

Category: Certificate of Excellence - Biodiversity
Company: Holcim
Location: Altmaines in Kitzingen, Germany

The Old Main between Volkach and Schwarzach is not only a geological and geographical treasure. Through the biotope networking of the gravel excavation sites of the company LZR Lenz-Ziegler-Reifenscheid GmbH in Kitzingen, a networked system has emerged that represents a unique habitat. The reason for the existing wide spectrum of species is the extensive structural variety encountered here. When considered more closely it becomes clear that this unique networked system could only be achieved in conjunction with the gravel pits.

The main subject matter of this documentation is to describe the relationship between the various biotopes and the affect they have on each other. It has been shown, for example, that water birds on the one hand, embrace the gravel quarries as peaceful areas since they are able to maintain their flight zones here, and on the other hand take advantage of the flowing sections of the Main for a change in habitat without expending much energy. Moreover, they use the quarry pond network as wintering grounds. More and more migratory birds use this network for a stopover or even as an alternative residence with a yearly increasing trend.

With their generous water areas, which serve as valuable tranquil areas, and varied depths, that not only afford water birds their food supply, gravel quarries offer the ideal complement to flowing water. Most notably it is the rich bank structure with varied shallow water zones that make the gravel quarry habitat so valuable.

The extent to which the rich structure of this region is accepted, is apparent in the extensive species variety. No wonder either that 177 “Red-List-Species” can be found here. Among the sighted birds alone, 69 “Red-List-Species” are represented. This abundance of existing plant and animal species from the “Red List” attracts numerous interest groups. University students write papers about the invertebrate organisms in the bank area, environmental associations count birds, dragonflies, fish or spiders and hikers enjoy nature with open eyes and ears. They are all united by a fascination with this Main landscape.

The findings of this multifaceted investigation of the gravel pit network confirm that LZR-executives are on the right path with their established principles. But they are also obligated, in the course of regional raw material supply – the ultimate mission of the LZR company – to contribute such that further endangered species of Fauna and Flora find new refuge. With these measures, as well as through the realization of the plan “River-in-River,“ biodiversity will increase by multitudes – in keeping with the “Countdown 2010”.

