

HeidelbergCement Northern Europe – Quarry restoration and biodiversity



Pulsatilla patens

Cemeta's Slite plant is located on Gotland's Filehajdar, an area of ecological interest recognised by the EU's Natura 2000 network. In particular, the rare herb *Pulsatilla patens*, or Eastern pasque flower, thrives only in specific habitats such as Slite. Ninety percent of the herb found in Sweden grows on Cemeta's land.

Kerstin Nyberg explains how, in 2002, following discussions with authorities, Cemeta decided to propose a project to protect the Eastern pasque flower. "We saw this as an opportunity to demonstrate to the local community and others that we take conservation seriously," she explains.

In re-introducing the herb to quarry restoration areas, the company initiated a proj-

ect in 2006, enlisting both internal and external expertise. They oversaw the cultivation of seedlings and replanting, as well as monitoring the growth of new plants. Initial observations show the herb to have been very successfully reintroduced and a scientific evaluation will be conducted in the spring. "We hope to find that most plants have survived the winter" says Nyberg.

The project will continue until 2009 with further planting and assessment by the company and local authorities. "The project has been very successful so far and in future permit applications, we will use this to show how we approach such issues," says Kerstin.

"It's been amazing to see employees so focused on our grey powder become sincerely passionate about a beautiful little flower."

Kerstin Nyberg, Environmental Manager, Slite, Cemeta

