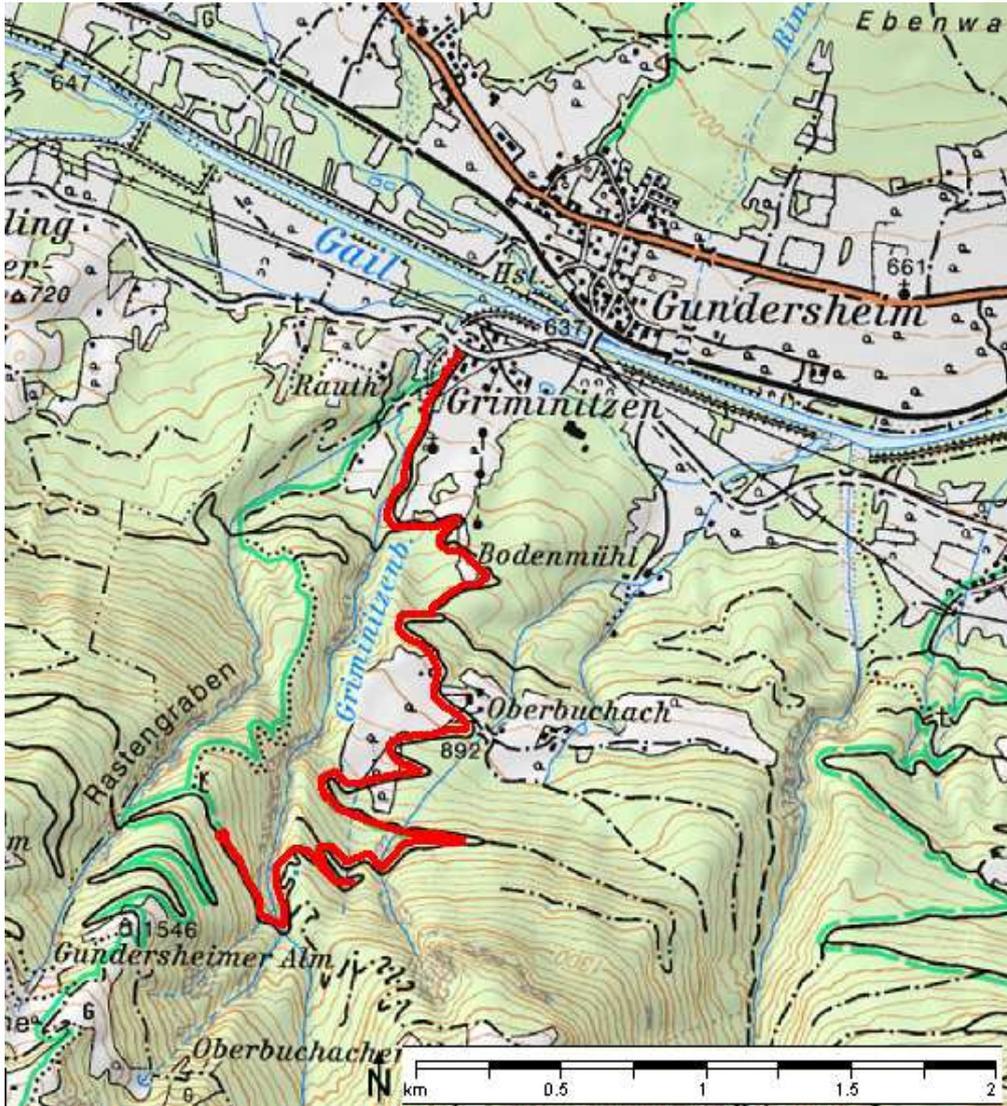


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Geotope 36: Gundersheim Alm Road 2 – Red Limestones of the Devonian



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 along a forest road to a sedimentary sequence between 1260 and 1300 m shortly after the deviation of the trail to Oberbuchach Alm and crossing a small creek.

Description of the Geotope

At the roadcut black and reddish limestones of Devonian age (400 to 360 m.y. BP) are excellently exposed. The sequence starts with black platy limestones with interlayers of black shales which are assigned to the Rauchkofel Formation. They are succeeded by the more than 100 m thick reddish and pinkish Findenig Formation. Both units contain a rich assemblage of stratigraphically important fossil remains, such as graptolites, conodonts, dacryoconarids, crinoids, bivalves and others providing excellent age constraints. While the blackish horizons are dominated by planktonic graptolites, in the pinkish limestones small cone-shaped dacryoconarids occur with sizes similar to conodonts (1 to 2 mm). The systematic ranking of both groups of animals is still being ambiguous although the fish-like conodonts have recently been assigned to an extinct group of chordates; they disappeared some 160 million years ago.



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For those who want to know more details: Marls are mixed sediments of clay and carbonate which are formed in fresh-water and in the sea.