

Press Release

For immediate release: 11th February 2015

Lager Sylt

Representations have recently been made to Alderney States Members regarding the former SS Concentration camp Sylt and its historical significance. However, currently the site has no specific legal protection apart from the general rules surrounding development in the green belt.

After discussion at its meeting of the 9th February the Building and Development Control Committee unanimously took the view that the current level of protection of the site is inadequate in relation to its historical significance.

Currently under the 2002 Building and Development Control Law there are 2 methods by which the States can protect the islands historical and archaeological heritage.

1. The Register of Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments.

Under Part VII section 46 of the law the BDCC has the power to apply for conservation area status for a specific area of land, *"If the committee is of the opinion that any area, is an area of special historic or archaeological interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable as a matter of public importance to preserve or enhance, the committee may....designate the area as a conservation area and direct that it be registered as such in the Register of Historic Buildings by the clerk of the States"*

2. Protected Area zoning under the Land Use Plan.

This zoning is a special zoning category in the Land Use Plan for use in the designated area (greenbelt) that has similar powers to an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest). It is specifically used to protect the natural and archaeological heritage of the island. However, this would have to take place as part of the Land Use Plan review process and as such could not be implemented until 2016 if agreed by the states at that time.

Therefore, in the view of the BDCC, it would seem that the most appropriate method to protect the site of Lager Sylt would be to register it as a conservation area using Part VII of the Building and Development Control Law. Further protection can then be sort, if required, during the 2016 Land Use Plan review.

However it was also felt by the BDCC that this matter is one of significant public interest.

Therefore, the Committee has agreed that the matter should be taken to the full States in March allowing all states members the opportunity to debate the matter fully and to allow the people of the island to pass comment on the proposal at the March peoples meeting.

The members of the Building and Development Control Committee are:

Matt Birmingham (Chairman)
Francis Simonet (Deputy Chairman)
Robert McDowall
Steve Roberts
Chris Rowley