

Earthly Matters



Cemex & RSPB Partnership Blog September 2025



Welcome to the September 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 West Heath Quarry in September with Sean Cassidy (Cemex EMEA Biodiversity Manager) to review the site's Biodiversity Action Plan. The Lowland Heathland restoration areas were looking colourful with the lilacs and purples of flowering Common and Bell Heathers. Several Small Copper butterflies were flying in the sunshine and nectaring on the heather flowers. It was pleasing to see some standing decaying wood, scattered dead wood and log piles in the woodland and Lowland Heathland. As long as a tree is not likely to cause problems for operations, then decay is OK. Decaying is part of the natural lifecycle of a tree and provides habitat for wildlife. Saproxylic is the term used for species that depend on decaying wood. It comes from two Greek words, sapos (rotten wood) and xylon (wood).

There is a whole hidden world of fungi mycelium, adult and larval beetles, and other invertebrates inside decaying wood. We saw a couple of reptile species on site - Common Lizards and Slowworms. Piles of dead wood are important for reptiles as basking sites to warm up, provide shelter when it's too hot and a refuge for when it's cold. A pair of Stonechats birds were using a brash pile as a lookout post and dropping down to catch insects. Providing decaying and deadwood is an easy way to help increase biodiversity on a site. Thanks to the quarry team who made us welcome.



Decaying tree stump colonised by lichens and Sulphur Tuft fungus © Carl Cornish



Small Copper butterfly on Common Heather © Carl Cornish

Actions for Nature

Follow the Countryside Code

Habitats have been at risk of wildfires in the hot, dry summer we've had. That risk has, thankfully, reduced with cooling temperatures and increasing rainfall. A wildfire can soon devastate an area and whilst vegetation will eventually recover, it can be catastrophic for wildlife by killing and injuring individuals, and perhaps cause local extinctions if species can't recolonise an area. When I was visiting Rugeley Quarry in the summer, I saw fire engines racing towards a wildfire on Cannock Chase. Thankfully it wasn't on Cemex's heathland. It only takes a dropped cigarette butt, an abandoned disposable barbeque and a bottle acting as a lens to start a fire.



Scan for the Countryside Code

A way to help is to follow the [Countryside Code](#). This a set of simple are simple actions to follow that makes the countryside a safer and more enjoyable place to visit and for those people who live and work there.

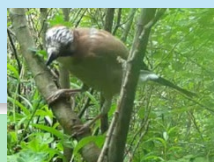


WINNER



Homes for Nature Competition Results

Thank you to all the teams who sent in entries to our Homes For Nature competition. It was a very difficult decision, but we would like to congratulate the teams at West Deeping Quarry and St Helens Readymix Plant, who win joint first prize. Well done everyone! We'll be sharing more details about these and all our other entries in communications coming soon - watch this space!



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: ab-communicationsandpublicaffairs@cemex.com