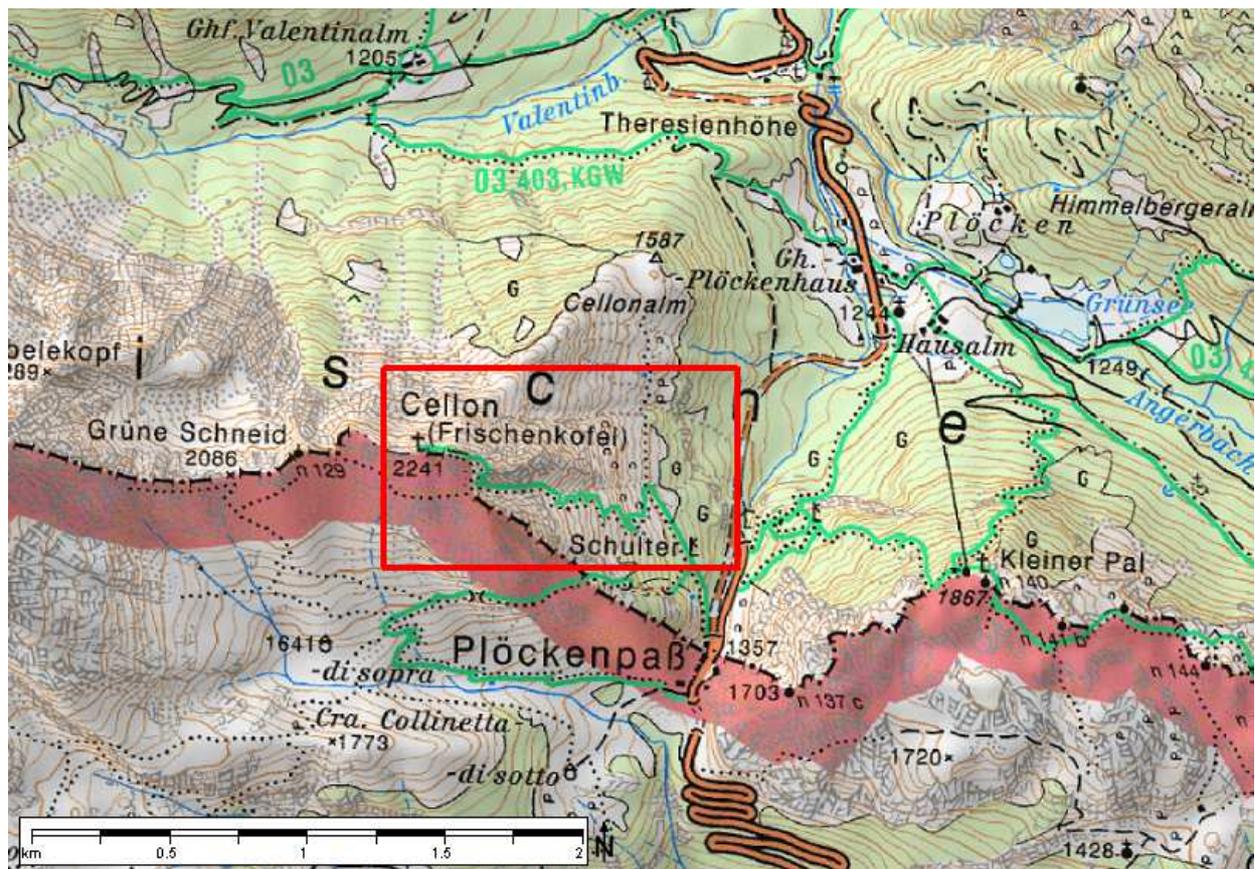


Geotope 60: Cellonetta Avalanche Gully – Mekka of Geologists



Red square: location of the geotope; green tracks: hiking trails; ©BEV: Federal Office for Calibration and Measurement, 2005.

Access:

From the parking at the Austrian-Italian border a trail is starting directly to the avalanche gully. In the middle part the trail to the Cellon gallery is branching off. Due to snow from avalanches the sedimentary sequence exposed in the gully can be covered by snow until early summer.

Description of the Geotope



The Geotope represents a site of pilgrimage for geologists from all over the world. Reason for that is its easy accessibility, the excellent exposures and the continuous conformable sequence ranging from the Upper Ordovician (450 m. y. BP) to the base of the Devonian (420 m.y. BP). In addition, many layers are very fossiliferous.

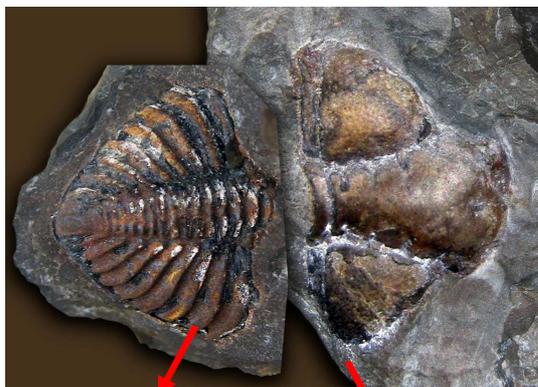
In the gully rocks from the Silurian Period (440 to 420 m.y. BP) are of

particular interest and attain a thickness of some 60 m. With the start a few meters below the trail crossing the section, varying limestones, siltstones and mudstones represent the base of the mountain Cellon. Based on its varying lithology and fossil content these rocks were subdivided into several formations. Moreover, fossil remains testify an almost continuous deposition in a moderately deep sea over some 50 million years.

Identification marks along the trail from Plöckenpass to mountain Cellon and the Cellon section, respectively.

The onset of the Devonian Period is represented by the blackish Rauchkofel Formation which succeeds Upper Silurian limestones. The boundary between the two periods is well defined by index

Trilobite cephalon and pygidium from Cellon section



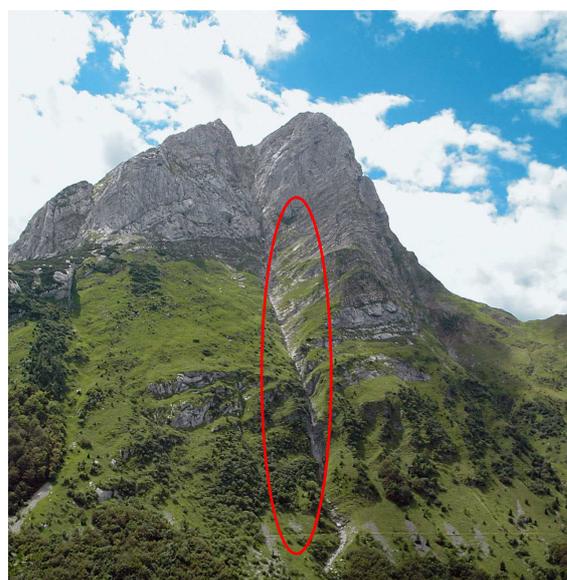
pygidium

cephalon

fossils like graptolites and conodonts which, together with other fossils occurring in the section were described in great detail during the last decades. In the meantime the exposed rock sequence serves as standard for the geological history of the Alps from the late Ordovician to the Devonian. Several marked numbers and spots indicate the exact position from past sampling campaigns.



Rock sequence comprising thin interbedded limestone beds and black marls from the middle part of the Cellon section.



Cellonetta avalanche gully seen from mountain Kleiner Pal, located opposite to mountain Cellon.

