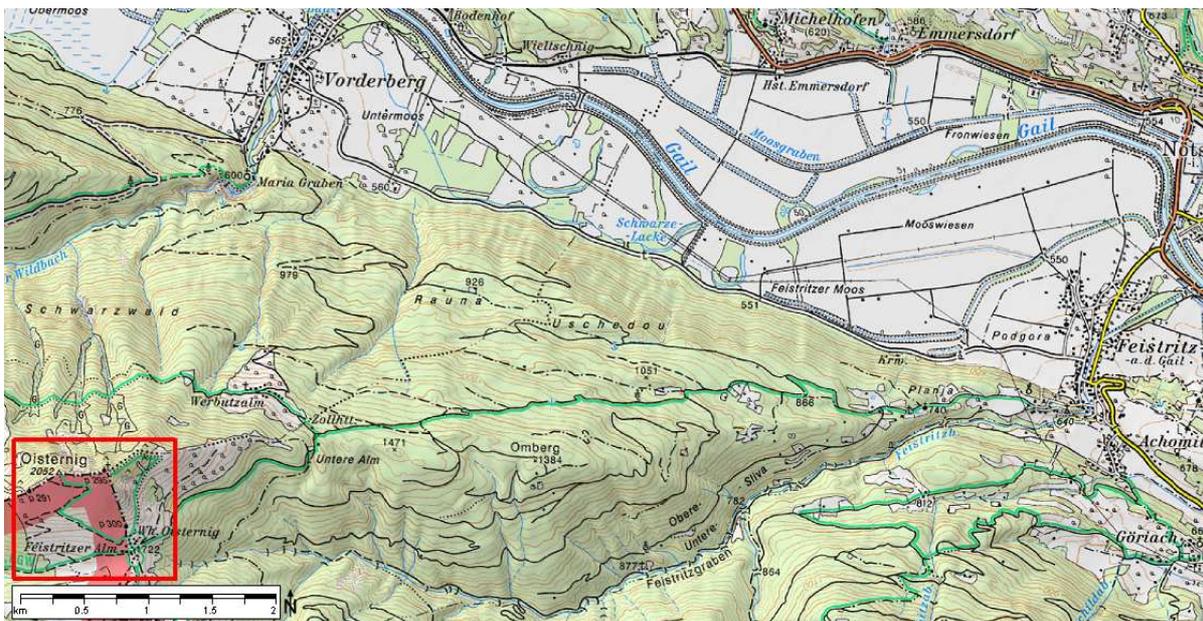


Geotope 20: Feistritz Alm – Ancient Sea-bottom



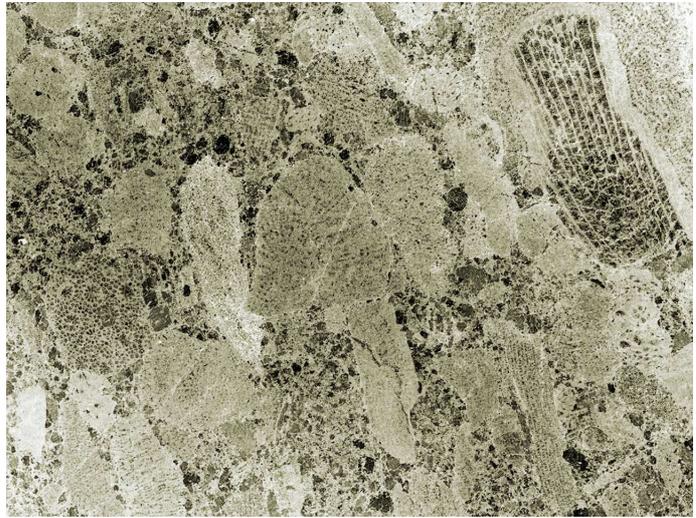
Red square: location of the geotope; green tracks: hiking trails; ©BEV: Federal Office for Calibration and Measurement, 2005.

Access:

Road from the villages of Vorderberg or Feistritz. The Alm is located south of the peak of Oisternig and is easy accessible during summer by foot, car or bicycle.

Description of the Geotope

Unbelievable but true, the Feistritz Alm on an altitude of 1722 m represents an ancient sea-bottom. During the Devonian Period some 380 million years ago a warm shallow sea full of life and in particular corals covered this area. This is documented by many fossil remains enclosed in rocks which occur as loose limestone blocks along the trail leading from the Alm to the eastern flank of mountain



Micrograph of a fossil bed with corals and stromatoporoids from the eastern part of mountain Oisternig.

Oisternig. Also, fossils can be found along a military road north of the Alm in direction to the 2052 m high summit of mountain Oisternig. Here, a 125 m thick limestone horizon with abundant crinoids, corals, stromatoporoids, brachiopods, bivalves and algae is exposed. Back in the Devonian Period these rocks belonged to an extensive reef belt extending over large parts of the Carnic Alps.



Feistritz Alm and eastern part of mountain Oisternig.