi-skilled operative to Foreman, then Assistant Manager, and now proudly serving as Plant Manager at the Lincoln Coated Plant.



The Lincoln Plant—one of the oldest within our Asphalt operations – continues to perform to the highest standards, a testament to Gary’s unwavering dedication and leadership. His work ethic and deep knowledge have earned him the respect of colleagues and peers across the business.

Gary’s 40 year milestone is more than a celebration of time, it’s a reflection of the impact one person can have through perseverance, passion, and professionalism.

A heartfelt thank you, Gary, for your incredible service and commitment.

With appreciation from Brin Sandhu – Eastern Asphalt Area Manager, Jason Barker – National Asphalt Operations Manager and Scott Jones – Asphalt Director.

### Q&A with the Leader of the Opposition



Last week, Dan Mann from Cemex’s UK Public Affairs team attended a Town Hall Q&A session at the John Smith’s Stadium in Huddersfield with the Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP, Leader of the Opposition and Conservative Party leader. The session provided an insightful overview of the opposition’s priorities, future policy direction, and the ongoing Conservative Party renewal programme that is seeking to realign and refresh the party.

Badenoch addressed key themes including economic competitiveness, housebuilding, immigration, her assessment of the Labour government, future of the Conservative Party, Reform, and more. This wide-ranging discussion was limited to a select group and was an open and honest

discussion about where the Opposition should be focussed on going forward, and how it can deliver change.

On policy renewal, the Minister highlighted the government’s ongoing engagement with businesses to inform its approach to long-term productivity and growth. Discussions also touched on workforce skills,



infrastructure delivery, and trade policy – all of which are directly relevant to the construction and materials sectors.

The session was a valuable opportunity to better understand the political landscape and to feed Cemex's perspective into broader policy conversations.

## Joe Wins Competition

Congratulations to Joe Holcroft, Resource Manager from our Marine business, who recently won a £500 Halford voucher after signing up to our Pluxee Cycle to Work scheme last month.

Joe was delighted to win this great prize and plans to spend it on camping equipment and bike maintenance equipment.



You too can win some great prizes by entering the competitions on our Cemex Lifestyle Platform – just head over to the platform and navigate to Ways to Save > Competitions.

Don't miss future competitions and all your latest offers, sent direct to your inbox. All you need to do is visit: <http://www.cemexlifestyle.co.uk>, register using your employee number and an email address. Once you are logged in, navigate to top right, select My Account > Email Preferences > select 'Yes please, keep me up-to-date with your offers and services via email.

Don't forget, your Pluxee Employee Benefits Platform is here to help you maximise your budget and give you more of what matters to you. Whether it's funding home upgrades, an upcoming holiday, or renovating your home, you can enjoy everyday savings to help you stretch your money further and achieve your goals faster. Visit: <http://www.cemexlifestyle.co.uk> to find out how you can save!

## Our Employee Assistance Programme

### Do you need support? Care first

**Cemex offers all employees a free, confidential employee assistance programme (EAP) called Lifestyle Support, operated by Care first.**

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.



**Call 0808 168 2143**

**Visit [www.lifestyle-support.co.uk](http://www.lifestyle-support.co.uk)**

**Username: cemex  
Password: cemex**



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 in the UK News website: [here](#)

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](http://www.lifestyle-support.co.uk) (Username: cemex Password: cemex).

### Internal Vacancies

IVC Ref	Position	Company	Location	Closing date
71-05-2025	Assistant Quarry Manager	Materials - Aggregates	Barrington & Parkfield	02/06/2025
72-05-2025	Weighbridge Operative	Materials - Aggregates	Ryall Quarry	03/06/2025
74-05-2025	Operative	Materials - Aggregates	Swinderby Quarry	30/05/2025
75-05-2025	Operator/ Maintainer	Cement Operations	Rugby Cement Plant	10/06/2025

#### **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@cemex.com](mailto:gb-communicationsandpublicaffairs@cemex.com)

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



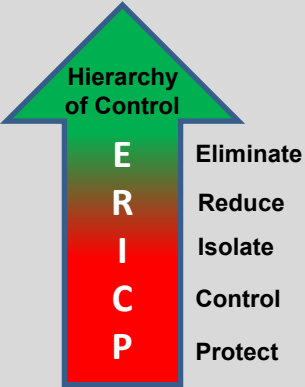


# SAFETY ALERT

## EMPLOYEE HAND INJURY

UKSA06/2025 – 26.05.2025

Display Until  
27.06.25



**DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT**

Two employees, a Foreman and Senior Operative entered the cubing area of a block plant following the appropriate safe system of work (SSOW); no specific maintenance tasks were being performed at this stage. The horizontal banding machine, which is the first in the process to apply straps to secure the product, had faulted with an error message on the control panel display.

Both employees entered the area under safe isolation, including Fortress Interlock Keys. One employee brushed passed the end blocks, causing one to fall onto the conveyor where the other employee was stood with his hand at waist height on the conveyor. The block landed on his finger causing an injury which required medical treatment including glue to close the wound.

- HOW COULD THIS HAVE BEEN AVOIDED**
- Investigate and rectify the cause of any faults / error messages.
  - Review the requirement for a support to be used and added onto the top of the products when working near the unsecure materials.
  - Remain aware of surroundings and any potential hazards from moving materials during a part of the process where they are not secure.
- KEY REVIEW POINTS**
- Eliminate / reduce the need to interact with automated machinery where possible.
  - Carry out a review of the SSOW and see if any improvements can be made when inside the area with the machinery.
  - Carry out a point of work risk assessment (Take 5) before a task to ensure all hazards and risks have been identified and necessary precautions are in place.

KEY FINDINGS	
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	The Injured was wearing the correct PPE including gloves.
Training	Both employees are experienced and competent to operate the whole factory process.
Compliance	A Take 5 had been completed before accessing the area to investigate
Risk Assessment	Ensure suitable risk assessment of surroundings is carried out and observation of potential hazards.
Supervision	Ensure periodic supervision is carried out of all employees and contractors on site.



**Look after yourself and each other**

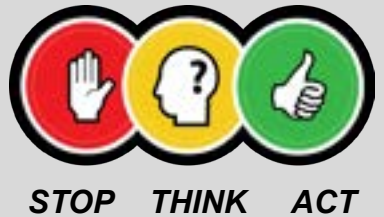
Don't let anyone act unsafely, always stop unsafe practices.

**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.







Welcome to the May 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

The warm sunny weather in early May was ideal for seeing butterflies. Cemex has undertaken successful conservation work for butterflies at its two quarries, supplying the cement business – Kensworth and Southam. I visited both quarries with Sean Cassidy, Cemex EMEA Biodiversity Manager, to survey areas for butterflies, assess habitat condition and identify work to sustain the habitat created and support butterfly populations. At Southam we met Mike Slater from the Warwickshire Butterfly Conservation. He has been driving conservation work for butterflies at Southam and has been monitoring butterfly populations there for many years. We were fortunate to see all the Springtime priority butterfly species – Small Blue, Dingy and Grizzled Skippers, Green Hairstreak and Small Heath. Small Blue is a localised butterfly and key to its survival are the patches of Kidney Vetch, the larval foodplant. It needs open grassy areas so controlling encroachment by bushes and trees is critical.

The nature reserve at Kensworth Quarry is also important for butterflies. It also has Small Blue and other scarce butterflies such as the Duke of Burgundy, which we saw. Dukes are very fussy butterflies. They lay their eggs on Cowslips, which the caterpillars feed on. But they don't like Cowslips that are in the open and get too much sun. Like Goldilocks, they need things to be just right: Cowslips in a partial shade and longer vegetation. Loss of these habitat conditions has led to declines in this butterfly and illustrate how ensuring correct habitat management is important.

After quarrying has been completed, an area of Kensworth has been left to naturally colonise as chalk grassland. There is now lots of Kidney Ketch and we were pleased to find the first Small Blues recorded there. We believe they've moved from the nature reserve. A female was watched egg-laying in the flower heads of Kidney Vetch so we're delighted to see a colony being established.



Photo: Small Blue on Kidney Vetch © Keith Warmington, Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire



Duke of Burgundy © Carl Cornish



**Langley Visitors:** Over at our Langley Quarry, the team were investigating a screen breakdown when they found a wagtail nest with baby chicks tweeting away. Due to the nest's location and the protected status the team were unable to commence with screen repairs and needed to wait until the young chicks fledged. The UK Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 which makes it illegal to disturb, damage, or destroy a wild bird's nest while it's being built or in use, as well as intentionally disturbing nesting birds.

## Bird Migration

One of the wonders of the natural world is bird migration and the British Isles is on major bird migration routes. We are, therefore, fortunate to have birds visiting to breed in the spring and summer, birds visiting in the winter to escape colder areas and birds passing through on their way to and from places further north and south. Birds migrate to find areas with more food and more daylight to find food. In the past, bird migration was a mystery – (where did the birds go?) and led to theories such as Swallows hibernating in the mud at the bottom of ponds.

Bird ringing – fitting a small metal ring to the leg of a bird started back in the early 20th century and helped unlock the mysteries of bird migration. It is still used today along with colour ringing, fitting combinations of colour rings to a bird's leg that show when and where it was ringed. The metal rings used have a unique code, but it needs another ringer to catch the bird to read it. The advantage of colour ringing is that birdwatchers and photographers can record the combinations so providing more records.



Avocet with a yellow leg flag coded 7A and a yellow colour ring. This unique combination identifies the individual bird  
© David Seagrave

Avocets are a conservation success story and as their numbers and range continue to increase, they move to new areas. They also move around Britain with a post-breeding dispersal and winter on estuaries on the east and south coasts.

David Seagrave, Assistant Quarry Manager at Cemex's Cromwell Quarry, photographed a colour-ringed Avocet at the quarry this May. He found out that it was ringed as a chick in June 2021 in Cumbria near the Solway Estuary. It has then been seen on the Lincolnshire coast in Autumn in 2021, 2023, 2024. It was seen near Skegness in early May this year and then at Cromwell Quarry five days later – the first time it's been seen anywhere other than Cumbria and Lincolnshire. Cromwell Quarry is in the Trent Valley, a major migration route and birds will use quarries to stop off to rest and feed on migration. Sand and gravel quarries are also potentially suitable breeding sites for Avocets.

## Actions for Nature

OK, so it's started raining as I write this. However, we had a prolonged dry spell, and may get more, when wildlife can struggle to find water. An easy action you can take to help wildlife is to provide water. You can get bird baths, but anything that holds water and wildlife can access is OK. I have a large flowerpot saucer placed on the ground. I've put a two pence piece in the water because it's supposed to stop algae growing.



Young Starlings bathing – Photo by Tina Baxter

## Enter our Homes for Nature competition by end of June

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!

Scan QR code or click [HERE](#) for full details:



### 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)





# 2025 COMPETITION

## Giving Nature a Home



**Open to All Cemex Sites!**

**Have you given nature a home at your site?**

Whether it's bat boxes, bird boxes, bee hotels, bug hotels, reptile refuges, hedgehog boxes, Sand Martin banks, wildflower planters...

**Send in your photos**

**Enter a wildlife home that is new, or something that's been on your site for a while.**



**Enter to Win**

### How to Enter:

Tell us:

- What you have done
- Why you did it
- What you have seen
- What else you'd like to do on your site
- Include photos of your project!
- Closing date - 30th June 2025

**Win!**

Prizes for  
top 3  
winners

Send your entries to:

[gb-communicationsandpublicaffairs@cemex.com](mailto:gb-communicationsandpublicaffairs@cemex.com)

