



The “European Conservation Area Lafnitztal“ with a total area of 566,327 ha comprises two areas protected by laws on nature protection at the moment: The 70 ha large alluvial forests “Nature Protection Area Lafnitz-Stögersbach-Auen“, in the community Wolfau as well as the 31 ha site “Protected Landscape Lahnbach“ near Dt. Kaltenbrunn. In addition to that, the “Life-Project Site Loipersdorf-Kitzladen“ is also part of that area.

The separated parts of the area are connected by the River Lafnitz (water as a public good).

The River Lafnitz belongs to the last lowland rivers in Austria that are unregulated over large parts of their course. The free and unrestricted course of the river provides natural interaction with accompanying alluvial forests and riparian lowland meadows and produces a great variety of river-morphological habitat structures by its unrestricted flow dynamics. These habitats are home to Burgenland’s highest number of Annex II species of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC with representative stands and with the most important habitat types. The maintenance status of the area varies, ranging from unregulated largely free meanders of the section down to Dt. Kaltenbrunn on the one hand to the „relentlessly“ regulated flow section leading down to the state border on the other hand.

