

## BIODIVERSITY CASE STUDY

Company: Kreidewerk Rügen

Country: Germany

**Title**                    **Bringing Nature Back**

**Context**                The Rügen chalk quarry in Germany is an excellent example of just how important careful mining is for the protection of endangered species and biotopes. In this part of Germany, nature conservation at disused chalk quarries is protected by law.

**Solution**             Once the mining company has ceased operations, the quarries remain barren for only a short time before nature starts to take over. To begin with, flowering plants such as Coltsfoot and Orchids appear and soon after the habitat develops from species-rich, chalky soils to woodland.

**Result**                The Rügen landscape was influenced by chalk quarrying and renaturing through the centuries. One of the most interesting and beautiful stages in this transformation is the growth of the grasslands – one of the most animal and plant rich habitats of all.

**Partners**             Chalk Museum Gummanz - The history of chalk and its different applications are explained and there is also an outdoor exhibition. Omya and the Rügen chalk plant supported the construction of this museum and will continue with their participation in the future.

