

III Learning Areas -3

Illustration look at blog

Map of Bisingen, around 1942: concentration camp (1), delousing barrack (2), oil shale quarry (3), factory of the oil shale-works (4), cemetery (5), mass grave (6), Archives du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Colmar.

The exhibition in the museum was extended by a historical track which was put up by young adults from all over the world, participants of an international work camp, in 1997/98.

This track is intended to make visible all historical sites which are connected with the former concentration camp. Specially created displays and monuments give information on the history of each site.

1 The terrain of the former concentration camp in “Schelmengasse”

2 The former oil shale-quarry in “Kuhloch”

3 The former mass grave in “Ludenstall”

4 The cemetery: Here the existence of the different groups of victims is made visible (Jewish people buried under a Christian cross, Russian-Orthodox, Sinti and Roma).

Smaller displays explain places like the train station (arrival of the prisoners), ruins of the production sites in the forest etc.

Following this track one can e.g. walk the route the prisoners had to take every day from the camp to the quarry in “Kuhloch”. Locals remember this route as “Zebra-Wegle” (zebra path) – so called due to the prisoners’ striped clothes. In “Kuhloch” one can have a look at a part (layed open in 1996/97) of the plant of the oil shale-works with its thick concrete walls (oilbunker and blowerstation). Furthermore you can see the several meters high “Abbruchkante” where the prisoners had to quarry oil shale. Considering the thick material you can try to imagine the hardship of the prisoners which they had to endure, often working with poor tools or even bare hands.

„Möglichkeiten des Erinnerns“, Bisingen, 1997 by Christine Glauning

English translation by Judith Rentschler, Bisingen 2008