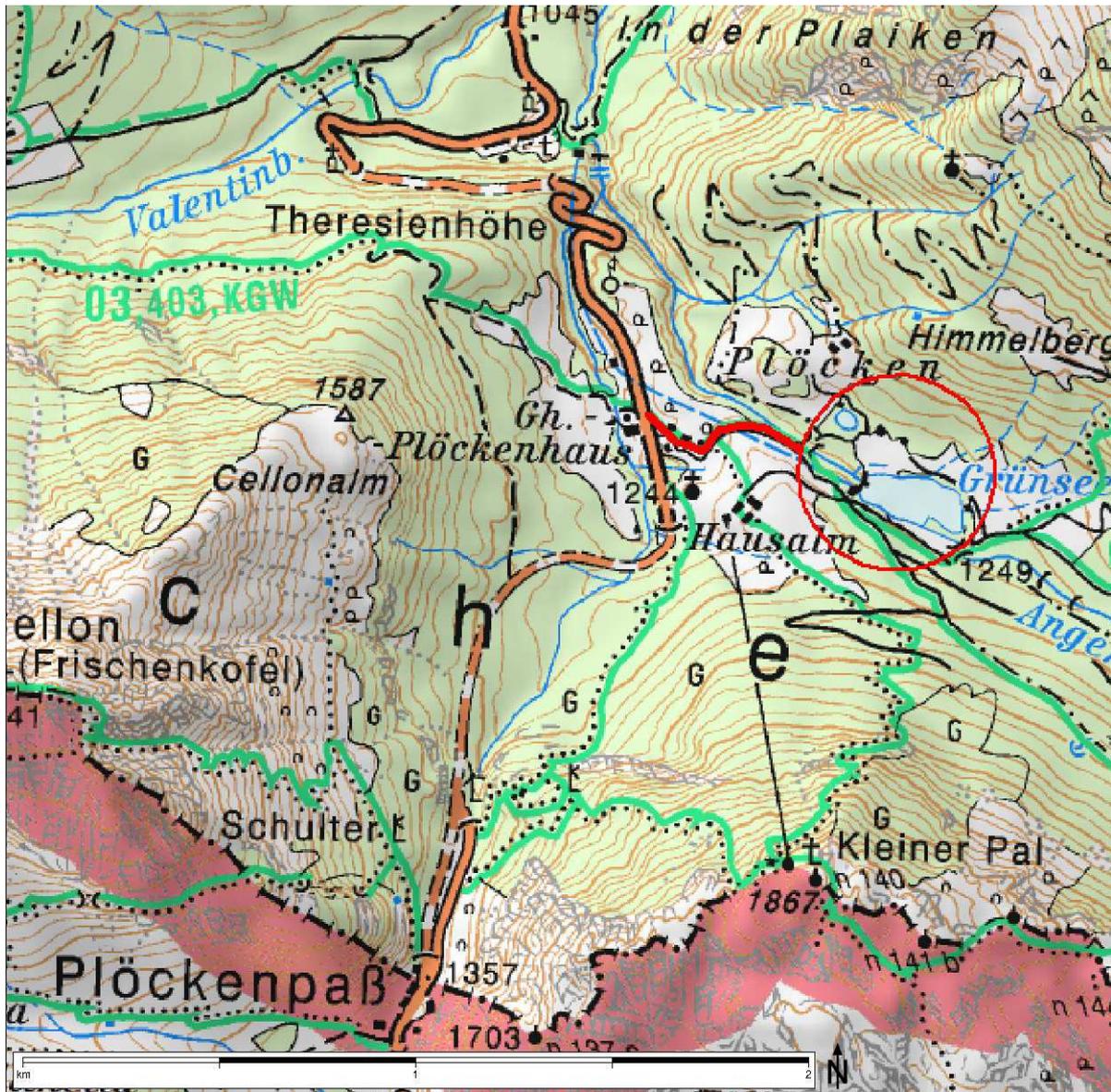


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Geotope 3. Grünsee and Valentinsee – The Mystical Lakes



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

Access:

From Plöckenhaus and from the main road at cemetery of World War 1, respectively. Both lakes are located east of Plöckenhaus and are accessible within a few minutes.

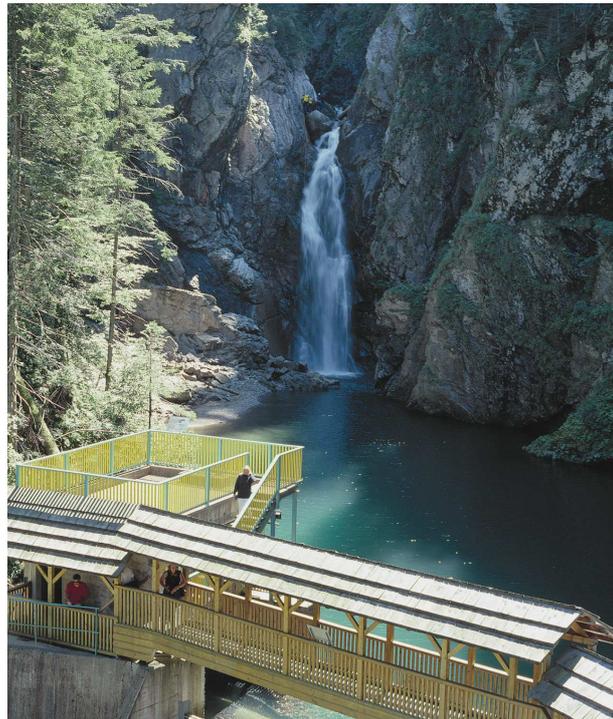
Description of the Geotope

Both lakes are artificially dammed up. The bottom of the Grünsee (=Green Lake) consists of debris of slates and sandstones of the Upper Carboniferous Hochwipfel-Formation. The subsurface of the Valentinsee comprises even older rocks from the Silurian and Devonian Periods.

420 million years ago the whole Carnic Alps belonged to a huge ocean which extended between Baltica in the North and Africa in the South. Gradually, the climate became warmer, the sea shallower and the food supply increased. Hence, limestone deposition increased on the sea-bottom and on the shelf. Locally, even reefs formed comparable to the Caribbean or surrounding the eastern coast of Australia.

At this place, on the bottom of Valentinsee and in the wall behind, small remnants of this ancient Lower Paleozoic sea-bottom are preserved. On the left side of the creek black shales and limestones from the Silurian can be seen, in the creek and to the left, however, greyish and pinkish limestones of the Devonian occur.

This thick pile of sediments was inclined, folded and finally uplifted during the last phase of the Alpine Orogeny, some 30 million years ago. Gradually, the present landscape formed.



Damed-up Valentinsee close to the parking „Kreuztratte“ at the road to Plöckenpass.