

Understanding our impact on nature: Encouraging biodiversity at our factory



Our Centre of Excellence for Modern Construction (CEMC) is situated near Worksop, in Nottinghamshire. Historically, the site was home to a coal mine, limestone quarry and brickworks. At the point at which Laing O'Rourke took over the land, it was a heavily contaminated brownfield site.

Since that time the estate has flourished, with nature starting to re-establish. To better understand the fauna and flora around the site, we asked specialist ecological consultancy, East Midlands Ecology Consultant Ltd (EMEC), to conduct a biodiversity baseline assessment in the summer of 2022. This assessment identified species that are already present around the site, as well as those that may inhabit the area and merit further analysis. The results of the survey formed the basis for our CEMC biodiversity action plan.

In 2022 we were approached by a local beekeeper looking for a home for ten beehives – and we were delighted to have them! Positioned close to the entrance to our estate, we planted wildflower seeds around the hives to help provide the perfect environment for the bees. Not only is the installation of the beehives a great way of encouraging nature to flourish around our site, it has also created a real buzz among our people. The site held a family fun day in July 2022, encouraging employees and their families to take part in a range of outdoor activities. Honey from the hives was sold at the event, with the proceeds donated to charity.

Our CEMC team works closely with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. Staff took part in a Wild Work Day at the Trust's Idle Valley Nature Reserve in October 2022, helping to maintain the reserve and learn more about the habitats and rewilding programmes there. We're also participating in some of the Trust's initiatives, such as No Mow May, which enables plant life around the site to further establish, and 30 Days Wild.

We're looking forward to completing a second biodiversity survey in summer 2023 to measure the impact of our improvements.



Entrance to CEMC, UK



Beehives, CEMC, UK

The CEMC site

The CEMC site contains a diverse range of habitats. The blend of lowland calcareous grassland, deciduous woodland, lakes, ponds and native hedgerows provides homes for a variety of species. It is one of only six sites in the country where flamingo moss grows and home to 21 species of bird, seven of which are of principal importance. The mosaic of grassland, bare ground and woodland provide a natural habitat for grass snakes, slow worms and lizards and the woodland supports hedgehogs, brown hares and six different butterfly species, some of which are of special interest. Our biodiversity action plans will seek to protect these species, while providing an opportunity for more plants, animals and invertebrates to flourish.

