

Natural monuments and biotopes in Hafling and Vöran

Natural monuments

Natural monuments can be special trees, springs, waterfalls, natural streams, mountain lakes and rock and glacier formations. They also include caves, mineral and fossil finds and geological outcrops. These are worthy of protection due to their uniqueness, rarity, landscape-defining effect or their special ecological, hydrological or geological significance for the general public. They are subject to special protection regulations of the province of South Tyrol.

Natural monuments in Hafling

- **Tilia cordata** (near Sulfner, St. Kathrein district)

Height: approx. 16 m

Circumference: 2.8 m

Crown diameter: 15 m

Registration no. 27/1

- **European beech** (near Moarhäusl, Hafling village)

Height: approx. 17 m

Circumference: 3.6 m

Crown diameter: 16 m

Registration no. 27/2 1

Natural monuments in Vöran



Beimsteinknott

Porphyry rock rising steeply above the village of Vöran, which largely dominates the landscape.



Bruggen Lacke (Bruggen pond)

The 'Bruggen Lacke' is located below the 'Leadner Alm' mountain hut at the crossroads where the paths towards Vöran and Hafling diverge. It is a small fen with an open water area and is suitable for providing nature information and sensitising the numerous visitors. The wetland is currently divided in two by the neighbouring paths and contaminated, and there is also a high nutrient input from animals grazing on the adjacent area. There are plans to upgrade the habitat as part of the

reorganisation of the traffic areas.

Biotopes

A biotope is a natural habitat that harbours a specific biotic community and is characterised by various site factors such as climate, soil and use.

In South Tyrol, the term biotope is used for a natural and near-natural habitat with rare and endangered biotic communities that is classified as a nature reserve. This is often a habitat created or influenced by man. Depending on the type of biotope, special regulations apply in order to preserve the habitat and the plant and animal species that occur in it.

In order to effectively protect rare or endangered plant and animal species, their habitats must be preserved. Special protection regulations govern the extensive use of biotopes and prohibit, for example:

- stepping on
- picking plants
- disturbing and killing animals
- hunting (hunting is generally prohibited in biotopes of less than ten hectares; in larger biotopes, only the hunting of hoofed game is permitted)
- Collecting plants and mushrooms
- camping and lighting fires
- driving motorised vehicles
- any construction activity

The Forestry Act regulates the use of biotopes for forestry purposes.

Biotopes in Hafling



Sulfner Weiher (BIO 027_G01)

The very scenic Sulfner Weiher pond lies in a hollow above the Sulfner farm and was artificially dammed. It is a fen loosely and evenly stocked with dwarf spruce and Scots pine, accompanied by *Betula pubescens*, *Betula verrucosa*, *Larix decidua* and *Sorbus aucuparia*. A dense *Sphagnum* spec. cover with bulbs as well as *Carex nigra* and *Viola palustris* dominate. Increased occurrence of *Eriophorum vaginatum* towards the outflow in the south. The water surface is almost completely overgrown with white water lily (*Nymphaea alba*) and marsh horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*). There is only a narrow strip of fen on the banks in a few places. Approx. 60 m north of the pond, in a hollow at 1331 m, there is a small, approx. 1,000 m² fen with a dense cover of peat moss (*Sphagnum* sp.). Also growing here are sedges (*Carex nigra*, *Carex echinata*), marsh violets (*Viola palustris*), common tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), devil's-bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*), moor grass (*Molinia caerulea*), lawn sedge (*Deschampsia caespitosa*) and, in the area of the outflow in the south, sheath cottongrass (*Eriophorum*

vaginatum). Young growth of birch, spruce, pine and rowanberry occurs in the moor. The area covers 3610 square metres and extends from 1322 to 1331 metres above sea level.

Source: Landschaftsplan Gemeinde Hafling, Autonome Provinz Südtirol, Abteilung 28 – Natur, Landschaft und Raumentwicklung

Biotopes in Vöran

Fuchswiese I + II (BIO 111_G01)

The two areas of 'Fuchswiese I + II' are hidden in the forest area north of the Hirschenbichl and protect a fen surrounded by spruce forest. In the larger (0.68 ha) and higher area, the broad-leaved cottongrass, marsh heartleaf, sundew and various peat moss species can be found alongside the moor grass and various sedge species. The upper western part is dominated by wood rush. The second area lies slightly to the east and is significantly smaller. It slopes in a south-north direction with the outflow in the south, which is characterised by a moss-covered spring meadow area with an acidic, species-poor character. In addition, cotton grass and wood rush as well as forest horsetail can be found. In the central and northern areas, the moor is deepened like a channel; in addition to moor grass and various sedges, there are marsh violets, sundew and butterwort, as well as mud sedge in damp areas.

Eggermösl (BIO 111_G02)

The 'Eggermösl' fen is located in a boggy hollow on the forest path north of the Hirschenbichl and is surrounded by a spruce and larch forest. Various sedge species as well as narrow-leaved and broad-leaved cotton grass grow in the bog. In the central, wet moor area there are peat moss bulbs with sundew.

Rossmösl (BIO 111_G03)

The 'Rossmösl' biotope is at a higher altitude and is located on several flattened slopes in the forest area below the Vöraner Alm. Corresponding to an altitude of approx. 1700 metres above sea level, the vegetation in the wetland has a montane character with various sedges, horsetail and moss cushions in the subsoil.

Source: Landschaftsplan Gemeinde Vöran, Autonome Provinz Südtirol, Abteilung 28 – Natur, Landschaft und Raumentwicklung