

BIODIVERSITY CASE STUDY

Company: Omya GmbH, Gummern

Country: Austria

Title Living Quarry

Context In just 12 years a disused quarry site at Gummern, Austria has been transformed into a wetlands nature reserve.

Solution Local school kids from the Perau Grammar School in Villach have made a big contribution. They've created small biotopes and dragonfly ponds on what was once an ugly slag heap. They've also done careful mapping exercises and planted section after section themselves, bringing their studies of Biology and Ecology out of text books and into a real environment.

Result The former quarry site is now a natural haven of wildlife for all kids. Trout, newts, yellow-bellied toads and tadpoles exist in the pools, alongside a wide variety of arthropods – amongst them beetles, spiders and crayfish. None of this great work would have been possible without the quarry site.

Partners Perau Grammer School

