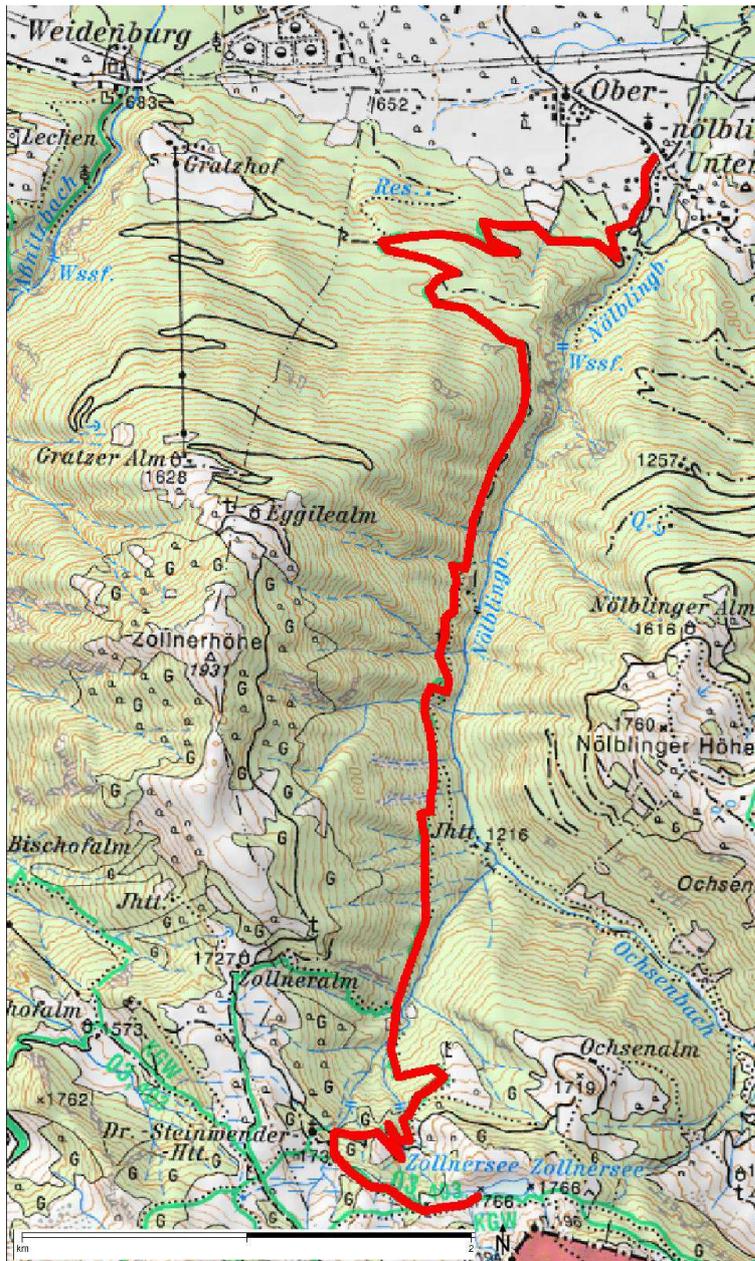


Geotope 4. Lake Zollner – The Peaceful



Access:

Along an alpine road or a hiking trail from the villages of Nölbling or Weidenburg. The trail starts south of Dellach in the small village of Nölbling. From there the trail no. 421 leads to the Zollnersee-Hut and further on along the Long Distance Trail 403 in eastern direction to Lake Zollner. During summer the alpine road offers an alternative to reach the hut by car.

Description of the Geotope

Lake Zollner is located on an altitude of 1766 m. It extends along a trough-like depression between the southern hills forming the border between Austria and Italy and a small hilly ridge to the north. The lake covers an area of approx. 1 ha, its depth does not exceed 2.80 m. It is fed by spring waters derived from bogs which are underlain by black graptolitic shales and cherts of Silurian age exposed immediately to the south of the lake.

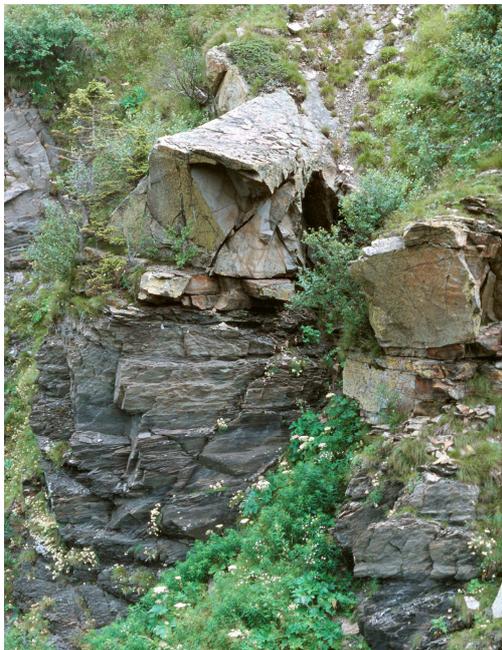


Lake Zollner with Hohe Trieb mountain.

Most probably, the shallow depression was formed by dead ice of an isolated glacier which was left after the last glaciation has ended. Based on pollen analysis melting started at least 3,000 years BP.

Of special interest is the shore of the lake which consists of bushes of alpine roses, different kinds of grass and boggish meadows. In addition water plants like pondweeds and bogbean frequently occur Lake Zollner with Hohe Trieb mountain.

as are algae and zooplankton in the lake. Fishes, however, don't survive under such extreme conditions.



Greyish sandstones and shales at the outlet of the lake.

During summer the water temperature may reach some 20 degrees, in winter, however, the lake is covered by an up to one metre thick yellowish ice layer. This peculiar color is derived from ferrous compounds being dissolved from the surrounding pyritiferous shales.