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Damage Assessment of the 2016 F2-Tornado near Karlstein, Lower Austria

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With a coldfront-passage on the evening of 21th July 2016, a right-moving supercell caused a F2/T4 tornado in partly forest-covered, slightly hilly terrain in district Waidhofen an der Thaya, northern Waldviertel, Lower Austria. The length of the damage-path with clear tornadic signatures was at least 10 km, stretching from Goschenreith am Taxenbache east-south-east to Karlstein an der Thaya. Significant damage was observed at Holzgraben, a forest covered hollow south of Karlstein, where tornadic winds together with local channeling of the outflow caused F2/T4 damage with up to 90% of trees being snapped or uprooted. From Karlstein scattered F0 to F1 damage-features were observed along a line for another 10 km southeast until Aigen bei Raabs, likely caused by the meanwhile outflow driven supercell. Apart from a collapsed, weakly built barn in Karlstein and light to significant roof damage on a number of houses along the track, a caravan near Merkengersch was destroyed by an uprooted tree, a moment after its two residents could escape. Accidentally located within the tornado track, a private weatherstation in Merkengersch measured wind gusts up to 170 km/h before being disintegrated.