

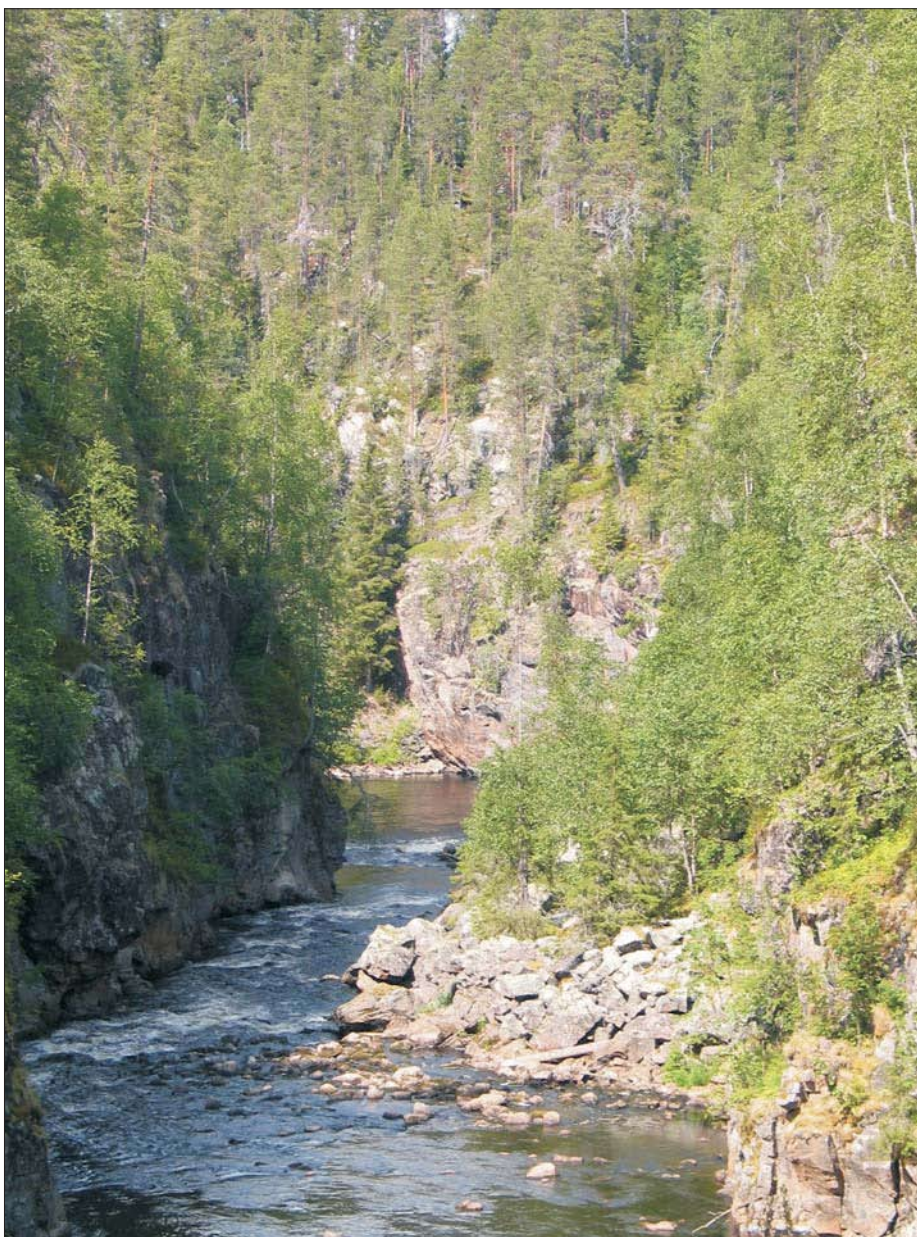
Auttiköngäs

Auttikongas is a north-south orientated fracture in the bedrock, which is millions of years old. On the lower side of the falls, it makes an almost 90 degree turn towards the west. The same fracture zone can be followed westwards to the Kemijoki River valley and south-east to Korouomaa and Livojärvi Lake. The fracture zones can be seen in the countryside as ravines, elongated river valleys and lakes.

During the ice ages, the continental glaciers wore down and rounded off the forms of the fracture. During the last ice age, particularly towards the end, in the area of Auttiköngäs the glacier flowed very intensively from west-north-west to east-south-east. The glacier powerfully wore down the soil and bedrock beneath, quarried out the rocky walls of the ravine and, with it, loosened pieces of rock and loose soil in the ravine.

At the end of the ice age, about 10,500 years ago, a glacial river flowed through Auttiköngäs. Auttiköngäs belonged to a glacial river system running from the Kemijoki River valley to Korouomaa and on to Kuusamo. Under powerful pressure, melt waters flowed through tunnels running under the ice sheet. This strong current loosened pieces of broken rock, which it crushed into smaller pieces and then polished and rounded, depositing it as so-called glacio-fluvial drift, or gravel and sand.

After the edge of the glacier receded from Auttiköngäs westwards towards the Kemijoki River valley, the ravine and its surroundings were submerged beneath the waters of Ancylusjärvi Lake, an ancient body of water connected to the Baltic Sea. Only the peaks of the highest hills remained above the surface of the water. On the slopes of neighbouring Könkäänvaara Hill, at a height of about 200-250 meters, appear exposed rock washed by the water and embankments made of rounded rocks. These are the signs of a raised beach created at the edges of Ancylusjärvi Lake.



The walls of Auttiköngäs are steep and, in places, vertical, 20-30m-high granite precipices, which rise up on both sides of the ravine. Along the base of the ravine, the Auttijoki River flows down



Erratic blocks carried by the glacier to the slopes of Könkäänvaara Hill.



The raised beaches of Ancylusjärvi Lake in the area of Auttiköngäs have risen to a height of about 205m as a result of isostatic uplift.



Rock washed bare by water on Könkäänvaara Hill.