





-  Ground moraines
-  Terminal moraines
-  Sandurs
-  Melt water runoff course

In steep slopes, the holm rises up to 30 metres above the water level of the Tiefwarenssee. The terminal moraine complex forms the eastern boundary of the lake trench and directs the melt water flowing out over the lowland of the town moat (Falkenhäger Rinne) towards the southwest, causing marked erosion of its flank.

In this fashion arose the wild surface form that probably yielded the name “Wolf Gorge” for this place. The appellation originates from the Romantic Period in the 19th century, doubtlessly influenced by Carl Maria von Weber’s “Freischütz”. But long before that the place was considered downright spooky, as numerous myths and sagas attest.

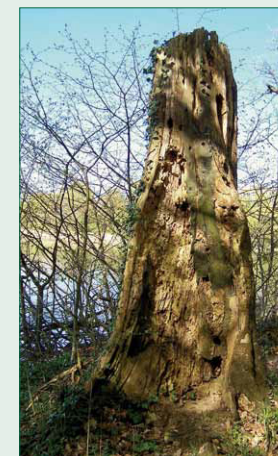


Older names of the deep gorge are Devil’s or Robbers’ Hollow, in Low German Roewerkuhl. Perhaps Robbers’ Hollow owes its name to an incident in turbulent mediaeval times. Clay was mined from the “hollow” into the 19th century.



Source: Deutsche Fotothek; Wolf Helmhardt von Hohberg: Geographica Curiosa Aucta, Nürnberg, 1695

Wolves were originally widespread in Europe and also native to what is now Mecklenburg. However, reports of plagues of wolves only date back to the 17th and 18th centuries. They coincide with the peak phase of distinct cooling, which has gone down in European climate history as the “Little Ice Age”. It was characterised by rainy, cool summers and long, extremely cold winters. Bad harvests became more frequent, causing famines. Wild game populations shrank, and thus it was also hunger that drove the wolves to domestic animals and hence into human settlements. Wolves were hunted and snared in wolf pits. Our still troubled relationship with the wolf today probably derives from the “Little Ice Age”.



Today, a handsome, species-rich beech wood grows thick on the boulder-strewn clay of the holm terminal moraine. It is composed of the material that was pushed up at the front of the advancing ice and delineates the maximum extent of the ice (terminal moraine = ice periphery). Its surface is much more intricate than that of the ground moraine in the north over which the ice moved during its advance.

The terrain also changes markedly towards Waren (Müritz): The sandur subsides from the terminal moraine with its surface gently sloping away to the south. It is composed of well-stratified melt-water sands and shingles, in which the grain size of the material here near the former edge of the ice is larger than in the town area further south.

