

Earthly Matters



Cemex & RSPB Partnership Blog October 2025



Welcome to the October 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 enjoy working in partnerships bringing stakeholders together, and after conversations throughout this year, I attended a Kensworth Quarry site meeting with Quarry Manager Mark Gough, Sean Cassidy, EMEA Biodiversity Manager, and people from the Chiltern Society, Wildlife Trust and Butterfly Conservation, to discuss management of the nature reserve. It was encouraging to be in the company of people with enthusiasm for the site and knowledgeable about its wildlife.

At Kensworth, a priority species is the Duke of Burgundy butterfly. In our May blog I mentioned its very specific habitat requirements. It's very fussy about the height of vegetation and light levels, therefore site managers need to provide Cowslips (the larval foodplant) in partial shade. Males are territorial, defending their patch from rival males. They wait on bushes to watch for intruders, flying up to chase any off. Sites need scattered scrub to provide partial shade for Cowslips and lookout posts for males. However, too much scrub and a site will become unsuitable – it's necessary to keep the right amount of scrub. Duke of Burgundy is now a very rare butterfly. The Kensworth nature reserve helps support other Duke sites in the Chilterns – hopefully, in time, it will colonise the other restored areas of the quarry.



Image Left: Stephen Lofting, Butterfly Conservation explaining habitat management for Duke of Burgundy butterfly, a member of the Chiltern Society, Sean Cassidy, EMEA Biodiversity Manager, and Mark Gough, Quarry Manager. Photo © Carl Cornish

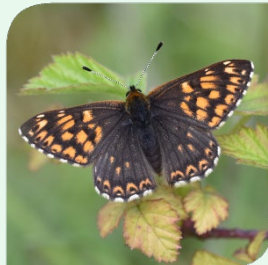


Image Right: Duke of Burgundy. Photo © Steven Lofting, Butterfly Conservation

Actions for Nature

Mast Year and National Tree Week

This autumn is a Mast Year for nuts and berries and occurs every few years. It is when trees produce lots of seeds, too many to all be eaten by insects, birds and mammals. This ensures some seeds survive to become trees and bushes. The vast number of oak acorns this year is noticeable with so many on woodland paths crunching underfoot. Now is an ideal opportunity to collect acorns and grow them on – find out how to sow your acorns [HERE](#).

National Tree Week runs from 22nd to 30th November and offers an opportunity to learn more about trees and take action for them. A saying goes “the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, the next best time is now”. So, what better time to plant a tree, or an acorn. When planting a tree, it's important to consider the right tree in the right place. Native trees are better for wildlife and think about the species and size of tree for the location. There may be events near you or online talks to join. For more information click [HERE](#).

Hedgehogs

The RSPB's Business Conservation Team recently had a presentation from the People's Trust for Endangered Species and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. This covered reasons for Hedgehog declines and ways to help them. With bonfire night approaching, please think of hedgehogs. They are looking for places to hibernate and to a hedgehog, a bonfire seems like ideal place. They don't know it's going to be set on fire! The same applies if you've done any vegetation clearance and are having a bonfire. Find out how to avoid harming hedgehogs [HERE](#).



Image: Hedgehog at Cemex offices at Aix-en-Provence, Southern France © Virginia Giliberti



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