

Earthly Matters



Cemex & RSPB Partnership Blog June 2026



Welcome to the June 2026 edition of **Earthly Matters**, the blog dedicated to the partnership between Cemex and the RSPB.



Partnership Update

By Sarah Ferriss, RSPB Head of Business Conservation Advice

Last month, I was delighted to visit Cemex's UK Head Office in Binley for a Cemex/RSPB partnership Steering Group meeting, followed by a site visit to Southam Quarry.

The Steering Group brings together colleagues from across Cemex to discuss strategy, operations and future opportunities. These meetings are invaluable for sharing ideas, addressing challenges and identifying ways to maximise benefits for both the partnership and nature.

The visit to Southam Quarry was a great addition to the day. Learning about the site's industrial heritage before exploring the restored landscape highlighted the remarkable transformation that has taken place. It was hard to imagine

that the thriving meadows, scrub and lakes were once dominated by heavy machinery. During the visit, we saw species including Peregrine Falcon, Common Spotted Orchid, Hoary Plantain, Small Blue butterfly and Yellow Shell moth, alongside some impressive fossils.

The day reinforced the importance of partnership working in delivering solutions that support both business and nature. When planned well, quarrying can create significant opportunities for large-scale habitat restoration and species recovery.

Many thanks to the Steering Group members, and to Martin and Kai for bringing the story of Southam Quarry to life.



Image: Carl Cornish (RSPB), Sarah Ferris (RSPB), Sean Cassidy (Cemex)

Actions for Nature

Image: Peacock butterfly © Hayley Sears



The Big Butterfly Count, run by Butterfly Conservation, takes place again this year across the UK from Friday, July 17 to Sunday, August 9, 2026.

It's easy to take part. All you need is a garden or local green space, 15 minutes to sit or walk around, some sunshine and then record the number of the different species you seen. Submit your results to <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>. The website has guides to help identifying butterfly species.

In the lead up to this year's Big Butterfly Count, Butterfly Conservation ran a vote to find the nation's favourite butterfly. Peacock was voted the UK's favourite butterfly. A worthy winner being big, beautiful and relatively easy to see. Adults overwinter so are often one of the first species of butterfly to appear when winter days become warmer.

Focus on Natural Grasslands

By Carl Cornish

RSPB Senior Business Conservation Adviser for Cemex Partnership

Neutral grassland is found on soils that are neither too acidic nor basic (calcareous). They are the once common wildflower meadows that would have been found in every parish. Tragically there has been a catastrophic 97% loss in the last hundred years from land use change (ploughing up grassland for arable crops and building) and improvements by reseeding and applying fertiliser, which kills many flower species. Remaining areas are often small, fragmented remnants of one much larger and connected areas.

These meadows are home to familiar buttercups and Ox-eye Daisies plus a palette of colourful flowers such as Cowslip (yellow), Field Scabious (pale blue), Grass Vetchling (pink), Hay Rattle (yellow), Meadow Crane's-bill (bluish purple), Lesser Knapweed (purple). Insects make their home in neutral grasslands, including many of our butterflies including Common Blue, which, sadly, is no longer as numerous and widespread as its name suggests. Skylarks nest on the ground and sing overhead in their aerial song flight.

Neutral grassland is a habitat commonly created through quarry restoration and non-operational areas where no fertilisers or herbicides are applied act as refuges for many plants found in meadows. So Cemex is playing its part in helping bring this habitat back and help the species that depend on it.

It is #NationalMeadowsDay on Saturday 4 July so a perfect time to find a meadow and enjoy its wildlife.



Male Common Blue butterfly
© Hayley Sears

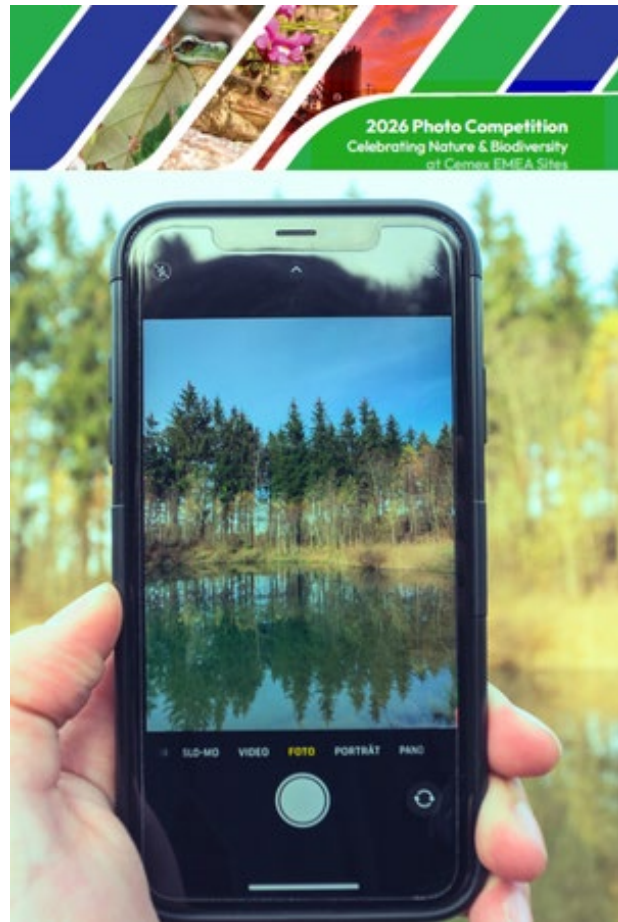


Photo Competition Celebrating Nature & Biodiversity at Cemex EMEA Sites

Nature thrives everywhere, including at our Cemex sites. Take a moment to notice the plants and animals around you and celebrate the diversity that enriches our environment. Enter the 2026 Nature Photography Competition by submitting your photos and descriptions to sean.cassidy@cemex.com by 18th September. Full details on UK News.

Contact Carl

If you would like advice or a visit from Carl Cornish, our RSPB Senior Business Conservation Adviser for the Cemex Partnership, please get in touch: carl.cornish@rspb.org.uk



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