



Organisation
der Vereinten Nationen
für Bildung, Wissenschaft
und Kultur



Harz - Braunschweiger
Land - Ostfalen
UNESCO
Global Geopark

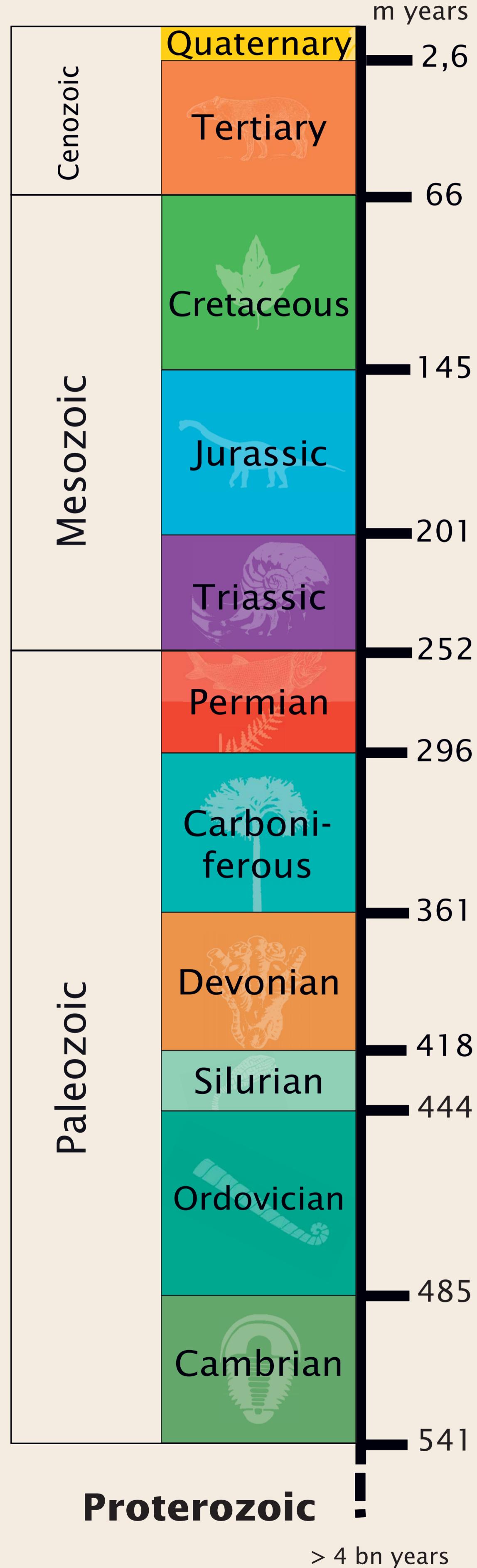
GEOPARK

Harz . Braunschweiger Land . Ostfalen

Landmark
Geopoint 18
⑥

Harly

Present

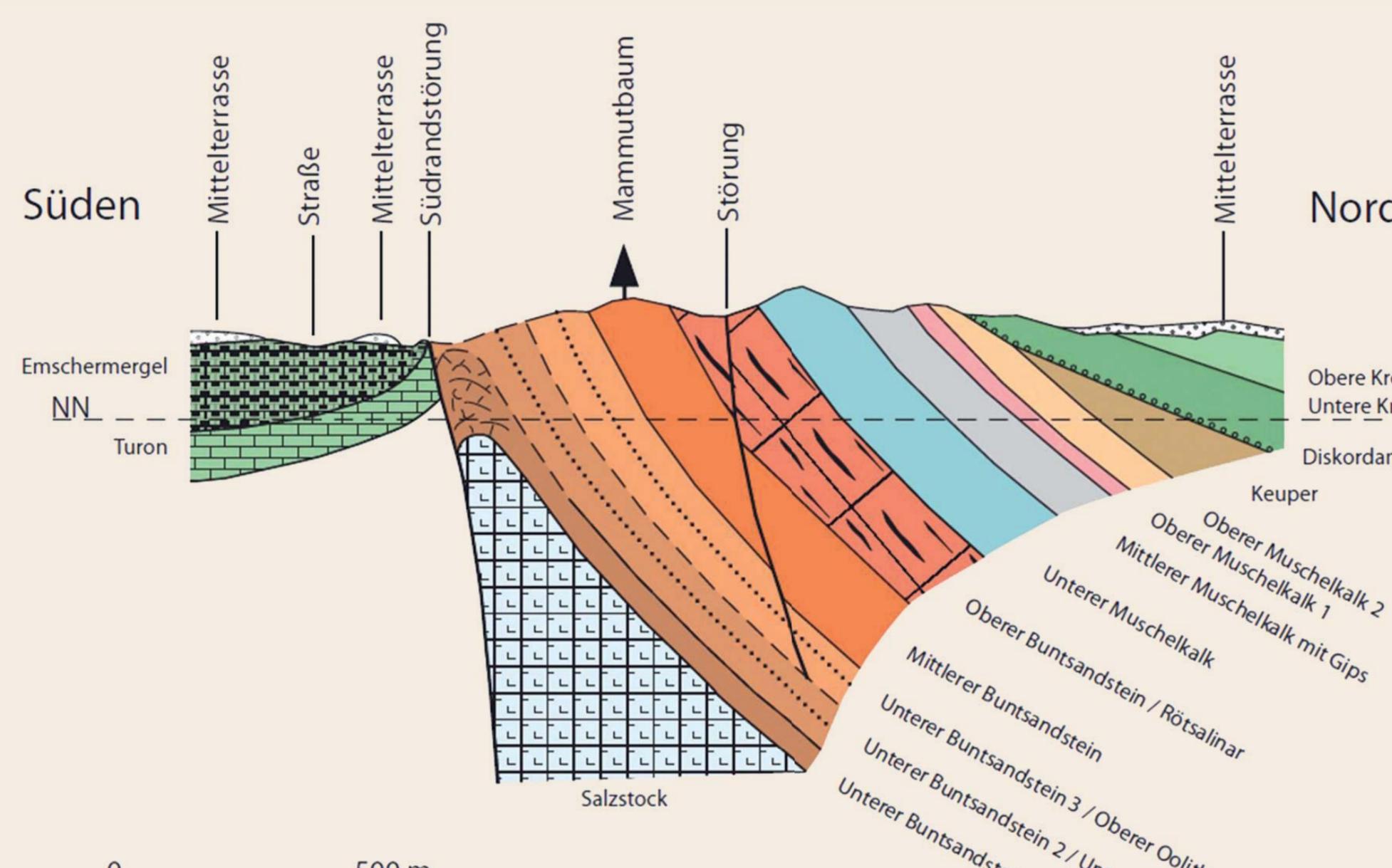


At the time Zechstein sediments were deposited, ca. 255 MYA, the present-day Harz foreland area lay in a shallow sea basin. Sinking sea levels periodically cut this basin off from the open ocean. The warm climate resulted in evaporation of the sea water, leaving deposits of limestone, gypsum, anhydrite and salts. Later periods, from the end of the Permian

to the Cretaceous, were also typified by repeated fluctuations in sea levels. This process saw iron- or fossil-rich limestones, mudstones, marlstones and sandstones deposited on top of the Zechstein salts. Under enormous pressure and influenced by distant expansionary tectonic movements in the Earth's crust, the salt deposits reacted viscoelastically. In tecto-

nic weak-zones the salt deposits thrust upwards, taking the overlying rock strata with them. This is how the Vienenburg anticline, as the Harly is also known, was formed. In the second half of the 19th century the Harly salt dome was investigated. During drilling, the Hercynia 1883 Mining Company Ltd. discovered a potash deposit

at a depth of 310m. Potash is a sought-after fertiliser for agricultural use. The company quickly came to an agreement with the Hanover Klosterkammer – the landowner – regarding mining rights, royalties and profit sharing. Extraction began in 1886 and came to an abrupt end on May 8th, 1930, as the result of a catastrophic mine collapse.



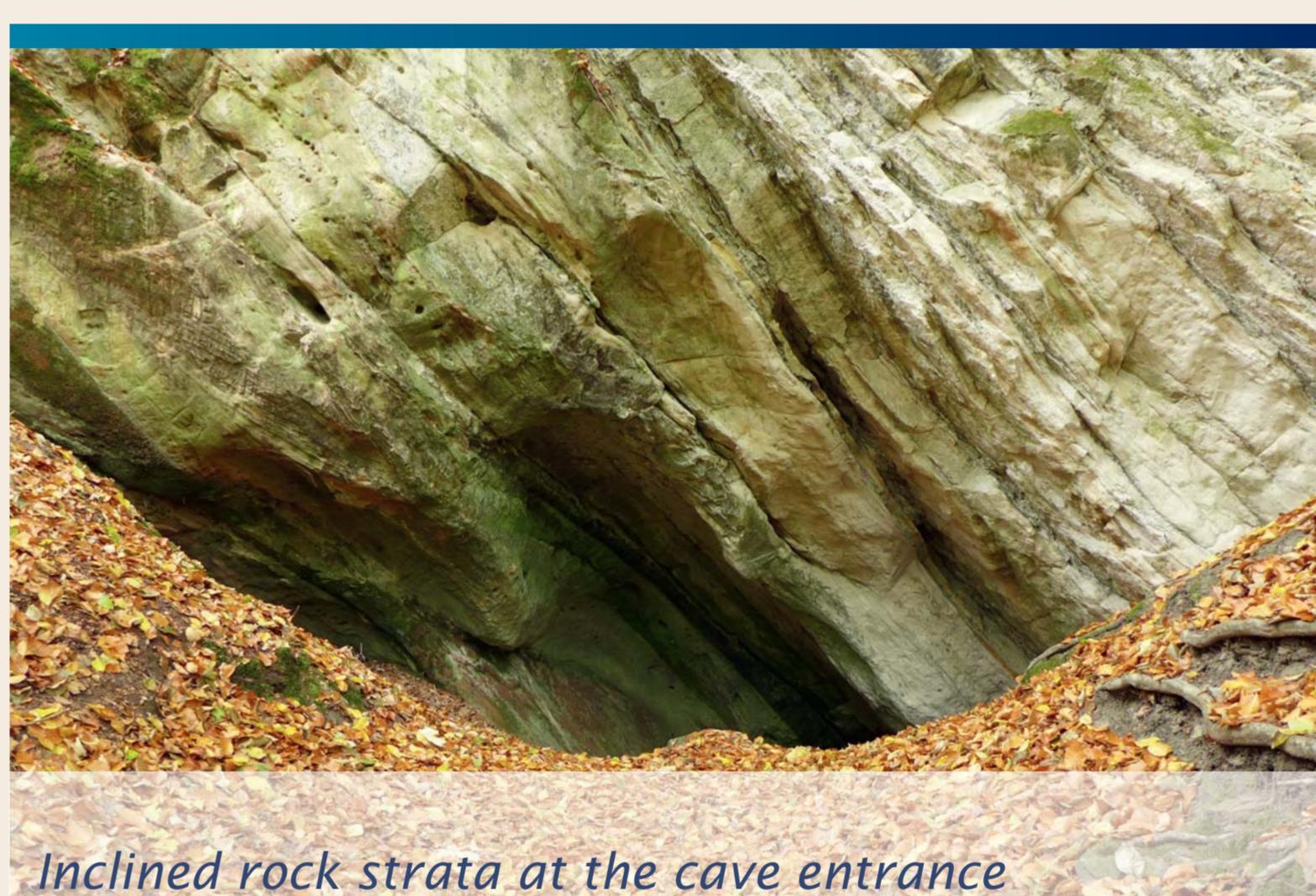
Geological cross-section of the Harly, close to the Kraeuter August Cave

Kraeuter August Cave

Legend has it that at the beginning of the 20th century, a rough and ragged, but good-natured, old man lived in the cave. He often begged the woodworkers for a spoonful of soup from their pots. In thanks he told them of the locations of medicinal herbs (German: Kraeuter) and how to use them. The cave is named in honour of the old man. It is not a natural cave. It was chiefly formed by the quarrying of sandstone, most probably at the hands of lo-

cal farmers, who extracted stone from the coarse-grained strata of the Middle Buntsandstein for their own use.

Thickly-bedded sandstone deposits are interspersed with thinly-bedded mud- and sandstone strata. They were deposited more than 244.5 MYA during the Triassic. Wavy ripples visible on the bedding planes are evidence that the sediments were deposited in a marine environment.



Inclined rock strata at the cave entrance



Wavy ripples are evidence of the marine origins of the sand- and mudstones exposed at the cave.

As the organisation responsible for the 6,202 km² of the UNESCO-Geopark's southern section, the Regionalverband Harz, based in Quedlinburg, has set itself the goal of making the geology and

mining history of the Harz region clear and comprehensible. It oversees a network of Landmarks and Geopoints spread throughout this section of the Geopark. Landmarks, like Liebenburg Palace for example, are widely visible or especially well-known points of interest and lend their names to defined areas of the Geopark. Geopoints are windows into geological history. The Harly, with the Kraeuter August Cave, is Geopoint ⑥ within Landmark 18 - Liebenburg Palace.

For further information:
www.harzregion.de



For further information



www.harzregion.de



Deutsche Version umseitig.



Niedersachsen

