

ADVISORY INFORMATION – LITTLE RINGED PLOVER



Introduction

The little ringed plover receives special protection under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. They often nest at gravel pits, on industrial sites and on the shingle banks of rivers.

Key Points

- **It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb Little Ringed Plovers at, on or near an 'active' nest.**

Ecology

Little ringed plovers arrive on the breeding areas from late March until early May and generally leave in August, returning to their wintering grounds in Africa. They tend to be early colonists of sand and gravel quarries, nesting on exposed gravels, on the floor of pumped workings or on islands, on silt lagoons and even in vehicle parks and stock-piling areas. The eggs are laid on bare, gravelly ground and are very well camouflaged. The plovers require shallow water edges for feeding.

Learning Points

- **When birds are present from April onwards, breeding should be assumed and care must be taken to avoid disturbance.**
- If favoured breeding areas are known, inform site workers and mark temporary exclusion areas, eg signs saying 'bird nesting areas'. Do not search for nests.
- Wherever possible areas of suitable habitat should be left undisturbed during the breeding season; this can encourage these birds to nest in non-operational areas.
- If possible, changes in water levels should be avoided during April to mid- August to avoid inundation of eggs.

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.

If you require further information, please do contact a member of the **CEMEX Sustainability Department** on **01788 517320**