



## FOSSILS, ART & CULTURE

STROLL THROUGH GEOLOGICAL HISTORY



WERKFORUM



# WELCOME TO THE WERK-FORUM & FOSSIL MUSEUM

The 'Werkforum' is Holcim (Süddeutschland) GmbH's communications and information centre. It provides both a venue for building industry functions and cultural events and creates a connection from the company to the public. The fossils recovered from the oil shale that date back around 180 million years also make the Fossil Museum an inviting place to visit.

The cement plant utilises the raw materials of limestone and oil shale for cement production. During the mining of the oil shale in particular some extraordinarily well preserved fossils get uncovered. Specialists search out, recover and prepare these fossilised finds and analyse them scientifically. Without the mining of the oil shale this 'Fossil Treasure Trove' would not exist.

Petrified marine creatures from the oil shale of Dotternhausen form the main focus of the Fossil Museum. There are also fossils shown from other Jurassic strata from the area around Dotternhausen.



# THE WORLD OF FOSSILS VIBRANTLY CONVEYED

Palaeontologist Dr. Annette Schmid-Röhl, the director of the Fossil Museum, awakes the spirit of discovery with her explanations and presents geological history in an entertaining fashion. Children and teenagers experience the 'fossilised world' in a new way. The current offers for children aged 6 to 14 can be found in our event guide and at [www.holcim-sued.de/werkforum-fossilienmuseum.html](http://www.holcim-sued.de/werkforum-fossilienmuseum.html).

## School classes go on a fascinating journey into the past

For school classes we have prepared a 'Museum Rally'. The class splits up into smaller groups and quickly picks up lots of interesting information from the museum. Doing this together is great fun and children acquire knowledge at their own pace.



# JOIN THE GEOPARK ADVENTURE

The Fossil Museum is one of 26 infocentres of the UNESCO Global Geopark Swabian Alb. The park is the third largest Geopark in Europe.

## A Geopark – what's that?

The term 'Geopark' is a label for areas that have a particularly rich geological heritage. The tasks of a Geopark include protecting this heritage and imparting knowledge on geological issues as part of environmental education, plus sustainable regional development and scientific research within the park.

Join in the Geopark adventure and experience geological history live!

[www.geopark-alb.de](http://www.geopark-alb.de)



## A case full of stones: hands-on education

To use in their lessons teachers can hire the 'GeoCase' from us free of charge. It contains not only samples of the main rock types of Baden-Württemberg, but also a USB stick with interesting teaching material. The GeoCase is an initiative of the Rock and Soil Industrial Association.



# 180 MILLION YEARS IN ONE HOUR

The dark grey, flaky oil shale reveals a lot about earth's geological history. The expert museum guides explain how it was produced and what we are able to make from it. **Public guided tour: every first Tuesday of the month. Start time: 6:00 pm. Duration: ca. 1 hour.**

Bring along your family, friends and colleagues: guided tours for groups available. Please phone to arrange. **Information:** Telephone +49 (0) 7427 79-211. **Costs:** 50 €.

**What have I found here?** After the guided tour you have the opportunity to have your fossil finds expertly assessed. What have I found here? How old is this fossil?



# ART & CULTURE ARE AS MUCH PART OF WHAT WE DO AS CEMENT, GRAVEL AND CONCRETE

## Worth seeing ...

Regularly changing art exhibitions constantly give the Werkforum a different look. Pictures, objects or sculptures by established artists become eye-catching exhibits, enticing visitors to study the works more deeply.

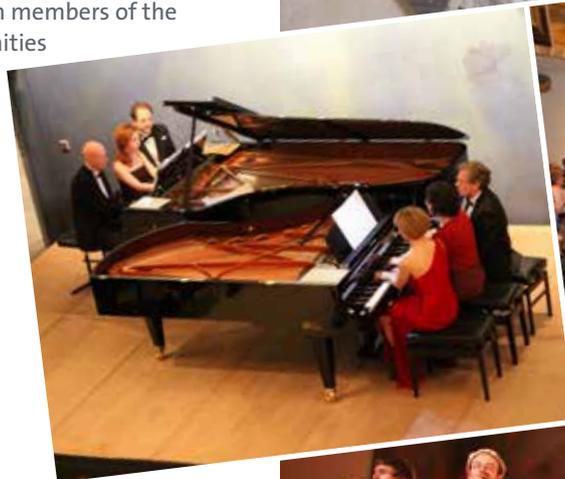
## Worth hearing ...

The Werkforum also sometimes transforms itself into a 'concert hall'. Classical music, jazz or a-capella songs: out of the ordinary, sometimes also unknown, sounds, yet which are always worth a listen, regularly fill our building. Young up-and-coming musicians find a stage here for their work, as do well-known ensembles.

## Worth experiencing...

The programme of events attracts both members of the public from the neighbouring communities and interested visitors from all over the region to the Werkforum. It facilitates valuable meetings. The concerts, art exhibitions and talks have long since become popular events. Here too, entry is free – however a donation to a good cause is expected. The organisation benefiting from the donations makes a presentation about its work at each evening's event.

[www.holcim-sued.de/werkforum-fossilienmuseum.html](http://www.holcim-sued.de/werkforum-fossilienmuseum.html)



## WELCOME TO OUR WORLD: FROM RAW MATERIALS TO BUILDING MATERIALS

In our Werkforum and Fossil Museum you are naturally also able to learn a bit about what we do. In the entrance area you will see from the 3-D landscape model that our cement works is situated right between the two sites of raw material deposits important for our cement production. The limestone gets extracted up on the Plettenberg hill overlooking Dotternhausen and the oil shale is obtained from the area north of Dormettingen. On the flowchart you can follow the route that the raw materials take right through to the finished cement. The touchscreen on the large monitor lets you choose what and how much you want to learn about Holcim, cement production and the museum.



### A platform for all involved in building:

**architects, engineers, building firms, concrete specialists ...**  
Presentations, training sessions, podium discussions and industry events for all who shape the building sector are included in our programme. These include presentation events on sustainability and energy, exposed concrete and architecture, as well as training sessions for concrete specialists.

## HAMMER & CHISEL IN HAND...

... in search of  
**fossilised witnesses of earth history.**

Children find the search for fossils a pure joy. And not just children! Many adults, collectors and adventurous types are also to be found all year round on the 'rummage site' in front of the cement plant Werkforum in Dotternhausen. Sometimes the fossil hunters make finds with the naked eye: shells and ammonites can't be missed as the layers of oil shale are cracked open.

In return for a small deposit at the Werkforum reception desk you get a hammer, chisel and a pair of protective glasses – and then the search for treasure can begin!



COME ALONG. FIND OUT. GET INVOLVED.

## SCHIEFERERLEBNIS DORMETTINGEN

### From oil shale quarry to Schiefererlebnis. Land restoration in a special way.

Oil shale is a valuable and significant raw material for the cement plant in Dotterenhäusen. Until the year 2000 it had been extracted from the area between the cement plant and the village of Dormettingen.

Today in the former quarry an extraordinary parkland has been created. This was only made possible by a joint undertaking between Holcim and the community of Dormettingen, supported by the EU and the state of Baden-Württemberg.

Here the theme of oil shale and all of its historical aspects are represented, including: the geology of the countryside, natural rock to building material, cement production to cement recycling, quarrying to land restoration, outstanding fossils dating from hundreds of millions of years, culminating in current day flora and fauna.

Waiting for you are attractions such as the quarry playground, the oil shale lake, the restaurant with its lakeside terrace, the sizeable fossil rummage site with prepared specimens and an open-air stage in the shape of an ammonite, an ideal location for an open-air cinema or for concerts and theatre performances.

Outside from the park there is a nearby informative foot path kept as a remembrance of the oil shale quarrying at the end of World War II. The connection to the Schlichem trail takes you over a rustic wooden walkway along the solitary meandering stream. In this open grazing land the preciousness of the landscape and the large abundance of species can be revered. This has only been achieved through a well managed grazing plan involving donkeys, sheep and goats.



#### Contact

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[www.schiefererlebnis-dormettingen.de](http://www.schiefererlebnis-dormettingen.de)

A joint undertaking of  **Holcim** and the community of Dormettingen

Supported by:





WERKFORUM



Art exhibitions

Fossil displays

History of the earth

## Impressions from the Werkforum

Talks and events all round building, concrete and architecture

Museum tours | Programmes for children | fossil rummage site





# WERKFORUM

## Opening hours:

Tuesday to Thursday: 1 pm – 5 pm,  
Sunday and public holiday: 11 am – 5 pm  
Saturday closed.  
Closed from December 1<sup>st</sup> – January 6<sup>th</sup>

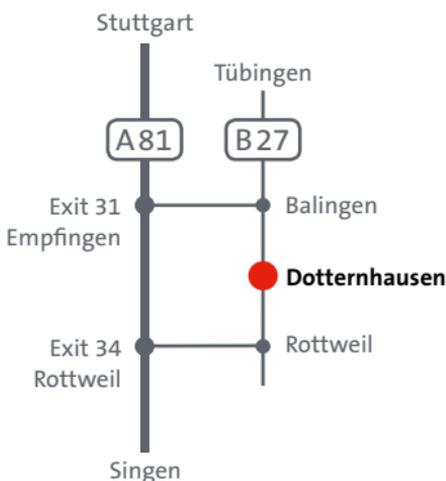
## Public guided tour:

Every first Tuesday of the month at 6 pm

**Admission is free.**



The Werkforum & Fossil Museum is one of the 26 information centres of the GeoPark Swabian Alb:  
[www.geopark-alb.de](http://www.geopark-alb.de)



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