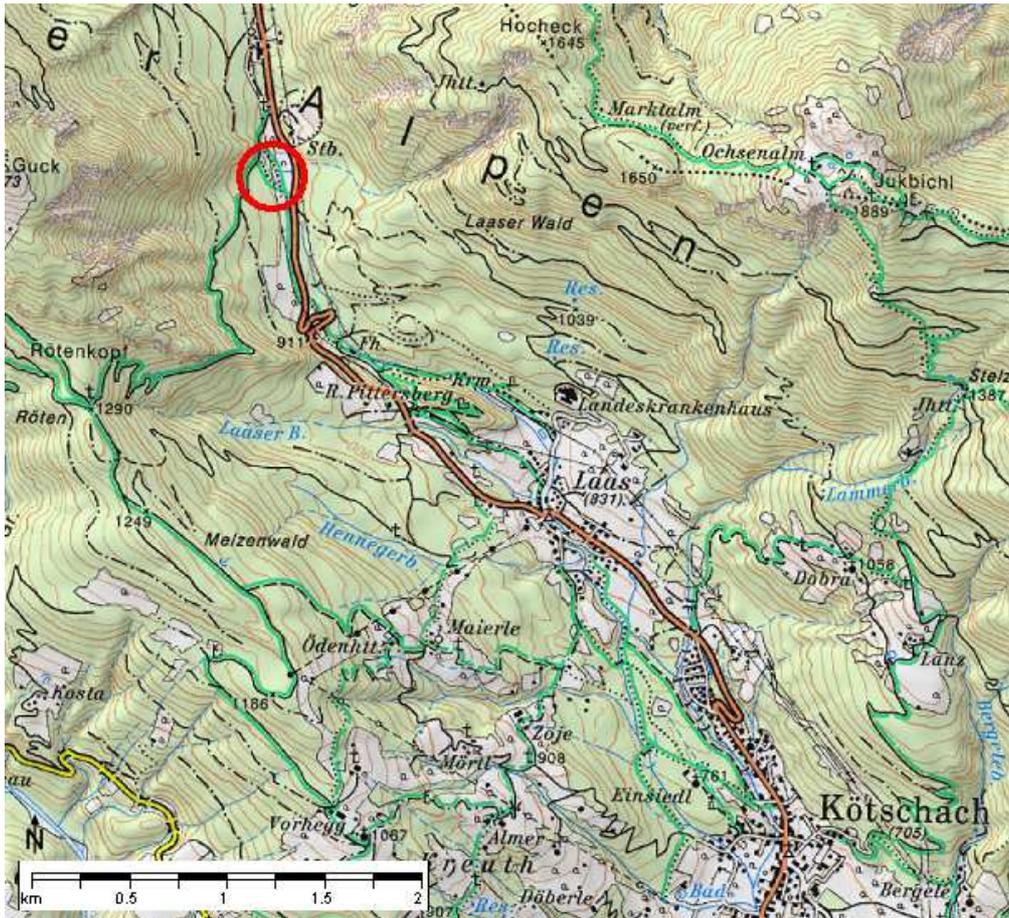


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Geotope 41: Gailbergmoor – The Geobiotope



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

Access:

The Biogeotope is close to Gailberg Sattel and next to the main road B110. It can be easily reached by car.

Description of the Geotope

The low moor on Gailberg extends over an area of some 2 ha. Most part of the wet area are formed by water and wet gley which are groundwater-affected soils. The wetness was caused by the underlying ground moraine of the last Ice Age when the glacier from the Drau Valley passed over the Gailberg to join the Gail glacier. This is the reason why this biotope is attributed to the geobiotopes. The visitor meets woolgras-covered meadows, different orchids, plume thistle, pippau, pinks and kinds of helleborines.



The wettish biotope at Gailberg.

For those who are interested in more details: Groundwater-affected soils are known in Carinthia as floodplains, moores and gley. The first are connected to rivers and creeks of alluvial regions. The second ones also occur far apart. The influx of water increases from floodplains to typical gley soil, wet gley to a moor. Here the water content is so strong that the dead plant cannot break down; instead it is enriched to a bog body of at least 30 cm thickness.

Geotopes are documents of the non-living nature which provide insights about the development of the Earth and the life on it. Biotopes are part of a living community. The third category are Geobiotopes which formed from Geotopes but due to local conditions may develop into a Biotope. This is the case here at Gailberg, where a water impermeable groundmoraine represents the base for the settlement of such a flora and fauna.