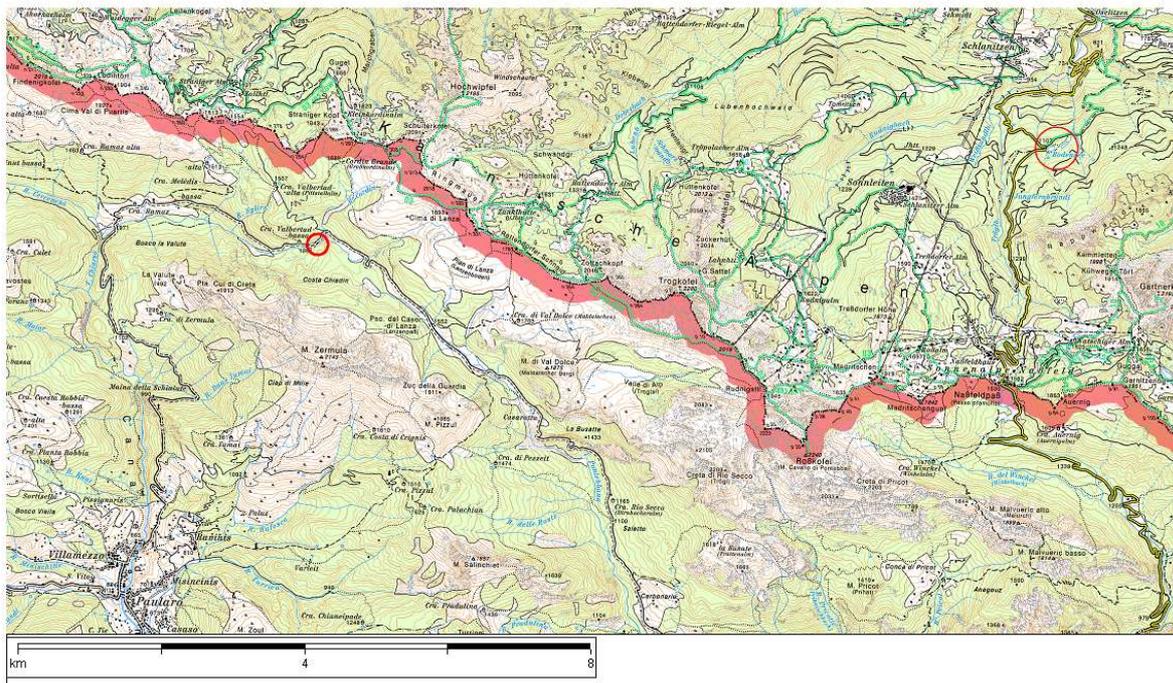


Visitor Center GeoPark Carnic Alps 9635 Dellach im Gailtal 65
Telefon: 04718-301 33 E-Mail: office@geopark-karnische-alpen.at Home: www.geopark-karnische-alpen.at

Geotope 44: Casera Valbertad bassa – Greetings from the Ordovician



Red circle: location of the geotope; green tracks: hiking trails; ©BEV: Federal Office for Calibration and Measurement.

Access:

From the village of Paularo a paved road is leading to Passo dell Cason di Lanza and further on directing Pontebba. Along the road Casera Valbertad bassa is passed. The Geotope is located on the left roadside close to Cra. Valbertad bassa on an altitude of 1340 to 1360 m.

Description of the Geotope

At the roadside siltstones with intercalations of limestone nodules of Ordovician age (Katian Stage) are exposed which yielded some of



Rock association of the road section Valbertad bassa.

the oldest fossils in the Carnic Alps (approx. 460 m.y. BP). The section is exposed along some 30 meters. The lower part is mainly composed of grey-green siltstones while the upper portion contains limestone nodules and some contiguous limestone beds from which conodonts have been recovered. The phosphatic teeth-like remains belong to a fish-like and 3 to 5 cm long animal, the function of which is still being debated although a filter or grasping apparatus is most likely. Recently, conodonts have been assigned to an extinct group of chordates; they disappeared some 160 million years ago.



Casera Valbertad bassa

At the transition from the massive siltstones to the limestones brachiopods are rather common; cystoids and trilobites are also occurring but are rather. Most of the fossil remains are preserved as limonitic imprints. Paleontologists have studied and published this fauna, their results are another cornerstone to reconstruct the spatial and temporal relationship between “old-Europe” and northern Africa.