



S6.2 88

Brief Description of Kieselguhr Investigations in Aflenz-  
Becken during the Field Season of 1978

As shown in Diagram 1, four kieselguhr promising areas are located within the Aflenz-Becken. Areas 1 and 2 border on the health resort of Aflenz and therefore do not warrant further exploration activity. Area 3 is relatively small and steep and thus uninteresting. Area 4, principally farmland, was therefore the prime target of our 1978 field prospecting for kieselguhr. The basic objective of this phase of the work was to more accurately locate the kieselguhr-containing zones within Area 4.

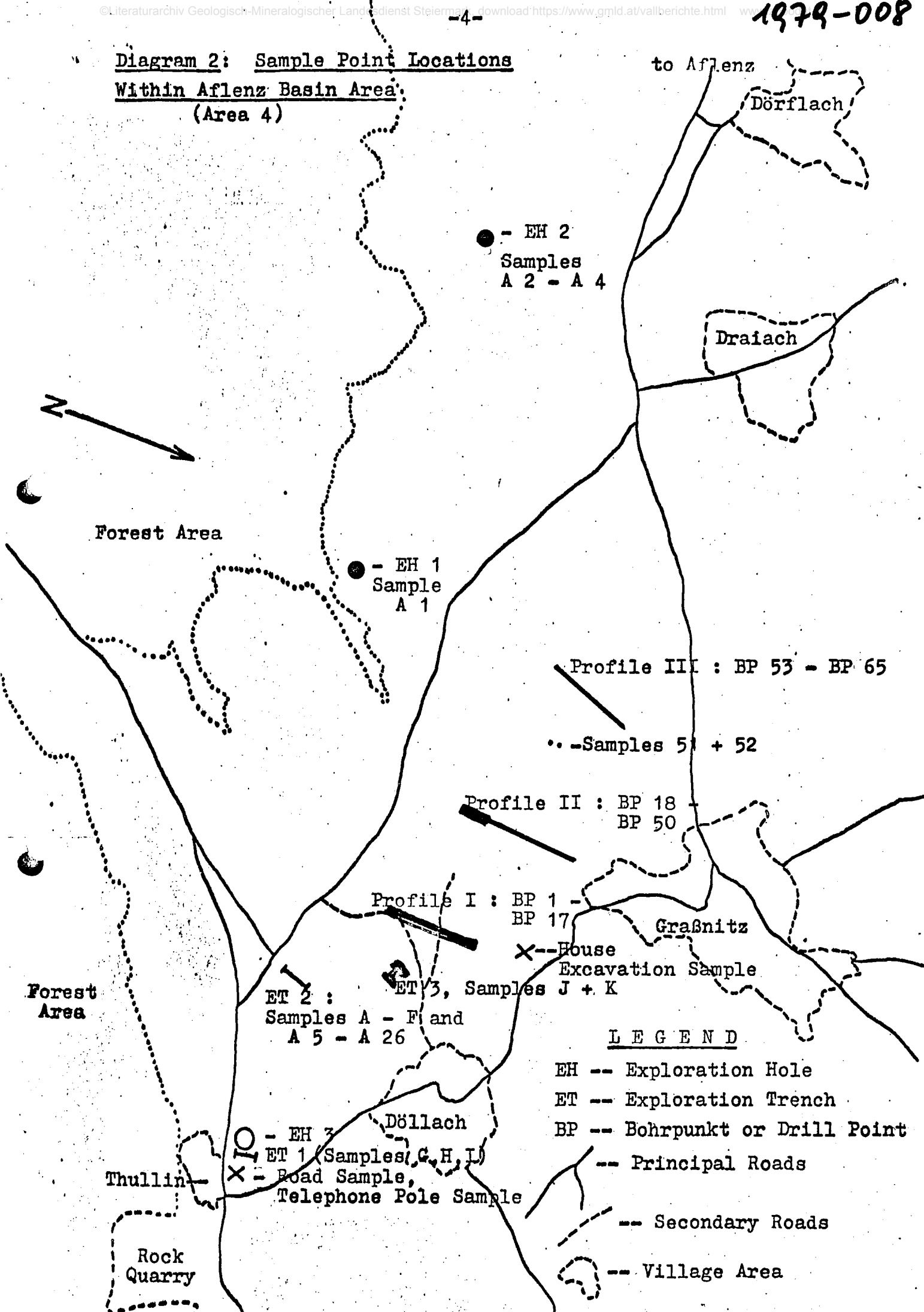
Sample material was collected from a number of exploration holes (EH), from three exploration trenches (ET), from 63 shallow drill holes (BP) in three drill profiles, from new road exposures, house excavations, and from telephone pole diggings. (See Diagram 2)

Thin sections were made from the sample material and qualitatively analyzed for diatom presence under 350 - 400 magnification. Diatom presence was characterized according to the following scale:

- (-) No diatoms observed microscopically
- (+) Diatoms rare, one or two in entire thin section
- + Diatoms occasionally observed, several in field of view
- ++ Diatoms are frequent in glass slide
- +++ Microscopic field consists primarily of diatoms.

Results      Sample areas within Area 4 with diatom amounts corresponding to ++ and +++ are signified red in Diagram 2.

Diagram 2: Sample Point Locations  
Within Aflenz Basin Area  
(Area 4)



LEGEND

- EH -- Exploration Hole
- ET -- Exploration Trench
- BP -- Bohrpunkt or Drill Point
- Principal Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Village Area

Report on the Spring and Summer Kieselguhr Investigations  
in the Aflenz Basin Area (1978)

L. Gould

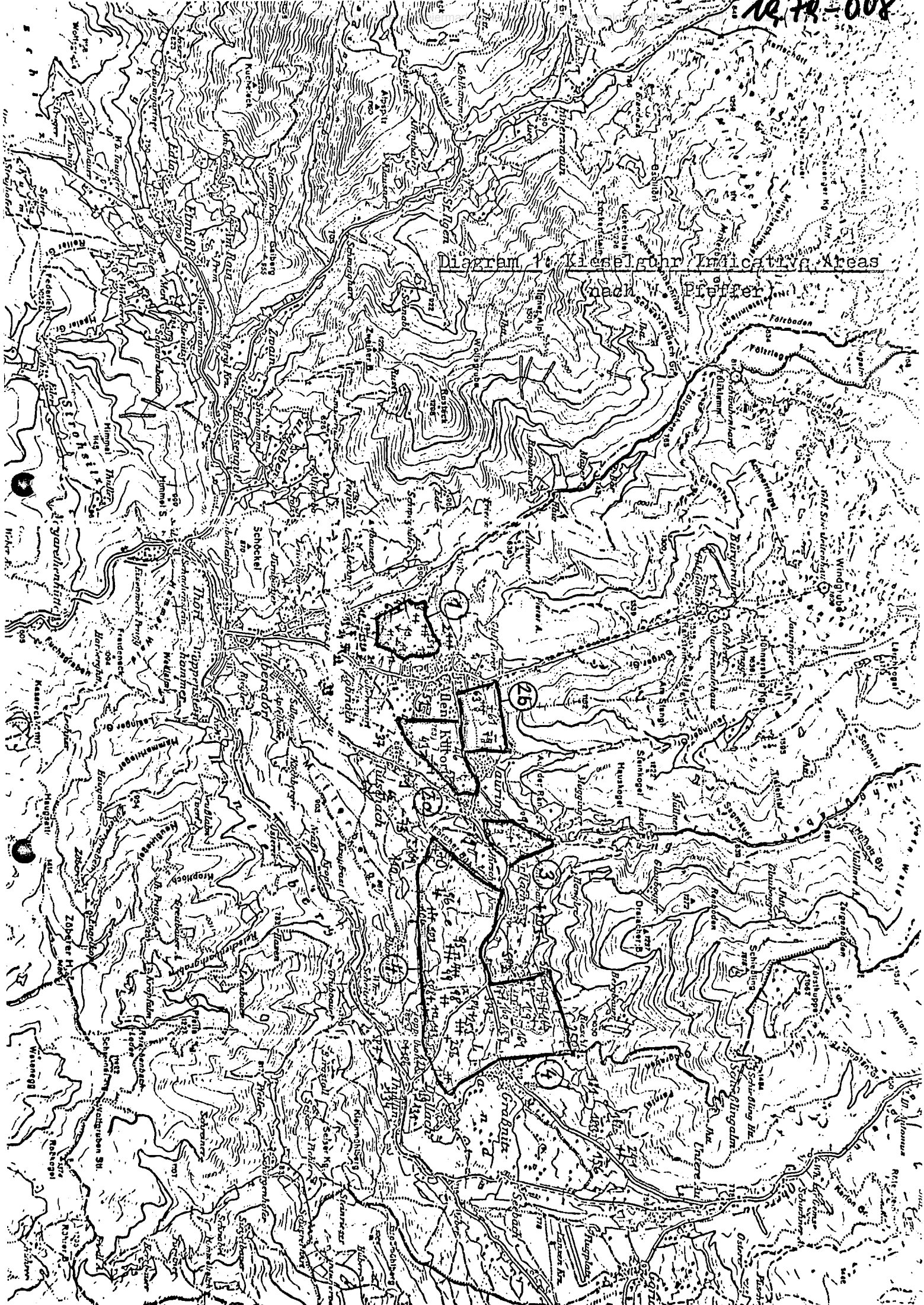
Based on the geological field investigations of W. Pfeffer during the summer of 1977 ("Bericht über eine geologische Übersichtsprospektion auf Kieselguhr im Aflenzener Becken" von W. Pfeffer), four kieselguhr-promising areas were located in the vicinity of Aflenz. (see Diagram 1) Areas 1 and 2, although evidencing good-quality kieselguhr, were not further investigated because of their immediate proximity to the internationally known health resort of Aflenz. Area 3 also yielded good field samples of kieselguhr, but further investigations were not carried out here because of the relatively small areal extent and steepness of the area. Located furthest from Aflenz and consisting primarily of agriculturally used land, Area 4 was therefore the prime target of our kieselguhr investigations.

The basic purpose of this phase of the work was to more accurately determine the extent of the kieselguhr-containing layers (within Area 4) so that future exploration trenches could be better planned. The emphasis here was to qualitatively determine the presence of kieselguhr at the sample points. Sample material was collected from exploration holes, exploration trenches, from 63 shallow drill holes, telephone pole diggings, new road exposures, and from house foundation excavations. (see diagram 2)

Preparation and Investigation of Sample Material

All samples were first hand-broken into small pieces, air-dried and then carefully crushed (not grinded!) in a systematic manner. After three sievings a uniform powder

Diagram 1. Kieselguhr Indications Areas  
(nach W. Prepper)



of maximum 0.1 mm diameter remained from which permanent glass slides were made and microscopically analyzed. This method of sample preparation is rapid and simple, allowing an accurate qualitative determination of the presence of diatoms in the prepared glass slides. A microscopic magnification of 400 times is adequate in identifying intact diatoms as well as their broken shell parts. No attempt was made to quantitatively determine the kieselguhr content of the samples. This step is reserved for a later stage of the investigation, once the boundaries of the kieselguhr-containing layers are located.

#### Explanation of Symbols

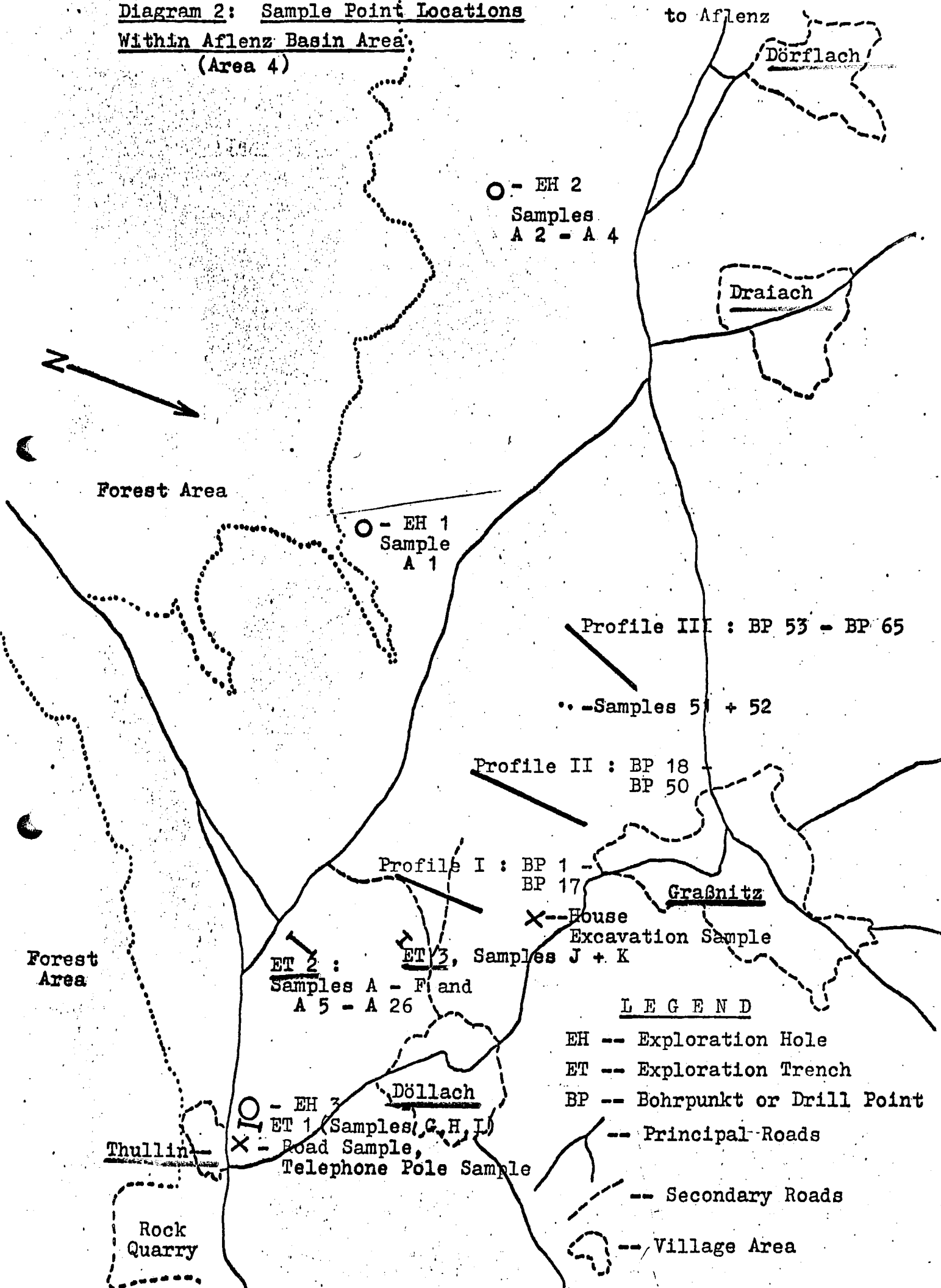
- (-) No diatoms observed microscopically  
 (+) Diatoms rare; perhaps one or two seen in entire glass slide  
 + Diatoms occasionally observed, several in field view  
 ++ Diatoms are frequent in glass slide  
 +++ Microscopic field consists principally of diatoms  
 EH = exploration hole, ET = exploration trench, BP = Bohrpunkt

#### Description and Results of Sampling Procedure

Sample sites within Area 4 were selected on the basis of their relative high degree of kieselguhr-find probability (as determined from the Pfeffer investigation). A total of three exploration trenches, three drilling profiles, three exploration holes, one new road exposure sample as well as one telephone and house excavation sample were made (as seen in diagram 2) in the attempt to locate kieselguhr-containing layers. The results and description of the sampling procedure are shown in the following list.

Diagram 2: Sample Point Locations  
Within Aflenz Basin Area  
(Area 4)

to Aflenz



○ - EH 2  
Samples  
A 2 - A 4

○ - EH 1  
Sample  
A 1

Profile III : BP 53 - BP 65

•• - Samples 51 + 52

Profile II : BP 18  
BP 50

Profile I : BP 1 -  
BP 17

X - House  
Excavation Sample

ET 2 :  
Samples A - F and  
A 5 - A 26

ET 3, Samples J + K

LEGEND

- EH -- Exploration Hole
- ET -- Exploration Trench
- BP -- Bohrpunkt or Drill Point
- Principal Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Village Area

X - EH 3  
ET 1 (Samples G, H, I)  
Road Sample,  
Telephone Pole Sample

Thullin

Rock  
Quarry

Forest Area

Forest  
Area

Dörflach

Drafiach

Graßnitz

Döllach

Sample Nr.	Frequency of Diatoms	Sample Site	Remarks
A 1	+++	EH 1	4.7 m thick soil covering, sample gray with white streaks, rock fragments much lighter in weight than expected
A 2	++	EH 2	from 60 cm thick zone at lowest level of EH 2 (about 3 m deep) sample material mostly gray colored, eroded zones red colored through limonite
A 3	++	EH 2	from middle zone of EH 2, reddish color predominant, sample soft and plastic
A 4	+++	EH 2	from upper zone of EH 2 below soil covering (which is about 1 m thick) gray and darker colors prevail
-		EH 3	orientation of rock layers: SS 20/108 20 - 30 cm thick soil covering, leaf impressions frequent
A 5	-	ET 2	gravel from uppermost zone of ET 2
A 6	(+)	ET 2	clay rich, reddish brown color dominates
A 7	(-)	ET 2	grayish-white clay, soft, with numerous fossils (leaf impressions)
A 8	(-)	ET 2	massive cubic-shaped gray-colored clay stones, displaying black surface color and thin layered fragments (lamellen) with alternating white and brown color
A 8a	(+)	ET 2	thin layered fragments of A 8 examined
A 9	(-)	ET 2	sample is grayish and clay-rich, several fragments with lamellen characteristic
A 9a	(-)	ET 2	fragments with lamellen from above examined
A 10	(+)	ET 2	Sample with alternating white and brown lamellen
A 11	(-)	ET 2	similar to A 10
A 12	(-)	ET 2	clayish, soft and gray-colored

Sample Nr.	Frequency of Diatoms	Sample Site	Remarks
A 13	(-)	ET 2	Sample material with alternating white and brown lamellen
A 14	(-)	ET 2	soft, gray clayey shales, numerous leaf impressions
A 15	(-)	ET 2	sample material similar to A 13
A 16	(-)	ET 2	sample material similar to A 14
A 17	(-)	ET 2	hard, compact clay, blocky in form numerous concretions
A 18	(-)	ET 2	sample material similar to A 14
A 19	(-)	ET 2	soft orange-white clay
A 20	(-)	ET 2	sample material similar to A 14
A 21	(-)	ET 2	fossiliferous clayey shales with numerous concretions
A 22	(-)	ET 2	sample material similar to A 14
A 23	(-)	ET 2	brown shaley material, more compacted as A 14 sample
A 24	(-)	ET 2	reddish clay-shales with fossils
A 25	(-)	ET 2	similar to A 24, but redder in color
A 26	(-)	ET 2	end of exploration trench 2, sample material similar to A 25, but sand content increasing

Large bulldozer samples each weighing about a ton were taken from each of the exploration trenches and analyzed for diatom presence. This served as a cross-check to the above investigation and each of the large samples A - Ka represent average rock-type for the zone from which the samples were taken. The results of the "Baggerproben" are as follows:



Sample No.	Frequency of Diatoms	Sample Site	Remarks
A	(-)	ET 2	sample taken from uppermost or northernmost part of trench
B	(+)	ET 2	sample position below that of A
C	(+)	ET 2	sample position below that of B
D	(+)	ET 2	sample position below that of C
E	(-)	ET 2	sample position below that of D
F	(-)	ET 2	sample position at lower end of trench, below that of E
G	(-)	ET 1	sample position at upper end of ET
H	(-)	ET 1	sample position below that of G
I	(-)	ET 1	sample position at lower end of ET below that of H
J	(+)	ET 3	sample position at upper end of ET
K	+++	ET 3	sample position at lower end of ET
Ka	+++	ET 3	selected sample material from K, whitish colored, light-weighted fragments analyzed here

Diagram 3:  
Detail Sketch of Exploration Trench 2  
With Corresponding Sample Positions

Distance

Sample

0.0 m

Hanging Wall

Location: Along fence on west border of field above Wurzenberger Gasthaus

A 5

Orientation of Trench: N 20° E, parallel to maximum slope of field (20°)

A 6

(25/065)

A 7

5.0 m

Depth of Trench: about 1 meter (average)

A 8

Soil Thickness: 20 - 30 cm

10.0 m

Rock Description: A 5 and the above lying area consists of gravel and some clay.

A 9

A 6 is a weathered zone, red-brown in color, consisting of clay mixed with gravel. A 7 to the end of the trench

(20/080)

A 10

consists basically of clayey shales, evidencing varying degrees of solidification, hardness, oxydation and weathering. Most of the layers evidence concretions and fossil-leaf imprints.

15.0 m

A 11

Towards the end of the trench, the foot wall, a slight reddish color was apparent due to an increasing sand content of the layers. Sample A 19 was a 7 cm thick white-orange clay layer.

A 12

A 13

A 14

A 15

20.0 m

A 16

A 17

A 18

A 19

A 20

25.0 m

A 21

Sampling Procedure: Sample material was taken within natural boundaries representing lithologic, color or texture changes. Lighter colored rock fragments within the sample area were occasional biased in material selection as they are more indicative of kieselguhr-containing layers. 6 larger bulldozer samples were taken from along the entire length of exploration trench 2 in roughly equal spacings from the top to the bottom of the trench.

A 22

30.0 m

A 23

35.0 m

A 24

40.0 m

(20/005)

A 25

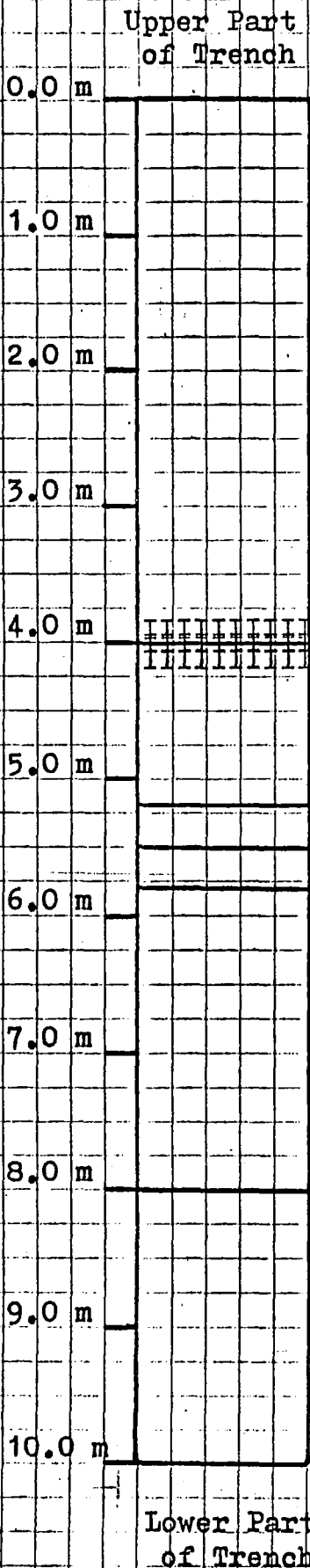
Diatom Presence: With the exception of A 6, A 8a and A 10, which contained only diatom traces, no diatom concentration are evidenced anywhere within this trench.

45.0 m

A 26

Footwall

Diagram 4:  
Detail Sketch of Exploration Trench 3  
With J and K Sample Areas Shown



Location: Approx. 250 m ESE of Döllach

Orientation : N 60° E, parallel to max. slope of field (15°)

Depth of Trench: about 1.5 m (average)

Soil Depth : 20 - 30 cm

Geological Sequence: (from upper to low part of trench)

0.0 - 5.20 m limey shales with br to black surface oxydation colors, inner rock soft and grayish, clay concretions frequent.

5.20 - 5.50 m soft, gray-colored, clayey shales with frequent concrete  
5.50 - 5.80 m thick (25cm) brick-layer rather hard.

5.80 - 8.0 m clayey shales with orange and black surface oxydation colors, fresh exposures in gray and beige colors, soft.

8.0 - 10.0 m soft and fossil-rich clayey-shale layers, rich in fossils and "Kohlenhechsel", muscovite evidenced on surface layers, orientation of layers here; (43/030)

Sampling Procedure: two large "Baggerp" were taken from the trench, the " sample was taken between 0.0 and 4 meters, and the K and Ka sample taken from about 4 m to 10 m.

Diatom Presence: The J sample had only of diatoms (+), but the K and Ka sample were abundant in diatoms (

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Literaturarchiv Geologisch-Mineralogischer Landesdienst Steiermark](#)

Jahr/Year: 1979

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