

ADVISORY INFORMATION – BUZZARD



Introduction

Over the last 50 years, buzzard populations have recovered from a period of decline to become the most common bird of prey in both the UK and at CEMEX's UK quarries (59% of the 2012 Birds of Prey surveys reported seeing buzzards hunting).

Key Points

Quarry staff should be vigilant to illegal killing of buzzards. **Please be on the lookout for any suspicious activity and if you see anything contact the RSPB immediately on 01767 680551 or 07803 241452** (this includes dead buzzards or poisoned 'bait' such as a dead rabbit or a pigeon tied to something to prevent it flying away). If you find a baited bird then do not touch it because it will probably be coated with poison.

Ecology

Buzzards prefer mixed habitat with plenty of pasture, hedgerows and small woods. The nest is usually in a tree, rocky crag or cliff. It is a substantial twiggy structure with a diameter of about a metre and depth of 60cm that gets bigger each year. Their diet consists mainly of carrion and rodents but they will eat just about anything from insects to birds. The clutch of 2-4 eggs is usually laid in mid-April, with the chicks fledging around 3 months later.

Threats

Buzzards are at risk from illegal persecution by way of deliberately poisoned game birds or rabbits.

Managing your site

No specific actions are likely or necessary to attract buzzards.

Remember, all wild birds are protected by legislation making it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird, its eggs or nests whilst in use or being built.