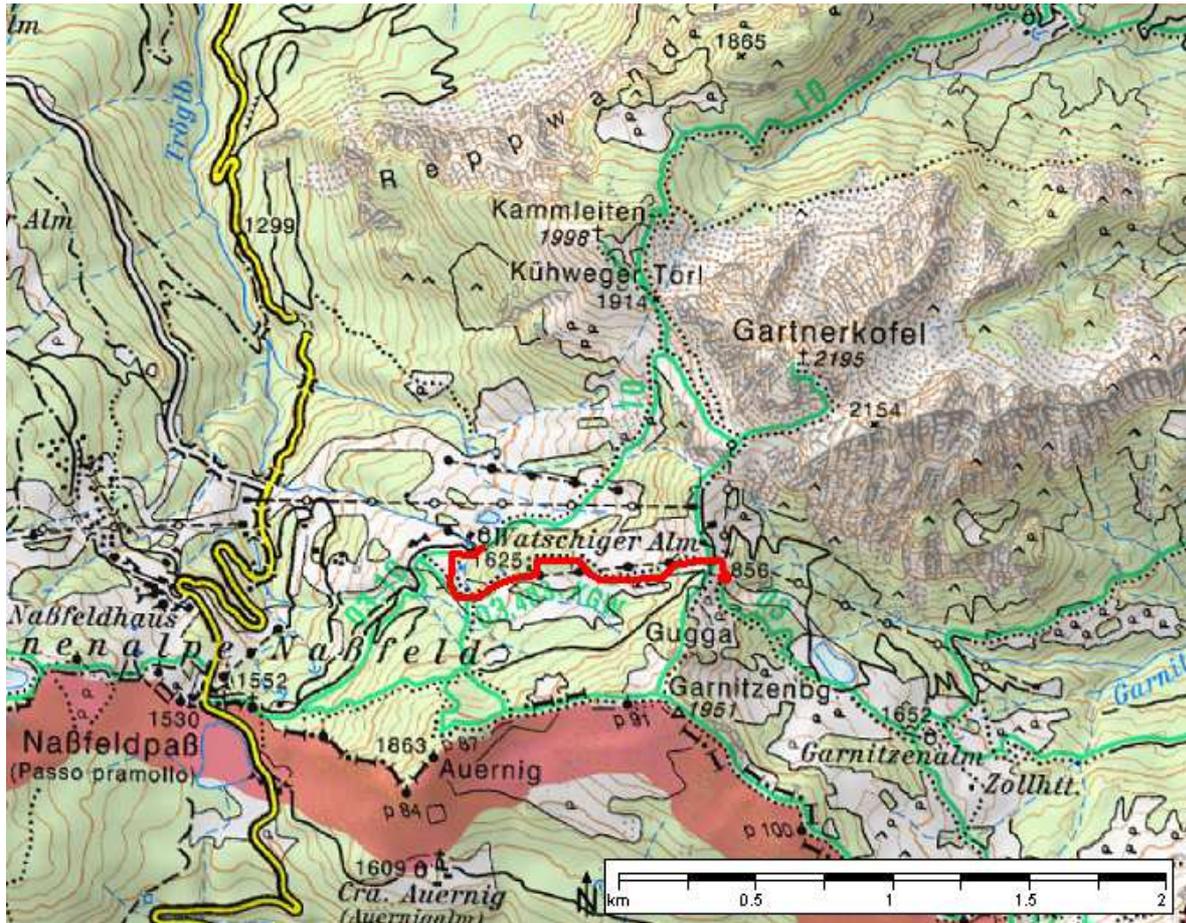


Geotope 23: Garnitzen Saddle – White Gravel



Red marking: Hiking route according to advance description; green tracks: hiking trails; ©BEV: Federal Office for Calibration and Measurement, 2005.

Access:

From Tröpolach to Naßfeld Pass and further on to Watschig Alm. Shortly before the Alm an unpaved road deviates to Garnitzen saddle. The occurrence is half-way along this road.

Description of the Geotope



The quartz-conglomerates from Garnitzen-Sattel are solidified gravel deposits from the younger Carboniferous period (360- 290 million years)

Some meters south of the saddle and next to the road a 10 m thick layer of quartz conglomerates are exposed which comprise white quartz pebbles being cemented to a very hard sedimentary rock. This kind of rocks interbeds of quartz conglomerates, silty and sandy shales, sandstones and limestones comprise the Late Carboniferous Auernig Formation.

The hard quartz-conglomerates are fossilised gravel deposits transported by rivers. While the smaller and weaker pebbels are pulverizes in the flowing water, the harder rocks become residual pebbels. With concern to its origin, this area was composed of granites and metamorphic rocks which were probably located at the end of the Carboniferous (360 to 290 m.y. BP) to the north and north-west of the present Gail Valley. No traces are left from this time.

For those who are interested in more details: conglomerates are sedimentary rocks, consisting of rounded and more than 2 mm big cemented components. Breccias are similar to conglomerates but consist of angular clasts.