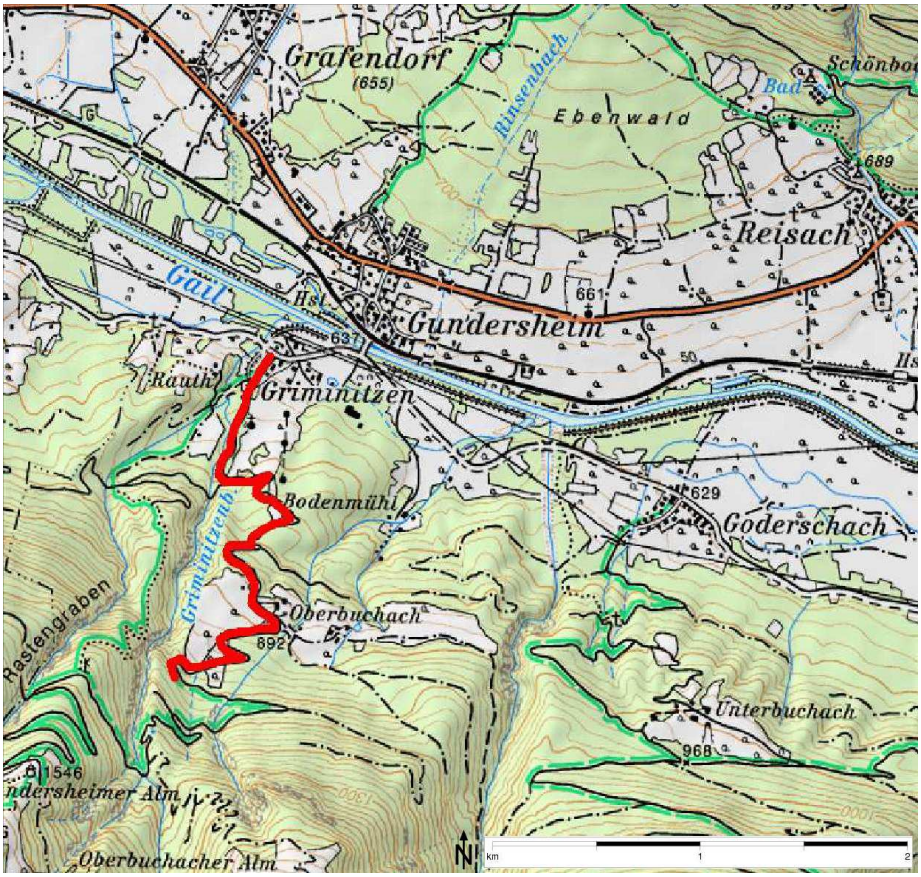
Visitor Center GeoPark Carnic Alps 9635 Dellach im Gailtal 65
Telefon: 04718-301 33 E-Mail: office@geopark-karnische-alpen.at Home: www.geopark-karnische-alpen.at

Geotope 35: Gundersheim Alm Road 1 – 400 Million Years Earth History.



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

Access:

From the villages of Gundersheim or Griminitzen along a paved road to Oberbuchach and further on a forest road to the locality at 1,110 m altitude.

Description of the Geotope

Road outcrop at the ascent to Gundersheim Alm.

Along the road to Gundersheim Alm an important paleontological site can be visted at the road turnbent and an altitude of 1,110 m. The southern wall is composed of interbedded black shales, sandstones and limestone. Based on locally rich occurrences of graptolites this sequence was assigned to the Silurian (440 to 410 m.y. BP). During this time the sea was extremely hostile to life with exception of graptolites and some microfossils living in an almost oxygen-free deep-water environment. Once and a while some small sediment particles and dead organisms dropped to the bottom which over some 30 millon years increased to thicknesses as seen today.

Of special interest in this sequence are imprints of graptolites similar to the locality Zollner Hut. The deep ocean was only inhabited by radiolarians, some conodonts and also by graptolites floating in the upper zones of the ocean. Graptolites belong to an extinct group of animals with distant affinities to living pterobranchs. By splitting the shales with a hammer with some luck imprints of such animals can be found on the surface. They resemble a sawing blade-like outline.

During the Devonian sedimentation in the oceans changed. This is documented by increased limestone sedimentation which contains a more diverse fauna. Suddenly greyish, reddish and pinkish limestones occurred.

Imprint of a late Ordovician biserial graptolite specimen.