



Cemex & RSPB Partnership Blog October 2026



Welcome to the October 2026 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



In October, I joined Cemex's EMEA Sustainability Webinar. My thanks to Sean Cassidy, EMEA Biodiversity Manager, for inviting me to attend and speak at the webinar. I found it a very interesting and informative session, learning more about Cemex's corporate goals for Nature Positive and the positive nature actions being taken across Europe.

I spoke about Cemex's Kensworth Quarry, which is a successful model of Cemex UK, working in a formal partnership with the RSPB and informal ones with other organisations such as Butterfly Conservation and the North Chiltern Conservation Volunteers. I have picked up the baton from my RSPB predecessors in working with Mark Gough, the Quarry Manager, who has been a driving force in making the partnerships happen and work successfully.

It demonstrates the how strategic biodiversity objectives can flow through a golden thread to tactical delivery on the ground. It has the wider benefits of improved understanding with statutory bodies, environmental NGOS and the local community, of the benefits of mineral site restoration for nature. As a case study, it is a model that could be adopted at other sites.



The webinar is still available to watch [HERE](#)

Action for Wildlife

The RSPB's advice on feeding birds is to feed seasonally and to feed safely. This is to help prevent the spread of diseases that have been causing declines in some bird species, especially finches. From 1st November, seeds and peanuts can be provided in hanging feeders again along with fat balls, suet pellets and dried mealworms. It is important to keep feeders clean by regularly washing with hot soapy water and disinfect with a non-toxic disinfectant such as Ark-Klens or a mild (5%) bleach solution. Be sure to also clean away any old food or droppings from beneath feeders. Moving the location of feeders also helps.

For further information see

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/news/how-to-help-garden-birds>



Image: Blue Tit on peanut feeder © Chris Gomersall, RSPB



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

Focus on Lowland Heathland

Lowland Heathland: A Valuable Habitat Under Threat

Lowland heathland is a rare and important habitat found across the UK, particularly in southern England. It is typically found on sandy, acidic, nutrient-poor soils at relatively low elevations. The landscape is characterised by open areas of low-growing heather and grasses, with patches of broom and gorse scrub, scattered trees and areas of bare ground. It is a colourful mosaic of the purples and pinks of heather species and the yellows of broom and gorse; these flowering shrubs make it important for pollinators. Although it may appear wild and natural, much of the UK's heathland has developed through centuries of traditional land management, including livestock grazing and cutting vegetation for materials and fuel.

Lowland heathland supports a remarkable variety of wildlife from bare ground specialists (Green Tiger Beetles, mining bees and solitary wasps) to species that use heather and scrub. It is home to all six UK native reptiles and a suite of specialist birds – Nightjars, Woodlarks and Dartford Warblers. Invertebrates, including rare bees, butterflies and spiders, benefit from the diverse vegetation and warm, sheltered conditions. The combination of different plant communities and habitat features makes heathland particularly valuable for biodiversity.

The area of lowland heathland has declined a massive 80% over the past two centuries through land use changes. But the UK still has 20% of the world's lowland heathland so what remains is critically important for cultural and wildlife-rich habitats. Furthermore, remaining sites are often fragmented, leaving wildlife populations isolated and vulnerable. Without appropriate management, heathland will become overgrown with scrub and trees, reducing the open conditions required by many specialist species. Invasive plants, recreational disturbance and the increased risk of wildfires pose further threats. The loss of habitat is a recurring theme in my articles and reflects the challenges faced.

The good news is that the importance of remaining areas is recognised with many sites protected and managed. There are landscape-scale projects to restore links between isolated heathland sites to allow species to move between populations and improve their long-term survival. More now is understood about how to restore successfully former lowland heathlands from farmland and conifer plantations. There are success stories as well. The Dartford Warbler, a small bird that likes to feed and nest in areas of thick gorse and heather, had declined in the second half of the twentieth century and reduced its range to Dorset. It has now recolonised much of southern England and East Anglia and slowly spreading northwards. This is through better management of areas, creation of new areas and warmer winters helping survival.

Cemex is restoring lowland heathland at its Rugeley and West Heath quarries so making an important contribution to the conservation of this important habitat and the species it supports. The active quarries also provide temporary areas of bare sand for invertebrates.

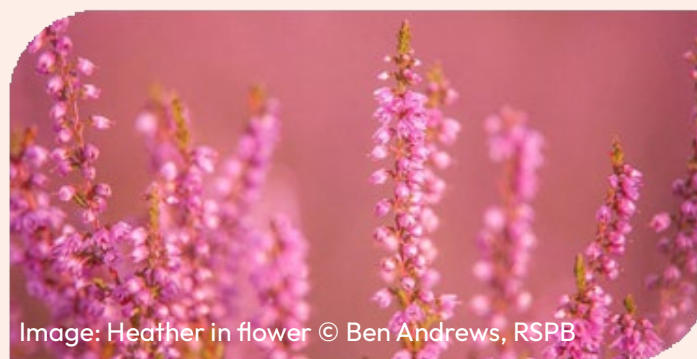


Image: Heather in flower © Ben Andrews, RSPB



Image: Dartford Warbler, a Lowland Heathland conservation success story of the 21st century © Les Cater, RSPB

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

