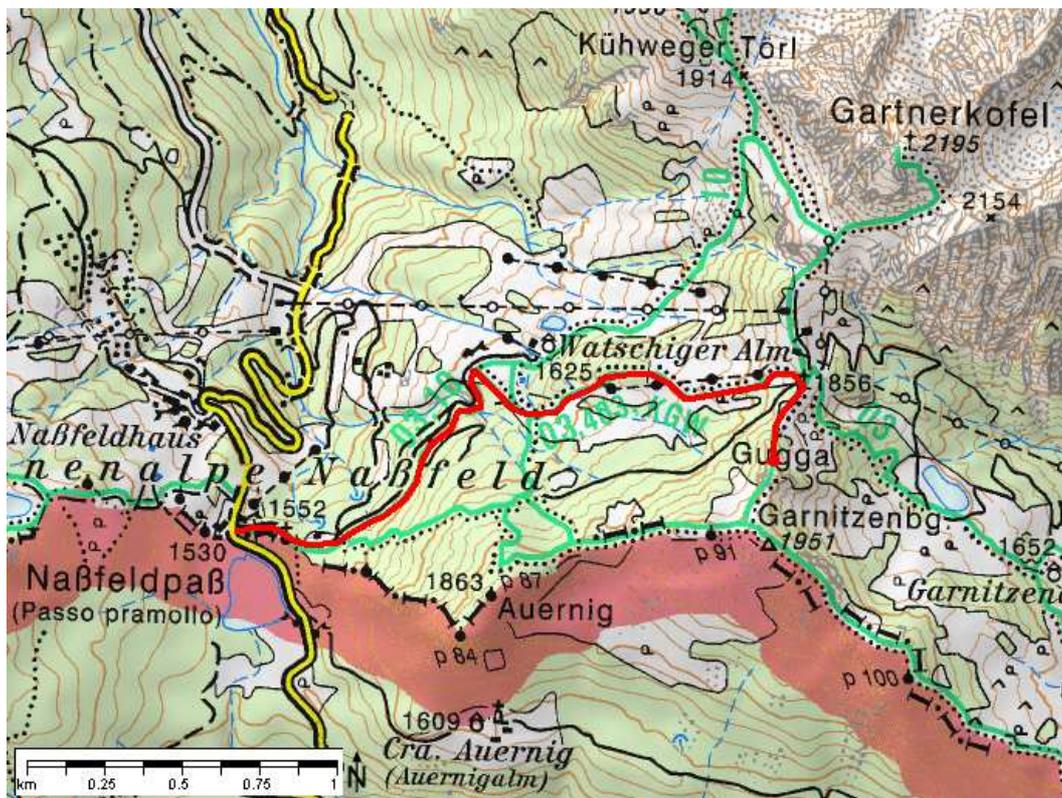


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## Geotope 26: Garnitzenhöhe 1 – Life in an Ancient Sea



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

### Access:

From Naßfeldpass the Garnitzenhöhe in the east can easily be accessed. The Gugga ridge may serve as orientation to ascent to the top (1951 m).

## Description of the Geotope



Fossil collecting on the Garnitzenridge in the saddle south of Gugga.

The Gugga limestone ridge is overlain by greyish soft sandstones which have yielded in the past a rich brachiopod fauna. Today only a few iron-stained shell imprints can be found although the locality is not totally exploited.

This site reflects the life in the sea some 295 m. y. BP during

Upper Carboniferous time. In comparison with the underlying limestones of the Gugga

ridge the sea-level had subsided and the coastline had moved towards the sea. This tendency continued until at the end continental deposits replaced the former marine deposits. Thus, just a few meters above the brachiopod-bearing horizon a vegetation characteristic of a moor occurs which contains many plant fossils indicating land or coastal conditions. Such sea-level fluctuations did not only occur in the Carnic Alps but are a global phenomenon caused by a huge glaciation of the major part of the southern hemisphere. Depending on the dominating climate, the coastline either transgressed over the continents or regressed in the opposite direction. The occurrence of brachiopods indicate that for a short time ideal living conditions persisted here but disappeared when a climatic perturbation occurred.



Imprints of iron-stained brachiopods of the genus *Productus*.